September 2026

THE

NORSEMEN NEWS

Mock Accident

By: James DiClementi, Matthew Underhill, Evan Toftoy

Students watched closely as the sound of distant sirens grew closer and closer to the entrance of Newark Community High School. Standing out on the front lawn, they saw a scene no one ever hopes to witness: a car accident.

On Monday, September 28th, members of the Newark Fire Dept. and Police Dept, along with airborne EMTs from Loyola University's School of Medicine helped facilitate a mock accident scenario in order to educate students about the dangers of impaired driving.

Members of the NCHS Drama Club, Ethan Stanford, Cole Sateikis, Jade Mitchell, and Scarlett Hopkins also participated in the mock accident, acting as the driver and passengers of the car.

The mock accident demonstration lasted approximately 40 minutes and included an exhibition of the actual response to an accident of this magnitude.



Above: Junior Ethan S. acts as an impaired driver during the Mock Accident

During the demonstration members of the Newark Fire Department showed students how crash victims are removed from the vehicle, assessed for injuries, and taken for necessary medical attention.

Assistant Principal Mr. Miller says, "Our hope is that the mock accident demonstration gave our students a realistic look at how quickly one poor choice behind the wheel can have lifelong consequences. Thank you to all those who helped make this demonstration possible, including the Newark Fire Department, Kendall County Sheriff's Office, Lifestar Helicopter and NCHS students/staff. If this experience helps even one student to understand the importance of good decision making while behind the wheel, then it was well worth it." This Mock Accident was part of homecoming week here at Newark, and served as a poignant reminder of the consequences of making poor choices behind the wheel, and although it was nerve wracking at times, the message did sink in.

Inside this issue

Mock Accident Update.....1
New Year, New Faces.....3
Rylie's Record.....5
The Impact of Preparatory Clasess.7
Newark FFA and Art Goes to Sandwich Fair.....8

On behalf of the NCHS staff and administration, we want to remind you to never drive while impaired or distracted.



Above the Fire department demontrates how they evacuate victims of a drunk driving accident.

New Year, New Faces

By: Gracyn Schultz, Kenzie Doss, Anna Creps, Emma Ceja, and Kaylin Ryan

The morning starts off early as all the students file into the school building. Everyone meets up with friends from the previous year, noticing familiar faces as the room begins to fill with joy. Once the students have found their places in the gym, Mr. Ulrich announces the school's newest teachers.

Mr. Cashwell, the new permanent sub, and Ms. Dinsmore, the new FFA teacher received a warm welcome from the NCHS student body after beginning their first year on staff earlier this year. It is both Mr. Cashwell's and Ms. Dinsmore's first year at Newark, which began in August. Ms. Dinsmore took over for Mr. Steffen, and Mr. Cashwell took over for the previous sub, Ms. Wade.

Mr. Cashwell says "the most interesting thing about working with teenagers is listening to them talk in their 'slang' and trying to understand them." He loves the community and environment of a smaller school considering his previous job ws located at West Aurora High School, which is a significantly bigger school.



Above: Ms. Disnmore, the new FFA teacher, sits with freshman, Jameson Walker, at the FFA petting zoo at the annual Sandwich Fair.

Mr. Cashwell spent time in the Airforce before coming to Newark which eventually led him here, his new home. He says,"I retired from the Airforce in 2024 and moved to Illinois with my wife and son. My wife wants my son to grow up here, and I did not want to start another full time career. I ended up deciding subbing would be best for an 'after career' job."



Above: Mr. Cashwell subs for Ms. Dinsmore, the FFA teacher

Along with Mr. Cshwell, Ms. Dinsmore is Newark's newest FFA teacher. Ms. Dinsmore has gained a lot of experience with FFA since middle school. She says "Since I was in 7th grade, I have been participating in FFA, I have my American Degree, that's the highest degree you can get in FFA."

By earning this degree, Ms. Dinsmore has dedicated herself to FFA and has shown her passion for being a part of it. She is here to help our Newark FFA students refine their passion for agriculture.

One thing Mr. Cashwell is new to is the small school aspect of Newark and the relationships between teachers, and even students.

He says, “Everyone is nice and it’s the best team I’ve worked with in a long time. I enjoy eating lunch with all the other teachers. At my old job no one sat together to eat lunch and have small talk.”

One of the connections that we value here at Newark is that of the mentor and mentee. Each time a new teacher is hired, they are assigned a mentor, which is another teacher on staff. This mentor helps to guide the new teacher through their first year, answering any questions they may have. Although Mr. Cashwell’s position does not require a mentoe, Mrs. Woods, Newark’s business teacher, is currently sharing her knowlege with Ms. Dinsmore.

Welcoming new teachers into the school is something a lot of students enjoy because it gives them another person to connect with. Everyone loves meeting new people, especially when you get to spend the whole school year with them. Make sure to give them a smile and wave when passing them in the hallways throughout the year.

Rylie's Record

By: Bailey Schutter, Taylor Jeffers, Ellie Lieser, Ethan Redmond, and Evan Smith

The student section erupted as Rylie Carlson slammed the ball straight to the ground during the Earlville game to reach her 500th kill.

Junior, outside hitter, Rylie Carlson, has led the Newark Varsity Volleyball team to many victories alongside her teammates. Rylie has been playing volleyball since she was nine years old, and now, she just achieved a major milestone of 500 kills and digs on Thursday, September 10th.

Rylie states, "After surpassing 500 kills and digs, my next goal is to get 600."

Rylie's goals may have been extremely difficult to accomplish, but she didn't step back from the challenge. She credits that to the intense varsity practices over the summer and during the season, run by Newark varsity coach,PJ McKinney, and her mom, the JV volleyball coach, Kristy Carlson. These coaches both had 500 kills and digs in sight for Rylie who worked extra hard over the summer, and put in extra time and effort to achieve this amazing feat.



Above the student section cheers for Rylie C. as she serves the ball in the Varsity match.

Coach McKinney states, "Over the summer, we had a few practices to get ready for our summer league games at Seneca High School. Some drills that we used quite a bit were our serve receive drills. One specifically was "50 in 3", a drill focusing on getting as many serve receive points as possible (50) in a designated time frame (3 minutes). This helps us focus on getting in-system as soon as possible and allows for our setter to set all hitting options."-



Above: Rylie C. spikes the ball and scores a point for her team.

Although she hit a huge milestone, Rylie is not the only one on the team. However, she has made herself a big influence to the team by showing great leadership as one of the captains. Rylie has shown that hard work can lead to amazing results.

Serve receive is a key role in a volleyball game and helps the team succeed. The team worked hard over the summer and set many goals to accomplish for the upcoming season. Coach McKinney says "A goal that we have for this group is to RESPOND to any situation that may come our way....positive or negative! Get excited when good things happen...and shake off the times when we are struggling. If we can take the game as one play and point at a time, it will lead to great success the rest of the season. This team has what it takes to make a deep run in the postseason!"

Through all this conditioning, Rylie has been able to secure a starting position on Varsity during all three years of her volleyball career. Although the team has already achieved

some major milestones this year, they have some more big expectations from both Rylie Carlson and Coach McKinney for this year!

"I think we will be able to win a lot of games and make it further than last year." Rylie says. She hopes to make it further than Sectionals this year. The Newark volleyball team has had a streak of making it to the sectional game, but not making it to their goal of going to State. This year, they have winning on their mind.

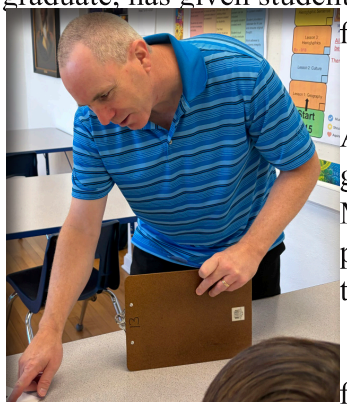
This year, they have winning on their mind. Considering that they have made it to sectionals for the last three years, these girls are willing to put in the work to make it there again. Come out and see these girls on October 19th against Parkview for Senior Night.

The Impact of Preparatory Classes

By: Samuel Day, Caleb Morgan, Evan Sittler, Madelyn Thomas, and Monica Pedroza

The future isn't something that many students prefer think about so readily. Senior Seminar and College & Career seek to eliminate that sinking feeling, all while teaching valuable lessons.

These classes, which seniors take during the fall semester of their final year of high school, prepare them for their futures, giving options and opportunities for seniors to explore and pursue what they are passionate about. Senior Seminar, a required class for the seniors to graduate, has given students much to think about as the first round of presentations has just finished.



Above: Mr. Hall offers his help to one of his students during history class

One of the teachers in charge of Senior Seminar is Mr. Hall. A concern fornot only him, but many students is getting the presentation done before the deadline. Mr. Hall says, "Ultimately it comes down to their preparation and willingness to succeed. That is true in life, or is it not?"



Above: Senior Bailey S. takes a break from Senior Seminat to enjoy the Homecoming festivities.

When it comes to Senior Seminar, Mr. Hall finds it important that everyone in the class finds their own path, taking a more hands off approach. This approach has allowed students to learn necessary skills they will need in college. Senior Bailey Schutter says, "I have learned that I need good time management for school and in life because of Senior Seminar."

Senior Seminar is a valuable class, though, not the only class that seniors take to get ready for life outside of high school. Students also take College & Career to get them ready for some upcoming challenges that they might face in the future.

Mrs. Woods, who teaches this class, has spent a major chunk of her career here at NCHS. She says,"I have the opportunity of having students in their freshman year and their senior year. This opportunity is my most favorite as I have had the opportunity to watch students grow over the last four years. It's very rewarding to see where their paths are going to lead them and that I get to be a part of this journey with them."

Mrs. Woods enjoys watching students like Senior Connor Fitzgerald progess over their high school years. Connor, a student in College & Career currently, says, "My dream career is to have a successful job that I enjoy and that allows me to support myself and my family. This class has helped me learn more about what education and skills I may need to reach my career goals."

These classes help shape the new generation of students. Leading the next generation into a path of success and innovation in their careers. The skills these students learn in these classes can only help to set them up for a successful career.

Newark Art and FFA Goes to Sandwich Fair

By: Owen Underhill, Nathan Adams, Jacey Johnson, Easton Kempiak, and Talyn Holmstrom

It was a hot, humid, and dismal day, but our students at Newark Community High School persevered. Newark artists entered in their work, FFA members showed off their animals; the Norsemen accomplished a lot at the Sandwich Fair.

The 138th Sandwich Fair, which ran from September 9th to the 13th, provided an opportunity for Art students and FFA members of Newark to represent Newark and show off what we are capable of as a school. The art students displayed creativity, enthusiasm, and dedication through their various projects. The FFA students showed their amazing animals, helped clean the grounds, and made sure everything in the FFA petting zoo was all put together for the fairgoers.



Above: A ceramics project exhibited by Senior Jaxon C.

Senior Jaxon Collins, who exhibited multiple art projects, shows that inspiration to create art can come from anywhere. He says "Mr. Blidy inspired me". However, inspiration does not just come from people, but can come from our surroundings and nature. "One of my projects was on a house that I used to live in, it's a really cool house, as for the animal box, I chose the Bison because it's pretty cool and one of my favorite animals" Mr. Blidy, the art teacher, has a ginormous positive impact on every artist in Newark, making them feel like they can do anything. He always spreads his kindness and positive outlook through his words, even when he is critiquing a student.

It can be nerve-wracking to enter art into the art show, and many artists stop themselves from entering out of fear. Senior Evan Sittler, who entered nine projects into the art show, says: "I would say, if you think about entering, just enter. It's maybe 20 dollars to enter, you get in the fair for free…and if you win, you make your money back." Jaxon Collins also says, "If you're entering ceramic projects I would put them in bubble wrap before you drop them off, because my project broke a bit." These are some powerful and impactful words of wisdom from Seniors Evan Sittler and Jaxon Collins for any young artist thinking of entering into the Art Show. Sorry about your project Jaxon!



Above: Freshman Courtney R. shows her pig

Our FFA chapter is full of Animals and life! It can be very challenging for someone to properly raise and care for a good show pig. Courtney Rogers, a Freshman who won champion overall swine pair and had multiple champion and reserve of her pig's respective breeds, says that she earned those places because: "I walk them daily and feed them special feed." Showing animals comes with a lot of hard work and responsibility. Courtney

Rodgers also has her favorite parts of working at the petting zoo. She says that the best part is, “Seeing the kids so happy seeing the different animals.”

Many students at NCHS show and care for livestock. This is not just a hobby, but is hard work that brings pride to the FFA and Newark as a whole. NCHS Ag teacher, Ms. Dinsmore, says, “We are able to better educate our community on Ag and students are able to share their supervised Ag experience projects with the community.” Clearly, the fair is not only a fun learning experience, but it also projects how hard our chapter and school works on our projects and our passion for what we do. The Sandwich fair provides a great opportunity for the people to come and interact with our projects and people and see how hard everyone works.



Above: The 1st place ceramic vase entered by Senior Evan S.

Newark FFA members and Newark Artists did a fantastic job at the Sandwich Fair. Our artists and FFA members came together as one to represent NCHS. Whether it was teaching people about FFA and where our resources come from or showing off their creativity through art, the Sandwich fair was a fun time for everyone.