



TIGER TIMES



Graduation Edition

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‘A Night at Gatsby’s’

2023 prom night was a smashing hit.

By Kristina Petrey
Editor-in-Chief

On April 22nd, IBHS held “A Night at Gatsby’s,” a night of fun fueled dancing, delectable food, and swanky decorations. Not quite the budget that Mr. Gatsby had, but still the level of entertainment and fun that comes from attending one of his parties.

In total, there were 134 students in attendance, much to Ms. Sewell’s surprise, as last year 102 tickets were sold. So, the increase in tickets added a level of stress, due to the prom committee ensuring that they would have enough seats that could accommodate the mass amount of students, but it also brought a lot of joy because it means that this was an event that was highly anticipated.

Senior Braiden S. thoughts were that it was a decent event. “It definitely had its ups and downs. I felt as though the music could’ve been better. There were only three or four songs that I knew, I think the DJ just played songs from student’s recommendations rather than playing typical dance songs. But it’s senior prom, I enjoyed being there with everyone in my class before we graduate.”

This idea is argued by other senior, and PROM QUEEN, Lindsey H. “My favorite part of the night was just having fun with my friends and my class. I really took in every moment since it was our last prom together.”

Something that was new to this event was the interactive part during the actual event. The DJ would play ‘Name That Song,’ where he would play five seconds of a song, and the first person to tell him that title and artist would be give a \$10 gift card to places ranging from Starbucks to Casey’s. This was definite hit and brought out the competitive side for all students in attendance.

Another fun little game that took place was Gatsby Trivia, where there were 5 questions pertaining to the book, “The Great Gatsby,” by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Many students thought they would go above and beyond this part since almost all students had to study the novel in their junior year, but, all the students were tripped up with the in-depth knowledge that these questions brought to the table. Eventually table 10 won with Lauren Clausen leading the group to win \$5 Amazon gift cards for her tablemates.

Ms. Sewell, head coordinator of the event, provided her feedback. “I honestly thought went pretty good! I think the lighting that played with the music was super cool, the strobe lights, the laser beams and such truly added to the event. But I feel as though the fog machine was a little excessive.”

In the future, Sewell plans on tweaking things. Such as the music. “I think we will have a set must- play song list based on prom committee vote. I am glad we played so many requests, but I think sometimes people want to dance to things that everyone knows, and some requests were a little niche.” Which, after talking to a multitude of students, most agree.

Behind the scenes, everything went smoothly. Sewell notes the success of the event is due to the students participation and help, and the early planning. Meetings started as early as September. On top of that, the committee saved money through renting the decorations rather than buying them.

Overall, A Night at Gatsby’s was a pretty fun time to students. Seniors enjoyed the night of dancing and fun with all of their classmates, and Juniors got to enjoy their time with the big dogs. With tweaks in the future, there’s no doubt that this event will continue to grow into something that all students have a blast with.



Prom Court takes to the floor.

Senior Send-off

Two of the top 10 students, Grace and Calvin, talk about their plans after highschool.

By Lauren B.
Freshman Reporter

It’s almost the end of the year for seniors Calvin C. and Grace T., and this means that graduation is just around the corner.

For Calvin, senior year has been exciting adventure. He has been planning on going to medical school and becoming a physician to help the general public, all while participating in wrestling and student council. For the most part, he is incredibly excited about being able to move on to bigger and better things while enjoying the freedom of adulthood.

For Calvin, high school was not something that he was ecstatic about going to everyday, which he made very clear while talking about it. After he graduates, he will be going to University of Illinois to study pre-biology .

In order to thrive in this academic field, Calvin been prepping for medical school via classes and programs. Likewise, valedictorian Grace T. has also been balancing her academics and extracurricular activities.

Grace T. has been a part of the Drama Club,

Robotics, National Honor Society, Chamber singers, Girl Scouts, and the “Tiger Times.” On top of that, she works part time at Dairy Queen. Somehow with this jam packed schedule, Grace has managed to keep her 4.0 GPA. Something that is no small feat.

After Grace gets her diploma, she will be attending Bradley University, studying electrical engineering, which she hopes will point her in the direction of working in the space industry. With her future in sights, she’s going to miss this tight-knit community that has been cultivated with her peers.

Before leaving, Grace stated, “I’m excited to hang out with all of my friends before saying goodbye. For many, this will be the last time that I see them”.

Grace’s last words were a piece of advice for all. She says, “Your high school experience is what you make it. I suggest you surround yourself with people who make you happy. When you’re happy and having fun, this will make your high school experience ten times better.”

Both students are hardworking and determined to achieve great things. For seniors Calvin and Grace, success is just around the corner.

Beach Reads

Tiger Times staff gives book recommendations to read this summer.



How To:

Pack a Suitcase for Vacation

Everyone knows the dreadful task of packing. Here are some tips for ultimate success.

By Ms. Sewell

Newspaper Sponsor

Summer break is just around the corner and many students are actively counting down the days until their seasonal getaways. With travel always comes the question: How does one prepare for a vacation?

Have no fear: Linked below is a foolproof method for preparing bags for any vacation.

Step 1: Put off all packing until the last minute.

There’s no time like the present to pack for a vacation! Leave all of your packing ‘til the morning of your departure. Your travel needs will be freshest in your mind then, and besides, it’s not like you’ll forget several necessary items because you don’t possess the foresight to pack them in your last-minute rush.

Step 2: Pack 100 of everything.

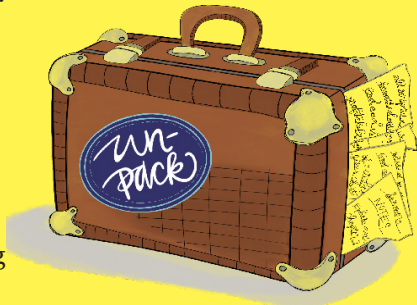
You never know when you’ll accidentally pee your pants... five times a day. It’s best just to pack as many clothing items as possible. This will also give you the flexibility to change your clothes three times in one day; trust me, your mom or dad will be thrilled to be able to continue normal routines like doing the laundry on their much-needed vacations. And who needs extra packing room for souvenirs anyways? If you need space, you can make space!

Step 3: You never know what useless items will come in handy, so pack them just in case.

Your elementary-school recorder could provide the musical reprieve your family didn’t know they needed.

Step 4: Leave your clothes to marinate in your suitcase for a few months upon your return.

It’s hard to go back to routines after returning from a vacation, but by leaving your suitcase fully packed until months after your return, you can preserve the memory of your trip abroad. What a cool memento to keep!



Student Spotlight

Freshman Carson B. exemplifies IB Tiger qualities.

By Katie A.
Freshman Reporter

High school alone can prove to be an overwhelming challenge when it comes to maintaining a balance between academics and extracurriculars. Freshman Carson B. does an excellent job balancing both while serving as a peer role model and performer.

Life is a stage, and Carson lives for it. Her love for the arts and performance is evidenced by her recent performance in OZ as the TinMan. Singing and acting on stage make Carson ecstatic, and her role in Oz was the first lead Carson took on through Nitsch Theatre Arts. She looks forward to continuing down her path of success as she pursues the art of performance.

All of Carson’s hard-working efforts do not go unnoticed. Mrs. Roderick only has glowing things to say about her. “Carson goes above and beyond in all schoolwork. Carson has also been welcoming to all students.”

Carson can be heard singing throughout the hallways with a big smile on her face. She always brings an aura of positivity everywhere she goes and presents a delightful attitude toward all of her fellow peers. Theater, music, and her faith in God are very important to Carson and help keep her grounded in her positivity. Carson makes an effort to engage with her love for music and her faith by praying and singing every single day.

Carson has big plans for the future. She has dreams to shine on Broadway and a desire to help others, all of which open up many different, promising career opportunities. “I would love to be a physical or occupational therapist to help people.” Carson also notes her time at Illini Bluffs inspires her to potentially pursue a career in education as well. She keeps her options open. Currently, she teaches CCD at her church which will help her determine whether or not that path is one she follows.

Carson wants to attend ICC and U of I. Staying in this area is important to Carson as she has a strong desire to carry on her family’s long lived legacy at IB.

Even with everything Carson does, she remains respectful, kind, and mindful of others throughout everything she does. No matter the place, time or day. With her dedication towards her work, faith, and performances, Carson exemplifies the many outstanding and wonderful traits that can be found in all students of IB. We can’t wait to see where she goes!



All About that Run: A Softball Article

By Anna S.
Sophomore Reporter

The Illini Bluffs Softball Team started their fifth week off with another win to their name, beating Abbington with a score of 12 to 8. This was the ninth win of their year, losing only two that they’ve played.

Of course though this wasn’t simply pure luck. They play small ball, a kind of bunting, as a way to get a step up in the game. They try to incorporate this strategy as soon as possible as to get as many runs on the board as possible. Freshman leadoff hitter, Sarah F., simplifies this idea, “...We are a really good hitting team and that is how we win games....”

This strategy was clearly shown in the game versus Abbington; When Lily Hicks led off with the first hit, a single to center field. Zoe Eeten quickly got a triple, sending Lily home– putting runs on the board straight off the bat.

However, by the fourth inning, they were behind. Zoe Eeten saved the day with a home run bumping the score back up to a tie of 3 to 3. By the end of the fifth inning, IB was up by three, but the opposing team brought their fight with them. The score changed in the sixth inning with Abbington in the lead: 6 to 8. This wouldn’t last for long though. In the top of the seventh inning, Cora E hit a double to left, sending Lily H. and Zoe E. home. To make the inning all the more eventful, Lexi B. hit a home run over the fence, the score now 11 to 8. Morgan followed with another over-the-fence hit, which would lock the team in with a win.

The team has high hopes for the future and has already won once again shortly after Abbington, this time versus Midwest Central. Mrs. Lox, the head coach adds to this sentiment, “The team this year has made a lot of progress. They continue to work hard and be flexible with the multiple positions they are asked to play. I am excited for the second half of this season because I can really see the girls starting to come together and believe in each other.”

Happy Birthday

May 1- Sophia O.	May 16-Nathan H.
May 2- Anna T.	Chase K.
May 3- Alexis L.	May 17- Ava L.
Blake M.	Katie R.
May 4- Nicolas C.	May 21- Ayden D.
Celine L.	May 22- Ethan B.
May 6- Lauren C.	Ethyn D.
May 8- Mr. Welsh	May 23- Aiden L.
May 9- Mrs.	May 24- Sophia S.
Jatkowski	Ariana E.
May 10- Amanda J.	May 30- Ayden B.
May 11- Maddy B.	Christian M .
May 15- Chris D.	Avery V.
May 16- Wyatt S.	

The Rise of AI

Here’s what you need to know about the latest advancements in AI.

By Celine L.
Managing Editor

The high-speed advancements of technology have provided us with new tools such as ChatGPT and Snapchat AI. As artificial intelligence continues to grow and evolve, there are ongoing debates about whether people should be concerned or celebrate its advancements.

On one hand, AI has the potential to revolutionize industries, improve efficiency, and enhance our daily lives. On the other hand, there are concerns about job displacement, ethical dilemmas, and the potential for AI to surpass human intelligence and autonomy. With so much at stake, it’s important to carefully consider the potential benefits and drawbacks of AI as we navigate the future of this rapidly advancing technology.

ChatGPT wrote the introductory paragraphs above. It is difficult to tell, though, as the paragraph is well-written and straight to the point. It is barely discernible from human writing. This is just one example of the implications of AI’s swift integration into society as well as the evolution of its intelligence and capabilities.

Artificial intelligence is quickly becoming a part of our daily lives as it is becoming more accessible and powerful than ever. AI is beginning to transform the way we live our lives and is becoming a crucial part of our society.

There are clear positives and negatives to AI. As ChatGPT said, it can “revolutionize industries, improve efficiency, and enhance our daily lives.” AI has the ability to perform tasks exponentially faster than humans can, and could even better society with its incredible abilities. It can help in many different ways, like education for example. Imagine using AI to understand a topic and getting a very in-depth explanation that you can completely customize to your learning style, all on a device you hold in your hand.


This doesn’t mean there aren’t any downsides. For those of you who have used Snapchat’s new “MyAI,” you may have seen some of the downsides first hand. It claims to be unable to do specific tasks, yet still very successfully does them. There have been many instances where talking to an AI bot has lead to somewhat sketchy conversations.

The best way to combat the scary side of this new technology is to find a way to limit its abilities. The difficulty in that is finding a way to limit it. It is no easy task because of the AI’s scarily fast growth and learning abilities, which could even lead to it becoming more intelligent than us humans.


A simple command could be forgone, a killswitch could be disabled, or even just closing the app could fail to stop the AI. If AI becomes more intelligent than we are, that could lead to very dangerous situations for the human race as a whole. We have to be careful with how much power we allow this kind of technology to have.

Even though artificial intelligence can benefit society, it still has many downsides and needs a significant amount of work before it should ever be considered safe for public use.





@ibhs_tiger_times



Illini Bluffs
Tiger Times

Senior Assassin:

Class of 2023 participates in Water Gun War.

By Kristina Petrey
Editor-in-Chief

Don't be intimidated by the name. Senior Assassin is an intense last man standing competition where seniors in the class have teamed up in pairs of 2. Their goal? Get their target out before someone gets them. If they're the last team standing, not only will they get the ultimate prize, bragging rights, but they will also receive a cash prize of \$120, split between them, of course.

On April 5th, there were 12 teams:

The Hot Shots- Bre M. and Grace H.

Blood Hounds- Christian K. and Braiden S.

The Swassinators- Lila H. and Ella W.

The Wet Bandits- Vance R. and Calvin C.

Squirt Kings- Lilly H. and Clara L.

Money Band Bandits- Ki F. and Nathan H.

Sleep Deprived- Josh P. and Avery S.

Double Trouble- Olivia M. and Lilly S.

Hydro Kids, Hydro Wife- Amelia H. and Zoe E.

Hose Ur Daddy- Chris F. and Brandon C.

Keeping up with the Karsplashians- Amanda J. and Lindsey H.

The Florida Boys- Shaun D., and C.J Grice.

Our first brutal backstabbing elimination goes to Lilly H., who eliminated Vance R. while asking him to prom. Some say that it was rude and uncalled for, others claim that's the name of the game. They didn't stop there, Calvin C., while strategizing on how to get his partner back, got ambushed inside the Bartonville Diner while having a nice, relaxing breakfast with Nathan H. This nice morning soon turned sour. Many were shocked by this team being the first to go, fully convinced that they would be one of the front runners in this contest. Nevertheless, opposing teams bid them farewell as now, they were one step closer to victory.

With minimal eliminations throughout the next couple of days, an opportunity for immunity arose. With a post on the Senior Assassin's Instagram, (@ibhs_senior_assassin) the caption of clues led to Reed City, where the object of immunity was hidden. After a disappointing turnout, Amana and Lindsey from the Karsplashians were granted immunity for three days, making them unable to be taken out, meaning they can go to the store without having to constantly look over their shoulders.

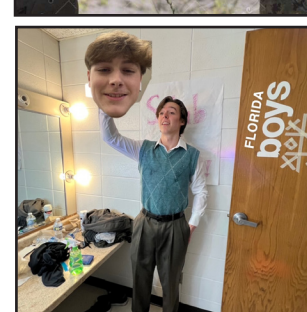
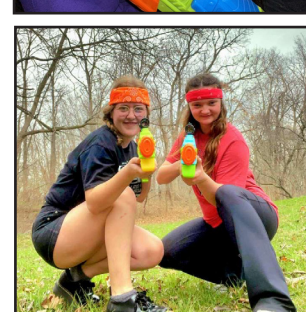
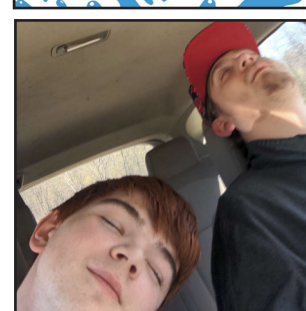
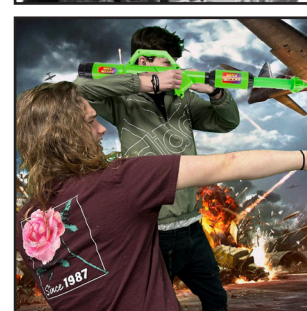
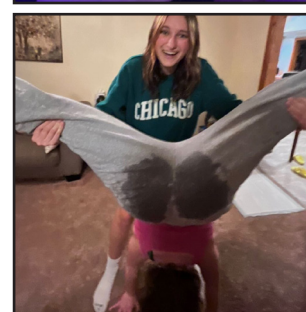
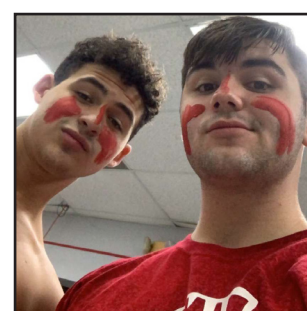
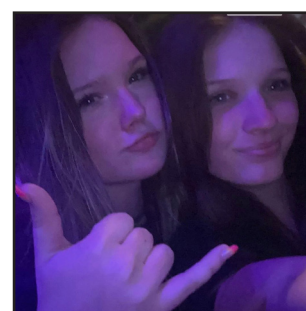
After some late night fun at Lake Camelot park, our next team eliminated was Sleep Deprived, consisting of Avery S. and Josh P. Although they took out Nathan H. from The Money Band Bandits their victory was short lived being followed by a brutal, and controversial drive by from the Swassassinator.

Then, an intense stakeout was held at the East Peoria Target. The Swassinators, consisting of Ella and Lila, were taken out by the Hot Shots, Bre M. and Grace H. During this day, these Hot Shots had hot hands and took out a total of 3 people, resulting in the most eliminations for them.

A slow, boring couple of days passed until the teams were informed that they have a time crunch to take out their first team. If they failed to take out at least 1 person from their first assignment, they themselves would be eliminated. This resulted in 2 teams being taken out: Lily S. and Olivia M. from Double Trouble and Zoe E. and Mia H. from Hydro Kids, Hydro Wife.

Then a couple more laboriously boring days past. The days May 4 to May 11, assassins are able to take out any team, regardless of if it's their actual target or not. This being in hopes that this over extended event would finally come to an end. If there isn't 1 team remaining, the cash prize will be split among everyone left. Which isn't near as fun, nor near as much money.

Still, things have continued to drag on while students continue to plan how to keep their enemies away from their victory. Follow the IBHS Senior Assassins page on instagram to keep up with the drama, witty captions, and intense videos of these seniors fighting for victory.



Join the 2023
class graduates!



Library News:

Ya got library books? Return them.

By Bre S.
Senior Reporter

May! Honestly, it's hard to believe that the school year is practically over already; many argue that it feels like it just began, but in the library, we are hard at work closing up shop and preparing for the summer vacancy that is soon to come.

The Illini Bluffs Library has had a very busy year. Between book clubs and teaching, it has seen its fair share of students, but with that being said, it is still hard to watch students return their final books and watch some of our seniors leave the library for the last time.

As a library worker who saw this firsthand, it was amazing to watch this group of students grow, not only as a group, but as individuals. These students enhanced their love of reading not only by picking up books, but also by getting together in a fun, engaging environment and working with people that they may have otherwise never met.

At the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, librarian Erin Coulter started a book club for students from 6th to 12th grade. This club is something that continues to amaze students and staff alike and is something that many believe students in the future should continue to pursue.

Lastly, Mrs. Coulter has a message: Return your books. She doesn't care if you've had them since sixth grade and you're a senior, she won't fine you. Return them.

Tiger on the Prowl

Underclassmen are asked what they're going to miss the most from the class of 2023.

Lauren C.

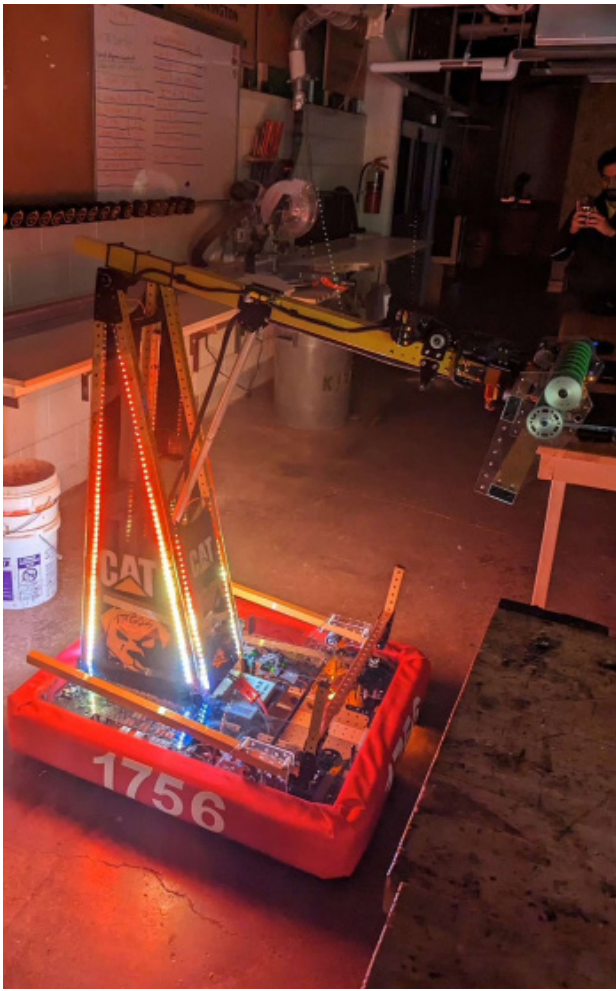


"The comedic relief they bring. They're a source of entertainment, and I like being entertained."

"The amazing people that are in that class. They are the kindest, supportive and sweetest people I've ever met in my entire life. they truly have impacted me."

Hannah T.





Robotics Team: Taking on the World!

By Grace T.
Editor

Breaking news!

The local robotics team has made it to the World Championship in Houston, Texas! This team, the 1756 Argos team, has been doing robotics for 17 years now in a program called FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, Robotics.

FIRST Robotics is a worldwide program whose goal is to promote science and technology. They do this through an event where every January a challenge is released where teams across the world compete to build the best robot for that game. After building robots to play the game given to them, teams compete against each other in local regional competitions. The winner of regionals then gets sent on their way to the World Championship.

Argos has made it to the World Championship many times throughout its history. Last year, they were a finalist in their division, which is a very large feat. Sadly, Argos ended up losing to the team that won the Championship. Regardless of their loss, it has fueled their determination to have their robot win this year's championship.

This swanky program is located at Limestone Community High School and is open to the public! That

means students from surrounding schools can join. The preseason, essentially tryouts, often occur in October. In order to join, all you have to do is show up! You don't even have to know anything about robots in order to be a part of robotics.

The best thing about preseasons is that there are no strings attached! If you absolutely hate it you don't have to come back. If you end up liking it, the season starts in January when the game gets announced.

The 2023 season has come to an end as of now. Unfortunately, Argos was eliminated in their final round of the *ENERGIZE* game. They played a tough, nail-biting match against The Steel Armadillos, Robowranglers, and Bucks' Wrath, ending the round with a score of 207-204, with Argos sadly 3 points away from victory. While it's sad that Argos lost this year's division, there is no doubt that they will take next year's victory by storm, surely securing the DUB.

Overall, FIRST Robotics is the perfect opportunity for anyone even considering going into a science field. It's a low-effort club that opens a plethora of new opportunities for those in it.

For those of you who have any questions about Argos or robotics, feel free to contact senior Grace T. who has been in robotics for around 4 years, or sophomore Grace H. Either Graces would love to share any and all information about it. If you don't have questions, feel free to watch Argos compete on Twitch, @FIRSTinspires, where all the matches are streamed and recorded.

The Rise of Chess

Why chess obsession has swept high schools across the country.

By C.J. Grice
Senior Reporter

With increasing accessibility in recent years, chess has seen an uprise in popularity taking high schools across the world by storm. Many moons ago when someone did not know how to play chess, they would have to get a book or look it or have someone else teach them. Now, getting into the sport looks a bit different.

Before, many people would lose interest in chess because not only can the reading and researching be boring, it can be overwhelming. According to school-goer; Sophomore Will G., he used to play chess on a board with a friend years ago, but started to play chess again more recently. He said quote, "I quit for a while 'til like 2022 when I picked it back up."

So, why are people getting back into chess?

Throughout various social media platforms are plenty of chess influencers who upload tutorials, streams, and match breakdowns to further expand your chess knowledge and understanding of this

complex game. This added layer of entertainment elevates the game and provides a place where the influencers share their personalities and are fun to watch. Chess influencers like GothamChess an account run by Levy Rozman, an International Master, gives out tips on how to get better overall, explaining what to study to beat more players and how to get a better rating. Another chess influencer is Hikaru Nakamura, a Grand Master. Hikaru focuses more on his own experience and matches, and how he beats players and gets closer to the World Champion title.

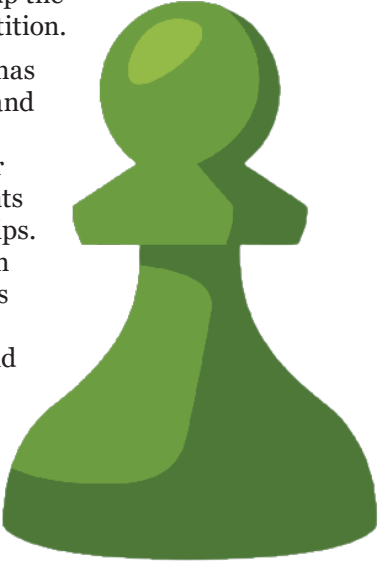
These creators gained big followings on platforms like Twitch and Youtube because they bring a whole new level of competition with the intense urge to claim bragging rights. Many more have done the same, which has created a whole new chess culture that has spread across the internet. Through this, people have come across streaming clips, memes, or Tik Toks that have given them the inspiration to try.

Trying to get into the chess world can be difficult due to the fact that it requires players to be present and playing on a physical board with another person as your opponent. Due to advances in technology, though, people don't need these to play anymore because of online sites like Lichess, Playchess.com, and the leading online site: Chess.com. This provides people the opportunity to play on their phones, or on computers, with people across the globe.

Chess.com not only lets you play online against other people, but it also has tutorials and puzzles to help players develop skills needed to attack, defend, and after doing everything properly, checkmate.

After each match on Chess.com, the site will analyze the game for you, pointing out your mistakes, accuracies, opportunities that could've brought you to victory, and places where you excelled. Online you can learn the game and test yourself while increasing your chess rating and continue to climb up the ladder of online competition.

The game of chess has become more popular and mainstream which can only be a good thing for competitive tournaments and world championships. With the rise of chess in media such as TV series on streaming services, streaming channels, and online games, more people are playing, making the game more enjoyable for everyone involved.



Featured Artist

Will G.

Pitcher Up: A Baseball Report

By Anna S.
Sophomore Reporter

The Illini Bluffs Baseball Team will not be left in the dust this game season. So far, our players have won seven varsity games— two standing out above the rest.

On March 21st, the first game of the year was in full swing against Astoria. It was a complete blowout with a final score of 16 to 0. The win consisted of three different players (Farger, Drake, and Vaughn) hitting double balls. This is not without mentioning that the star pitcher— Josh Vaugh— who struck out the opposite team five times in only two innings.

The next significant game was on April 19th versus Knoxville. This game was closer with a final score of 20 to 10, with Illini Bluffs still bagging the win. The win seemed locked in until Knoxville changed their game quickly and raised their score by six points within the fifth inning, but Illini Bluffs still managed to keep their composure in the end.

Our team did not falter, and by the sixth inning, they were back in their stride, giving the opposite team no runs the whole inning. This game's highlights included Brayden F. (9) striking the other team out a total of six times and Brandon C. (12) hitting a triple-ball.

Though, the team still prides themselves on the fun times they have over all else. As Toby C. (10), a shortstop says, "The thing that makes the team special is that we all get along, and we all have fun with each other— And we love going to Buffalo Wild Wings together..."

Whether on the field or at B-Dubs, the Illini Bluffs baseball team is not to be forgotten with a lineup of amazing pitchers and a solid group of batters.



Happy Mother’s Day

With Mother’s Day around the corner, here’s some fail-proof present ideas.

By Katie A.
Freshman Reporter

Mothers do so much for their kids. Moms are the ones who make sure the grass stains are off the baseball pants. They buy their least favorite jelly because their kids gobble it up. Moms sacrifice their own sleep when anxiety hits the fan the night before a test. While not all moms are perfect, there is no doubt they do the best they can in the moment.

They go unappreciated all days of the year except two—their birthday, and of course, Mother’s Day. It’s easy to find a gift for your mom during elementary school because the teacher always provided gifts, crafts, or tokens for you to take home. Sure, they may be cheesy, and less than perfect, but they are made by you, their kid, that’s more than enough. As you get older, though, it is hard to decide what to get your mom for Mother’s Day.

Little does one know, there is a hack to find the perfect present. Here are some tips:

- Think about what she takes pleasure in. It is important to know what she likes. Whether it’s a box of chocolates, a new pair of shoes, or just a spa day, by knowing these things, you are one step closer to finding that perfect item.
- Look for small ways to treat your mom. If you already know that your mom doesn’t splurge on special things for herself, it can make things difficult to find something to make her smile. It doesn’t need to be anything expensive. It can simply be a book she has had her eye on or her favorite type of candy. Buy her a cup of coffee from her favorite shop. Another inexpensive idea is treating her to breakfast in bed. All of these are simple, yet the extra effort will not go unnoticed or without appreciation.
- Another mom-approved Mother’s Day gift is the gift of time. Offer to help with dinner, babysit younger siblings, or run an errand for mom. Better yet, spend the day together doing something a mom wants, like playing board games, shopping, watching a movie, or baking cookies. Give Mom your undevoted, tech-free, attention, a gift she will treasure forever.
- Tell her how much she means to you. Moms love sweet handwritten notes. No matter what you decide to get your mom, small or extravagant, make sure to place “the cherry on top” with a thoughtful sentiment that tells her why you love her.

It can be easy to make excuses to not bother when it comes to a gift for your mom. This Mother’s Day, consider how much your mom does for you, how they time and time again show up for you, and will always be your biggest supporter wherever you go.

Tik Tok? Gone Forever?

Watch out, Gen Z might riot.

By Lauren B.
Freshman Reporter

Everyone knows the feeling of laying on your bed at 3 A.M. and scrolling through TikTok instead of sleeping, but what if one day TikTok is banned forever?

Unfortunately, that day may come sooner rather than later. For many people, TikTok is a part of everyday life, and whether they like to admit it or not, the elimination of the app from US app stores could spell trouble for all. Most people don’t want to get rid of the app and would do the unthinkable to keep TikTok, seeing as thousands of people make their money on the app alone.

This wasn’t the main concern for U.S. Congressmen though, as they were most concerned with the online safety of the app’s users. Congress had reason to believe that TikTok was downloading and using information from the U.S. way back in 2020 when Donald Trump was president; then, he proposed that ByteDance, the creator of TikTok, sell a portion of the company to Microsoft, believing that the app would be less of a safety concern if the U.S. owned a portion of the app.

Recently, the U.S. Congress approved a motion to ban TikTok on all federal government-issued devices completely. Most people are against this choice made by Congress, seeing as there is no evidence that TikTok is using this data. Although most people are against the ban, some of the reasons Congress is trying to ban it are quite understandable.

TikTok is able to collect a lot of personal information from users. In the apps privacy

policy, whenever you watch, upload, like, or even bookmark videos or content, TikTok can, and will, collect the following information:

- Any account/profile information and data (name, age, username, phone number, profile image, email, and password).
- Any user-generated content uploaded to the app (including stories, videos, comments, and photos).
- Messages.
- Information used to purchase something through the app (Card numbers, billing, and shipping information, and even third-party payment apps).

With the Congress concerned that TikTok is using this information, they invited TikTok to discuss this matter. TikTok CEO, Shou Zi Chew, appeared before Congress on March 23 to attend the hearing of TikTok.

Chew states, “This comes at a pivotal moment for us. This could take TikTok away from all 150 million of you.”

Chew has told the media that TikTok does not threaten U.S. interests. He has shown in many videos that the app is safe for all of its users by showing him and his own children using the app safely and appropriately. This leads most people to believe the ban is unnecessary and irrelevant to everyday life.

Although the potential ban of TikTok probably won’t be going away anytime soon, these concerns are starting to wander through the minds of millions of citizens. People around the world have just one decision; to delete the app, or to keep scrolling.

Illinois Vacation:

Some fun things to do over the summer as a baller on a budget.

By Bre S.
Senior Reporter

As summer break approaches, many students are excited for the adventures that the upcoming summer of 2023 has to offer. But the stress of how to afford such adventures on a high schooler’s budget comes to mind. A lot of travel websites stress just how much destinations such as Chicago and St. Louis can cost, but both of these destinations are easily affordable if you just know where to look. When looking into a trip with a budget in mind, you can come to many conclusions, all of which allow you to travel while keeping it inexpensive.

Chicago is a city that is often viewed as very expensive, but it doesn’t have to be if you know how to approach it. In fact, you can easily budget a day trip to Chicago with only \$150. To start, you eat breakfast at home, then go to get gas, which should cost you roughly \$50. This puts you down to \$100 for the day.

As you get to Chicago, be sure to stop at the Garfield Park Conservatory, which has free entry and free parking for all of its visitors if you reserve your spot online the day before. As you visit the conservatory, you can walk through numerous rooms, featuring plants from all over the world. Between rooms featuring cacti to rooms filled to the ceiling with monstera and flowers, even students who have never taken Ms. Gresham’s plant class are sure to find some greenery that they thoroughly enjoy.

After some time spent at the conservatory, you can head into Downtown Chicago to Lincoln Park Zoo, which also has free admission. Unfortunately, parking there is roughly \$20 per car, which brings you down to \$80, but you can easily find cheaper spots nearby using the “Spot Hero” app. As you wander through the zoo, you will see animals from all over the world and exhibits that may only be offered seasonally.

Lincoln Park Zoo also features a petting zoo that many children who frequent the park come to favor. As you walk through the park, you may realize that you haven’t eaten since breakfast, but not to fret. Lincoln Park Zoo has numerous restaurants for its visitors to go to. With meals at these restaurants typically ranging from \$7-\$15, that puts you at roughly \$65 for the rest of your day in Chicago. After the zoo, wandering Michigan Avenue is an activity that can take hours, be beautiful, and also feature numerous photo spots that feature different parts of the city.

Once you are done wandering the streets of Chicago, you can stop for a staple dinner at Giordano’s for a deep-dish pizza. With a personal pizza averaging at \$25, you end your day with an extra \$40 that will be able to fund another activity, or possibly a souvenir on your way out of the city.



Student Council:

Welcome to New Board Members!

By Autumn G.
Senior Reporter

Hey IB! The Student Council is hard at work putting together ideas for the 2023-24 school year! General member applications have been turned in and a new Executive Board has been elected. Annabelle Fortin will serve as President. Delaney O’Conner will serve as Vice President. Ella Basham will serve as Social Chair, a position that has replaced Second Vice President. Adela Gonzalez will serve as Secretary. Sarah Patrick will serve as Treasurer and Lillian Karl will serve as Parliamentarian. These members are looking forward to working with the rest of the Student Council to make the 2023-24 school year a success!

Please don’t hesitate to share any suggestions or ideas you may have with a Student Council Representative! We love to hear from you so we know what to try and do to bring the most enjoyment possible to the student body! Also, make sure to follow our Social Media accounts! Have a great summer!

Mental Health Awareness Month

By Bre S.

Senior Reporter

As we enter the month of May, some people here at Illini Bluffs begin to reflect on what May signifies for those who face mental health struggles. May is Mental Health Awareness Month, which is something that was implemented to reduce the stigma that comes along with those facing mental health issues. During the month of May, many companies implement mind relaxing exercises and encourage their employees to speak to mental health counselors if needed.

As many of these efforts are made in companies, they are also made in online communities, not only in the month of May, but year round as well. One website that is available year round—and highly emphasized at Illini Bluffs High School—is Safe2Help. Here, students can anonymously reach out when they are in a time of need. Safe2Help is commonly known to help remove the stigma that comes with mental health, foster kindness, and also instill important life lessons in students across the state that allows them to grow and help others.

Another website that people can visit is provided by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Lifeline Chat and Text. This allows you to reach out to counselors at any time of day and talk to them when you are in a time of desperation. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline also allows you to call and talk to someone over the phone, if you desire to speak to someone instead of texting.

Mental health is something that is just as important as physical health, but unfortunately, it is something that is often overlooked. Some ways that you can improve your mental health could include going on a hike, reaching out to friends or family, and engaging in activities with those around you.

Meet the Staff

These are the faces behind scenes helping create the paper every month.



Kristina Petrey: Editor-in-Chief

I am, as I've said who knows how many times, Editor-in-Chief and creator of this lovely paper. This started as an idea towards the end of my junior year and—with the assistance of my parents, teachers, and now my little group of freshmen, whom I've dubbed as my little ducklings—it eventually turned into this paper we know and love.

Every month, I'm responsible for handing out articles, editing said articles, and arranging the articles onto the actual paper itself. This means a lot of after school and early morning editing that Ms. Sewell and I work together (which we call elf-time, I don't really know how the name came to be. Probably the early morning giggles.)

And, of course, I'm a senior. Who will be graduating. Leaving my adventures of public education and seeking a higher education. I will be attending Western Illinois University with my bestest friend in the whole wide world, Katie Russell, where I will be studying business management, much to my mother's opposition. This also probably comes as a shock to the greater majority of people I know.

I just wanted to thank everyone who has supported this paper. This started out as an idea and now has become something that, hopefully, will be here to stay. I'm so proud of all these writers and editors. Please, keep up the good work and remember that I'm only a Snapchat message away.

Ms. Sewell: Newspaper Sponsor

My love for newspapers and journalism really manifested my junior year of high school. I was so ready to go off to college, become a renowned journalist, and write a hard-hitting expose that would win me a Pulitzer.

As I began working for the Bradley campus newspaper, "The Scout," though, I realized that, while I loved newspaper writing, it would not fulfill me in the way that teaching fulfills me, so I decided to switch my major to English education.

That being said, I was devastated when I had to give up newspaper editing at Bradley last May upon my graduation because it felt like I was saying goodbye to an important part of who I am. So when I found Kristina had created the "Tiger Times" here, I was thrilled.

Helping students put together this amazing newspaper has been an honor and a beautiful adventure, and I am so excited to see where it goes!



Food Review 2.0

In October, we did a food review talking about the updates in the school's menu. Now eight months later, we're here for one last review.

By Celine L.

Managing Editor

Throughout this school year, IB students have seen a positive change in the quality of the food provided for our lunches. In the past, we have had extremely dry and bland chicken, basically burnt pizza, and burgers that just generally didn't even feel like eating a real burger. This year, those same foods have evolved into something that students can enjoy. Rather than throwing food away and going to class hungry, students are now finishing their whole plate and going to class with the energy they need to get through the day. The newer additions to the menu have really piqued my interest and I couldn't wait to see what's in store.

The BBQ pulled pork was something I didn't expect to see on the menu. I have a lot of pulled pork at home around summertime, so I was pretty excited. This reminded me of summer barbecues and home cooking. Honestly, it surprised me! The pulled pork was pretty impressive, and it is definitely something more unique compared to the foods served in the past. I definitely hope I see this on the menu in the future. I would rate it a 8.5/10.

When I saw lemon pepper chicken on the lunch menu I was honestly excited. I eat a lot of chicken and I feel as though I have every right to call myself a chicken connoisseur. When I first saw the chicken I was caught a little off guard because it was surprisingly small, though it tasted really good. We also had the option to get a honey citrus sauce with the chicken which was absolutely amazing with the chicken. The pairing really complemented each other's flavors. As a self proclaimed chicken connoisseur, I was thoroughly impressed. I was really happy with the lemon pepper chicken and I hope to see this on the menu again. I would rate the lemon pepper chicken a solid 10/10.

Going into this I really didn't understand what the pasta bake was. I honestly expected it to be something else, though I'm not entirely sure what. It seemed pretty similar to lasagna, which I personally am not a huge fan of. The pasta itself was pretty good but I didn't really care much for the sauce. It had a weird flavor that I just didn't enjoy. I finished my plate but mostly just because I was hungry rather than actually enjoying all of the food. I feel that maybe the only reason I didn't like it that much was because I went into it expecting something different. Despite this, I think I would rate it a 6.5/10.

Overall, I think our school lunches have improved significantly since the beginning of this school year and it seems like most of us students are happy with the changes that have been made. Instead of getting lunch and throwing over half of the tray away, most students are actually eating the majority of what is on their plate. I also love the fact that our school is exploring new kinds of food and seeing what works and what doesn't. Obviously, these are just my personal opinions on our new food, so feel free to try the new foods out for yourself!

Trends of Our Year

With the 2022-2023 school year coming to an end, let's look at the trends that took us by storm.

By Celine L.

Managing Editor

Over the course of this school year, we all have definitely gone through our phases with popular trends. This could be anything between fashion trends or a simple TikTok sound. With this being such a memorable year, it seems necessary to take a little trip down memory lane and see what kept us all sane.

Unfortunately, it will cost you four dabloons to continue reading. Just kidding, we would never. Anyone who is a chronic TikTok user knows of the Dabloons trend. It started with someone posting a picture of a black cat holding up its paw captioned, "four dabloons." This meme gained a lot of traction on TikTok and even evolved into a fake virtual "economy" where you could trade your "dabloons" for random items such as soup, blankets, and much more. The economy has expanded significantly by now, so there are plenty more things that are available for you to purchase with your dabloons. Be careful, though, you never know when someone is trying to trick you. Be cautious of thieves and robbers as it is hard to tell when someone is being genuine or trying to steal your dabloons!

"He's witewally hitting the gwiddy wight now." The Griddy is quite an interesting yet confusing trend. The griddy is simply a little dance that everyone knows and loves. Alternatingly tapping your feet, either in place or while walking, and waving your arms back and forth. This trend was created by a football player named Allen Davis in 2019, but it didn't go viral until about 2021. The trend refuses to die as it always comes back as soon as you think it's over. It's time to just come to terms with it and witerally keep hittin' the gwiddy.

"One thing about me..." is that when I was only 16, I joined the Tiger Times and met a family of people that I could never forget. This trend will forever hold a special place in my heart. People have been using the line "one thing about me..." from Nicki Minaj's song "Super Freaky Girl" to tell absolutely insane stories about themselves on TikTok. The sort of things on the internet you need eye bleach for can most definitely be found under this song. The stories people tell using this sound can range from childhood trauma to the absolute most diabolical thing you have ever heard of. Sometimes TikTok really humbles you and lets you know that maybe failing a math test isn't the worst that could happen.

The Wednesday dance. No introduction required. The popular dance scene from the Netflix series "Wednesday" quickly took over everyone's for you page after the series came out. Jenna Ortega had choreographed the scene by herself despite not being a dancer, which made the trend feel easier and more welcoming to non-dancers on Tik Tok. Some people would even dress up as Wednesday and really set the mood for the videos.

Throughout the year, Tik Tok has had a wide range of trends, some more obscure and niche, while some swept through all the "sides" of Tik Tok. Taking this trip down memory lane has definitely been nostalgic in the weirdest way possible. But, enjoy the time on the app because who knows if it's going to be around much longer.



Meet the Staff



Autumn Gray: Reporter

Hi! I am Autumn Gray. I am a Senior at IB and will be attending Bradley this fall. As the President of Student Council, I usually write the monthly Student Council article for the Tiger Times. I love getting to share updates with the school about the fun activities we are planning. Next year, I hope the newspaper continues doing an awesome job of promoting the different clubs and organizations that are going on around the school!

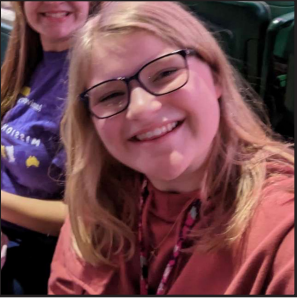


Bre Moore: Graphic Design

Bre Moore was in-charge of the graphics for most of her time in the paper. Meaning, she would gather pictures, take photos, and edit said photos to ensure the paper had a healthy balance of both.

Bre will be resuming her training for the Army over the summer, and after that, she will be attending Western Illinois University to study pre-law. She enjoyed meeting all the underclassmen that participated in creating the paper

every month. After her time here comes to end, she will miss all the people she met here. Her journalism journey will come to an end after she graduates, but she enjoyed the time while it lasted.



Katie Allen: Reporter

Hey, Ya'll. My name is Katie Allen, and I am a freshman reporter. High school was a big change for all of us, but so many opportunities helped me adjust to the next phase of my life.

I am currently involved in the Newspaper, Student Council, Concert, and Pep Band, Track, and am I'm an honor student. I have been in the newspaper for most of the school year, I started right after the first edition was released.

My favorite thing about the Tiger Times is that I can freely write. I can be myself and express my style through my writing. It has brought some challenges, but who doesn't love a good challenge?

I am so excited to say that I get to watch this amazing thing grow throughout my high school career with me and the other writers/ contributors. I think that having this newspaper has brought a new way for students to connect, they can be excited to check out what is going on in their school. Some may even see themselves in the paper which I, for one, am so proud of.



Emily Tibbs: Editor

My name is Emily Tibbs and I am a senior. I have been an editor for the newspaper for the 2022-2023 school year. I enjoy editing this paper because it not only helps me strengthen my editing skills, but it also helps others strengthen their writing skills. As a senior who will be graduating soon, I want to say that I greatly appreciate every staff member of this newspaper and I look forward to seeing the future of it.



Bre Smallberger: Reporter

Hello! I'm Bre Smallberger and I am a senior at Illini Bluffs High School. This is my first and, unfortunately, last year writing for the Tiger Times. It is something that I have deeply enjoyed. I have been incharge of writing what happens in the library, due to the fact I'm seen more often in there than one of the classrooms. I also just jump in whenever Kristina needs me.

For the majority of my high school career, I was heavily involved with the Drama Club's backstage crew and that is something that I recommend everyone to experience.

I am also currently a volunteer firefighter on Logan-Trivoli Fire Protection District, which has allowed me to reach out to help those in the community and beyond Illini Bluffs. In the fall of 2023 semester, I plan to go to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to study nursing to become a flight nurse.

As I exit this school I'd like to give underclassmen one word of advice: it truly is easier to ask forgiveness than permission. So do with that as you will.



Katie Russell: Media Manager, Graphic Designer

My name is Katie Russell, and I do a lot of the art for the Tiger Times. I was in charge of most of the hand drawings. I have had such a wonderful time participating in this newspaper and being surrounded by other creative and talented people. I am so proud of how far it's come and hope it continues in the future. I love reading the articles the other students create, and I loved being a part of it. Keep writing!

C.J Grice: Reporter

My name is C.J. Grice. I am a senior at Illini Bluffs. My time in school has been jam packed. I played in soccer for 3 years and participated in the drama club my junior and senior years. I was also a member of the scholastic bowl team for the past 2 years.

I've always had a love of movies, I really like Barry Lyndon, Tenet, and Under the Silver Lake just to name a couple of my favorites.

I just recently started writing for the newspaper at the beginning of this semester because I thought it was cool and overall wanted to know how they work. My favorite part of writing for this newspaper was working with the rest of the staff in Ms. Sewell's room back when this was a community hour.

After my time here in school comes to an end, I will be attending ICC for industrial mathematics and Mandarin oranges.

Grace Thomas: Editor

Hi, I'm Grace Thomas! I'm one of the editors for the newspaper. Almost everything in the paper gets reviewed by me. I'm so grateful to have been given the chance to be apart of this project and community hour. I hope this paper continues for many years to come!

Lauren Bailey: Reporter, Editor

Hi, I'm Lauren, a writer and editor for the Tiger Times. This year, I was on the Volleyball and Track teams and a part of the IBHS newspaper and Student Council. I enjoy walking in the woods, bird watching, painting, and shopping for all kinds of things, despite being unable to afford most things.

Anna Schottmer: Reporter

My main role in the newspaper is to write where I need to in order to make sure that the newspaper is filled in with different perspectives. Everyone on the newspaper team has their own set of unique experiences, and I am grateful to be around such talented peers.

Lillian Karl: Reporter

This was my first year being involved in the school newspaper and I have definitely learned a lot of new techniques and perspectives! I have written numerous articles within the editions, such as sports, events within the school, charity work, ect. I also sent in some of my photography for some articles and took ones that were more relevant to the topic.

While developing my writing skills, my favorite part of this activity was getting to know the people within my community hour because if you were stuck on one of your articles, one of them would have the perfect idea to wrap off where you had left.

Celine Lamirand: Managing Editor

I'm Celine, the managing editor for the Tiger Times. I have been writing for the newspaper since October this year.

I started by writing a simple food review as a junior contributor and eventually moved up to managing editor working with graphic design, editing, and writing. Next year, I will fill the role of editor-in-chief which has been passed down to me from Kristina.

I'm very thankful for this opportunity and I'm very excited to take on this role. I can't wait to see what everyone does next year!

Gracie Llhamon: Reporter

Gracie Llhamon is a freshman who joined the Tiger Times staff in October. She primarily wrote sports articles or anything else that piqued her interest.

