



# TIGER TATTLER

"The Student Newspaper of Herrin High School"

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## COMING UP

**Sept. 28- Oct. 2** ... Spirit Week

**Oct. 1** ... Coronation, 7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 2** ... Homecoming parade, 3 pm; Homecoming football game, 7 p.m.

**Oct. 3** ... Homecoming dance, 7-11 p.m. at HHS

**Oct. 12** ... Columbus Day (No School)

**Oct. 16** ... End of 1st Quarter Grading Period

**Oct. 22** ... Half- Day School Improvement (early dismissal)

**Oct. 23** ... Teacher Institute (No School)

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## Band and Chorus travel to Disney

By Rachel Young

Members of Herrin High School's band and chorus had the opportunity to perform at Disney World over the summer. The band marched in the Spectromagic Parade in front of thousands of people, and a group of girls from the chorus sang and performed on a stage in Downtown Disney.

J.T. Lewis, band director, said that he had been thinking about taking the band on a trip for a "long time," but that there were always problems with making it happen.

This year, however, the band members got the news that it was finally going to happen. Lewis said he got a call from the band director of West Frankfort about the possibility of combining the two groups and going to Disney together.

Lewis also said, "I wanted to take [the band] because they are good, and wanted to give them the chance to play somewhere different."

To be able to perform in a parade at Disney World, the band had to submit an audition tape. Therefore, the band practiced parade marching throughout the first semester until they were ready to make the audition tape. A tape was then made of the group playing and marching, and was sent in.

Lewis said that if the judges weren't satisfied, they would send the tape back with some suggestions on what to improve, and the band would be able to submit one more tape; however, the judges liked the tape, and no revisions were needed.

The band members' next task was to continue practicing and perfecting their playing and marching skills, and to continue fundraising for the trip.

The band members sold cookies from Larry's House of Cakes as well as tickets to the school's talent show in order to raise money for the trip.

On June 7 the band and several members of the chorus traveled to Disney World. Lewis said about 65 students from Herrin, 10 from West Frankfort, and 12 chaperones went on the trip.

The group started the week off at Blizzard Beach, and then had the opportunity to attend a clinic in backstage Epcot. The band sight-read Disney music and received advice on techniques from one of the directors of the Disney band. They then spent some time rehearsing "A Whole New World" from Aladdin, and then got to see their recorded music put to the scene from the movie. Junior Emily Lind said she enjoyed that part of the trip and it was "pretty cool."

The group spent the next day having fun at Magic Kingdom, and in the evening performed in the Spectromagic Parade in front of many thousands of people. Lewis said, "They were great. It was the best I've ever seen them march."

The next day was spent in Epcot and Animal Kingdom, and on the day after that the chorus members got their chance to perform before heading back to Herrin.

Senior Kaylee Mezo performed with both the chorus and the band. She said that earlier in the year the chorus heard they could enter to perform at Disney. A group of girls in chorus began practicing, sent in a tape, and were accepted to perform in Downtown Disney. Mezo said the group of girls performed seven songs with choreography. She said there was not a very large crowd watching them, but that many members of Herrin's band came to support



Members of the chorus sing on a stage in Downtown Disney. Back row: Raelynn Hinerman (left) and Kayla Rutherford; middle row: Kaylee Mezo (left) and Shelby Counts; front row: Jessica Hawkins (left) and Jillian Barron

them. She said her favorite song was "Come Rain or Come Shine," in which she and recent graduate Jillian Barron had solos.

Mezo also said that her favorite part of the trip was "seeing the castle" and that she "can't wait to go back."

All the students who went on the trip have their favorite memories from the week.

Junior Megan Stanley remembered a funny moment and said, "My favorite part was watching

Jensen get reprimanded for chasing after Buzz Light Year," and junior Emily Lind related a story of dancing to Irish banjo music after dinner their first night in Disney. Junior Rebecca Herman said the trip was "a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Lewis added that he was "very proud" of the group, and said, "It's something I'll always remember." He also said he will try to plan another trip within the next few years.

## A "sweet" Homecoming approaches

By Lindsey Craig

Candy canes, gumdrops, lollipops, and licorice. These are just a few of the words involved in the children's board game Candy Land. But Candy Land is more than just a board game; it's this year's Homecoming theme at Herrin High School.

But Candy Land isn't all lollipops and gumdrops. A lot of work goes into transforming HHS's gym into a real life Candy Land.

"We meet every week for about a

month," Student Council Sponsor Michaelann Stanley said. They have to build all the decorations. But with most of the decorations they have the help of Jeanie Nagrodska and Jim Wangler. Stanley said the student council uses the decorations from coronation.

Aside from building some of the decorations the student council has to buy the refreshments for the actual dance. According to Stanley they will even be preparing some of the food. "There's a lot more involved [this year] than in the past," she said.

The dance is not the only part of Homecoming. There's also Spirit Week which is the week leading up to Homecoming (Sep 28-Oct 2).

"Spirit Week is great because it is a great precursor to Friday night's game. It really gets the football team pumped up for the game," junior class Vice President and starting lineman Cody Ward said.

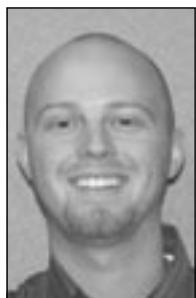
This year's Spirit Week days are: Monday is Back in the Day, Tuesday is Tourist Day, Wednesday is Cowboy/Cowgirl/Hick

Day, Thursday is Superhero Day, and Friday is Orange/Black/Camo Day.

Besides Spirit Week, there will be a parade on the day of the Homecoming game to show support for the Tiger football team. Every class will build a float for this parade. "Building the float is crazy and hectic at the beginning but after we get everything together it seems to go pretty well and is

See Homecoming, P. 2

# HHS adds seven new teachers to faculty



Kyle Harlow



Amber George



Brian Matzenbacher



Carla Taylor



Tammy Hovenga



Amanda Wheaton



Tina Lillard

By Rebecca Weber

As many students are starting to notice, Herrin High School has quite a few new teachers this year. HHS added seven new teachers to its staff.

Kyle Harlow, an HHS alumnus, teaches Algebra I and Trigonometry in what was former teacher Donna Youngblood's room. He graduated from Herrin in 2003 and was taught by various teachers who are still here today. After high school he went to the University of Illinois for four years and SIU for two.

Harlow said he chose this school because he thinks "this is one of the top districts in Southern Illinois." Harlow said the administration is great and the students are generally well behaved.

Amber George, also an alumnus, deals with the child development, parenting, and Tiger Paws learning lab classes. She took these classes with former teacher Deborah Pass, and is now teaching them herself. George says Pass was a great "inspiration" for her.

George believes it will be challenging to just get organized and to get the students used to her teaching style. She said she wants the students to learn as much as they can about being a responsible and patient parent.

George also said she likes to do web design in her free time and added, "I'm excited to be back at my former high school!"

The newest addition to the PE teachers is Brian Matzenbacher. As a high school student original-

ly from Marissa, Illinois, he was a part of activities such as baseball, basketball, golf, and the FCA.

As far as getting an education to be a PE teacher goes, Matzenbacher said, "It's just like any other teacher, but with a main focus on physical education." He said you have to get your bachelor's degree just like anyone else. Mr. Matzenbacher is the Assistant Athletic Director and, in the fall, will be coaching the Boys' JV Basketball Team.

Another new teacher is Carla Taylor. She is the current adviser for the Tiger Tattler and teaches freshman, sophomore, and senior English classes. Next semester she will be teaching Journalism as well.

"English never gave me a

See Teachers, P. 4

## ALPHA Leaders attend training, learn roles as peer leaders

By Jensen Falker

Members of Herrin High School's ALPHA Leaders program attended training on Sept. 11 and learned how to be successful peer leaders.

Training took place at the First Baptist Church in Herrin, and was run by the Franklin and Williamson County H-Group.

The group members learned what their role will be as peer leaders and what is expected of them, guidance counselor Cathy Shelton said.

Students were taught characteristics of a successful peer leader including understanding different learning styles and lis-

tening to students. They also learned about time management and public speaking.

The main focus of the training was on the 40 developmental assets. These assets consist of communication, boundaries, integrity, honesty, achievement, motivation, responsibility, and many more.

After the training, the ALPHA Leaders, juniors and seniors, are developing weekly lesson plans and teaching the freshmen the developmental assets using what they learned. For ten weeks, freshmen students will be taken out of their P.E. classes once a week to work with the ALPHA Leaders.

ALPHA stands for Adolescent

Leaders for Positive Healthy Assets and is a prevention program, Shelton said. Freshmen will learn how to make healthy choices.

Shelton hopes to see improvement in the freshmen and the school. "I would guess about ten percent of our freshmen end up being freshmen again and we are trying to fix that," Shelton said.

"Hopefully our freshmen will gain a positive relationship with our upperclassmen and see how being a better person leads to a healthier, happier life," Shelton said. Shelton hopes to see the program grow in the school and that the students will get the most from it.

## Homecoming

Continued from P. 1

a lot of fun," junior Emily Lind said.

This year the Tigers will be playing the Murphysboro Red Devils for their Homecoming game.

Besides all of those activities, there's also coronation where the Homecoming Queen will be crowned. The Homecoming Queen will be a senior member

of the High Court. This year's senior High Court members are Natalie Burris, Stevie Ruzich, Toni Workman, and Kaylee Mezo.

Coronation will be Oct 1 at 7:30p.m. The Homecoming game will be Oct 2 at 7p.m. and the Homecoming dance will be Oct 3 from 7p.m.-11p.m. Tickets to the dance are \$8 and can be bought the week of Homecoming.

## FBLA students compete at Nationals

By Hannah Snider

Several students from Herrin High School had the opportunity to go to Anaheim, California this past summer and compete in the FBLA National Leadership Conference.

In order to compete at nationals, they had to place first or second in their event at the State Leadership Conference held last April in Decatur. The students who achieved this were junior Nicole Staples who competed in business math, junior Kristy Gualdoni in word processing, and recent graduate Tyler Phillips in technology concepts.

On June 25 sponsor Melissa Frankel and the three competitors, as well as Katie Guebert, took a

five hour long flight to Anaheim.

In addition to the five people from HHS, there were a total of 7,800 people in attendance, 800 of which were advisers and guests. Staples said, "The opening ceremony was really cool. [There were] 7,000 kids packed in one room from 40 different states and Puerto Rico."

While there, the students participated in many different events and stayed very busy the entire time. They do not yet know the results of their events. The students also got the opportunity to visit Disney Land for a day of fun.

All in all, Frankel said it was not only an exciting trip, but also a "great learning experience."



Several members of HHS's FBLA team traveled to Anaheim, Calif. in June to participate in the national competition. They do not yet know the results from the competition. From left: Katie Guebert, Nicole Staples, Kristy Gualdoni, sponsor Melissa Frankel, and Tyler Phillips. - Submitted Photo

## 2009-2010 Tiger Tattler Staff



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**Faculty Adviser:** Carla Taylor

## Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in editorial columns with a staff writer's by-line are the opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the Editorial Board.

Opinions expressed in unsigned editorials are those of the Tiger Tattler Editorial Board.

The Editorial Board is composed of the Tattler editorial staff and the faculty adviser. If the opinions expressed in an unsigned editorial are not unanimously agreed upon by the Editorial Board, the vote count of the board members will be included in or at the end of the editorial.

## Letters Policy

Letters should be 300 words or less and must be signed with the writer's name. Names *will* be published. The Tattler will not publish letters attacking individuals.

Students or staff at HHS submitting letters may give them to editor Rachel Young or bring them to Mrs. Taylor in Room 1097. Letters may be edited by the Tattler staff.

Letters may be mailed to Herrin High School, c/o the Tiger Tattler, 700 N. 10th St., Herrin, IL 62948; or they may be e-mailed to: <tigertattler@herrinhs.org>.

*The Tiger Tattler has a circulation of 1,000 copies and is inserted in the Herrin Independent as well as made available to students at Herrin High School.*



## Rachel's Reflections

Editor Rachel Young

## It's a good idea to focus on others instead of just yourself

A window and a mirror are very similar... one of them simply has a coat of silver on it. But the main difference between the two is that one of them is transparent—you can see through a window. When you look at a window, you see through it, and you see the world. When you look at a mirror... you see yourself.

"Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others" (Phil 2:4, NCV).

I think we could all use those words of advice. It's a common trap, isn't it? It's quite easy to be so wrapped up in our own lives and our own problems that we don't see what's going on in other people's lives. We spend too much time in front of a "mirror" and not enough in front of a "window." I know I certainly fall into that trap.

Brandon Heath expresses his own struggles with this in his song Give Me Your Eyes. In it he says, "All those people, going somewhere—why have I never cared?"

It's way too easy to fall into the trap of caring only about ourselves. It seems to be encouraged, with ideas like "every man for himself."

The problem with this view of life is that... it's incredibly lonely, and not to mention just selfish. I also think the world is a lot more interesting when you actually look at it, and at other people, instead of just at yourself.

Brandon Heath goes on in his song to say, "Give me your eyes for just one second. Give me your eyes so I can see everything that I keep missing. Give me your love for humanity."

I think he's nailed it. He's talking to God. Imagine having God's eyes. We'd see everything, everyone. We wouldn't miss a thing. We would care about people and see the incredible beauty of the world and of the people in it. The world's really a lot more beautiful through God's eyes.

I know that when I look outside of myself I gain a much bigger understanding of the world, and I develop a heart for the people around me. I also learn to appreciate the world a lot more.

There are always times when you may not feel like caring and may prefer to be concerned only with yourself, but if you'll take a moment to forget about yourself and focus on someone else—well, it's worth it.



## Pourquoi?

Assistant Editor Lindsey Craig

## Homecoming is a fun time with friends; being dateless is no big deal

Dress...check. Flowers... check. Date...? You know what I'm talking about. Homecoming. It's just a short while away and by now most people have found dates or are frantically searching for one. And I honestly have to say, why so desperate? Is being dateless really that big of a deal?

Short answer: No. There really is no reason to get all worked up over not having a date. It is my personal experience that you have way more fun without one. You can dance with whoever you like and you don't have to worry about all that embarrassment your parents give you. The pictures and the "awww aren't they so cute!?" moments are just too much thank you.

Not that there's anything wrong with having a date. Congratulations to all of you who have one. But if you don't have one, it's really not the end of the world. You may ask why. I say think about it this way: if you are desperate enough, you might end up with someone you don't even like just so you can say that you

have a date. Does that sound fun to you? Spending all night with someone who you really would rather not go with?

Another thing I'd like to point out is that you really don't need a date to make your night fun. Being dateless will only ruin your night if you let it. If you show up at the dance with the right attitude not having a date won't matter to you at all. You can dance the night away with any boy or girl you choose. Who wouldn't want that?

I know it may seem like not having a date makes you a loser but trust me, it doesn't. I know plenty of people who have never had a date to a dance (myself included) who are just fine going with a group of their closest friends. All you have to do is decide you're going to have fun that night and you can make it so. Attitude is everything, my friends. Remember that when you get there that night. I'll be the one dancing all night long with a smile on my face surrounded by my best friends. See you there!

## A note from the Tiger Tattler's new adviser

**Mrs. Carla Taylor, the new faculty adviser of the Tiger Tattler, wrote the following to students of Herrin High:**

On Tuesday, September 8th, President Obama delivered a hotly debated back-to-school speech to students across the country encouraging them to "do their part"

in becoming a successful student. Throughout this speech he challenged students to fulfill their responsibilities, discover their talents, and to take advantage of second chances.

Here at Herrin High, I challenge you to do the same. As the new advisor to the Tiger Tattler, I want to encourage you to use education as a pathway that can help you discover your destiny.

Challenge your teachers to be creative and develop programs and/or lesson plans that will help YOU discover what you want to do in your future. Whether it is becoming a Police Officer, Ac-

tress, Fashion Designer, or Musician you're going to be the one that has to take charge and take advantage of the opportunities that you are given. It starts today!

However, while you are chal-

## Quote of the Month:

**"I can accept failure; everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying."**

**- Michael Jordan**

## New Teachers

Continued from P. 2

problem," Taylor said on her views of English when she was in high school, "On the other hand, math did." Taylor said she is a very creative and passionate person, especially with her writing, and has always wanted to teach.

When it comes to the Tiger Tattler, Mrs. Taylor said she is somewhat nervous, but absolutely confident enough to take on the challenge of being its new adviser in place of former adviser and teacher Jim Starnes. She looks forward to the new group of kids and activities concerning the newspaper. "I'm excited about the new year and any challenges I may face," said Taylor.

Tammy Hovenga, a graduate of HHS, teaches reading and writing. She has students from freshmen to seniors, and has taught for 20 years prior to teaching here. Last year, Hovenga taught at Gorleville as a resource and instructed math teacher.

Before she was a teacher, Hovenga was a beautician. After she had her three sons, she became a teacher's assistant and is a regular teacher today. She finds that teaching is somewhat challenging.

"It can be just like any other job. There's always some bad and some good," Hovenga said. She also said it can be very rewarding.

Another new English teacher is Amanda Wheaton. She teaches English I and II classes, Speech, Debate, and Advanced Speech. Wheaton said she chose this school because she grew up here and likes the area.

Wheaton said she used to be somewhat shy about speeches, but after her first play she said she "came out of her shell." Now she has a lot of theatre background to help with her job.

Wheaton said she likes to do activities such as reading, watching theatre, spending time with her family, hiking, and many other things when she isn't at school. Wheaton also said she is very excited to be the new Speech Team coach. She said she can't wait to get started working along with Jamie Wilson. She also said she looks forward to seeing students improve their skills because it's "not always about winning."

Tina Lillard, who taught for part of last year, is officially a teacher here this year. She teaches Algebra I and II, and Math and Science Reasoning (an ACT prep class). Lillard was a chemical

engineer at Kraft Foods prior to becoming a teacher. She said she didn't always want to be a teacher, but when the company she worked for closed, she had a challenging time finding a job that she wanted.

Lillard met the principal of Carbondale High School one day and was offered a job there because of her engineering experience. She didn't agree at first, but then she decided to accept it and take any college classes she needed. She taught there for only a short while, and then heard about a job opening at HHS.

Lillard said she likes the school much better here, as she is an HHS alumnus, and now she works here today.

"There are many things that I like to do here. My top three are showing students how math is related to the world, building relationships with students, and bringing a light to students of all diversities," Lillard said. She said she feels like she is "back at home."

Lillard also said she would like everyone to know her motto: "When you work hard, you play hard."

In brief, the new teachers are all very thrilled to be a part of the Herrin community and cannot wait for memories to come.



Members of the chorus sing in Downtown Disney. From left: senior Raelynn Hinerman, 2009 graduate Kayla Rutherford, and senior Kaylee Mezo. - Submitted photo



From left, juniors Abby Eaton, Megan Stanley, Jensen Falker, Rebecca Herman, and Emily Lind smile for a picture in Disney World. - Submitted photo

## Students prepare for fall musical

By Raelynn Hinerman

What musical stars a bunch of kids, a yellow bird, and a beagle? Snoopy!!!

The HHS Music Department production of Snoopy!!! will be at the Herrin Civic Center October 29 and 30.

The show is the sequel to You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown. These musicals are based on the comic strip "Peanuts" by Charles Shulz.

"I really like this musical because Shulz really understands people. He captures true life in his characters. Everyone can relate to a 'Peanuts' character," said director Jene Simmons.

## Yearbook takes hard work to create

By Sarah Rash

While many students dread their return to school in the fall, one anticipated event is the receiving of yearbooks. Following its release on Aug. 27, students signed each other's yearbooks and reflected on their previous year.

The yearbook involves many people working hard all year to finish it, and this year's Yearbook Staff members will be working diligently throughout the school year to construct the next year-

book.

This year's staff includes Co-Editors Patti Howell and Hannah Lindsey and 20 other members. They are sponsored by Brittany Thompson.

Co-Editor Hannah Lindsey said that "it takes the whole school year and a little past the school year" to put together the yearbook.

Co-Editor Patti Howell said, "We get to create something that no one gets to see. It's kind of a secret."



Juniors Patrick McNeill (left) and Shawn Mientus have a good time on the way to Disney World with the band. - Submitted photo

## Name that Teacher!

By Hannah Snider

Can you guess who this mystery teacher is? The answer will be posted in next month's issue.

- ~Her favorite color is red
- ~ Her favorite animal is a tiger
- ~ Her eyes are blue
- ~ Her secret ambition is to go through a drive-thru in a bus
- ~ Her favorite type of food is Chinese
- ~ She has been a teacher for 22 years
- ~ Her hometown is Sparta
- ~ Her birthday is January 20th
- ~ She attended SIU
- ~ Her middle name is Marie

# Spanish Club members travel to Puerto Rico

By Raelynn Hinerman

The Spanish Travel Club went to Puerto Rico for a week over the summer and soaked up some sun and some culture along the way.

The group began their trip on June 14 with a flight from St. Louis at 6 in the morning, and arrived in Puerto Rico at around 2:30 in the afternoon. The students returned after their week of adventure on June 21.

"I loved it," senior club member Jessica Epps said.

Throughout the week, the group visited many historic places such as the Paseo de Pincesa and the San Juan Cathedral. They also visited several museums filled with traditional Puerto Rican art.

"This trip was all an adventure for my students," sponsor Melissa Hernandez said.

The students from Herrin were in a group for the duration of the tour with schools from Kansas

and Florida.

The group visited El Yunque Rain Forest and spent one day underground in the massive cave system of Puerto Rico and the Spiral Sinkhole.

The adventurers also spent a day on the beaches of the Balneario Seven Seas, and the students got the opportunity to dive into the water for some snorkeling.

The group also visited the Arecibo Observatory, which has been said to be the location of some extra-terrestrial sightings.

Those who went on the trip were senior Jessica Epps, senior Michael Loss, and sophomores Mariah Hubbard, Marris Parks, Lily Torres, Kalie Wallace, and Corie Woodcock. Hernandez and chaperone Holli Parks also accompanied the group.

The Spanish Travel Club has made the journey to Puerto Rico twice now, and the group has New York City in their sights for an upcoming trip.



Corie Woodcock (left) and Kalie Wallace are ready to head into the Caverns of Camuy.

- Submitted photo



Members of the Spanish Travel Club visit "El Morro"--Old San Juan. From left: Melissa Hernandez, Jessica Epps, Mariah Hubbard, Marris Parks, Lily Torres, Corie Woodcock, Kalie Wallace, and Michael Loss. -Submitted photo



From left, Lily Torres, Kalie Wallace, Corie Woodcock, Marris Parks, and Mariah Hubbard spend time in El Yunque Rainforest. - Submitted photo



Students visit the Arecibo Observatory. Front row, from left: Kalie Wallace, Marris Parks, Michael Loss, and Lily Torres. Back row, from left: Corie Woodcock, Jessica Epps, and Mariah Hubbard. -Submitted photo



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A review

## *Crack the Skye* a must for fans of heavy metal

By Tyler Horn

Metal-Heads rejoice! Mastodon's latest album, *Crack the Skye*, is a breakthrough in the world of heavy music. It has a plethora of screaming guitar licks, beautiful soundscapes, and of course all the heaviness an album of this caliber requires.

Oblivion, the first single and opening track on *Crack the Skye*, draws you in with its hypnotic three note riff. As it builds, they break into a storm of heavy guitar and rhythmic vocals. The second track, Divinations, opens with a banjo playing a metal song. Although it may be hard to believe that a banjo makes an appearance on a metal album, Mastodon's front man, Brent Hinds, first started out playing blue-grass music. He simply brought in one aspect from his early years in music.

The album's finale, The Last Baron, weighing in at an overwhelming thirteen minutes, is

Mastodon's crowning tribute to the genre of progressive rock. The first few minutes are a beautiful combination of acoustic guitars, heavy drums, and little pin drops of melodies being laid down by the electric guitars. As the song progresses the guitars begin to intertwine with one another and put forth a tremendous amount of technicality and precision. Lightning fast guitars and drums break into monstrous riffs and run throughout the remainder of the song.

Mastodon's *Crack the Skye* is a uniquely beautiful work of art. Never before has a metal band been so light and graceful and able to keep all of the heaviness of the metal genre. This album is a must for anyone who has a love of the epic scale that is brought forth in any metal band. This being Mastodon's fourth album, they have now acquired a name for themselves as one of the most prominent groups in heavy music.

### Sudoku

By Rachel Young

Can you fill in all the empty boxes with the correct numbers? Each row, column, and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once.

5			8					6
				6	3			1
	2	6	9			8	7	
8				3		7		2
	3	1				6		
5			7	6	9			
	1		4		5		9	
7				8		4	3	
3				5		8		

A review

## *Repo! The Genetic Rock Opera* a hit and miss

By Andy Siefert

away.

*Repo!* tries to present itself as an edgy slasher movie, but you may also remember reading that *Repo!* is a rock opera. For those that don't know what that means, think of it as a musical except there is only singing. If right now you're thinking that's not something you would enjoy, you wouldn't like this movie and you can stop reading now.

Now this is the part where I review it for everyone who is still interested.

At the beginning of the movie, the plot seems like it's going to be very interesting. Within the first twenty minutes, you find out about a horrific illness, an evil corporation, a "legal assassin", a love triangle, and a murder mystery. From there, things start to become less interesting. There are a few plot twists that are supposed to be major events in the movie, but they can either be figured out by paying attention or are clichés that won't shock you. Coupled with a few scenes that feel ridiculous and irrelevant, you get the feeling that the creators of this film had some good ideas but didn't know where to take them.

Like the plot, the actors have their highs and lows. Alexa Vega (Shilo Wallace) seems like she's

doing a good job singing one minute, and then is a little tough to listen to the next. (Warning! Slight spoiler in the next line! If you don't want it ruined for you, skip the next sentence.) Her costar Anthony Head (Repo Man/ Nathan Wallace) on the other hand does a great job of switching between alter egos without his performance suffering. (Spoiler over). For the most part, the singing (if not the songs) is overall pretty good. Then there's Paris Hilton. You probably already know where this is going. She is not only a terrible actress, but now she has proven herself a terrible singer. She has a tendency to make every scene she's in a bad or ridiculous one. This is a major problem because it's hard to enjoy a movie if every time you see a specific actress come in the picture you want to stop watching it.

*Repo! The Genetic Opera* was straight to DVD for a reason. Both the plot and the actors are hit and miss, and it never really feels like they went where they wanted to go with this film. If the idea that it's a rock opera doesn't bother you and you're interested, I can recommend it as a rent at best. To everyone else, it's safe to say you can stay away from it. C



By Sam Klickner



Candyland  
Homecoming Dance

Saturday Oct 3, 2009  
7 pm- 11 pm

Tickets: \$8.00 or \$15.00 per couple

French's Photography starts at 6 pm in JHS Cafeteria

## Tigerettes work hard to prepare for competitions

By Amelia Hicks

The Herrin High School Tigerettes are already working hard for upcoming events, and are very excited about the upcoming year. "I feel like we're going to do really well in competition this year, because we have a really strong team," sophomore Kasey Paris said.

This year's Tigerettes are seniors Sierra Marvel, Sarah Sanders, Devin Wade, and Toni Workman; junior Jensen Falker; sophomores Karsen Burgrade, Shaelee Cameron, Taylor Chaney, Lynsey Henrich, Rebecca Palmer, Kasey Paris, Jordan Preston, Morgan Smith, and Grace Stevenson; freshmen Karen Garegnani, Jessica Loyd, and Jamie Paris.

The Letter Girls are Wade ("H"), Marvel ("E"), Falker ("R"), Chaney ("R"), Sanders ("I"), and Stevenson ("N"). Coach Lindsey Estes and Assistant Coach Erin O'Brien head up the team.

Earlier this year, the girls took second place at Dance Camp. They also went to a dance camp

in Duquoin and received first place for their pom routine and second for their dance to the song "Womanizer."

The Tigerettes' practices consist of dancing for three hours about two to three days a week. They are practicing long and hard for the upcoming games, pep rallies, and competitions.

Competition is also coming up for the girls. They are preparing three different routines for the competitions: pom dance, hip-hop, and jazz dance.

Their first competition will take place on Dec. 13 in Belleville, followed by one in Edwardsville on Jan. 16, and Althoff on Jan 23. The rest of the competitions will take place in Marion, Benton, and Highland, Feb. 6, 20, and 27, respectively. They will also participate in the State competition on March 12 and 13.

All in all, the HHS Dance Team is ready and excited for a new year. They've got new routines, new girls, and a newfound determination.



Several members of the Varsity volleyball team: in front, Courtney Cislagni. In back, from left: Natalie Burris, Katie Guebert, Nicole Staples, Alyssa Bayles, Haley Elders, and Austyn Ridings. - Olivia Caldwell photo



Austyn Ridings (10) tries to get the ball over the net during the volleyball game on Sept. 10. - Tara Emery photo



Senior Jessica Cogdill at the girls' golf match on September 3. - Olivia Caldwell photo

## Attention!



Are you interested in being on Newspaper Staff? We want you!! Pick up an application in Room 1097.

## Varsity football team faces challenges, sticks together

By Ben Wayer

The Herrin Tigers Varsity football team was off to a rocky start going into the conference schedule, but managed to pull off a win against West Frankfort on Sept. 18.

After losing against Glasgow, Kentucky in the Kentucky National Guard Warrior Bowl on a "controversial call," the Tigers faced Carbondale. The Tigers fell to Carbondale due to 6 turnovers and fell to their second loss, 12-21.

They also faced many key players having severe cramps in the first two games of the season and that meant that some of the starters were off of the field for plays at a time.

The Tigers then faced the 2008 Class 3A State Runners-up, the

Duquoin Indians, and again were plagued by turnovers and costly penalties. The Tigers could arguably have been 3-0 instead of 0-3 going into their conference opener against West Frankfort because of the performances from their running backs, sophomore Demarco Harris and seniors David Mallow and Tyler Gooden, all gaining at least 100 rushing yards in the first three games.

According to coach Jason Karnes, the goal for the year is to win conference which would put the Tigers in the playoffs automatically and would require the team to win 5 straight games.

"We just need to stick together and we are going to get through this," Karnes said.



Billy Klump (50) and David Mallow (42) attempt to chase down the ball carrier during the Kentucky National Guard Warrior Bowl game against Glasgow, Ky. on Aug. 28.  
- Kaitlin Meier photo



Erica Griffin (left, in orange) and Ashley Thompson (right) compete in the Cross Country meet on Aug. 31. - Craig Bartelsmeyer photo



The doubles team of Kaitlin Meier (right) and Rebecca Herman at a tennis match. - Submitted photo



Jedidiah Conley (left) and Jared King (right, in orange) compete in the Cross Country meet on Aug. 31. - Craig Bartelsmeyer photo



Mackenzie Hodge at the girls' golf match on Sept. 3.  
- Olivia Caldwell photo