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# The Tornado Times

“Journalism is an act of faith in the future.”



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Griggsville-Perry High School

4202 North Stanford, Griggsville, IL 62340

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## New Royalty in Griggsville: Junior Crowned Apple Festival Queen

By: Jason Crane

The lights were on, the stage was set. Jennifer Bingham and her fellow contestants were all anticipating the outcome of the pageant. Bingham said that she was nervous and she didn't want to get up her hopes up high.

“I'm never a hundred percent sure if I'm gonna win it. I had a little bit of confidence,” Bingham said. “I didn't want to get my hopes up too high because there's always a possibility that the judges don't like you.”

After a long competition the judges finally announced that they had finally made a decision on who the 2018 Apple Festival Queen was. After a few seconds of intense anticipation, the judges announced Jennifer Bingham as the Queen. After it sunk in, Bingham said she thought, Oh, this is awesome.

“It was definitely surreal though, like it took me a while to realize that I actually won. I was just thinking ‘ok we just going through the motions, just practicing.’ Then I got home I was like ‘hey, I'm actually the queen now, this is pretty great,’” she explained.

After the pageant was over, the first person she talked to was her mom, Kristine Bingham.

“I spoke to my mom after the pageant first. She wanted all the pictures. So she ran up to me on stage and gave me a big hug,” Jennifer Bingham said.

She celebrated winning by going home and looking at her prizes and then going to bed. She still is thinking about her fellow contestants.

“I've talked to a few and they all felt pretty good about the pageant,” Bingham said. “I think they were still pretty



Ladies and Gentlemen, Your 2018 Apple Festival Queen Is...// Jennifer Bingham smiles for camera moments after being crowned as the new Griggsville Apple Festival Queen. Minutes later, Bingham's mother, Kristine Bingham, was by her side to celebrate the moment.

proud of themselves because they did very well. They worked hard for it, so I hope they don't feel too bad.”

She stated that pageants take more work than people realize, but she thinks it's worth it though. She also had some advice for all of the future pageant contestants,

“Definitely work hard on your interview and make sure you know your speech before you get up there, and be hundred percent prepared no matter what,” she explained.



The Queen and Her Competition// From left to right: Senior Mary Nash, Sophomore Jenna Kelley, Senior Maddison Vinyard, Junior and pageant winner Jennifer Bingham, Junior Brookelyn Crone, and Sophomore Renae Martin.

## Time to Give Back: Graduation Requirements Include Community Service

By: Brookelyn Crone

As another year comes around, new requirements and rules do too. For this year the new graduation requirement is that each student has to have 6 hours of service for each year they are in school. (Class of 2022 24, Class of 2021 18, Class of 2020 12, Class of 2019 6). Students must complete 4 hours each year (except for Class of 2019 which must complete 6 hours.)

This requirement would be something that will help students in High school. And get them involved with their community. The volunteer requirements help give students that extra push to help out their community.

“The goal is to get you guys out in the community Experi-

**“I think everyone was kind of nervous at first but I think now everyone is okay with it... I have students that are already done with their hours for the year.”**

**-Jillian Theis, Principal**

encing new things that you may not have done without the extra push from us to try it,” said Principal Jillian Theis.

Each student has had a different reaction to the new requirements but most of the responses have been positive.

“I think everyone was kind of nervous at first but I think now everyone is okay with it,” explained Theis. “The response I think has been great. I have students that are already done

with their hours for the year,” said Theis.

The requirements will do more good than bad.

“I think the requirements will do more good than bad, I do not believe they will do any bad.” Explains Senior Mary Nash, “I think this will be a good way to get us involved” Says Nash.

Many students have had many different reactions and responses to the new requirements.

“At first I had a negative re-

sponse but now I have warmed up to it and it is a really good opportunity to learn more about our community,” said Nash.

But other people may have a different response.

“I think everyone was kind of nervous at first but I think now everyone is okay with it. The response I think has been great. I have students that are already done with their hours for the year,” said Theis.

This new requirement is new to our school but not to our surrounding area schools.

“The school board were the first ones who had approached me about it a lot of surrounding schools have community service hours now so they kind of gave us the idea to start looking into it, and I worked with Mr. Hawley and we kind of developed our own of what we wanted you guys

to do here at Griggsville,” said Theis.

Some may even think that the requirements should have been added a while ago.

“At least the hours have been added now then later to help us get experience,” said Nash

Nash said what the students get in return is different for everyone.

“Self gratification, knowing that you have went and done something for the community you feel like you are helping people out sometimes it just feels nice to know that you have helped to do something.”



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**About**

The Tornado Times is produced by the students of Griggsville-Perry Highschool’s newspaper production class. It is published monthly on the last school day of the month, September through May. One copy per month is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained through the Griggsville-Perry High School office.

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**Corrections**

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# Exchange Students Arrive in GP from Europe

## Melodini Shares Thoughts on Differences Between Two Countries

By: Mya Kattleman

Marta Melodini, is a 17 year old junior who came from Linguistic High School in Rivalta, Italy. Melodini is from the city of Reggio Emilia, Italy, where she lives in the suburbs.

Melodini played competitive volleyball and was in the position as a libero for her team called Everton Volley.

Here in Griggsville she plays for The Griggsville Perry Lady Tornadoes. She is a hitter for the year.

Melodini is a foreign exchange student who is learning how life is different outside of her original hometown.

Melodini said, that Rivalta is a lot more different compared to Griggsville Perry. In the north in Italy there are more cities,

traffic, and people. In the south there is smaller cities and not as much traffic.

People mostly work in the summer because of the trees, in the winter the villages are empty with no people around at this point of time. They eat a lot of pasta, pizza and vegetables.

Melodini has two younger siblings: a brother and a sister. Her sister is age 10 and her brother is age 14. She is the oldest out of the three.

Melodini says her and her best friend Sarah, usually go out for ice cream during the week, and on Saturday they either go to the cinema or the club, since in Italy they are legally allowed to do that.

Melodini said that they do a lot

of shopping.

“We both love shopping,” Melodini said.

After high school, Melodini plans to go to university where she would like to study psychology. She plans to study a year in Germany, and possibly come back to the U.S.A.

“At our school, it’s different. We have only P.E, and on the outside we have a volleyball team or a soccer team,” Melodini said.

In Rivalta Melodini said “ we only have school from 8:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m, my teachers come to me.”

“For our dress code we can’t wear shorts in school, and we have to wear dress shoes,” Melodini said.

On her U.S.A. volleyball team,

when a teammate of Melodini’s is down and not happy with themselves she turns around pats them on the back and says, “You’re alright, don’t worry.”

Melodini explained what she thinks makes Griggsville-Perry special.

“It’s a small town, where people know each other and here everyone is friends with one another, and know their neighbor,” Melodini said.

“Life here in Griggsville is great,” Melodini explained, “because, everyone knows everybody and their neighbor, and you guys are more able to hang out with friends.”

## Kloeckler Explores America, One Friend at a Time

By: Ashlee Jones

Leonie Kloeckler is a foreign exchange student from Germany. She spends her time playing volleyball and studying at home.

Kloeckler enjoys America. “I like America because it’s way different than Germany”, said Kloeckler.

Kloeckler adores school and is a junior at Griggsville-Perry high school.

“I like it because it’s so easy and I like the relationships between students and teachers”, said Kloeckler.

Kloeckler has a favorite subject.

“Yearbook is my favorite subject because of Mr. C and also you can create something that you get to see at the end of the year.” said Kloeckler

At Kloeckner old school she never played volleyball.

“In Germany we don’t have volleyball in school we have to go outside of school to play for the team.” said Kloeckner

Kloeckner came from Germany.

“The school system is really different and we don’t have football or volleyball teams in school we have to outside of school for

it. You have school from 1pm 2pm 3pm then you have to go home and do homework.” said Kloeckner

It was hard for Kloeckner to leave home.

“I miss my family and the food because the food is really different here.” said Kloeckner

Pam VanWinkle is the Griggsville-Perry high school volleyball coach. She has been the coach for the past two years.

“I think Leonie has improved a lot since the first time she came to us” said Vanwinkle. “She has a

very good attitude she has great sportsmanship, even though she doesn’t get to see a lot of playing time she is always ready to go into the game whenever I ask her to do. That so over all I think she has been asset to our volleyball team”, said VanWinkle.

## Hawley Joins GP District as Superintendent

By: Mya Kattleman

Kent Hawley, the new Griggsville Perry district superintendent, lives in Pittsfield and has been in Pike County for 29 years.

Hawley said Griggsville Perry is different from other schools.

“Every school has its own culture,” Hawley said. “Some schools are known for their academics, some are known for their athletics, some are really student centered, and some are really content centered. It just depends on the school.”

Hawley explained his goals for the school involved both academics and community.

“Well my first goal was just

simply get to know the district, and know the people,” Hawley said. “Then just to figure out how we can help students learn, what ways could we improve the student learning, ways we can make this a place where kids want to come to school, teachers want to come to work, and where everybody is working as a unit, everybody is working as a team, where everybody can feel like family.” Hawley said his favorite part about Griggsville Perry is the people.

“They have been very welcoming. There are a lot of teachers who are just dedicated to helping kids, helping students,” Hawley said.

“That also filters down into cooks

and custodians and secretaries. Everybody is doing a really good job about coming together and working as a team. I’m really happy about that.”

Hawley has ideas he is wanting to focus on for the Griggsville Perry district.

One area he wanted to focus on the most was student growth and learning.

“I want to make this a place where students want to come to school,” Hawley said. “We are going to do the best we can with what we have and [I want us to] be reaching for something maybe a little bit higher.”

Other types of goals he has for the district include academics and

community within the school.

“The students success, that’s great, that’s what we are really striving for. If we can’t [be successful] without being good to each other then that’s probably not as meaningful.”

This is Hawley’s 32nd year in education. Before he came to Griggsville Perry he was a high school English teacher for 17 years. He taught at the college level as well in John Wood Community College. The subjects he taught at the college level included, English composition and speech. He coached basketball, baseball and softball both in junior highs and high schools. He has three children and just got a new granddaughter in the past month.



**New Faces, New Places//** Superintendent Kent Hawley (seen on the left) is the first new staff member to be featured in a series of upcoming articles on the new teachers, counselor, and aides in the school.

Check out next month’s issue for more stories on Griggsville-Perry’s newest staff members!