

# THE BURROW

The Student Newspaper of Hamilton County Senior High School

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McLeansboro, Illinois

October 2007

## Program tries to save a life at a Carbondale school

**Amber Shriver**  
*The Burrow*

Students at Carbondale Community High School are getting an experience that could save a life. They are learning what it's like to drive drunk behind the wheel.

"It's difficult. The steering wheel starts to move a lot like a drunk driver would do and it's hard to control the car," Courtney Bertsch, a sophomore at Carbondale said.

In 2006 there were 594 recorded alcohol related deaths in Illinois alone.

When someone gets behind the wheel drunk, they are a 2,000 pound bullet, an accident waiting to happen. They are risking their life and the lives of everyone around them.



Photo of Drunk Driving Crash

Courtesy of <http://www.car-accidents.com/pics/carphotos/3-11-04.jpg>

"I've had a lot of friends that that has happened to. That's why I'll never do it. I don't want my friends to do it, because I don't want to have to lose another friend," Bertsch said.

A total of 17,602 alcohol related victims were recorded in the U.S. in

2006. Of those, 13,470 were drunk drivers. That is nearly 1 death every half hour in this country.

In 2005, 21 percent of the children age 14 and younger were killed in motor vehicle crashes were killed in alcohol-related crashes, says

[www.alcoholalert.com](http://www.alcoholalert.com). This alone should make our country want to put a complete stop to drunk driving.

"I think drunk drivers should be taken out of town and stoned," said senior Jared Russell.

"I think that drunk drivers should be torched because they put the lives of other people in danger," freshman Danielle Vineyard said.

Senior Jordan Hamilton, from Carbondale Community High School said, "I think some teenagers make bad decisions, but this today, should change a lot of minds."

Organizers not only want to encourage students not to drive drunk but also to take the keys from a drunken friend.

The cost of the program is \$3,000. A donation from the LifeSavers Foundation is helping pay for it.

## Breast Cancer Awareness

**Libby Cox**  
*The Burrow*

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an annual international health campaign that was originally organized in 1999. The spotlight of this month is to inform everyone on how important early detection is. Also, this month, we are supposed to recognize breast cancer survivors.

"I feel that Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a great way to get the word out and help people try to be aware of the disease," junior Bethany Anselment said.

Today, the United States is leading the world in most breast cancer cases. Each year in the US, there are over 217,000 new cases of breast cancer. While death rates are declining, breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer deaths among American women.

Both men and women should be aware that age, obesity, genetics and family history are factors that can contribute to the risk of developing this disease.

Up until the 1950s there was not a preventative treatment for breast cancer except for mastectomy - the removal of breast tissue. Later in the century, research showed the early and late stages of breast cancer, identification of the gene that causes the disease and methods of early detection.

"It is really important that people understand how serious this disease is," senior Callan Howton said.

People may help reduce their own risk of breast cancer through regular exercise and healthy lifestyle choices. Also, regular self-exams, clinical breast exams and mammograms are important since treatments are most effective when breast cancer is detected early.

## New siren makes a splash!

**Rachel Wall**  
*The Burrow*

There is a new addition to Hamilton County Senior High that is making a big splash! Mr. Vallowe's lesser siren is a very unique creature that is intriguing many.

The lesser siren's scientific name is siren intermedia and is a species of aquatic salamander native to the eastern United States and northern Mexico. It lives in muddy-bottomed ponds, streams and ditches.

The Lesser Siren gives off a clicking sound when excited, yelps when it is captured and squirms vigorously when handled. It can grow up to 27 inches long and typically eats aquatic invertebrates and plants. They start breeding in early spring and a female lesser siren can lay up to 200 eggs. They are only one-half



Lesser Siren

inch long when hatched and fully mature in about 2 years.

Mr. Vallowe is very excited about the new creature and the learning opportunity that it will give students. "It's just another example of how, if we just took the time to look - to really look - we could see so many marvelous things surrounding us," said Mr. Vallowe.

Senior Brody Mitchell is also excited about the siren. "It's really cool," he stated.

Stop by Mr. Vallowe's room and take a look at one of nature's fabulous creatures!

## Foxes have suspenseful season

**Jeff Robinson**  
*The Burrow*

The Foxes football team was off to a rough start this season. Starting with a 0-3 record, some people were already starting to count the Foxes out of this season's play-off race.

However, the season record has been turned around. Winning four consecutive games put the Foxes back in the championship running. They defeated Christopher, Eldorado, Elkhartsville and Johnson City to create an official winning streak

"The boys have finally realized what they need to do to get into the play-offs and, with their backs against the wall, they are more focused on the goal," assistant coach Keith Welch said. That seems to be the general consensus among the players as well. With the season winding down they must win two of their next three games to make it into the



2007 Foxes football

playoffs.

Senior quarterback Orry Taylor said, "We are on, we're focused, we got this. Our next few games will be tough but we are the better team and we can win them."

If the Foxes can pull it off, this season

will be their third-straight trip to the state play-offs, first in school history according to athletic director Clint Winemiller.

\*\* Unfortunately, the Foxes football season ended with a 4-5 record, falling short of the playoffs by one win.

## Stories worth skipping to:

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## Outside looking in



**Lauren Potter**  
The Burrow

I wanted to write a column this year that would touch people's hearts – make them think about how they treat other people. Hopefully, this is that column.

We've all heard the cliché, "Treat others how you want to be treated." It's old news, yet it's something no one really takes the time to do. Is it so hard to be a true friend to someone? Is it so hard to at least treat them with an ounce of respect?

I've lived in McLeansboro my whole life and in my eyes, cliques aren't as bad here as in other schools. But, what happens here is worse. Here, people single out one particular student and make them the talk of the school for weeks.

People love drama. In fact, there are some who seem to be unable to breathe without it. It is fun when it's not you. But when it is you, how does it feel? Have you ever been the victim?

Do you know what it feels like to be talked about behind your back – to have everyone hate you for no reason? To hear that you've said something that never came

out of your mouth? It's not fun, nor a joke. It hurts.

I know people, myself included, who have gone home and cried their eyes out because of how people treated them and made them feel.

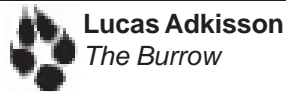
People who treat others this way should know what it does to them. Those people should know that even though some may hide it well, they are dying inside from the hurt.

The worst part is the helplessness – knowing there is nothing you can do about it. People will form their own opinions about you, regardless of the truth or what you have to say. Even as I sit here writing this, I know some students are going to read it and ignore it or laugh at it, and I guess I'm okay with that.

But, before you make fun of someone or exclude them from "your" group, step back and think about it. You have no way of ever knowing what is going to happen from one minute to the next. What is the last thing you said to them? Would you want that to be the last thing they ever hear from you?

Things are seen differently from the outside looking in.

## Why Columbus?



**Lucas Adkisson**  
The Burrow



Artist's depiction of Columbus

For many years we have been taught that Christopher Columbus sailed, with Spain's permission, across the Atlantic to find an easy water route to Asia, but what he really found was America.

Then a little later in life, we're told that he just discovered the Bahamas and didn't actually set foot on the North American continent until his third voyage. But he still thought it was Asia.

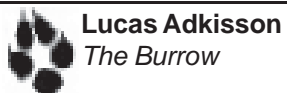
When Columbus was setting up a base in Hispaniola he believed he was taking the first steps in establishing a presence in Asia. And when he was trying to set up a slave trade involving the natives, he believed it was Asia. So why do we celebrate his discovery when it's not what he thought his discovery was?

I mean, the country wasn't even named after its "discoverer." The country was named after one guy who supported the "theory" that there were more than islands in the "New World", who traveled to those continents himself.

That man was Amerigo Vespucci. It is said that he sailed down to South America (the original America, actually) then sailed up to the southern coast of North America. The German mapmaker Martin Waldseemüller named the continents after the Latin equivalent of Amerigo.

So, with all these people contributing to the discovery and naming of this country, why do we celebrate the man who didn't think he was doing any of it? Probably because we hate to say we're wrong.

## Halloween is "Mixin' It Up"



**Lucas Adkisson**  
The Burrow

In the 365 days in the year (or 366, depending) there is always one "holiday" that little kids and adults both enjoy. It is a time of costume play and sweet tooth and for scaring the poo out of everyone you can.

We know it as Halloween here. But unlike what we think, it's not called that everywhere. In Ireland, the actual origin of the holiday, it is known as Samhain, in Wales it is known as Calan Gaeaf, it's known as Allantide to the Cornish and as Hop-tu-Naa to the inhabitants of the Isle of Mann.

It began as a pagan holiday that celebrated the harvest. It also celebrated that certain time of the year because it was thought to be one of the nights where the border between the spirit world and the physical world was at its weakest. Altars and wards would be built to both honor the spirits and fae (known as "fairies" or "the sidhe") and to protect the living from them. As

previously mentioned this festival originated in Ireland and was celebrated by the druids and other pagan cults. This was until the intervention of the Catholic Church.

When the Catholic Church came along, they decided that instead of abolishing the pagan celebration, they would keep it, but put a coating of Christianity on top. They called it All Saint's Day, and it commemorated the dead saints. It came over to the United States when everyone else did.

After about 200 years the concept switched to a "softer" version of the original idea. Now little kids go around dressing up as ghouls and famous movie characters and presidents, collecting candies and other various sweets and always believing that this night, more than all the others in the year, allows spirits to roam the earth once more.

But can anything evil be taken from this celebration anymore? With all these innocent ideas and ignorant notions it's hard to tell. Some people still think of it as a

pagan holiday, but those people are mostly hermit-like, nature freak pagans known as druids (yes, they do exist).

Here in the U.S. there might be some radical, satanic cults that have, by themselves surprisingly, found out that Halloween was a pagan celebration and decided to make it purely evil demon worship.

But unless they are one of these devil-worshippers, I doubt anyone actually uses this time where, supposedly, the boundary between the world of the living and the world of the dead is weakest to call forth demons and spirits to do their bidding.

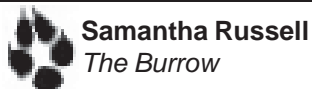


Evil pagans do their voodoo magic

## Trick-or-treating is just good, clean fun



Jack-o-lantern



**Samantha Russell**  
The Burrow

It's the time of year again when kids as young as newborn babies and as old as college graduates and parents get to dress-up as something completely out of the ordinary and have one night of immature fun. This has been a tradition for many, many years and looked at as just fun.

Nowadays, there are mixed point of views about Halloween. Some think of it as a night

when parents get to dress their kids up and walk them from door-to-door while yelling, "Trick-or-Treat!" Others think of it as a non-stop party night. Most high school students think of it as a time for going to Haunted Houses, toilet papering, pulling pranks, or the good old fashioned trick-or-treating. Whoever you are, or however old you are, it's a night of fun.

There are also a lot of negative opinions anymore about Halloween. Some "old fashioned people" accuse Halloween of being a holiday celebrating or encouraging the Devil or evil spirits. Some superstitious people believe Halloween is the one night a year when spirits can surface.

I'm not trying to undermine anyone's thoughts or beliefs because "to each, their own," but whatever happened to having a little fun? I'm usually walking a group of at least 4 or 5 kids door-to-door throughout town on Halloween while they trick-or-treat and I've never seen them so happy. Halloween's a night to be creative, festive and fun. People need to quit digging up reasons to be full of hate and just let loose and have some fun in life.



### THE BURROW

Hamilton County Senior  
High  
1 Fox Lane  
McLeansboro, Illinois

#### Co-Editors

Brian Harland & Michaela Morlan

#### Staff Writers

Lucas Adkisson  
Brittini Blades  
Lewis Bowman  
Brittney Brewer  
Breanna Brock  
Matthew Bryson  
Jonathan Cantrell  
Elizabeth Cox  
Jacob Harrawood

Leah Millenbine  
Lauren Potter  
Jeffrey Robinson  
Samantha Russell  
Amber Shriver  
Arisa Vineyard  
Rachel Wall  
Kayla Wellen

#### Business Manager

Jonathan Cantrell

#### Layout Designers

David Tennyson  
Amanda Harrawood  
Tanner Spicuzza  
Jamie McGovern

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## Auto club is revving up



**Libby Cox**  
The Burrow

Clubs at HCSH let you express who you are. Auto Club is one of several active clubs here. The club sponsor is Mr. Lynch, or better known as "Doc."

The requirements to be in Auto Club are enrollment in a mechanics class and paying \$15 dues. Freshmen cannot take a mechanics class; therefore they cannot be in the club.

Every year Auto Club takes an end of the year trip. This year they will be attending the St. Louis drag races.

Senior Ashley Bowers said, "I am excited about the trip, it is something for me to look forward to!"

They are able to take this trip because they held a fundraiser. Their fundraiser is selling raffle tickets for three different four-wheelers; a 250 cc, 90 cc and 50 cc. Each member who wants to attend the trip must sell 150 tickets.

Every year the auto club has a stand at Fall Festival. The club members are expected to sign up and work shifts. The stands purpose is to showcase the three four-wheelers and to sell raffle tickets.

This club has projects going on all the time. Right now, they are working on a Chevy Nova and an S10, which are both drag racing vehicles. The club meets once a month during club meetings to discuss annual events.

It is safe to say their club would not be the same if it weren't for the sponsor. He is very active with the club, and genuinely cares about its success. Senior Holden Jackson says, "Doc is awesome, and he makes the club that much better."

## Red cross blood drive



Seniors Erica Wilkinson and Lacey Martin prepare to donate blood.

**Kayla Wellen**  
The Burrow

There was a blood drive Oct. 19 at HCSH. There were 28 people who showed up, but only 22 were able to donate.

Every two seconds someone in America needs blood. The American Red Cross knows how important this is. Their main goal is to save lives.

There are very few qualifications you have to meet for donating blood. You have to be at least 16-years-old, weigh 110 pounds or more, be healthy and haven't donated blood in the past 8 weeks.

Many students were asked to volunteer their time to help out the American Red

Cross. One of them was Sierra Dearing, "I think more people should participate than actually did and I definitely plan on doing it next year."

Before the blood drive, only 6 out of 10 students asked said they planned on donating. 3 out of 10 said they would not donate, mostly due to a case of Enetophobia, which is the fear of needles. 1 student is unable to give blood due to medical restrictions.

Four million blood donors belong to the American Red Cross. Clara Barton, a famous civil war nurse, founded the American Red Cross in 1881.

Needless, to say blood drives are a lot more important than people realize. Just by giving a few minutes of your time, you could save several lives.

## From musical to concert



2007-2008 Chorus is making a change.

**Lauren Potter**  
The Burrow

Hamilton County Senior High's Chorus Program has always had an annual musical. This year, due to some health problems of the director, Mr. Carlton, there will be a change.

Mr. Carlton is a well-liked and well-known teacher who has been working with most students here since they were little kids in elementary. All of the students who love Mr. Carlton agreed when he said the musical would be too stressful and that a concert was a great alternative.

Cancer is a horrible thing and it changes people's lives dramatically. Everybody needs to pray for Mr. Carlton and Hopefully the concert will be a hit, but one day chorus will have their musical again.

Like many chorus members, junior Kyndel Shreve said "I like them both. I think they'll both be a big success and everything old needs to be changed sometimes."

Students who aren't chorus members seem to be indifferent about the change. Sophomore Samantha Riley said, "I don't know, I've never been too much into chorus, but I might go and see what it's all about."

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## Bluetongue takes over deer season

 **Jacob Harrawood**  
The Burrow



A deer infected by Bluetongue

Rare heat and a deadly disease are slowing down the game for hunters this year.

Bluetongue is a life threatening disease that is rapidly increasing throughout deer, sheep, goats, and cows. This deadly disease is taking the game away for deer season.

Bow season kicked off in early October and doesn't seem to bring in many deer. Senior, Brody Mitchell said, "When it comes to shotgun season, most of the population of deer could be sick and we could have nothing to hunt."

A hefty amount of deer have been spotted with Bluetongue in this region of Southern Illinois. Many deer hunters will have to be careful of the deer they eat due to this virus.

Bluetongue cannot be passed between animals; it is passed by the bite of an insect. Insects such as gnats, fleas, and any other

midges can pass it on.

Senior Nicholas Wiggins found an 8 pointer dead, out in Macedonia. Wiggins said, "I went to cut off the antlers and once I saw the defects, I figured it had Bluetongue. Plus it was by a pond."

There are no vaccines to prevent or cure Bluetongue, so if an animal survives through it, it will still have problems like decaying muscle and loss of hair. The disease causes excessive salivation, swollen tongue and lips, dehydration, discoloration of the tongue and pain throughout the body.

Senior Jason Waier found 6 deer dead near Walpole with apparent Bluetongue. After spotting two more dead due to bluetongue while farming, Waier said, "Bluetongue is spreading fast and all we can do is hope our livestock don't get it."

## Fire Safety Month is here

 **Mathew Bryson**  
The Burrow

October is National Fire Safety Month. The history of National Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which occurred on Oct. 9, 1871. That makes the week of Oct. 9, National Fire Prevention Week.


In reverence to this week, many people are trying to help prevent fires in their homes and workplaces. HCSH participated in a fire drill to urge preparedness. What have you done to help? Do you goof off during fire drills, forget to check smoke detectors, leave candles burning or just don't think fire will be a problem for you. Well, you could be dead wrong.

To be prepared you should always know what to do in case of a fire. Know where fire extinguishers are located and make sure your smoke detectors work. Smoke detectors save lives by alerting you to the danger and ultimately giving you more time to escape. Working detectors reduce the chances of death by 50 percent.

One thing that is very important that many people overlook at home is a fire drill. In your home you should always have two ways out if your house catches fire. "You should always have a place to meet outside the home if it is to catch fire. This way everyone can be accounted for." said Mcleansboro's Assistant Fire Chief Bob Bryson. If there is thought that someone is in a burning building a firefighter will risk his life to save them.

Being prepared will save your life.

## NBA coach faces harassment charges

 **Jacob Harrawood**  
The Burrow

On Tuesday, Oct. 2, the executive of Madison Square Gardens, Anucha Browne Sanders, took NBA's New York Knicks coach, Isiah Thomas, to court on harassment charges.

Sanders said it began as soon as Thomas was hired in 2003, but was afraid to say anything because she could lose her job. Sanders was right. Once she spoke of the accusations three years later, MSG fired her on the spot. MSG lawyer, Ronald Green said, "She was fired because you can't count on her after the lies she said."

Sanders claims Thomas called her out of her office many different times to either yell at her or scream profanity. "Anucha

Sanders was a woman who was fired from her dream job because she dared to complain about harassment by Isiah Thomas," her attorney, Anne Vladeck, said in opening arguments in federal court in Manhattan.

Senior Caleb Kirsch said, "Anybody who sexually harasses somebody, famous or not, should have consequences."

The jurors were three men and four women who came to the conclusion that Thomas was guilty of harassment. Sanders was fired from a \$260 thousand job, so she sued for \$10 million. She was awarded \$11.6 million.

Since the case ended, Thomas continues to hold his head high. As he walked out of the court room the last day he said, "I wish the jurors could see what we saw, but I have to look ahead, pay the fine, and raise my family."



NBA coach Thomas.

## Jordan Hamson's rodeo adventures

 **Mathew Bryson**  
The Burrow

One great American pastime is the rodeo. The rodeo is a sporting event that consists of several different timed and judged events that involve cattle and horses, designed to test the skill and speed of the cowboy and cowgirl athletes who participate. One of these rodeo athletes is senior Jordan Hamson.

Hamson has been riding in the rodeo for 3 years. He has competed in many events. Hamson said, "I team rope and calf rope." Team roping is where you have a Header and Heeler. The Header catches the horns on the steer while the Heeler catches the feet. Calf roping is when you rope a calf, run down the rope and tie three feet together. The fastest times win. Even though Hamson may make the rodeo look easy, it is very dangerous.

Hamson has been injured many times while competing. His worst injury was three broken ribs on the left side of his chest. He has not been scared off by the danger of the rodeo, as he is still competing. Hamson also is in second for the head buckle, which is a great achievement.



Jordan Hamson at the King City Rodeo

Jordan isn't the only Hamson who has an interest in the rodeo. His father has put a unique twist to it. He has introduced a church service via horseback. It is great way to have fun, meet new people, and learn about the lord.

Hamson has no plans to quit his rodeo career anytime soon. This rodeo all-star might someday be the best cowboy around.

## Halloween traditions live on

 **Brittini Blades**  
The Burrow

Halloween is a popular holiday that takes place every Oct. 31. In the United States and Canada, people dress in costumes and go trick-or-treating.

Junior, foreign exchange student, Marleen Sandmann, said, "In Germany we don't do much for Halloween, but I went tee-peeing for the first time here and really liked it."

The top 5 Halloween costumes this year are the hippie, cheerleader, Darth Vader, cat and vampire.

It was once common for people to leave food out on a table as a treat for spirits believed to be about on Halloween. Many people carve jack-o'-lanterns out of pumpkins.

The jack-o'-lantern originally represented spirits present in the dark, or

souls released from Christian purgatory.

Sophomore Austan Laswell said, "I pass out candy and decorate my yard. I like Halloween because it's something different once a year and it's fun."

There are also the Halloween parties for children that contain fortune-telling, mock haunted houses, scary stories and games, such as bobbing for apples. People also get into it and decorate their houses and yards with ghosts, skeletons, witches, black cats, bats and other symbols of Halloween. Places across the United States also hold parades and other celebrations for Halloween.

Sophomore Teddy Little said, "I used to like Halloween but I don't anymore because I've just out grown it."

Halloween developed from an ancient pagan festival called Samhain celebrated by Celtic people over 2,000 years ago in the area that is now the United Kingdom, Ireland, and northwestern France. Today, it's mainly candy, costumes, and tepee.

## Violet's unexpected miracle

 **Arisa Vineyard**  
The Burrow

As many of you know, Violet Jackson got hit by a car on June 26, 2007 while she was walking across the street near McDonald's. She got life lighted to St. Louis Children's Hospital. She was supposed to get out of the hospital on Sept. 18 but now that she is improving, they are planning to keep her longer for more therapy. "Everybody wants Violet to come home but she is not ready. It takes more than one person to take care of her. And I can't do it all by myself. I need as much of help as I can get," Betty Jackson Violet's mom, said.

Violet has been walking and running on her own. On day as part of her,

therapy she got to walk a dog. Now she has a choice of going to the gym or running. Of course Violet picks running.

Although she has said a few words, she is still learning how to talk again if you ask her questions she shakes her head "yes" or "no." She has also been eating pureed foods such as mashed potatoes macaroni, and cheese and yogurt. Although she is eating food she only likes sweets. Her sister freshman Tara Hartley said "She don't like anything that is not a sweet."

"Just the other day she drank 4 oz. of juice," said Hartley. Everyday she is getting better. Pretty soon she will be home! Until then, you can check in with her at [www.caringbridge.org/visit/vivi](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/vivi).

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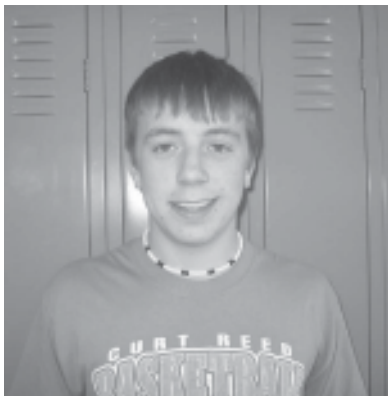
## Student Profiles



Senior **Nikki Ojala** is always a smiling face around Hamilton County Senior High. She is 17-years-old and her nickname is "Nikki Ojala." Her favorite after-school activity is hunting wolverines with her Uncle Dwayne in Alaska. She drives the Batmobile and her favorite high school moment was the Spirit Couch at this year's Homecoming football game. Her plans after high school include building a rocket, which Jayla Stephens will pay for. When asked about her Halloween plans for the year, she replied, "I wanna be on you." Her favorite teachers are Mr. Payne and Ms. Hall.



Junior **Cassidy Bond**, known as Cass to some, is 16-years-old. She drives a 1998 Chevy Suburban and loves hanging out with her friends. Her most memorable high school moment is this year's Homecoming football game. Bond's favorite teacher is Mr. Guzman and her plans after high school include going to college. Her Halloween plans include "not much."



Sophomore **Teddy Little** is 15-years-old and his favorite teacher is Mr. Lynch (a.k.a. Doc). He doesn't drive yet, but his favorite thing to do is ride around with friends. His most memorable high school moment so far is when Cole Webb and Devin Rocket got into a fight. His plans for after high school are to get a good job, possibly at General Tire, and his Halloween plans include going to a Halloween party.



Freshman **Patrick Kiefer** is a new face to Hamilton County Senior High. He is 14-years-old and his nicknames include Newt, Pat, and Patty. He doesn't drive yet but his favorite pastime is playing his Xbox 360. His favorite part of high school is basketball games and his favorite teacher is Mrs. Barker. Kiefer's plans for after high school are to go to college and his plans for Halloween are to go toilet papering.

Spider's turn

By Rachel Wall



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## Teacher Profiles



**Michaela Morlan**  
*The Burrow*

**Tammy Marie Hall**, best known as Ms. Hall, is one of the science teachers here at HCSH. Ms. Hall teaches chemistry, advanced chemistry, physics, general science, and anatomy. "Anatomy is my favorite because it's a new class, and closer to what my degree is for," Ms. Hall stated. Ms. Hall loved science in high school and it was her high school biology teacher that made her want to go into high school education. In her spare time, Ms. Hall enjoys riding her motorcycle and learning to climb the rock-wall.



**Fredric Francis Throgmorton Vallowe**, best known to students as Mr. Vallowe, is the other science teacher at HCSH. Mr. Vallowe teaches biology, introduction to biology, and advanced biology. "Advanced Biology is my favorite because of the exchange of ideas between students," Mr. Vallowe stated. An interesting fact about Mr. Vallowe is he thinks he's a boring person. In his spare time, Mr. Vallowe enjoys gardening.



**Charles Ralph Sloan**, known to students as Mr. Sloan, is the agriculture teacher here at Hamilton County Senior High. Mr. Sloan teaches agriculture sales, horticultural production management, agriculture leadership and communications, introduction to agriculture industry, and BSAA. Mr. Sloan's favorite class to teach was PSAA, however he no longer teaches it. An interesting fact about Mr. Sloan is he never had agriculture classes in high school, he learned about it in college. In his spare time, Mr. Sloan enjoys hunting, fishing and going to volleyball games to watch his daughter.





## Recent school shootings raise even more questions



Virginia Tech students after the shooting

 **Brittney Brewer**  
The Burrow

Earlier this month another school shooting happened in Cleveland, Ohio. The shooter was 14 and had already been suspended. After shooting two students and a teacher he shot himself. According to MSNBC.com, the mother was arrested for buying her son the gun.

In April of 1999, in Littleton, Colo., tragedy struck at Columbine High School. Two students shot and killed twelve others, a teacher and themselves. They had their attacks planned, even the exact time. They had everything from knives to bombs.

Another recent shooting happened at Delaware State University. According to foxnews.com, the shooter was an 18-year-old male student from the university. School officials immediately shut down the campus, and started knocking on doors to warn students and teachers to stay in the dorms and classes. Only two students were shot,

and neither was killed. The gunman was arrested three hours after the shooting. The fast response of school officials was a result of lessons learned from the Virginia Tech shooting earlier this year.

Some may ask whether or not HCSH is safe. When you walk through the front doors, you can easily take a right towards the junior high side and bypass the office. However, in most of the cases that have drawn media coverage, the shooters have been students.

No one can say exactly what is causing students to commit such horrible acts of violence on seemingly innocent people. Students are shooting other students - fellow classmates. Some believe they actually have a mental illness that has been well hidden. These are only a few of the common viewpoints that surface after a shooting.

Sophomore Kathy Martin said, "I don't think that a shooting will ever happen in our school everyone knows everyone - we don't just shoot, it's not like we are a big city or county."


Sophomore Aaron Miller and freshman Brittany Shelton agree that a shooting will happen in our community some day. Shelton said, "I honestly think it will happen, but not now - later in the future. I hope it doesn't happen but you never know with the things teenagers get themselves into."

There is no true answer to why a person does these things. The only thing left for Americans to do is hope that it never happens at their school.

## Meals Ready-to-Eat!



Sergeant Greg Overturf and Specialist Beau Detrick of the Army Reserves were Mrs. Kinder's guests of honor.

 **Amber Shriver**  
The Burrow

On Monday, Oct. 15, two Army Reservists visited HCSH, but not to push the benefits of their professions. The men were in Mrs. Kinder's classroom most of the day sharing information about military MRE's, or Meals Ready to Eat.

MRE's are known for their simple and easy-open packaging. The military has been depending on these meals for over 20 years. Hundreds of millions have been produced and eaten. The meals are not only used for the military, but are also used for citizens just like us.

When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, MRE's came to the rescue! They provided an excellent disaster relief solution. If you are planning to start an emergency survival kit, start with an MRE. They are designed to remain nutritionally valuable for up to 5 years at room temperature.

"I love them and they're worth eating," said Sergeant Overturf. The meals are full of stuff. If one ate cautiously, one MRE can sustain life for up to three weeks. The MRE is invaluable in treacherous conditions. Once it's consumed, the wrapper can be used as a bandage or to dispose of waste.

They are practically indestructible. "They're the best things since sliced bread," said Specialist Detrick.

The meals contain almost 1,200 calories. Each one is sealed with a main entrée, a side dish, a dessert, beverage powder, cracker pack with spread, and a condiment pack, which can include coffee, creamer, sugar, salt, napkin and a spoon.

The men brought numerous MRE's with them for the students to sample. "They get hot really quick when you warm up the pasta," said senior Charlie Webb.

Mrs. Kinder said, "It's been a fun and interesting day and I'm glad my students had this opportunity."

## Homecoming 2007



2007 Homecoming Court

 **Kayla Wellen**  
The Burrow

This year's Homecoming Dance took place on Sept. 22, 2007. The theme was tie-dyed 1970s. Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here" played throughout the evening.

Megan Karcher, escorted by Rhet Vaughan was the retiring queen and handed down the crown to Jayla Stephens, who was crowned the 2007 Homecoming Queen.

This is Ms. Crain's first year of being student council sponsor and being in charge of Homecoming decorations. It appeared to go very well.

Junior Arianna Bradley said, "I was very impressed with all the decorations," as were many students.

Another thing everybody enjoyed was the

projection screen with the music videos. It was something we haven't had in the past.

Sophomore Mat Owen said, "I had a blast and thought the whole thing was really fun."

Students and parents alike appreciated all the hard work that was put into making the ceremony a success.


The Freshman attendant - Kira Irons escorted by Kyle Ragan.

The Sophomore attendant - Sierra Dearing escorted by Luke Bowman. Sophomore Violet Jackson was an honorary attendant.

The Junior attendant - Molly Hathaway who was escorted by Nick Wiggins.

The senior queen candidates were: Cameron Frey escorted by Holden Jackson Michaela Morlan escorted by Orry Taylor Jayla Stephens escorted by Jeff Robinson Rachel Wall escorted by Justin Williams.

## FFA officers travel to Indy

 **Lauren Potter**  
The Burrow

Oct. 23 through Oct. 27 six HCSH students are going to be amongst numerous blue corduroy jackets at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. FFA officers will be representing our school at this event.

According to the FFA Website, "The National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education."

Seniors who will be attending are Jason

Waier, president; Samantha York, reporter; and Kyle Ragan, sentinel. Juniors are Bryce Lueke, vice president; Seth Thomas, Treasurer; and Chris Richards, secretary. Students will be making the long trip across state lines in a school van.

FFA has been a popular club for several years. Mr. Sloan is the sponsor for FFA and he will be taking the officers to Indiana.

They have been looking forward to this trip for a while and hope to have a good time. All want it to be successful. The 2006 National FFA Convention attendance neared 55,000 and this year should be no different.

At one time FFA was more of a guys club, but in recent years, more girls have become active in FFA. Now, 38 percent of FFA members are female.

For more information, one can look online at [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org).




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## Fox golfers finish eighth



The Foxes golf team places 8th at state tournament

**Brian Harland**  
The Burrow

After countless hours, endless sweat and immeasurable emotions, the Hamilton County Foxes boy's golf team ends a life changing season with an eighth place finish at the state tournament.

At the tournament, the scorekeepers take only the lowest four scores to give a combined total for each round.

In round 1 leading the scoreboard was senior Tanner Spicuzza with a 77. Following Spicuzza was senior Johnny Barrow with a score of 80. Senior Caleb Kirsch shot an 83 and freshman Donald Christenson added an 85. Also helping the Foxes was junior Caleb Miller with an 88, while senior Levi Link brought in a 96. With runny noses and ice-

cold ears, the boys finished the day tied in sixth place with the score of 325.

The Foxes came into round 2 with clubs at the ready. Barrow lead the way with a 79 followed closely by Kirsch who brought in an 83. Next was Christenson with an 84 and Miller with an 86. Spicuzza finished the day with an 87 and Link tagged on an 89.

The two rounds in the bitter cold gave the boys a combined team score of 657.

"It was one of the greatest experiences I had ever had and I will never forget it," Barrow said.

The 2007 boy's golf team ended the amazing season with a record with 81 wins and only 11 losses.

Kirsch stated, "This is a great group of guys and we wouldn't have made it this far without them. I'm thankful to them for giving me a great final year."

## HCSH students go MMA

**Luke Bowman**  
The Burrow



www.fcfighter.com

There is a new sport rising in popularity. One that has people very excited to watch and participate in. Most people know it as the U.F.C. (Ultimate Fighting Championship), or M.M.A. (Mixed Martial Arts).

It's a big fan based sport. There are even students at the HCSH who take part. Junior Matt Bryson, and seniors Jeff Robinson and Michael Bowers are several of them.

Bowers said, "Jeff Robinson is a really good fighter for his weight class, who, one day, may make it all the way to the top." Bowers also said, "You stay in really good shape by grappling with sparring partners, doing sit-ups, pushups, pull-ups and a lot of other workouts."

U.F.C. rules are sparse. They state that there is no eye gouging, biting or kicking to the head while the opponent is on the ground.

M.M.A. is the fastest growing sport in the world to date, thanks to the Ultimate Fighting Reality Show that started about 5 years ago. Dana White, founder of the Ultimate Fighting Reality Show, is also the president and owner of U.F.C., Pride Fighting and W.E.C.

Every round in U.F.C. competition is five minutes long. Title matches have five rounds, and non-title matches have three rounds. There is a one minute rest period between rounds.

The U.F.C. currently uses five weight classes: Lightweight: 146 to 155 lbs., Welterweight: 156 to 170 lbs., Middleweight: 171 to 185 lbs., Light Heavyweight: 186 to 205 lbs., Heavyweight: 206 to 265 lbs.

## Running with the Foxes

**Arissa Vineyard**  
The Burrow



The girl's varsity cross country team worked hard all year to achieve many goals. Although not all goals were met, they are still proud of their team.

"We have achieved as much as we can and hopefully the girls next year will pick up from where we left off, to make another great season," senior Kayla Follmer said.

"I am very proud of our team. We have great teamwork," sophomore DJ Zachman said.

There is more to cross country than just running. You make memories that will last a life time. As the saying goes, "Pain is temporary but pride is forever."

The boy's varsity team has also had another amazing season.

"Runners just do it. They run for the finish line even if someone else has reached it first." This says a lot about our boys. They never gave up. They have always had faith in themselves. If one fell behind the other would encourage them to keep going and never to give up.

Congratulations to both teams. Saying goodbye to our seniors will never be easy. Saying goodbye to a team is even harder.

## Wrestling. Grappling. Not at HCSH

**Luke Bowman**  
The Burrow



HCSH doesn't have a wrestling team, nor do they intend to start one. Some wonder why.

Athletic Director, Mr. Winemiller, says the largest factors for not having a wrestling team are a lack of interest and the lack of a place practice or hold matches. Starting a wrestling team would require the purchase of singlets (uniforms), warm-ups, and headgear for the wrestlers, as well as large mats for practices and matches.

Senior Aaron Jennings said, "We need a wrestling team," as a former wrestler from Chariton, Iowa. "Wrestling is better than any other sport. It's a good way to stay in shape for any other sport that you would play. Wrestling is a one-on-one match and the only way you can win is if you keep getting stronger and faster."

Former student, Koltyn Irvin, is on Rend Lake College's wrestling team. If we had a

wrestling team Irvin would be even better in college. He may have been able to get his education paid for on a wrestling scholarship.

If HCSH started a wrestling team, Jennings said he "would be the first person to sign up."

Senior Orry Taylor said, "It would be another opportunity for kids to get involved in something as well as keeping them physically fit." However, wrestling doesn't seem to be in HCSH's future, so, for now, we'll have to continue to support our basketball team.

## Competitive eating takes the cake internationally

**Leah Millenbine**  
The Burrow



Nathan's hotdog eating competition

at the Nathan's Hot Dog-Eating Competition.

These competitions are held all over the world at fairs and carnivals but there are also international competitions. The most famous of them is Nathan's Hot Dog-Eating Competition that is televised on the ESPN.

This competition has been held annually since 1916. International championship eaters gathered on Coney Island on the Fourth of July, 2007. One can even go online to buy merchandise, such as T-shirts, that boast "Nathan's Hot Dog-Eating Competition - Eat All That You Can Eat."

The winner of this year's Mustard Yellow Belt was Joey Chestnut of San Jose, Calif. Chestnut downed 66 hotdogs and buns in 12 minutes to beat the former champion, Takeru Kobayashi, who placed second eating 63 hotdogs and buns.

Senior Jared Russell said, "Eating, as a sport, can be very filling."

People who consider themselves not to be the "sports type" may not realize they actually are. Everyone eats, and if eating is a sport, everybody is an athlete. Some of us just train harder than others.

Eating is something we all love to do, but did you know it is a sport? All over the world there are people competing to see who the best eater is.

There are many unique kinds of eating competitions. Hotdog and pie eating competitions are just the beginning. In Major League Eating (MLE) there are a variety of foods devoured at warp speed for the sake of a title like holder of the Mustard Yellow Belt, which is awarded

**Bret R. Vaughan**

Agent  
bret.vaughan@countryfinancial.com

**COUNTRY**

Hwy 14 East  
PO Box 248  
McLeansboro, IL 62859

**Insurance & Financial Services**

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### DuQuoin Invitational Results

Varsity Girls	Grade	Place	Freshman/Sophomore	Grade	Place
Kayla Follmer	12	1	Ben Hamson	9	3
Kelsey Thomas	10	2	Logan Frymire	10	4
DJ Zachman	10	7	Dakota Watkins	9	5
Bethany Anselment	11	15	Clayton Smith	9	10
Cady Ragen	10	17	Aaron Karcher	9	11
Ashtynn Braden	10	21	Kyle Jones	10	14
Varsity Boys	Grade	Place			
Nick Burke	12	6			
David Wilson	12	8			
Bryce Lueke	11	9			
Matthias Campbell	11	13			
Jacob Norris	12	14			
Corey Phelps	11	27			





## Blind Melon is back on the road

 **Michaela Morlan**  
The Burrow

On Oct. 21, 1995, Blind Melon's lead singer, Shannon Hoon, was found dead on the tour bus from an apparent cocaine overdose. The band's career came to an abrupt stop, and many feared they would never hear from them again.

In the summer of 2006, Amarillo, Texas native, Travis Warren, took Hoon's spot behind the mic. The band started recording and has plans to release an album sometime in 2007. Along with a new album, they will start touring again; this will be their first tour since 1995.

The band is very optimistic about its new lead singer. "We started writing and recording, and we've got three new songs that we're excited about," Blind Melon's guitarist, Roger Stevens said.

Some of Blind Melon's new songs are "Wishing Well," "Sometimes," "For My



Blind Melon's new face


Friends," "Right Set of Eyes," "Last Laugh," "Make a Difference" and "Harmful Belly."

The band, however, is not the only one excited about the reunion. "It's rad. The best band ever is finally back together," senior Rhet Vaughan stated.

"His voice is in that sort of higher register that Shannon's voice was in, but he doesn't sound like him," Stevens said. "There are certain similarities, just because he's in that range, but on the stuff that we're doing, his phrasing and whatnot is different than Shannon's. On the old songs, he can sing them really well. They are different, but he definitely was influenced by Shannon."

Stevens is not the only person taking note to the difference in voices. "As long as the band is back together, I don't care. He's no Shannon Hoon, but I really like his voice - it's different like Hoon's. That uniqueness is what makes Blind Melon just that," said Vaughan.

## Lohan has a new man and big plans

 **Breanna Brock**  
The Burrow

Lindsey Lohan claims to have a new man in her life; 25-year-old snowboarder and fellow rehabber, Riley Giles, from Newport Beach, Calif.

According to abc.com Lindsey is headed back to tinsel town to film scenes for "Dare to Love Me," the tango movie she was preparing for before and during her rehab. However, in an interview with US Weekly, Lohan's father said she is planning to move to Sundance, Utah to continue rehab as an outpatient.

Lindsey Lohan is a New York City girl, born on July 2, 1986. She began her career when she was only 3, starring in Ford commercials and over sixty other television commercials.

Her first feature film, *The Parent Trap* (1998), was a modest profit-making achievement, earning her widespread critical praise. She was looked up-to by many young girls.

Two words that described her then: car-



Lindsey Lohan

ing and very well-liked.

Two words to describe her now, film star and hard partier. Once she hit the teenage years some would say she took the wrong path. She made celebrity gossip with her seductive clothing choices and party habits.


She has recently been in rehab, and is now out in the real world trying to prove herself as an actress.

Information from abc.com

## Stone Cold takes control in *The Condemned*



Steve Austin in *The Condemned*

 **Jonathan Cantrell**  
The Burrow

Awaiting the death penalty in a corrupt Central American prison, Jack Conrad (Stone Cold Steve Austin), stars in an adrenalin-charged action thriller "The Condemned."

Jack Conrad is one of ten convicts chosen to participate in a mysterious game. Little do they know they have been taken away from their jail to compete for their lives.


Ten convicts roaming an island in the Philippines with one objective - stay alive. They have exactly 30 hours to "kill or die." The participants include rapists and murders from all corners of the world. The prize for being the last one alive is freedom and a pocket full of cash.

There are a couple ways to live or die. One is to be the soul survivor of the game. Pull a red tab that is attached to an ankle bracelet, and with a ten second delay - BOOM! Try to tamper with the device, and without delay - instant BOOM!

As the game plays on, broadcast on the Internet, the number of players rapidly decreases. Jack Conrad tries to find a way to contact his girlfriend back in America to tell her what is happening, and to try to find a way to get a hold of the F.B.I, all while fighting for his life.

All seems lost when Jack Conrad dies. There's an exciting plot twist that keeps one watching until the last seconds of this action flick.

## Bright and bold season on Grey's

 **Breanna Brock**  
The Burrow

Drama is everywhere, everyday, especially in the hit show *Grey's Anatomy*. Thursday, Sept. 27, many people tuned in to ABC for the season premier of *Grey's Anatomy*.

For those of you who were addicted to last season, like sophomore Lexi Karcher who said, "It was addicting and it was an all-around good show," according to ABC, this season's episodes will have you at the edge of your seats.

If you have no clue what-so-ever of what *Grey's Anatomy* deals with, it's everyday people who work in Seattle Grace Hospital with the pressures of life and death situations.

Several cast members from last season aren't going to return to the show this season. Freshman Moriah Barr said, "I like the cast, they are hilarious and they know drama."

"There are some changes this season, but change is good," read a blog entry on greyswriters.com. "This season is sure to make you laugh, cry and be completely surprised."

Some faithful viewers are counting on the changes making this season even better than last. Freshman Natalie Anselment said, "Last




*Grey's Anatomy* Cast (photo from www.bugmusic.com)

season had many heart-stopping moments. I'm addicted to *Grey's Anatomy* so I hope it will be just as good, if not better, than last season."

There is a new character on the show and with that comes a new actress. Meredith Grey, the main character whom the show is named after, has a younger half sister named Lexi Grey. The two Greys have never really known one another but now Lexi is an intern at Seattle Grace Hospital. So far, the two of them haven't exactly "hit-it-off," but who knows, maybe Meredith will soften up this season.

The viewer who likes shows with tons of drama, lots of laughs, and a few secret relationships should watch *Grey's Anatomy*, Thursday nights on ABC.

## Hogan faces charges after crash

 **Jonathan Cantrell**  
The Burrow

On a Sunday evening around 7:30, 17-year-old Nick Bollea, son of famous wrestler Hulk Hogan, was traveling at a high rate of speed and hit a raised median. The wreck caused him to flip his car around, at which point the backend hit a palm tree.

The question everyone is asking is, "Were there drugs or alcohol involved?" Police say they don't think there were any drugs involved, but they will have to wait for the test results to return before they can be sure.

Reports say the wreck totaled Hogan's supped up Toyota Supra, which was valued at \$50,000; police say the crash also caused \$500 in property damages to city shrubs.

Reports say the roads were wet at the time of Hogan's wreck and that he was disregarding all traffic laws. He was driving way too fast, and was driving recklessly, so now the teenager faces many different charges.

Although the wreck was a very terrible incident for Hogan, he says the worst part is the fact that his best friend John Graziano, who was the passenger with Hogan, is now in the hospital facing permanent brain damage. Doctors say that Graziano will never recover, and will more likely never be the same person if he does recover.

Hogan's parents say Nick has been spending all his time at the hospital with his friend hoping and praying that he will come out of it, and be the friend he once had. Linda Hogan says, "Nick's sole concern is for the well-being of his friend. On behalf of my family, we ask that your thoughts and prayers be with John and his loved ones."

## Halo 3 finishes the fight



The final game of the Halo series.

 **Brian Harland**  
The Burrow

It has been considered the most anticipated game of the year and has finally reached shelves across America. Halo 3 fulfills everyone's expectations with its exceptional design and marketing campaign, but beyond the surface, this game is one to change lives.

Released Sept. 25, the game picks up where the previous addition to the tale left

off, encompassing the unique story. "The ending was completely amazing. I still can't believe what happened," freshman Patrick Keifer said. The campaign (or story line mode) has been upgraded to include a smarter enemy and new scoring system for cooperative game play never before seen in the Halo series.

Since the original game hit the market back in 2001, the multiplayer gaming scene completely changed. Halo 3 continues that tradition with its remarkable new features. Players are introduced to never-before-seen weapons and vehicles that modify the strategies people previously used.

One of the more popular features now available is the level customization addition. Players can control the who's, what's, when's, where's and why's of each level. Senior Nicholas Burke said, "It's so crazy. I can do almost anything I want."

This astonishing game has already sold over 5.2 million copies worldwide and is still growing by leaps and bounds. Burke stated, "It's the perfect combination of Halo 1 and 2. It cut the bad and upgraded the good. Anyone who owns an X-box 360 would be dumb not to buy this game."