

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL

Powered by Danville Area Community College



FASHION SENSE

At Maroa-Forsyth, students do more with less



Construction class was challenged to make a fashion show piece using specific materials: trash bags, newspapers, magazines, copy paper and paper plates. Students were given two class periods to plan their designs and one class period to make it come to life. Last Friday, one model from each group walked the runway in front of four judges. Pictured: **Lilly Wehking, Liam Reynolds, Carter Johnson, Caebrin Lee and Shelby Stiles.** 'I had a great time being in the show because my team made me a great dress to walk in,' Wehking said. 'I think I had the easiest part of the project, because without everyone working so hard, I wouldn't have had anything to wear.'
— **Aubrey Stewart**

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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.



Mahomet-Seymour

Students in biology started their Planarian Lab. The focus: learning about regeneration and neoblasts, which act like stem cells. Planarians can be cut/split up to 279 times and still regenerate. In groups, students were given three planarians; they kept one planarian whole and cut



the other two in two different ways to compare the regrowth of the cut planarians. Pictured: **Alayna Day** and **Noah Vilt**.

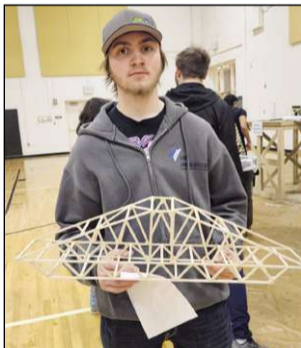
— **ABBI EDEN**



Armstrong

The STEM Student of the Month for February is **Jaiden Gentry**. For March, it's **Jonah Stark**. The physics class attended a bridge competition. **Tyler Rigg** holds the record for bridge efficiency at ATHS. The science teacher created awards for best bridge and best presentation. The 'I Built a Good Bridge Award' went to Rigg and **Savannah Hardwick**. The 'Best Presentation Award' went to **Kayla Wernigk**.

— **AUBREY SELF**



Champaign Central

Interact Club held its annual International Night event. Students signed up to host booths to give insights to different cultures around the world. The second half of the event featured cultural performances from across the world.

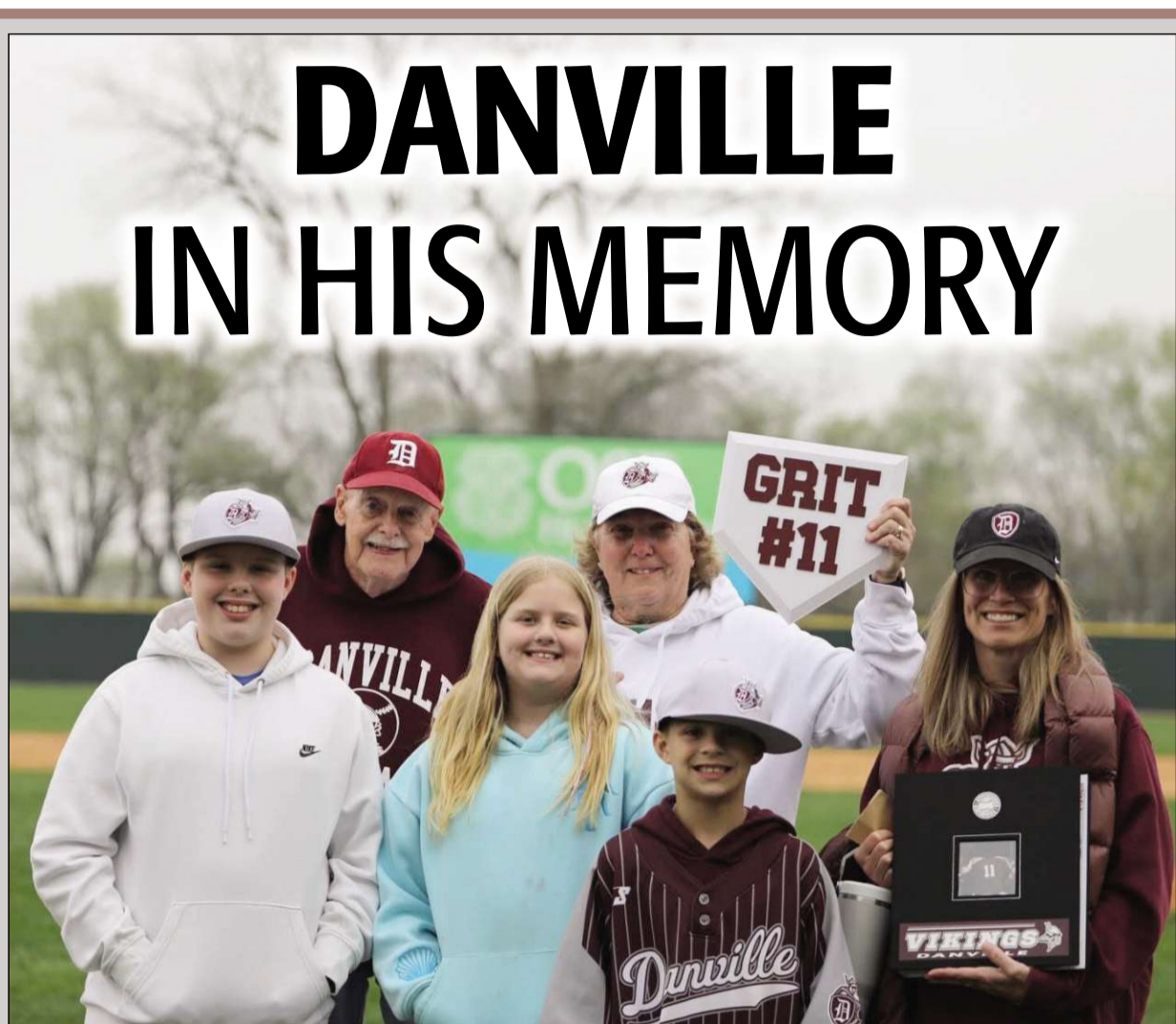
— **ADELAIDE KOTA**



Cerro Gordo

On Friday, high school and junior high students were rewarded with Kona Ice after a long week of state testing. A huge thank you to Principal **Brandon Willard** and Superintendent **Emily Weidner** for making it possible.

— **ALEXA RODGERS**



DANVILLE IN HIS MEMORY



On Friday, the baseball team honored former coach and athletic director **Gary Gritton**, who died in September. His family was honored prior to the first pitch. The community watched as Mr. Gritton's son, **Nigel Gritton**, was given the honor of throwing the first pitch. The Gary Gritton Memorial Scholarship fund currently holds about \$4,800, which will be awarded at the end of the school year.

— **Rylee Jack**



Unity

FFA held its annual petting zoo last Thursday. Unity West, Unity East and day care centers in the community enjoyed a field trip to the petting zoo in the morning to check it out. There was a wide variety of equipment for kids to get into as well as farm animals to look at and pet. Photos courtesy of **GINNA STIERWALT**.

— **CLAIRE MEHARRY**



Arcola

Track-and-field seniors were recognized at the last home meet of the season.

— **ADDEE MULLIGAN**

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CHRISMAN #LLBW

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America students attended their convention last week. Congratulations to **Ellie Lorton** for being recognized as the 2025-26 FCCLA state officer. On Saturday, **Bentley Wolfe's** artwork was displayed to honor him at the Vermilion Valley Conference Art Show. Wolfe died at the age of 15 in March. #LLBW.

— **Morgan Simpson**



OUR FIRST PITCH
WILL HONOR
YOUR
ANGEL IN THE
OUTFIELD

LOVE
LIKE
BENTLEY
WOLFE

Georgetown-Ridge Farm



This season, the G-RF/Chrisman baseball team has worn jerseys as remembrance of a team member who died this spring. The jerseys are green and black and have LLBW on the back in honor of Bentley Wolfe.

— **Tiffany Taylor**



Bement

Students ended the week at the University of Illinois Engineering Open House, spending the school day exploring campus and taking in different exhibits of skilled engineering students.

— **KIANA HUNTER**



St. Thomas More

The school celebrated Mass and honored five students who were baptized and/or confirmed over Easter: (from left) **Brodie Grey, Lane Sexton, Theo Ambrose, Jordynn Huskinson** and **Laura Arruda**.

— **DUNCAN OLIVEIRA**



Academy High

Students who have been learning about the heart in anatomy and physiology class taught by **Natasha Capell** took a hands-on approach by dissecting sheep hearts. Working in pairs, students made an incision to partially open the heart and identify chambers, valves and vessels. These specimens will be used to study anatomy for years to come. Pictured, from left: **Evee Wilson** and **Evie Price**. Photo by **Deborah Bodony**.

— **EVIE PRICE**



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Centennial

Future Business Leaders of America traveled to Springfield last weekend for the 2026 State Leadership Conference. With 40 students in attendance, Centennial's chapter was able to excel in both testing and presentation events. Seven students qualified for FBLA nationals, which will be held in San Antonio in June. While participating at state, students also had the chance to go bowling, dance, network with others across the state, and learn from industry experts in workshops.

— **KENNEDY BORDEN**



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Monticello

On April 9, Spanish Club students took a break from their work in the classroom to spread joy in the community. The club ventured to the Piatt County Nursing Home for quality time with residents. While some club members joined in on a game of cards, others went around for room visits. To finish off the field trip, the club headed out to Casa Real to enjoy chips and salsa, paired with their favorite Mexican dishes for lunch. Photo courtesy Spanish Club sponsor **Emilie Walk**.

— **MADY MELTON**



Blue Ridge

On April 8, the girls' track-and-field team competed at a meet hosted by Okaw Valley. A wide variety of skill and talent was shown during each event and made for numerous updated personal records. A collaborative effort was made by all, which resulted in the team getting first place. Pictured: **Jasmine Petmecky** and **Charleigh Brining**.

— **KARLY WARNER**



UNI HIGH GIVING THEIR TIME

On April 6, while subbies through juniors took state-mandated exams, seniors volunteered at various Champaign-Urbana nonprofit organizations. Seniors had the option to help out at locations like Busey Woods, ClarkLindsey, Centennial Park and more. Following the volunteer day, seniors joined together for a potluck.

Also, the Asian American Association (AAA) hosted a fundraiser selling ramen to raise money for the annual Moon Festival, a celebration of the autumn harvest held on the school lawn. The event usually includes performances, free food and activities. To help fund the event, students could supplement their ramen purchase with a variety of toppings, including kimchi, beef and pork slices, tofu and bean sprouts.

— **Simrah Khan**



Villa Grove

Anatomy students had the opportunity to hear from guest speaker **Tom Lillard**, who visited the class to discuss his experience living with a heart-valve condition. Through his story, he highlighted both the rapid advancements in medical devices and the importance of staying informed about personal health. His visit gave students a meaningful, real-world perspective on resilience and modern medicine. Those in attendance included **Eamon Reedy**, **Piper Lillard**, **Hayden Thomas**, **Piper Kiser**, **Baylee Martin** and **Rebecca Brown**.

— **EVA PIERCY**



Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley

Future Business Leaders of America students competed at the State Leadership Conference in Springfield. Members attended workshops and watched open events. GCMS had not one but four national qualifiers who have the opportunity to attend the National State Leadership Conference in San Antonio in June. **Chloe Tjarks** placed first in Future Business Leader; **Addi Farmer** and **Kasen Defries** placed fourth in Broadcast Journalism; and **Adlee Darnell** placed fourth in Event Planning.

— **ADDISON FARMER**



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LeRoy

A total of 45 students became CPR and AED certified in **Sierra Leinweber's** health class. The LeRoy Ambulance Service taught students life-saving skills. Students who attend LeRoy take health either in their freshman or sophomore year, the class providing them with knowledge they will continue to use throughout their lives.

— MOLLY SCHEUER



SALT FORK ENGINEERS IN THE MAKING

Pre-calculus and chemistry classes attended the University of Illinois' Engineering Open House last week. Students were able to get first-hand experience with different career paths in engineering and speak with people on campus. This hands-on day of learning was an excellent way for these classes to demonstrate the ways math and science are implemented through different parts of the world. Pictured (from left): **Kade Smith, Ian Church and Jamison Chambliss; and Callie Richardson, Belle Torbit, Kade Smith, Isaak Bemis and Miley Pierce.**

— Anna McCollum



Rantoul

Last week, Mariachi Libertad, known for showcasing traditional Mexican music, joined the high school's chamber choir and the Screamin' Eagles Jazz Band. The amazing performances highlighted the school's commitment to including and celebrating cultural diversity through the arts. The community was able to come out and show their support for the students and the group.

— TAMIA BELL



Heritage

The FFA chapter hosted its end-of-the-year banquet, where members were recognized, the officer team thanked donors, and an auction helped raise money. The St. Joseph IGA catered a meal that included fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls and salad. **Brandy Mannin** donated over 150 cupcakes as well.

After the meal, **Rylan White** tapped the gavel, and the banquet was in session. The Discovery Degree was given to nine eighth-graders who chose to enroll in an agriculture class. Next, the chapter awarded 15 members the Greenhand Degree to first-year members who chose to enroll in an agriculture class. Finally, seven members were awarded the Chapter Degree, given to second-year members who chose to enroll in an agriculture class. **Reaghan Stierwalt, Peyton Curry-Varner, Kale McComas, Dylan Kirschner and Gabriel Kurtenbach** were present at the banquet.

Kaden White recognized all the chapter's donors. At the auction, the highest-selling item was a red velvet cake that went for \$900 (FFA made \$6,500 this year).

The 2026-27 officer team was installed: **Reaghan Stierwalt** (president), **Kaden White** (vice president), **Addison Hopper** (treasurer), **Landin McComas** (secretary), **Peyton Curry-Varner** (reporter), **Tyler Lisanby** (historian), **Joao Vega** (sentinel) and **Maddox Odum** (student adviser).

Adviser **Emilee Magsamen** was thanked for her hard work and dedication. To end the night, **Rylan White** and **Joshua Stierwalt** signed off as being part of the chapter for four years and served as president and vice president for the previous year.

Clockwise from top left: **Magsamen** tearing up while her officers thank her for her hard work; **McComas, Curry-Varner, Reaghan Stierwalt, Hopper, Lisanby, Kaden White, Odum and Vega** after being inducted as 2026-27 officers; **Rylan White** and **Joshua Stierwalt** signing out (hanging up their jackets); **Curry-Varner** and **Kirschner** advertising the **Wyffels Hybrids** package that contained two barstool chairs, two hoodies and two hats donated by **Elmore Farms**; and **Reaghan Stierwalt, Curry-Varner, Landin McComas, Kirschner and Kurtenbach** receiving their chapter degree.

— RYLAN WHITE



Tuscola

Nicole Tschopp was named Key Club Member of the Month for completing eight hours of community service.

— CLAIRE LEONARD



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Westville

At the annual National Honor Society and Outstanding Westville Leader (O.W.L.) banquet, both returning and new members were honored for their hard work.

— OLIVIA TROGLIA



PBL AND THAT'S A WRAP

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Paxton-Buckley-Loda held its spring musical, 'Into the Woods,' a mix of comedy, tragedy and bittersweet moments that drew in large audiences each night. **Curtis Ostendorf**, a senior who played the Mysterious Man and the Wolf, said: 'It's a very funny show, but it also has messages the audience can take with them, which makes it a joy to be a part of. What I've taken from this show, especially being my last year, is to cherish what's happening right now, because things do come to an end. I love high school theater, and while it's coming to a close, I'm glad I've done it and cherished every moment.' The cast ended its season with a party at Hudz Zone, celebrating their hard work and dedication.

— Brayden Kief



St. Joseph-Ogden

Student council set up a laser tag event to liven up the last quarter. The game will feature obstacles, a cash prize and more — allowing students to get out of the house and have a good time as the end of the year approaches. Pictured:

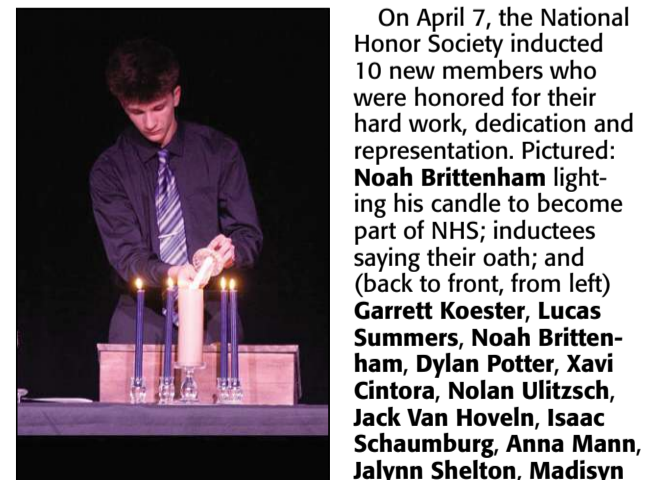


(from left) Parker Fitch, Trevor Ames, Will Haley, Asher Pruemmer, Bryson Houchens and Logan Rosenthal; Ian Wolken, Logan Umbarger, Lucas Waters, Kaden Wedig, Lane McKinney and Ryder Van Meenen; and Ava Alexander, Bella Frerichs, Alyssa Osterbur, Allie Bott, Raegan Wheatley and Aubree Profancik.

— KATIE ERICKSON



Milford



On April 7, the National Honor Society inducted 10 new members who were honored for their hard work, dedication and representation. Pictured: **Noah Brittenham** lighting his candle to become part of NHS; inductees saying their oath; and (back to front, from left) **Garrett Koester, Lucas Summers, Noah Brittenham, Dylan Potter, Xavi Cintora, Nolan Ulitzsch, Jack Van Hoveln, Isaac Schaumburg, Anna Mann, Jalynn Shelton, Madisyn Laffoon, Braydon Forbes, Kami Muehling, Molly Coffey, Kara Harwood, Bryce Brown, Jason Moore, Lillie Harris, Sophie Newman, Erica Felton, Aiden Frerichs and Sesilia Salinas.**

— KAMI MUEHLING



BHRA

Saturday's Vermilion Valley Conference Art Contest at Oakwood High brought together student artists from across the conference. In preparation, many participating schools spent Friday setting up artwork for display. With the guidance and support of BHRA's art teachers, **Katie Post** and **Jennifer Heidrick**, students achieved impressive results. They earned a total of 10 first-place ribbons, along with numerous additional placements across various categories.

— LAHNA BENJAMIN

