



I fight for

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL

Powered by Danville Area Community College

FIGHT ON!

AT BHRA: Student council and others went out of their way for Tuesday's Cancer Night. **Lillian Spalding**, a Cancer Night committee leader and student council representative, introduced several new ideas, including fundraisers and a student-led assembly to inform classmates about cancer's impact. During the assembly, teachers and peers shared personal stories about how cancer has affected their lives, leaving many students and administrators deeply moved. Student council members and sponsor **Jennifer Gumiński** also spoke at the assembly (below), and students painted a banner that was displayed at Tuesday's boys' basketball game against Westville (above).

'Everyone knows that cancer is a sickness, but most people fail to understand the impact that it leaves on people's lives,' Spalding said.

Tuesday's high-stakes rematch drew a large crowd, helping the student council raise money to donate to the OSF Bobette Steely Hegeler Cancer Care Center.

— Lahna Benjamin



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YEAR 10 OF HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL: POWERED BY DACC**Meet the crew**

Academy High: Evie Price
ALAH: London Dugan
Arcola: Addee Mulligan
Armstrong: Aubrey Self
Bement: Kiana Hunter
BHRA: Lahna Benjamin
Blue Ridge: Karly Warner
Centennial: Kennedy Borden
Cerro Gordo: Alexa Rodgers
Champaign Central: Adelaide Kota
Chrisman: Morgan Simpson

Cissna Park: Sophia Duis
Danville: Rylee Jack
DeLand-Weldon: Nathan Smith
Fisher: Kesiah Musick
G-RF: Tiffany Taylor
GCMS: Addison Farmer
Heritage: Rylan White
Hoopeson Area: Willamina Clayton
Iroquois West: Traeh Kissack
Judah Christian: Jack Dalbey
LeRoy: Molly Scheuer

Mahomet-Seymour: Abigail Eden
Maroa-Forsyth: Aubrey Stewart
Milford: Kami Muehling
Monticello: Mady Melton
Oakland: Sophie VonLanken
Oakwood: Sophia Aquino
Paxton-Buckley-Loda: Brayden Kief
Rantoul: Tamia Bell
St. Joseph-Ogden: Katie Erickson
St. Thomas More: Duncan Oliveira
Salt Fork: Anna McCollum

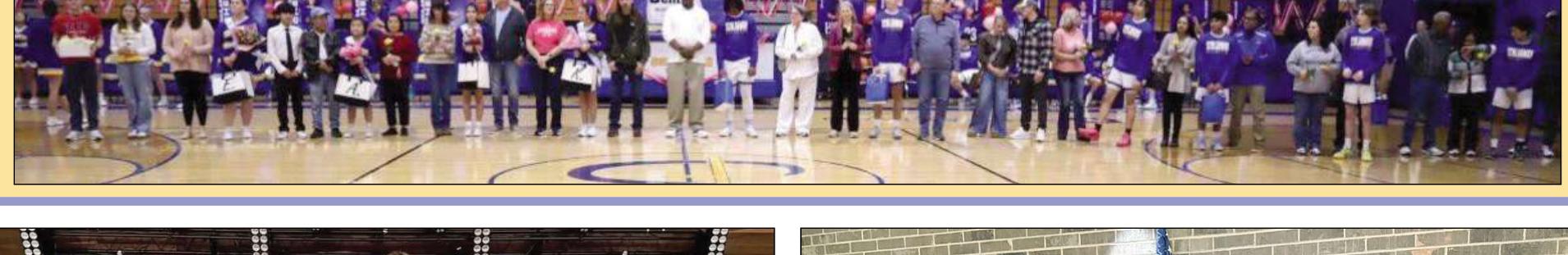
Schlarman: Isabella Bogen
Shiloh: Ali Cash
Sullivan: Lillian Moxley, Danica Bell
Tuscola: Claire Leonard
Uni High: Simrah Khan
Unity: Claire Meharry
Urbana: Ruby Pittenger
Villa Grove: Eva Piercy
Westville: Olivia Troglia
Questions? Email N-G VP Jim Rossow at jrossow@news-gazette.com.



SCHLARMAN SENIORS & SCHOLARS

Basketball's Senior Nights saw 13 players celebrated overall. Also, a National Honor Society ceremony for new inductees. Seniors also received their sashes for graduation at the ceremony.

— Izzy Bogen



From left: Jayden Schrock, Willa Tatman, Tatum Morgan and Clair Davison.

Heritage

The Family, Career and Community Leaders of America chapter had an eventful and successful week celebrating the organization's national week. At Monday's Section 7 leadership conference in Charleston, four chapter members were chosen to become Section 7 officers: **Jayden Schrock** (vice president of foundation), **Willa Tatman** (VP of community service), **Tatum Morgan** (president) and **Clair Davison** (treasurer). On Tuesday, the chapter hosted a game during homeroom, with Heritage students divided into four teams based on their grade. The objective: Spell a word by grabbing boxes and throwing them to balance on top of each other. Coming in first place were seniors, represented by: **Breanna McGarigle**, **Faith Latham**, **Kaydynn Curry-Varner**, **Andriy Bilyi**, **Eli Denmark-Collins** and **Anthony Happ**. On Wednesday, Morgan hid 30 llamas around the school for students to try and find. When a llama was found, a prize was given. To round out the week, students and staff competed in Ro-Sham-Bo. Each student and staff member was given a necklace and had the opportunity to challenge each other in rock, paper, scissors. **Quinn Reynolds** was the final one standing out of everyone in the school.

— RYLAN WHITE



TATUM MORGAN



QUINN REYNOLDS

Urbana

National FCCLA Week (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) was filled with celebration, one being the club baking cookies for staff members. Students wanted to recognize educators who have made a difference in their lives.

— RUBY PITTINGER



Breanna McGarigle, Faith Latham, Kaydynn Curry-Varner, Andriy Bilyi, Eli Denmark-Collins and Anthony Happ.



Champaign Central

On Friday, the Asian American and Pacific Islander Association delivered Valentine's snacks. Orders could be purchased in the weeks leading up to Valentine's Day and were delivered to students and teachers by the club's executive board. Pictured: junior **Caroline Yu**.

— ADELAIDE KOTA



Bement

On Feb. 12, as part of FCCLA Week, it was 'Anything But a Backpack Day' — a favorite with students from freshmen to seniors.

— KIANA HUNTER

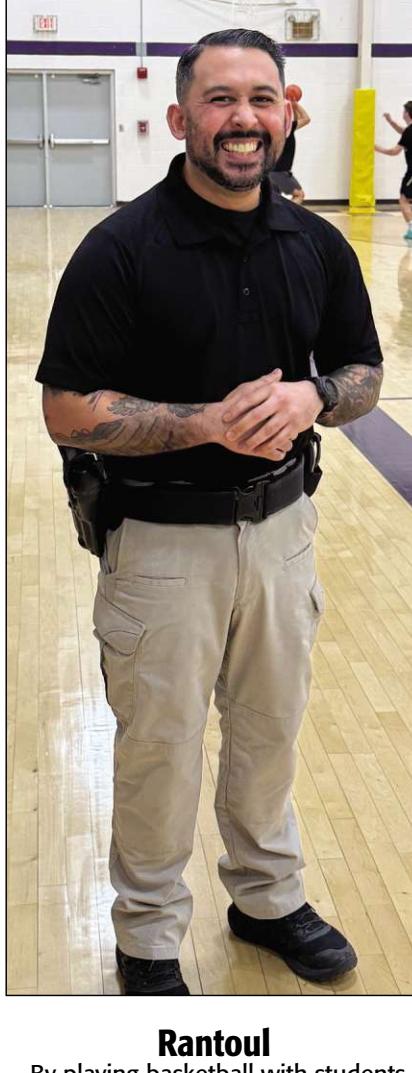
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Centennial

Last Thursday, students had the opportunity to connect with dozens of potential employers at the annual Career and Technical Education (CTE) Fair. The event boasted over 85 percent student attendance, allowing them to explore summer employment and future careers. Future Business Leaders of America members helped the event run smoothly by checking in students and offering directions. Vendors included, but were not limited to, the U.S. Navy, RATIO Architects, the University of Illinois, Stephens Family YMCA, Champaign police and fire departments and the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce. Among those pictured are student-athlete **Rebekah Kim**, who paid a visit to the U.S. Navy's pull-up station.

— KENNEDY BORDEN



MAHOMET-SEYMOUR SPEAKING AT SECTIONALS

The speech team, the Speaking Bulldogs, had IHSA regionals last weekend, with six members advancing to the sectional tournament: **Olivia Blackman** in Original Oratory; **Alba McFarlane** in Oratorical Declamation and Radio Speaking; **An-nabeth York** in Humorous Interpretation; **Emery Parker** in Original Comedy; **June Coleman** in Prose Reading; and **Olivia Oertwig** in Dramatic Interpretation. Pictured: (first row) **Madison Young**, Blackman and **Claire Cissell**; and (second row) **Amelia Snodgrass**, Coleman, Oertwig, York, Parker, McFarlane and **Alex Chequim Filho**.

— Abby Eden



Rantoul

By playing basketball with students, school resource Officer **Edgar Garcia** creates meaningful bonds and makes them feel safe and secure in their community and school setting. The students appreciate Garcia's effort and involvement.

— TAMIA BELL



Chrisman

Last Wednesday, the girls' basketball team attended the Illini's win against Wisconsin at State Farm Center. Also, the FFA chapter hosted and finished first in Section Poultry, where students identified parts of a chicken, cooked and raw. The Scholastic Bowl team beat Schlarman. Finally, the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America chapter volunteered at the Egger County Animal Shelter during FCCLA Week, members walking dogs and spending time with them.

— MORGAN SIMPSON



Blue Ridge

Going against Uni High on Senior Night, **Kylie Madden** and **Mercedes Manuel** represented the team well in a hard-fought game. Pictured (courtesy **Lisa Warner**): Madden, Manuel and **Ava Franzen**.

— KARLY WARNER

Tuscola
Students Against Destructive Decisions put together a gift for all students for Valentine's Day: a plastic duck with a duck pun, such as 'you are quack-tacular.' Pictured: **Evan Englehardt**, **Bella Wishard**, **Karsyn Lyons** and **Gwen Boyd** making the gift bags.

— Claire Leonard

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Georgetown-Ridge Farm

Boys' basketball, cheer and band celebrated Senior Night. There were smiles and tears as the buzzer sounded for the last time. Pictured (courtesy Sarah Runyan): from left, Jase Latoz, Justin Nose, Tiffany Taylor, Peyton McComas, Sophia Loucks, Milee Elise and Autumn Warner.

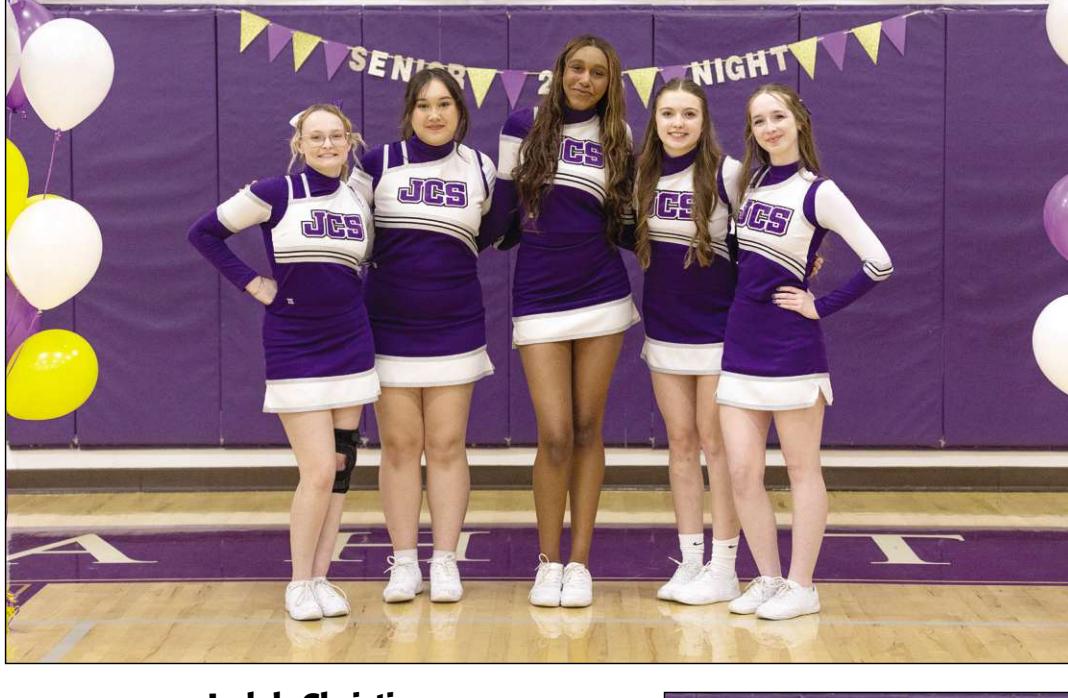
— TIFFANY TAYLOR



ST. THOMAS MORE ALL AROUND THE WORLD

For the annual World Cultures Week, the school participates in activities and cultures worldwide, such as a world rosary in many different languages, games that originate in different countries, and our fan favorite — world food vets made by many different parents of different ethnicities.

— Duncan Oliveira



Judah Christian

With basketball and cheer season winding down, students and parents celebrated Senior Night. The cheer team celebrated (from left) **Ali McGuffin, Sophia Crabtree, Avoni Kelly, Kisandra Fazio and Liza Carder**. Archers (from left) **Carson Nichols, Amelia Kerlin and Gloriana Bell** were also celebrated. The seniors were recognized for their dedication and the hard work they poured into their teams every day. Following the senior ceremony was a basketball game against First Baptist Christian.

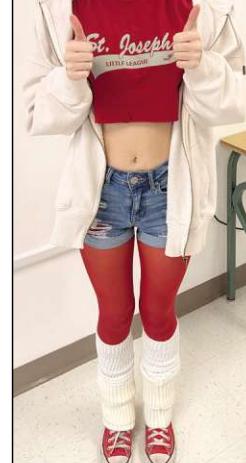
— JACK DALBEY



Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley

At the Section 17 Proficiency competition hosted by Farm Credit in Mahomet, three FFA members presented their Supervised Agriculture Experience book: **Jenna Norvell** (Manufacturing, Engineering and Trades SOE book), **Sarah Higgins** (Small Animal Care Placement book) and **Kasen DeFries** (Turf Grass Management Placement, Ag Sales Placement book). DeFries also interviewed for his State FFA Degree. Norvell and DeFries were both awarded first place in their areas and will compete in the District 4 event at Mt. Zion on March 4. DeFries has also been recommended for final approval of his State Degree.

— ADDISON FARMER



St. Joseph-Ogden

Spartans spread Valentine's Day cheer all last week. Student council organized a series of dress-up days: Monday's 'Cute and Cozy,' Tuesday's 'Dress to Impress,' Wednesday's 'Wear Pink or Red,' Thursday's 'Match with Your Valentine' and Friday's 'Show Some Love for Our School.' Pictured: (from left) **Brennan Oleynichak, Kenzie Atwood, Abby Getty and Colton Overstreet** participating in Thursday's 'Match with Your Valentine'; **Grace Preston** participating in Wednesday's 'Wear Pink or Red'; and student council members **Hayden Dahl and Abby Crider** selling Crush cans at lunch.

— KATIE ERICKSEN

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Uni High

The Latino-Black Coalition (LBC) and staff organized the annual Black History Month assembly, with performances from the choir class and a local musician, **J'Lyn Hope**. The choir class performed gospel songs and 'Lift Every Voice and Sing.' LBC leader **Chizara Onyemere** says she enjoyed the live music at the assembly. 'It was creative, and we organize the assembly to celebrate our culture,' Onyemere said.

— SIMRAH KHAN

Salt Fork

FFA had eight freshmen attend the Ground Zero Leadership Conference in Springfield to learn about leadership and the importance of stepping out of their comfort zone. During the event, students put together care packages to send to the U.S. military overseas which consisted of nonperishable snacks and handwritten notes, thanking them for their service. Pictured: **Tucker Pabst** gathering items to put together in his care package.

— ANNA MCCOLLUM

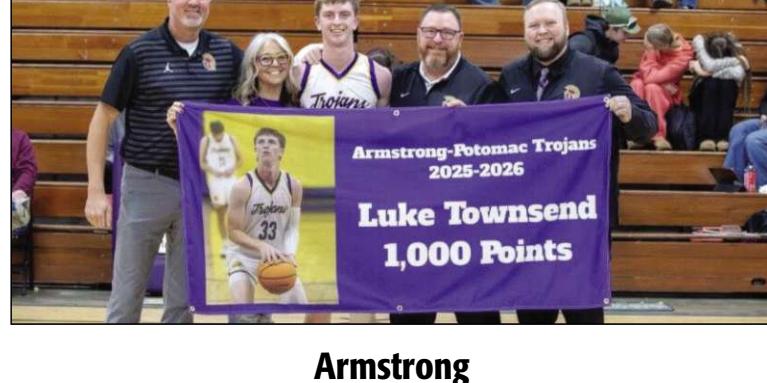


Milford

FCS Club had a successful secret Valentine sale, giving out chocolate-covered pretzels and other goodies. Pictured: **Evie Morts, Courtney Schriner and Chloe Hoaks** dipping the pretzels in chocolate; **Elizabeth Totheroh, Anna Mann, Eliana Salinas and Lilly Carter** covered the pretzels in candy.



— KAMI MUEHLING



Armstrong



Luke Townsend scored his 1,000th career point during the game against Watseka. His hard work and dedication led to his accomplishment. The junior class held a Sweetheart Dance on Valentine's Day for grade-school students, who enjoyed punch, baked goods and snow cones. Just Dance was set up, and a photo area on the stage allowed kids to get a picture with their special person.

— AUBREY SELF

ARCOLA SPREADING LOVE

Students visited Carriage Crossing Senior Living to spread some Valentine's Day love to residents. Pictured, from left: **Briseida Condarco, Olivia Gisinger, Jazy Morena, Ema Simpson and Addee Mulligan**.

— Addee Mulligan



Unity

In Rich McCabe's horticulture class, students made flower arrangements for Valentine's Day to give to family, friends or teachers. Students painted pots to their liking then arranged red and white flowers with greenery to create beautiful arrangements. Pictured: (from left) **Natalia Cunningham, Sophia Hewardine and Addison Wyatt** painting flower pots; and **Leah Watson, Paula Wilson, Aria Battaglia, Isabelle Levington, Grace Wherley and Ginna Stierwalt**.

— CLAIRE MEHARRY



Villa Grove

Meghan Martindale talked to the Science Club about her career as a sports physical therapist. She gave insight on the schooling required, patients she sees, other opportunities within the PT world, and even some heartwarming stories of patients she worked with. She gave some encouraging guidance for those wanting to pursue this field of work and ways to get early experience through Carle. **Cora Wilson, Cameron McGaughey and Ryan Lillard** were all in attendance, interested about different paths in health care.

— EVA PIERCY



Hoopeston Area

Student council and volunteers hosted the annual Sweetheart Dinner for senior citizens in the gym. Guests were treated to an afternoon of food and entertainment. The jazz band, directed by **Sophie Small**, attended and played a selection of songs. Members of the high school choir also participated as director **Kaedyn Gonzalez** led soloists, duos and trios in performing love songs. The event was a success, with guests and students alike mentioning afterward how fun the afternoon was. Photos courtesy **Ginger Gonzalez**.

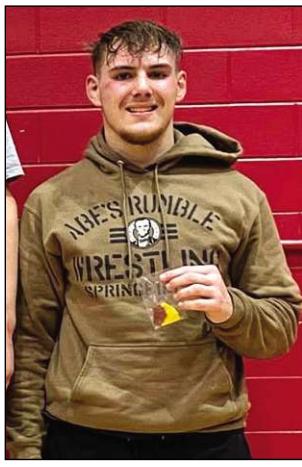
— WILLAMINA CLAYTON



TAKE TWO
Following up on our stories

THE NEWS-GAZETTE
Thursday, February 19, 2026

YEAR 10 OF HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL: POWERED BY DACC



Westville

On a recent school morning, Westville took time to honor hardworking honor roll students. The Athletic Boosters sponsored the celebration where the students were rewarded with donuts and a beverage of their choice. Also, shoutout to **Ethan Miller** and **Addy Briggs** for advancing to the IHSA state wrestling tournament.

— OLIVIA TROGLIA



CERRO GORDO THANKS, TEACH

At Teacher Appreciation Night, winter student-athletes picked a teacher and walked out with them at halftime of Friday's boys' basketball game against Tri-County. It was an amazing turnout — and a win, too.

— Hunter Malone



Oakland

Tri-County's Mega Night on Feb. 10 was a huge success, including three seniors who won Lake Land College scholarships. The night included boys' and girls' basketball games against Okaw Valley.

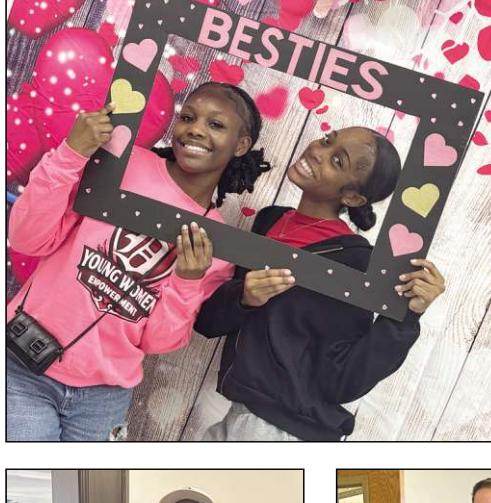
— SOPHIE VONLANKEN



Monticello

Sporting events are a great way to cheer on your favorite team to victory, but sometimes they can be more than just a game — they can be a place to form a sense of community and advocate for a good cause. Friday's boys' basketball game against St. Thomas More was the annual Orange Out game, sponsored by the Pep Club in honor of former school nurse **Natalie McDowell**. At the game, there was a silent auction, 50/50 raffle and a half-court shot challenge. Additionally, the Pep Club did an apparel order two weeks prior, which allowed students to be decked out in orange for the game. All proceeds from the event will go to the St. Jude Run, which Mrs. McDowell was actively involved in. From the pep band to the cheerleaders to the student section, the energy in the gym was unmatched.

— MADDY MELTON



Danville

The Young Women Empowerment group sold Valentine candy grams. It was a chance for students to buy a bundle of candy along with a nice message to send to a friend or staff member. Sales were held throughout the week, and all deliveries were made Friday. The girls also set up a fun backdrop in the cafeteria on Friday for friends to take pictures and to celebrate the holiday. The Young Women Empowerment group also spread the love and appreciation to veterans out at the Danville VA, collecting canned goods to donate on Friday.

— RYLEE JACK

