

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL: YEAR 7

LET'S RIDE!

The kids at Mahomet-Seymour are enjoying homecoming week, including Wednesday's parade through downtown that featured floats, candy and plenty of school spirit.



Anthony Zillis/The News-Gazette

About this project

Today marks the start of Year 7 of High School Confidential, an award-winning initiative made possible by aspiring student journalists from every corner of our circulation area. For 2022-'23, the project has expanded to 39 schools, including first-year participants Cerro Gordo and Iroquois West. More than 225 high school students — nominated by principals and staff — have participated since 2016, including Joey Wright, a 2018 Urbana High grad who became the first HSC alum to join our newsroom full time (with the hope of more to come). This year's crew:

Academy High: Rosie Atkinson
ALAH: Jacob Adcock
Arcola: Karina Warfel
Armstrong: Gigi Mulvaney
Bement: Emily Parrish
BHRA: Cody Drake
Blue Ridge: Cadin Dozier
Centennial: Elena Reifsteck
Cerro Gordo: Hannah Copeland
Champaign Central: Janani Pattabi

Chrisman: Reese Anderson
Cissna Park: Mikayla Knake
Danville: Josie Hotsinpiller
DeLand-Weldon: Abby Trimble
Fisher: Emma McFarling
GCMS: Katherine Steidinger
Georgetown-Ridge Farm: Izabella Wills
Heritage: Katelyn Learned
Hoopeston Area: Emma Rayls
Iroquois West: Calli Kraft

Judah Christian: Bethany Jackson
LeRoy: Lily Monigold
Mahomet-Seymour: Madelyn Grindley
Milford: Maddie Hardwick
Monticello: Will Ross
Oakwood: Kalie Tison
Paxton-Buckley-Loda: Kate Wilson
Rantoul: Caya Flesner
Salt Fork: Macie Russell
Schlarman: Lilli Perez

Shiloh: Lydia Richardson
St. Joseph-Ogden: Alyssa Acton
St. Thomas More: Jose Andino Guerra
Tuscola: Caleb Jeffers, Marley Good
Uni High: Wes Lu
Unity: Jolie Meyer
Urbana: Jennifer Arriaga-Lopez
Villa Grove: Emma Bratten-Noice
Westville: Lilly Meeker
 — Jim Rossow (jrossow@news-gazette.com)

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St. Thomas More

Homecoming week ended on a high note as the football team beat Bushnell-Prairie City 42-28. The homecoming court was presented at halftime of the game as seniors **Joshua Pierce** and **Mary Beth Franey** were announced as king and queen. Pictured, left to right: seniors **Christiana Pembele**, **Kambyl Stipes**, **Ryan Hendrickson**, **Gianna Kreps**, **José Andino Guerra**, **Celie Leibach**, **Matthew Delorenzo**, Franey and **Cabott Craft**; juniors **Peace Bumba** and **Grace Dimoke**; sophomores **Gabriel Yallaly** and **Mary Kathryn Kluesner**; and freshman **Ivan Abarca**. Court members not pictured: Pierce and freshman attendee **Joyce Malaki**.

— JOSÉ ANDINO GUERRA



Shiloh

As she has done for years, science teacher **Kendra Sadoris** helped host the school's annual blood drive. Among the students to donate: (top) juniors **Samantha Knifley** and **Payton Vezina** and (above) senior **Zoey Burton**.

— LYDIA RICHARDSON



Westville

On Sept. 10, Westville hosted the inaugural Tiger Slam volleyball tournament, Tigers placing second with three players making the all-tournament team: **Maddison Appl**, **Ella Miller** (pictured) and **Lainey Wichtowski**. Earlier, the Tigers won the Martinsville tournament as part of a 13-4 start.

— LILLY MEEKER

PAXTON-BUCKLEY-LODA

Mentoring program on the rise

Members of Panther Partners, Paxton-Buckley-Loda's new mentoring program, spent a day at Hardy's Reindeer Ranch in Rantoul. Under the administration of **Kirsten Oyer**, **Jeff Sinn**, **Stacy Johnson** and **Lisa Niewold**, 23 students are a part of a program that helps encourage select PBL Junior High students to get out of their shells and try new things.

— KATE WILSON



Arcola

Students **Cecilia Lozano**, **Jahel Galaviz** and **Nic Alanis** guide fellow student **Yasmin Rojas** as she attempts to "pin the eyebrow on Frida Kahlo." It was one of multiple student-led activities that took place Sept. 15 at the Arcola Center in order to celebrate the start of Hispanic Heritage Month. The event was well-attended by students and their families.

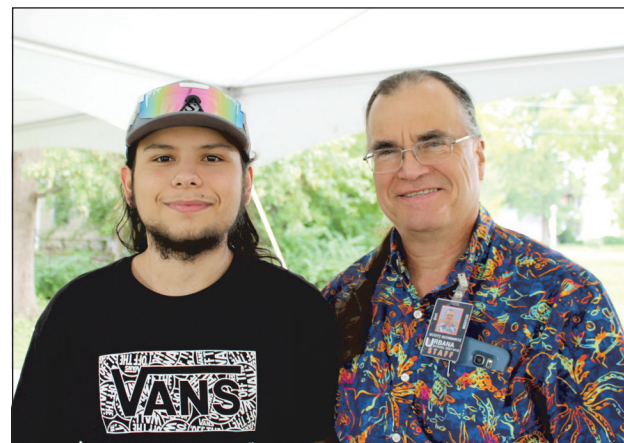
— KARINA WARFEL



Rantoul

The student cheering section — the Rantoul Rowdies — was in top form, cheering on classmates during the volleyball team's two-set win at home. Photo courtesy Kiefer Photography.

— CAYA FLESNER



Urbana

On Sept. 13, the school's mentoring program organized a breakfast to reunite mentors and mentees. Pictured, from left: **America Rebolledo-Hernandez** and **D Marco Hernandez** pose with their mentors; and Principal **Taren Nance** stops by to greet everyone and enjoy a bagel.

— JENNIFER ARRIAGA-LOPEZ

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LeRoy

On Sept. 9, a cookout was held to kick off the school year as Principal **Jeff Baughman** and teacher/coach **Doug Larson** grilled hamburgers for students and staff. Student council members also volunteered by helping with the grilling process and serving the student body. Pictured, left to right: Student council member **Braden Loy** serves classmates; **Isabel Vance** and **Katie Masterson** enjoy their lunch; and Larson working hard at the grill.

— LILY MONIGOLD

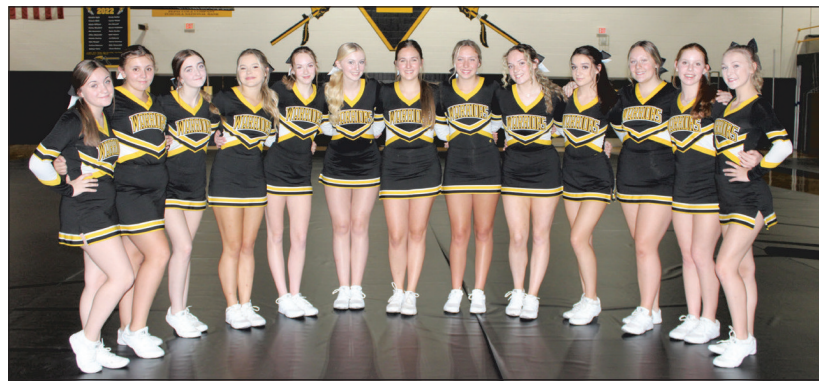
FISHER

A lot of creative ideas on display



For the second time, seniors were allowed to paint their parking spots. Many students came up with creative ideas and put a lot of effort into making their spot look amazing. Seniors spent a Saturday painting and bonding.

— EMMA MCFARLING



Tuscola

The drama department announced its fall production, "A Charlie Brown Christmas," with the cast list available on the school's social-media sites. In a 40-6 loss to Shelbyville in football, a rockin' halftime show was performed by the pep band, and the cheerleaders delivered some great routines as well. Photo courtesy **Christy Hoel**.

— KALEB JEFFERS



ALAH

The boys' golf team, coached by **Brad McGill**, won 11 of its first 12 matches and has high hopes for today's Lincoln Prairie Conference meet at Villa Grove. Pictured, left to right: (back row) **Aaron Seegmiller**, **McGill** and **Clay Seal**; (front row) **Kendall Schrock**, **Brady Moore**, **Nolan Schrock**, **Logan Schrock** and **Braden Kauffman**.

— JACOB ADCOCK



Villa Grove

Students in Biology 2 went around school and tested to see which places had the most bacteria. Tests were conducted at water fountains, door handles and toys. Pictured: **Logan Lillard** testing in the weight room and **Addie Wilson** testing gym door handles.

— EMMA BRATTEN-NOICE



Bement

Physical education teacher **Kraig Rogers** got into the act during his sixth-hour class' game of capture the bean bag.

— EMILY PARRISH

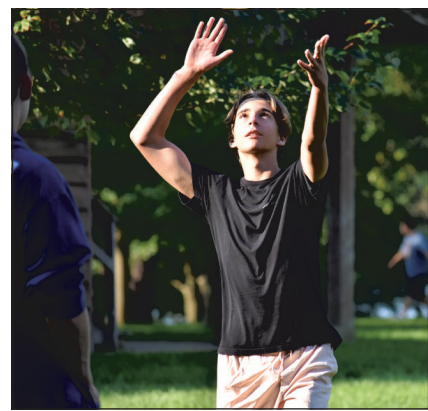


Academy High

Students — including those in junior English class — have settled into the school's new 20,000-square-foot building at 2001 Fox Drive in Champaign.

— ROSIE ATKINSON

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Mahomet-Seymour

Tucker Loven, Michael Frerichs and Kara Kinnamon performed at the school's annual Cabaret show, which includes singing and dancing along with many talented students. Loven sang and played his trombone, while Frerichs and Kinnamon both sang. Many members of the community showed up to support the students in the performance. Also, the Marching Bulldogs attended Allerton Park and Retreat Center in Monticello for their annual two-day camp in which they learn the rest of their charts for field competition. This year, the Marching Bulldogs are performing "The Twilight Zone." While at Allerton, students played games and listened to senior speeches around a campfire, in addition to finalizing their show. (Far right): **Katie Wozniak and Savannah Hartzler** get ready for the Saturday morning rehearsal; **Niccolo Bellini** plays volleyball with his friends during one of the breaks between rehearsals.

— MADELYN GRINDLEY

IROQUOIS WEST A happy homecoming



During homecoming week, the parade, powderpuff game and coronation were a huge hit as **Christopher Alcantar-Garcia** and **Kynnedi Kanosky** were crowned king and queen. Unfortunately, a manhunt for a suspect who ran from an Amtrak train in Gilman forced the annual Ironman volleyball tournament to be postponed to a later date. But on Friday night, the Raiders were able to play under the lights and win in football.

— CALLI KRAFT



Monticello

On Friday, members of Monticello FFA sold mums to raise money for its chapter. Pictured are students (from left) **Mabry Bruhn, Reece Clennon and Mara Dorjahn**.

— WILL ROSS



BHRA

After four years of building their skills, Spanish IV students **Amanda Brown, Hannah Smith and Taylor Lowe** have been visiting the elementary school to help a student in need. Their teacher, **Lori Frerichs**, said she is proud of how far her students have come.

— CODY DRAKE



Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley

Choral director **Amanda Broaddus** taught new music to the Chamber Choir to kick off the school year. The Chamber Choir is an auditioned singing group that rehearses twice a week. Students perform for the community, including caroling locally during the holidays.

— KATIE STEIDINGER



Milford

The school's student section — The Pride — dressed fit for a sleepover at last Wednesday's game against Beecher to show support for the volleyball team.

— MADDIE HARDWICK

Heritage

Emilee Sorensen's horticulture class did a hands-on lab to study soil erosion. Sophomores **Loran Tate** and **Olivia Wallace** compared the run-off contents of four different bottles on simulating tilled farm grounds, untilled farm grounds, grass land and concrete. The project taught the students how soil is being eroded by affects such as wind and rain.

— KATELYN LEARNED



Armstrong

Spanish teacher **Mckala Lindsey** talks to her Spanish 4 class about their upcoming summer trip to Puerto Rico. They are fundraising throughout the year ahead of the cultural adventure in June.

— GIGI MULVANEY



Danville

The football team enjoyed Senior Night on Friday, beating Bloomington 28-14.

— JOSIE HOTSINPILLER

G-RF

Senior **Izabella Wills** was accepted into the Illinois Student Board of Education Student Advisory Council (ISBE-SAC). "This is a big step for me as a small-town girl, and I can't wait to see where it takes me," she said. "It's a great day to be a Buffalo!"



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Unity

The marching band had its first competition at Illinois Wesleyan University on Saturday. The Marching Rockets were best in class for percussion, winds and auxiliary, placing second in AA.

— JOLIE MEYER



Oakwood

On Sept. 8, senior **Grant Powell** (above) was honored as WCIA Athlete of the Week. He recently broke the school record for most goals in a career. On Sept. 13, senior **Josh Ruch** (left) set a school record for most shutouts in a season (he's at 12 and counting) as Oakwood/Salet Fork raced to an 8-0 start in the Vermilion County Conference.

— KALIE TISON



JUDAH CHRISTIAN Taking their act on the road



Students headed to Twin Lakes Camp in Hillsboro, Ind., for their annual High School Retreat. They spent a few days hiking and ziplining and received a motivational message from **Blake Porter**. Photos courtesy **Jacob Dupre** and **Clayton Wacker**.

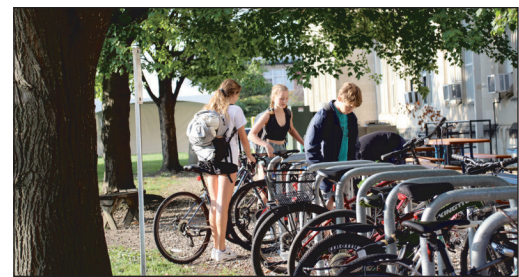
— BETHANY JACKSON



Hoopeston Area

Friday's scene at the football field was electric as the marching band, color guard, cheerleaders (**Nicole Foley, Meghan Simpson, Brayden Kinnaird** and **Emmalee Bruens**) and football team enjoyed a win.

— EMMA RAYLS



Uni High

The narrow halls are bustling with activity, and everyone is excited to be back. Many events have taken place since the start of the school year, including the Howdy Hop, Orientation Picnic, Club Quad Day and Moon Festival. On Sept. 14, students participated in Champaign County's Bike-to-Work Day, rolling up to the sight of a very full bike rack, where they were greeted by volunteers who handed out shirts and other items.

— WES LU

Centennial

At the first freshman dance (Sept. 7), food was provided by Interact Club run by **Nick Pianfetti**. In sports, **Marin McAndrew** won the 50 and 100 freestyles in girls' swimming, and the football team improved to 4-0 with a 42-6 win against Champaign Central in a game where cheerleaders and the student section — led by **T.J. Easter**— provided boundless energy.

— ELENA REIFSTECK



Schlarman

Homecoming week kicked off with Pajama Day at school and a powderpuff game. The seniors took victory, and after the game, students enjoyed a bonfire in the parking lot. Pictured, left to right: **Madison Watson, Makayla Blurton, Karlee Belton, Ella Dixon, Mia Martinez, Lilli Perez** and **Natalie Vasquez**.

— LILLI PEREZ



Blue Ridge

The FFA chapter kicked off the season on Teach Ag Day (Sept. 15) with a cookout and Amazing Race, where students were tested on their FFA knowledge and acquainted themselves with the other members. The event was planned and hosted by the FFA chapter officer team.

— CADIN DOZIE

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Chrisman

Cheerleaders participated in Chrisman Days, starting the weekend with a bake sale at the local Casey's. They also set up a lemonade shake-up stand at the square as one of their fundraisers. The Cardinals walked in the parade and assisted the Chrisman Fire Department with serving drinks to the community. Pictured at the bake sale, left to right: (back row) Sydney Tevebaugh, Piper Knight, Reese Anderson, Makenzie Mitchell, Jaidyn Alexander, Bailey Presslor and Morgan Lehmkuhl; (front row) Leah Phipps, Layken Hovis and Asa Hoult.

— REESE ANDERSON



Salt Fork

In prepping for this week's homecoming activities, student council leader Sara Wochner called the first meeting for the 2022-2023 members. Student council members Ava Ridge, Brenna Boyd, Callaway Cox, Alexa Jamison, Hadley Pierce and Jillan Almy began making posters to spread the news about dress-up theme days.



— MACIE RUSSELL

ST. JOSEPH-OGDEN Campus conversations



The yearbook staff attended the IJEA Fall Conference at the Illini Union on Friday, learning about yearbook design, photojournalism and writing inspiring stories. Pictured: Jordan Johnson, Leah Finley, Mya Bott, Aubrey Bott, Maya Chahine, Eco Bartlett, Sophia Kasper, Reese Wheatley, Olivia Getty, Jessica Gadbury, Aleah Dial, Olivia Sage and Abigail Lacey.

— ALYSSA ACTON



Cerro Gordo

Spirit Week included Anything But a Backpack Day, Blue Collar vs. White Collar Day, Biome Day and Class Color Day (freshmen in green, sophomores pink, juniors red, seniors black and teachers blue). Friday is Spirit Day as everyone dresses in orange and blue to celebrate Bronco spirit and pride. The day includes games like powderpuff football, a potato sack relay, water balloon toss and jump rope relay. The homecoming court (above) is made up of freshmen Tatum McRae and Kaydon Waterhouse, sophomores Reese Peters and Caleb Weaver and juniors Jady McCarly and Gavin Larrick. King candidates are Carson Brown, Romeo Montes and Joseph Meinders; queen candidates are Kaitlynn Adams, Lillyanna Weldy and Lexus Lawhorn.

— HANNAH COPELAND



Cissna Park

Last Wednesday, the school's FFA chapter had its annual Canned Food Drive. President Carter Ferguson and member Levi Waldbeser cooked pork chops for those who collected over 16,000 canned goods, which are donated to local food pantries. Also: Sophomore Maverick Grice was the first student to receive the new "Leader of the Pack" award for August.

— MIKAYLA KNAKE



Champaign Central

With the theme of Under the Stars, Saturday's homecoming dance was held for the first time in the school's new commons area, decked out appropriately in star-shaped streamers and twinkling lights. King and queen were seniors Mekhi Christmon and Sarah Mizzen (right), respectively. The Chronicle, Central's student-run newspaper, set up a photo booth in hopes of raising money to move the digital paper to SNO Sites. The booth was supervised by The Chronicle's sponsor, English teacher June Choi. Using cameras and supplies from the art department, the staff charged \$2 per group for digital photos. Above: Queen and Chronicle features Editor Mizzen takes photos at the booth.

— JANANI PATTABI



DeLand-Weldon

Student council officer elections took place after two weeks of campaigning. During election week, students learned about voting procedures and practiced putting democracy into action. Lily Summers, a candidate for vice president, said: "I joined student council to have a stronger voice for the students, as well as helping get the community involved in our school."

— ABBY TRIMBLE

