



TIGER TIMES



Summer Sunrise Edition

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Letter from the Editor

Hello, dear readers!

Although summer is fully underway, I want to take a moment to reflect back on the past school year and thank everyone who contributed to the success of the Tiger Times. From our incredible staff members who spent countless hours writing, editing, designing and creating, to our readers who supported us through every edition--this publication would not be what it is without you.

This year has been a rollercoaster of emotions. From memorable stories to last minute changes, this year truly reminded me why student journalism matters so much. Getting to watch people find their voice and express their opinions in a suitable manner has brought me unimaginable joy. I am endlessly grateful for the dedication, creativity

and passion the staff has brought to every issue. Watching this team grow and succeed has been one of the most rewarding experiences.

To our readers, thank you for continuing to pick up each edition, read our work and support student voices; your encouragement means more than you know. If there is ever any input you have or content you would like to see, always feel free to reach out to us (our social media is listed on the last page of each edition).

As for me, I am incredibly excited and honored to return for my final term as Editor-in-Chief next year. This newspaper means the absolute world to me, and I am so grateful to have been apart of it for so long. I truly cannot wait to see what our staff accomplishes in the fall, it is destined to be amazing.

Until then, have a wonderful summer, and I'll see you in August.

All my gratitude,
Addy D.

Review: "The Great Divide," an album by artist Noah Kahan

By Ella D.
Managing Editor

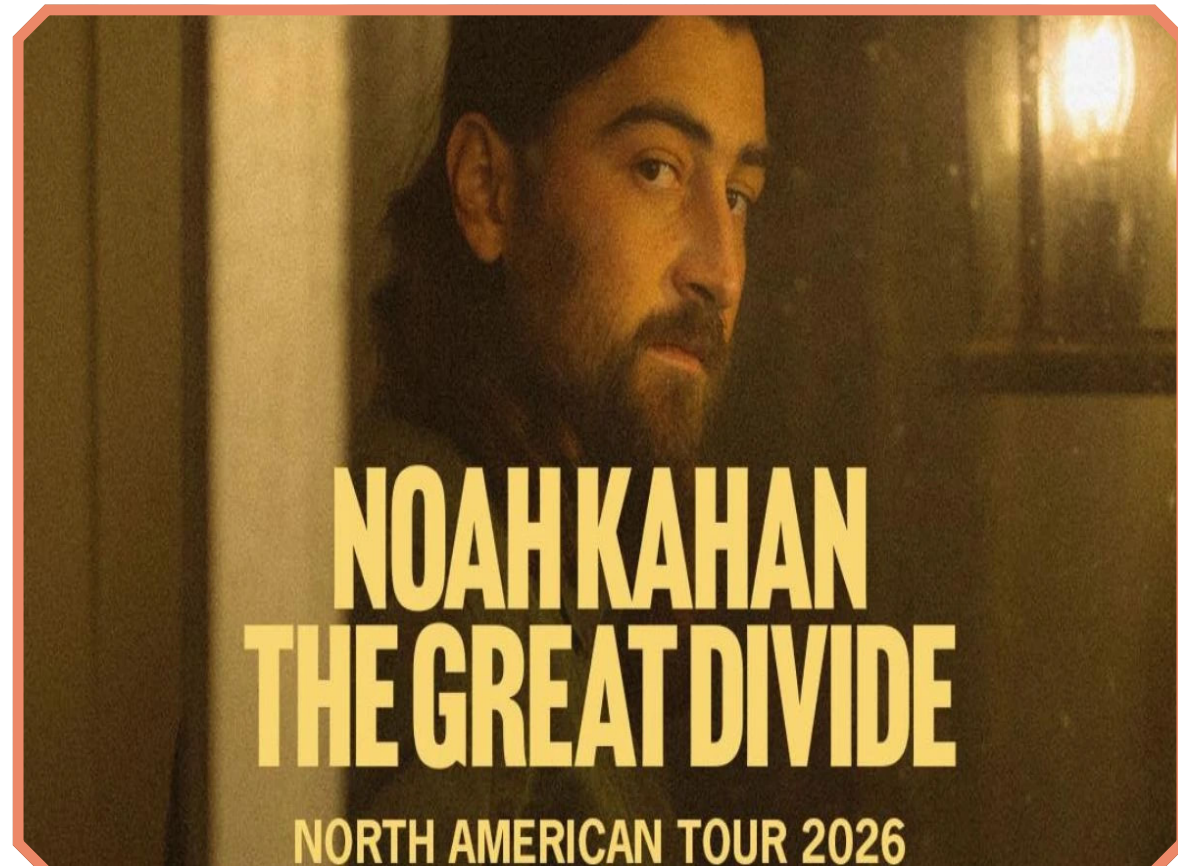
Noah Kahan is a folk/alternative singer-songwriter who came to fame in 2023 with his hit song "Stick Season." Since releasing his latest album, which was titled "Stick Season" as well, Noah has been fairly quiet, leaving his fans waiting for more. This year, Noah finally gave his fans more with a new album titled "The Great Divide." The album features 17 songs, with a listening time of one hour and seventeen minutes. Fans praised the album but wanted one song that wasn't included: "Staying Still."

Little did they know, Noah was not done. Later that day, he would go on to release a surprise: the deluxe album with four new songs. Overall, the deluxe and original albums have received high praise, with the original album now spending three weeks at number one. Personally, I enjoyed this album. I feel like it is his best work yet, and I am

looking forward to going to his concert this coming August. I know it will be amazing. I did love the whole album, and I cannot pick just one favorite, but four songs stood out to me above the rest: "The End of August," "Staying Still," "Haircut" and "The Great Divide."

"The End of August" is honestly one of my favorites because of how emotional and powerful the instrumental background is. From the beginning, starting with the soft, whimsical piano, to the middle, picking up with an orchestra for the bridge. It gets you in your feels and makes it impossible not to feel something.

"Staying Still" is high on my list, given it has a catchy melody and it brings back a feeling of his old work with the beat in the beginning. He also has a very powerful note after the bridge that he holds for a bit. The song does have one of my favorite lyrics



in it as well, "Never mind, Never mind, oh, forget about it. I'll be good, I'll be fine, I can laugh about it."

"Haircut." I love "Haircut." It is such a fun song. It is like a song you want to dance to, but it still has a deep emotional meaning, like many of his other songs. Especially

through the line "But at least I got a soul still even if I'm in a bad place." These lyrics just spoke to me, and I love the message that just because you were in a bad place does not mean you had the right to hurt me.

Last but not least, the title song. "The Great

Divide" just has so much meaning and emotion behind it. The song is something you can scream in the car, with the lyrics becoming stuck in your head. It has such a great bridge and ending. The lyrics in this song are so well-written and poetic, it's just so beautiful.

Staff picks: Big summer movies

By Staff

Ella D., "Toy Story 5"

I think Toy Story has the real potential to be the best summer blockbuster. With the Toy Story franchise being one of the most nostalgic childhood movies of all time, the new fifth installment will be for all ages. However, Toy Story has the potential to be a flop, given that it was such a hit movie during so many people's childhoods. If it is not done well or up to the standards of those who spent their childhoods watching it, it will not do very well. Overall, I do think this movie has great potential to soar above all the others and be the summer of 2026's top-earning movie.



Emma M., "Spider-Man: Brand New Day"

The new Spider-Man movie has the potential to be one of the best movies of the summer. With the tragic ending of the last Spider-Man movie, this one could do numbers. Many people love Spider-Man and the movies in general. Live-action Spider-Man could be one of the best comebacks of the summer, especially since our beloved Tom Holland is in it. If you love live-action movies and follow the Spider-Man movies, you will definitely be on the edge of your seat in theaters. This said, this new movie will achieve super high numbers in the box office, solidifying it as the biggest movie this summer.



Addy D., "Moana: Live-Action"

The newcoming Moana film will without doubt be the most popular movie of the summer. If we think back to when the first two Moana movies premiered, they blew up the box office entirely. The sheer amount of individuals anticipating the movies was overwhelming, much less the actual turnouts at the theater. This movie will pull in substantial viewership not only due to the man, the myth, the legend, Dwayne Johnson being cast, but also because everyone loved the original storyline, and this is just a realistic version of that. All in all, "Moana: Live-Action" will be the best and biggest.



Sports pictures: Baseball photo gallery

By Cora E.
Photographer



More than a teacher: Ms. Sewell's impact

By Ella D.
Managing Editor

When asked who has shaped our lives, we can all think of a person. Someone who has shaped our lives for the better and pushed us to follow our dreams. For many students at Illini Bluffs, that person happens to be Ms. Sewell.

Ms. Sewell teaches English 11 and Research/Technical Writing at Illini Bluffs. She spends her days teaching students critical grammar and reading skills, while also teaching those in her writing class how to interview people, write a publish-worthy article and design pages. When she is not teaching class, she welcomes students into her classroom. During lunch, many students sit and talk with her, or during her prep periods, students will come in and ask for advice, which she never fails to give. Ms. Sewell is the type of teacher you remember for years to come, with her impact lasting a lifetime. She cares about her students deeply and truly shows she wants everyone to succeed. Without her, many students would not be as successful as they are today. We all need a Ms. Sewell in our lives.

"Ms. Sewell is truly one of the most extraordinary people I have ever known, and I feel incredibly lucky to have been blessed with the absolute honor of knowing her," junior Addy D. said. "She has been so much more than an educator; she has been a constant source of unwavering support, genuine care and encouragement. She has this rare and beautiful ability to make every person feel truly seen, deeply valued and important; she believes in her students in a way that stays with you. She has pushed me to grow, lifted me when I doubted myself, and reminded me of my worth in ways I will never forget. The impact she has had on my life goes far beyond the classroom, and I will carry everything she's taught me, both academically and personally, with me forever. She is not only an incredible teacher, but an even more incredible human being, and I am so grateful for her."

Addy is not the only student who has many kind words to say about Ms. Sewell.

"Ms. Sewell has been one of the best people I've ever met, not only when she was my coach for middle school cheer," junior Molly W. said. "She guided me through the ups and downs of middle school life, which can come with so much stress and anxiety and worries, but also as my teacher now in high school, where I've had the opportunity to watch her, just be the absolute best teacher and give and give and give to her students and their well-being. She's genuinely one of the nicest, kindest, most caring teachers and people that I've had the privilege of getting to know."

Many colleagues of Ms. Sewell's feel she is vital to the success of her students.

"Ms. Sewell is an incredible teacher, coach and friend." Mrs. Strantz said, "The dedication she has for this district, her alma mater, is evident through the countless hours she spends on campus."

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you, Ms. Sewell, for not only being a great teacher but an incredible role model we can all look up to. The Tiger Times would not be anywhere near as successful as it is without you.