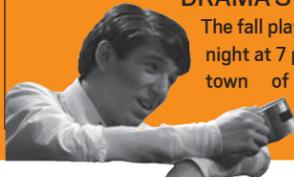


START LOOKING FOR YOUR COSTUMES

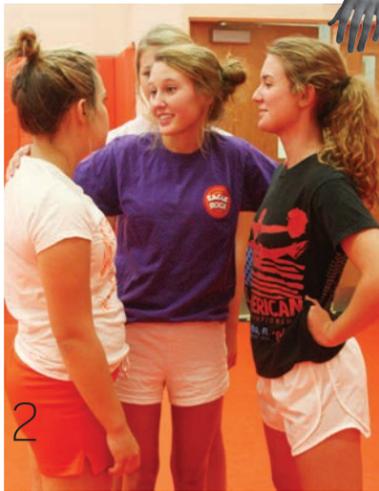
Homecoming week is Oct. 15-18. The days are: Monday, Summer Olympics 2012; Tuesday, Stars Wars Day; Wednesday, Senior Citizen Day and Thursday, Crazy Orange and White/Senior Toga Day.

DRAMA'S ANATOMY OF GRAY PREMIERES

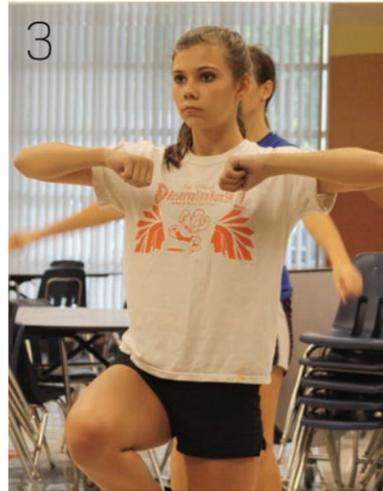
The fall play, *Anatomy of Gray*, opened Thursday night. Other shows are tonight and Saturday night at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. The play features Dr. Gray's arrival in the small Midwestern town of Gray, which is experiencing a plague. It's described as a children's story for adults.



photo/MEGHAN COTTON



photo/MEGHAN COTTON



photo/MEGHAN COTTON

1 HOIST THE COLORS HIGH. In the Kemosabee Commons, Bryanna Sura practices the Color Guard routine before a game. "If you don't stay focused you're going to get hit with something," Sura said. **2 STUNT PRACTICE.** In the wrestling room, junior Baylee Thomas talks to her stunt group. "I like spending time with my team and doing what I love with my friends," Thomas said. The cheerleaders practice twice a week for two hours. **3 DANCE TO THE BEAT.** In the junior/senior cafeteria, Bravette Tyler Cook rehearses the routine. "We get to learn a new dance almost every week. It's always cool to learn new tricks," junior Tyler Cook said.

All roads lead to Friday Night Lights

Athletes and club members spend hours of practice to prepare for a game

By MEGHAN COTTON

Fans crowd into the stands to watch a Friday night football game, but football is not all that is going on around the track. The cheerleaders are getting the crowd pumped, the Bravettes and the Color Guard perform their routines and the band plays what they have been rehearsing for hours.

All of this did not magically come together. While students were spending their last weeks of summer sleeping in, the band, cheerleaders and Bravettes had summer camp to help prepare their routines for the year.

At band camp, students practiced nine hours a day for one week and eight hours a day the second week. Everyone learned the music and choreography to the new show, "Tabula Rasa," and new members learned how to march correctly. To reach perfection the entire marching band practices the routine each Tuesday and Thursday evenings; the sections have practices on Wednesdays.

"It's a lot and it's tiring, but when the show comes together it all pays off," sophomore Leah Sikes said. "It's nice to hear [the crowd] cheering when we finish."

The Color Guard also rehearses for hours alongside the band, preparing for the half time show.

"If we had a good rehearsal, we're excited. There's a lot of energy in the stands," sophomore Kaley Mierek said.

At their camp the cheerleaders practiced nine hours for two days where they learned higher level stunts. Twice a week the girls practice their stunts, cheers and chants preparing for Friday's game, and for competition season.

"Sometimes it's intense, but sometimes playful. We warm up certain stunts, then we do sequences together and pyramids," senior Anisha Holloway said.

At the end of the week, the cheerleaders, Bravettes, Color Guard and band all hope their performances add to the game's entertainment.



photo/KAITLYN DIKE

4 HERE IT COMES.

At the front of Senior Snake, drumline members Christian Jaen, junior, and NAME lead participants through campus. "[My favorite thing about drumline] is seeing everyone hyped up when we play," Jaen said. Band practices three days a week for two to three hours. **5 ORDER UP.** Beside the concession stand, band booster Dave Holleman cooks hamburgers to be sold during the game. "It feels good; it feels like the right thing to do," Holleman, far right, said. A portion of the proceeds go to band.



photo/MEGHAN COTTON



photo/MADISON NAGLE

7 TAILGATE TRADITIONS. With tubes of orange paint, Alexandra Clayton paints Thomas Egan, mascot, before a home game. "Everyone just comes together to support the school we love, and nothing really can beat a student body who backs up their team like we do," senior Alexandra Clayton said. **8 CHARGE.** The football players rush the field at the start of the football game. "Everyone's really hyped up and ready to hit someone," senior James Walls, number 14, said.



photo/MEGHAN COTTON

DIRECTOR DUTIES.

In the Kemosabee Commons, assistant band director Jose Eslava gives instructions. "[It takes] consistent discipline, consistent rules and routines," Eslava said. Before a home game, the band warms up at 5:30 p.m.



photo/JACOB BALLARD