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Monday, September 26, 2016

The Tornado Times

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Griggsville-Perry High School

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Science class picks, prepares plants for sensory garden

by Hope Scott
Staff Reporter

The botany and zoology class took a trip to Forrest Keeling Nursery in Elsberry, Missouri on Wednesday, September 21.

Despite the heat, GP students and science teacher, Chris Sheehan, walked around the area with a guide while they saw the different types of Native Plant Materials.

The Forrest Keeling Nursery is a family owned business that shows over 65 years of knowledge and passion. Sheehan and students showed excitement throughout the tour.

All students got to pick out plants that they have been studying in this class. Hope Scott, senior, said, "Sure, it was hot. But, the different kinds of native plants that we got to touch, feel, and see were amazing!"

The plants that Sheehan and class bought that day will be planted around the school to better the sight and education of the school. The gardens include touch, smell, and sight. The touch garden is for students to go out to the garden and feel the different types of plants.

For example, Lambs Ear is a plant with very fuzzy leaves. The smell garden is for students to go out to the garden and smell the different types of Native Plants.

The sight garden is for students to go out and see the bright colors of Native Plants.

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Shoemaker Makes the Final Cut as Queen of Griggsville Apple Festival

by Kailynn Waugh & Allison Huntley
Staff Reporters



Hope Scott | Tornado Times
Hail to the Queen!
Alexsa Shoemaker pictured with her crown in the Apple Festival throne.

On Sept. 16 through 18, Griggsville, Ill. held its annual Apple Festival starting with the Queen Pageant.

The 2016 Queen contestants were Jordan Brite, Ashlyn Crone, Lani Daniels, Kourtney Harris, Ashley Miller, Mary Nash, and Alexa Shoemaker.

During the first night of Apple Festival, the events for the Queen Pageant were interviews

"Have fun with it. But mostly if your microphone quits just smile through it."

- Alyssa Shoemaker

at four to six p.m.; at seven p.m. was the introduction of the Queens; nine o'clock was the evening gowns, the speeches, and the questions; and finally at nine forty-five was the crowning.

The results of the Queen Contest is that Alexa Shoemaker was crowned, Ashley Miller was second-runner up and Mary Nash was first-runner up. Shoemaker was also pronounced Most Photogenic and scholarship recipient.

Nash was named Best Orator and Lani Daniels was named this year's Apple Princess.

After the Apple Festival most of the Queen Contestants

were reinterviewed by a couple of students from the Griggsville Perry High School Journalism Class. This is what Alexa Shoemaker had to say: "I was surprised when I got crowned because it was my first pageant and I didn't expect to gain anything other than experience."

When asked to describe her reaction to being crowned she said she was overwhelmed by joy and even cried a little bit. Some advice Shoemaker would like to give to future Queen Contestants is to "always go in feeling your best and with confidence. Have fun with it. But mostly if your microphone quits just smile through it."

"I was very very happy and was honored." said Ashley Miller when asked to explain her emotions after she won second-runner up. I was very happy to see my friends there staring at me, I was very calm and vibrant, I wasn't nervous," replied Miller, reflecting on the five minutes before she got second-runner up.

Lani Daniels explained to us how she felt when she was picked for Miss Congeniality. "I was a little surprised that I got it because I thought Kourtney was going to get it cause[sic] everyone likes Kourtney. But when I got it, it made me feel loved." said Daniels.

Even though Kourtney Harris and Jordan Brite might not have won anything they still had something good to say about the experience they had being in the pageant.

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Demo Derby Thills with Danger on Saturday

by Paige Syrcle
Staff Reporters

Welcome fall in with a bang at the Western IL Fair/ Mike Brown Promotion's fall demo derby.

What does a demo derby mean to you? It means a competition in which typically older cars are driven into each other until only one is left running. At the bullpen Saturday night they included the kids by giving the kids numbers on all the cars in that round. If that car won the

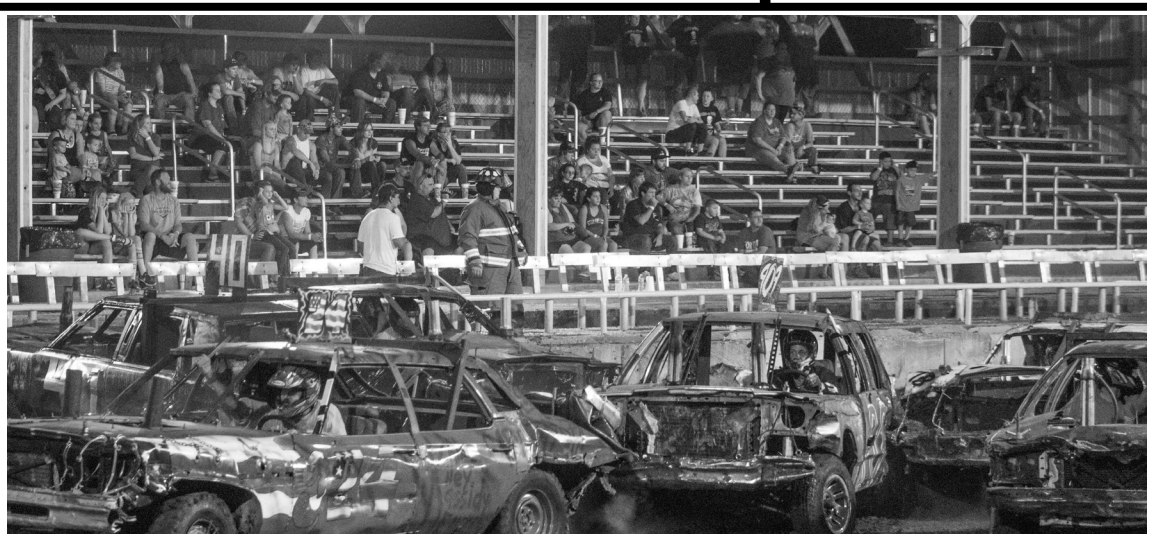
kid with that number or name of driver received a prize.

That prize was a photo with the driver and the car and a cash prize. The cash prize was given by Mike Brown.

The first class of the demo cars was the stock class. There were seven cars battling it out for one big trophy.

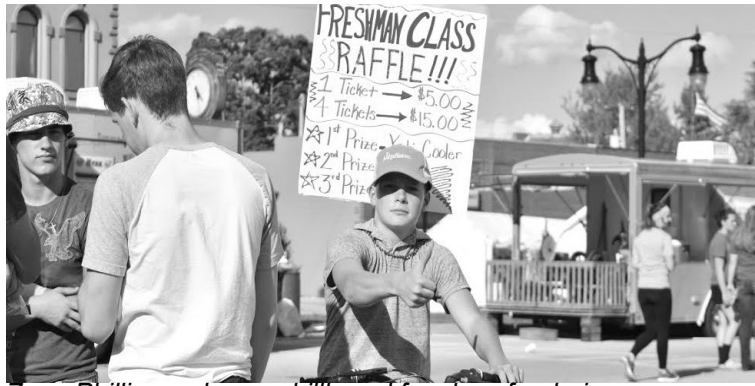
The big winner for that class was Austin Johnston. The second class of demo cars was the compact class. There were

Continued on page 2



Paige Syrcle | Tornado Times
Crowds cheer on the crashes and chaos of the Western Ill. Fair Derby.

Students bring diverse offering of food, games, prizes at Apple Festival



Zane Phillips as human billboard for class fundraiser.

by Ashely Miller
Editor-in Chief

Class stands at the Apple Festival are always a big fundraiser. It's great to watch the community support the kids weather they are raising money for homecoming, prom, or senior trip.

This year the school brought a variety of stands to the festival but had a rough first night Friday due to the rain moving all events indoors. Luckily the juniors and seniors were able to set up their stands and both groups sold out quickly.

The freshman had successful raffle sales Saturday, the main prize was a Yeti Cooler. Zane Phillips, a freshman, was seen multiple times riding around

on a bike with a sign selling tickets. The sophomores brought something new also, setting up carnival games where the kids could play and win prizes. The junior and senior classes stuck to food, serving walking tacos at the junior stand and pulled pork meals and loaded caramel apples at the senior one.

Many of the Griggsville-Perry classes also had baskets and cookies in the basket raffle Saturday evening and they all went for high amounts, bringing even more money in for the classes. Overall the Apple Festival served as a great first fundraiser for all of G-P's classes, with more fundraising to come throughout the year including the Color Drive that will be 15th and 16th of October.



Baylie Scoggins serving customers walking Tacos.

Derby continued from page 1

14 cars in this round including Robert and Bryan Brown driving the S.O.L. #64 car.

The big winner for this round was Ron Brown. Your next big and final class is the super-stock class.

There were 10 cars in this heat. The great winner for this big and final heat is Derek Lighten.

Plants continued from page 1

The botany and zoology class goals are for younger kids be educated on the different types of plants.

Give it a shot: next time you walk outside and see all these plants, be sure to test your senses!



Submitted Photograph

Students visited Forreset Keeling Nursey which is owned, in part, by Wayne Lovelace, pictured above.

"the different kinds of native plants that we got to touch, feel, and see were amazing!"

-Hope Scott

Movie Review: Easily scared? Then this movie is not for you!

by Baylie Scoggins and Kaylie Scoggins
Staff Reporters

If you want to see a suspenseful, exciting, funny, and thrilling movie get in a car and go see *Don't Breathe*.

The movie centers on three friends who got trapped inside an old blind veterans house. It has four main characters: Alex, Rocky, Money, and Norman. Alex, Rocky, and Money are all burglars who go around to easy targets to try to get items to sell for money to pay their way to California.

They decide to try break into Norman's house because he has a lot of money from his daughter's death. What happens while they are in there is for you to find out!

We, personally thought the movie was fantastic and could not figure out what was going to happen next!



Dylan Minnette and Jane Levy star in *Don't Breathe* | Photo Courtesy

Want to make a memorable night out with friends?

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Tickets for movie reviews provided courtesy of RMC Cinemas.

Remembering Dakota “Koty” Pitman

A writer for of The Tornado Times recalls goofy moments and the community affected by Koty Pitman

by **Ashely Miller**
Editor-in Chief

Dakota “Koty” Pitman, member of the Griggsville-Perry graduating class of 2015, passed away last Monday morning.

For those in the school who didn’t get a chance to know Koty, he is remembered as a funny, intelligent, and rather sarcastic but kindhearted person. Koty was an active member of his class, played on G-P’s baseball team, and was a member of the GPG football team. After graduating Koty enrolled in the John Wood Community College Ag program and he was currently working at the UI Beef Farm in Perry.

He also had a passion for hunting wildlife and working alongside his father. He spent most of his high school career working at the Pioneer Express

in Perry where he seemed to know everyone who came in the door. From working with Koty personally, one of my favorite memories was him marking himself with a counterfeit detector pen and proudly stating “Look! I’m a fake!” Koty was a wonderful person to be around, always being able to crack a joke or a smile no matter the situation.

His visitation was on Saturday and many members of the community were there to show support for his family including his class of 2015. For anyone who needs help or to speak to someone Mrs. Dokey or Mrs. Risley’s doors are always open. Please remember the value that your life has to your friends and family and if you need services at anytime call 1-800-273-8255.



Submitted Photograph



Maleah Richard | Tornado Times

Participants of the Mini-Cheer Camp walk to the stage in downtown Griggsville.

Kids give mighty cheer for Mini-Cheer Camp

by **Maleah Richard**
Staff Reporter

Each year, the mini cheerleaders put on a fun, unforgettable performance at the Apple Festival.

The week before the festival, the girls gather in the gym to learn cheers, safely stunt, and work together as a team.

The GPHS cheerleaders put a lot of hard work into creating a fun experience for children Pre-K through 4th grade.

Ashley Miller, a senior, has been a role model for many young girls. “It’s very positive. They come and we teach them cheers in fun and entertaining ways. At camp everyone’s a cheerleader and that’s a really

positive thing for young girls.” Miller said.

“I loved teaching my 3rd graders this year. They are such fast learners and love to cheer,” Mercedes Hannant, a junior, said.

Hannant remembers being a Mini Cheerleader and says it inspired her to become a GPS cheerleader. Hannant believes Mini Spirit camp is extremely helpful in creating confidence in young girls.

The high school cheerleaders put together two camps each year, and all of the cheerleaders look forward to working with the girls in winter Mini Spirit camp.

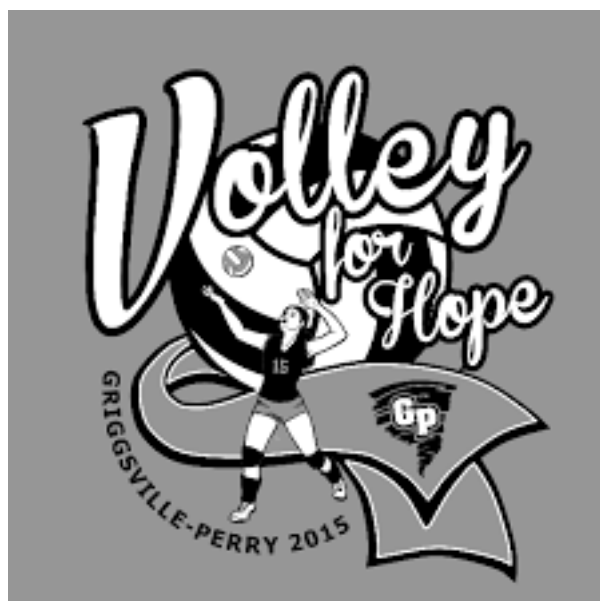
Queen continued from page 1

“It was a great experience and it helped me with public speaking and interview skills, and I was very excited for the girls who won it and I was glad to be there,” Harris said.

“Come in better with a better mindset. Don’t let the things bother me, come in

more prepared. Last year I felt nervous during my interview but this year I felt more confident.” Brite said, when asked to explain how she could prepare for next years pageant.

When Ashlyn Crone was asked to explain how she felt when she won a scholarship and T-Shirt sales she said, “It added more money to the scholarship fund I got last year.”



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Volleyball Team Finds Growth with New Coach

by Jordan Brite
Staff Reporter

The Lady Tornadoes volleyball team started out a little rough this year.

The first game against Mendon, Unity was an eye opener. The girls learned that they can't hide in the shadow that was left behind. Returners had to learn to change. Varsity no longer has a libero and girls now play in different positions they aren't used to.

In the end, the girls were willing to buckle down and work for their new coach, Ali Baker, and her assistant coach, Sami Baker.

For most of the girls, this is either their fourth or third new coach. "The inconsistent coaching doesn't help our team for the reason that each coach has different views and techniques," senior Kourtney Hairris said.

This year's freshmen have become the most familiar with Ali Baker's coaching style, but even they have to adapt. The freshmen face tougher competition, high school stress, and playing with different girls.

"Compared to last year where it was very relaxed and had many problems, it is very different," said sophomore Lani Dainals. "Girls this year want to go play and to support the teams."

With a JV record of 2-6 with varsity record of 4-6, casual observers may question the Lady Tornadoes' abilities. Yet with most of the games ending in a close score, the Lady Tornadoes are able to keep the hope alive for turning around their season.



Ashely Miller | THE TORNADO TIMES

Smackdown: The Lady Tornadoes spike the ball against Meridosia on Aug. 31.

Saukees Sink 55-20 Loss Against Athens, Still Feeling Positive

by Ryan Kelley &
Karson Dewitt
Staff Reporters

The Pittsfield-Griggsville-Perry Saukee varsity football team has had a slow start to this season.

After a 55-20 loss to Athens Friday, their record is now 0-5. Since their transition from the Western Illinois Valley Conference (WIVC) to the Sangamon County Conference, the Saukees have played their fair share of state ranked teams.

After playing #2 ranked Auburn the first game of the season, the Saukees are starting to see a more even playing field. This Friday, after a slow start to the game, the Saukees began to see several signs of improvement. After scoring 12 points last week at New Berlin, the team put up a season-high 20 points against Athens.

Griggsville-Perry junior offensive/defensive tackle Michael Harris seemed pleased with the way his team performed. "I



Ryan Kelley & Karson Dewitt | THE TORNADO TIMES

The Saukees offense line up against Athens in what proved to be a 55-20 loss on Sept. 23.

think we played really, really good the second half." Harris said. "The first half, we really didn't have our heads in the game, but once the second half came around, we played like a team. We came together and pumped out 20 points."

Harris also adds the team had

fun while doing so. The Saukees look to keep building on the positives they have seen recently at their homecoming game Friday, Sept. 30 against PORTA where they seek their first win of the season.