



Read about the Oscars on Pg. 4

TIGER TIMES

St. Patrick's Day Edition



Opinions on Shamrock shakes on Pg 3.

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WHM: The women who shaped Illini Bluffs

By **Anabelle R.**

Voice Reporter

With March marking the beginning of Women's History Month, it is important to recognize local women who helped pave the way for future generations.

For over four decades, Nancy Meyer has been a leading figure in the Illini Bluffs community, helping to shape the lives of others both inside and outside the classroom.

Meyer began her journey here in 1985, when she started substitute teaching, but not long after, in 1987, she was hired as a full-time teacher. After retiring from full-time teaching in 2021, she has continued to serve our school district by working part-time as a substitute teacher, yet again.

During her teaching career here, Meyer taught a variety of subjects including Health, Earth Science, Horticulture, Physiology and Physical Education. Not only did she teach, but she was deeply involved in student life, serving as Student Council Advisor, a Class Sponsor and Varsity Volleyball and Softball coach.

Over the course of

her employment, Meyer has witnessed substantial growth in opportunities and leadership for women within the district.

"During my teaching career at Illini Bluffs, I have experienced the hiring of female principals in all three buildings," Meyer said. "The hiring of a female activities director and bus transportation director has also taken place... In the past, these positions were considered to be male jobs that females would not be successful at."

According to Meyer, women in the past had to show they were capable of handling these roles, but today, thanks to women like Meyer who paved the way, the culture has shifted.

"I feel the presence of female leadership at Illini Bluffs has encouraged females and been an example for them that they have the ability to do any job that they are interested in," Meyer said. "There is no longer the stigma of there being boys jobs and girls jobs."

Meyer also mentions an important woman in the school's history: Rose Alvey.

Rose Alvey, the wife of late elementary principal James Alvey and mother of seven boys, including former Superintendent Dr. Rodger Alvey, made significant contributions to the district and left a lasting legacy within its walls.

"She inspired many people through her tireless service to the fine arts programs at IB. In her honor, the elementary library is named the Rose Alvey Library," Nancy Meyer said.

Though her impact was vast, her scholarly pursuits came later in life. It wasn't until around the age of 55 that she attended Illinois Central College and gained a degree in library science.

Once all of her children were out of the house and on their way to college, Alvey was contacted by the elementary principal, at the time, Brad Janzen, who informed her of the need for a one-on-one tutor for a non-English speaking student from China. While she had no background in this, she took matters into her own hands.

"I remember her saying that she took the student to the kitchen and started

picking up utensils and pans, having the students name them after she would inform them of the name," Dr. Alvey said. "Ultimately, 12 years later, the student graduated from Illini Bluffs with honors."

From there, she worked a few different jobs, with one of them being a computer teacher in elementary school. Alvey was vocal about her lack of knowledge about computers; however, she maintained that she only needed to be one step ahead of the technology, due to it being relatively new at the time.

Not only did she make an impact on the school, but she also ran the Glasford Community Library.

"Because of her love of reading and love of books, she started various community fundraisers with my father, and she accumulated enough money to build the community library," Dr. Alvey said. "She operated that library for several decades and provided a summer reading program that the school now provides."

Though Rose Alvey made a substantial impact on the school, she was not

the first woman to begin paving the way for future generations. Miss Elizabeth Siegel was the first recorded female teacher at Illini Bluffs, though during her time, it was named Timber High School.

Siegel graduated from the Bradley Polytechnic Institute and taught Algebra, Commercial Geography, Public Speaking and Ancient and Modern European History at Timber High School.

There is little information about Siegel. The only credible source was a dedication in her honor of the 1921 yearbook, written by her students.

"Rosemary is for remembrance and so is our Annual, too. For your loyal devotion to duty and the way you have helped us through until the days of our graduation, we are more than grateful to you, and as a bouquet of rosemary, we dedicate this Annual to Miss Elizabeth M. Siegel."

From Elizabeth Siegel to Rose Alvey to Nancy Meyer, the foundation of Illini Bluffs was built by women, and their legacies live on through all our other female staff.

Illini Bluffs Drama Club's latest production 'falls apart'

By **Carson B. and Anna C.**

Voice Reporter and News Reporter

Spring is coming, and along with it, the spring play here at Illini Bluffs!

The drama club is starting the season with "The Play that Goes Wrong," the program's newest play since "Clue" in 2019. This play seems to be a breath of fresh air for the drama department, due to the genre differing from plays in the past few years. Director of the production, Ms. Sewell, is very excited to bring new ideas and experiences to the theatre.

"After having some very serious plays that tackle very intense topics, like in 'Our Town,' and then also in 'The Matchmaker,' the students wanted something new, something fresh, something

modern," Ms. Sewell said.

With this new modern look of the upcoming play, there also seems to be a new type of set for audiences to experience. In the last few years, the spring play set has been very basic, and in last year's production of "Our Town," there was no set at all. But this year, the set seems to be "more than meets the eye" from the audience's perspective.

"The set is very complex, but it is built nicely and definitely has some hidden secrets you are sure to... FALL for," senior Lauren B., a cast member and a long-time member of the Drama Club, said.

But a show is never about just the set; there are also lines, blocking, and



Aidan B., Lauren B. and Hendrix S. stage a scene from "The Play that Goes Wrong."

sound effects that most come together perfectly to make a complete show. Timing is especially important for this show, or else the jokes don't hit right. It takes a lot of effort from cast and crew, but it's all worth it to hear that sweet laughter from the audience.

"I want the audience to have a really fun time and just laugh at it. But I guess, to be more philosophical about it, is maybe to appreciate how much work it took to get this blocking down," senior Levi T., a new member of the drama department, said.

Even though the set might be complex, and the blocking may be hard to remember, this play is bound to make a big splash here at IB. So come by on Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21, at 7:30 pm to see what spring has to bring to Illini Bluffs.

Weather Whys: Rainbows

By Ella D.
News Editor

Rainbows are one of nature's most mystifying spectacles, leaving many mesmerized by their beauty as well as puzzled, wondering what science lies behind them. To a large portion of the population, rainbows signify St. Patrick's Day due to the myth that there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. So how did that myth come about, and how do rainbows really form?

What if I told you a Rainbow isn't actually a real "thing", but rather an optical illusion? No, Rainbows are not an inanimate object, but rather a form of illusion from the way the light hits the water droplets floating in the atmosphere, as well as the angle from which your vantage point is. When the light hits a water droplet, it reflects off the back of the droplet, giving it an arc shape due to the fact that water is denser, causing the light to travel more slowly.

Every little piece of the "puzzle" must be perfectly in place to catch a glimpse of the colors. Now, why is a rainbow an arc? Well, believe it or not, a rainbow is not actually an arc but rather a full circle, with the full circle only visible from a plane on rare occasions.

The reason rainbows display so

many colors is due to the different wavelengths of light.

Violet is the shortest wavelength, meaning it bends the most, while red is the longest wavelength, bending the least. When your brain interprets the colors you have viewed, they are separated into the different wavelengths, with red being first and violet being the last. Sometimes you can see another faint rainbow above the original one. This is known as a double rainbow and is caused by the light reflecting from the water and creating another rainbow whose colors are actually reversed in order, and when a triple rainbow happens, it is the same concept, just another rainbow reflecting off the second.

Now, what do rainbows have to do with St. Patrick's Day? The legend stems from real stories by real people. In the 15th century BC, Gaelic invaders discovered a new race, where the men who made it up were only about five feet tall. The invaders used a term that would now be considered derogatory and referred to them as "little people," which morphed, somehow, into the word leprechaun.

The people of the race buried their dead with their valuables; the invaders had believed it was gold,



Double rainbows captured by Ella D.

but could never find it. This was probably due to the fact that these people never had gold to begin with; more than likely, they were buried with pots or hunting gear.

Unable to think of a reason why no gold was present, the Gaelics spread tales that eventually grew into legends. It was now widely believed that you could find the burial places of this race at the end of rainbows. With there being no actual end to rainbows, this gave the Gaelic false hope that if they kept looking for the end, they would finally find the gold they

sought. Later, it was added that the leprechaun's ghost guarded the graves, leading to the myth that leprechauns were mean.

This is how leprechauns became associated with guarding a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow, and how rainbows became a fun and colorful aspect of modern-day St. Patrick's day traditions, even though the history is quite grim.

Next time you see a rainbow, remember there is no leprechaun with gold at the end, but rather, admire the beauty and science behind these majestic things that we call rainbows.

LOCAL ST. PATTY'S TRADITIONS



By Brody M. and Meadow M.
News Reporter and Voice Reporter

Chicago River Dyeing

Illinois has one of the most well-known traditions to celebrate St. Patrick's Day since 1962. On Saturday, March 14th, the river dyeing will be held in Chicago, just three days before St. Patrick's Day.

At 10 a.m., green dye will start flowing out from various boats, attracting hundreds of thousands of spectators for many years. Not everyone just views from the sidewalks and roads; many people get tickets for Chicago's river cruises, taking them along the bright green river, having the best seats in the house.



Peoria Parade

The St. Patrick's Day parade in Peoria has been an annual tradition since 1981, attracting thousands of spectators from the area. There are over 100 entries in the parade, including floats, bands and performers who throw candy and green bead necklaces.

For West Peoria, the festivities start a week early, with this year's West Peoria parade taking place on March 8. This was their fourth annual parade, which is kicked off at Bradley Park. Dozens of local businesses participate. Along with community members tuning in to support.



Blarney Blitz 5k

Central Illinois hosts a St. Patrick's themed race, which will be run along the scenic Riverfront trail, a tradition in Peoria since 2012.

The race both begins and ends near Kellehers Irish Pub, with participants receiving a variety of gifts and access to the post-race party at Kellehers Pub.

The runners are encouraged to wear costumes when racing. People have dressed up; some overdo it, while some underdo it. The predicted count for participants for 2026 is between 500 and 1,000.



OW! WHY DID YOU PINCH ME?

By Emma M.
Voice Reporter

Every year on March 17, people celebrate Saint Patrick's Day by wearing green, attending parades, and celebrating Irish culture. But if someone forgets to wear green, they might get a playful pinch. Where did that tradition come from?

Green is strongly connected to Ireland. Ireland is often called the "Emerald Isle" because of its lush green landscape. The color is also associated with Irish nationalism and appears on the Irish flag. Over time, green became the main color associated with Saint Patrick's Day celebrations.

Interestingly, the original color associated with Saint Patrick was actually blue. However, during the 18th and 19th centuries, green became more popular in Ireland due to political movements and cultural pride.

One popular explanation for the pinching tradition involves leprechauns, small mischievous fairies from Irish folklore. According to legend, leprechauns can't see the color green. If you wear green, you become "invisible" to them. If you don't wear green, a leprechaun might sneak up and pinch you.

Of course, this story is more playful myth than fact, but it helped spread the idea—especially among children.

The pinching custom likely started in the United States, not Ireland. Irish immigrants brought Saint Patrick's Day traditions to America in the 1700s and 1800s. Over time, Americans added their own fun twists to the holiday. The pinching rule became a lighthearted way to encourage everyone to join in by wearing green.

Today, in cities like Chicago—famous for dyeing its river green—and New York City, Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated with large parades and festivals where nearly everyone wears green to avoid getting pinched.

Pinching someone for not wearing green isn't meant to be harmful. It's usually done jokingly between friends or classmates. The tradition adds a playful element to the celebration and reminds people to participate.

In the end, the custom of pinching is less about punishment and more about community and fun. It's one of many small traditions that make Saint Patrick's Day a lively and memorable holiday.

STUDENT SURVEY: SHAMROCK SHAKES

By Carson B.
Voice Reporter

St. Patrick's Day is upon us, which means mint-flavored food is everywhere! For this dear writer, that means it's time to grab a ride to good old Micky D's. Ever since I was a little girl, I have loved Shamrock Shakes, and I always get antsy for their annual arrival around March. Although, sadly, at the time of writing this, the shake, nor the McFlurry, is not out yet. However, I do wonder, what do other people think of this green, minty shake?

Well, to answer this question, I made a survey and sent it out to my classmates to get their opinions on the infamous Shamrock Shake. After collecting data from 56 responses, I found out that the majority of people are fans of this minty shake. Specifically, 81.8% of people said they liked the Shamrock Shake, but what makes it so popular? Well, in the form, I also put a written question asking them to explain their decision. Of course, all the mint lovers

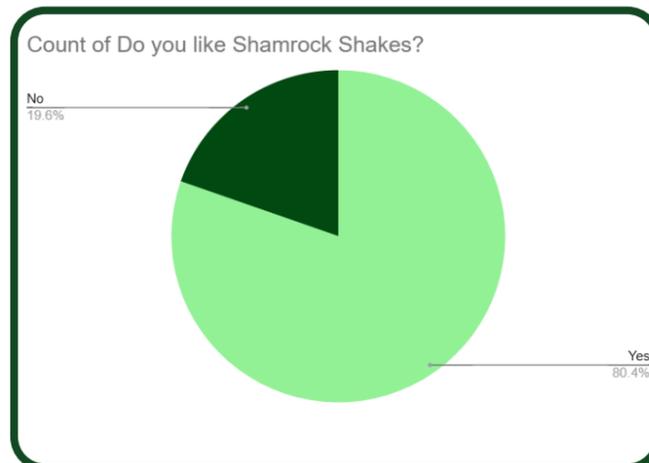
mentioned their love for the flavor of the shake.

"I love mint-I think the fact that you have a shake which is already very tasty," Senior Anabelle R. said, "and then adding the cool flavor of mint onto it makes for a perfect combo".

But the minty flavor is not the only nice thing about these green shakes; they are also available for a limited time. When going through responses, I had several people mention that this is something they liked about the shake.

"I love it so much because it is seasonal, meaning I look forward to it every year," said Senior Sernia S.

Although some people are happy these shakes are seasonal for the lead up to their arrival, others are happy it's seasonal because they frankly don't want to drink it at all. According to the data, 16.4% of people said they did not like Shamrock Shakes.



However, when filling out the why sections, the answers were fairly simple; they just don't like mint, but why is that? Well, there was a response from a Shamrock Shake lover who actually answered this question.

"Usually, mint and cold liquid don't get along, like drinking ice-cold water after chewing mint gum," Sophomore Micheal O. said.

As a mint lover, I can see how someone could dislike the flavor since it is usually associated with things like toothpaste and dentists. But, when considering the shake lovers and haters, I forgot about the people who had never had a

Shamrock Shake. Out of all the responses, we had 1.8% in the middle of this debate who had never had this minty shake from Micky D's. It does, however, make one curious what these people would think of the shake, especially based on the people around them.

"Never had one," Sophomore Beckett D. said, "but Hendrix said they're good."

Overall, no matter if you love them or hate them, Shamrock Shakes are an iconic staple of McDonald's advertising and menu. Not only is it a staple for Micky D's, but this writer would say it's a staple of St. Patrick's Day itself.

HOW TO CATCH A LEPERCHAUN

By Staff

Aesthetic Entrapment By: Mallory S.

I were to attempt to catch a leprechaun I would definitely start off by choosing a quiet spot where I think one would be hiding (not disclosing this spot). Then I'd build a small, delicate trap using things like twigs, leaves and a jar. After that step I'd bait the leprechaun in with shiny gold coins and colorful beads. The best part would be having a rainbow path leading the way. Last but definitely not least the jar will close down on the leprechaun and I'll have my new bestie!



Sticky Style By: Meadow H.

To catch a leprechaun, I would advise that the best way to succeed is to play on his greed. Every year, stores have a St. Patrick's Day selection, including chocolate gold coins, and as we all know, leprechauns love gold. As they sneak into your house at night, before they can play pranks, they will see the gold glimmering under the microwave light, and the greed will set in. The leprechaun will then run down the green sprinkled path to the cauldron filled with gold. But little does he know that the sides of the cauldron are soaked with honey, syrup, and super glue. Now the leprechaun is stuck.

Lucky Lucky Charms By: Anna C.

In order to catch a leprechaun, I feel it's necessary to capture all the ginger haired people in the world and make them drink a lucky charms blended mixture. This phenomenon will cause a rainbow to form, summoning the great leprechaun in which we will then surround and capture.



Oscars Recap

By Carson B.
Voice Reporter

This weekend was the 98th Oscars award ceremony, and I was glued to the screen the whole time. There were times I was disappointed, and there were times my mom wondered why I was screaming. So, let's recap this year's movie award ABC special!

First off, we have the Best Actor Award, which went to Michael B. Jordan for "Sinners". This movie was everywhere when it came out, so it was no surprise when Jordan won this award. In fact, I was rooting for him and screamed when he got it. Although some people say Timothée Chalamet should have won for "Marty Supreme" since he won the Golden Globe and Critics' Choice for the same category, it was nice to see Jordan get his first Oscar.

Next, we have the Best Actress Award, which was given to Jessie Buckley for her role in "Hamnet." I actually had never heard of this movie before watching the award show, but I imagine that to get an award like this, Buckley did a wonderful job. Based on what I've seen on the internet, no one really disagrees with this choice, giving Buckley praise for her performance.

Then we have Best Supporting Actor and Actress. These awards went to Sean Penn for "One Battle After Another," which won Best Picture, and Amy Madigan for "Sentimental Value." Madigan's speech was quite funny,



with her commenting about her thinking of her speech while shaving her legs, which she didn't need to do since she "wore pants" to the ceremony. It was also a sweet speech with shout-outs to her daughter and her dogs. However, Penn was actually a no-show, as he is in Ukraine to support the country during their ongoing war with Russia, so we got no speech from him. It would have been nice to hear what he would say, but like other winners, he might have got cut off anyway.

Even if you think the Oscars this year were the worst you've ever seen, or the best, you have to admit that it was pretty entertaining. From the opening with the host Conan O'Brien, to the tie for Best Live-Action Short Film, and even the ending cutscene with a teaser for Mr. Beast being the host next year. This Oscar definitely had a lot of twists and turns, and I was glad I got to sit down and enjoy it.

Bailey Zimmerman stuns Vibrant Arena

By Lillian K.
Managing Editor

A sold-out crowd filled the arena as Bailey Zimmerman brought his "Different Night Same Rodeo Tour" to Moline, joined by opening acts Blake Whiten and Hudson Westbrook.

Excitement built as fans filled the seats and pit. Rising country artist Blake Whiten kicked off the night with his No. 1 song "Break Me" and closed his set with fan favorite "Rollin Stone." Later, Hudson Westbrook opened his performance with his new song "LMWYL" before moving through several earlier tracks. By the end of both sets, most of the crowd was on its feet, eagerly anticipating headliner Bailey Zimmerman.

The arena fell pitch black as a voice boomed through the speakers: "Moline are you ready, I said are you ready for the Bailey Zimmerman." Smoke filled the stage, the curtain dropped, and fireworks and flames shot into the air. Zimmerman then descended onto the stage by rope, opening the show with "Back Up Plan."

Throughout the performance, Zimmerman moved constantly around the stage and interacted heavily with fans. One fan brought a bedazzled copy of his Religiously album, leaving him in complete shock. He even told the fan he was keeping the album on his tour bus. At times, he joined the pit, jumping and singing among the audience.

During the show, Zimmerman shared his life story and explained why the performance was meaningful. He recalled growing up in Illinois, saying, "I'm just a skinny white boy from a trailer park." He also revealed that he has ADHD and joked about being a handful.

The day before the concert, Zimmerman and Brandon Lake released a new song, "Just Believe," which delivers a message about overcoming life's challenges and continuing to move forward.

Zimmerman made sure every fan had a memorable experience by setting up a second stage in the back of the arena. As he made his way through the crowd, he high-fived, danced, and spoke with fans. He performed "The Climb" by Miley Cyrus and then brought out Blake Whiten to play "Holding On," a song written by Whiten. After the slower songs, Zimmerman returned the energy with "All the Way," featuring Big X The Plug.

Following the high-energy set, Zimmerman returned to the main stage and engaged directly with the audience, often saying, "I love you, now say it back." As the show neared its end, Hudson Westbrook joined Zimmerman for "New to Country." The night concluded with Zimmerman performing "Rock and Hard Place."



Check out more of our Anything Goes photo gallery at ibhstigertimes.com



Hank Alvey is March Madness

By Eric P.
Sports Editor

If you're from Glasford, IL, you know about hometown hero Hank Alvey. A dominant forward player who helped lead IB to their first-ever super-sectional title game in back-to-back years. Well, his dominance didn't end in Glasford, IL, and it continues in Bethlehem, PA.

Hank attends Lehigh University, where he has been the starting forward since his freshman year. Hank, in his freshman season, won the All-Rookie team in his conference. Being listed at 6'9", 250 lbs, Hank is a force to be reckoned with inside. In which that dominance showed in his stellar Sophomore year

Hank averaged 15 points, 6.8 rebounds, two assists, and 1.8 blocks per game. While shooting a super efficient 63% from the field. These stats honored him

second all team in the Patriot League Conference.

Hank in the Patriot League tournament showed why he should even be considered 1st all team. In the semi-final championship against Colgate, "Hank the Tank" was unstoppable. He dropped a staggering 30 points and collected three blocks as well. In the Patriot League championship game, Hank led the team in assists

and rebounds with nine rebounds and five assists, with a calm 14 points to lead Lehigh in the championship game over Boston University 74-60

Lehigh University now gets to participate in the magical postseason of March Madness for the first time since 2012, with our hometown hero Hank Alvey being a part of March Madness this year.



Bass fishing; a true way of living

By Josie P.
Graphic Designer

IHSA Fishing, Icastt, IBF, The Clash, State, Nationals. Now I get how, for some people, these words are total gibberish, but to some, these words are what their world revolves around. Now, for those who don't know what these mean, let me explain it for you.

These are all different fishing leagues or top-notch tournaments to fish in. The IHSA Fishing is the fishing league for all high school kids to fish in at their school. ICASTT is for high school and or middle schoolers who have paid for a membership to fish in this league. IBF or Illinois Bass Federations is another league that you pay a membership fee in order to fish in these leagues. The Clash is a fishing tournament that you qualify for through fishing ICASTT tournaments. Nationals is everyone in the nation who has qualified to fish in this tournament. State is just IHSA state fishing for high schoolers who make it.

The Clash- because of where we live, we are in the northern division for the state of Illinois.

The clash this year will be held in Springfield, IL, on May 30-31. This is a 60-boat tournament, meaning that only 60 boats will be able to compete in this tournament.

State is held at Shelbyville on June 5-7. June 5 is prefish day, and the actual tournament is on the sixth and seventh.

The SAF high school world finalist/national champions (Nationals) is held June 24-27 at Lake Cumberland, Kentucky.

Now that we have established what these are, let me explain the ideal perfect season.

Ok, so the ideal perfect season is where you fish IHSA, IBF, ICASTT and win. Here is how you do that. So all of these leagues go on at the same time so some tournaments overlap and others don't so you have to know what ones are more important than others, for instance, during the school year I prioritize IHSA fishing because this is what the school sees. Winning these leads to going to state and that is the goal. The goal after that is fishing ICASTT and IBF.

The ICASTT tournaments add up to see who gets to qualify for the clash. Once you qualify and make it to the clash you want to win because if you win the clash you automatically go to nationals otherwise, you have to keep winning ICASTT and IBF to qualify for nationals. The goal is to win state, the clash and national. Now saying this aloud, it sounds like a lot and not that hard, but it is a lot harder than you think it is. This is because not everyone will get a chance to try to do this, and the ones who do will work their butts off to reach their goal or at least try their best to say they left nothing out. But it's not like other sports where you are relying on people as much as throwing a ball.

It's a science, a way of life. It takes lots of patience and studying in order to get to where you want to be and that's hard. Cause most sports are an hour or two that you are playing, but fishing is an eight-hour day of just fishing, no breaks, no timeouts, just you and your partner fishing.

WNBA: The negotiations

By Ella D.
News Editor

Throughout the years, women have fought for equal pay, from everyday jobs to celebrities; women have always faced a revenue gap that they had to fight. What is shocking, though, is that this fight is still going on: in sports. This year, the WNBA is still fighting for equal pay and better benefits, hoping to close the wide gap between them and their counterparts in the NBA.

This year, the WNBA experienced another explosive season, with the league growing literally and figuratively, yet there has been no pay increase. In 2025, players in the WNBA made an average salary of \$102,249, with top players making around \$249,244 and the lowest paid making \$66,079. Now, to compare that to the NBA makes the gap in pay incomprehensible and outright insane. In 2025, NBA players made an average of \$11.9 million, with the highest paid making \$59.6 million and the lowest paid making roughly \$5 million. The gap is even more apparent when you compare the salary caps to one another. The WNBA has a salary cap of \$1,507,100 for each team to distribute among its players, which usually includes around 12 players. Meanwhile, for each team in the NBA, they had a salary cap of \$154,647 million. To put that into perspective, that is a \$153,139,900 difference in what each team is given to pay its players. Even though the league has had over 170% growth since 2023, the players have yet to see an increase in pay or benefits that would be equal to the growth, which is all they are asking for. With the last CBA, from Jan. 2020, now expired, the fight for better pay, fewer physical games, and equal benefits, including housing and childcare, continues.

The Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) negotiation between the WNBA and the Women's National Basketball Players Association (WNBPA) has been an ongoing conflict, having a strong presence online in the women's sports community. In July 2025 it took the internet by storm during All-Star weekend when players took the floor wearing shirts with the phrase "Pay Us what you owe Us" along with fans holding up signs and booing the commissioner Cathy Engelbert. Since then, negotiations have taken place, and several meetings have been held and attended by countless players, but the league isn't budging. The stubbornness alone gave the league a bad impression, but their image became even more ugly when star player, and WNBA vice president, Napheesa Collier, spoke out about the treatment the players had faced during negotiations. Stating their concerns had been dismissed when they brought attention to the number of injuries faced this season from unnecessarily physical games due to a lack of consistency from referees. Napheesa's statements revealed the commissioner had only caused the anger of fans to grow. Cathy stated, "Well, only losers complain about the refs," and "Caitlin Clark would be nothing without the platform the WNBA gives her." After these comments were made Napheesa states, "That is infuriating, and it's the perfect example of the tone-deaf, dismissive approach that our leaders always seem to take."

Still now, in Feb. of 2026, roughly six months later, the disputes still continue. With multiple deadline pushbacks and the players threatening to strike, no end is in sight. The latest development came just a few days ago, revealing the upcoming season would face a delay if a deal is not reached by March 10. This seems like it will be the most likely case, even if a deal is reached, free agent season still needs to happen, along with an expansion draft, regular draft, and training camp. For context, these events usually take place from the beginning of December until the end of April. Although a deal being reached is not looking likely, a seed of hope was planted when the WNBA announced it would be implementing revenue sharing for the first time in league history. As for now, women's sports fans and players sit anxiously waiting for a fair deal to be reached in hopes a strike won't be necessary.

ST. PATTY'S WORD SEARCH



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|-------------|------------|---------|-------------|
| Clover | Green | Luck | Pot of gold |
| Coins | Ireland | March | Rainbow |
| Corned Beef | Irish | Parade | Shamrock |
| Tradition | Leprechaun | Patrick | |

By Virgil W.
Cartoonist



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SOCIALS

Illini Bluffs
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@ibhs_tiger_times



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