

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL

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Danville Area
Community
College



Urbana: Annual talent show brought out the best in Tigers of all ages

STARS OF THE STAGE

From spring musicals to show choirs to talent shows, these talented kids brought crowds to their feet



Danville: Show choirs go out in style



Hoopeston Area: Set design complete for this weekend's performances of 'Between the Lines'



Mahomet-Seymour: 'Anything Goes' opens Friday



Milford: Charming performances of 'Cinderella' made possible by months of hard work and preparation

The Cinderella cast (back to front, from left): Taylor Handy, Aleigha Rudisill, Aribella Davenport, Lilly Carter, Lennon Carter, Sydney Seyfert, Joie Girdler, Lillie Harris, Nolan Garcia, Hannah Borgers, Courtney Schriener, Anna Mann, Hailey Rieches, Noah Brittenham, Jalyynn Shelton, Jason Moore, Charity Garcia, Kara Harwood and Molly Coffey.

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YEAR 10 OF HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL: POWERED BY DACC



Mahomet-Seymour

The spring musical matinees took place last week, with seventh-grade students attending the performance. 'Anything Goes' is directed by **Beth Hensley**. Students designed and created all sets and costumes. Opening night will take place Friday.

— **ABBI EDEN**



Arcola

Seniors received their cap and gowns last week. Pictured: **Addee Mulligan** and **Emma Simpson**.

— **ADDEE MULLIGAN**



LEROY ONE OF A KIND



Blue Ridge

The family of foreign-exchange student **Jakob Kristensen** recently visited Blue Ridge, as his father, **René Kristensen**, was a guest speaker for the Science of Energy class. Students learned from an experienced engineer and asked questions of Mr. Kristensen, who works in Denmark. The class period allowed many students to further their understanding on how to become an engineer.

— **KARLY WARNER**



Urbana

Lights, camera, action: Groups of students performed in the annual talent show as the mariachi band, a capella and more expressed their hidden talents on stage.

— **RUBY PITTENGER**



On April 2, LeRoy schools celebrated National Autism Awareness Day by sporting shirts created by the LIFE Room. Over 300 shirts were sold, and the profits went toward Special Persons Day, an event hosted by LeRoy in the fall. The LIFE Room features seven students who are learning and growing in a way that is unique to each of them. On the shirts, you can see seven handprints, each belonging to one of the students. They also feature seven words: celebrate, advocate, love, include, educate, accept and understand. These seven words were chosen by the LIFE students and staff. The students helped design the shirts and package them for families to pick up. These students have the honor of being taught by four outstanding teachers: **Laura Spencer**, **Andrea Jefferson**, **Debbi Thayne** and **Molly White**. They've also been accompanied by student-teacher **Ms. Webb**, who has worked tirelessly with the students this semester.

— **Molly Scheuer**

Monticello

In the midst of the craziness surrounding March Madness, the high school Library Advisory Board set up a competition of its own: 'Who is the best staff member to be on a zombie apocalypse survival team?'

Lindsay Andrews, media center specialist and sponsor of the Library Advisory Board, said the idea arose when the same question was jokingly added to the daily morning announcements a few months ago. With the competitive nature among staff, Andrews said, 'It was actually read aloud to all classrooms, and it got our students buzzing.'

With the talk of the matter schoolwide, Andrews and her board committed to setting up the bracket. Students had the chance to fill in their own brackets, ultimately choosing who they would want by their side during a zombie apocalypse. Once the preliminary matchups were selected, voting began. A Google form was sent out



to every student, providing a short biography to address each staff member's qualifications in a silly manner.

Andrews said: 'Engagement for this activity has

been robust. I thought it'd be popular, but I didn't realize how much. First round voting saw 230 votes out of the 467 total students in the school.'

While the competition is

still ongoing, and only one perfect student bracket remains, it's been an activity that has created both unity and amusement throughout the school.

— **MADY MELTON**



Georgetown-Ridge Farm

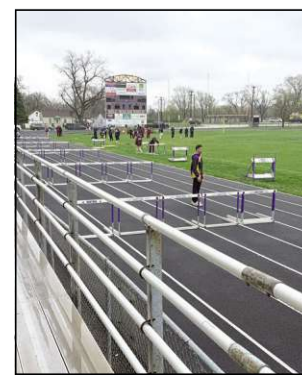
At the annual students vs. staff basketball game, students cheered for who they wanted to win, and several had posters with teachers' faces on them.

— **TIFFANY TAYLOR**

Rantoul

Despite cold, rainy conditions, the track-and-field team pushed through its first outdoor meet with determination and effort. The athletes didn't let the tough weather slow them down, giving their all in every event and showing strong dedication early in the season.

— **TAMIA BELL**



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St. Thomas More

Seniors **Riley Hogan** and **Hunter Madigan** signed to play sports at the collegiate level. Hogan will be attending Hillsdale (Mich.) College for men's pole vault, and Madigan will be attending DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind., for men's tennis.

— DUNCAN OLIVEIRA



Champaign Central

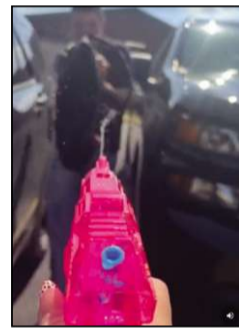
National Honor Society members have been organizing their annual thrift store. All members brought clothing or book donations, which were then sorted and will be sold next week. All proceeds will be donated to Salt & Light. Photo: senior **Daniel Canivez** holding a sorted bag of clothes.

— ADELAIDE KOTA

Fisher

Senior Assassin continues with Team 2 off to a strong start. Also, it's Week 2 of asking seniors for advice. **Lily Detweiler** said: 'Live in the moment, and enjoy what's around you, you never know when your last time with someone is, so protect your time with people, and make the best of it.'

— KESIAH MUSICK



CENTENNIAL OH SO SWEET



The Science National Honor Society made students' days sweeter with their spring bake sale. Best-selling baked goods included banana bread, tiramisu and lavender cookies. Over the course of two days, SNHS raised more than \$300 to help fund STEM activities for elementary students at Kenwood in Kids+ programs. Club President **Safa Thameem** said: 'It's so exciting seeing students come together, whether through baking delicious treats or showing their support by buying from SNHS! I believe it's the first time in a while that Centennial has had a bake sale ... so it's amazing to reinstate this classic fundraiser.' Within Centennial, SNHS has partnered with the Engineering Club and Charger 4-H to bring students a hydroponics tower, where multiple vegetables like spinach, lettuce and basil can be grown indoors.

— Kennedy Borden



Westville

Marching band held its color guard and drum major tryouts to prepare for the next season. There were about 20 individuals who tried out for color guard, along with multiple students from different grade levels trying out for drum major.

— OLIVIA TROGLIA



Salt Fork

At the Top Times indoor state track meet, **Ezra** and **Eli Reffett** finished with a PR time in their races. Eli placed sixth in the Class 1A 60 hurdles. **Maddax Stine** also medaled, finishing eighth in shot put.

— ANNA MCCOLLUM

Armstrong

Armstrong Potomac's archers qualified for nationals in both bullseye and 3-D at the state tournament. They will compete at nationals in Louisville, Ky., on May 7-9. Also, the baseball team had bonding time before a game by having breakfast together.

— AUBREY SELF



St. Joseph-Ogden

History Day Club, a first-year program, made an impressive debut by participating in its first themed competition centered around 'Revolution, Reaction, and Reform.' Highlighting the talents of members like **Evelyn Valentine** and **Lillyan Kelley**, who wrote insightful research papers; **Nathan Hinkel**, who developed a website; and the rest of the team, who collaborated to make a documentary. Their combined efforts led their team to the state competition located in Springfield. Pictured: **Madison Sage** (teacher), Kelley, Valentine, **Connor Eaton**, **Connor McMahon**, **Sam Zadeh**, **Evan Potter** and Hinkel; and Kelley, Sage and Valentine.

— KATIE ERICKSEN



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Villa Grove
 Student council hosted an Easter workshop for elementary students to make crafts, eat snacks, play games, sing to music and participate in an Easter egg hunt. **Lily Wyant** and **Miles Swigart** worked with the pre-K through second-graders to make bunny masks, while the older kids, third- through sixth-graders, made bunnies out of marshmallows. Each kid had a ton of fun, and this will continue to be a tradition for years to come.

— EVA PIERCY



Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley



The Falcons walked away with multiple medals from the Top Times indoor state track meet. **Evan Landers-Kristensen** received a fifth-place medal in the 60 meters, a second-place medal in the 200 and a first-place medal in the 400, setting a PR and a meet record. Senior **Kale Holzauer** was seventh in shot put, and senior **Keegan Dewall** was 10th place in the 1,600 and 3,200. The 4x400 relay, which includes juniors Landers-Kristensen and **Reed Tompkins** and seniors **Cale Royal** and Dewall, finished seventh.

— ADDISON FARMER

HERITAGE Bonding experience

Student council traveled to Springfield to attend the IASC State Convention. Members enjoyed bonding with each other and different schools from around the state. Heritage got to vote for the new officers, and **Erika Bonilla** (with **Reaghan Stierwalt**, bottom left) helped run her first Kickapoo District meeting as the 2026-27 district historian. This event included a dance that members got dressed up for. To end the night, sponsors **Christine Campos** and **Julia Hermosillo** and students **Eli Denmark-Collins** and **Maddox Odum** watched the Illini beat the Houston Cougars to reach the Final Four (bottom right).

— RYLAN WHITE



Danville

Show choirs performed for the last time this season. Known as Cabaret, the final performance allowed seniors the creative liberty to alter or change their show however they wanted to. It is tradition for the seniors to make their show as entertaining as they want, and they are given the freedom to wear any past or current costume for the show. As a last display of their talent, seniors also had individual or group pieces for the show in honor of their last performance.

— RYLEE JACK



Milford

On Saturdays and Sundays in March, the theater department put on a 'Cinderella' musical. The cast did an excellent job performing both days and took lots of time and dedication to learn their parts and practice. Pictured: **Anna Mann**, **Hailey Rieches** and **Nolan Garcia** surrounding the pumpkin to take Cinderella to the ball; **Lillie Harris** and **Sydney Seyfert** finishing their duo song as the stepsisters; **Rieches** and **Noah Brittenham** dancing together as Cinderella and the prince.

— KAMI MUEHLING



Bement

Before heading off to spring break, students got to enjoy the culmination of 'Pi Day.' Students were treated to seeing some of their favorite students and faculty members pied in the face.

— KIANA HUNTER



BHRA

To kick off Easter weekend, Key Club once again helped out with the Bismarck Men's Club Easter Egg Hunt, continuing a tradition they take part in every year. Because of the weather, the event was moved indoors, but that didn't stop the kids from having a great time. There was still plenty of excitement as kids ran around collecting eggs and enjoying the activities. Thanks to the help of Key Club members and organizers, the egg hunt was just as fun and memorable as ever.

— LAHNA BENJAMIN



Hoopeston Area

Ahead of the school's annual spring musical, preparations for set design are underway. Over the past few Saturdays, the crew constructed and painted set pieces for 'Between the Lines,' a story about a teen girl's escape into a fairytale book. The show, which runs Friday and Saturday, is directed by **Kayden Gonzalez**, and the musical will be running on April 10-11. Photo by **Will Clayton**.

— WILLAMINA CLAYTON