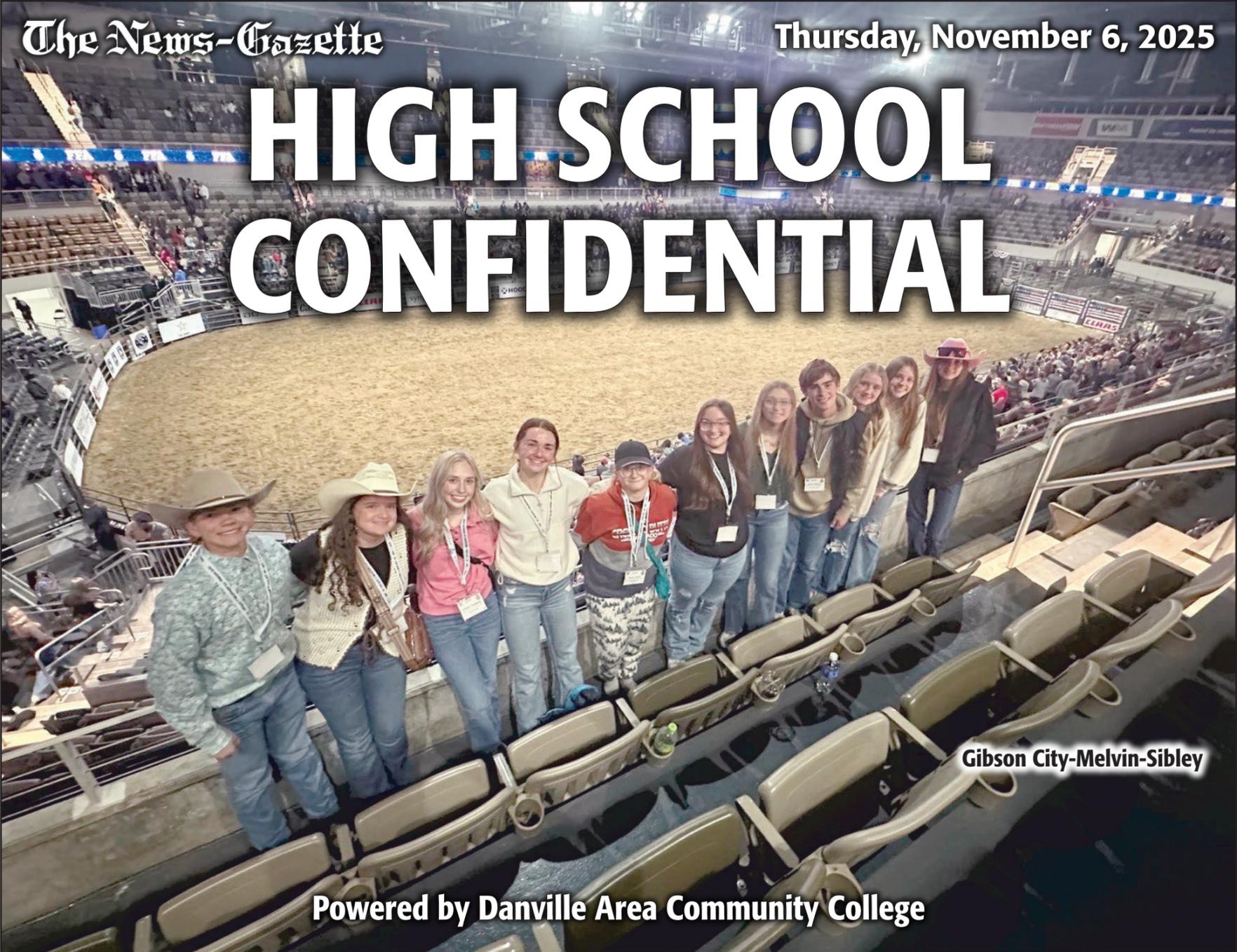


HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL



Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley

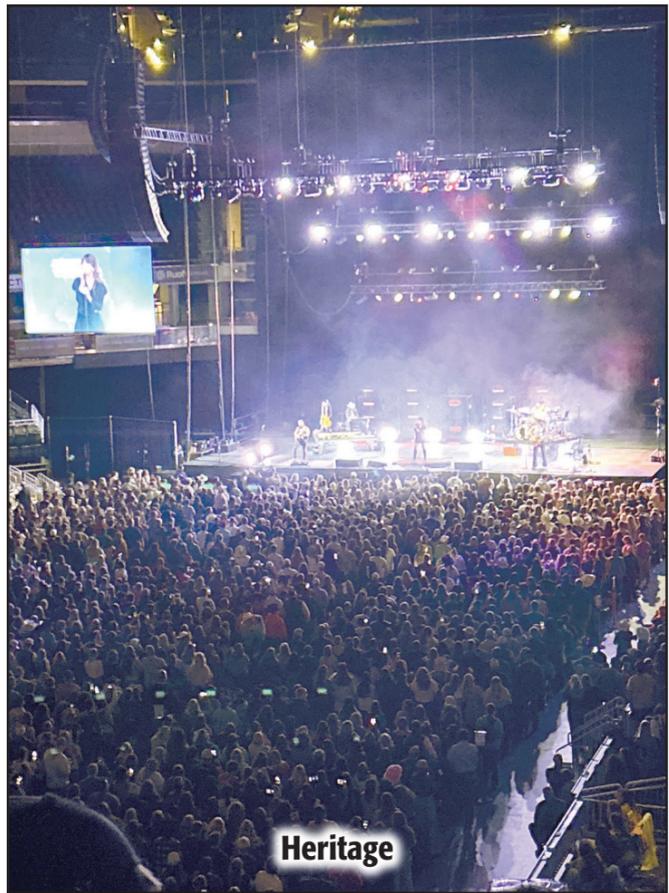
Powered by Danville Area Community College

CONVENTION WISDOM

FFA chapters made the most of their annual trip to the national gathering in Indianapolis



LeRoy



Heritage



Maroa-Forsyth



Milford

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YEAR 10 OF HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL: POWERED BY DACC

Meet the crew

This year's group includes 43 students from 42 schools (*visit news-gazette.com for our photo gallery*). We'll spotlight each correspondent in Top of the Morning on Wednesdays.



Academy High: Evie Price
ALAH: London Dugan
Arcola: Addee Mulligan
Armstrong: Aubrey Self
Bement: Kiana Hunter
BHRA: Lahna Benjamin
Blue Ridge: Karly Warner
Centennial: Kennedy Borden
Cerro Gordo: Alexa Rodgers
Champaign Central: Adelaide Kota
Chrisman: Morgan Simpson
Cissna Park: Sophia Duis
Danville: Rylee Jack
DeLand-Weldon: Nathan Smith

Fisher: Kesiah Musick
G-RF: Tiffany Taylor
GCMS: Addison Farmer
Heritage: Rylan White
Hoopeston Area: Willamina Clayton
Iroquois West: Traeh Kissack
Judah Christian: Jack Dalbey
LeRoy: Molly Scheuer
Mahomet-Seymour: Abigail Eden
Maroa-Forsyth: Aubrey Stewart
Milford: Kami Muehling
Monticello: Mady Melton
Oakland: Sophie VonLanken
Oakwood: Sophia Aquino

Paxton-Buckley-Loda: Brayden Kief
Rantoul: Tamia Bell
St. Joseph-Ogden: Katie Ericksen
St. Thomas More: Duncan Oliveira
Salt Fork: Anna McCollum
Schlarman: Isabella Bogen
Shiloh: Ali Cash
Sullivan: Lillian Moxley, Danica Bell
Tuscola: Claire Leonard
Uni High: Simrah Khan
Unity: Claire Meharry
Urbana: Ruby Pittenger
Villa Grove: Eva Piercy
Westville: Olivia Troglia



High School Confidential reporter **Traeh Kissack** of Iroquois West (right) took in the Illini's football win against Rutgers on Saturday at Gies Memorial Stadium.

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.



RANTOUL HALLOWEEN RUN

The National Honor Society and student council joined St. Malachy School for its Halloween 'Run for Your Life' event last week. Everyone dressed up in fun costumes, and the students ran for prizes and sweet treats.

— **Tamia Bell**



Unity

Last Thursday, the school's choir and a capella groups took a field trip to Bloomington's Youth and Harmony event. Throughout the day, students rehearsed different songs and performed in the evening at a concert. From left: **Abigail Spomer, Anna Kuhns and Makayla Goff.**



— **CLAIRE MEHARRY**

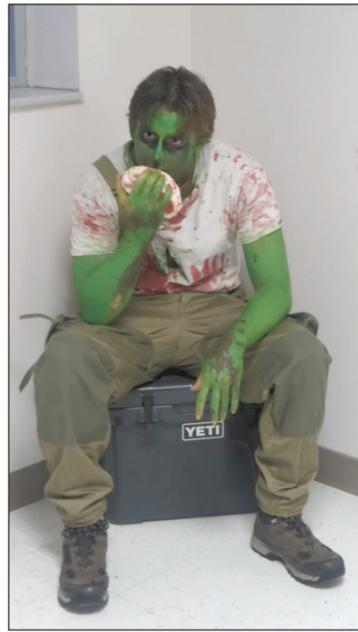


Maroa-Forsyth

FFA started off the year strong by placing second and third at Section Food Science, second at Section Ag Sales and first at Section Soils. Maroa-Forsyth alum **Taylor Crouch** (pictured) was named a national finalist for an Agricultural Proficiency Award in the Area Ag Sales-Entrepreneurship at National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

— **AUBREY STEWART**

YEAR 10 OF HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL: POWERED BY DACC



St. Joseph-Ogden

Student council's annual Haunted Hallways event was a huge success. Members dedicated loads of time to transform the school into a haunted house — and their hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed. Numerous community members spoke about their creativeness and the spooky experience they had, making it a night to remember.

— KATIE ERICKSEN



Academy High

Students in the anatomy and physiology class taught by **Natasha Capell** created fake wounds. The unit on skin aligned with Halloween, allowing an opportunity for the creepy activity. Using an assortment of everyday materials, students made convincing cuts, burns, bruises and more. Pictured: **Eevee Wilson**.

— EVIE PRICE

OAKWOOD REAL-WORLD SCENARIO

Students in Family and Consumer Science class took part in a unique hands-on experience designed to help them understand the challenges and responsibilities of parenting. Students wore a fake pregnant belly to simulate what it feels like to carry the extra weight and experience limited mobility. The class has also been taking care of realistic baby simulators that require feeding, changing and burping throughout the day — and night. The project provides insight into the physical and emotional demands of parenthood and teaches students responsibility, empathy and time management. Also, in Spanish classes, students learned about Día De Los Muertos, leading to a celebration at the end of the week with food, music and decorations.

— Sophia Aquino



Arcola

Students celebrated Halloween with dress-up days last week. Pictured: **Laney Nelson**, a senior, who dressed as Hello Kitty.

— ADDEE MULLIGAN



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Bement

As part of the Halloween festivities, Spanish Club held its annual Día de los Muertos celebration on Oct. 30. Leading up to the event, Spanish Club members worked on an ofrenda that would be displayed outside the classroom. On Thursday, students were able to enjoy a plentiful spread of many different foods and desserts.

— KIANA HUNTER



Schlarman

The volleyball team made it past the first round of regionals for the first time in six years. While the Hilltoppers lost in the second round, it was still an accomplishment that the school loved.

— IZZY BOGE

YEAR 10 OF HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL: POWERED BY DACC



Monticello

On Oct. 29, the Rotary Interact Club hosted a community-wide 'Trunk or Treat' as an early Halloween celebration. The club has hosted Halloween events in previous years, but this was the greatest turnout yet. Members of the Interact Club as well as volunteers who helped for the pleasure of it gathered early at the high school to set up car trunks before kids arrived. By decorating trunks with festive accessories, filling baskets with candy and getting into costume, the high-schoolers provided a thrilling trick-or-treating experience for area youth. Pictured: **Marissa Aikman, Lauren Good, Connor Sheehan, Paycee Burton, Anya Sheppard, Grace Weidner and Kinley Kooi.**

— **MADY MELTON**

CENTENNIAL



COMING TOGETHER

At last Thursday's trunk-or-treat for students and local children, student council, the Spanish Honor Society and other clubs and community members pitched in with fun decorations and candy. The Charger Clean-Up Club, sponsored by **Carrie McMenamain**, met to pick up garbage that same day. They meet throughout the year to clean up around the school grounds and promote Centennial pride.

— **Kennedy Borden**



Tuscola

Students Against Destructive Decisions members participated in Red Ribbon Week by visiting North Ward and East Prairie to talk about how bad decisions can negatively impact students' lives. Additionally, students were able to dress up this week to honor making healthy choices in their lives by being alcohol- and drug-free. Pictured, left to right: **Lilly Kurtz, Claire Leonard, Cale Wallace, Tessa Brucker, Elizabeth Quinn and Gwen Boyd.**

— **CLAIRE LEONARD**



Westville

At Saturday's playoff football game, chorus members **Loghan Acord** and **Alaina Mahoney** performed the national anthem.

— **OLIVIA TROGLIA**



Urbana

Students in **Jeffrey Birdsley's** anatomy and zoology classes had an eventful week, from practicing stuffing birds for closer observation to dissecting cats.

— **RUBY PITTINGER**

YEAR 10 OF HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL: POWERED BY DACC



Cerro Gordo

The volleyball team beat Argenta-Oreana in its regional opener before losing to Heyworth — ending a great season thanks to seniors **Addie Roberts, Samantha Sterling, Hunter Malone and Ella Corum.**

— ALEXA RODGERS



BLUE RIDGE THIS ONE'S FOR ANGIE

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the volleyball team had its annual Pink Out match. The team and student section (pictured) participated in numerous games to raise money for **Angie Franzen**. The community showed up in support, and fun was had by all. Pictured: **Brenna Weitekamp, Will Weitekamp, Doug Franzen, Angie Franzen, Ava Franzen and Noah Weitekamp.**



— Karly Warner



DeLand-Weldon

Seniors donned Halloween costumes during school last week.

— NATHAN SMITH

Sullivan

The Red Cross Club collected hope bags for the Halloween season. The school also hosted a bonfire as part of a pep rally before Saturday's playoff game against Cumberland, which ended with a tough loss.

— DANICA BELL



Heritage

The FFA chapter attended the 98th FFA National Convention and Expo in Indianapolis. Adviser **Emilee Magsamen** selected nine chapter members (top right) to represent Heritage: (back row, from left): **Kaden White, Landin McComas, Joshua Stierwalt, Dylan Kirschner, Rylan White and Tyler Lisanby;** (front row) **Addison Hopper, Reaghan Stierwalt and Peyton Curry-Varner.** They were a part of the 70,000-plus members from 50 states as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands that flooded the streets. Members attended two sessions, explored the expo that was represented by different colleges and job opportunities, attended the **Ella Langley** and **Ernest** concert at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, and finished up with TopGolf (pictured: Magsamen in the swing of things). It was a great team-bonding experience for the chapter.



— RYLAN WHITE



Cissna Park

For Halloween, there were costume contests for junior high and high school students, with prizes for first and second place (snack bucket with gift cards and a movie night bucket). Pictured (courtesy **Ava Henrichs**): High school contest winners **Jace Comstock** and **Hudson Young** as **SpongeBob** and **Patrick**; **Addison Tipson** and **Lauryn Hamrick** placed second as **Lilo and Stitch**; and **Teller Ishmiel** as **Wilo** as **Pinata** by throwing candy during his introduction.

— SOPHIE DUIS



YEAR 10 OF HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL: POWERED BY DACC



Armstrong

For Red Ribbon Week, students dressed up each day to raise awareness about harm caused by addictions and poor mental health. On Thursday, students painted the school red as a show of support. Friday's assembly included Minute To Win It games wearing drunk goggles to show how a simple task can be challenging under the influence.

— AUBREY SELF



Salt Fork

To kick off a regional run by the Storm, the Oakwood/Salt Fork girls' cross-country team placed third to advance to sectionals. Not only was it the program's highest regional finish, but Salt Fork's **Callie Richardson** placed fourth overall. The OSF soccer team also won its regional game against Fisher. Salt Fork has five athletes on the team: **Mason Swartz, Remington Cox, Greyson Spezia, Trevor Jackson** and **Pedro Rangel** — all sophomores who contributed to the team's success.

— ANNA MCCOLLUM



Uni High

Last Tuesday, statistics classes hosted the annual Statistics Carnival in Uni Gym. The event, organized by statistics teacher **Emily Buhnerkempe**, featured carnival games incorporating the principles of statistics and probability. Attendees used the carnival's currency, 'Buhnerkempe Bucks,' to win prizes from the student-designed games. Pictured: Associate Director of Student Life **Bridget Hughes** plays a card-based game organized by seniors **Will Miller** and **Jonathan Chen**.



— SIMRAH KHAN



DANVILLE GREATER BY 60

The National Honor Society introduced 60 new members at a meeting where rules, expectations, means of communication and upcoming service opportunities were presented. The leadership team collected information to prepare for the induction ceremony on Nov. 13. Pictured (left to right): **Macy Musgrave** (secretary), **Rylee Jack** (president), **Nadia Gamble** (vice president of communications) and **Austin Brown** (treasurer).

— RYLEE JACK



Mahomet-Seymour

At the 27th annual Academic Awards ceremony, 370 students received an academic letter and were recognized for their academic achievements from last school year. To receive an academic letter, students must be enrolled in a minimum of five academic courses each semester. Freshmen and sophomores must have maintained a grade-point average of 3.6 for the entire academic year, while juniors and seniors must have maintained a GPA of 3.8. Also, students could not have any Ds or Fs on their record. Pictured: **Emery Parker, Aubrey Watson, Emerson Mahannah** and **Dean Willard**; **Paxson O'Malley**; and guest speaker **Don Willard**.



— ABBY EDEN

YEAR 10 OF HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL: POWERED BY DACC



Champaign Central

On Oct. 29, student council hosted its annual Safe Halloween program. Clubs at Central host activities in different rooms, which kids from all over town can visit for delightful goodies and fun. Children could participate in anything from cookie decorating to cornhole, mystery puzzles to mazes. Pictured: Student council members run cookie decorating, (left to right) **Vivian Bannon, Lily Simon, Margaret Gengler, Lizzy Barnes, Maeve Ellis, Maya Robinson, Finn Kerins, Rylee Boyer-Killion and Kelen Carter.**

— ADELAIDE KOTA



IROQUOIS WEST GIVING BACK

National Honor Society hosted its first blood drive, bringing in over 50 donors. The members hold blood drives throughout the year to fundraise for scholarships that go back to the graduating members. This year, they recruited several first-time donors as well as many staff members. Pictured: physical-education teacher **Seth Johnson**, senior **Julian Melgoza** and NHS officers **Aubrey Chandler, Leah Honoycutt, Gretchen Willms and Amelia Scharp** joined by adviser **Jillian King.**

— Traeh Kissack



BHRA

Students celebrated Red Ribbon Week with dress-up days, including 'Wear Red Day,' 'Neon and Sunglasses Day,' 'Pajama Day,' 'Camo Day' and, of course, Halloween costumes to wrap things up. While students enjoyed the themed activities, the purpose of Red Ribbon Week goes beyond the fun. It is meant to raise awareness about the dangers of drug use and promote healthy, drug-free lifestyles. During advisory periods each afternoon, teachers showed informational videos focused on finding 'natural highs' and making positive choices. Afterward, students discussed and reflected on the videos through guided questions, reinforcing the week's important message.

— LAHNA BENJAMIN



Georgetown-Ridge Farm

Choir had its first concert of the school year — and marked the debut of new director **Isaac Richards** — performing three songs, including 'Shady Grove,' 'Agnus Dei' and 'What Love Can Do.'



— TIFFANY TAYLOR



LeRoy

Thirteen students traveled to Indianapolis for the 98th annual FFA National Convention. Students visited Major Tool and Machine and received a tour of the manufacturing plant, then spent the remainder of the day at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, where they watched a rodeo. The following day, they heard from keynote speaker **A'ric Jackson**, who discussed leadership potential. Members then attended the expo, visited career and college booths, and shopped at the FFA shopping center to conclude their trip.



— MOLLY SCHEUER

YEAR 10 OF HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL: POWERED BY DACC



St. Thomas More

The family of Saint Peter had a Dia de Los Muertos party during house time, where they played board games, drank Jaritos and had much fun. Diapers from the annual diaper drive were also delivered to Crisis Nursery to help those in need.

— DUNCAN OLIVEIRA

SHILOH A GATHERING OF THOUSANDS



FFA students joined thousands of others at the national convention in Indianapolis, where they learned how to better advocate for their chapter, attended sessions with motivational speakers, and much more. Left to right: Ahlyssa Garwood, Payton Scott, Eyan Keys, Maggie Milburn, Kaylynn Key, Roseann Dudley, Kolten Key and Will Dudley.

— Ali Cash



Milford

Thanks to funds from the Milford Hog Roast, FFA students attended the 98th national convention in Indianapolis. The group went to the rodeo, TopGolf and the Ella Langley and Ernest concert.

— KAMI MUEHLING



Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley

On Day 1 of the FFA national convention in Indianapolis, students attended the Career Fair and Expo, exploring career and education opportunities. Later, they joined over 64,000 FFA members from across the country for an inspiring opening session before attending an unforgettable rodeo. On Day 2, students connected with college representatives and business leaders from across the nation, gaining insight into future opportunities; volunteered with Hamilton County Parks as part of the National Days of Service, helping remove invasive honeysuckle to support forest health; and finished with great fun and Halloween fun at Indy Scream Park. Day 3 started at Dandy Breeze Dairy Farm, where students learned about the dairy industry and sustainable farming practices — and played with the cows. Attendees included **Kasen Defries, Tucker Davis, Kerrigan Young, Jordan Kadeing, Taylor Willis, Addy Rollins, Avery Hyatt, Kate McCall, Mesa Nugent, Sarah Higgins and Natalie Aberle.**



— ADDISON FARMER



Villa Grove

Students competed in an action-packed game to earn points for their 'houses' and secure a spot for the grand prize. The five houses included the Black Mambas (purple), Blue Bastions (blue), Illuminati (pink), Night Ninjas (black), Nonchalant Blood Moons (red) and Shooting Stars (yellow). They battled it out using pool noodles to knock over opponents' cups while racing to capture other teams' flags. The Illuminati claimed victory in the competition but fell just short of earning enough points for the field trip, while the Blue Bastions' second-place finish gave them the final boost to win the quarter and claim the prize. The event brought plenty of excitement, with **Silas Jones and Alex Esteban-Raymer** dueling for their houses, **Eamon Reedy** sprinting to capture a flag, and **Brian Cordes** joining in on the fun as a spirited super fan.



— EVA PIER

