

MVTHS hosts 79th Annual FFA Banquet

BY DAVID BELCHER

MT. VERNON — A school year full of achievement was celebrated at the recent 79th Annual Mt. Vernon FFA Banquet at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building.

The FFA was honored for its contributions as a group and individual FFA members were honored for their individual achievements.

FFA group accomplishments included:

- Triple Gold FFA Chapter Award, ninth in Illinois;
- Superior Chapter in Illinois;
- Gold and second in Illinois for Heritage Program;
- Gold and sixth in Illinois for Cooperative Program;
- Sixth place in state ag issues;

• Century award — 100 percent membership with 227 members;

• Gold in Illinois in Student Development — first in Section 21;

• Gold in Illinois in Chapter Development — first in Section 21;

• Gold in Illinois in Community Development — first in Section 21;

• Two Star Good Chapter at National Convention;

• Banker's Plaque — Outstanding FFA Chapter — Section 21;

• and Sweepstakes Awards — All the programs in the FFA.

2008-09 MVTHS FFA members include:

• **Seniors** — Sandra Arnold, Brittany Bechtel, Luke Bratcher, Bryson Owens, Raina Jones, Mika Flanagan, Jerod Brown, Cody Hester, Cheyenne Ray, Jake Sterner, Brittany Bravard, Casey Neal, Jessica Sommers, David Clifton, Caitlin Owens, Larry Smith, Cory Capps, Tiffany January, Olivia Sanders, Amie Talley, Alicia Adams, Ryan Wellmaker, Bryan Workman, Lindsay Loyd, Cody Moss, David Braden, Jessica Henson, Scott Rainey, Jordan Thompson, Kayla Verheyen, Levi England, Tiffany Pitman, Brent Daniels and Alyssa Moffitt.

• **Juniors** — Brittney Brown, Chad Wilson, Taven Golliday, Justin Hatton, Felicia Marlowe, Dillon Payne, Lamanda Bean, Jeremy Dirks, Kelly Lisenby, Daniel Nalley, Miranda Reynolds, Megan Whisler, Denton McCormick, Cody Clinton, Jake Gregory, James Kremer, Kaitlyn McLearn, Austyn Taylor, Kayla Cooney, Amelia Ellis, Kyle McMahon, Samuel Olinger, Trilaser Sheeler, David Williams, Mallory Adams, Brittany Williams, Devon Droll, Erica Hefner, Sheyenne

Lightfoot, Sarah Nociar, Brian Haynes, Chelsea Cross, Lucas Hurst, David Price, Zac Smith, Taylor Morgan and Zach Blacklock.

• **Sophomores** — Tony Fegins, Nate Jamison, Kelsey Allen, Pierce Borah, David Brazell, Kole Brumley, Josh Donoho, Cody McLearn, Ian Randolph, Jessica Cross, Alex Jones, Holden Delaney, Paris Scott, Joshua Bravard, Cody Goza, Taylor Gilmore, Hugo Papazian, Nick Torrez, Kegan Graham, Daniel Kniffen, Jacob Dismang, Jordan Bodine, Samuel Buffington, Frankie Skobel, James Clark, Jean Maco, Joshua Phillips, Chris Bond, Dakota Hill, Jessica Thomas, Corey House, Jacob Beal, Kayla Cooney, Kelsey Frees, Aaron Leuty and Brittanica Keith.

• **Freshmen** — Jared Anthis, Chris Burris, Ismael Davis, Cory Gibson, Jacob Johnson, Donny Peyton, Sonny Snow, Mikeal Warner, Tyler Bouriland, Nelson Crunk, Michael Flanagan, Dillon Johnson, Josh Myers, Kane Austin, Rachel Flanagan, Ashley Tobin, Makayla Winkler, Morgabhan Zedalis, Caleb Burrichter, Dustin Ferguson, Brandon George, Bryce Johnson, Kevin Nelson, Aaron Shelton, Codey Tate, Taylor Adams, Justin Bailey, Jessica Cooper, Cody Rector, Tanner Hanson, Zach Jones, Avery Reeker, Kane Tucker, Cole Williams, Seth Bullard, Kyle Davis, Daniel Gaines, Troy Miller, Justin Payne, Miki Belcher, Mason Garner, Craig Vishy, Nick Workman, Alex Brooks, Khayman Collins, Herbert Fox, Dylan Hayes, Dillon Leffingwell, Caleb Price, Kaleb Sledge, Drake Tate, Chris Bremer, Clayton Cross, D'Ante Gardet, Zayveance Harbor, Chris Moffitt, Cody Smith, Marcus Waithe, C.J. Younger, Travis Cole, Clayton Ewell, Dakota Hubbard, Anthony Moore, Remington Payne, Brooke Ewell, Caleb Staples, Kristin Wetzel, Cheyenne Youngblood, Wesley Brumley, Brennan Cox, Nicholas Garrison, Darrell Hayes, Dillon Medders, Kriston Rutz, Christopher Smith, Kenneth Thompson, Tony Wood and Jamie Heck.

Individual awards include:

• **2008-09 Chapter Officers:**

• **President** — Clifton;

• **Vice President** — Kaitlyn McLearn;

• **Reporter** — Mallory Adams;

• **Treasurer** — Raina Jones;

• **Sentinel** — Bryson Owens;

• **Junior Adviser** — England;

• **Advisors** — John Kabat and Cherie Rogier;

• **Junior President** — Olinger;

• **Junior Vice President** —



Special Photo/DAVID BELCHER

Raina Jones was presented with the WMIX Outstanding Senior Award at the recent Mt. Vernon FFA Banquet. The Mt. Vernon Township High School senior plans to enter the veterinary technician program at Hickory College.

Josh Bravard;

• **Junior Reporter** — Austyn Taylor;

• **Junior Treasurer** — Donoho;

• **Junior Secretary** — Wellmaker;

• **Junior Sentinel** — Moss;

• **Parliamentarian** — Torrez;

• **and Historian** — House.

• **Honorary Chapter Degrees** — Terry Mitt, Ron Daniels, Calvin Hayes and Scott Owens.

Most Active Awards:

• **Freshmen** — Kyle Willmore, Austin Wetzel, Brooke Ewell, Cox and Rector.

• **Sophomores** — Allen, Donoho and Josh Bravard.

• **Juniors** — Marlowe, Kaitlyn McLearn, Olinger, Mallory Adams and Austyn Taylor.

• **Seniors** — Clifton, Wellmaker, Raina Jones and Bryson Owens.

• **Top Sales Awards** — Kyle Welker, Josh Moyer, Blaze Burwell and Kenneth Thompson; Olinger, first place; Heck, second place.

• **Top Leadership Awards** — Clifton, Kaitlyn McLearn, Mallory Adams, Bryson Owens, Raina Jones, Bean, Allen, Marlowe, Austyn Taylor, Olinger, Wellmaker, Donoho, Kane Austin, Wetzel, Willmore and Brooke Ewell.

• **Outstanding Assistants** — Marlowe, Raina Jones, Caitlin Owens, Ellis and Courtney Pack.

• **Strive to Succeed Award** — Marlowe.

• **Scholarship Awards** — Donoho, Borah, Allen, Kaitlyn McLearn, Mallory Adams, Bean, Lucas Hurst, Raina Jones, Olinger, Jessica Cross, Chris Bond, House, Taylor Adams, Craig Vishy, Brian Alex McGovern, Snow, Kane Austin, Miki Belcher, Wetzel,



Special Photo/DAVID BELCHER

GOOD OLE BOY — Brent Daniels was presented with the Farm Credit Service Good Ole Boy Award at the recent Mt. Vernon FFA Banquet. The Mt. Vernon Township High School senior plans to attend Rend Lake College to study criminal justice.

Papazian, Brent Daniels, Clifton, Morgan, Leuty, Skobel, Delaney, Tobin, Rachel Flanagan, Tony Wood, Buffington, Frees, Verheyen, Chelsea Cross, David Price, Alyssa Moffitt, Jerod Brown, Zane Anders, Nick Green, Brittanica Keith, Josh Meyers, Buflard, Youngblood, Justin Payne, Winkler, Rector, Marlowe, Olinger, Zac Smith, Anthony Wood, Capps, January, Anthis, Cooper, Caleb Price, Garner, Darrell Haynes, Torrez, Zedalis, Austyn Taylor, Wellmaker, Zack Blacklock, Brandon Meyer, Reeker, Henson, Hester, Gibson, Zach Jones, Michael Flanagan, Garrison, Leffingwell, Cooper, Dylan Hayes, Brittney Brown, Alicia Adams, Burwell, Frank Hughes, Remington Payne, Sanders, Burrichter, Nick Workman, Peyton, Bouriland, Wes Brumley, Brian Workman, Nalley, Kremer, Dillon Payne, Whisler, David Williams, Droll, Nociar, Bryce Johnson, Brandon George, Hanson and Kyle Davis.

• **Agri-Science Awards** — Brittney Brown, Taylor Gilmore, Mace, Frees, Brazell, Torrez, Allen, Randolph, Borah and Clark.

• **Top Judging Participant** — Kaitlyn McLearn.

• **Outstanding Work and Dedication for Four Years Awards** — Bryson Owens, Brent Daniels, Clifton, Raina Jones, Caitlin Owens, England and Cheyenne Ray.

• **Star Greenhand Degree** — Kane Austin, Wetzel, Miki Belcher, Craig Vishy, Taylor Adams and Brooke Ewell.

• **Star Chapter FFA Degree** — Marlowe, Mallory Adams, Austyn Taylor, Kaitlyn McLearn and Olinger.



Special Photo/DAVID BELCHER

David Clifton was presented with the Monsanto-DeKalb Senior Award at the recent Mt. Vernon FFA Banquet. He plans to enter the Rend Lake College welding program.

• **State FFA Degree** — Mallory Adams.

• **Proficiency Award Winners:**

• **Ag Education** — Marlowe;

• **Ag Mechanics Design and Fabrication** — Sterner;

• **Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance** — Larry Smith;

• **Ag Processing** — Rainey;

• **Ag Sales** — Raina Jones;

• **Beef Production** — Olinger;

• **Diversified Crop Production** — Capps;

• **Diversified Livestock** — Austyn Taylor;

• **Electrical Technology** — Jerod Brown;

• **Equine Science** — Allen;

• **Food Service** — Marlowe;

• **Forage Production** — Josh Bravard;

• **Forest Management** — Olinger;

• **Fruit Production** — Hugo Papazian;

• **Grain Production** — Capps;

• **Home and Community Development** — Mallory Adams;

• **Landscape Management** — Clifton;

• **Outdoor Recreation** — Cody Owens;

• **Sheep Production** — Austyn Taylor;

• **Small Animal Production and Care** — Raina Jones;

• **Specialty Animal Production** — Austyn Taylor;

• **Swine Production** — Kaitlyn McLearn;

• **Wildlife Management** — Wellmaker;

• **Veterinary Medicine** — Verheyen;

• **and Star Farmer** — Mallory Adams.

• **Monstano/DeKalb Outstanding Senior Award** — Clifton.

• **WMIX Radio Outstanding Senior Award** — Raina Jones.

• **Farm Credit Services Good**



Special Photo/DAVID BELCHER

GUEST SPEAKER — Clay Zwilling, Illinois State FFA president, was the guest speaker at the recent 79th Annual Mt. Vernon FFA Banquet at the Rolland W. Lewis Community Building.

Ole Boy Outstanding Senior Award — Brent Daniels.

• **Mt. Vernon FFA Scholarships** — Clifton and Raina Jones.

The evening's guest speaker, Clay Zwilling, Illinois State FFA president, challenged his audience to get outside of their comfort zone. He recalled when he was in the seventh-grade he had to choose from three electives — choir, band and art. He chose choir, only to find of the 25 choir members — he was the only boy. His first reaction was to quit, a plan vetoed by his mother.

Since he was stuck in the class, he decided to put forth no effort. That is, until his teacher told him he saw potential in him, telling him, "There is one thing you need to do to succeed and that is try."

He said if he would "try his hardest and give 100 percent effort he would get an A. If you don't put forth any effort you will get an F."

So, Zwilling decided to try. By the end of the school year he was in the Show Choir. He remained in choir until he left during his sophomore year of high school due to a scheduling conflict.

Zwilling said most people don't like coming out of their comfort zone. He conceded getting out of a comfort zone "takes guts." However, he said once a person is out of their comfort zone they will realize there is a "new world of opportunities" just waiting for them to experience.

"If you take the extra step, you will reap the benefit from those opportunities," he said.

mtvff@mtvernonnews.com

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