



UFC Fighter
see P7

TIGER TIMES

October Edition



Conjuring review
see P2

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Students participate in Senior Eric P. presentation to kick of the Mental Health Fair.

'Bluey' visits IB Highschool

By Meadow H.
News Editor

The Mental Health Fair is an annual event created to spread awareness about mental health. The day is filled with fun, mind-easing activities, and often includes a special treat. This year's Mental Health Day Fair, which took place on Friday, Sept. 9, was themed "Bluey."

Ms. Marvin, the high school guidance counselor, said that the committee had changed this year after some of the teachers had left last year. Because of the hole left by the retirement and relocation of previous members, high school special education teacher Ms. Matzke took it over and made it her own.

"I just took the bull by the horns and made some changes," Matzke said.

These changes included the introduction of rock painting, the band playing at the kick-off, a student testimony, an ice cream sundae bar, and spending time with elementary kids.

When talking with Matzke, she said that her main goal was to spread positivity, not just

for one day, but all 365 days of the year and to encourage finding "your person."

"Into next year, we are really gonna put in to making this a district-wide event, so that the elementary and middle schools are all mingling and we're all talking about the importance of positivity and what to do when we can't find that positivity and where we can look to an adult or teacher that can look up to," Ms. Matzke said.

Many people are enjoying the fair this year more than in previous years, and we believe it's due to the theme and the staff running it.

"The staff were a lot more interactive this year compared to the last few," senior Kaden H. said.

And several other students who attended the fair agreed.

"This has been my favorite year so far," Senior Myles N. said.

Overall, the Mental Health Day Fair was a huge success, with the majority of those loving all the different components.

Illini Bluffs High School online safety presentation

By Addy D. And Annabelle C.
Editor-in-Chief and News Reporter

Students at Illini Bluffs High School recently took part in listening to a presentation—thanks to the Illinois Attorney General's Office—about online safety and how to stay safe in the rapidly evolving digital world.

Karilyn Orr, the representative who came to present on Sept. 23, spoke with students about the risks of having an online presence, and how to mitigate the danger. Orr talked to the students about how many of the cases they see are related to grooming, different types of manipulation and "sextortion," when a person threatens to share explicit content online unless their demands are met.

She works in the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, which is a team that

works to prevent crimes against minors online. She explains how a lot of victims are too scared to speak up because they don't want to get in trouble.

"One mistake I see teens make is not trusting that it's okay to tell a parent or law enforcement," Orr said. "Reporting isn't snitching, it's protecting yourself or a friend."

Many students felt that they walked away from the presentation with new tools to help protect themselves and others.

"The websites were pretty cool," junior Serina S. said. "I had no idea about them, the one called 'Take It Down' stood out. If you've sent a photo you're scared might get shared, you can send it in and they'll work to remove it from platforms."

Superintendent Mr. Dimitri Almasi explained how Illini Bluffs is committed to

Keeping Up with Interact Club

By Ella D.
News Reporter

Interact club has been off to a busy start this year, with helping campers at Camp Big Sky, packaging diapers and more.

The Interact Club was already off to a busy start with having two opportunities over the summer, with both benefiting Camp Big Sky, a camp for children and adults with disabilities, helping them discover, learn and enjoy the beautiful outdoors free of charge.

"One of those visits was assisting with their fundraiser for Yakin' It Up, and then the other was getting to work with individuals that utilize their camp and facilities," Interact Club Advisor Brianna Strantz said.

Interact visited Camp Big Sky again on Oct. 1, where they'll assist campers from the Farmington life skills class.

Every Friday, the Interact club can be seen selling root beer floats at lunch with all proceeds going to Camp Dallas--this years' charity of choice.

"[Camp Dallas] is an outdoor space for at-risk children to go and enjoy the outdoors and alleviate any mental hardships they face," Strantz said.

The club is dedicated to helping serve the community around them, and beyond. They host an internation fundraiser, Purple Pinkies for Polio, which the proceeds go towards the erradication of Polio.

There are currently 32 members serving in the club, with applications for new members coming after Winter Break.



Interact club at Loving Bottoms

giving students access to the resources they need, and educating them on how to navigate the internet safely.

"You've got all these things to help get out of those Spirals and say there is help available. Mistakes happen, we can help get these tools, there's safe to help is the big one that I push because that's monitored 24/7," Almasi said.

Orr promotes following positive influencers, thinking critically about actions performed while online, being conscious about sharing personal information while using social media and just being kind to others.

"One of the biggest takeaways I want for students is the willingness to be a better digital citizen—treating people with respect and kindness online," Orr said. "And if something does happen, knowing where to go for help."

Top five worst games not blocked by school wifi

By Ayden B.
Voice Reporter

There are lots of games available on the internet, but recently, most of the good ones have been banned. All the rest are either ok or just horrible. This list is to help you avoid the bad games. And if the teachers are reading this, go ahead and block these.

Google Snake

I can't even begin to say how much I dislike this game. It is repetitive, boring, and just overall horrible. You can play this game for a maximum of five minutes before you get insanely bored with it. The game just repeats itself over and over. The only thing saving this from being lower is the customisable settings.

Speed Stars

This one is my personal opinion for many reasons. The controls are wonky and make no sense.

The character-building feature makes no sense. You can have a character with 90 power and 10 stamina and still get smoked in a 100m dash, or it can be the other way around, a 94 stamina and eight power get smoked in an 800m. The game just doesn't make any sense.

Minesweeper

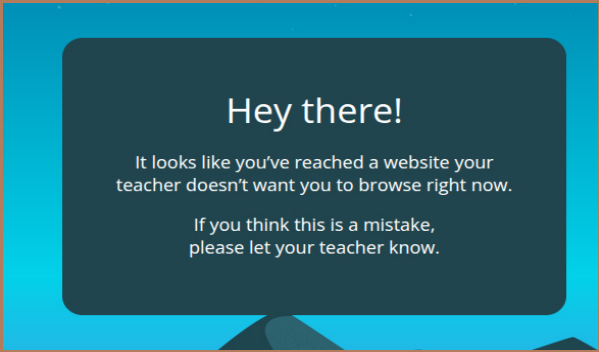
Just block this one already; it is horrible. Unless you are someone who enjoys overthinking and doing math, this game is not for you. The game is just constant guessing; basically, who wants to use their brain for it? No one. Please get rid of this game; it is horrible.

Run 3

Don't get me wrong, this is a fun game that can keep you entertained for a while, but the lag makes it almost impossible. There have been many times when, in the middle of playing, I have lagged so badly that I fall off the map. It is absolutely horrible. If the lag were fixed, the game would be amazing and would instantly come off this list.

Solitaire

Four words for you: get rid of it. This game is just horrible in every aspect. Who wants to play a game that requires sitting there and playing cards in their free time? On top of that, it's not even a fun card game like blackjack; it is a game that should have been left offline because it is not it.



The Conjuring: Did it scare you?

By Emma H. Ashlyn F. And Narissa H.
Voice Reporters

The final Conjuring movie came out on Friday, Sept. 5. The film is a part of a series that has sequels, so it's a good time to talk about all the movies in the franchise and how they all differ from one another. Based on all these films, we've decided to rank them by jump scare factor, horror factor, and overall ranking of the movies.

Jump Scare Factor

Jumpscare in all genres of horror movies are one of the biggest parts of making them scary because they're the things that make you want to close your eyes while watching. All of "The Conjuring" movies have a variety of jump scares in them, but how scary they are varies greatly. We have decided to rank all of the movies on a scale of 1-10, one being not very scary and 10 being the scariest.

The first Conjuring movie was ranked a 7/10 because the first fright was hide and clap, which involves one person being blindfolded and spinning in a circle while counting to 10, while the other players hide. After the player is done counting, they walk around and can ask for three claps to find the others. In the movie, the mother Carolyn walked out of her bedroom at night, believing she heard the girls playing. When she didn't see any of the girls, she looked in their rooms, but they were all asleep. She then heard clapping downstairs, so she went and followed it. Seeing the basement door ajar, she investigated. When she didn't see anyone, she tried to leave, and then the door shut, hitting her and causing her to fall down the stairs. Carolyn started to run upstairs only to find out that she was locked in the dark. She lit a match, and she started to look downstairs with it when she was asked by a child's voice if she wanted to play hide and clap. Immediately after, disembodied hands clapped next to her. Although this jumpscare and others like it were good and made me jump, I didn't have to go as far as to close my eyes or anything of that sort.

The second one was ranked as a 5/10 because the jump scares were good, but they weren't as scary as they could have been and didn't make me jump like I would want them to. In the movie, Peggy Hodgson's son Bill was trying to go to sleep when he heard his toy firetruck on the floor. He got out of bed, grabbed his truck, and went to his tent in the hallway. He got on the floor and rolled his fire truck into the tent, and when he did, the fire truck rolled back out to him, and then a big, tall figure called the crooked man jumped out and scared Billy. This can make a lot of people jump, but not like the scares in the other movies could.

The third was ranked as an 8/10 because the scares wouldn't make it to a 10 out of 10, but they were better than the first two movies. In this conjuring, one of the jump scares was when David, Judy's son, heard a big banging while lying in bed, which caused him to run into the bathroom. He had jumped into the bath tub and closed the shower curtain, and when the movie cuts to the top of the curtain you can see a pair of hands that disappear and the shower nozzles turn on and blood starts shooting out of the shower. When Ed broke open the door, David was in the corner and came running out with a sharp piece of glass, shoving it into Ed's leg. This scene caused us to jump out of our seats or even close our eyes.

The fourth was ranked an overall 10 out of 10 because the characters that did the jump scares looked the scariest out of all the movies, a very important factor, and the scares were overall just the best. For example, the little girl Shannon Smurl in the fourth conjuring had a doll that crawled on the floor. She walked into her older sister's bedroom with the mirror, and she saw the doll crawling by itself. The doll was then floating in the air, and a demon who was a description of Malthus had shown up behind the doll, holding it, causing a jumpscare. They made Malthus look very scary, which made this scene a lot more terrifying. Another scare in the movie was when the girl was blowing out her candles while watching TV on the night of her birthday. Before she can blow the candles out, they extinguish, and she believes her sister beat her to it. As she watched the TV, she saw a figure on the screen, and then the man with an axe popped up and caused a jumpscare, which scared people enough, but they weren't messing around about the way he looked, so it made you jump more. Overall, this Conjuring movie wins as the best in the jump scare selection out of all the others.

Horror Factor

The horror factor is the overall scare quality of a movie, which is built upon a couple of different things, such as music, lighting, monster design, sound effects and the fact that these movies are based on true events.

To start us off, let's rank the first movie. The film was rated a 5/10 for the scare factor because it honestly wasn't too scary; the jump scares just got us all. We have to remember that jumpscare might be scary, but is the creature that's jumpscaring us truly frightening?

The next movie is the second Conjuring, which got ranked at 5/10. Again, the jump scares were pretty scary, and the demonic entities possessing people were terrifying, but did they really get you startled? The sound effects and lighting got most of the points for this film ranking.

The third movie, "The Devil Made Me Do It," was ranked a 7/10. This is the scariest Conjuring movie in the franchise BY FAR. The sound effects and the lighting were perfection. The execution of this movie was great, and it really had us shaking in our boots.

Finally, the last film, "The Last Rite," was ranked 5/10. Was it a good movie? Yes. Was it scary? Not really. The reason why we ranked this film a 5/10 is that it just wasn't scary. The sound effects weren't that scary, and the lighting was unremarkable. The only scary scene in the film was the beginning scene, and that's about it. Furthermore, the demonic entities that are in this movie aren't scary at all.

The Conjuring cont. from Pg.2

Overall Ranking

Overall, the third film is ranked the highest in jump scares and horror factor, but hear us out. The second movie is the best in our hearts. Why? The jump-scares, the horror! It's terrifying and had everyone on the edge of their seats, wondering what's going to happen next. Especially because the Warrens became the targets. Amazing plot!

The third movie in the franchise, "The Devil Made Me Do It," is second on our ranking because it wasn't the best, but it's definitely not the worst. It was great, actually, and executed very nicely. This movie had Ashlyn holding onto the edge of the table, biting her lips, waiting in anticipation to see what was lurking in the basement.

Speaking of lurking, the next movie on our ranking is number one, the original Conjuring movie. The girl who was tormenting the family was horrifying, and rightfully so. She was the creature around whom this film revolved. We feel that it was great, and it was definitely a great movie to start the series off with. It could definitely be more revolved around the backstory of the entity itself, though, because we only got to see a bit of that throughout the entirety of the film.

Now, the last movie to be ranked is the final Conjuring movie, "The Last Rites." Overall, this movie was well put together. Better than the rest, even, but could you watch this movie and understand some of the scenes with only prior knowledge from the Conjuring franchise? No. An example of this is in one of the scenes, where you can see Annabelle, and she is MASSIVE. But why? You would only get that scene if you watched the movie "Annabelle Comes Home." Despite this, the plot was great, though, and it correlates to the first paranormal experience Ed and Lorraine Warren had ever been through, hence the plot leading back to the beginning of the movie.

Hudson Westbrook takes on local Peoria Riverfront

By **Karrigan W.**
Voice Reporter

Hudson Westbrook and his opener Solon Holt played on their tour in Peoria at the CEFCU Center stage on Saturday, Sept. 6. This was a very big event, although the venue was fairly small, there were a lot of people. I know that I personally saw over 20 people from Illini Bluffs High School, so it's safe to say that he is a fan favorite around Glasford.

The general consensus from the people I asked about the concert had a great time. From fun times with friends to enjoying the sights and sounds coming from the man, the myth, the legend, everyone who went had a fantastic time.

For a bit of background, before his last songs, Hudson always covers one or two songs from other artists. That night, he sang "You Belong with Me" by Taylor Swift and "The House That Built Me" by Miranda Lambert. For me, this was the best part: to hear one of my favorite songs by another artist in the style of another artist that I love. According to a good chunk of IBHS students who went, they were also moved by the covers Hudson did.

To comment on the venue, however small, it was a big party. There were a lot of people there, and a lot of people I knew, which adds to just how many people around you are a Hudson Westbrook fan and you didn't even know. According to senior Chloe E. the venue was cool because it was "by the river and close to the bridge." The bridge she is referring to is the Murray Baker bridge which lights up at night, illuminating the night and making the best vibes for a riverside concert.

One of the questions I asked everyone was what their favorite part of the concert was. One thing that I can personally relate to is the fact that even though it was a smaller



Student Lillian K. with Hudson Westbrook

venue, there were not as many people as if he were a bigger artist so you could easily get right up to the stage if you were there a little bit early. We even got there at 8 p.m. and we were able to stand at the gate in front of the stage because everyone was more worried about being in the middle. The view from the sides of the stage was still great and handsome came over to the side and messed with the crowd right in front of me.

Although I can't attest to everyone's experience beyond what they told me, my family and I had a great time. My little siblings had fun and after about 9:30, my brother and our friends enjoyed some time without children. We screamed and danced to our favorite songs by our favorite artist.

Demon Slayer kills at the box office

By **Shayley D.**
Voice Reporter

"Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba—Infinity Castle" has been a long-awaited movie to the point that it gained more money on its opening weekend than the cost of the movie itself. The movie is 2 hours and 35 minutes long. The budget of the movie itself is \$20 million but on its opening weekend it earned over \$17.3 million Friday–Sunday bringing its total domestic gross to \$104.73 million in the U.S. and a total of over \$555 million worldwide. It now holds the title of the highest-grossing anime film of all time and the highest-grossing Japanese film globally.

The primary factor contributing to the movie's success is the fighting scenes; there are a total of six fighting scenes ranked from weakest to strongest. Fight one. Shinobu Kocho VS. Doma. In this fight, Shinobu is after revenge against Doma for what he did. Fight two. Zenitsu Agatsuma VS. Kaigaku. In this fight, Kaigaku was a former Senior of Zenitsu, whom he no longer sees as his Senior because of the decisions Kaigaku had made. Fight three. Tanjiro Kamado and Giyu Tomioka VS. Akaza. In this fight, when Tanjiro sees Akaza, he seeks to avenge Kyojuri Rengoku. Fight four. Kanao Truyuri and Inosuke Hashibira VS. Doma. In this fight, Inosuke finds out what Doma did, and is enraged. Fight five. Mitsuri Kanroji and Obanai Iguro VS. Nakime. There is not much I can put down about this fight without spoiling it. Fight six. Muichiro Tokito, Genya Shinazugawa, Senemi Shinazugawa, and Gyomei Himejima VS. Kokushibo. In this fight, they band together to fight the rank one Kokushibo, which is the highest rank below Muzan. The final fight is all demon slayers against the demon king Muzan.

Some people who haven't watched Demon Slayer are probably asking why there is so much hype about the seasons and the movie itself. Well, the first season came out on April 6 to Sept. 28, 2019. The first season has been viewed 2.1 billion times in total. This 26-episode season was produced by Studio Ufotable and adapted from the early chapters of the manga series. Although the manga series came out in 2016, it is still high-ranked, even though it is the youngest by 20 years compared to the other most popular manga on the all-time list. The second season began airing in Japan on Oct. 10, 2021, with the Mugen Train Arc Recompilation, and the main Entertainment District Arc started on Dec. 5, 2021, ending on Feb. 13, 2022. The third season, titled the Swordsmith Village Arc, premiered on April 9, 2023. It concluded on June 18, 2023, with an extended 70-minute episode, the fourth season, titled the "Hashira Training Arc", premiered on May 12, 2024, the season concluded with a 1-hour episode on June 30, 2024, which leads us to the first part of the Demon Slayer Infinity Castle movie, it was first released in Japan on July 18, 2025, but it didn't release in the U.S. until September of 2025. For the 2nd and final part of the movie, there is no official release date, but there is wide speculation that the second part of the movie will come out in 2027 and the final part in 2029.

Because of the intense fighting scenes and the high-tier animations, Demon Slayer is one of the best fighting anime of all time, as well as the stories and flashbacks of each character, which is what makes the anime so unique.

“Don’t Tap The Glass”: A deep dive

By Emma H.
Voice Reporter

Tyler, the Creator, a figure known for his genre-bending approaches to music, dropped one of his newest albums, “Don’t Tap The Glass,” and it’s a wild ride. This album sees Tyler pushing the boundaries of conventional hip-hop, blending elements of jazz, R&B, and experimental soundscapes to create a listening experience that is as challenging as it is rewarding to listeners.

Lyricaly, Tyler dives into themes of identity, success, and personal growth, offering listeners a glimpse into his mindset that people have yet to see. This album has given many listeners a sense of joy when listening, and it is generally just some fun songs to listen to when you’re feeling happy!

“Don’t Tap The Glass” is more than just an album to listen to; it’s a statement in the form of music. It’s Tyler, the Creator at his most ambitious, refusing to be confined to just one genre and inviting listeners to join him on a journey of bliss by song.

Ranking the songs on this album is tough, but not impossible. Some of these songs are beautiful and upbeat, while others are slow and steady. Tyler’s known for his albums being very bipolar regarding their style and production, but he always ends up making masterpieces.

The song “Sugar On My Tongue” is the public’s favorite, with over 125 million plays on Spotify in less than three months. That’s impressive. The music video was also a hit on YouTube, with over 9.5 million views. I’m not surprised that this particular song is popular; the beat is amazing, and the lyrics are catchy!

My personal favorite song on this album is “Ring Ring Ring.” This song is also quite popular, with over 69 million plays on Spotify, and it’s included in his top five, alongside “Sugar On My Tongue.” While there’s no music video, it’s still a great song, and you can interpret it in your mind.

The other songs on the album that are more hip-hop rap are “Big Poe,” “Sucka Free,” “Mommanem,” “Don’t Tap The Glass/Tweakin’,” and “Don’t You Worry Baby.” You might like those songs if you’re feeling joyful and want to listen to some hype, upbeat songs.

The slower songs on the album include “I’ll Take Care Of You” and “Tell Me What It Is.” Although there are only two slow-ish songs, they are the definition of perfection. The melody, lyrics, and songs in general are amazing, and everyone should listen to them.

Overall, this album is a 10/10, and I wish I could listen to it again for the first time all over again. Tyler really outdid himself with this album, and anyone would be lucky to see him perform these songs live.



Teen hot spots: What's been gained and what's been lost

By Rowan G.
Voice Reporter

Local teens are saying goodbye to a few favorite places, but there will also be some new additions for teens to check out.

The biggest loss, in my opinion, is AMC Pekin 14, which closed after 15 years of late-night movies and popcorn runs. Another loss would be the once popular, small cafe, the Coffee Can, which was many students' after-school hangout. With both facilities gone, it leaves teens feeling like they have no space left where they can just go and hang out.

While it is unfortunate that places are closing, there are also some new businesses appearing rapidly. Just 11 miles away from Illini Bluffs High School, Pekin, IL, is one of the cities growing with new stores and businesses. The city is gaining a Ross, Marshall's, Five Below, and even a fan-favorite food option: Chipotle. Chipotle offers a quick stop for burritos and is conveniently located near the stores that were mentioned previously. Teens would be able to have a fun shopping day while being able to replenish their energy with some Mexican food.

It's sort of a trade-off for local teens. Yes, we are losing a couple of beloved places, but we are also gaining fresh places to shop and eat.

'IEWU' court case could be seeing a new face: Taylor Swift

By Lillian K.
Voice Reporter and Graphic Designer



Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni are appearing, once again, on national television. They are scheduled for federal court against each other located in New York on March 9, 2026. The trial is regarding each other's feud of allegations that were exchanged between the two actors while filming, “It Ends With Us.” However, this time there is one new potential addition to the case: Taylor Swift.

There are many possible reasons why Taylor Swift is being dragged into this legal battle due to a few factors. These theories could include the feature of her song “My Tears Ricochet” from the writer's album “Folklore” being in the film, or her friendship, at the time, with Blake Lively during this production.

Taylor Swift was not listed as a defender, but her name has popped up in legal documents. For instance, the judge informed Baldoni that the messages between the girls must be turned over to him.

While no individual wants to participate in legal action, the singer is going to do everything she can to prevent being involved.

“My client did not agree to a deposition, but if she is forced into a deposition, we advised that her schedule would accommodate the time required during the week of Oct. 20 if the parties were able to work out their disputes,” Swift's lawyer, Douglas Baldrige said.

If Taylor is forced into the case, she will be expected to present information on the conversations and any additional news that was shared with her by Blake. However, in the long run, if she is dragged into the legal battle it could impact her reputation and career. Taylor Swift had cut ties between her and Lively due to her feeling betrayed and the legal action against Justin Baldoni; news reports informed readers that Blake didn't even reach out regarding Swift's recent engagement to Travis Kelce. The celebrities had been friends since 2015, starting with the songwriter's song, “Bad Blood.” To add to this, Taylor is also the godmother to Blake and Ryan's children. However, right now, Blake Lively is a person that not many people want to be seen with.

'IEWU' Court case cont. on Pg. 5



Christ Orchard





Tanners Orchard





Tin Can Farms



Pumpkin patch rankings: Which ones the best?

By Josie P. and Meadow H.
Voice Reporters

CHRIST ORCHARD:

The Pumpkins at Christ Orchard are very reasonable in price, ranging from \$1 to \$8. The prices of the pumpkins, however, were just for the ones located on the rack. They do not have the U-pick options out yet and they also do not have the you picks able for you to go out too yet. Despite this, the pumpkins are supposed to be out in the next couple of weeks.

It was well put together, but I felt that they could expand more on having a full “fall” “experience”. As of now, this business is a good place to go for apples, and by the middle of October, you can expand on your pumpkin collection.

Josie- 4/5 stars because it's more of the pumpkins and a little bit of the experience

Meadow- 4/5 stars it was a mix in between a homey pumpkin patch and the more of an attraction. It wasn't too overwhelming but was also kind of underwhelming at the same time. Prices per pumpkin were pretty moderate as well.

TANNERS:

If you are wanting more of a fall experience, other than just pumpkin and apples, this facility is a must see. .The starting price for the pumpkins is \$8, but the larger they become, the higher the pricing, which will eventually max out at \$25. The orchard has a u-pick option, a pick off the cart option, a corn maze, a petting zoo, a playground and even pony rides.

Josie- 3/5 stars too much of experience for me but a good place to go.

Meadow- 5/5 stars because they have a variety of activities to do and they have great food plus a bunch of fun fall drinks to choose from. They also include the option to just go pick pumpkins and or apples and bypass the rest. It may be kind of overwhelming with all the people though.

TIN CAN FARMS:

It is a very cute, little pumpkin patch. It is a very good way to help support a local farm and the school. As you pull into the field, you can find carts of pumpkins and gourds in all shapes and colors. Behind the carts of pumpkins, there is a little field you can walk through to find the pumpkins you want to take home. They have little wagons to use to carry them and cutters to help cut the stems, if needed. Pumpkins and gourds are \$3 and mini pumpkins are \$2. If no one is there, there is a lockbox for you to put the money in or venmo them.

Josie- 5/5 stars I love this pumpkin patch, but I am a little biased because it is my family farm

Meadow- 3/5 stars gets straight to the point but you would miss out on the attraction element. In terms of affordability, Tin Can Farms blew the competition out of the water with pumpkins that are \$3 or less.

'IEWU' Court cont. from Pg. 4

The actor is seen as rude and has received intense backlash and it has not gone unnoticed. Many fans of Blake thought that she was not taking the theme of the movie, bringing awareness to domestic violence, very seriously, and instead used the film as a way to promote her product.

“This is the most insensitive thing I have ever seen in my life. This film is about domestic violence. Why are they promoting it as if it were a Barbie movie?” an ex-fan, Yesenia Puente Bravo, said.

Due to the controversy involving Lively, it could negatively affect Taylor if she is seen with her again... speculations could include questioning her professional integrity and the authority of her statements. This scenario could potentially cause harm in the near future between her and other celebrities if her reputation takes a turn, causing Swift to be seen as playing “innocent” or the “victim.” As we get closer to the court date, we can only hope for clearer answers, due to almost the whole case being a “play-it-by-ear” type of situation.

Starting strong: IBHS freshman dominates girls XC program

By **Topher B.**
Sports Reporters

We’ve all seen the IB boys’ cross-country team and their ranking; however, people might not have noticed the girl who just achieved one of the fastest freshman times for IHSA: Audrey Dickinson. Audrey has run 7 races at the time of writing this article, 4 of which she has placed 1st.

In 2024, Audrey finished 8th at the 2A IESA State XC Championship out of 230 girls, with a time of 12:21.30. In middle school, athletes compete in a 2-mile race, but in high school, the race distance increases by another mile; this can be a big change for some runners. When Audrey was asked about her biggest challenge, going from a 2-mile race to a 3-mile race, she responded.

“Just upping the mileage was a lot at the beginning.” Audrey Dickinson said

At first, Audrey had to adjust to the increased mileage for races and practice, but

she seemed to settle in quickly, which is evident in her recent performances. At her most recent meet, Audrey placed 3rd out of 106 girls, with a time of 18:04.10; Her fastest time was 17:52.8 at the First To The Finish Invitational, where she placed 9th out of 421.

Audrey has been running for a while now, since she was in 3rd grade. Most people will start that early when they have a big influence or inspiration. When Audrey was asked who or what her influence was, she said that her biggest inspiration is her brother

“Probably Fischer, just watching him go from not being very fast at all and working hard to getting where he is right now.”

Audrey mentions that her brother went from not being very fast to attending college for cross country. She hopes to do well in the rest of her races this year and more in the future.

“I hope to place at state, and I think I have really solid chances of going by just getting PRs consistently.”



A striking player: Will Emhoff leads scoring for IBHS soccer

By **Nathan O. and Brody M.**
Sports Reporters

Illini Bluffs High School soccer team has one junior player who really sticks out when it comes to scoring goals: Will Emhoff. As of now, he has a total of 17 goals and one assist this season, but he wasn’t always the dynamic striker that he is now. With many years of practice and training, it took Emhoff much work to get to where he is today.

While playing travel soccer in his middle school career, he made his way to becoming captain for Limestone Travel Soccer Club. He often played midfield racking up the assists against numerous skilled teams.

Will had a very smooth transition from middle school to high school soccer; however, he was faced with some immediate challenges. He had a new position to play, a new team to meet, and needed to find a way to build up speed, and was playing against more complex teams that he had to face playing at the varsity level.

“Will rarely played the striker position before High School, so he had to learn the role. Moving from being an assist leader to a scoring leader took an adjustment, but he worked through it,” Will’s mom, Beth Emhoff, said.

Will started off with seven goals his freshman year. Now, he has scored a total of 39 goals in his high school career.

“As a teammate, I describe Will as dedicated, very skilled, and an integral part of the team,” Senior midfielder Caleb Showalter said. “He really brings up the team morale and keeps us organized and ready to play every game.”

When Will isn’t out on the field, the team definitely notices.

“When Will is out for injury, we turn the ball over to the other team,” Junior midfielder Brody M. said. “We pass the ball into space and hope another player will get it, but the other team steps to it before we do. We panic under the pressure.”

Will’s importance on the team allows him to build a ground-work for him and his teammates, which allow the players to adapt to the game and get past any challenges that they could be faced with. Will’s importance on the team allows him to build a ground-work for him and his teammates, which allow the players to adapt to the game and get past any challenges that they could be faced with.

Will knows the game of soccer inside out and his effort has not gone unnoticed by coaches.

“This year, Will has been selected to serve as one of our team captains, and one of the leadership skills that caught my eye is his decision-making,” Coach Brock Aksun said.

Overall, Emhoff also continuously demonstrates his leadership by keeping the team together and prepared for every challenge the team must overcome.



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The scripted match that became a violent assault

By Lincoln P.
Sports Reporter

Raja Jackson, son of UFC fighter Rampage Jackson, assaulted wrestler Syko Stu on a livestream during a scripted wrestling event due to a work gone wrong.

Raja Jackson started his live stream on a streaming platform known as KICK, where he was set to tour the backstage area of a big wrestling promotion called Knokx Pro Entertainment, where he would talk to the wrestlers behind the scenes and go over the day in the life of a scripted performer, but while he was doing this, a wrestler at this promotion named Syko Stu who had mistaken Raja Jackson for another wrestler started doing a work with him which involved hitting a prop beer can over his head which initially made Raja Jackson really upset. But after finding out he wasn't actually a wrestler, Syko Stu apologized to him, clearing up any miscommunication between the two. Later, Raja Jackson is informed by some of the executives of the promotion that he can interrupt Syko Stu's match to get his "payback" for his earlier stunt with the beer can.

And during his walk-out to the crowd while waiting for his time to interrupt the match, all the other wrestlers are telling him to sell it and make it look real to make it seem like he was actually upset from earlier, but what they didn't know was that he actually was still really mad about the work earlier while waiting in the crowd he talked to his live-stream saying stuff like "I'm gonna really have to show him that you can't just hit a can on my face... I'm really going to hit him, I'm telling you. I'm dead serious, this is not going to be scripted, I'm telling you". Raja Jackson said, leading many minutes later to Raja interrupting Syko Stu's match by slamming him on his head, which initially knocked him out, and straight after laying 20 punches to a helpless man one after another, until another wrestler in the promotion pulled him off, leading to Raja being kicked out of the promotion and the live stream ending all while Syko Stu was laying bleeding in the middle of the ring and eventually taken to the hospital where he would lie in a coma for five days.

This situation has caused an uproar online, and many are calling for Raja to be banned from any type of Sports Entertainment for the rest of his life if he's not arrested for the attack, and at the very least, be required to take anger management classes to ensure an outburst like this never occurs again. Syko Stu has not pressed charges at the time of this article, and seemingly doesn't intend to, but the state has pressed forward, deeming it a state crime under California law. As a result, Raja is still being pursued for criminal charges, and a felony warrant for his arrest has been issued. And on Sept. 18th, Raja Jackson was arrested and charged with felony assault, where he is being held in county jail on a \$50,000 bail awaiting a trial.



Do you know Paige Bueckers?

By Ella D.
News Editor

Paige Bueckers was just named the 2025 WNBA rookie of the year. Paige is a 23-year-old basketball player who rose to fame during her high school days at Hopkins High School in Hopkins, Minnesota. She later committed to UConn in 2020 where she won numerous awards and broke many records. She played for five years at UConn, and through her collegiate career, she faced many challenges and injuries, but through it all, she leaned on her faith and ended up winning the 2025 National Championship in April. Just a week later, she was picked as number one overall in the WNBA draft and went to the Dallas Wings. Let's take a look back at her record-breaking season as a rookie and all she has accomplished this past year.

On May 16, 2025, Bueckers officially made her long-awaited debut as a rookie, where she scored 10 points, seven rebounds and two assists. Paige then went on to score her first 20 point game of her career on May 27 against the Connecticut Sun. May may have been quiet for her, but she was just starting to heat up. In June, Bueckers was named one of the starters in the 2025 WNBA All Star team, becoming the first rookie to start in a WNBA All Star game. She also went on to score 35 points on June 11 against the Phoenix Mercury. July began, and with no surprise, Paige continued to add to her already great rookie season. Bueckers was selected as a starter for the 2025 WNBA all star game, which took place on July 19. She played on team Collier and became the first player to start in an all star game their rookie year. During All Star weekend, Paige also revealed she is dating long time best friend and previous UConn teammate, who she met through USA basketball at 15, Azzi Fudd. August came and records were broken, again, but one record specifically stands out. On Aug. 20, Paige broke the record for the most points scored by a rookie in a single game with 44 points. And not only that, it was efficient, making her the first player in WNBA history to score 40 or more points on 80% shooting from the field.

The Dallas Wings ended their season with a record of 10 wins and 34 losses. Paige started in all 36 games she played in and ended with averaging 19.2 points, 5.4 assists and 3.9 rebounds. Paige broke countless records which include Most All star fan votes received by a rookie, fastest player in WNBA history to reach both 500 points and 100 assists, first rookie to average 15+ points, five+ assists and 45%+ shooting for an entire season. She also had the fourth longest streak of scoring double digit points, in league history of 30 games, she only had one game where she scored single digit points the entire season. Although the Dallas wings may not have had the best season Paige certainly did.



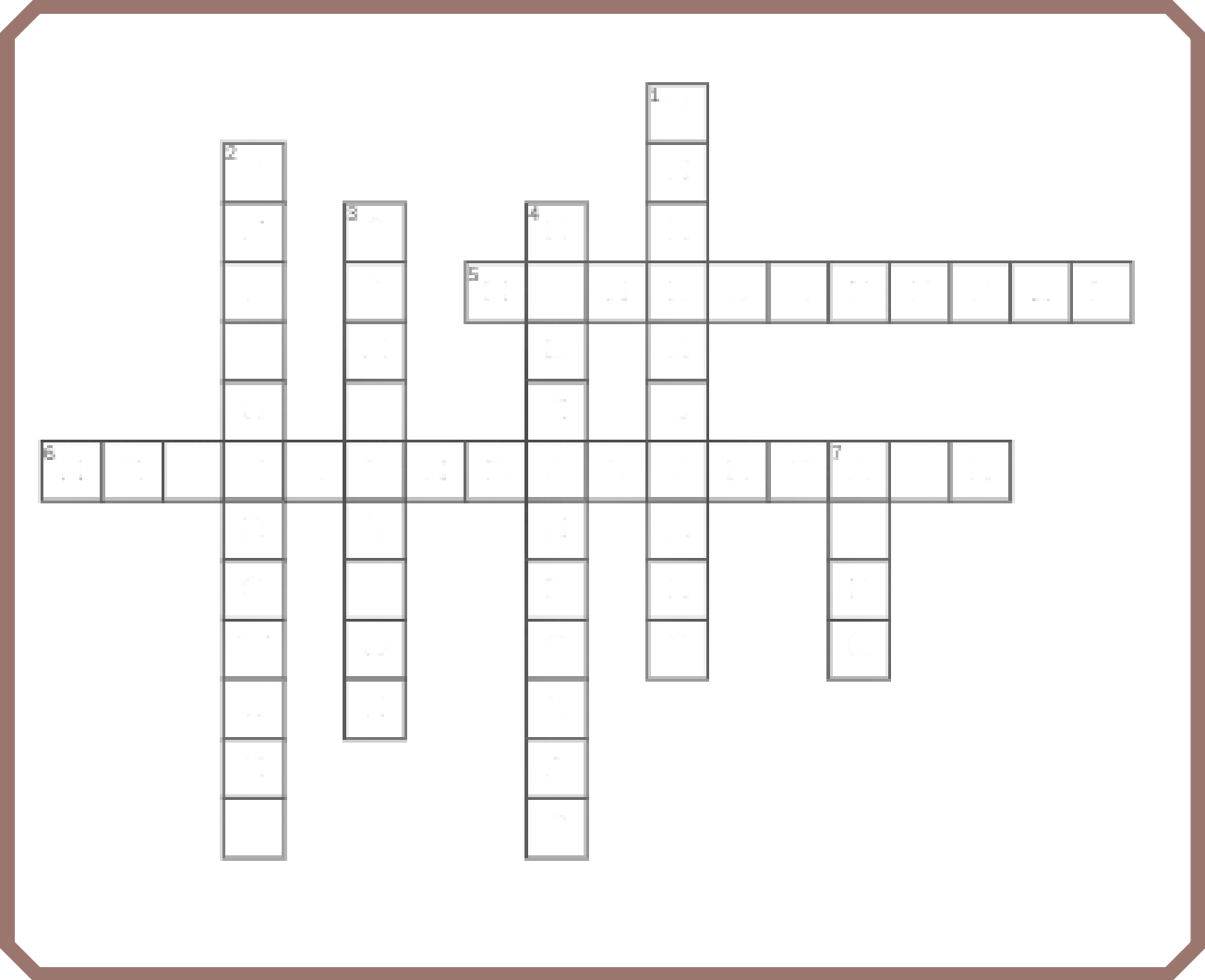
Supporting the local hockey team

By Jaclyn Y.
Sports Reporter

Many people don't go to the local hockey team's games and aim for more of the bigger games, which leaves some of the smaller teams with less opportunity or value. The teams do really well with their plays, and normally, the games are cheap and easy to get front row or right by the glass. The Riverman hockey team is amazing at playing, winning most of their games, and having amazing players and teamship, always having good communication and great gameplay between each other. During the hockey season last year, many of the home games for the Rivermen ended in wins with last-second scores or tie breakers. Like the winning shot of last year, Player JM Piotrowski shot the winning goal during a tie breaker, faking a shot then shooting through his legs, making the goal, making that goal one of the best in most of the Riverman's games from last year double tickets for a Riverman's game are normally around the cheaper end, depending on the seats and how you buy them. Being around \$17-\$32 dollars per person, depending on the seats, glass seats were the highest prices, being \$32 dollars; the seats were filled, or at least the bottom seats had more people; the upper deck was almost always open, seeing as many people normally don't go.

September Crossword Puzzle

Answers posted at ibhstigertimes.com



Across

5. Which of the games that isn't blocked involves you doing math to play?
6. What's the one-a-year event created to spread awareness about mental health?

Down

1. How many stars did Tanners get in the Pumpkin Patch Review?
2. What Rivermen hockey player shot the winning goal of game five last year?
3. How much was the budget for the "Demon Slayer" movie?
6. What was the first trap in "The Conjuring"?
7. Who is the magical girl that stole a mirror?

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Editorial cartoon: A snapshot into Mental Health Day

By Myles N.
Editorial Cartoonist



The Trade

By Max W.
Art Editor

