

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL

Powered by Danville Area Community College



SOAKING IT ALL IN

AT CENTENNIAL: Last weekend, theater held multiple productions of this year’s spring musical, ‘SpongeBob.’ Headed by director **Chandler Dalton**, the musical delivered both comedy and adventure. For senior actors and actresses, it was a memorable farewell to high school theater. Senior **John Tran** said: ‘I loved every part. The musical made me realize how beautiful the performing arts can truly be.’ **Gail Cicone** added: ‘It was truly one of the best shows I’ve ever done. My friends and I were able to bond in the ways that I’ve always wanted these past four years. I truly wouldn’t change the time I had in this musical for anything.’

— *Kennedy Norton*



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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 Trogia
Questions? Email N-G VP Jim Rossow at jrossow@news-gazette.com.



MAHOMET-SEYMOUR
KICKIN' MATH AT STATE CONTEST

The math team went to the ICTM State Math Contest at Illinois State University and took 11th place. The geometry team — **Carter Alderks, Huanrui Duan, Owen Gerber, Cora Howard, Finley Smith and Eleanor VanDuyne** — placed sixth. The algebra II team — **Jonathan Andrawes, Yoonsung Cho, Ty Gorrell, Alba McFarlane, Christina Peng and Harper Seten** — placed fourth. The pre-calc team — **Jinan Abdo, Grace Bednar, Olivia Cox, Lainey Howard, Jack Van Hoorn and Mallory Young** — placed eighth. The freshman/sophomore team — Alderks, Cora Howard, Finley Smith, VanDuyne, Will Bednar, Brynn Bork, Bristol Pride, Tyler Schoudelel — placed ninth. The junior/senior team — Jinan Abdo, Grace Bednar, Cox, Howard, Cho, McFarlane, Peng and Seten — placed 10th. The oral presentation team (right) — Seten and McFarlane — placed seventh. Also, Saturday's prom was held at the I Hotel and Illinois Conference Center with the theme of 'A Night in Paris.' **Arthur Hofbauer and Abby VanDuyne** were king and queen this year. Post-prom had a circus theme with activities, a caricaturist, laser tag, snacks and more.

— Abby Eden



Academy High

Last weekend, six students on the Science Olympiad team, run by **Natasha Capell**, traveled to Chicago to compete in the Illinois Individual Science Olympiad state competition. This event was for students who medaled at their regional competitions, and many large schools were competing. Two freshmen, **Piper Fields** and **Sophia Zhang** (pictured), secured fifth-place medals in the Water Quality event.

— EVIE PRICE



Paxton-Buckley-Loda

On Sunday, the jazz band had the opportunity to perform on stage at the Cadillac in Paxton. The performance gave students a chance to experience what it's like to play in a real venue while showcasing the progress and achievements they've made throughout the school year. The venue was packed, with every table filled and additional audience members standing to watch. Alongside the high school band, both junior high bands (Blue and Gold), as well as an alumni mini jazz band, took the stage, creating a full afternoon of live music. The event was free and open to the public, welcoming community members of all ages to come out and support local musicians. The concert highlighted the lasting impact of music beyond high school.

— BRAYDEN KIEF



Tuscola

Student council had a meeting to transition to the new leadership for next year. Pictured: **Kalen Shinn** giving up his presidency to the new president, **Gwen Boyd**.

— CLAIRE LEONARD


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Bement

With prom rapidly approaching — the theme is 'Enchanted Garden' — members of the dedicated prom committee decorated the venue, the Monarch in Monticello.

— KIANA HUNTER

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Champaign Central

For their final show of the season, the drama department ended its year with 'Shrek: The Musical.' From wolves to witches to ogres and talking donkeys, this show had it all. Pictured: Lord Farquaad (**Brady Hong**) threatening Gingy (**Stella McLoughlin**); Donkey (**Will Shim**) and Dragon (**Makynna Rice**); and Shrek (**Jordan Rinkenberger**) and Princess Fiona (**Adsen Tarr**).

— ADELAIDE KOTA



RANTOUL
HIGH STANDARDS

The Modern Media crew members had a field trip to Chili's to celebrate their accomplishments on the yearbook. Not only did they complete the yearbook, but they also were nationally recognized with a gold-standard yearbook. Photo by instructor **Rebeca Westbrook**.

— Tamia Bell



Uni High

On Monday, students spent the day volunteering at Booker T. Washington STEM Academy in an annual community outreach collaboration. Every year, students organize and lead STEM-based activities for BTW students to celebrate **St. Elmo Brady**, the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Illinois. BTW students participated in a variety of Earth Day-related activities, including making and testing water filters, painting rock bugs, starting seeds and making paper flowers.

— SIMRAH KHAN

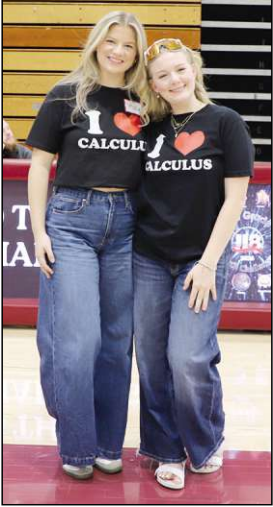


St. Thomas More



Several art students participated in the IPC Fine Arts Festival and walked away with awards, including **Ryan Rosel** (second place in black and white drawing), **Muskaan Garg** (first place in mixed media and pen and ink) and **Melanie Rivera** and **Emerson Clark** (first and second place in photography).

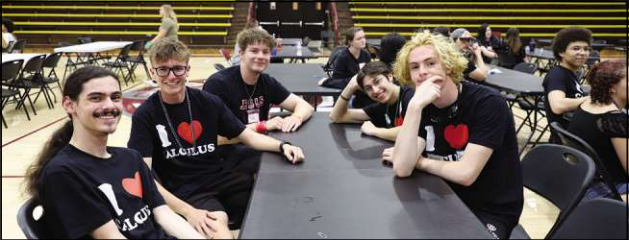
— DUNCAN OLIVEIRA



Danville

At last Thursday's District 118 first-grade math challenge at the high school, 40 teams of first-graders from Georgetown, Bismarck, Rossville, Hoopston, Salt Fork, Oakwood and all six of Danville's grade schools took part in the high school gym. The DHS drumline welcomed students, teachers and their families as they entered. Seniors from DHS helped to manage the event and coached the students through 10 different problems. AP calculus students repped 'I love calculus' shirts gifted from their teacher, **Rachel Seibert**. A special thanks to the District 118 curriculum department for hosting the first-grade math challenge and for providing the materials for the competition.

— RYLEE JACK



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Monticello

During homeroom on April 21, a group of 41 current juniors and seniors gathered in the auditorium to be recognized for their induction into or their continuation in the Spanish Honor Society. This designation is a testament of these students' dedication as they continue to master the Spanish language. The sponsor of the society and Spanish teacher **Chelsea Ehrhardt** led the ceremony, guiding students through the lighting of their candle and the reciting of the oath. One by one, each new inductee lit their candle from the flame of the mother candle, for it symbolizes the inspiration toward high ideals. As a group, the Spanish Honor Society participates in many activities. One of these is the Pulsera Project, which involves selling bracelets handmade by artisans in Central America and sending the proceeds back to support the funding of their education. Additionally, Spanish Honor Society members have the opportunity to tutor, which allows students to provide their expertise to youth throughout the community. Photos courtesy **Ayson McIntosh**.

— MADY MELTON



In Chicago (back to front, from left): Kelsey Cox, Airabella Davenport, Lennon Carter, Landon Smalley, Braydon Forbes, Juan Santoyo, Eliana Salinas, Anna Mann, Kara Harwood, Ava Flemming, Olivia Leppard, Sesilia Salinas, Emerson Johnson, Giuliana Grillion, Silvia Espindola, Chelsea Kincade, Emma Janssen, Erica Felton, Na Shay Munson and Sophie Newman.

Milford

On April 23, the Milford Art Club went to the Art Institute in Chicago, where the students toured the museum and visited 'The Bean.' Right: **Juan Santoyo, Eliana Salinas and Anna Mann** having lunch. Below: At Starbucks (back to front, from left) Santoyo, **Braydon Forbes, Olivia Leppard, Emerson Johnson, Kara Harwood, Ava Flemming, Erica Felton, Emma Janssen, Na Shay Munson, Sesilia Salinas, Eliana Salinas, Mann and Sophie Newman**.



— KAMI MUEHLING



LeRoy

Upperclassmen from LeRoy celebrated prom last weekend. At coronation, seniors **Sam Edmundson** and **Emma Weichman** were crowned king and queen. Edmundson is involved in golf, basketball and track. Weichman is involved in the music department, National Honor Society, is a Key Club officer and more. After the dance, students went back to the high school for after-prom. The junior class parents spent the past three years raising money for the weekend. At after-prom, students played games to win tickets for one of 23 different gift baskets sponsored by members of the community, ranging from a car-detailing kit to a shopping spree or even a baking set. Students also had the chance to win computers and Tailgate N Tallboys tickets.



— MOLLY SCHEUER



WESTVILLE GET FANCY

The prom committee worked very hard to put together promenade and the high school's prom, where queen and king **Jazmyn Bennett** and **Landon Coon** were announced on Saturday night.

— Olivia Trogia



Hoopeston Area

The annual National Honor Society induction ceremony took place Sunday in the high school auditorium. For their scholarship, service, leadership and character, 10 new members were inducted. Following the ceremony, families could join the inductees on stage for photos with the banner. Pictured courtesy **Ginger Gonzalez** (from left): **Sarahanne Baldwin, Lily Reed, Maddie Klaber, Hallie Allen, Waylon Page, Isaiah Mobley, Libby Lugo, Colin Hutzel, Caleb Clark and Landon Blakey**.

— WILLAMINA CLAYTON

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Judah Christian

On Friday, almost all of the seniors just so happened to be ‘sick.’ While ‘sick,’ they met at Old Orchard Lanes & Links to bowl for a couple of hours. After bowling, they made their way to Moe’s Southwest Grill to enjoy a lunch together. For the rest of the afternoon, the seniors enjoyed open pickleball at the Savoy Recreation Center. Students made lasting memories, learning more about each other and what it means to serve one another before heading to the Appalachians for next week’s senior service trip. Photos courtesy Ella Yeakley.

— JACK DALBEY



Jocelyn Hedlund, Madi Farber, Hannah Mock, Sydney Steinbach, Reid Bewely and Sydney Farber.



Sydney Farber



Hannah Mock, Mary Evans-Baker, Sydney Farber, Brenda Castro, Sydney Steinbach, Micheal McDaniel, Madi Farber and Reid Bewley

ST. JOSEPH-OGDEN ALL HANDS ON DECK



Members of the Environmental Club, along with a few other volunteers, took it in their hands to clean U.S. 150. After making a significant impact there, they turned their attention to their Adopt-A-Highway — a 2-mile stretch that no one had adopted before. These dedicated students spent over four hours picking up and recycling everything possible in their commitment to making the environment a cleaner, safer and better place.

Also, the Constitution team traveled to Washington, D.C., to compete at the national level after months of preparation. The competition featured six units delivering compelling statements. Between these statements, the teams explored many historic sights, including a visit to the White House. The team received compliments from the judges and finished 27th in the country. One unit, featuring **Kaleb Peoples**, **Claire Hartman** and **Sydney Steinbach**, placed 14th.



Pictured: **Lily Rice** (left); and (from left) Peoples, Hartman, Steinbach and **Marshall Schacht**.

— KATIE ERICKSEN



Blue Ridge

With prom approaching, the student body recently voted on the 2026 prom court! The junior attendants include **Tyler Holtz**, **Addie Browning**, **Kelly Weiss** and **Kaleb Forrest**. Those who are competing for prom king are **Brody Soliday**, **Jakob Kristensen**, **Benjamyn Clevenger**, **Apollo Gannaway** and **Justin Zellers**. The prom queen candidates include **Taylyn Watterson**, **Presley Hardesty**, **Jessie Ash**, **Indra Nolan** and **Ollie Yeagle**.

— KARLY WARNER



Unity

The National Honor Society and Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremonies took place last Thursday. Students ranging from sophomores to seniors were honored and inducted as members of the National Honor Society. Hall of Famers included the Lutz family, **Dean Chesnut** and **Joseph Thomas**. Pictures courtesy of **Tony Reetz**.

— CLAIRE MEHARRY



Georgetown-Ridge Farm

For the first time in several years, G-RF hosted the Vermilion County track meet thanks to the school upgrading from a dirt track to an all-weather track. Pictured via **Sarah Runyan**: **Hunter Meeker**, **William Runyan** (who won high jump) and **Aiden Morgan**.

— TIFFANY TAYLOR



Armstrong

FFA put on its annual Ag Day for the surrounding grade schools. Students in FFA lead the kids around to see animals and listen to lessons. This year, there was a donkey, calf, pig, two guinea pigs, a rabbit, horse, two sheep, two baby goats and some chickens. The lessons taught were on dairy, bees and beekeeping, and flowers. On Earth Day, **Nathan Gayheart** took a group of kids out to clean up a part. The theme of prom on April 18 was ‘Enchanted Forest.’ The court was **Helena Brandenburg** escorted by **Aidyn Deck**, **Suzanne Hawker** escorted by **Ryan Edwards**, **Caroline Kuntz** escorted by **Zachariah Hayes** and **Aubrey Self** escorted by **Luke Townsend**. Kuntz and Hayes were queen and king. Student council put on a bucket golf tournament on Saturday to raise money for the homecoming parade, homecoming and Teacher Appreciation Week.

— AUBREY SELF



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Fisher

Before students took the PACT and ACT, they were served breakfast by the cafeteria staff. Also, FFA students went to livestock and horticulture judging. Finally, the track-and-field team won the Prairie Central Invite.

— KESIAH MUSICK



GCMS ROYAL HIGHNESS

Congrats to prom king and queen **Jack Andrews** and **Abby Brown** on prom court. The prom court included Brown, **Addison Farmer**, **Bailey Grider**, **Maryn Berry**, **Ethan Lowe**, Andrews, **Alex Barnard** and **Trent Wetherel**.

— Addison Farmer



Villa Grove

The Science Club, sponsored by **Brian Muhr** and **Linda Werts**, traveled to the City Museum for a day of hands-on exploration and adventure. Students navigated the museum's many levels, enjoyed a variety of food options, and experienced the thrill of the iconic 10-story spiral slide. **Henry Osborne** had the opportunity to climb aboard a fire truck, while **Sophie Shaw** and **Rodrick Martin** explored other unique exhibits. **Ella Schweighart** even discovered a photo of herself on display, and the senior girls ventured through the intricate cave systems on the lower floors.

— EVA PIERCY



Cerro Gordo

At Farm Day, high school students took the day off of class to go to the fairgrounds and teach elementary school students about multiple facets of agriculture, such as soil layers and how erosion works. They also were able to show different types of farm life, teaching students a little bit about each. Thanks to **Brielle Puckett**, **Mallory Cearlock**, **Grace Earles**, **Gracelynn Osborn**, **Dillon Ridgeway**, **Alissa Johnson**, **Gracie Gant**, **Miller Giger**, **Ramie Shaffer**, **Darby Walther**, **Gabby Meinders**, **Maddie Nevius**, **Cole Giberson**, **Lydia Worsham**, **Marley Bone**, **Mickey Tirpak**, **Samantha Sterling**, **Quintin Nevius** and ag teacher **Megan Meade** for hosting Farm Day.

— AUTUMN GANT



Heritage

Students attended the casino-themed prom at The Mill at Sugar Grove Reception Hall. It was a great night full of dancing, singing and, of course, poker. **Kaydynn Curry-Varner** and **Andriy Bilyi** were crowned king and queen. Students had the option to attend post-prom the next day, where they visited Chicago. On this trip, students went to SkyZone, Andretti Indoor Karting & Games, and went to a Medieval Times show. Pictured (from left): Bilyi and Curry-Varner; and seniors having one last dance together as a class.

— RYLAN WHITE