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DANVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Maroon & White

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MR. JACOB BRETZ TAKING A BIG STEP FORWARD



Mr. Bretz & Ms. Cherry collaborating on the daily management of Danville High.

ALEEYA RUDY & SARAH KAGELS

Mr. Jacob Bretz is in his 16th year of working for the district. He's currently the assistant principal at Danville High School over the New Tech House, but next school year he will be taking a big step forward in becoming the principal.

Before his post-secondary work, Mr. Bretz attended Springfield Southwest High School, in Springfield, Illinois. After graduation he attended the University of Illinois, where he would receive both his bachelor

and master's degrees. After looking to start his career, he chose Danville High School and began as a U.S. History and World Geography teacher for 6 years. For the past decade, he has served as an Assistant Principal.

The community here at Danville High School has been very welcoming to Mr. Bretz since he began his student teaching experience in 2007. Coming here fresh out of college, Bretz lived here in the community for three years. Because of how Danville has treated Mr. Bretz throughout the years, he hopes to use this position to give back to the community. As he prepares to take on this new role, Mr. Bretz has developed some goals he is wanting to accomplish for next school year. One thing he has done is reimagine what the hallways are going to look like. He, along with other students and staff believe that the walls of DHS could use an update. After talking to Dr. Geddis and Mr. Bacys, they are looking to make that happen. Although the past is a huge part of Danville High School, Mr. Bretz would like the hallways to reflect on the current DHS student body. He hopes to update pictures on the walls regularly with new faces.

Another goal for Mr. Bretz is to improve communication, especially with students and parents. Keeping them in the loop of everything going on like extracurriculars and athletics is important to him. With DHS being such a large building, and with so much happening, it is hard to always know what is going on. He hopes to accomplish this by creating a weekly or monthly bulletin with information about school wide events and share this with community organizations and churches.

An additional goal mentioned that seems very important to him is DHS's graduation and freshman-on-track rates, which he thinks needs to be monitored and tracked throughout the year. He feels that freshman year is a very pivotal point in a student's academic career and that it should be monitored to keep students on the road to graduation.

It should be no surprise that other school districts have recruited Mr. Bretz over the years to come work for them. Although he is very excited for this opportunity, it was not an easy decision. Mr. Bretz and his family will have to make sacrifices for him to stay here and serve as the principal. However, the persuasion from his colleagues, such as Superintendent Dr. Geddis, and current principal Ms. Cherry, to take on this job was good enough to push his decision. While talking with him, he made good points as to why he chose this position. Mr. Bretz stated, "I was nervous about what would happen if someone came in who didn't know the school, hadn't worked at the school, didn't have relationships built up..." He also believed that he was beginning to become "stale" in his current role. "Ten years of doing the same job is a long time," and he felt that pushing himself to step outside his comfort zone would help him continue to grow. Bretz hopes to continue to grow personally and professionally here at DHS.

Overall, we feel the staff and student body are excited for the future of Danville High School under Mr. Bretz' leadership. We know he will take this new position very seriously and be a voice for the students at Danville High School. If you see Mr. Bretz in the halls, be sure to congratulate him on this huge accomplishment!



LEGACY REFLECTIONS

CO-WORKER AND FRIEND: MRS. JOHNNIE CAREY REFLECTS ON MS. CHERRY'S CAREER



JOHNNIE CAREY

District No. 118 Teacher, Principal, Administrator

Charlotte (Tracy) Cherry. What can I say about this dedicated educator, principal, mentor, mother, god-mother, aunt, and my good friend. Ms. Tracy Cherry is a Jersey Girl through and through. She loves her sons and daughter-in-law, but most of all she has devoted her heart to the students in this district.

It has been my pleasure to call Ms. Cherry my colleague and friend. I have never heard her say she does not love her job. Does she talk about the challenges that face the children in this district? Most certainly. At every level I have observed Ms. Cherry create programs that address needs of the students. An example, during a trip in which we drove to New Jersey, her home, Ms. Cherry discovered a store that sold all different sizes of school uniforms. We spent hours in the store and could hardly get our luggage in the car to return home.

Ms. Cherry has high expectations for herself and those that work with her. She does not ask any more of her staff than she is willing to give. She makes sure that her staff know that they are appreciated and goes out of her way to find individual gifts for staff. She always tries to get to know her staff, so they know she cares.

My friend is a person that always thinks of others. She is up early going to the gym, but she is always at some activity at the school so that the students know she supports them. It was an indication that students love Ms. Cherry when the students created a t-shirt with her statement, "If it ain't your business, it ain't your business!!!"

I personally know that Ms. Cherry holds those she calls friends close to her heart. I know the things that she had done for me, my daughter, and grandchildren. She is a person that gives without an expectation of something in return.

Her sons have shared her with the children of this district, but they have always come first in her life. It is now time for her to spend more time with her family and to do some of the things that she enjoys doing, for example, working out, traveling, and helping others.

If you know Ms. Cherry you know that she will still be around the community and working with children in some capacity. She is grateful for the years she has worked in District 118, and her legacy will live on for years to come.

DHS RENOVATIONS

1972 ADDITION REMODELING



TOHANI JONES

Mr. Greg Wagers, the DHS School Administration Manager offered the following on the progress of the 1972 Remodel: "The DHS Renovations will happen in the science rooms, library and art rooms. They are planned to be done by next year, 2024, and the New Tech hallway done by Spring Break 2023. The design of the library is going to be a twist of the student lounge, but with a lot more technology. Lots of the books will be replaced with E-Books and lots of modern furniture and technology will be added. The temporary library is currently located in room 240 until renovations are complete. Another remodel is taking place in the '72 addition bathrooms. These will be gutted out to look like all the other bathrooms around the school. The art rooms have been temporarily relocated into the staff cafeteria. These were some of the first rooms to begin the remodeling process, and we hope to have them ready by next Fall 2023. The science labs will be brand new as well. They are currently working on these 2 rooms at a time. This project will take the longest to complete, but we should see a big transformation."

1972 Addition Remodeling: 5 main areas of work

- **Science Rooms:** Creating 2 new Chemistry and 2 new Science Labs
- **Library:** moved to Room 240 for the rest of the school year while library space renovated; the IT department temporarily in Room 336
- **Art Rooms:** currently located in the Staff Cafeteria, art space will be ready in the Fall 2023
- **NT Hallway Rooms:** will become Innovation & Collaboration Labs
- **'72 Addition Bathrooms:** will match other bathrooms in the building



Who's Who?

@ DANVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



JACOB BRETZ

DHS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

JONATHAN IRELAND

Family Life: I have been married for 12 years. I have a 5 year old son named Elmer and a 2 year old son named Marvin.

Years in Education: I have been in the education profession for 16 years. I was a Social Studies teacher for 6 years, and then I became an Assistant Principal and have been in that position for 10 years.

Your path to becoming a principal: I got my Bachelors from the U of I. I went back to school during my 4th and 5th years of teaching. I took night classes 2 times a week for 2 years to get my masters degree.

Your role as a DHS Administrator: My role is to evaluate teachers, communicate with parents, oversee the CTE and special education departments, student supports, and discipline students when it is necessary.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?: Providing help to students, parents and staff. I believe a leader should be a servant. My job is to clear as many obstacles out of the way that obstruct staff, student, and parent success.

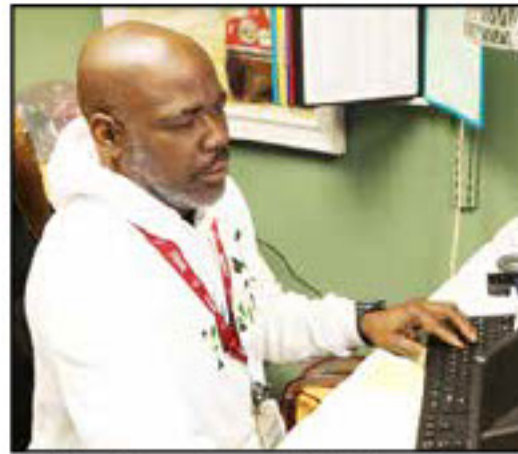
Who has had the biggest influence on you or your career path?: Dr. Carolyn Smith, one of my U of I professors who really enlightened me about equity and Social Justice. Mrs. Norton and Ms. Cherry have been wonderful models for me on how to be a good principal.

What is something most people don't know about you, that you are willing to share?: I love vacations that most wouldn't consider vacations. I would rather tent camp or go wilderness backpacking than stay at a 5-star resort. Another fun fact is that I grew up without a television. My parents didn't even own a TV until I was a freshman in college.

What are your favorite activities or interests outside of school?: I love to cook. I do all the cooking on Thanksgiving and other holidays. Anything outdoors like camping, backpacking, hiking, and fishing I also like doing. I have an addiction to Fantasy Football that annoys my wife but she's grown to accept it.

Do you have any advice for DHS Students?: Limit your time on social media. You are at an age where you are forming your self identities, yet you expose yourself to hate. You need to surround yourselves with love, yet you constantly tear each other down on the internet. Your light can't shine when you live in virtual environments where your lights are constantly blown out.

There is nobody in the world quite like you, and I like you just the way you are. Learn to believe that about yourself.



RICKY HOSKINS

DHS HOME INTERVENTION

OSHAUN JONES WINSLOW

Family Life: I am the youngest of 5 children, born and raised in Danville. I love spending time with family and grandchildren when not working, I have 4 children.

Years in Education: I have been working at DHS for 6 years altogether, taking a two year educational leave. I have a Bachelors from Eastern Illinois University, and am licensed in Funeral Services from Stratford Career Institute.

Position at DHS?: Home Program Intervention Coordinator

What is the most rewarding part of your job?: Seeing students everyday; being able to see them graduate and enter secondary education and become successful in the community.

Who has had the biggest influence on you or your career path?: My Mom, she went back to school in her early 50's and got her degree.

What is something most people don't know about you, that you are willing to share?: I have 14 grandchildren.

What are our favorite activities or interest outside of school?: I love preaching and teaching the Word of God, singing, and directing choirs.

Do you have any advice for DHS Students?: Always strive to do your best, be your own person and continue to push through your failures, there's always a light on the other side of whatever it is you are facing. Put God first.



GARY GRITTON

DHS SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

RYAN JARUSESKI

Family Life: Married to wife Meredith Gritton (also a teacher); 3 kids: 9, 7, 5.

Years in Education: 22 years.

Position at DHS?: Social Studies Teacher.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?: When I run into former students that tell me that they really enjoyed my class, and I made a positive impact on their life. Those are pretty special moments.

Who has had the biggest influence on you or your career path?: My parents were both teachers. I saw how rewarding the profession can be at an early age in my life.

What is something most people don't know about you, that you are willing to share?: I enjoy gardening and landscape designs as a hobby.

What are our favorite activities or interest outside of school?: Spending time with family, traveling. Attending concerts and sporting events.

Do you have any advice for DHS Students?: Don't be afraid to fail. The foundation of success is failure.

MADRIGALS 48th YEAR

THE MADRIGAL SINGERS HAVE CONTINUED THE ALMOST HALF CENTURY TRADITION AND CONTINUE TO BE A GREAT PART OF THE DANVILLE HIGH COMMUNITY.

AVA TOWNE & MADELYN RHODES

Madrigals is an auditioned choir that performs throughout the community and puts together a show to perform at their annual dinners. This year was the 48th annual year that the Madrigal group has performed for the Danville community. The group is directed by Jeff Thomas, in his 6th year leading this group. Jeff Thomas also directs the three auditioned show choirs at Danville High School and also The Singing Vikings. The Madrigal singers are a group of 21 students ranging from freshmen to seniors and are chosen from a large pool of people. Mr. Thomas describes this group as "...very consistent and hard working. This is a very strong group of individuals and I am very proud of them as a whole."

Mr. Thomas said that the dinners ran very smoothly and the audience was very intrigued and interactive. There were some new set additions to the dinner this year that included a brand new backdrop and Boars head. There hadn't been any changes to the set in the whole 48 years until this year's dinner. Mr. Thomas says that his favorite part about being the director is, "getting to see how each Madrigal group performs the songs differently each year. It's cool to see the same show done with different students and what they bring to the table."

The show includes songs such as "12 Days of Christmas," "Coventry Child," "Banquet Fugue," "Fum," "Mary, Did You Know?," "Gaudete," "Angels We Have Heard," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," "All Star," featuring the Head Quartet (Hannah Schroder, Gabby Pataki, Sebastian Orr, TerRyan White), "Carol of the Bells," "Boars Head," "People Look East," "At Solemn Midnight," "Masters in This Hall," "Wassail," "Toast," and "Silent Night." Mr. Thomas adds that, "most of the songs are used each year and have been part of the Madrigal dinner for the last 48 seasons. I always like to change one or two songs to keep the show fresh or add some comedic moments where it might be needed. It's been a really cool addition to see the head quartet sing "All Star" by Smash Mouth in a centuries-old Madrigal style!" Mr. Thomas was asked which student had grown the most this season, he replied with "TerRyan White has become an excellent vocalist. One of the best "Mary Did You Know?" solos we have ever had!"

As a senior in the group, and an outstanding vocalist, TerRyan White added a few ideas and thoughts about the group. To start off the year, the group prepares pieces of music that will be performed in the community and in the annual Madrigals dinner. TerRyan adds, "we perform at so many places, ranging from churches and nursing homes to Meijer and The Night of Lights Parade." This group is very involved in the community and TerRyan said, "it is just so nice to see the public interest in something we work so hard on, and it also helps a lot with performance anxiety. I love the family aspect of Madrigals and seeing all of our hard work pay off as we present the show to the public." More individually TerRyan reflects on his own personal growth from being in the group for 3 years. He was asked if he liked the music that was performed, if there has been any individual growth because of this group, and if the time spent in the group was enjoyable. He said, "It is an understatement, LOVE IT! It was an amazing experience learning the pieces of music and growing my knowledge of different styles of music. Yes! I've enjoyed it so much, it was so nice to meet new people and to watch younger classes set on the same journey as I did 2 years ago. Yes! I've grown very much as a person because of this group. It taught me a lot about independence, responsibility and trusting in others."



CAREER RECAP WITH 2011 DHS GRADUATE JUSTIN MARCH-LILLARD



Justin March-Lillard, 2011 Danville High School graduate began his NFL career with the Kansas City Chiefs in 2015.

MATTHEW THOMAS & BRYSON PEREZ HINTON

Justin March-Lillard graduated from Danville High School in 2011 as an accomplished DHS football player. After having back to back 12-1 seasons, March was named the 2009 Commercial News Player of the Year, as well as the All State Team his Senior year in 2010. With multiple offers, Justin accepted a scholarship to play football at Akron University. March played four years for The Zips while starting 35 games, tallying 250 tackles, 10.5 tackles for loss, 2 sacks, 4 interceptions, 13 passes defended, 2 forced fumbles, and making third-team All-MAC in 2013. After graduation, Justin would sign with the Kansas City Chiefs in 2015. He would spend two years with the club before getting released.

March-Lillard had brief stints with the Miami Dolphins and Seattle Seahawks before signing with the Dallas Cowboys in the 2017 offseason. March spent four years with the Cowboys while being a special teams captain. He bounced around the league in 2021, playing for four teams. Throughout his career he would tally 45 tackles and 5 passes defended on 5 NFL starts. Justin is currently a free agent.

DHS Seniors Matthew Thomas & Bryson Perez Hinton interview Justin March-Lillard:

What was the college recruiting process like for you?

Recruiting was very fun for me, there were schools that saw me as an offense player and schools that saw me as a defensive player; it was pretty cool knowing I had value and a chance to play college ball.

What schools were a close second behind Akron?

It felt like I waited an eternity to see if the U of I would offer me, but it never happened. I had a lot of offers and interest from the MAC conference. I would say Northern Illinois and Ball State were a close second!

How did it feel to get signed by the Chiefs?

It was life changing getting signed, but the Chiefs were a team I loved watching in college. It was pretty cool to sign with them.

They were the most active team when it came to scouting for the NFL. Forever thankful for the Kansas City Chiefs.

Which is the best stadium you have ever played in?

The best stadium I've played in would have to be Arrowhead Stadium (Chiefs). Dallas is a nice modern stadium, but Kansas City was grungy and very very loud.

What is the biggest lesson that you took from football?

The biggest lesson for me was that in life as in football, you very rarely have things in your life you would consider perfect so there's no reason to dwell on the imperfection of football and life. The bad days don't last long and neither do the good ones, so just be present in the moment.

How did BJ Luke (the DHS head football coach at the time) impact your life?

I love coach! Coach BJ really gave me hope that if I did everything I needed to I could reach all of my goals. Taught me some unbelievable life lessons on discipline, leadership, and competing. Had I not had Coach BJ I'm not sure all of my dreams would have come true, forever thankful for him.

When you were younger, did you ever want to play another position besides Linebacker?

For sure RUNNING BACK!!

Which football player did you look up to growing up? Did you ever play with that person or have the opportunity to meet them?

I looked up to guys like Ray Lewis, Adrian Peterson, Cam Newton, and Patrick Willis. I had a chance to play and meet Adrian Peterson when he played for Washington! And Cam Newton as well! Both were awesome guys!



Trent Sherfield (Arizona Cardinals) and Justin March-Lillard (Dallas Cowboys), both Danville High School Graduates, trade jerseys.

Do you have any advice for anyone that is still in Danville wanting to achieve what you have?

If you really want to make it in pro sports you start off by practicing good habits outside of the sport such as being respectful, accountable, kind, disciplined, and hard working. Be those things in life and then be those things in your sport and it is achievable. Never give up, no matter how hard the times get, just keep working and keep praying!

What is your favorite childhood memory playing football?

My favorite memory was probably running around the track on a hot day with trash bags and two hoodies on trying to lose weight to pass the weight requirements to play running back in pee-wee football. On that day I thought about quitting football. I looked over and saw my dad cheering me on to finish the run. Even though I was on a football field at that moment it made me realize that I loved football that much and I'm glad I didn't give up.

What would you consider the highlight of your NFL career?

I would consider my biggest highlight to be my first career start in the NFL with the Chiefs. Getting my name called and coming out of a smoked tunnel in front of 80,000 fans. It really wasn't the start that did it. It was just over a year before that moment where I had a major knee surgery and there was a chance I would never play again, but to come back a year later starting was pretty cool!



An interview with Mr. Daniel Hile, Danville High School CTE teacher and Justin March-Lillard's DHS football coach:

What was it like coaching Justin in high school?

"Right from the beginning when he showed up as a ninth grader, you definitely could tell there was something different about him. He was all about business. It's hard for me to remember a time when he was not a leader on the team because he immediately took over, but the way that he did it early on was not by being vocal. He just played and he has this thing about him that when he put his body on you he knocked the fire out of you. I've been coaching for 25 years, here for 23, so I'd only been coaching half of my career and I knew that when he got here there was something special about him. I've coached some pretty good players before, and since then I've coached good players, but I could tell as a 14-15 year old kid there was something different."

How did it make you feel seeing Justin play in his first NFL game (whether that was in person or on TV)?

"You feel a sense of pride for your former players when they accomplish things that most kids from Danville don't get to do. There's a crazy statistic like 1.6% make it pro. I always say that data point because it's crazy. Very few people are



Justin March-Lillard, 2011 Danville High School graduate began his NFL career with the Kansas City Chiefs in 2015.

able to make it pro. I've felt a ton of pride for him. I will tell you this, I seldom take credit for any of my former student successes and so I don't say that I feel pride in him being in the field, I feel pride for him because I know how hard it is to succeed growing up in this town. I remember his head coach talking a lot to us assistant coaches and the team about what it was like being a kid from Danville. All of us can talk about that. It's different being a kid from Danville; and if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere. I don't like to say "he made it out" because I don't feel like Danville is like a prison or some sort of basement. I respect Danville and I believe in this town because my kids grew up here and went to school here. If you could make it here, you're going to have the wit and tenacity to make it a lot of places. That's something I can tell you about a ton of our kids that have given great effort at Danville High School; kids go on to do well in some rigorous places."

What was Justin like on and off the field in high school?

"He's the same kid on and off the field, although his intensity steps up a little bit when he's on the field. He never did not give great effort, which is why he became such a great leader, which is why he became so successful after high school. He was always giving great effort, and as I tell you that I get goosebumps. The thing I require out of my kids is to always give great effort because effort equals results and great effort equals great results. Effort is internal and you can't really coach it. It's something that the player owns, something that the student owns, something that the employee owns is this work ethic, the ability to work hard and give good effort. The thing with Justin is, he knew the secret about effort and the secret is because it's internal you can't lie to the person you see in the mirror. You can tell yourself that you're doing your best but when you look in the mirror it's a different story. Justin was a leader by example, and by the time he was a senior he was a vocal leader. He was a great effort kid which made others around him better, including us coaches, which allowed us to know we can coach kids like that and expect great effort because the kids we coach come from where he came from."

GRAPHIC ARTS: Adobe Illustrator —GINGERBREAD HOUSES



Devontea Brooks



Ciara Herndon



Nevaeh McCoy



Miguel Morales



Miguel Morales



Diya Patel

NEW CLASS ALERT! DHS INTRODUCES MUSIC TECH COURSE



LEXIELLIS & ANNA HOUP

Danville High School introduced a new class this 2022-2023 school year. This class is called Music Technology and is taught by Jeff Thomas, who is in his sixth year teaching at the high school. He also teaches choir, Madrigals, and is also the show choir director. Music Tech is a year-long course and focuses on different skills each semester. First semester concentrates on audio production, recording, mixing, electro-acoustic composition techniques, looping, and digital audio fluency through GarageBand and similar programs. Additional attention will be given to digital music of the screen: video games, movies, and social media. Second semester concentrates on live audio mixing, lighting design, and efficient use of the soundboard in the newly renovated DHS Auditorium. Students are expected to aid in mixing and lighting extra-curricular concerts throughout the semester.

In Music Tech, students have the ability to use technology to edit songs the way you would hear them on the radio or Spotify. If you have ever been to a concert you would know that the way musicians sing or play a song live sounds very different from what you hear on the album. In Music Tech, Mr. Thomas is helping students learn how to create a finished product like you would hear on an album. This class teaches you how to create those professional sounds out of raw vocal, recording, or looping in the program GarageBand. Students do a lot of studio recordings to help them get practice with their edits.

Mr. Thomas has executed some fun projects for his students this semester, one of them being the Darth Vader Project. "In the last final boss scene in the video game, 'Star Wars the Force Unleashed 2,' there is a Darth Vader scene where he is battling this Jedi and there is this electricity and all sorts of crazy-like ending ramp up video game stuff, and then we all as a class created all of the lightsaber sounds, and all of the hits, and the pals and everything that you hear in a video game; and then they created the soundtrack that went with it. That was pretty cool." The class has also taken a field trip to the Fisher Theater this semester where they did a clinic with a band from Nashville. The band talked about what goes into their live performances by sharing their instruments and technology.

Previously, the music department has only offered classes that require the performing aspect of music. Mr. Thomas' motivation for creating the new Music Tech course was to be able to provide students with a class to demonstrate their music talents without having to perform on a stage. He shares that this class does not require any prerequisites and

that he is just looking for students with interest in the class. However, there can only be a maximum of fifteen students in the class because they received fifteen Macbooks from the district, which is required for the software program that they use.

If you have any questions or interest in the class please see your counselor or visit Mr. Thomas in room T135. For students who have an interest in this type of career, DACC offers a similar course that works with the exact equipment and programs used here at DHS. This class is open for all students who have an interest in music and allows you to learn a different side of music that is not always taught in schools.

AN INTERVIEW WITH ADRIAN RIVERA (JUNIOR):

In general, what have you learned over the course of this semester?

I've learned how to tamper with audio more, so I am able to make sounds louder and I have been wanting to do that. It sounds basic but I get to change the depth of the audio.

What is your favorite thing you have done?

I like doing the cover of the songs because it pushed me to pass my comfort zone with making my own soundtrack and then having to sing over the soundtrack. So that is really interesting and I like that.

Would you recommend this class to other students?

Yeah absolutely. If you love music I don't see why you wouldn't do it. I mean I love music and it has exceeded my expectations.

Why did you join this class?

I love music. I love music so much. I want to do every aspect of it. I love dancing so I figured why not make music because music is everywhere.



2023 HOLIDAY RECAP

STUDENT POLLS: 5 QUESTIONS | 100 RESPONSES
(the most recorded responses)
Audriana Alvarez & Simone Atkinson
STAFF THROW-BACK SANTA PHOTOS



Danielle Montgomery



Jenny Long



Brooke Poeschl



Daniel Hile



Michaela Gomez



Lori Woods



Ryan Krapf



Cindy Parson



Les Woodrum



CELEBRATING WITH FAMILY: 41

CELEBRATING ALONE: 18

AT A PARTY: 8

HOW DID YOU SPEND NEW YEARS?



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