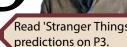
TIGER TIMES



November Edition

Vol. 5 No. 7

Nov 26, 2025



Canned goods sit in the IBHS library awaiting counting.

IBHS canned food drive

By Addy D.

Illini Bluffs has kicked off its annual Canned Food Drive with fresh spirit, new leadership and a whole new wave of motivation. The drive is fully underway, and those involved are hoping to build a last wave of momentum as December rapidly approaches.

This year, the National Honor Society is leading in the events organization, and senior Carson B., a member of the NHS canned food drive committee, says a little competition is a big motivator.

"NHS is keeping people motivated by making it a friendly competition. Whichever class gets the most cans will get prizes," Carson said. "We show who's winning on the TVs and windows, and we update it every so often."

To keep the counting organized, NHS has a system in place.

"We have a table for new cans so we don't get confused," Carson said. "Every Tuesday and Thursday during advisory we count them, mark them with a pen, write down totals and then put them with the classes they belong to. When the drive ends, we pack up all the cans onto trailers and take them to the Legion. The basketball boys usually pack the actual bags for people."

Carson also said that while donations are coming in, some items are needed right

The most needed items include: skillet meals, boxed potatoes, beef broth, canned chicken, chicken broth, mac and cheese, boxed rice, frosting, family-size cereal, brownie mix and cake mix.

For her, this drive is much more than a school project:

"The canned food drive is important to me because I like to give and help my community," Carson said. "It reminds me a lot of Jesus, and teaches to give back and love one another. Sometimes I look at all the food we have and think about how many families we're going to help. It gets me a little emotional." Junior class officers are also working to boost participation. According to junior officer Miley R., the class is using weekly drawings to reward students who donate consistently.

"The junior class officers have been giving a ticket for every five items a student brings in to be put into a drawing for a gift card at the end of each week," Miley said. "At the end of the food drive, all of the tickets will go into a drawing for five people to pie the class officers in the face."

Officers communicate updates through emails, class sponsors and video announcements to keep their grade informed and energized.

"Remembering that each donation directly helps someone in our community keeps me motivated," Miley said. "It's important that our school shows we care, especially during the holidays."

Junior class sponsor Ms. Matzke says she's already proud of the enthusiasm coming from her students, and the other junior class sponsor Ms. Sewell had a weekly ticket idea that added even more excitement.

"While I think [the prize] is motivating, our students are already so motivated," Matzke said. "This is a great reward for those working hard in the spirit of giving."

They meet with them only occasionally, but say the officers have taken initiative all on their own.

"We met twice to organize, but mostly they're meeting without us. Brody M. has been in full communication with me, organizing and trying to determine the best avenues to go."

Looking ahead, she hopes to see participation grow throughout the school.

"Even if they can't donate, asking their friends or family for items or finding ways to raise funds for this wonderful program," Ms. Matzke said. "I would like to see more kindness, appreciation, gratitude and overall spirit...Many of our students don't know that someone they sit by in class or during lunch really benefits from the collections we're organizing."

Madrigal preview

By Anna C.

News Editor

Illini Bluffs invites the community to embrace the festive spirit of the winter season with its annual Madrigal, a medieval-themed dinner theater complemented by music and a delectable feast. This cheerful tradition, now nearly 50 years old, has become a significant part of the district. Its ornate costumes, lavish gold props and whimsical decorations used today were also admired by audiences decades ago. It's become something that Illini Bluffs is known for and something people can look forward to every year, bringing a sense of community.

The leader behind it all is the choir director, Mr. Ganschow. He undertook the significant task of reimagining this year's Madrigal by writing the script, selecting pieces for the choir, organizing the event and overseeing the menu.

"I think it's going to look fairly traditional, what the district's probably used to, probably compared to the last couple of years," Mr. Ganschow said. "The vocal group's going to be a bit bigger, with a great selection of music. It's going to be the same sort of thing with all the costumes, the table dressings, the set pieces, your king and queen, royal court jester, all the trappings of your typical madrigal."

As for the food, the chef and food coordinator, Mr. Murphy, is taking charge of the kitchen along with IB adult helpers and student servers. According to Mr. Ganschow, the menu will look similar to a few years ago but with a few alterations.

"We're looking at some sort of chicken breast over a bed of wild rice with lemon dill sauce, and homestyle green beans. You'll have your rolls, crackers, cheese, vegetable soup and wassail, as well as a sort of custard cream pie for dessert," Mr. Ganschow said.

Guests enjoy their meal while the evening's story unfolds around them. The actors/actresses and choirs practice weeks in advance to create a magical and immersive experience. Freshman actress Tina B. is making her first appearance in a madrigal this year.

"The plot is that there are some mischievous people, and they're trying to trick the king and queen. And in the end, a fight may break out," said Tina B.

The madrigal is different from anything else IB does, which makes it stick out from other events. It's a mix of holiday cheer and novelty that keeps the audience returning, eager to see how it will be reimagined each year.

"Wonderful things are happening at this little school in the arts, and I just hope that the madrigal is a good showcase for that, and for the community to see," Mr. Ganschow said.

Whether you are returning or attending for the first time, this year's performance offers an experience like no other. Reservations are available online via Google Form, and payments can be made directly to Mr. Ganschow or by writing a check to Illini Bluffs High School. It will be held in the Elementary School commons on Dec. 6 and 7. P2 • THE TIGER TIMES November 26, 2025

Weather whys: Northern Lights

By Ella D.

The Northern lights are a spectacular phenomenon that catches the attention of many throughout the world, with their dancing green and pink lights across the sky. Although these displays across the sky may be amazing to look at, that doesn't mean they aren't causing real harm behind the scenes. In this week's "Weather Why's?" We will be looking at the science behind these and the impacts they can cause through the most recent display on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

So what exactly are northern lights? Well, Northern lights, also known as Auroras, are the result of charged particles released by the sun interacting with the Earth's magnetic field. So to put it in simple terms: the northern lights are the result of the sun's energy particles entering the Earth's atmosphere and colliding with the Earth's energy particles.

These particles are released from the sun's

atmosphere by a solar flare. Northern lights are commonly known as northern lights since they light up the skies of the northern portion of our world more frequently, and very rarely show themselves as far south as they did in this past event.

So what happened during the recent showing of these Aroras, and why could they be seen so far south? The reason for them being so visible is the strength of the storm as how fast the solar winds were moving and how large the ejection by the sun was. The storm that hit this November was considered a G-4 storm and was surprisingly on the verge of being a G-5 storm. Geomagnetic storms, the kind that cause auroras, are rated on a scale from G-1 to G-5, with G-5 being the strongest and G-1 being the weakest. The ratings are based on how much disturbance is caused in the Earth's atmosphere by using a scale called the KP scale, which just measures geomagnetic disturbances.



Geomagnetic storms don't just cause Auroras that light up the sky; they can also cause disturbances to power grids, radios, and GPS. During this recent event, the Geomagnetic storm caused radio blackouts throughout Europe and Africa, showing how powerful the disturbances these storms are capable of causing really are.

So, remember when you see the lights dancing throughout the sky that there is more going on than what meets the eye. It's a phenomenon of the Earth and Sun interacting electrically.

Hurricane Melissa

By Ella D. News Reporter

On Oct. 28, 2025, Hurricane Melissa made landfall as a strong category five Hurricane on the Northwest side of Jamaica, causing many towns to be struck by flooding and sustained high winds for an extended period of time, leading to catastrophic damage to buildings and the surrounding landscape.

This catastrophic storm caused 45 individuals to lose their lives, while 15 people are still missing. So, why couldn't people evacuate? Many people turned to social media to ask this same question. Many people were left stranded on the island due to the lack of access to the island; the only way in or out is by air, leaving many stranded when flights were stopped.

Let's go back to the beginning of Melissa's life. Melissa first formed into a tropical storm on Oct. 21, 2025, resulting from a tropical wave that came off the coast of Africa. From there, it remained relatively disorganized until officially becoming a hurricane on Oct. 25, 2025. Hurricane Melissa rapidly intensified, becoming a category five just two days after officially becoming a hurricane. From there, the hurricane continued to strengthen, defying all odds and breaking numerous records. The hurricane then officially made landfall in the town of Black River in Saint Elizabeth parish on Oct. 28, 2025, where it caused significant power outages and flooding through the significant winds and rain the storm brought ashore. From there, the geography of Jamaica began to weaken. Melissa then went back over water and restrengthened to a category three, proceeding to make landfall in Cuba and the Bahamas.

After multiple landfalls, the hurricane went



right past Bermuda as a category one before going out to sea and dissipating, but the damage was already done, leaving towns destroyed, people homeless, and causing significant loss of life, leaving this hurricane to be remembered and felt for decades.

To help those in Jamaica and other areas affected, visit the American Red Cross as well as the Jamaican Red Cross.

2025 harvest recap

By Tyler H.

This year's harvest has been a challenging one for all farmers, from abnormally low prices to a dry spell that occurred in September; due to these problems, this harvest season stands out from previous years. From the very beginning, I knew this year was going to stand out because, for the first time in my life, we had replanted around 100 acres of beans. In the past 20 years, this hasn't happened on our farm.

At the start of planting season, everything went according to plan. The weather was just right for the first few months of the growing season, but in the later part of August and throughout September, there wasn't an inch of rain. Although it was towards the end of the growing

season, it still had a slight impact on the crop yields of both corn and soybeans.

The way the crops grew this year had my dad and me on edge. The beans didn't want to poke through the surface, and they didn't shade over the rows on time, which allowed more weeds to grow. The corn took this year's drought a little better, but the crop still took a hit, and it started drying down quicker than in years past.

Across the board, this year's harvest was different for everyone. It started a month early for us, and for probably the first time in our farm's history, we were done picking soybeans before October. The soybean harvest was a great success this year. On the other hand, the corn harvest kicked our butt. The cleaning fan blew up in the combine, which set us back a week. However, our neighbor helped us pick for a couple of days, so we could catch up when we got our combine back



up and running.

If you ask any farmer, no one is happy about the prices of anything. The commodity price is the same as if you were harvesting 50 years ago, and the fertilizer price is through the roof, as well as herbicides, fungicides, and any other chemicals that are used for the benefit of the crop.

The Tiger Times is always looking for new writers. Email Ms. Sewell @jsewell@ib327.com

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Staff pick: Best Thanksgiving food

By Staff

Pumpkin Pie



Myles N.

The flavor melts in your mouth, the spices and the pumpkin blend together with glee. Pumpkin pie itself is a wonderful treat, and I think not enough people appreciate it for its wonderful qualities.

Sweet Potato Casserole



Serina S.

My grandma makes exceptional sweet potatoes every year. When I was younger, I wouldn't even touch sweet potatoes. When I started going to thanksgiving dinner at my dads, my grandma would bring sweet potatoes every time. The

only reason why I tried them was because marshmallows were plastered on top of them. Every since then, I have loved sweet potatoes and look forward to eating them every year.

Stuffing



Mallory S.

Stuffing is very yummy, and it stuffs my tummy.

Mac n Cheese



Addy D.

I'm an extremely selective eater, so when it comes to Thanksgiving, I don't really like to eat much, but I do love a good homemade mac n' cheese dish. Something about the macaroni tossed in cheese and served creamy and hot is just best.

Mashed Potatoes



Josie P.

I love mashed potatos. they make everything better in my life, and they are the best way to fix anything around the holidays.

'Stranger Things': final season

By Jocelyn J.

After a long nine years, "Stranger Things" is finally coming to an end, with the first four episodes of season five being released on the day before Thanksgiving, the next three on Christmas, and the final episode on New Year's Eve. "Stranger Things" has done staggered releases before, and it is a great way to create suspense for the series, but what doesn't help is the days it is being released on: holidays. With this, it can be difficult for people to engage with the series. Those holidays often come with family events and parties, which can affect the viewers' perceptions of the series.

Also, if they started it on holidays, they should have started it on Halloween, as "Stranger Things" has always had more of a scary and eerie vibe, so for the last season to premiere on Halloween, it would make sense. It would also make sense for the series to come to an end on Christmas. In the first season, one of the big staples was the Christmas lights that let Joyce connect with her son in the upside-down. If the series

made a full circle moment with Joyce connecting with Will in the upside-down with the Christmas lights, it would be perfect for the series to end on Christmas.

There are also many predictions on what may happen this season, including what characters we may lose in the final moments. I think we may be losing Will Byers this season, with the reveal in the season trailer showing that Will is a vessel being controlled by Vecna. In the end, I think Will could sacrifice himself to save the rest of the group.

The only other two characters I think we may lose are Eleven and Max. Eleven has such a strong connection with the upside down that, if they have to destroy the upside down, she may have to die to save the world. And since Max entered a coma at the end of last season, it could be the beginning of the end for her. If she has to help with the fight in the upside down this season, I don't think her body could survive another big blow. However it ends, it is finally time to say goodbye to these beloved characters for the last time. Well, after the holiday parties.

Riley Green hits Peoria

By Lillian K.

News Reporter

Country artist Riley Green, arrived at the Peoria Civic Center on Nov. 15 while on his 2025 tour named after a song on his album "Ain't My Last Rodeo." Along with him, Hannah McFarland, Drake White, and Jamey Johnson opened for and even shared the stage with Mr. Green. In the beginning of the concert, it was stated that all the singers had in common being from Alabama.

Riley sold out the Civic Center and opened the concert with a few blows to a duck call transitioning to his song, "Different 'Round Here." Before the first song even finished, the arena was filled with screams so loud, you could hear the echo back. The set-up included two stages: the main stage in the front and a little romantic stage surrounded by low lighting in the back.

Many of the students at Illini Bluffs High School were in attendance at the concert. Junior Meadow M. stated that her favorite song by Riley is "Change My Mind." While in general, the song is one of his most listened to songs, it was also performed at the Civic Center.

"I was stunned, my heart- dropped, and my jaw was on the floor as the music radiated through my soul," said Meadow H. "He is so hot"

Half way through the night Green brought out Jamey Johnson, a prominent figure in the country music industry. Riley said if it wasn't for Jamey he would never have been inspired in the first place to seek a career in music. When Johnson opened for Green, fans were disappointed that he didn't perform his biggest hit, "In-Color;" however, throughout the evening Riley and Johnson didn't leave the fans disappointed.

The lights were cut and Riley was off the stage making his way to the back stage surrounded by screams, tears, and smiles of fans. When Green was finally set and settled he strummed away to his song "Jesus Saves." After that song, Hannah also made her way to the back and performed, "Don't Mind If Do." There were only two songs sung on this stage and the main stage was put back to use.

Apple Music released a session with Riley Green of "Should of Been A Cowboy" written by Toby Keith and Green decided to incorporate a tribute to Toby along with Drake White by his side at the concert.

To close the concert all the country singers made their appearance on the main stage and closed the evening with "Dixie Delight." Applause filled the arena and it was complete war as fans made their way to the exit.



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Boys basketball pre-season

By Eric P.
Sports Editor

The IB boys' basketball has been at the top of the ICAC for years. With such dominance and size in the paint, the program boasts perennial stars like Hank Alevy, Brandon Coats and an iconic duo of Devon White and Toby Cooper. However, with new transfers and seniors leaving the IB program, IB boys' basketball has a much different look than usual. They are a whole new look in the ICAC this upcoming season. With the loss of All-State players and veteran varsity players, the ICAC has quite a new look compared to previous years. Look out for a highly competitive ICAC conference with

one of the best 1A conferences in the state.

Brimfield Last Year Record (22-10)

With a huge transfer of Senior Dawson Traphagen coming to the program in addition to key returners coming back like Conner Doe and Jackson Kappes, well-rounded basketball players, Brimfield looks to reign in dominance in the ICAC, presenting a formidable force inside the paint, as well as dominating around the arc. Look for Brimfield to claim its title of being a force in the ICAC.

Brimfield has the IQ any strong team needs, with a formidable playmaking star added to their roster and a legendary coach, Hall of Fame inductee Scott Carlson, who won a state championship back in 2015, leading their squad, making Brimfield a force fighting to claim its title in the ICAC.

Peoria Christian Last Year Record (29-10)

Coming off a fresh state run, placing fourth, and an ICAC Championship trophy, the Chargers are still a dominant team even after losing their All-State player in Malachi Persinger, yet they still have some key players who played a key role in the state run returning for another year. Trae Bricker had a 20-point bomb in the state finals. Well, as a playing mak-

ing PG, Miles Zimmerman is running the show. With Jacob Walton as an experienced varsity player adding the unlimited depth Peoria Christian has shown throughout the past years.

Illini Bluffs

Last Year Record (26-8)

With key seniors leaving IB, including Devon White and Toby Cooper, a lot of questions remain around the new team chemistry. However, with a new transfer of sharpshooter Junior Griffin W. and key returners from IB's dominant years in Junior Will Emhoff, a pest on defense, and a Junior and Sophomore playmaking duo and scoring reliability in Justus Dugger and Drew Dunn, IB still looks to dominate in

the central Illinois area, once again contending for the title of ICAC Champions.

IB has all the tools possible to climb to the top of ICAC once again. With perennial shooters and a quick play style, the Tigers can shoot their way out of any game. However, the tigers can shoot themselves out of any game and struggle to claw their way back up.

Delavan

Last Year Record (13-20)

Don't let last year's record fool you. Delavan has one of the hardest seasons, playing dominant 2A teams all year round. They have a lot of key returners, with a work-hound in Junior Corriel Green who

Story Cont. on P5



Girls basketball rankings

By Jocelyn J. and Ananbelle R
Sports Reporters

she was one of the players who

Another year, another season. Inter-County Athletic Conference girls' basketball is starting up again. The lineup will be pretty much the same this year. You can expect the same from most teams; the only change is the second and third rankings.

Illini Bluffs

Illini bluffs won the conference with a record of 8-0 and overall throughout the season, they had a record of 21-11. Last year, the Tigers were ranked number one in the inter-county standings. The Tigers have a good chance to be ranked number one next year again because of the amount of starters returning.

Everyone from last year's varsity team returned, besides graduate Brenna Davis, and now this year's senior Sara Finn. The Tigers will have to make up for the loss of the defence from Sara. Brenna was a prominent guard for the team,

she was one of the players who always kept the mood up, as well as keeping everyone going. Although the Tigers have lost two important people over the last two seasons, they have new talent like Whitnee Parker coming up. With hard work and the right season, the tigers have a chance at making a run for state again.

Brimfield

Brimfield had a conference record of 6-3. Throughout the season, they won 19 games and lost 12. Last year, the Indians were ranked third in the standings. The prediction for this year is that they are going to be second in the rankings and pass Elmwood.

The Indians have a good amount of returners, with only three seniors lost last year. Losing Kennedy Hoerr, first Team All Conference, and 6'o senior Ava Heinz, their season this year will look a little different. Overall, Brimfield will have a good season and record

Elmwood

The third-ranked team is Elmwood. Last year, they ended with a record of winning 19 games and losing 13, with a conference record of five and one. The Lady Trojans were ranked number two last year. With Brimfield coming on top with a great record last year, even though Elmwood won more conference games, Elmwood has moved down in the rankings this year.

Given that Elmwood lost three seniors last year, our very own Tinley Lemmerman, who transferred to Elmwood and was a promising guard for the Trojans, as well as two other seniors, Kady Head and Chlow Howerton. With three seniors gone who were all starters last year, Elmwood's team needs more people to step up.

North Fulton

Fourth is North Fulton, which had a record of 16-15. It wasn't the worst, but they

had a conference record of 3-5. When we played them, it was an easy game. We ended up winning 55 - 22. Overall, nothing special about the game.

Delavan

Midwest Central and Delavan had a rough season last year with a record of 8 - 18. And a conference record of 1 - 3. When Delavan / MWC played Illini Bluffs, we beat them 59-23. Overall, it was an easy game against them, and they were missing a key player. Kally Richardson would have been a key component in the post.

Williamsfield

Ranked fifth are ROW-VA and Williamsfield. Last year, they had a rough season with a record of 7-20 and a conference record of 3-12.

While we had a rough game against the, we still can come out on top. Illini Bluffs won the game 47-40. Overall, we played wel, I but let one girl drive every time and drain threes.

Peoria Christian

Last year Peoria Christian had little to no games with a 2-1 record and no conference games. They had a short season with only getting to play three games. This year they had a better schedule with 16 games.

Last year they didn't have enough for a varsity team, When Illini Bluffs played them which made it a JV only game.

Peoria Heights

Even though Peoria Heights played more games than Peoria Christian they did not win any. They had a record of 0 and 31 in addition to a conference record of 0-12.

When Illini Bluffs played Peoria Heights, they beat them 71-14. They didn't get any shots under the basket, and all of their points were from threes or right inside the three-point line.

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Story continued from P4

likes to play at a fast pace and a lethal three-point threat in Junior James. Grady Burre

Delavan will be a team that can be a sneaky candidate that can claw their way to an ICAC championship. A team that will always play with heart and hustle, that will grind for rebounds and scrappy points. However, with this play style, Delavan must find a way to play with control and pace when crunch time hits.

Peoria Heights Last Year Record (16-16)

Bringing in a loaded freshman class with a dominant eight grade run is coming in. With DeAndre Marks leading the charge of Peoria Heights. A quick, shifty point guard that knows how to play make, leading the new class era of Peoria Heights.

Peoria Heights has many bright spots that can upset some teams down the stretch if the new class can keep up with the new pace of Varsity Basketball.

Elmwood Last Year Record (15-15)

A young core that is returning most of its players from last year. Elmwood hopes to fight for a stronger groove heading into the 2526 season. A team that sat on a 50 percent win rate the whole year is hoping for a stronger core with returning players bringing back leadership into the program that was desperately needed

North Fulton Last Year Record (16-15)

Losing a large number of seniors, North Fulton will have to find new strides with its new core. However, they have a big man returning to big paint who will be dominant in the paint. Ryan Quick is a formidable force in the paint that can handle physicality and float out to the arc to create space for the team. He will be a bright spot in a team that is looking for new players to step up this year.

Rovwa Williamsfield Last Year Record (11-20)

After having quite a disappointing year, Rovwa is in for a rough one. Losing their best player to a transfer to Brimfield in Dawson Traphagen. Rovwa is looking to have a much rougher year than last year. This year, Rovwa will be testing new players to try finding ways for their future to climb back up to being a contender for ICAC in the upcoming

Check out our online sports' galleries at ibhstigertimes.com







IBHS hosts 'signing day'

By Christian M.
Sport Reporter

On Nov. 12, Illini Bluffs High School hosted its annual signing day for students committing to college on athletic scholarships. There were a total of eight students, and the Pat O'Connor gymnasium was full of support from friends, family, and the school administration. Where every student had their own table and each signed their letter of intent to officially sign with their colleges/ universities of choice.

Majoring in Business and Economics, Sara F. will be attending Creighton University on a full-ride scholarship for softball. She chose Creighton because of "the great facilities and their business school, as well as the good offer [she] got."





Kenize N. will be attending Heartland Community College for softball. She will be majoring in radiology. She chose Heartland because she "really liked the campus and the coaching staff."

Attending Parkland Community College, Anabelle R. will be attending for softball; she will be majoring in nursing. She chose Parkland because "the coach and the campus stood out over everything else."





Chloe E. will be going to Parkland College to play volleyball and continue her academic career in business marketing. She chose Parkland based on "the location, volleyball team culture, coaching, and academics."

Olivia H. will be attending Spoon River College on a full ride for basketball and will be continuing her academic career in nursing. She chose Spoon River because "it's close to home, and [she] really likes[s] the coach!"





Cora E. will be continuing her sports career at Illinois Central College on a full ride for softball she will be continuing her academic career in nursing. She chose ICC to stay close to home for two extra years and to "find out what I wanna pursue in life, and then go for four years. I also already have a great bond with fellow teammates."

Eric P. will be attending Heartland Community College for Cross Country and Track & Field on a full ride and will be taking his GEN EDs at Heartland, but wants to major in data anylatics and finice. He chose Heartland because it gave him the option of the transfer portal after two years, giving him time to get GENEDS completed. Well, as a coach who believes in a program that is built to win while developing runners to transfer out.





Peter S. will also be attending Heartland Community College on a 50 percent to run cross country and track. He will be studying AG business. He chose Heartland because of their successful running program and coach. Also, they have an agribusiness certification program that he really

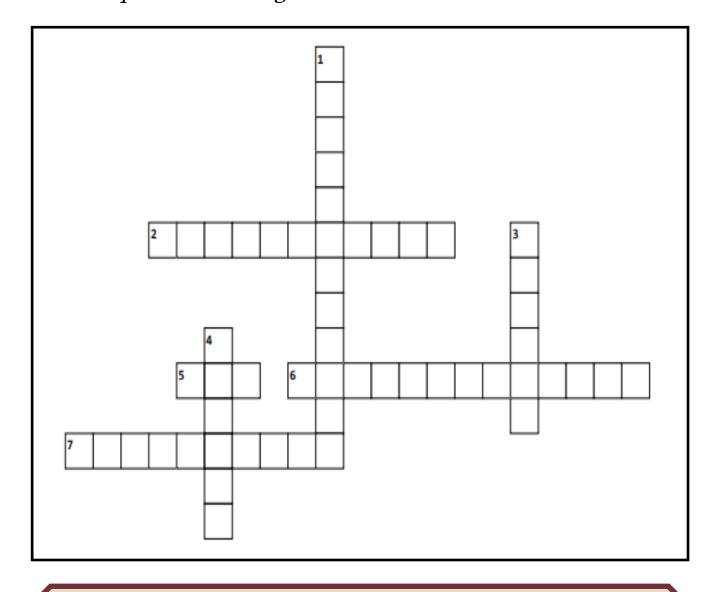
Ty B. will be attending Heartland Community College on a 50 percent scholarship for cross country and track & field. He will be studying business. He chose Heartland because they have a really good program and academics to push him to the next level of running, hopefully D1.



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November Crossword

Answers posted at ibhstigertimes.com



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Advicor	Mc Indo Sowell

Across

2. what everyone watches thanksgiving morning

5. opposite of turkey

6. can eat any day of the year but always hits on thanksgiving

7. seasonal dessert

Down

1. dads and men watch instead of talking

3. dry and gross holiday staple

4. the people there that your thankful for

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Illini Bluffs Tiger Times





Happy Thanksgiving from the Tiger Times Staff:



