## The



The Student Newspaper of Hamilton County Senior High School

# Welcome Back! 

By Travis Ackley<br>The Burrow

The reality of the situation has slowly sunk in. We are in for one more go-round. Another year of weekend assignments, late night cramming, and the seemingly endless alternation of Auten's and Mimmo's. Our return to Hamilton County Senior High, at least to me, seems routine yet somehow premature. Others affiliated with HCHS, however, may not agree with me. From freshmen to seniors; administration to staff; and everyone in between, it is clear that we all have varying viewpoints on this particular subject.
"I am sort of happy to be back,
because I get to see all my friends," said Senior, Josh Denham. Denham later added, "I am not looking forward to doing research papers in English though!"

Mr. Johnson, the teacher responsible for the woes of Denham and many others in his English classes, says he is very optimistic about this year. "I am excited about prepping seniors for their futures," added Mr. Johnson.

The minds of the administration, just like those of the students, are working overtime this time of year. "I always worry about the safety of students as they go to and from school and other various functions," stated Mr. Scott. "I would like to get through the year without any major problems." Mr. Cox's
scope on the new school year was a little more on the positive side. "I always look forward to a new year. It's a chance for everyone to have a new start," said Mr. Cox.

New starts are always nice, but it is also good to know that the old things we have valued will still be here waiting for us. Among those things are the lunches prepared by our very lovely cafeteria staff. Mary Anne Hopfinger, the head cook, says her goal is for the students to enjoy their lunch time. "Of course I am excited to be back in school!" Mary Anne exclaimed.

For some students, especially seniors, this is not just another year. It is the beginning of a final farewell to the things which they have taken for granted


Mr. Cox takes a break from his busy day to smile for the camera. Photo taken by Travis Ackley.
for the last three years. Senior, Paul Jackson said, "I am actually sad it's my last year."

## Monster

By Brandon Miller
The Burrow

On August 29, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast early in the morning. As a result, homes and towns in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama were cast into ruin. Katrina's impact on New Orleans, however, was even greater.

Because New Orleans is up to 20 feet below sea level in some places, it relies on a system of levees and pumps to prevent flooding. The wrath of Katrina caused several levee breaches and a pump failure. Consequently, $80 \%$ of the
city was covered in water and people were stranded in their attics or trapped on their roofs. Although rescue teams were able to save some of these civilians, houses known to contain dead bodies were marked with red X's to be dealt with later.

Even after victims are rescued from buildings and houses, the question still remains for them and many other unfortunate civilians as to how they will survive when they have no food. Food drops were being deployed throughout the most populous areas of the hurricane zone, but this did not seem to be enough. Looting began to be a big problem in
certain areas of New Orleans. Frequent robberies were taking place in convenience stores, some for survival and some out of malice, some armed and some not. To remedy this situation about 28,000 National Guard troops were placed in New Orleans and roughly 40,000 throughout the entire hurricane zone.

The rest of the country is also being severely impacted by Katrina. For the first time in history crude oil rose to $\$ 90$ a barrel and gas is well above $\$ 3.00$ a gallon in a majority of the country. Some gas stations are not able to keep gasoline in stock, because the price is
too extreme or because of the shortage. The list of losses and harsh inconveniences due to Katrina grows daily and one can only think it will keep doing so for quite some time.

Leaving New Orleans under water small towns completely demolished millions without power, and hundreds dead, Hurricane Katrina is being thought of as one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history. One can only hope that, as a country, the United States can pick up where it left off with a lesson learned and remembering Katrina as a testament to the bitterness of reality.


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## Meet Stephanie

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## Foxes Football

By Travis Ackley<br>The Burrow

1993: the year our Foxes last qualified for postseason play. 2004: the year one man gave a community of fans hope that their decade of disappointment would soon end. Jeff Rush is that man. Since becoming head coach of the football team, it is clear that expectations for the boys have been immensely heightened. Coach Rush has lured otherwise uninterested athletes to the field, mandated that players and students under his authority take weight-lifting more seriously, and given fans reason to believe that attending a game will be worth the ticket price.
"Coach Rush has totally changed this football program. He has taught us not only on the field, but off the field too. He's like another dad to us," said Senior, Cedrick Graham.

In Rush's first year in the driver's seat the Foxes crawled to a 2-7 record, missing the playoffs for the $11^{\text {th }}$ straight year. Nonetheless, the team did show dramatic improvement last year,
and they are looking forward to doing even better this season

This year, the team looks good. As of September $7^{\text {th }}$ the team was 2-0, with convincing wins over Cairo (surprise, surprise) and Sesser-Valier. "It’s about time Hamilton County wins some games," Junior, Ryan Dare said.

The goals the team has set for this season don't end at 2-0 though. Senior, Kevin Waier says, "Our main goal would have to be to make the playoffs." To make the playoffs, the Foxes must have at least a 5-4 record.

While the team is confident that that goal is attainable, some observers remain skeptical," I don't think they'll make the playoffs, because they never do," said Senior Josh Denham.

It is true that we have had a difficult history in this particular sport. It is also true that making the playoffs may not be a $100 \%$ sure thing, even given our team's improvement. So, what must the team do in order to get to the Prom-


The Foxes pause to receive further instruction from Coach Rush. Photo taken by Travis Ackley.
ised Land? According to Coach Rush rassing losing streak that they have the team must, "Play great defense and compiled. For now, they need to get continue scoring [on offense]."

Only time will tell if the team will make the playoffs and end the embar-
ready. They need to get better. Most importantly, they need support from their fans.
the team do in order to get to the Prom- make the playoffs and end the embar-
Hinning football team
Homecoming
Peter Jennings' death

## THE VGLY



Back to School After school jobs New tardy policy

## Forget the Wheaties, Use Steroids

With the 2005 Major League Baseball seasonnearing the playoffs, it's hard to look past all the steroid controversy that has surrounded the league this year. Baseball has taken many hard hits in the past with trials like Pete Rose's gambling problem and the fixed World Series involving the White Sox, but nothinghas had as much of animpact on the game as a whole.

Some say that the use of steroids and other performance enhancing drugs in a sport is completely unjustifiable, butyou have to understand how much money players are paid to do one thing only, and that's to perform at the highest level day in and day out. I myself am a huge baseball fan and love nothing more than to be on the field playing, and it would be a dream come true to be able to play on a college field. Seeing as I don’t exactly have the typical baseball player build, I sometimes have to rely on other things like fundamentals and playing smart. Sometimes I catch myself saying I would do anything to be a little taller and weigh 30 or 40 pounds more, but then I realize that things aren't meant to come that easily. I'm not sure if professional players think the same and are

unrealistic considering I am about fivesix and weigh a total of about 125 pounds. Think of the thousands of kids across the country who watch the very same thing. It may sound silly, but I just got a visual of an entire steroid using generation of kids with veins popping out and red faces running around everywhere.

Baseball on all levels has taken a huge hit from this major controversy, and if things don't take a more drastic change than they have, we may be ashamed to call it America's past-time.

Photo taken by Aaron Trotter
using steroids for an easy way to get that extraedge, butIthink they definitely need to have their eyes opened to see the influence they are having on youngergenerations.

When you turn on a game today and then look at pictures of old-time baseball legends like Babe Ruth, there is no comparison in the build of players from then and now. These days we have our Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosas, and Jason Giambis. I don't know about any other guys out there, but when I turn on a game and see these giants playing, I tend to get discouraged because I think that's the build you must have to be successful in baseball. Forme, that is pretty

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## Another Festival full of fun this fall

If you want to have fun, spend some money, and be with friends, then Fall Festival is the place to be. If a thrill is what you want, there are many ways to get just that. Thrills at the Fall Festival come in forms of exciting rides and interesting carnival games. The carnival workers come from all over the country to provide excitement and dart-throwing fun. Some people just go for the food, and there is plenty of that to choose from. Lemon-shake-up stands line the walkway, along with the

Italian beef and BBQ stands. The last day of Fall Festival hosts the most entertaining parade in this community. The theme this year is "Reflections of America" which will be depicted with dazzling floats.

Other people go to just sit and relax, and perhaps listen to music. During all three nights of the Fall Festival, music and entertainment will be provided on the south side of the square. Some of the entertainment includes The Holleys, Night Shift, T. Graham Brown, and a few others. Whichever you decide, you are sure to have a wonderful time at this year's McLeansboro Fall Festival.

## Rene Trotter, MS, FNP



Foxes Marching Band represents HCSH in the Fall Festival Parade. Photo taken by Marty Cox.

Hamilton Memorial Family Clinic
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## Cheaper fuel choices strengthen economy

## By Stephanie Hart The Burrow

With gas prices reaching record highs, people are forced to look for other fuel options. One of the best options it seems would be E85 a blend of $85 \%$ alcohol and $15 \%$ gasoline; made primarily from corn. E85 is much cheaper than regular unleaded, and it directly stimulates the Midwest's economy. With most good

## Lights, Music, Dancing

Homecoming is scheduled for Saturday, September 24, 2005. "I'm very excited about Homecoming this year, last year was a blast!" Sophomore Jayla Stephens said. It will start at 7:00 p.m. and last until 11 p.m. Coronation will take place at 8 o'clock that night. Student Council began selling tickets during lunch on September $12^{\text {th }}$. Tickets cost \$15.00.

The theme for Homecoming is being kept a secret by Student Council. Freshman Kaila Ragan said, "Homecoming is going to be a lot of fun. I'm excited and ready to dance!" Freshman Homecoming attendant is Miss Sarah Aydt. Sophomore attendant is Miss Mollie Gonzalez. The Junior Homecoming attendant is Miss Katie Karcher. The Homecoming Queen Candidates are Miss Lauren Edwards, Miss Nikki Furtak, Miss Haylee McPeak, and Miss Jessica Whitlow.

Something new this year about Homecoming is the "Spirit Couch!" The raffle


Homecoming Candidates (L-R): Junior Attendant-Katie Karcher, Senior Candidates Haylee McPeak, Jessica Whitlow, Lauren Edwards, Nikki Furtak, Sophmore Attendant-Mollie Gonzalez, and Freshmen Attendant-Sarah Aydt.
tickets are being sold at lunch and will be sold through Friday, September 22. Tickets are $.50 \$$ each. Student Council will draw the winner on Friday, September 23. The lucky winner will get to choose two friends to go with him/her. The "Spirit

Couch" will be located behind the scoreboard. Winners will receive pizza and soda during the game. Our homecoming game will be against the Eldorado Eagles. The game is set to start at 7 p.m.

things, there is a catch; in order to use E85, you must have a flexible fuel vehicle (FFV) many car manufacturers are competing with each other to put these competing with eac
vehicles out faster.

With the cost of driving a car becoming more and more expensive, car manufacturers are going to have to do more in order to stay in business. Many new Hybrid cars have been introduced into the market recently, and soon we could see more hydrogen-powered cars.

## Red Eye Movie Review


ting next to her wasn't there on accident. Jackson (Cillian Murphy), a rich and powerful businessman, reveals the real reason he's on board. He's got a plan, and Lisa is his only way to successfully complete his evil plot. He then threatens that if she doesn't plan to cooperate, her father will be dead.
It kept my attention all the way through, especially when my favorite part arrived at the end. With many exciting turns and plot twists, seeing this movie will not disappoint you.


## Un Viaje a Mexico en Missión

O
By Amanda McEwen The Burrow

Go out and teach all nations...Teaching them to keep all that I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19-20).

Over the summer First General Baptist did just that when they decided to go on a mission trip to Mexico. Alisha Blackstone, Michaela Morlan, Brian Harland, Josh Spangler, and Melyssa Hart are some of those who went on the trip.

Each morning the group would wake up at 4:00 a.m. and cross the boarder to Juarez, Mexico.
"We built onto a church because they were having services in a storage shed," said sophomore, Michaela Morlan.

The population of Juarez is approximately two million. An average income is $\$ 95$ a month. Scarcely enough to buy a jug of milk a day.

Income is low due to American industries being placed across the boarder to get cheap labor. This causes a great

Junior, Josh Spangler stated "I learned how poor Mexico really is and how much they wished they were American's due to their poverty. The mornings smelt bad because of the people burning their trash. They didn't even have something as simple as trash pickup, which we take for granted."

Some foreigners see America as greedy and selfish, but many in their own minds wish they were us. What we as Americans don't see is how fortunate we really are.
"My brother and I were talking when we got back that it was kind of sad that we have to travel 1500 miles to realize how blessed we are. These people had nothing and we complain about the little things. Yet they can come to church with a smile on their face and be thankful for what they have," stated Morlan.

Each individual I spoke to about the trip said they had a good time, and thought of it as a great opportunity to serve the Lord.


Sponsors: Chris \& Lisa Young Meets: Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

## Cuests Welcome!

## 400 Isabelle Place, MćLeansboro

## Far From Home

## By Autumn Dixon The Burrow

Picture it...you're 16, 17 years old and you've grown up all your life in the same area, around the same types of people and the same language. Then you get the chance to leave it all behind for a year and are thrown into a whole new surrounding and people who don't even speak the same language you do. I had the opportunity to sit down with our new foreign exchange student, Stephanie Schöning and asked her a few questions about being here in Hamilton County. "Right now me, my mom and my dad live in Teterow, Germany. The town has around 11,000 people. I was born in Halle though. Even though I do miss home I like being here. The people here are different. In Germany people are more reserved and here they are so open. The people here are so friendly.

The schooling at home is much different. Unlike here, we have different classes everyday. However, we do have the same schedule from week to week. My school consists of about 700 students. Our classes are different as well. We don't have the opportunity to choose between algebra and calculus, we just have math. And unlike English 3 or 4 we just have English. In order to come to America my dad filled out a form and sent it to an organization in Berlin. They had me submit an essay saying why I thought I would be the best choice. Then I got to go to Berlin and do an interview. From there I went to the exchange program and now I am here. The food there isn't really much different than here. We eat a different type of potato

## AUTENS PIZZA HOUSE

 207 Walker McLEANSBORO, IL 62859 Phone: 643-3471


Junior, Stephanie Schoning. Photo taken by Travis Ackley.
for every meal. It is very rare to eat fast food. We don't drink a lot of sodas. Instead we drink juices or carbonated waters.

I play tennis. I love tennis. Like other teens we hang out with our friends but we really don't have anywhere to go so we drink a lot of coffee at the local coffee shops. We are not allowed to drive until we are 18 years old. Sometimes you are allowed to drive at 17 but only under certain circumstances. The drinking age for us is 16. That is when we are allowed to drink beer. If we want to drink things such as Vodka, we have to be 18. Also we are allowed to smoke cigarettes at 16 ."
I want to thank Stephanie for her time. I hope this school makes you feel welcome and you enjoy your stay here in our humble, little town.


What is your full name? Dakota Dawne

## Cross

How old are you? 14
Do you have a job? No
What is your favorite subject in school? Art
What are your hobbies? Hanging out with friends
What kind of music do you like? Rock
What is your favorite movie? Eurotrip
What was the biggest thing you did this summer? Went to see friends in Michigan
With being a freshman, what was your first reaction to High School? It is way too crowded.
Is the work overwhelming? No


What is your full name? Kelli Rene’ Hopper
How old are you? 15
Do you have a job? Yes
If so, where? Babysitting
For how long? 2 years
Do you enjoy your job? Yes
What is your favorite subject in school? Drivers Ed.
What are your hobbies? Volleyball, basketball and spending time with my boyfriend
What kind of music do you like? Country What is your favorite movie? Don't really have one, a lot of them are good.
What was the biggest thing you did this summer? I went to Blue Springs, MO to get my cousin.

## Back to school in style

## By Sara Veatch

The Burrow

When big things happen to small town people, it always seems like a bigger deal. It seemed especially big to one lucky student who made her television debut on the ABC talk show "The View" on August 12. Senior, Jessica Whitlow, traveled to New York City with Junior High English teacher, Mrs. Lynn Belangee to appear on the "Back to School Fashion Show" segment on "The View".

Belangee came across this contest on the Internet and entered thinking she would not win. She was told to pick a student to enter with her and she chose Whitlow. Belangee sent a letter into the contest stating why she wanted to go and they both sent recent photos of themselves.
When chosen, the two headed for New York. A chauffer was waiting at the airport to pick them up. The first day was simply a tour of New York City on a double-decker bus. The next day they were off shopping. They met their fashion designer at "Kohl's" to pick out their outfits. They had an entire dressing room blocked off for the teachers and students appearing on the show. It took them around three hours just to do the shopping.


Jessica Whitlow shows her style. Photo taken by

The day of the recording, they arrived at ABC Studios at around 8:00 am for rehearsal. "They didn't tell us how to walk or anything. They just told us to walk to the line and smile a lot" Whitlow said. They were told the questions that they would be asked in advance so they could think about what they wanted to say. When asked what the stars of "The View" were like in person Whitlow said, "They looked just like they do on TV and were all very nice."

Since the show, Whitlow has e-mailed the producers. She says, "I thought their jobs were neat. They get to meet stars all day and produce fun shows like the one I was on."

# Lovella Craddock Hamilton County Clerk or Recorder 

## "Proudly Serving Since 1974"

What is your full name? Amy Michelle Allen
How old are you? 17
What kind of car do you drive? Oldsmobile Do you have a job? Yes
If so, where? Sunstar Video
For how long? Almost a year
Do you enjoy your job? Yes
What is your favorite subject in school? Music appreciation
What are your hobbies? Hang out with my friends
What kind of music do you like? Country What is your favorite movie? Troy
What was the biggest thing you did this summer? Hung out with my friends and went on vacation with my family.


What is your full name? Franklin Thomas Files
How old are you? 17
What kind of car do you drive? GMC pickup truck 1980
Do you have a job? Yes
If so, where? McDonalds
For how long? About 5 or 6 months
Do you enjoy your job? No
What is your favorite subject in school? History
What are your hobbies? Sports, music, being with friends
What kind of music do you like? Country and Rock'n'Roll
What is your favorite movie? Braveheart What was the biggest thing you did this summer? Went to Texas
All student profile pictures taken by Travis Ackley.

## March of Dimes Marches On

As we kick off the school year, the main hallway portrays the first fundraiser of many to come.

The Future Business Leaders of America (F.B.L.A.) has already begun the tradition by raising money for the March of Dimes. The March of Dimes is an organization that helps those with premature babies and babies born with birth defects. There are more than 470,000 babies born prematurely or with defects every year. The F.B.L.A. is a major participant in the March of Dimes and all of the money they raise goes toward that foundation. One of the fundraisers F.B.L.A. contributes to is the WalkAmerica.

WalkAmerica is the first and oldest walking event in the nation. WalkAmerica for Hamilton County will be held at the East Side School on September 24, 2005. To support this cause Mrs. Auten said, "We are doing a footrace where each class tries o get the most feet. Each foot is fifty cents. Then we are also selling bracelets for two dollars each. We are selling suckers at Auten's Pizza House and we have a can set up there and a can at the school store." F.B.L.A. has a goal of a hundred dollars per person. The reason for this goal is that every two hundred dollars raised, a baby is helped. President Alicia Meadows said, "I think we will," in regards to the possibility of reaching the goal.
Giving is not only a reward for those in need but can sometimes be a blessing to the giver. Mrs. Auten said, "I think that giving should be reward enough, knowing that they are helping babies."

FBLA FOXES APPAREL


## On the Run

## By Katie Kimble <br> The Burrow

As we enter the 2005 Cross Country season, one thing is apparent.This year will definitely be different due to a few losses from injury and graduation. The fact that the teams are slightly smaller this year, down to 14 for the Foxes and 10 for the Lady Foxes, will mean that more underclassmen will have to step up for the team to have another successful year. Practices will be a little harder this year, because Coach Lee recently bought several new watches to help train the team. These watches use GPS, and receive signals from three satellites rotating Earth. The watches give the distance traveled, the time it was run in, and can be programmed for specific workouts.
The lack of numbers does nothing to the spirit, though. At the meets there is a certain pride, a connection among the members of the team. "I believe that closeness and camaraderie is essential for
team performance. Their closeness is beneficial, the team supports each other," said Coach Roger Lee. You can see it when they run and when they stretch but it is most obvious when they are cheering for the other runners. Everyone on the team can relate to one another because they all run the same 5 K ( 3.1 mile) distance at the meets.
It's the ultimate competition, and the Cross Country team has been running endless miles to prepare for it. What keeps some runners going is a matter of pushing themselves to be the best. Junior, Brady Allen said, "The drive to make myself stronger, and to (be able to) endure more pain," is what keeps him running. His goal for this year is to be All-South, which is one of the Top 10 runners in Southern Illinois. For others, such as Junior, Amy Litherland, Cross Country is as much a team sport as an individual one. She said, "I keep running for the team."
We will host our McLeansboro Cross Country Invitational at Dolan Lake on October 11, 2005.


Team chemistry shows off the court, too. Photo taken by Callan Howton

## Senior Golf Phenom

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Coach Deborah Vaughan said, "I really believe that this group of girls can win any match if they work together as a team. The girls are very quick and can hit the ball very hard. I feel very confident that we will win the Black Diamond Conference East Division Title this year."
"We have been playing together since junior high, so we have great team chemistry", said senior Jessica Whitlow.

With the beginning of school comes the new volleyball season. The Lady Foxes volleyball team has many players returning from the conference winning team of last year and with that comes high expectations.

improved on both sides of the ball, so I like their chances." He was later asked who he thought was going to be the biggest bust of the year and he replied "I think the Steelers have too high of expectations this year. They were good last year but they lost a couple of key players to free agency. I wouldn't expect a whole lot out of them." Sophomore Scotty Glenn says "The Patriots will win again just like they always do. They have the best defense and the best quarterback in the league." They are his favorite team along with many other people. This season should be a fun one to watch.

When thinking of athletes that made it big from Hamilton County, the names that immediately come to mind are; Jerry Sloan in basketball, Carl Mauk in football, Ray Blades in baseball, and possibly in the near future, Lucas Jones in golf.

Senior, Lucas Jones has been the number one player on the Hamilton County high school golf team for the past two years. Jones is creating quite a buzz around Southern Illinois this year, with his consistent scores, and rare ability.

Jones, is yet to shoot higher than a 38 this year, and has shot as low as a 34. Not many people can say they have mastered the game of golf, and let alone lead the

Hamilton County golf team to a 9-4 start this season.
Jones qualified for the Sectional Tournament last season, and is looking to go even further this year. "My personal expectations this year is to qualify for the State Tournament," Jones said.

Coach Terry Aud, said, "Lucas has a great chance to go to Sectionals, and could go on to the State Tournament."
This is Jones' last season on the Hamilton County golf team, and is looking forward to playing in college. When asked if he had any preferences on which college he would like to play for, he answered, "I'll play for whoever wants me." Jones will be on top of his game for the remainder of this season and it poses this question: How far will Jones go?

## Lasting Impressians

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