

TIGER TIMES

Summer Sunset Edition



Vol. 5 | No.1 | Aug. 11, 2026

Letter from the Editor

Hello, dear readers!

I’m not entirely sure how to begin this letter, mostly because I’m not sure how to put into words what the Tiger Times means to me.

I’ve been the Editor-in-Chief since the end of my sophomore year, which somehow feels like both yesterday and a lifetime ago. When I first stepped into this position, I knew I loved writing, but I don’t think I understood just how much I would come to love the people, the late nights, the interviews, the frantic editing and the little moments that make up this paper. Now, as I begin my senior year, I have one final year to spend doing something that has become such an important part of my high school experience.

And I couldn’t be more excited.

This year, I want the Tiger Times to feel like more than just a school newspaper. We’ll continue covering the events, achievements, clubs, sports, performances and people that make Illini Bluffs what it is, while also looking a little deeper. Expect more student voices, more features highlighting people who often go unnoticed and stories that give our readers a new perspective on the community around them.

I want every edition to be something you actually want to pick up, read and share. The Tiger Times should change with our school, and with new students, teachers, traditions and stories, there will always be something worth telling.

Of course, none of this happens because of one person. I am incredibly lucky to work alongside a staff that cares about telling stories and making this paper the best it can be. Every writer, photographer, designer and contributor leaves a little piece of themselves in these pages, and that is what makes each edition special.

I also owe the biggest thank-you to our wonderful advisor, Ms. Sewell. She is the reason I realized how much I love writing. She has encouraged me, challenged me, trusted me and given me countless opportunities to grow as a writer and leader. I genuinely could not imagine the Tiger Times without her, and I am so grateful she saw something in me before I even saw it in myself. She is, without a doubt, the best ever.

And finally, thank you to our readers. Thank you for picking up every edition, supporting our work and giving us a reason to keep telling the stories of this school. And, of course, a special thank you to my most loyal readers: thanks, Mom and Giulio. I know at least two people who will read every single word.

As I begin my final year with the Tiger Times, I’m going into it with a full heart and very high expectations. I can’t wait to see what this year brings, what stories we’ll tell and what memories we’ll make.

Thank you for reading, supporting and being a part of the Tiger Times.

Now, let’s make this year one to remember.

All my gratitude,
Addy D.

Review: Summer's biggest releases

By Ella D.
Managing Editor

This summer, countless movies hit the theaters, becoming the faces of this year's box office. Three of the biggest movies so far were counterparts to their originals, bringing a sense of newness and nostalgia together. These three movies are “Moana: Live Action,” “Toy Story 5” and “Supergirl.”

“Toy Story 5”

This movie starts our list, being released in mid-June. As the fifth movie in this franchise, it brought together the old and the new. I felt the movie was entertaining and action-filled. Although it may have started slow, it picked up quickly, leaving you watching and waiting to see what would happen next. All in all, I felt the creators did a good job of keeping the nostalgia alive while showcasing an important message.

“Supergirl”

Bringing DC fans and dog lovers together, this film was made to be a hit. The new “Supergirl” movie this summer was not a boring one by any means; it kept you on your toes while also including scenes that tugged on your emotions. From doing whatever it takes to rescue her dog to battling space pirates, this movie was made to be a star.

“Moana: Live action”

“Moana with a twist” describes this movie perfectly; it took the original film and brought it to life. I did think the movie was decent, but I still feel you can’t beat the original. The casting was so-so in my opinion; I feel they should have cast Auli’i Cravalho as Moana, given she voiced the character in the animated film and fit the description perfectly. I did, however, love that they cast The Rock as Maui.



From the staff: Our summer snapshots

By Ella D.
Managing Editor

At the beginning of summer, I set out to make my last summer before adulthood one to remember. Right after school ended, I started my new job at a daycare, where I quickly discovered how much I enjoy helping and working with kids. In June, I visited my uncle in Wisconsin and spent time floating on the lake, enjoying the warm weather with family. My family also welcomed a new addition to our home: my kitten, Ronald! Toward the end of July, Molly and I attended a Savannah Bananas game at Wrigley Field, which was especially fun and memorable. Finally, on Aug. 3, I attended my dream concert, Noah Kahan, with my mom in St. Louis. The night was truly amazing. Although I am sad to see summer end, I will always be extremely grateful for the memories I made and the exciting journey ahead as a senior in high school.



By Annie S.
Reporter



My summer has been super fun and filled with lots of memories with friends, family and sports this summer. I spent much of my time coaching Lake Camelot Swim, which gave me the opportunity to work with younger swimmers and help them improve their skills. I also attended cheer practices throughout the summer, keeping me active and preparing me for the upcoming school year. Another part of my summer was participating in BNGSA Angels travel softball. Playing with my teammates gave me plenty of opportunities to compete, learn and make memories together. In addition to sports, I volunteered with NHS at the blood drive and at Alpha Park. These experiences let me give back while spending time with people I enjoy. Although my summer has been busy, it has been amazing. I am grateful for everything I got to do and everyone who made this summer special. I loved it.

By Emma M.
Reporter

Summer is often the time when students get to relax and enjoy a few months away from school, and I would say that was true for me. One of the most memorable parts of my summer was when my mom, Arianne, and I traveled to Colorado to pick up Missy. We spent 13 hours driving there and back, but the long trip was worth it. Along the way, we saw mountains, experienced new places and learned some lessons together. This summer was also exciting because I got my driver's license, and I have been driving a lot since then. Having my license has given me more independence and allowed me to spend more time with the people I care about. I also got to see many of my friends this summer. This summer taught me to slow down, enjoy the moment and live fully without worrying about everything happening next.



By Cadie J.
Reporter



This past summer has been the most fun I've had in a long time, and it ended all too quickly. While I'm excited for the upcoming school year, I'll always miss these past two and a half months of self-discovery, relaxation and having new experiences with my favorite people. A lot of this summer was spent trying out new restaurants, where I found out that I absolutely love sushi. Some days were spent with my friends at the lake swimming, jetskiing and hanging out. I even had some days where I went to robotics practice; it was a lot of fun with so many nice people in that community. Along with all these new experiences, this summer really helped me find myself. Not just what I like, but who I am and who I want to be. I also made memories that I know I'll look back on and appreciate for years to come. Overall, I couldn't have asked for a better summer.

'After the Storm' and 'Artemis II'

By Izzy L.
Artist

