

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL

Powered by Danville Area Community College



THEY'RE 'CLUE'D IN

UNI HIGH's fall play, 'Clue,' took place in the North Attic in Urbana. Based on the popular board game and cult film, the show offered a night of comedy and mystery. The cast featured Miss Scarlet, Professor Plum, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock, Colonel Mustard and Butler Wadsworth as they attempted to identify the murderer in the manor before another victim emerged. Friday night's performance sold out, while Thursday's and Saturday's shows came close. Directed by **CHRIS GUYOTTE**, the production held auditions the first week of school, with rehearsals beginning shortly after.

Student stars: **HARMONY LEHMAN** as Butler Wadsworth, **ALDO JOYCE** as Mr. Green, **ANDY PATE** as Colonel Mustard, **ABIGAIL DOSSEY** as Miss Scarlet, **GRACE AREND** as Mrs. White, **ITZA GARCIA** as Professor Plum and **ELANOR SIECHEN** as Mrs. Peacock.

— KRISHNA JASWAL



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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: Vanyah Hickman
Westville: Myla Mackiewicz



School tours

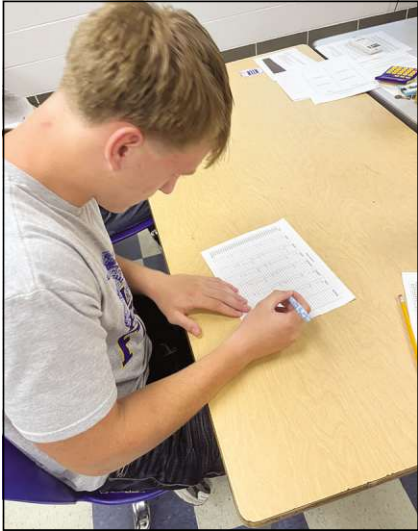
Carrying on a social-media tradition, each student will take over The News-Gazette's Snapchat account to go behind the scenes at their school (**above:** Iroquois West).



Monticello

Last week, the Sages hosted their final home football game of the regular season — which was also their annual Pink Out game, a beloved cause that raises funds for Paint Piatt Pink. Pep Club sponsor **Ashlee Burton** said: ‘Pink Out is so important because it gives back to breast cancer research and development at our local hospital here in town. I also think it is so important because we have had lots of students and staff affected by breast cancer, and this is a way we can give back to help support those and others in their shoes.’ The volleyball team will have its Pink Out match on Thursday. Photos courtesy **Noah Hettinger**.

— RORY COOPER



Paxton-Buckley-Loda

At FFA's October meeting last Thursday, **Jerry Brockett** from the University of Illinois Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics talked to members about time management. Free planners were distributed for students to fill in their weekly activities on paper.

— ALEX JONES



Iroquois West

Senior and freshman sisters **Kaia** and **Kenzie Kimmel** both advanced to the girls' golf state tournament.

— JORDYN MEENTS



BEMENT HOT OFF THE PRESS

The Newspaper Club is back up and running. Led by **Kayla Huckleby**, the club worked on a series of columns centered around school events and current trends. Writers conducted interviews with fellow students and teachers, while editors worked on getting the columns print-ready. The first edition of The Bark arrived this week, and students were excited to see their hard work printed in a real newspaper. Said Principal **Doug Kepley**: ‘Seeing The Bark return as a printed student newspaper at our high school is exciting! It's more than just a publication — it's an opportunity for students to share their voices, showcase their writing, highlight school events, and tell the stories that make our school special.’

— MAKENNA KINDRED



LeRoy

Football coach **BJ Zeleznik** reached an incredible milestone, earning his 150th career win. The Panthers celebrated the achievement with a dominant 42-0 victory over Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley. Photos courtesy **Haley Richter** Photography.

— ADRIENNE UNDERHILL



Villa Grove

Student council brought the energy with its ‘Soak a Senior’ fundraiser. Seniors involved in student council volunteered to get soaked — and it was a blast watching students pick their level of splash, whether a quick \$1 cup or going all out with the \$15 ice bucket. The event was a success in bringing everyone together and raising funds for the upcoming year. Pictured: **Jacob Golihtly, Brianna Day, Ava Hudson, Peyton Ellis, Bailey Keith** and **Maya Garner**.

— MAYA GARNER



Cissna Park

There were only four days of school last week, but that didn't stop anatomy class from continuing to learn about cell tissues. Students each had different colors of Play-Doh and had to make the model of all the different epithelial tissues. It was a lot of fun, and the students were very creative. Pictured: **Ashlyn Schmid** (left) and **Laura Eisenmann; Olivia Diskin; and Jace Comstock**.

— AVA HENRICHS



Cerro Gordo

Cerro Gordo hosted the Lincoln Prairie Conference volleyball tournament, Arthur-Lovington/Atwood-Hammond defeating Unity Christian to win the championship. Cerro Gordo/Bement had wins over Sullivan and Arcola.

— BRYNLEY BORK

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Fisher

On Friday night, Fisher celebrated 80 years of football, recognizing coaches and players from the 1986 playoff team, the 2005 quarterfinal team and all-state players. During half-time, alumni were honored for their hard work and determination, giving the town something to remember.

— EMILY COULTER



Academy High

Big changes are underway in the commons area. Piper Fields and Nicolle Scifres have been painting a mural about human impact on climate change for their Studio Art course taught by Shannon Percoco.

— NICOLLE SCIFRES

MT. ZION
OH SO SWEET

The theme for homecoming week was 'Candyland,' and the halls were all decked out in bright colors and giant candy. The week started with '100 Grand Day,' as students and teachers alike dressed as millionaires. Tuesday, students dressed as elementary school kids for 'Sour Patch Kid Day.' Wednesday was 'Jolly Ranchers vs. Nerds.' Wednesday also consisted of the homecoming parade with Kelly Fox as grand marshal. Fox taught math for 28 years at Mt. Zion Junior High School and is in her fourth year as dean of students. As high school cross-country coach and girls' track coach, she has received various Coach of the Year honors and was inducted into the ITCCCA Hall of Fame. She is also involved with FCA and Passion Community Church. The Key Club's chili supper, which took place after the parade, is a fundraiser for the Key Club Christmas Project, which provides kids in the community gifts for Christmas. Key Club members sign up to make chili, and the community votes on who had the best. Allison Fortner was the winner. At Thursday's day-long assembly, high school students played various games, along with powderpuff, to crown the best class. The Class of '27 took the win for the second year in a row. Student council plans and runs the assembly and the rest of homecoming week. Friday's annual Pink Out football game saw the Braves win 28-10 over Taylorville. The week concluded with the homecoming dance, where AJ Miller and Kendall Smith were crowned king and queen. Photos courtesy Mt. Zion Yearbook.

— Macie Veale



Champaign Central

Heading into fall break on a high note, the football team beat Bloomington at the buzzer, 12-10, to extend its winning streak to three games to carry momentum into Friday's rivalry showdown with Centennial. Senior Jack Pulsfort said, 'It means everything to win, especially games that we're not supposed to win. We have all the momentum heading into our most important game of the season.' Pictured: during a locker room celebration (from left): Evan Gustafsen, Samson McArthur, Xander Hopkins, Tate Yoder, Dylan Craig and Pulsfort.

— SOPHIE NIXON-GASYNA



Centennial

Last week, seniors in girls' tennis and the Marching Chargers were celebrated.

— KAYLA BOYD



Arcola

Last Thursday may have been a noon dismissal, but that didn't stop students from giving a hand in our community. From painting walls, helping out in the food pantry, pulling weeds and visiting the nursing home, students showed appreciation to the community. After a long morning of working, students came back for a dodgeball tournament to celebrate the end of the first quarter. Photos via the AHS Torch.

— AYMARA LEAL



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Mahomet-Seymour
During homecoming week, competitions were organized by student council between the grade levels, including decorating hallways and building parade floats. Juniors won both the hallway and float competitions. The senior attendants were (pictured): **Beau Back** and **Evie Hillard**, **Tate Kimbal** and **Jaycee Fancher**, **Joe Roller** and **Peyton Shelmadine**, **Nai'a Bailey** and **Vicente Carrasco-Fanta** and **Coy Benway** and **Taylor Mills**. Crownbearers were **Haley Martin** and **Grayson Walk**.



— ABBY EDEN



Judah Christian
Nine students were inducted into the National Honor Society: seniors **Kelsi Drollinger**, **Trinity Everett-Walthour**, **Zachary Hafermann**, **Rylee Krall**, **Paige Martin** and **Aubrey Sather**; and juniors **Peighton Joines**, **Simon Kincaid** and **Nathan Lance**. These students were picked for their drive to learn and their exemplary character.

— KELSIE DROLLINGER AND XAVIER RUSSELL



St. Thomas More
Members of the Spanish Honor Society worked on a Little Library on Friday that will be put up later this month in Mahomet. Pictured, from left: **Quinn Miller**, **Catherine Ra**, **Korinn Hesterberg**, **Mia Amador**, **Elizabeth Withers-Sickles** and **Claire Kluesner**.

— QUINN MILLER



Georgetown-Ridge Farm
Buff Leaders spent time giving back to the community by helping clean up the local cemetery. Through hard work and teamwork, students helped keep the cemetery looking nice while showing respect for the people laid to rest there. It was a great opportunity for Buff Leaders to make a positive difference in the community and show that even small acts of service can go a long way. Pictured, from left: **Hunter Meeker**, **Deven Vice**, **Tegyn Grant**, **Love Wright**, **Addisen Ellis**, **Madi Spesard**, **Maddy Willis**, **William Runyan**, **Annika Fraser-Soule**, **Jordyn Brooks**, **Layla Portis** and **Cheyenne Orr**.

— LIZ WALLS



OAKLAND SENIORS ON TOP

During homecoming week, students participated in games and activities. The senior class won the locker and float decorating contest, juniors won powderpuff, and finally, seniors won the Olympics after all the scores were totaled. The week ended with a bonfire and parade followed by a dance where the homecoming king and queen, **Preston Bancroft** and **Aryanna Buhrmester**, were announced.

— Olivia Vonlanken



Sullivan

Students celebrated a short and sweet week. Dual-credit classes took a field trip to Lake Land College on Monday to find research paper materials and enjoyed a delicious lunch at Angelo's in Mattoon (photo by **Marsha Kirby**). Tuesday marked Sullivan's Career Day, where upperclassmen visited colleges or completed job shadowing opportunities off-campus. Finally, students relaxed at home Friday before cheering on at Senior Night.

— CLAIRE KURSELL



Salt Fork

FFA members have hit the ground running. For starters, **Kaitlyn Woodward** (right) competed in the Section 18 Ag Ed CDE, where she created her own agriculture lesson plan and presented it to a room of students and judges. She placed second overall and is qualified to compete in the District 4 contest. The Ag Sales team, consisting of (from left) **Devin Ehler**, **Ryker Williams**, **Anna McCollum**, **Charlie Shortz** and **Ryker Williams**, took home a win at the section contest, to also move on to districts. Members solved a team problem, got tested on their sales knowledge and broke into individual sales call rooms. Ehler, McCollum and Shortz placed first in their rooms, while Williams was second. Salt Fork also won the Section 18 Land Use contest for a fifth year in a row. Individually, **Lily DeAth** placed second, Shortz third, **Scarlett Trisler** fourth, McCollum fifth and **Greyson Spezia** sixth. These members, alongside another five from Salt Fork, are qualified to compete in the state contest for the CDE.

— ANNA MCCOLLUM

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St. Joseph-Ogden
On Thursday morning, the Student Assistance Program put on its monthly Breakfast Club. Each month, teachers nominate one or more students who have showcased excellent behavior in their classrooms. Breakfast Club gets its name because, after getting announced and recognized by a teacher, all of the students involved get treated to breakfast. This positive tradition keeps students working hard and makes the connection between teachers and students so much stronger.

— ALIVIA LEARNED



WATSEKA
SURROUNDED BY WORKS OF ART

Last week, **Claire Henneike** and **Robyn Butler** took students to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. Humanities, individual art and yearbook classes were given the opportunity to attend. Over 30 students were given two hours to browse the museum at their own pace. The museum contained several different pieces of art, including several feminist pieces and some about stolen land. The majority of students in attendance said they enjoyed the field trip and would be happy to go back sometime.

— Vanyseh Hickman



Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley

FFA members spent Saturday morning cleaning up the Sibley Burr Oak Grove by removing brush and invasive species, including honeysuckle. With the help of their adviser, **Jeff Reale**, members worked to protect this important natural area. The grove is one of the remaining oak groves that once dotted the Illinois prairie and provides a valuable habitat for native plants and wildlife. Members who helped out this day (from left) included **Levi Warner**, **Ashleigh McCoy**, **Aubrianna Taylor**, **Ian Tomes** and **Wyatt Veatch**.

— KASEN DEFRIES



Urbana

Interior design and clothing students went on a field trip hosted by the Family and Consumer Sciences Department at Illinois State University, where students had the opportunity to check out the incredible facilities and programs at Turner Hall, including the **Lois Jett** Historic Fashion Collection, Foods Lab, Interior Design Studio and Textiles Lab.

— SOPHIA SHEYKO FRAILEY



Oakwood

The Oakwood-Salt Fork girls' cross-country team is having a successful season. **Taylor Wells**, a junior from Oakwood, has been leading her team. At the Nike Twilight meet on Oct. 2, she placed first overall out of 93 girls. At the Cumberland County Invite where 105 girls and 34 teams competed, Wells placed seventh overall, which helped her team place sixth. Out of the first eight meets this season, she placed in the top 25 seven times, including placing in the top 10 in six meets. Alongside Wells, **Callie Richardson** from Salt Fork and **Amber Betzviser** from Oakwood also earned All-Vermilion County recognition. Said Wells: 'When we have our full team competing, we rank really high. We placed first at county, we're looking to place first at conference. Also, we're looking forward to qualifying as a team at regionals to get us to sectionals, with state as a possibility.'

— SIDNEY DUNAVAN



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BHRA

The student section, the 'Blue Zoo,' brought the energy to last Thursday's Pink Night match to support their varsity volleyball team against Chrisman. Student section leader **Roger Rodriguez** said he's proud of the students for showing up to support the team and cause. Proceeds from raffle baskets, baked goods and 50/50 raffles were donated to the OSF **Bobette Steely Hegeler** Cancer Center. Senior players **Mallory Brines** and **Audrina Vanhuis** thanked everyone who came to watch and support. Photos courtesy **Callie Carpenter**.



TUSCOLA

A PRODUCTIVE WEEK

It was a week full of lunch meetings, starting with the Juniores and Gentlemen and Scholastic Bowl on Monday. On Tuesday, Key Club made Halloween cards for residents at Brookstone Estates of Tuscola. Wednesday was Fellowship of Christian Athletes in the gym, and Thursday was Book Club. The week ended with Friday's Senior Night win with halftime recognition for football, football cheer, cross-country, golf and band. More photos at [news-gazette.com](#).

— **Emma Spillman**



Heritage

On Oct. 7, members of Heritage's Future Farmers of America (FFA) visited Consolidated Grain & Barge Co., the local grain elevator in Homer, to provide meals for workers, farmers, donors and employees from local businesses. FFA reporter **Peyton Curry-Varner** said: 'I think it impacted our community well; it showed our appreciation for the workers and farmers and all that they do.' The event gave FFA members an opportunity to show their appreciation for those who support the local agricultural community. Pictured (from left): **Landin McComas**, **Tyler Lisanby**, **Dylan Kirschner**, **Curry-Varner**, **Joao Vega**, **Kaden White**, **Maddox Odum**, **Reaghan Stierwalt** and **Addison Hopper**.



Milford

Last Thursday, the Bearcat News Club went to Wildcreek Pumpkin Patch in Hoopeston. Students videoed their Community Segment with the owner, asked her about the business and activities at the pumpkin patch, and also collected pumpkins to carve when they returned to school. Pictured: **Dylan Potter** petting the pumpkin patch's cat; **Cohen Cheever** and **Noah Brittenham** picking out pumpkins; **Lucas Summers** carving his pumpkin; **Jameson Fortner** and **Charity Garcia** showing their pumpkin; and **Garrett Koester** and **Nolan Garcia** presenting their finished product.



DeLand-Weldon

Students made cutting boards in ag mechanics class.

— **MICHAEL ROGERS**



Danville

The 52nd year of the Viking Invitational Marching Band Competition started when schools from central Illinois took the field under the night lights. The Vikings played songs like 'The Gallery of Chaos' and 'Horror Vacui' and had their color guard performing as well, expressing key parts of both songs. The Vikings were directed by band director **Ryan Krapf**, who has been in position at DHS for 12 years, and put on an amazing show for the audience while supporting the opponents in each class. Winning bands: St. Joseph-Ogden (Class 1A), Mt. Carmel (Class 2A) and Champaign Central (Class 3A). Photos courtesy **Maddie Stimac**.



Rantoul

On Sept. 30, several students were inducted into the National Honor Society at a ceremony filled with smiles.

— **JAYLA ALLEN**