

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL

Powered by Danville Area Community College



TOGA! TOGA!

ARCOLA HIGH SCHOOL Principal **Nick Lindsey** wore a toga to school on Friday — for a good cause. As a fundraiser for Drama Club ahead of this weekend's performances of 'The Odyssey: A Comedy Until It's Not' (7 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday), students were challenged to donate \$100. By meeting their goal, Lindsey and elementary school Assistant Principal **Kyle Shay** would dress the part. 'Thank goodness it was a warm day,' Lindsey said. 'It was fun for the students, I definitely got some strange looks, but it was a fun experience to support our Drama Club.'

— Addee Mulligan



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Meet the crew

This year's group includes 43 students from 42 schools (*visit news-gazette.com for our photo gallery*). We'll spotlight each correspondent in Top of the Morning on Wednesdays.

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
Hoopeston 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 Ericksen
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.



Unity

Students participated in Read Across America Week with dress-up days, and teachers decorated their doors. On Friday, there was a schoolwide reading time during seventh hour (pictured: Aria Battaglia), and English teacher Makenna Boyd held a cozy reading lock-in after school in the library.



— CLAIRE MEHARRY



WESTVILLE TAKING TIME TO GIVE

On March 3, student council held its annual blood drive in the gym. Many individuals donated, making it a smooth, successful day.

— Olivia Troglia



Fisher

Last weekend, the Drama Club put on 'Willa Wonkie and the College Tour,' a spoof about a girl trying to get into college. Donations were accepted to help fund new microphones and lighting.

— KESIAH MUSICK



Hoopeston Area

On Friday, the high school hosted its first senior-vs.-staff basketball game in the middle-school gym (won by the staff, 55-51). Before the game, attendees were encouraged to dress like their favorite senior or staff member, and donations were collected for a food drive. A Chuck-a-Duck raffle was also held. Students, families and community members attended the event, which promoted school spirit through friendly competition.

— WILLAMINA CLAYTON



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Judah Christian

Saturday's annual Senior Sale brought in countless members of the community. Thousands of items were sold for \$1 — making it a huge hit for shoppers — with proceeds helping fund this year's senior service trip. It was a memorable day filled with gratitude and community support for students, teachers, volunteers and customers alike. The senior class will travel to the Meridzo Center in the Appalachian Mountains, where they will spend time serving together and enjoying fellowship as a class. Pictured: **Amber Battershell**.

— JACK DALBEY



Oakland

Activities during National FFA Week included a teacher luncheon, 'Drive Your Tractor to School Day,' 'Ag Olympics' and the biggest one — a petting zoo on Thursday. Students and community members visited to see a variety of animals, including a baby goat, piglets, a calf, a pony and lamb. There also was a pair of PowerPoints for the elementary students about the development of butterflies and first aid. Both of these had their own activities, such as creating different stages of the butterfly life cycle with fruit and creating first-aid kits.

— SOPHIA VONLANKEN

CHAMPAIGN CENTRAL A MCMASTERPIECE

The National Art Honor Society started painting a mural at the McDonald's restaurant on Neil Street. The painting, affectionately called the McMural, was designed by students and is being worked on by student volunteers. The design features various basketball players alongside Ronald McDonald in honor of March Madness.

— **Adelaide Kota**



LeRoy

Four junior high wrestlers advanced to this weekend's IESA state meet at Northern Illinois in DeKalb. **Ty Jackson** (85) and **Evan Conn** (105) were sectional champions in their respective weight classes. **Briggs Baxter** placed second, and **Preston Long** placed third. Pictured, from left: Briggs, Jackson, Conn and Long.

— MOLLY SCHEUER



Centennial

Future Business Leaders of America ran a fundraiser targeting the sweet tooth of students. In order to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association, members have spent their free time selling dozens of artisan lollipops. This is the dozen year they have done this fundraiser, which has been deemed a success by students and teachers alike. Pictured: FBLA President **Rebekah Kim**, who demonstrated entrepreneurial skills while selling lollipops during school lunches.

— KENNEDY BORDEN

St. Joseph-Ogden

Student council hosted a heartwarming Linus Blanket event, partnering with the Illinois Music Honor Society to make cozy blankets for children's hospitals across the United States. The students generously created a goal of nine blankets to donate. Pictured: **Madison** and **Sydney Farber**.



— KATIE ERICKSEN

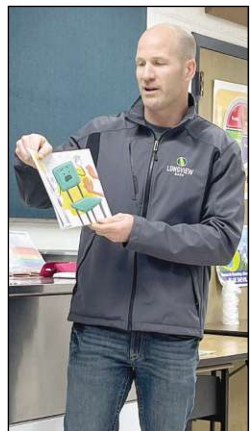
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Monticello

For months, the Monticello High School Thespians had been choosing the perfect story, learning how to execute it and crafting an immaculate set. Last weekend, it was finally their time to put on a show. The choice for the spring musical this year was 'The Addams Family' — a fun and spooky tale that takes you through the life of a unique family. Opening night was March 5 with performances continuing on March 6-7 (dress rehearsal photos courtesy **Avery Melton**).

— **MADY MELTON**



BHRA

Seniors joined community leaders to visit the elementary school on Friday to read books to the kindergarten class. The young students listened attentively, smiles on their faces and snacks in hand, as the guests shared stories and spent time with them. Additionally, the BHRA Devilettes dance team performed at Fischer Theatre on Friday during both the intermission and finale of Danville's First Fridays event, Danville's Got Talent.

— **LAHNA BENJAMIN**



RANTOUL REAL-LIFE LEARNING

DeDe Graham recently won a grant from Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative that supports schools, teachers and students. Said Graham: 'My specific purpose is to use grant funds to help cover field-trip costs throughout the year, with the goal of creating equitable access to meaningful curriculum experiences that expand learning beyond the classroom.' Her environmental science class went on a field trip to Miller Park Zoo in Bloomington, with their next trip being the Field Museum in Chicago.

— **Tamia Bell**



Bement

On March 3, Bement, DeLand Weldon and Cerro Gordo were to take part in a joint assembly. Even though the get-together was cancelled, Bement students were still treated to an assembly, where Canadian artist Josh Norrad spoke about life and purpose.

— **KIANA HUNTER**

Cerro Gordo

The junior high Scholastic Bowl started its season 3-0 with wins against Lovington, Bement and Villa Grove. The JV team also won against Bement.

— **JOSH POLLOCK**



Uni High

On Monday, students joined speakers from the Jamie Boone Project, a local organization dedicated to raising awareness about suicide, for an assembly focused on suicide prevention. From Wednesday to Saturday, theater students and student actors put on 'Pirates of Penzance,' a comic opera about a mistaken pirate. Photo by **Hannah Elshennawi**.

— **SIMRAH KHAN**



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Heritage

Students in woodworking, welding and construction have been hard at work. In woodworking class, **Eli Denmark-Collins** and **Anthony Happ** are spacing out the lanes for a custom pinewood derby track. They created their own derby cars and have been using them to help figure out the proper lane spacing. Happ cut, glued and assembled a coffee grinder as well. He built the top, base and all of the sides by gluing different types of wood together and cut them to the correct dimensions. In welding, **Tyler Lisanby** used a cutoff wheel to cut the top step of his welded step stool. In construction, **Joshua Walden** used an air-powered nail gun to fasten and secure strips of wood to the sides of his vinyl record storage crate. **Aron Cunningham** cut and assembled a crate meant to hold several vinyl records. He added blue felt and a dark walnut stain to give it a beautiful finish. Pictured (from left): Denmark-Collins and Happ working on their custom pinewood derby track; Happ's coffee grinder; Lisanby welding his step stool; Walden using an air-powered nail gun; and Cunningham with his final crate that was decorated by himself.

— RYLAN WHITE



Anatomy students (back to front, from left) Owen Baker, Izzac Williams, Jayse Williams, Gage Mann, Sophie Newman, Kara Harwood, Ava Fleming, Eliana Salinas, Anna Mann, Janelle Parker, Ali Ward, Olivia Leppard, Lilly Carter, Joie Girdler, Sydney Seyfert, Madisyn Laffoon, Kami Muehling, Molly Coffey, Erica Felton, Damian Salinas and Bryce Brown.



Mahomet-Seymour

Winter Spirit Week, hosted by student council, enabled students to have fun in preparation for the Winter Formal. Monday's theme was 'Groufit Day,' Tuesday was 'Jersey Day,' Wednesday was 'Twin Day,' Thursday was 'Crazy Sock/Crazy Hat Day,' and Friday was 'Comfy Day.' Pictured: **Kynnadie Cornwell**, **Rhean Walker**, **Lucas Dhom** and **Jude Wild**.

— ABBY EDEN



MILFORD

FUTURE LIFESAVERS

On Feb. 26, anatomy and physiology classes toured Kankakee Community College with a focus on the health careers, such as radiology, respiratory and nursing. Students explored the anatomage table, a 3-D dissection of the human cadaver and patient simulators. Pictured (bottom): **Kami Muehling**, **Molly Coffey**, **Madisyn Laffoon** and **Brycea Brown** taking care of a patient; **Gage Mann**, **Erica Felton**, **Damian Salinas** and **Janelle Parker** checking a patient's vitals; and **Sydney Seyfert** and **Lilly Carter** smiling with a patient.

— Kami Muehling



Georgetown-Ridge Farm

The archery team held its annual Buffalo Stampedede tournament, the largest in program history. There were over 1,000 archers signed up for the event. The Buffaloes had its best score of the season (3,233). Several students and parents — not to mention coaches — helped out to make the day possible thanks to hard work and dedication.

— TIFFANY TAYLOR



Tuscola

Science Olympiad participated in a competition at Parkland College that involved different areas of science. Tuscola won best team spirit as well as numerous other medals in the competitions. Pictured, from left: **Paula Linker**, **Peppe Vitale**, **Korey Clodfelder**, **Seth Stahler**, **Claire Leonard**, **Bella Dueker**, **Sawyer Cleland**, **Kalen Shinn** and **Lydia Koch**. Not pictured: **Nicole Tschopp** and **Christy Kerner**.

— CLAIRE LEONARD



Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley

Track season is underway, coach **Mark Ward** leading a team with four returning state qualifiers: senior **Kale Holzhauser** (shot put), who will be going for the school record; junior **Evan Landers-Kristensen** in the 400-meter relay and 200; junior **Reed Tompkins** in the 300 hurdles and 110 high hurdles; and senior **Keegan DeWall** in the 1,600 and 3,200. Landers-Kristensen and DeWall have a chance to reset records they broke last season. Other individuals to look out for are senior **Logan Ward** in the shot and discus, junior **Micheal Harders** in the discus, and freshman **Brysen Butler** in the distance events.

— ADDISON FARMER

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Blue Ridge

For National FFA Week, students involved in agricultural classes helped conduct numerous events. They kicked off the week with an assembly, where the student body participated in different activities like line dances and relay races. On Thursday, representatives from numerous schools came in for 'College and Career Day.' On Friday, different animals were brought in for the beloved FFA Barnyard. Pictured: **Jesse Smith, Shawn Christie, Paityn Keeler, Karlie Summers and Kaylyn Eliason.**

— KARLY WARNER



Salt Fork

Oakwood/Salt Fork had a great performance at both the girls' and boys' IHSA state wrestling meets. **Devin Ehler**, a Salt Fork sophomore, placed third at 138 pounds. Also, **Taylor Owens**, a senior, placed fourth at 155.

— ANNA MCCOLLUM



Danville

Track and field is making waves, sophomore **Jamia Esther**, junior **D'Mario Jackson** and the girls' 4x200 relay team breaking records on back-to-back weekends to kick off the indoor track season. On tap this month: the Big 12 Conference meet and Indoor Top Times. Pictured: **Samantha Brown, Jhe Nyi Parker and Jamia Esther.**

— RYLEE JACK



CISSNA PARK CELEBRATE IN STYLE

To celebrate National FFA Week, there were dress-up days like 'Camo Day,' 'Western Day,' 'Official Dress Day' and 'America Day.' Activities throughout the week included 'Tractor Day,' 'Ranger Day' and even 'SUV Day.' Students played games like chicken dodgeball and pedal tractor and had the annual 'Petting Zoo Day,' where FFA members brought animals for the community and junior high and elementary students to see. There was a donkey, alpacas, a horse, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits and chicks.

— SOPHIE DUIS



Villa Grove

Villa Grove hosted 'Hospitality Night,' welcoming several schools from across the district for an evening of friendly competition and fun. Participants were divided into 10 different colored teams and competed for first place and a goodie bag prize. The groups rotated through games, including trivia, balloon relay, musical chairs, snatch the wig, tug of war and a human pyramid challenge. Each participant played an important role throughout the night. **Lily Wyant** and **Maya Garner** served as scorekeepers, **Evie Kinkade** led the yellow team, **EJ Brown** helped the red team secure the tug-of-war victory, and **Peyton Ellis** contributed to the purple team's win in trivia. The dark green team led by **Dylan Andrade** ended up winning it all and securing some tasty treats put together by **Bailey Keith.**

— EVA PIERCY



Armstrong

Art class painted a mural in the hallway going to the music room with detailed instruments, music notes and a piano board running across it. A new club was started this school year: HEMA (Historical European Martial Arts), where students study and examine historical arms and armor, the historical philosophies of chivalry, and how weapons and techniques changed and were changed by history. Participants also did sword drills, partner exercises and sparring matches, with protective gear and padded weapons, to build skills in swordsmanship. During National FFA Week (Feb. 23-27), FFA officers made breakfast for teachers that included biscuits and gravy, bacon and eggs. They also made cinnamon rolls one morning for students to enjoy. Dress-up days included 'Carhartt Day,' 'Green Day' and 'Blue and Gold Day,' along with games to play during homeroom assemblies. A few of the games were a pie-cow eating contest, egg toss, tug a war and a relay. During the games, each class competed against each other to earn points, and the juniors came out on top and won the trophy for FFA Week.

— AUBREY SELF

