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Storm Tracker

THE United High School NewsLine

Volume 16, Issue 3

STORM ALERTS

School's out

There will be no school from December 21 through January 5. Classes will resume January 6, 2020.

Classes will be dismissed at 2:00 on Friday, December 20, to begin Christmas break.

No guns, again

The debate to arm teachers was once again in the sights of educators as the Illinois Association of School Boards voted down a resolution giving local school districts the option to allow teachers and staff to carry guns.

The resolution, which would have only allowed trained staff to carry guns, failed for a second time. It was defeated 249 to 198.

A proposal supporting a safety grant program for districts passed.

Each November, the group representing IASB, the Illinois Association of School Administrators and Illinois Association of School Business officials determine issues the organization wants to pursue in the upcoming legislative sessions.

The proposal was mostly supported by rural and geographically isolated districts that are concerned about emergency response times and the lack of financial resources to hire school resource officers.

Epidemic? Vaping a cause for concern nationwide and at United

By Carson Clayton, Editor in Chief, and Avery Winking

The nation is experiencing a widespread epidemic among its high schools, Vaping.

Vaping is the process of inhaling and exhaling an aerosol combined with nicotine (usually propylene glycol) and other chemicals to produce a "vape cloud."

This "vape cloud" is commonly misconceptualized to be made of water vapor, but, in fact, it is an aerosol that may combined with other harmful chemicals also called "juice."

These same chemicals can be found in formaldehyde and antifreeze; in addition, they have been linked to cause cancer, heart disease, and other respiratory illnesses.

Nicotine affects the prefrontal cortex of the brain. This portion is mostly used for judgement and impulse control.

Long term use for teenagers using nicotine are uncontrollable anxiety, mood swings, and disrupted sleep.

Although nobody really understand why teens vape, most of the time it in "stressful situations" in



order to calm themselves down or due to the lack of socialization.

Teens do not get together as often as they used to and instead of partying by themselves, vaping is more convenient.

Peer pressure is another factor in why teens vape. The constant encouraging

of friends and some kids are just bound to give in.

Some common misconceptions among teenagers is vaping will help with weight management, stress, anxiety, depression, and self-esteem in order to "fit in with the crowd."

However, not all vapes contain nicotine and they

still are harmful to the function of the lung cells.

The immune system also can be damaged due to the vape not allowing the body to create as many white blood cells as needed to keep the body from being susceptible to foreign invaders such as the flu.

After a while vaping got "too boring" so that is when "dripping" became popular.

"Dripping" is when the "juice" is put directly on the heating of the vape and then the goal is to breath the fumes straight allowing for a larger nicotine hit.

See "Vaping" on p. 4



Students of the month named

UHS' students of the month for November are (left to right) freshmen Riley Hartzell and Johnathon Lewis, sophomore Reed Yung, junior Catherine Fuller and senior Alec Thompson.

The State of Illinois owes the United School District...

\$218,232.00!

Source:
Illinois State Board of Education (12/2/19)

STORM TRACKER

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STORM TRACKER

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WEBPAGE ADDRESS

www.u304.org

The webpage contains links to each district building and office, as well as access to the online grading system and calendar.

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United High School
 734-9411
 FAX 734-6090

United Junior High
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 FAX 734-6094

United Elementary North
 482-3332
 FAX 482-3341

United Elementary West
 734-8513
 FAX 734-8515

Board inks deal to go solar

By Carson Clayton
 Editor in Chief

At the November 14 school board meeting, a step toward renewable energy was enacted.

When Tom Crimmins, renewable energy consultant for Simpleray, came to the board meeting, he was able to get the board sign a

contract of interest with his solar company.

By signing this contract, the board stated they are interested in being involved with the company, and by doing this a set rate of electricity for 30 years, while leaving the board an out clause to step away from the contract.

The first step in the levy process was carried out next during the meeting, as members discussed the district's equalized assessed valuation (EAV), which the board expects to increase in the upcoming year.

The board has decided to host the levy hearing before they the next board meeting in December 2019. That hearing will begin at 5:00 p.m. ahead of the regular meeting set for 6:00 p.m. that night.

The board was briefed on the results of the financial audit performed by Cavanaugh, Davies, Blackman, and Cramblett. The district again earned the State's highest financial ranking - "Recognition."

Superintendent Jeff Whitsitt said, "United was ranked 3.8 on a 4-point scale by the state."

The board was presented the state report card for the district. All district buildings were named "Commendable." The results are available on the United website at u304.org

Then the final discussion was about the United School Board's participation in the Illinois Joint Association Conference,,

which was held in November in Chicago. Our delegates for the conference were Jeff Whitsitt, Kris Repp, Amy Schmitz, Chris Schwartz, and board members Dana Poole, Hank Shimmin, Debbie King, and Joel Johnson.

Following an executive session to discuss personnel, the board approved the following:

1. employ Jennifer Taylor as West Elementary paraprofessional effective October 21.
2. employ Jason Lancaster as Junior High athletic director for the 2020-2021 school year.
3. employ Wade Thiele as Assistant Wrestling Coach for UHS/UJHS for the 2019-2020 season.
4. employ Brenda Vancil as West Elementary Sped paraprofessional effective Dec. 2, 2019
5. employ Courtney Eklund as long term sub at United West Elementary for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, effective Dec. 9, 2019.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Education of the United Community Unit School District #304 is accepting applications for the following positions:

Licensed Position(s)

NEW - maternity leave - 5th grade - Mid-March through the remainder of the year.
NEW - Expected Jr-Sr High Art for 2nd Semester.

School Support Personnel

NEW - 1 on 1 paraprofessional
Full Time Evening Custodian - High School
Part time Cook--West Campus Kitchen(s)
Sub Bus Driver(s), Sub Cooks, Sub Paraprofessionals, Sub Teachers, Sub Custodians

Stipend Positions

HS Head/Assistant Softball Coach

All letters of application inquires and credentials are to be sent to:

Jeff Whitsitt, Superintendent
United Community School District #304
1905 100th St. Monmouth, IL 61462

The Superintendent of Schools will screen all applications. The administrative staff will conduct interviews. Applicants are not to contact board members.

The Knox-Warren Special Education co-op is accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. Interested parties can email their resumes to kdeschamps@galesburg205.org

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SCENES FROM THE SOUTH SIDE

JH library renovations to honor Julie McVey

By Ellie Van Fleet

On November 22, the United West Elementary School held a memorial event for Julie McVey in the new library.

The event was put together by the McVey committee, with books, cookies, and a time for children to see the new library while the adults could reminisce about Mrs. McVey.

Mrs. McVey taught at the elementary school and loved to read, so the new

library is dedicated to her, with the walls painted her favorite colors, green and purple.

Trish Bertelson, a member of the McVey committee, created the library as a place specifically designed for children, filled with low shelves and comfy chairs.

"It's very special for them, it is a way to keep Julie with us in the library. It's very special for them to have a place to read in her honor," Bertelson said.

"I've worked with the company to redesign the library from a traditional layout to a discovery layout. We have shelves on wheels, the ability to reconfigure, fun colors, everything kids love," Bertelson said when asked about how she designed the library.

"I can see her smile now; she loved her books and would love how this new design draws kids to reading."



West elementary teachers Nikki Robertson, Katie Fry, Trish Bertelsen, Alison Lefever and principal Pat Coate at the McVey library renovation dedication.

Speech team, GSA offer activities during the dreary winter months

By Ariana Villarreal

As winter seasons slowly start to occur, speech team gets ready to start up their season.

During speech it's a time where you get to step out of your comfort zone and get to experience events that some may never get to.

This year they have seven people signed up, with two returning from last year, Riley Horner and Paige Smysor.

This year the speech coach is Tara Marshall, beginning her second year.

"Last year was my first year and it was all still new to me. This year I plan to be more organized and work with them on being more confident since there are a lot of people that are new to all of this," Mar-

shall said.

Speech is all about confidence and helping students with public speaking. New freshmen coming in this year means new opportunities for the speech team.

"I wanted to try something new for my high school years and I wanted to get better at public speaking," freshman Ayden Fox said.

Compared to last year where there weren't a lot of students to go to competitions, this year they have a lot more people to exceed in new categories.

"This year I think the categories that we will see the most people succeed in are informative and comedy," Marshall said.

See "Speech" on page 5



By Ellie Van Fleet

This year United High School has had many new clubs, including the Gay-Straight Alliance (above), advised by Ms. Madeline Wood, the band teacher; and Mary Skydemah, the art teacher.

GSA started three years ago with roughly ten people, and now it is the biggest it has ever been with 20 members.

"We want to provide a safe space for people of all gender identities or sexual identities," said

Christian Williams, a senior who has been involved in GSA for three years.

The club has had a few changes since it first started, including a new advisor, Ms. Skydemah, and a new place to meet in the art room.

There were no clubs like GSA in the 80's when Ms. Skydemah was in high school, but she feels it would have made a positive impact on society.

"There would have been less bullying, less people with self esteem issues, and it would have given people the freedom to express themselves," Ms. Skydemah said when asked what would be different if she were to have had a club similar to GSA when she was younger.

"Everybody is so nice and has roughly the same views, so we can talk about

See "GSA" on page 5

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CSC Presents THE COLLEGIATE CONNECTION

Stories, clues and hints to help you prepare for life after high school

WIU, MC and Knox all experiencing enrollment declines

Could it be the state's financial reputation is putting the squeeze on Illinois' college attendance, with nearly half of all high schoolers choosing out of state schools?

Illinois has become the country's biggest exporter

of college students in recent years, with 48.4% of public high school graduates leaving the state, with the state exporting 15,000 students annually.

Western Illinois University in Macomb has had enrollment declines,

dropping 29% from 2015 to 2019.

Along with lower enrollment and precarious state funding, Western has faced serious financial troubles, having fired 132 people last March, including 29 faculty members. Another 24 were fired the previous summer.

Monmouth College has seen similar enrollment drops, losing about one quarter of its student from 1,238 in 2012 to 914 today.

Knox College has seen-

consistent annual declines since their enrollment peaked in 2012 at 1,430. Since then their numbers have dropped to 1,258 in 2019, 75 fewer than one year ago.

Illinois' woes in attracting college students comes on the eve of a major demographic shift, with the year 2025 expected as the first year when the children of the 2008 financial crisis begin to attend college. That year happens to also be a peak year for high

school graduates, after which growth slowed.

Illinois has already been a place of demographic decline. While high school graduate numbers continue to increase in the south and west, the midwest and northeast have been declining regions.

The bright side for Illinois schools is that the tumultuous budgetary politics that partially made Illinois an unpopular place to go to school have begun to subside.

Upcoming College Recruiters

With nearly all colleges wrapping up their first semester activities for the end of the semester and the beginning of winter break, no college recruiters are scheduled to be on United's campus during the month of December.

It is a good time to remind seniors they are allowed two excused absences, and juniors one, to visit college campus during the school year.

Pre-arranged absence sheets are required and are available from Mrs. Shaver. A 24-hour notice to teachers is required to ensure the student's absence is excused by the school.

ISBE seeks testing info by Dec. 6

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) wants to know what educators, parents, and other stakeholders think about state assessments. ISBE has launched a survey to gather feedback on state and federally required student assessments – from the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey administered at the beginning of kindergarten to the SAT administered at the end of 11th grade.

The feedback will help ISBE prioritize short-term improvements and long-term enhancements to the state assessment system. ISBE has identified equity, inclusivity, usefulness, and balance as the central

values defining its vision for state assessments.

"As a former teacher and district administrator, I know the importance of high-quality assessments that help us understand students' mastery of the learning standards and tailor instruction to meet students' needs," State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen Ayala said. "I look forward to gathering input from educators and parents across the state and to building on the strengths in our current assessment system."

The survey is available now at www.isbe.net/assessmentfeedback.

An independent consultant is conducting the

survey to ensure confidentiality. All survey responses will be de-identified before they are shared with ISBE. Survey responses are due by December 6.

ISBE has committed to implementing any improvements thoughtfully over time and to maintaining comparability to current assessments. Comparability will allow families and educators to continue to see student growth from year to year.

ISBE will present a Request for Sealed Proposals, guided by the feedback from the field, to the State Board later this month for action in January, 2020.

FAFSA now required

By Carson Clayton
Editor in Chief

A new law signed by Illinois Governor, J.B. Pritzker requires all students to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, otherwise known as the FAFSA.

This new law takes effect for students across the state of Illinois in the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

That means in order to graduate from any high school in the state of Illinois, no matter the student's choice to attend college or not.

Some students in United High School may not want to go into a college, but instead choose to go straight into the workforce.

Under this new law Illinoisans are required to

fill out this form that has no benefits to their career path.

The intention of the FAFSA is to help high school students planning to go on to higher education pay for college, not to waste the time of those not interested in attending college.

The FAFSA limits students to only send the information on the form to up to 10 colleges, but the thing is that many students are encouraged to fill out the form so early in their senior year, that they aren't sure what colleges they even interested in pursuing.

This new law not only puts pressure on the students, but our school officials to make sure the FAFSA is completed before students graduate high school.

CSC CALENDAR REMINDERS

Thursday, December 5 Fall semester ends

Mon-Thur 12/9-12 Final Exams

Tuesday, December 10 Spring Tuition Due

Monday, January 13 Spring Classes Begin

Monday, January 20 No Classes MLK Day

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"It was just really an opportunity to get a little bit ahead. I graduated from Sandburg in the beginning of May, and then two weeks later I had my high school graduation. That was pretty cool."

— Matt Wolford
Associate in Science



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United High School welcomes new faculty member

By Ariana Villarreal

United High School has welcomed a new member to their staff this year!

Copper, is a therapy dog, that gets to go to school every Monday, Tuesday and Friday to interact with the kids and teachers.

Howeverm Copper isn't just a therapy dog. He is family to Mrs. Miranda Carson, a teacher at UHS.

Carson made the decision to make him a therapy dog at United this year to help others.

"I have seen the impact animals can have on students. Having an animal allows students to have someone other than a human to comfort them," Carson said.



Copper has a lot of responsibility with training and even here at United and does a great job playing his part in helping everyday when kids need him most.

"A therapy dog is different than a service dog. Service dogs can go with their owners everywhere, because they are provid-

ing a service to the owner. Therapy dogs are usually called in when there has been a traumatic event to provide comfort and support to individuals," Carson said.

"As a part of Copper's training we volunteer at OSF in Galesburg and go visit patients. I have also been contacted by the

Monmouth Police Department and DD Homes about bringing him there. The police department if there is someone that has been involved in a trauma and to assist in calming them. DD Homes would be visiting the individuals at their home."

Here at United the students love Copper and

even acknowledge him when they see him in the hallways going to his next class.

"So far everyone is very polite and respectful to him. There are a few students that are afraid of dogs. He has been used a few times to help calm students that are upset," Carson said.

As Copper comes to work everyday he brightens up everyone's day and makes sure they are getting the love and support they need.

"Copper has always had a great temperament and a lover of people, so I knew he would be the perfect dog for this job," Carson said.

Vaping suddenly a big deal for all concerned

Continued from page 1

"Dripping" can cause choking, mouth bleeding, coughing, and a scratchy or dry throat.

This crisis among the youth affect more than what most expect, and it isn't just affecting city high schools: it's taking place our own rural schools like United High School.

Earlier this year, the Federal Drug Administra-

tion warned the popular American electronic cigarette for marketing an unauthorized risk tobacco products.

However, this electronic cigarette is not being marketed toward adults but, instead, their children and the main company doing this is Juul.

Juul markets their products to be fun, cool, and relaxing. Juul is also

known to have sponsored a "Music in Film Festival," an event teens attend.

Vape "juices" come in many different flavors and that is what attracts many young users of the product.

The "juices" come in a variety of flavors such as bubble gum, cotton candy, mango, gummy bears, raspberry, strawberry, and even Dr. Pepper.

It has been proven by studies done on students that one in every four students of United High School has vaped or use e-cigarettes at least once in

their lives.

A senior at United High School said, "I only tried it because my friends hyped it all up into being a huge deal, and they said that I should try it too. Then I took a hit from my friends' Juul, and it tasted okay, but something didn't feel right."

The Storm Tracker surveyed 177 out of the total 259 students of United High School, and the astonishing news is that more than 50% of the UHS student body that resonded first tried electronic ciga-

rettes between the ages of 14-16. Some students only experienced vaping through second-hand exposure.

Nationwide, there have been 47 deaths and 2,290 illnesses linked to vaping according to the Center of Disease Control.

In the future, will United High School students be linked to any vaping-related illnesses, or maybe death? That is for the future to decide.

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Speech Team

Continued from page 3

Speech team's first competition is on Saturday, December 7, at Bushnell- Prairie City.

"I'm not too nervous, but I am a little nervous since this will be my first meet. I plan to just stay focused and just talk about what I wrote from my informational piece," junior Sullivian Ross said.

GSA

Continued from page 3

almost anything that would be controversial in most other settings," said Williams when asked what her favorite part of GSA is.

United District Lunch Menu & Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 Hot Ham & Swiss Cheese Lettuce/Tomato Fritos Fruit Choice	3 Chicken Alfredo Steamed Broccoli Cheese Bosco Stick Fruit Choice	4 Pork Roast Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Peas Fruit Choice	5 French Bread Pizza Garlic Bread Stick Romaine Salad Fruit Choice	6 Pulled Pork Nachos Spanish Rice Fiesta Beans Fruit Choice
9 Hamburger on Bun French Fries Baked Beans Fruit Choice	10 Crispitos Corn Spanish Rice Fruit Choice	11 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Cheese Bosco Stick Green Beans Fruit Choice	12 Personal Pan Pizza Garlic Bread Stick Spring Salad Fruit Choice	13 Teriyaki Chicken Broccoli w/Brown Rice Egg Roll Fortune Cookie
16 Tenderloin on Bun Au Gratin Potatoes Peas Fruit Choice	17 Chicken Fajitas Romaine Salad Peas Fruit Choice	18 Ham and Cheese Sandwich Lettuce and Tomatoes Fritos Apple Slices	19 Turkey Sub Sandwich Lettuce and Tomatoes Sun Chips Carrot Sticks	20 Sausage/Egg Muffin Sweet Potato Puffs Apple Churro Applesauce
23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL Christmas Day	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL
30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL	1 NO SCHOOL New Year's Day	2 NO SCHOOL	3 NO SCHOOL Teachers' Institute



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1	2 8th GBB Regional BBB @ Williamsfield	3 8th GBB Regional JHBBB @ West Prairie	4 8th GBB Regional JHBBB vs Galva GBB @ BPC	5 8th GBB Regional BBB vs Southeastern	6 8th GBB Regional BBB vs ROWVA	8 Speech @ Bloomington FS BBB @ Galva Trny JHBBB @ Orion GBB vs Rockridge
8	9 FS BBB @ Galva Trny GBB vs Galva JHBBB @ Williamsfield	10 JH Winter Music Concert BBB vs St. Joe's Australia GBB v Rushville/Industry	11 8th GBB Sectional FFA Dairy Foods CDE JHBBB @ Visitation BBB @ BPC GBB @ ROWVA	12 Schol Bowl @ Mercer Cty Board of Ed Meeting HS Winter Concert @ Orpheum Theatre	13 K-2 Christmas Concert 3-5 Christmas Concert	14 GBB @ A-Town Trny BBB @ United Trny FFA Meats State FFA Dairy Foods State FFA Ag Sales State FFA Agronomy State
15	16 GBB @ A-Town Trny BBB @ United Trny JHBBB @ ROWVA	17 GBB @ A-Town Trny	18 HS Final Exams GBB @ A-Town Trny BBB @ United Trny JHBBB @ Stark County	19 HS Final Exams GBB @ A-Town Trny JHBBB @ LaHarpe	20 2:00 p.m. Dismissal End of 1st Semester GBB @ A-Town Trny BBB @ United Trny	21 GBB @ A-Town Trny Wrestling @ Jacksonville
22	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL Christmas Day	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28
29	30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL				

FFA month filled with activities and civic duty

By Austin Davis

The United High School FFA has hosted and continues to host fun events for its members and members of the community.

At the beginning of the month, FFA members who went to National Convention in Indianapolis returned.

On November 8 FFA joined with Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center to organize their annual blood drive in the ag complex (see accompanying story),

There as the "Hare and Hound Race" on the ninth. This race is almost like a scavenger hunt. The course was in a wooded area. The event is annual, so if you are interested contact an FFA member to participate in the event next year.

On November 14 the FFA members competed at Section Crops. The United Varsity team placed 2nd overall, while the United Novice team placed 1st out of the other novice teams.

Aubrey Thompson, Alec

Thompson, Elaina Allaman, and Reed Yung all placed in the top 10, taking 3rd, 4th, 7th, and 9th, respectively.

For the novice team, Isabella Colbrese, Addi Olmsted, Addi Murray, Deven Bushong, Oniza Royeen, Jack Jungmann, and AJ Jenks all placed in the top 10.

November 19 saw the team compete at District 1 Ag Sales. The team finished 5th overall.

Finally, on November 22, FFA hosted an event for the grade school students. The FFA members were helping the grade school students make turkey masks and they were also teaching the grade school students about crops.

Coming up on December 13 the elementary students will once again be visiting United High School as FFA members will again present a holiday program, likely to include a visit from Santa Claus.

By Austin Davis

The United High School FFA along with Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center organizes a blood drive in the ag complex at United High School at least once every school year.

The blood drive was and continues to be a good way for the United High School community do some good and maybe even save some lives.

Superintendent Jeff Whitsitt as well as some parents and guardians in the community donated.

Thirty-five members of the community donated blood November 8 at the blood drive. Each donor would have the potential to save four lives, which would mean that our community potentially saved 140 lives.

If you plan to donate blood next year, it's im-

portant to keep these important rules in mind: get plenty of sleep the night before; donate with a full stomach as it will help in ensuring a stable blood pressure; and, most importantly, stay hydrated because after donating your body will lose about two cups of water.

Speak with an FFA member about donating blood next school year.



United Superintendent Jeff Whitsitt takes time out of the day to contribute blood during the FFA's yearly blood drive.

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United musicians prep for holiday concert at Orpheum

By Sullivan Ross

Five United band sophomores and freshman have been chosen to play in this year's Junior Bradley Honor Band.

There are three sophomores are, Grant Gillen, Grace Janic and Nick Defenbaugh.

The remaining two freshmen are Hunter Lewis and John Grodjek.

Students are recommended by high school director Ms. Madeline Wood and are then chosen by their achievements such as other honor bands they have played in.

"It's fun and I'm glad I can go," Defenbaugh said.

Students do most of their practicing for the concert on their own as there is only one full band rehearsal

held at Bradley University before the concert.

That practice, however, can be quite long and last a few hours and can be grueling due to the chosen songs being technical and challenging.

A measure or two can be played over and over again until it has reached the optimum sound.

Gillen was not bothered

by the long practice.

"Practice went well and I had a lot of fun" Gillen said.

The full concert was held on November 19

Coming up this month

is the annual Christmas concert by both the band and choir and, once again, it will be held at Galesburg's Orpheum Theater on Thursday, December 12, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

History teacher Ryan Molek named October Teacher of the Month



The Sunny 97.7 WMOI and AM 1330/FM 94.1 WRAM Teacher of the Month is United States History teacher Ryan Molek (center with beard) of United High School. Mr. Molek was a former Special Education Teacher, giving him the knowledge to assist the students in a variety of levels in the classroom. Out of the classroom, Coach Molek can be found on the football field or the baseball diamond where he serves as head coach. Congratulations to the Teacher of the Month, Ryan Molek, courtesy of WMOI/WRAM, the Regional Office of Education, Papa's Bar and Grill, Flowers Are Us, MTC Communications, and Lucky Monuments.

GAVC offers opportunities outside the classroom



United students (left to right) Olivia Mitchell and Bella Kilgore are enrolled in a health industries class through the Galesburg Area Vocational Center, where they receive on the job training for careers in the health care industry.

Students will soon be signing up for next year's classes and GAVC offers many programs which lead college-bound students into careers. See Mrs. Shaver for more information on the program.

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RED STORM SPORTS

United's Gregory becomes first to compete in CC state finals

By Keirstyn Johnson

The United cross country team ended its 2019 season by advancing to sectionals and one member

going to state.

Anne Gregory placed second at regionals, tenth at sectionals, and qualified for the state meet, the first

runner, male or female, to achieve the feat.

She competed in the state cross country meet on November 9 in Peoria.

"There were a lot of serious runners, which was intimidating," Gregory said. "I wanted to make it to state, and run a time less than eighteen minutes. I stayed focused on my goals and made the most of practices."

Anne was also influenced by her indecision of her future plans with cross country. "I'm not sure if I am going to run in college, so I was motivated by the

fact this year could be my last chance" Gregory said.

"The Macomb Invite was the best meet, we all ran well and had a lot of before the race,"

The team made her experience of cross country memorable.

"I loved being a part of the team. We all got really close and everyone cared about each other. It's my favorite part of the sport." Gregory said

Wrestling makes its UHS debut

By Lacey DeBlicke

Wrestling is a new sport that has been added to United High School for the 2019-2020 school year.

The wrestling coach is Logan Thiele and there will be six or seven meets

spaced out over a few months.

"We will have three tournaments to determine the placing of our wrestlers," Thiele said.

Thiele has many hopes for the new wrestling team

and is, "Looking forward to getting as many kids out and get them as much experience as possible all while building up the new program."

As of right now there are ten students on the team, but they are always looking for new members.

When the team has practice, they meet in the AP room after school until 5:00 p.m.

"We're just going to have to see how it goes; the first year is always the hardest."

"It's kind of awkward being the only girl on the team, but it's fun nonetheless" senior Josie Sharer said. "It's different having practice every day after school, but I think it's needed since this is the first year United is doing wrestling and it's everyone's first time being on the team."



Named all-LTC first team were volleyball players Maddie Diaz, Jenna Bentz, Jerzi Johnson and Josie Bentz. Kaylee Cornell was named second team as were football players Dylan Cheline, Stewart Svob, and Alec Thompson. Diego Godina was named honorable mention

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RED STORM SPORTS

Dennison enters year four with youth, but experience, on his side

By Keirstyn Johnson

The 2019-2020 United boys' basketball team has set some goals for the upcoming season and are putting in the time and effort to accomplish them.

There are 21 boys going out this season. Thirteen in which will seearsity minutes.

This year's varsity team is coached by BOOST coordinator Mr. Doug Dennison with drivers' education

teachers Mr. Jeff Hannam as the junior varsity coach.

Dennison will be coaching his fourth year here at United, but has coached 14 years at the highschool level.

Hannam has coached numerous levels since 1996.

Their motto for this year is "We is greater than me, one heartbeat," Dennison said.

Both Hannam and Den-

nison said, "We want them to come together as a team and work as one."

The boys have been putting in time on and off the court. "From lifting and doing preseason work, to showing up everyday eager and ready to learn," Dennison said.

"The boys' work ethic has impressed me, by improving and working hard each practice," Hannam said.

Not only have the boys been putting in the time, but "everyone is battling for minutes," Dennison said.

This season they have

a new dynamic instead of "being happy to just play, we're going to compete," said Dennison.

"The boys are taking accountability for themselves and each other, it's not Coach Hannam and I doing all the barking," said Dennison.

The boys plan to accomplish great things this season and Dennison said, "We are going to be fun to watch!"

Among the regular season highlights will be an opportunity for some international competition next Tuesday, December 10, when the Red Storm will

play host to a touring high school team from Australia, a first in any sport for United High School.

The Red Storm will host its own annual holiday tournament the week before Christmas with games scheduled to begin on Saturday, December 14, at 11:30 a.m. versus Ridge-wood and 7:00 p.m. versus Riverdale.

Other UHS games are Monday, the 16th, at 7:30 in the new Fieldhouse; Wednesday, the 18th, at 7:30 in the old gym; and Friday, the 20th, in the new Fieldhouse



IHSA to decide FB scheduling this month

The Illinois High School Association's Legislative Commission voted November 25 to refer 11 proposals to amend the IHSA Constitution and By-laws to a vote of the general membership.

The Commission voted after hearing feedback from member school personnel at 28 town meetings held around the state during the month of November.

The ballot containing the proposals

will be available to each member school's official representative in the IHSA's online Schools Center, beginning December 2.

The deadline to submit the ballot is midnight, December 16, with results announced Tuesday, December 17

Among the proposals to be voted on is one outlined

in the last issue of the *Storm Tracker* that calls for a reversal of last year's decision to implement a change in the football play-off structure and regular season scheduling, often referred to as districting.

Other proposals being voted on include reducing the number of summer contact days from 25 to 20.

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RED STORM SPORTS

Girls' hoops welcomes new assistant coach as season well underway

By Ariana Villarreal
Earn Everything!
 For the girls basketball team this year, their motto is to earn everything, means nothing is going to get handed to you, you have to work and earn everything.
 This year the basketball team has six seniors, Nata-

lie King, Courtney Hinton, Ariana Villarreal, Bella Kilgore, Natalie Gillette, and Keirstyn Johnson.
 "I'm looking forward to playing my last season with not only the seniors but the team as a whole," Johnson said.
 This year Lisa Gartelos is the varsity coach, in her

fifth year coaching varsity, and 13th year coaching over all.
 "I am very excited for this season, I think our chemistry is stronger than it has been in the past. As of now we are continuing to develop good people and strong leaders, with six seniors who have four

years of varsity. I am looking forward to the season and ready to see what the year has instore for us," Gartelos said.
 They welcome a new junior varsity coach in Chris Olson while Breanna Todd is out on maternity leave.

Olson has been an assistant coach in the past and has helped the players grown as an individual and really helped them get out their comfort zone.

The varsity has already plaued their first Thanks-

giving tournament games on November 18-23 and will play another holiday tourney on the 14-21 of this month.

"It was good to play some teams we usually don't see in conference games and get a different aspect of the game, I think this tournament is definitely getting us ready for the regular season and is making us work more like a team every game," senior Natalie King said.

Winter cheerleading also underway

By Avery Winking
 "Let's hear it for the best U H S!"
 The cheerleaders at United High School have had a very productive start to their season with new cheer coach Gena Hasten.
 "I was once a cheerleader so I understand how challenging and time consuming it can be. However, I have a wonderful group of girls that couldn't be more positive and hard working. The practices we have may be very difficult at points but the girls never give up and always find a way to make them fun," Hasten said.
 Lately the practices have consisted of preparation for the Christmas

dance which is put on by the UHS cheerleaders every year at the United Christmas Tournament.
 "My favorite part of cheer is the dances because it's something we get to do as a team but I also get a new bow out of it," Alexis Johnston, senior cheerleader, joked.

The bond of the team this year is very strong assures Johnston.
 "Don't get me wrong I really enjoy cheering but the best memories are definitely made before the games on our team trips to Java Hut (located in Galesburg)," Paige Hall, a sophomore, said.



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Carl Sandburg College announces '20-21 scholarships

STARS Scholarship Application process is open from until February 15 each academic year, allowing students to apply for scholarships to be awarded the following academic year. All completed scholarship applications must be submitted by February 15. Visit <http://stars.sandburg.edu/stars> to complete scholarship applications.

The following scholarships may be available to United High School graduates:

The College Preparation Center Scholarship will be awarded to a full-time or part-time student (preferably from the northern portion of Sandburg Illinois Community College District 518) who is enrolled in an Academic Skills Center class, with a minimum 2.0 GPA. Financial need is not a factor.

The Dan Adair Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a full-time student who is majoring in music, agriculture or education. Financial need is not a factor, but applicants must have a 2.0 GPA.

The AKVO Energy America Endowment will be awarded to a full-time student with a minimum 2.0 GPA. Financial need is not a factor. Preference will be given to veterans who have been honorably discharged from military service or to employees of any of the Seminary Village facilities in Galesburg.

The American Legion (Galesburg)/Ralph M. Noble Post #285 Endowment provides scholarship funds to a child of a veteran.

The Myrle Bates Scholarship, established in 2008 in honor of the Chapter AN PEO, will be awarded annually to a deserving female student. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.0.

The Marie & Lloyd H. Bodinus Endowment was established in 2000 to provide scholarships

for nursing students. Applicants may be full-or part-time students, but must have maintained a 3.0 GPA. Financial need will be considered only if the candidates are equally qualified.

The Joe Brechbiel Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student from Warren County. (If no one from Warren County applies, then the award will be open to any Sandburg student.) Applicant must be a full-time student in the Industrial or Business programs.

The Centel Endowment, established in 1982, provides an academic scholarship for a graduating area high school senior, in the upper third of his/her class, wishing to attend Sandburg.

The Carl Sandburg College Faculty Scholarship is offered to a student who will be a full-time sophomore with financial need and a 3.5 GPA or higher.

The Crist Endowment, established in 2001 by Carl Sandburg College, honors the College's fourth president, Dr. Don Crist, and his wife, Mary Fran, for their commitment to education. The endowment provides scholarships for education majors.

The CSC Annuitants Association Scholarship is available to students who are from within the Sandburg district, minimum 2.0 GPA, no specific area of study required, and open to full-time and part-time students.

The CSC SIFE Scholarship established in 2007, in memory of James W. Peelle, is available to CSC SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) members with a 3.0 grade point average.

The Sara Merkel Deal Scholarship was established by Pete and Judy Boynton in memory of Judy's grandmother. This scholarship will be awarded to a Sandburg student with demonstrated financial need.

The Dell Incorporated Endowment will provide scholarships for Computer Information Systems students.

The DerbyTech Endowment will be awarded to a full- or part-time Sandburg student.

The D.I.G.I.T. Scholarship, established in 2002 by the board of Disabled Individuals Getting in Touch (D.I.G.I.T.), will be awarded to a second-year nursing student with a 3.0 GPA.

The Ethel M. Donaldson Trust provides nursing scholarships. Applicants are interviewed by nursing program instructors and are required to work for two years in the profession upon graduation.

The Elks Lodge of Galesburg/Clem Root Memorial Endowment Scholarship will be awarded to a student from the northern portion of the Sandburg district, preferably a relative of an Elk member.

The Robert Finch Memorial Endowment Scholarship will be awarded to a student, with financial need, who is participating in a Sandburg athletic program and has at least a 3.0 GPA.

The First Bank Endowment provides an academic scholarship for a graduating senior, from the Sandburg district, in the upper 15 percent of his/her class.

The Founders Scholarship is available to in-district Sandburg students who have completed 15 credit hours, have demonstrated community service and leadership abilities, and maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA. The general Sandburg application along with a letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or business leader is due by February 15.

The Merlyn D. Freeze Memorial Endowment Scholarship was established in 1999 to provide

assistance to students taking classes directly related to the field of tool and die maker. Applicants may be part-time students, but must have a GPA of 3.0 or above.

The Friends of Education Endowment will be awarded to a full-time student from the Sandburg district.

The Galesburg Business Network (GBN) Scholarship, established in 1996, will provide funds to assist a female student, over the age of 25, who will be enrolling in a program within Sandburg's Business Division.

The Galesburg Police Benevolent & Protective Association Unit 19/ Bill Herrin Memorial Criminal Justice Scholarship, established in 2002, is available to a full-time Criminal Justice student with a minimum 2.5 GPA.

The Galesburg Women's Club will award two scholarships to students enrolled at CSC. One scholarship will be given to a single parent, non-traditional student; the other scholarship will be given to a graduating high school senior.

The Lou & Wilma Gamage Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a Practical Nursing student with demonstrated financial need.

Donald H. Gibb Educational Scholarship will be awarded to a full-time student who is an education major. A 3.0 GPA is required.

Donald H. Gibb Memorial Scholarship is available to a full-time, 2nd year Mortuary Science student with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Students must demonstrate community service and leadership abilities.

The Glass Favorites Corvette Club Scholarship will be awarded to a full-time Automotive Technology student who has maintained a 2.5 GPA. Student must reside in Knox or

Warren County.

The Dr. Paul Good Dental Hygiene Scholarship, established in 2004, will be awarded to a full-time, first year Dental Hygiene student with financial need. Applicants must have a GPA of 3.2 or above and preference will be given to Henderson or Mercer County students. (The general CSC scholarship application form is due by July 15 to the CSC Foundation.)

The Gladys Grossman Memorial Endowment will provide a scholarship to the accounting student with the highest GPA in his/her accounting courses. Applicants must be full-time students enrolled in their fourth semester of the Accounting program.

The Hayden Creek Ranch Scholarship will be awarded to a full-time student with a 2.5 GPA or higher. Preference will be given to 2nd year students with demonstrated financial need, who plan to transfer to a 4-year institution.

The Ruth E. Huseman Endowment was established in 1999. Funds from the Huseman estate will provide scholarships for CSC nursing students.

The Huston-Reeves Scholarship will be awarded to a full- or part-time CSC student.

The Jagannathan Charitable Trust Endowment was established in memory of Subbia Goundar Jagannathan, Sr. Funds from this endowment will provide scholarships for students enrolled in a diagnostic imaging program. Applicants must be full-time students and have a GPA of 3.0 or above.

The M. Brad Johnson Memorial Scholarship recipient must be a resident of Fulton, Henderson, Knox, or Warren County; must maintain a 2.5 GPA;

**Continued on page 13
Continued from page 12**

Carl Sandburg College announces '20-21 scholarships

and must be enrolled in an Associate in Applied Science program.

The Alvin Kalin Scholarship was established from his estate to provide assistance to a student from Mercer, Knox, or Henry County, enrolled in a vocational program. (Preference is given to an individual who is a member of the Lutheran Church.)

The Knox County Voitures / Forty & Eight Nursing Scholarship, established by the Knox County Voitures, will provide financial assistance to second-year nursing students.

The Knox-Warren Special Education District Scholarship, is available to a full-time, second-year student enrolled in the Education field with a 3.0 GPA. Financial need is a factor, and the recipient must reside in Knox or Warren County. Preference is given to a student expressing an interest in working with special needs children.

The Irene B. Donaldson Landis Nursing Scholarship, established in 2004, will provide scholarships to full-time, first-year or second-year Associate Degree nursing students. Applicants must have at least a 2.5 GPA and financial need will be considered if candidates are equally qualified. This scholarship has been established in memory of Lola A. Bowman and George E. Bowman.

The Brian Lauerman Memorial Endowment provides scholarship aid to students from Knox and Warren Counties who are enrolled in one or more music classes.

The John M. Lewis Memorial Endowment will be used to provide scholarships to Carl Sandburg College students who have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or above and are enrolled in CSC's Business Division.

The A. Lewis Long Aca-

ademic Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1990 to provide assistance for tuition and fee expenses. Interest from this endowment provides scholarships to the two United High School graduating seniors with the highest GPA who will be attending Carl Sandburg College.

The Lucille McBride Endowment will be awarded to a CSC student who is enrolled full-time. Student must have a minimum 2.0 GPA.

The Berniece Edwards McMillan Memorial Scholarship, established in 2003, will be awarded to a second semester LPN student. The student must be at least 30 years-of-age and have demonstrated dedication to his/her education. Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and financial need.

The Muriel & Harry Neave Memorial Music Endowment will provide scholarships for CSC music majors. Applicants must complete an on-campus audition and are required to participate in a CSC musical ensemble.

The Office Specialist Scholarship will be awarded to a student in the Computer Information Systems and/ or Computer Networking programs. The recipient must live in Knox or Warren County and have a minimum 2.0 GPA.

The Office Specialist Accounting/Business Scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in 2 or more Accounting/Business courses. The recipient must live in Knox or Warren County and have a minimum 2.0 GPA.

The OSF St. Mary Medical Center provides a full one-year scholarship (tuition and fees) to a full-time, second year ADN student who has a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Recipients will receive a full-time position upon graduation and sign an agreement to work at OSF St. Mary Medical

Center for two years.

The Prairieland Hospice Foundation in honor of Dr. John W. McClean Scholarship will be awarded to a full-time student in an Allied health field, with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Preference will be given to a student with demonstrated community service.

The PSA Dewberry Endowment will be awarded to a full- or part-time CSC student.

The Raritan State Bank Scholarship is available to seniors in the upper one-third of their graduating class. Applicants or the applicant's family must be a customer of the Raritan State Bank or Abingdon Banking Center.

The Donald G. & Roberta J. Reeder Endowment will be awarded to a full-time student with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Financial need is a factor. This award is open to any course of study and scholarship funds can be used for tuition, fees, and books. (A special application form is required and must be submitted to the CSC Foundation by March 1.)

The Dorothea E. Richardson Endowment, established in 2003, provides scholarships to students majoring in education.

The Mary A. Robson Teacher Scholarship will be awarded to a second year student in the field of teacher education. Scholarship applicants must demonstrate involvement in community service activities and have a GPA of 2.0 or higher. Scholarship funds can be used for tuition, fees, books and supplies, as well as other related education expenses.

The Rotary Club (Sunrise) of Galesburg awards a scholarship to a Knox or Warren County student, over 25 years of age, returning to school full-time. Applicants must have completed at least 12 semester hours, maintained a GPA of

2.5 or higher, and be pursuing an educational goal.

The Ann Rowe Nursing Endowment Scholarship will be awarded to a second-year nursing student who has family responsibilities and who has proven financial need.

The Security Savings Bank Scholarship will be awarded to a full-time student from Henderson or Warren County who has maintained a 2.5 grade point average.

The Teacher Education Scholarship will be awarded to a second-year student with a 3.0 GPA. Student must demonstrate a commitment to teacher education program and plan to transfer to a four-year institution.

The Thompson Family Child Development Endowment will be awarded to a part-time or full-time student enrolled in the Child Development Program or in the educational field. Student must have maintained a 2.0 GPA. Financial need is a factor.

The Grace & Ray Thompson Nursing Scholarship, established in 2003, is available to nursing students who have maintained a 2.5 GPA. Financial need is a factor.

The Twomey Company Endowment Scholarship, established in 1993, will be awarded to students from Warren or Henderson County majoring in an agriculture-related field.

The Marguerite A. Vitale Memorial Endowment was established by Guy Vitale of G & M Distributors in honor of his mother, one of the founders of G & M Distributors, Inc. of Galesburg. The interest from the endowment will be awarded to a female student with a 2.0 GPA or better.

The Alta M. Weir Memorial Endowment was established in 1983. The interest from this endowment is used to assist a student

enrolled at CSC.

The Wells Fargo Bank Endowment established in 1979, provides an academic scholarship for a student in the CSC district.

The Jim & Joe Wiegand Memorial Endowment was established in 1992. Interest from this endowment is used to assist a married individual, with financial need, who is enrolled in marketing/business courses.

The Dean Wolbers Scholarship, established in 2004 by the Warren County/ Monmouth Auxiliary Police Corps, will be awarded to a full-time Criminal Justice student from Warren County who has maintained a 2.5 G.P.A. Financial need is a factor.