



Coming Events

- Feb. 11
ACES testing
- Feb. 17
Senior Meeting
During Advisory
- Feb. 17
Boys Basketball at
Home against
Herrin
Senior Night
- Feb. 18-21
No School
- Feb. 24
8th Grade Orientation
5:30 p.m.
Building Tours
5:00-5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 25
12 p.m. dismissal
- March 8
Parent-Teacher
Conferences
3:30-6:30 p.m.
- March 8
NHS Induction
5:30 p.m.
- March 18-20
Beauty & the Beast
- March 23
SAT for Juniors
- March 25
12 p.m. dismissal
- April 5
Illinois Science
Assessment
- April 11-15
Spring Break
- April 20
PSAT for Sophomores
- April 21
PSAT for Freshmen
- April 29
12 p.m. dismissal
- April 30
Prom
- May 3
Mu Alpha Theta
Induction
6:00 p.m.
- May 3
Humanities Night
7:00 p.m.
- May 4
Good Dogs Days

Theater department preparing for enchanting performances

Braxtyn Baugher

The theater department's upcoming production is "Beauty and the Beast" which will debut Friday, March 10 and will be followed by two, possibly three more performances on March 19-20.

The musical is a "classic" according to sophomore Ali Hankins.

Senior Kendall Vallette will play Belle in the musical.

"Portraying such an iconic character makes me feel first, sort of honored," Vallette said. "I get to become one of the princesses that I used to look up to as a child. I'm just super thankful, as well, to have the opportunity to play Belle."

The rehearsal process started just before school dismissed for Christmas break and resumed the week after students got back. The rehearsal process for the show is only about nine weeks long, which means the performers have to be very serious.

"The practices have been very stressful thus far (especially the dancing) and I'm sure it's only going to get more difficult from here, but I've been having fun despite all of the stress," senior Luke Miller.

Miller will play the Beast.

There have been a few dance rehearsals held at the Touch of Class dance studio. The dancers have spent the past few rehearsals working on the choreography for "Be Our Guest."

A handful of cast members are students of Melonie Motsinger, the Touch of Class dance instructor. One of them is Hankins who is a lead dancer in the production.

"I think the dance rehearsals are going really well," Hankins said. "Everyone is picking up the choreography like it's nothing, I can't wait to see how far they will have come when it comes time for the performance."

Since the show is very well-known, there are obviously going to be some expectations held by the cast members and even the audience.

"Everyone has seen Beauty and the Beast at least once in their life, and songs such as "Be Our Guest", the title track "Beauty and the Beast" are so iconic that it's a lot to live up to," Vallette said. "Plus with it being an animated Disney movie and as a musical was on Broadway for 13 years, our acting needs to be better and more exaggerated than ever before."

Miller is confident that the cast is up for the challenge.

"Our shows never fail to impress the audience" Miller said. "(Director Hannah) Drake has already done this show a handful of years ago so she knows her way around, what to do, what not to do, and what the audience will and won't enjoy. With that being said, I highly encourage everyone to come and watch this show. If you do you'll get to see me live my Troy Bolton fantasy."

The show offers much to draw an audience, from the familiar story and songs to the costuming according to Vallette.

"This show itself is just huge. The enchanted costumes that are being made by our costume designer, Janet Hart, will be whimsical, the dancing will be stellar, and the set will be amazing as usual. This show is no easy feat, but that's exactly why everyone should come to watch it. You will get to see all of the cast's hard work and dedication pay off in the most enchanted way possible."



Top: Director Hannah Drake is showcasing the elaborate costumes for the production each Wednesday on Facebook.

Bottom: Students rehearse the choreography for "Be Our Guest" in the theater department's first vlog for the show. View the entire video including interviews with cast members on the HHS Facebook page.

Five students crack SISAL top 25 at Belleville West tournament

Francesca Messerschmidt

The speech team took fifth place overall in their last tournament of the season. The team competed at Belleville West Jan. 22. It was the final tournament of the season before the state series begins. Five members of the team ended the season in the Top 25.

Senior Rachel Lands placed 20th, junior Braxtyn Baugher placed 19th, freshman Bella Teston placed 14th, senior Neva Wasson placed 11th, and senior Kirsten Eversmann placed 10th.

"In IHSA speech, there are 14 individual events," said speech coach Hannah Nance. "Every year, each speech team in the state picks their best entry in each of the 14 events for Regional. If they place in the top four in their event, they qualify for Sectionals. If they score top three in Sectionals, they qualify for the State Tournament."

This is the first year since COVID that the HHS speech will compete in-person in the state series.

"Last year we were completely online, so it was hard performing in front of a computer screen," said senior Kirsten Eversmann. "This year, we are in person,

but we are still taking precautions and wearing masks."

For the freshmen and sophomores, this is their first year participating in the traditional State series experience.

"I worry that I will feel as though I'm inferior to my competitors," freshman Bella Teston said. "Because of this worry, I've been trying to be confident in my work and do the best I can."

One special event in the state series is Performance in the Round (PIR). This event isn't performed outside of state series. This is Harrisburg's first time in this event in three years.

"We don't always have extra people on the team to do a PIR every year," said Nance. "After placing in State finals with our last PIR three years ago, this new group is ready to live up to the hype and are trying to accomplish that goal again."

Five members of the speech team placed in the top 25 overall this season.

"I've been trying to make top 25 for my whole speech career, and it feels great to finally achieve that goal," said senior Neva Wasson.

State series is the last opportunity for some seniors to perform their speeches in their high school career, which can be very bittersweet.

"It's pretty sad, but I know that there are more speech opportunities ahead for me," said Eversmann.

Photos by Hannah Nance.

(Top) Speech Team poses with their medals, ribbons, and posters after the Belleville Meet.

(Bottom) Top 25 pose with their plaques: freshman Bella Teston and seniors Kirsten Eversmann, Neva Wasson and Rachel Lands. Not pictured is junior Braxtyn Baugher.



Sucker sale beginning soon!

Suckers will cost \$1 and will be available during advisory and from club members.



All profits will be donated to the autism classroom.

Before registering for next year...

Students were polled regarding the coursework they were required to complete in the electives of each department.

Over 200 students responded. Use the QR code to visit The Purple Clarion online and check out the results in the infographics there.



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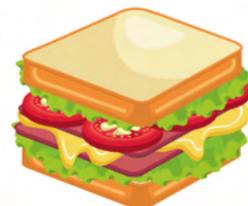
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Editorial: Holiday of love or spending?

Valentine's Day is a holiday many love, but many also dread. Is this holiday of love even about love anymore? Or is it just about money?

While many people believe Valentine's Day to be the season of love, it may actually be closer to the season of spending, but Valentine's Day wasn't always about the money. While there isn't one origin story on which everyone agrees, the most common one is that the day is to honor Saint Valentine of Terni, a man who was put to death after secretly wedding couples after marriage was outlawed.

Some also say that Valentine cards come from a legend of Saint Valentine sending a letter ending with "From your Valentine," to his love while he was imprisoned.

So how did a saint's day become so focused on consumerism? In this day and age, we're all extremely focused on buying and spending and having the most. We've become increasingly materialistic and this continues to show in how we buy for the holidays. According to CNBC, Americans were expected to spend over \$25 billion just on Valentine's Day in 2020, so who's to say that number hasn't gone up even more?

This overwhelming amount of money is spent on various things and gifts for

partners during Valentine's Day. According to Statista.com, jewelry, candy and flowers are some of the most purchased gifts for partners, but what does this really say about the emotions the gift is supposed to represent? How often are the flowers left to die, the candy uneaten and the jewelry forgotten?

It makes sense that the standard of gift giving has become so high because Americans are so focused on material goods. It makes sense that partners would want to give big gifts or lots of gifts because of this aspect of our nature. There are definitely ways to make this increasing trend better though.

Instead of getting your partner a shiny ring or a giant bouquet of flowers, make something for them, or plan a date night or a special trip. Think of what your partner truly enjoys and do something based on that instead of what's expected or trendy.

We don't have to spend so much on Valentine's Day. This is something that can and should change for the better. This Valentine's Day, try and think about what your partner may actually like and plan accordingly. That look of surprise will guarantee that you both enjoy the time you may be able to spend with them.

Cartoon by Bailee Clifton.



Galentine's Day celebrates friendship

Paxton Garbel

It's time to ditch the romance, call your gal-pals, and mark your calendars for Feb. 13 because Galentine's Day is right around the corner.

February is a month extremely caught up in the idea of love, but to those who have no one to spend Valentine's Day with, it is a deadly reminder of their singlehood. This is where Galentine's Day comes into play.

Whether you are single, happily-coupled, or stuck

somewhere in between, taking a day to appreciate your friends will leave you filled with the appreciation of love. In the wise words of The Spice Girls "Make it last forever because, friendship never ends!"

According to The Cosmopolitan, it has been proven that friendship itself gives people a sense of belonging, raises confidence, and even helps with coping mechanisms. Holidays such as Galentine's day give time to bask in each other's glory as you shower each other with gifts, foods, and other keepsakes.

The "traditional" Galentine's Day, as shown on the popular television show "Parks and Recreations," is celebrated by getting together, either for breakfast or brunch, and then giving your friends handmade gifts. These gifts can include foods, notes or anything else that pops into your creative mind.

Honestly, there are no exact set guidelines for Galentine's Day though. You could go out for a night on the town, sit at home for a movie night, participate in a DIY spa day or even go on a weekend getaway. The only rule is "No significant others allowed!"

The biggest argument against Galentine's Day is that it is exclusive. People say that they don't have a group of gal-pals who live nearby or they have friends that are not girls. But, this holiday is a day to appreciate all cherished friends, not just girls.

Your Galentine's can be full of women, men or a mixture of both, anyone who you consider to be a close, non-romantic friend as long as they enjoy breakfast foods and peel-off face masks.

First-hand look into devastating demolition

Drew Hawkins

One of the most devastating tornadoes on record hit Mayfield, Kentucky late Friday, Dec. 10, 2021.

The devastation to Mayfield and other towns along its path is much worse than what happened here in Harrisburg during the Leap Day tornado. Entire neighborhoods are flattened, making the city look like a war zone.

According to the National Weather Service, the tornado's path was 165.7 miles long with winds reaching up to 190 mph while the width of the tornado was over a mile at its widest. To put that into perspective, Harrisburg's Leap Day Tornado path length was 26.5 miles long.

As a way of giving back, the school came together and raised money during halftime in the Goreville v. Harrisburg basketball game. In five minutes, \$1148.21 was raised between both teams' fans. Not only that money was given though. Principal Scott Dewar and the athletics department both added \$1,000 each, making the total \$3148.21. The money raised was then sent to Mayfield's school system.

Being a young, able bodied person, I decided to go with the group from my church to help with clean-up. The day consisted of a 4:30 wake up, then driving to meet at MABC at 5:15. The drive to Mayfield isn't bad, only about an hour and thirty minutes. There was a short safety meeting at a church where we learned

how to stay safe on the job. Once we cleared the debris at a house, we would go to the next with no questions asked. We were going hard until about 4:30 p.m. We ate and then went home.

Getting to the job, the whole bus was loud right up until we saw the damage. I expected a few houses to be destroyed and some damaged but nothing could compare to going over a hill on the main road and seeing nothing but flattened houses as far as the eye could see. It was almost emotional to have the bus go from talkative and light-hearted to complete quiet. It was as if we were in awe of how the weather could cause such immense damage.

It seemed like every time we were off the job, the locals wanted to thank us. We were pretty easy to spot with our safety orange Samaritan's Purse shirts. The people were so grateful for the assistance they were receiving.

The hardest part of the trip was seeing a run-down house full of people who didn't have much to begin with. They spoke Spanish, so there was a bit of a language barrier, but their children spoke both Spanish and English. The tornado had thrown things all across their yard, tearing up their roof, breaking windows, and making a mess of everything. When our group walked to the front of the house after we were done, the mother teared up. There was a crowd of orange shirts. Though there was a difference in the language we spoke, her gratitude to us was obvious. We prayed for her as a group, gave her a Bible that was signed by the whole group and left for the next job.

The devastation in Mayfield cannot be described through just a picture. To experience the true damage is life changing. There is still plenty more that needs to be done. There will be for months and years to come. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering, visit Samaritan's Purse or another of the organizations that are still in the area.

Love

/ləv/

Love encompasses a range of strong and positive emotional and mental states, from the most sublime virtue or good habit, the deepest interpersonal affection, to the simplest pleasure.

LOVE GIFTS

Eighty-seven students responded to a Purple Clarion poll about Valentine's Day gifts. These were the results.

- 31% prefer stuffed animals 
- 24% prefer flowers 
- 16% prefer a special event 
- 10% prefer candy 
- 9% prefer jewelry 

Infographic by Kelee Mills.

Contemporary Valentine's Day customs bear little resemblance to holiday's religious roots

Sarah Girtman

The famous holiday that celebrates all things love. Buying your significant other gifts such as chocolate, flowers, or jewelry. Taking them out on special dates or maybe just doing something special to show them you love them. How did it all begin? What is the history behind Valentine's Day?

According to History.com, "The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus."

In the Middle Ages people also thought the feast day symbolized the beginning of birds' mating season. Good Housekeeping writer Liz Schurer states that people at that time "began to associate it with becoming, as *Bambi* so charmingly calls it, 'twitterpated'" In 1035, Geoffrey Chaucer recorded the day as a romantic celebration, for the first time in history, in his poem "Parliament of Foules."

Schurer writes that "much like ...other Christian holidays, we may have first begun celebrating Valentine's Day in February in an effort to draw attention from a Pagan holiday set at the same time. In this case, that's Lupercalia, a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome."

But it's a long way from a saint's day to the highly-profitable holiday celebrated today. In an article for The University of Chicago Press, Leigh Eric Smith, an assistant professor of American church history, claims that the modern holiday can be traced to the mid-1800s.

The centuries old saint's day took on new life as booksellers, printers, stationers and other crammed shelves with sweet and sappy cards that became all the rage. Compare that to the \$1.3 billion spend on greeting cards in 2021 and it's obvious that the greeting card industry is still profiting from people's desire to share their love.

Smith attributes the 1840-50s changes in the holiday to the same tendencies that made romantic notions in all forms popular in the days preceding the Civil War.

The commercial aspect of the holiday has only grown since then with the National Retail Federation reporting that more \$21 billion was spend on Valentine's Day in 2021 and this was nearly \$6 billion less than the previous year. The predictions are that spending will rebound sharply this year.

Recent changes in the holiday include expanding gift giving to other family members, friends, and even pets.

And while chocolates, flowers and jewelry are still get the lion's share of the Valentine's Day spending frenzy, NRF reports that clothing and dining out gained ground.

Key Club participates in Fowler's Valentine's Day project

Francesca Messerschmidt

Key Club recently participated in a call to action to write Valentine's Day cards for senior citizens living in assisted living and long-term care facilities.

Senator Dale Fowler is currently collecting the Valentine's Day cards as part of an annual Valentine Drive.

This is the second year that Senator Fowler has sent out this initiative. He encouraged local schools, clubs and churches to participate in the event.

Around 30 club members wrote short notes inside Valentine's cards during their Jan. 19 club meeting. Suggestions for notes that could be written were provided as well as the cards themselves. The finished products were then delivered to Senator Fowler's district office after school.

"When I saw the story in the newspaper I thought it sounded like a great service project," said Key Club advisor Cathy Wall. "I brought the idea to the Board of Directors, and they enthusiastically agreed to participate. I was really proud of the way our members worked to complete all the cards before our meeting ended."

Chairperson of the Kiwanis committee, junior Braxtyn Baugher, saw it as a good event to participate in.

"We thought it was a good idea because in times like these when some people can't see their loved ones," Baugher said. "Something like a simple letter expressing your love for someone can make their day."



Photos provided.

Left: Club members juniors Michelle Johnson, Emma Myers and Wekey Wang compose short notes inside their cards.

Above: Freshman Ryan Persinger shows one of the cards that he completed for the project.

Valentine's Candy

The Daily Meal took an unofficial office poll of iconic candies to determine their semi-definitive ranking of the worst and best Valentine's Day treats.

The Top Three
A heart-shaped box of curated gourmet chocolates

Sweetarts Conversation Hearts

Reese's Peanut Butter Hearts



The Bottom Three
Cupid's Corn (Red, pink and white candy corn)

Chocolate roses

Red, pink and white M & Ms

In a recent poll, HHS students were asked to reveal their best and worst Valentine's Day gifts.

These are some of their responses

Tops

- bacon roses
- windows tinted
- a phone
- unique stuffed animals
- special dates

Flops

- nothing tacky card
- bad news
- the flu
- cheap chocolate



Eighty-seven students responded to a Purple Clarion poll about Valentine's Day. These were the results.

Do you like Valentine's Day?



Infographic by Sarah Girtman.

Billboard's Top 10 Love Songs of All Time

Counting down hits with the word "love" in the title. The ranking is based on actual performance on the weekly Billboard Hot 100 chart.

1. "Endless Love" Diana Ross & Lionel Richie (1981)
2. "How Deep Is Your Love," Bee Gees (1977)
3. "We Found Love" - Rihanna feat. Calvin Harris (2011)
4. "Silly Love Songs" - Wings (1976)
5. "I'll Make Love to You" - Boyz II Men (1994)
6. "I Will Always Love You" - Whitney Houston (1992)
7. "Let Me Love You" - Mario (2005)
8. "Because I Love You (The Postman Song)" - Stevie B (1990)
9. "Best of My Love" - The Emotions (1977)
10. "I Can't Stop Loving You" - Ray Charles (1962)

Soccer Bulldogs to team with Galatia Bearcats

Kelee Mills

Soccer does not draw a large number of participants, especially for girls, at HHS. Most athletic girls either play basketball or volleyball. Other area schools don't have a soccer team even though they have a few students who are interested in playing.

The answer to the problem is to create a team by pairing with another nearby school to create a co-op team. Freshman McKayla Williams from Galatia feels the partnership approved by the school board will be an excellent solution.

"I feel like we should co-op since it would be a great

opportunity for people at our school who don't get a chance to play," Williams said.

A co-op program is a good opportunity for players to be able to connect with players from another school and compete in the sport they love. Sophomore McKenna Boon thinks that it is an amazing idea.

"I think this will be a great idea! It will make the team better and have more players and teammates to get to know," Boon said

Most high school participants have played soccer for several years, so it will be interesting to see what other girls can do and how they play.

Junior Abbie Graham has played since she was very young.

"I've been playing soccer for my whole life," Graham said, "so I've had a lot of experience playing soccer and club, helping me a lot and getting noticed, and yes, co-oping makes soccer interesting cause you are meeting new people, and you have to get used to the way play and perform. You have to learn how to pass them the

ball so they can perform well with the ball also and have communication at the same time"

Williams has never co-op'ed before and is looking forward to learning from her teammates.

"I have never co-op'ed before, but I think it would be fun," Williams said

Some of the girls have played with girls from other teams, but it was when they were in middle school. Graham played for Southern Illinois Middle School Soccer (SIMMS) which featured players from other schools.

"I have co-op'ed before in middle school playing for SIMMS and also playing club soccer through high school," Graham said.

Harrisburg's middle school team paired with Galatia for one season in 2019. Sophomore Tessa Heath was part of that team.

"In middle school I played co-op with the girls from Galatia. I've never had any troubles playing with them," Heath said



Photo provided.

Pictured above is last year's varsity team.

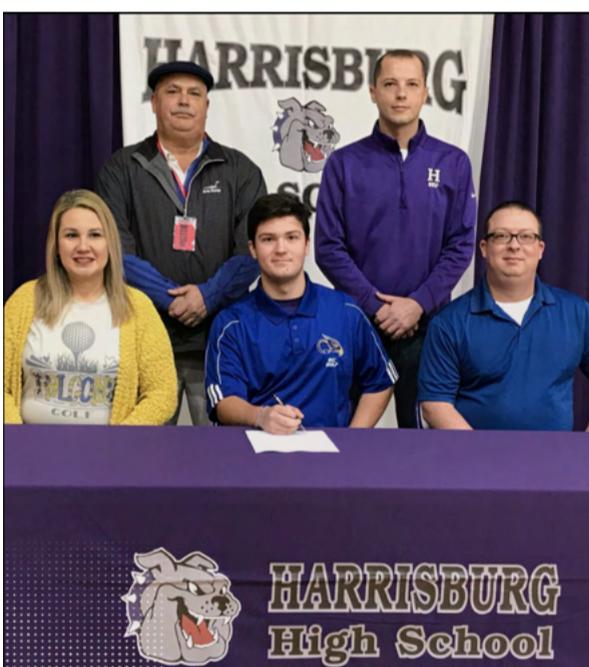
Top left McKenna Boon, Vershay Guyton, Jocelyn Stewart, Kelee Mills, Abbie Graham, Katie McAnnally, Hannah Proctor, Hannah Goolsby, Emma Myers, Jaci Robinson, Bella Capuzzo, Shelby Brantly, Tessa Heath.



Photo provided.

Pictured above is last year's junior varsity team.

Top left Coach Joe Baxter, Coach Jordan Baxter, Jaci Robinson, Tessa Heath, Kenzie Partain, McKenna Boon, Stan Rowlen, Abbie Graham, Kelee Mills, Emma Myers, Shelby Brantly, Bella Capuzzo, Hannah Goolsby, Jocelyn Stewart, Coach Michael Stewart.




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Harrisburg alums making their mark in collegiate play

Drew Hawkins

Harrisburg has seen some phenomenal athletes in its past. Most have gone on to live regular lives while others are still playing a variety of college sports at many different levels.

Some of these great athletes have gone on to play professional sports, like Patrick Keating (twentieth round draft by the Kansas City Royals), Chuck Hunsinger (third overall draft pick by the Chicago Bears), Braden Jones (Vikings tight end) and John Romonosky (pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals).

There are currently 22 former Harrisburg athletes playing college sports. The vast majority play baseball.

All of the baseball players are currently playing at junior colleges in the Great Rivers Athletic Conference (GRAC). There are also former students playing in National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) at the Division III and at the Division I level.

Though Harrisburg is a small school, there is definitely a tradition of having athletes good enough to play in college.

What separates these college athletes from regular high school athletes is how much effort they put into their sport.

SIC freshman Javier Beal (2021) plays baseball for the Falcons.

“Just never taking a true day off and always doing something, even if it was small, helped me a lot,” Beal said. “Me being tough on myself, never feeling like I was doing enough, made me work a lot harder and improve over the years.”

Some high school athletes realize that either

they are not good enough or that they don’t have a love for the game that they thought they did at some point in their careers. Beal believes he has always been different.

“I think I just put in a lot of work toward something I cared about,” Beal said. “Baseball has always been my life, and I enjoy it in my free time more than almost anything else.”

It is okay as a high school athlete to realize that college sports aren’t the right fit. The amount of work that goes into playing college sports might make it feel like a job, a job the athletes are paying to do.

“An average day is waking up to go to class, practice after class, condition, and eat 5-6 times a day,” Lincoln Trail freshman Colby Morse(2021) said. “It’s a grind, but it depends on how much you love it.”

Not only is playing the sport hard, but managing classes is also hard. The difficulty of balancing both sport and school can depend on the major as well. Trinity International University senior Matty Hawkins (2018) is getting her degree in teaching with a minor in special education.

“All day twice a week I would have clinical practice,” Hawkins said. “Clinical practice is what students do before student teaching. They usually sit in with the teacher and watch how they run things.”

Hawkins’ clinical practice days fell on days she had games.

“I was going from my clinical practice, which was all day, to volleyball practices or games right after [clinical studies] and then after the game had to do homework for my classes,” Hawkins said. “I was spending most of my nights doing homework. I would go to bed late and have to wake up some days around 6 a.m.”



Photo by Drew Hawkins.

Former Lady Bulldog standout Matty Hawkins (#12) is currently completing her senior year at Trinity International University.

Hawkins will return to school as a teacher, having majored in education as a student-athlete.

Fromm finding continued success in college fishing

Drew Hawkins

Fishing is a hobby for many people all around the world. For some, it is survival. For Drew Fromm, it is a sport.

The 2021 HHS graduate fishes for Wabash Valley College under scholarship and is still undecided about doing two extra years, possibly at Murray state.

Fishing has always been a lifestyle for Fromm. “I love fishing,” Fromm said. “It’s very peaceful to me. It is a good getaway and is very addictive.”

Many people probably don’t realize the amount of fishing that is done around the world collegiately. Over the past school year, Fromm has been all over the U.S.

“I have traveled to Lake Dardanelle, Arkansas, the Detroit River on Lake St. Clair on the U.S. and Canada

Border, Lacrosse, Wisconsin, Leesburg, Florida on the Harris Chain of Lakes, and Cherokee Lake, Tennessee. We plan on traveling to Lake Guntersville, Alabama, back to Wisconsin, and to Table Rock Lake in Missouri.”

Being on a fishing team can reap a lot of benefits.

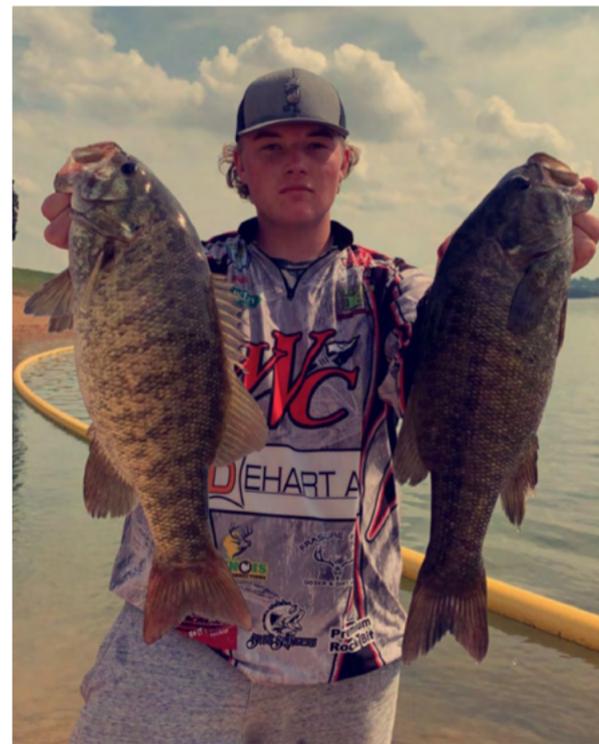
“The most enjoyable part of being on the fishing team is meeting new friends from different schools. I have met a lot of very cool guys from the fishing industry.”

“Traveling the world” on scholarship is another great aspect for Fromm.

“Wabash pays for gas and hotels,” Fromm said. “If I win money from an event, I get to keep the money unlike most schools who put the money straight in their pockets.”

College fishing and even high school fishing is something that most high schoolers do not know about. Fromm thinks it is a great way to give HHS students a scholarship.

“When I fished as a student at HHS it was hard to get a fishing team together,” Fromm said. “I didn’t have a partner for some events which was unfortunate because HHS is a bigger school compared to Galatia who had more boats and people than we did. I wish we could build our fishing program up at HHS so we can continue getting students scholarships to fish at the college level.”



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Local artist painting bright future

Paxton Garbel

In high school most students face the pressure of what they want to be when they graduate. There are so many opportunities out there that kids in high school don't know they have access to.

HHS graduate Caitlin Wallace-Rowland (2009) has achieved success through her determination and creativity. She is a freelance designer who works from home.

Rowland has designs on many products including candles, plates, water bottles that are available at Home Goods, Marshall's, T J Maxx and Target. She has also designed several fabric collections for Dear Stella, including one inspired by her own Southern Illinois farm.

After high school, Rowland moved to New Orleans for 12 years before moving back to her family's homestead in the country, south of Harrisburg. She received a full-ride scholarship to complete her undergraduate degree at Tulane University for Art and English, and completed her graduate work at The Savannah College of Art and Design for Fibers/Textile Design. While in grad school, she completed an internship at Lilly Pulitzer's headquarters in Pennsylvania.

"Growing up, I didn't know a job like this existed!" Rowland said. "I went into teaching at first because my grandparents were teachers and that's all I knew. In college, I found the world of design and didn't want to do anything else. It was the perfect combination of my interests."

In small towns, like Harrisburg, discovering opportunities sometimes require more research, and achieving a goal may also require more determination. Rowland's vision of success was helpful in her journey as a designer.

"I have always been an insanely determined person, but my idea of "making it" isn't one that holds me back either," Rowland said. "I see it more as following

curiosity and seeing where it leads rather than there being a specific final destination that I "fail" if I don't reach."

Throughout her journey as a freelance designer, Rowland worked and parented her growing family while continuing schooling. During the last year, Rowland had a second child which delayed some of her work while she was on maternity leave. But, with the help of her biggest supporter the process went a little smoother.

"My husband, Andrew, [and I] started as high school sweethearts, and he's been by my side every step of the way," Rowland said. "But if I wasn't my own biggest supporter, I wouldn't be here either. You have to want it more than anyone else."

With all of the effort that Rowland has put into her work over the years, seeing her designs available for purchase by the general public was very rewarding.

"The first time I saw my designs in stores it was exciting but also strangely surreal and normal once you get to that point. By the time the products show in stores, you're wrapped up in another project," Rowland said.

After a slow 2021, Rowland is eager to get back into a faster-paced workflow during the new year.

"I'm working on more fine art painting collections and looking into manufacturing some of my own products myself," Rowland said

Rowland encourages high school students to think beyond the type of job they want or the amount of money they want to make when thinking about their future career.

"Always be thinking about what kind of life you want to lead, not just having the career you want to have," Rowland advises. "It can be a harder road up front, but there are so many resources that are available. The common denominator, no matter what way you take to get there, is making good work."



Photos by Paxton Garbel.

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