

# Danville set to host Super 5K on Friday

# State trooper's vehicle hit by DUI driver on S.R. 63

# DACC softball sweeps final weekend



# COMMERCIAL-NEWS

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## D118 reports over \$4 million in savings

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DANVILLE — A budget realignment plan has allowed Danville District 118 to shift around \$4.2 million in expenses to state and federal grants, without cutting any staff.

The plan reduces the potential deficit from nearly \$8 million to about \$3.4 million, according to the financial update presented to the D118 board.

“We’re really looking at the local dollars, and how we can reduce what we’re spending locally by moving some costs into our grants,” District 118 Superintendent John Hart said. “The total cost savings to the district out of local funds is \$4.2 million. That’s pretty significant for one year.”

The district is doing this by shifting the pay of the following positions into grant funding: social work interns, home interventionists,

Pre-K teaching assistants, and more, according to Hart.

By shifting the College Express dual-enrollment tuition to Title 1 funding, the district will save around \$200,000. Freezing computer staff refreshes for one year saves about \$300,000. Reducing building and director budgets by 15% saves about \$988,000. Scaling back professional development and consulting contracts saves around \$329,000.



Adjusting retired teacher pay saves around \$98,000. There are additional savings of about

See **D118** on 3

### AUTISM AWARENESS WALK



**TOP:** Families and community members walk along Logan Street as part of the Autism Awareness Walk at Lincoln Park on Saturday.

**LEFT:** Jo'Brea Mason, founder of Momfident, is joined with members of her family during Saturday's Autism Awareness Walk. From left to right, are: Billie, Brittne, Joelle, Jo'Brea, Frank and Landon.

Submitted photo by Momfident

## Workers Memorial to honor DHS grad

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DANVILLE — Joshua Bland, a 2016 Danville High School alum, will be honored in this year's Workers Memorial Day ceremony.

The ceremony is taking place on at noon today in Danville and at 5 p.m. in Champaign.

Bland died in December 2023 repairing a commercial roof in Danville. He fell 33 feet to his death, which led to federal investigators issuing fines against his employer.

His name will be etched on a memorial.

Bland was known to those who knew him best as “Crittter,” and is said to have loved music and making others laugh.



**Joshua Bland**

There was an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) investigation which found “his employer did not enforce fall protection equipment for employees and that they had been previously cited for similar violations.”

“What happened to Josh is beyond unacceptable,” said Luther Baker, President of the East Central Illinois AFL-CIO. “The most basic safety standards were not followed, and it led to this tragedy, which was completely preventable.”

Workers Memorial Day began holding ceremonies in 1920.

“Every person whose name is on these memorials deserved the right to go home that day,” said Kevin Sage, President of the East Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council. “We have to do all that we can to ensure all workers are safe.”

If you want to add a loved one's name to the memorials, contact Luther Baker at praeccellemus@gmail.com or Kevin Sage at ksage@ualocal149.com.

The Danville ceremony is being held at 423 N. Hazel St., and the Champaign ceremony is taking place at Dodds Park at 1501 N. Mattis Ave.

## Project Success hosts empowerment, wellness event

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DANVILLE — Preventing gun violence through career and mental wellness opportunities is the mission of the third event put on by the youth council with Project Success.

On Wednesday at the Laura Lee Fellowship Hall, Project Success is



holding a youth empowerment and wellness event from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Jamie Nightlinger says this is “their thing” in referring to the youth helping the youth with an event con-

necting 16-22 year-olds with future opportunities.

“It’s definitely going to have a high amount of interactive and resource rich focused on youth empowerment, career readiness, and wellness,” Nightlinger said. “We are planning on having entrepreneurship tables, apprenticeship and internship opportunities, and local employers that are hiring in the area.”

She added there will be a job application zone with employers who specifically hire those 16 and up, a mock interview and resume building station, and support for those wishing to complete a job application on site.

There will also be a room full of community resources, and barbers

See **SUCCESS** on 3



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