

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL

Powered by Danville Area Community College



Unity: Softball team toured Memphis

GOING PLACES

Area students went the distance while spending spring break on the move



Heritage: Group of seniors visited Washington, D.C.



Centennial: Students soaked in the sun — and history — while in Belize.



Arcola: AFS club seniors toured New York City

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YEAR 10 OF HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL: POWERED BY DACC

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.



CISSNA PARK

We, the jury, find the defendant ...

Junior and senior English classes acted out a trial for Macbeth after reading the story in class, including witnesses, prosecution, judge, jurors and defense. The students worked on the case, writing their own script based on their knowledge of the play. They were all in costumes, wigs and makeup according to their roles. The students were fortunate to be able to hold the mock trial at the old courthouse in Watseka, bringing the courtroom to life.

— Sophie Duis



Bement

Students were able to enjoy the school's annual Pi Week, a series of math-themed dress-up days from March 16-21 that included 'Math Meme Day,' 'Even vs. Odd,' 'Apron Day,' 'Mathlete vs. Athlete' and 'Pirate Day.' If enough students participated, select members of the faculty were to be pied in front of the entire student body, an event heavily anticipated by all.

— KIANA HUNTER



Arcola

Last week, 23 AFS club senior members took a trip to New York City with four chaperones.

— ADDEE MULLIGAN



Westville

Kaitlyn Sapp broke the school record in pole vault, clearing 7 feet, 4.583 inches at the Gene Armor meet on March 21. Also, Drama Club is putting on its annual play — 'Shadow Stories: A Cursed Play' — on Friday and Saturday (7 p.m.).



— OLIVIA TROGLIA

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Tuscola

A few high school students were selected to read to second-graders for Reading Across America. The high-schoolers in the pictures are **Logan Kurtz, Reese Davis and Claire Leonard**.
— **CLAIRE LEONARD**



Champaign Central

During spring break, a group of students — along with teacher and parent chaperones — took a trip to Spain to explore numerous sights, enjoy good food, and even take a dance lesson.
— **ADELAIDE KOTA**

VILLA GROVE MIND MATTERS

The Villa Grove PTO organized a week dedicated to promoting mental-health awareness for both high school and junior high students. Each day during study hall, students participated in activities designed to encourage kindness, connection and self-care. These included bracelets that students moved to the opposite wrist after sharing a kind word, a deep-dish cookie day reminding students to 'treat yourself,' and goodie bags filled with thoughtful notes and treats. A guest speaker from Keri Powell Therapy also visited to share important insights on mental health. The week concluded with a series of fun, uplifting games that brought students together. **Payton Cravens** and **Alysa Adkins** participated in the 'shaking Post-it notes' game, while students collaborated to spell out encouraging messages, with **Kendrick Roy** playing a key role in its success. The final event, an air-mattress race, ended with **Caitlyn Miller** leading her team to victory, wrapping up a meaningful and engaging week.

— **Eva Piercy**



Unity

With school on spring break, the softball team traveled to Tennessee. The Rockets visited Graceland Museum, the home of **Elvis Presley**, and **Lorraine Motel**, where **Martin Luther King Jr.** was assassinated. The remainder of the trip was spent playing softball. Pictures courtesy of **Shelby Smith**.

— **CLAIRE MEHARRY**

Georgetown-Ridge Farm

Student **Makyla Waterman** raced her quarter midgets in the NASCAR Youth Series at the Terre Haute (Ind.) Quarter Midget Association. She started in 2023, and this year is her retiring year racing quarter midgets in two different classes: Heavy 160 and Heavy World Formula. 'I love everything about racing — the speed, teamwork, working on my car, my racing family and, of course, winning,' she said. Last week, she placed first in Heavy World Formula and third in Heavy 160. She is involved in several other things outside of the race track, including band, archery and golf. More information at her racing page @Waterman racing. Photos via **Jana Swiger**.
— **TIFFANY TAYLOR**



Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley

In the softball team's season-opener, senior **Taylor Beck** hit a home run. Also, wrestling coach **Josh Carter** was named the Class 1A Coach of the Year by the IWOCA. Deserving of this recognition, he led his wrestlers to third at team state and led three wrestlers to two second-place finishes and one fifth-place finish at individual state. Carter will be celebrated and presented with a plaque in mid-April at the IWOCA Banquet.

— **ADDISON FARMER**

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Blue Ridge

At the annual Fine Arts Expo on March 13, students involved in not only art class but industrial tech, history, science and sewing displayed their creations. The Blue Ridge community showed up to view all of the art work and support the band and theater performances as well in what was a fabulous night full of creativity and community. Pictured: **Ollie Yeagle, Justin Zellers, Kinnley Rowe, Ivy Whitehouse, Ashland Mullen and Charleigh Brining.**

— KARLY WARNER



MAHOMET-SEYMOUR RETURNING HOME A WINNER

The varsity baseball team went on a trip to St. Petersburg, Fla., over spring break, playing teams from Canada, New York and New Jersey. The Bulldogs went 4-0, including a no-hitter by **Kyle Popovich** and **Dylan Thomas** against Lakeside Christian. Pictured courtesy **Lila Bain: Nolan Sanderson (33), Ryan Pruitt (7), Logan Wade (10), Paxson O'Malley (17), Nolan Franz (1), Max Young (3) and Popovich (26).**

— Abby Eden



From left: Ethan Lyons, Lukas Miller, Anthony Happ, Griffin Boyer and Isabelle Lawrence getting ready to board their flight; the group visiting the Washington Monument (right).

Heritage

Seniors were provided an experience of a lifetime. First, 14 seniors got the chance to explore Chicago, visiting Shedd Aquarium, the Museum of Illusions, Millennium Park and an escape room. They also got to walk on Michigan Avenue for a couple of hours to shop. Chaperone and high school Principal **Corey White** then took the seniors to enjoy deep-dish pizza at Pizano's Pizza and Pasta. The next day, four of the seniors went on another trip: Washington, D.C. History teacher **Griffin Boyer** had the pleasure of taking **Lukas Miller, Anthony Happ, Isabelle Lawrence** and **Ethan Lyons**. **Jennifer Miller** and **Cindy Happ** tagged along as chaperones. The four-day trip started at 2 a.m. with a bus ride to catch a flight out of Indianapolis. The travel party visited museums, monuments, memorials and national archives, including the Natural History Museum, Washington Monument, Marine Corps War Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery.

— RYLAN WHITE



Isabelle Lawrence, Payton Parrish, Leigha Tatar, Rylan White, Kaydynn Curry-Varner and Kierra Dunlap at Pizano's Pizza and Pasta.



From left: Jennifer Miller, Cindy Happ, Isabelle Lawrence, Griffin Boyer, Lukas Miller, Anthony Happ and Ethan Lyons at the Capitol Building.



Centennial

Students had the opportunity to travel to various sites in Belize on a trip led by history teacher **Kyle Jackson**. The group visited two Mayan ruins — Lamanai and Xunantunich — where they explored and climbed multiple ancient temples. The students also went zip lining through the jungle, tubed in freshwater river caves, and snorkeled with a variety of fish and sea creatures. The group finished off their trip by visiting an eco-museum, where they learned more about Belize's diverse culture, attended a cooking class, and had a traditional Mayan lunch. Jackson said: 'It was a fantastic trip, packed with adventure, cultural immersion and fun, educational experiences.'



— KENNEDY BORDEN

