



Paul Vitale speaks to MHS students

By Revis Blaylock
Town Crier Staff Writer

Paul Vitale, professional speaker and author, was guest speaker at Manila High School on Wednesday, October 26, presenting the program, "Setting the Tempo for Achievement."

This is Vitale's fourth consecutive year to speak at MHS. The event is sponsored by Crowley's Ridge Co-op and Operation MHS.

Mary Smith, high school teacher, introduced Vitale and welcomed him back to Manila.

"He is one of America's most sought after speakers and he loves to come to Manila," Smith said. "Some of his clients include ESPN, the Minnesota Vikings and Tyson Foods."

"I want to give you a reason to be proud of the place we call home," Vitale said.

Vitale, raised in Russellville, talked of his high school days and his goals.

He showed a video featuring famous Arkansans from entertainers and professional athletes to the President of the United States. Vitale informed students the song used in the

video was written by a Manila High School graduate, Chuck Robertson, who is with Cranford, Johnson, Robinson and Woods.

He encouraged the students to identify their individual talents.

"Use your talent to better the world," he said. "You have to be willing to step up. I believe in our home and I believe in the talent in Manila. I want you to get excited about being from Arkansas. I work for myself. I travel around the world but I am here because I want to be. You are our future generation."

Vitale shared interesting facts of well-known people including actors and authors who had to overcome rejection before they became successful.

"The only failure is not to try," he said. "This is your moment."

"I'm all for a college degree but college is not for everyone. I respect each one of you."

Vitale told the young people to master their craft, develop their communication skills, and always have a plan A, B and C.

He had the students repeat "I am Arkansas's best" and



presented each student with a bracelet stamped with the words ***I Am Arkansas's Best***. Vitale encouraged the students to check out settingthetempo.com, a webpage he created as a helpful resource.

Following the assembly, Vitale met with the junior and senior classes to talk about post-secondary education.