



TIGER TIMES



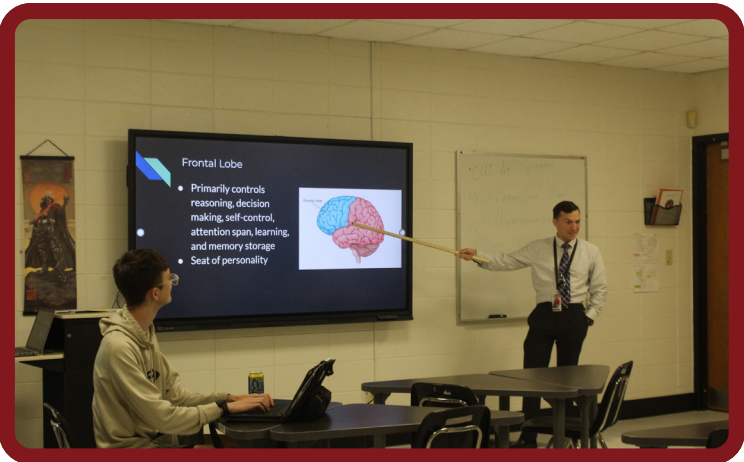
Back To School Edition

Vol. 5 | No. 2 | Sept. 24, 2026

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Senior Kaitlyn H. and junior Sy S. work on their Independent Study projects in Mrs. Seaman's class.



Mr. Siadek educates students about brain sections and functions.

From Psychology to Independent Study: High school gains two classes

By **Cadie J.**
News Reporter

Two new classes have been added to the roster this year at Illini Bluffs, giving our students more options to fill their schedules. Psychology is being offered as an in-person option during fifth hour, and an Independent Study is available during eighth hour.

Psychology, Mr. Siadek's newest class, is a single-semester course that dives deeper into topics like the mental processes and a person's general way of thinking. Along with teaching students about these topics, it also aims to help you develop your own thesis, support that thesis and construct a logical methodology.

"I've always had a passing interest [in psychology], but as a serious discipline I never really got interested until I started teaching,"

Psychology teacher Mr. Siadek said.

The class has been going into topics like Neuroscience and ESP, or Extrasensory Perception, with projects ranging from short writings to fully planned experiments to test the class's hypothesis. Siadek seems to really enjoy this course and is happy with how well the class has been going so far.

"Students seem like they are really catching on to things. There's some interest in there as well, which really helps," Mr. Siadek said.

So far, the class has had a pleasant impact on the students, with multiple students speaking out on their enjoyment of the newly added course, with the only current complaints being about the reading and writing this class includes.

"I would take a full year of

psych," senior Will C. said. "The class is so in-depth, I feel like I'm in Siadek's mind."

For people who like a fun, yet more structured course, Psychology would be a great option. Unless, of course, you don't enjoy reading and writing, then you may prefer a class that isn't as uniform. While Illini Bluffs has many options, the other new class added this year may be a better fit for those who dislike the structured courses and assignments.

Independent Study, Mrs. Seaman's newest class, is a course available over an entire school year that allows students to choose their own path by studying what they want, how they want. This course is meant to help students learn more about what interests them, allowing them to study/work on absolutely anything, as long as they

can condense their learning into two presentations throughout the semester.

"I'm interested to see what some of our students are doing, like trying to start up a new club or do some type of like volunteer work or non-profit work," Independent Study teacher Mrs. Seaman said, "but I'm also interested in what some of the boys are doing, like philosophy, like they're kind of diving deep on a big existential question."

The projects picked by the students are very diverse, ranging from researching a specific subject to learning a new skill. It's all unique to their interests and strong suits, allowing students to work towards a goal and show their progress along the way.

"I really love Maggie making a blanket, and I think that's just so fun. I love seeing the process; you can visibly see the progress that she's making on it. I'm loving seeing Kaitlyn doing hair, and I'm excited for her to start doing makeup and things like that. It's really fun to see," Mrs. Seaman said.

This class has been talked about quite a bit; students really seem to enjoy the idea of it a lot. At the moment, the class is still in the beginning stages, but approaching mid-semester means they will soon be finishing up their first drafts of how to show their progress.

"I left my medical terminology class for this," senior Kainen P. said. "I think this is a lot more interesting, honestly. I've been researching the concept of evil, like where it comes from and stuff."

Illini Bluffs High School welcomes two new teachers

By **Addy D. & Ella D.**
Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor

This year Illini Bluffs welcomed two new teachers to the high school, Mrs. Bachman, as the Algebra I teacher, and Mr. Walden, as the agriculture teacher and FFA sponsor. Although both teachers are new to Illini Bluffs, neither is new to the world of teaching.

"I started as a freshman in college as a civil engineering major, but I always enjoyed math and tutored my friends in high school and thought I maybe had a knack for teaching math... so after a semester at Bradley, I switched

from civil engineering, and then I just went straight; now this is my twenty-second year of teaching," Mrs. Bachman said.

Mr. Walden may not have quite as many years under his belt, but he is far from inexperienced.

"This is my sixth year teaching," Mr. Walden said. "I have always had a love for agriculture since I grew up on a farm, but when in high school, my ag teacher was a huge mentor for me, and that is when I saw the choice to teach agriculture."

Both teachers have had no problem sliding right into the

community at IB.

"My first year has been busy but exciting with getting to learn about the community and students," Mr. Walden said. "My hope is to have a fun and interactive learning environment in addition to seeing FFA grow."

Mrs. Bachman has also had a good start to the school year--she emphasizes how the small community gives closer relationships.

"I like the small school feeling of it; it is a little bit calmer here in the hallway. Students get along; they've known each other since kindergarten if they've been in this district; it's just a smaller faculty. You get to have more personal relationships," Mrs. Bachman said.



Algebra I teacher Mrs. Bachman



Agriculture teacher Mr. Walden

IBHS cuts community hour and adds an eighth hour

By Taylor H.
News Reporter

This year, students learned that community hour—a structured social time where students played games, tried new foods and pursued their interests—had been discontinued indefinitely; in its place is now an eighth hour and a shortened advisory during ninth hour.

This plan was finalized at the end of last school year, with the ultimate goal being aligning high school and middle school schedules while allowing more academic flexibility.

“Adding another academic class provides the opportunity for students to take an additional elective class. This creates more chances for students to see what they are interested in while still here at IBHS,” principal Mr. Martin said.

Adding an extra class hour meant the schedule had to change;

every class got cut a little shorter to fit an eighth hour while still allowing time for an advisory. Removing community hour was a direct result of adding the eighth hour. The administration saw it as more beneficial to have an advisory four days a week.

“To me, having time to finish your stuff here at school every single day except Wednesday, of course, really kind of gives kids no excuses,” counselor Ms. Marvin said. “Because I think there were tons of kids doing assignments in community hour.”

Some students really appreciate having another class and advisory every day for this reason.

“I like having the extra advisory time every day so I can manage my time wisely and get my work done before school ends,” junior Carson B. said

On the other hand, other students mourn the loss of community hour.

“I like having shorter classes, especially as a senior, since most of my classes are electives,” senior Cadie J. said. “I do miss the long advisory and having the choice of what community hour to do...there were a lot of cool ones.”

The feeling of missing community hour isn't just from students; teachers loved creating a fun community hour for the

students just as much.

“Every fall, I looked forward to my fall festivities community hour,” English teacher Ms. Sewell said. “While I appreciate having another academic class, I definitely miss taking kids to Tanner’s Orchard and trying new fall foods.”

Regardless, this new schedule is here to stay.



Algebra I teacher Mrs. Bachman's advisory class.

Opinion: Statewide phone ban

By Emma M.
Voice Reporter

Statewide, students are all experiencing the same problem: the phone ban. For ages, students could have their phones if they used them respectfully, but this year, that is not the case.

The same issues have been going on for a long time. Students cheat on homework, tests and projects. Some have even used their phones for worse in school, taking crude photos or cyberbullying. However, it has gotten worse with the creation of artificial intelligence; cheating has become easier than ever. All of these facts stated, my opinion is that phones should be allowed in schools so that students can communicate with their families in the case of emergency.

Many families go through emergencies throughout the year; some kids need their phones to keep in touch throughout the day so that they know what's going on. Not only do families have emergencies, but it has been shown that 49 percent to 54 percent of high school students struggle with

anxiety and depression, leaving them stressed and unfocused. Students need their phones to find ways to cope, whether it's by going home, listening to music, or calling a parent/guardian for a couple of minutes.

State representatives would say that students can call their parents in the office, or we can wait until when we get our phones at lunch, but some people can't wait till lunch. When people have anxiety at school, it can be very hard, especially when you're in classes with everyone or during passing periods when everyone is in the halls. Though our administrators are very kind and welcoming, they also tell us, “It's okay! Come to my office,” but for people like me, that feels scary and kind of embarrassing. It's already hard enough to admit you need help, so specifically having to state why to someone can just feel overwhelming and not worth it.

While phones have their cons, they can also have their pros. If used responsibly and respectfully, students should be able to use them when beneficial.

Noah Kahan: Tour review

By Ella D.
Managing Editor

A timer appears on the board; the crowd counts down from 10, lights dim and bracelets light up like fireflies dancing through the stadium. The intro song starts, then Noah Kahan himself appears.

This was just the opening of an amazing concert at Busch Stadium this summer. On Aug. 2, 2026, Grammy-nominated Noah Kahan made a stop in St. Louis, Missouri, as part of his North American tour: The Great Divide. I myself was able to be there and experience this amazing event. To give a full review of this concert, I am going to break it into three sections: atmosphere, openers and Noah himself.

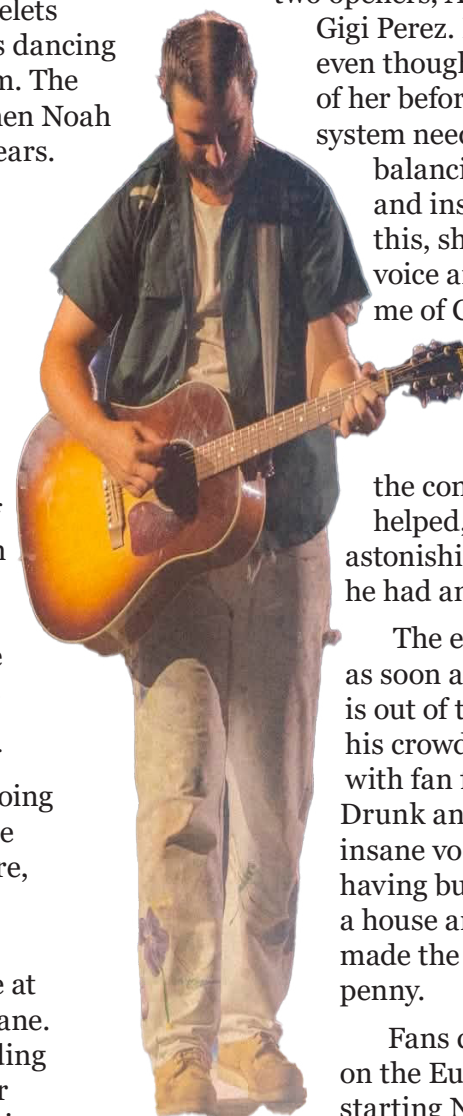
The atmosphere at the concert was insane. Everyone was standing and screaming their hearts out to the lyrics. The lights and stage production were phenomenal. The only critique I have is that I wish people would have had more energy towards the openers, but it is quite common at any concert for

people to only care about the main headliner.

For this concert, there were two openers, Annabelle Dinda and Gigi Perez. I enjoyed Annabelle even though I had not heard of her before, but her sound system needed some work on balancing out her voice and instruments; besides this, she had an amazing voice and sort of reminded me of Chappell Roan. Gigi Perez, however, was amazing. I was quite familiar with her music before the concert, which definitely helped, but her voice is astonishing in person. Overall, he had amazing openers.

The energy Noah brings as soon as he steps on stage is out of this world; between his crowd interaction, opening with fan favorites like Dial Drunk and All My Love, his insane vocals and his set having bugs on the screen, a house and even an old car, made the show worth every penny.

Fans can see Noah next on the Europe leg of his tour starting Nov. 5 in Glasgow, United Kingdom. Even though he is in Europe right now, American fans may still be able to enjoy a show again next summer, given that Noah himself has heavily hinted at this.



'GHOST: 2 Big to Rig'

By **Cadie J.**
News Reporter

Ghost released their second concert film, “2 Big To Rig,” on Aug. 26, which had a limited run in IMAX theaters. For Ghost fans, especially those who weren’t able to see one of the concerts late last year, this was an exciting experience.

“My friend and I went to see the Peoria concert,” Senior Kaitlyn H. said. “It was amazing, 100 percent the best concert I’ve ever been to.”

For many Illinois Ghost fans, Peoria’s Civic Center was the closest venue to experience the “Skeletour” for themselves. Tickets for the concert were starting at around \$85 for upper-level seating, ranging well over \$500 for the pit.

“We had really good seats, even got some of the confetti at the end. Tickets were expensive, yeah, but the

experience was incredible. My dad, who’s been to more concerts than I can count, said it was way better than the Kanye concert he went to.” Kaitlyn H. said.

Quite a few of Illini Bluffs students and staff went to the concert, though the civic center was so packed that night I doubt there was much interaction between those who went. However, for those Ghost fans who didn’t get to experience the concert, or who just really love Ghost, there was a concert film released last month.

“Of course we had to go see the movie too; it wasn’t that bad in price either, so obviously we had to drag along [our friend], Emme. She’s not a Ghost fan, at least not before seeing the movie, but we thought, why not.” Kaitlyn H. said.

The Ghost concert film was meant to capture both the concert itself,

showing just about the entirety of the show and many of their most popular songs, and some behind-the-scenes footage of how proud their crew is of the Skeletour.

“I had zero idea what they were dragging me into, honestly,” senior Emme D. said. “It was confusing at first, but then I started to hear some songs that I recognized.”

Most segments of the movie are of Tobias Forge (the band’s frontman, also known as Papa) entertaining the crowd and singing songs like “Future Is A Foreign Land” and “Mary On A Cross” at their New Mexico shows. In between these segments are clips of the crew putting together the elaborate stage, and interviews with the fans who were waiting to see the concert.

“It was definitely good; I liked it; some parts were... interesting, but I’m not complaining. I would go again, might even listen to more of their songs now, not gonna lie,” Emme D. said.

As somebody who saw both the



concert and the movie, the concert will win every time. The experience was so unique: smoke machines, flame projectors, a digital backdrop spanning the entire stage and a specialty stage fixed up with a 136,000-pound rig of lights. While the movie was incredible, nothing will match the in-person experience of the concert.

Dolly Parton's life and impact

By **Elyse C.**
Voice Reporter

On a random Tuesday in August, everyone’s life was turned upside down when the news broke: “Dolly Parton, dead at 80.” People were going around in shock, telling me, “Dolly has died,” and at first I thought they were joking, but it was true. The people who were talking about it were so sad about it because Dolly was a legend and a part of everyone's life.

Despite being 80 years old, Dolly Parton left an impact that transcended generational lines. Her music, her style and her heart for others made her more than a celebrity. To many, Dolly felt like family.

The thing that made Dolly most famous is her songs, which tell stories and evoke deep emotions. Some of her most famous songs include “I Will Always Love You,” “9 to 5,” and “Jolene,” which have stayed famous for so long because they still relate to the world right now. Many people feel a personal connection with her songs in some way, including other artists like Whitney Houston, Beyoncé, Miley Cyrus and Sabrina Carpenter. Her most recent cover was with Sabrina Carpenter, with the song “Please, please, please.” Sabrina did this because she wanted to be associated with a “musical hero.”

Her heartfelt and emotional soul and great sense of humor extended well beyond her songs, though. Her style was joyful, authentic, chic and everyone loved it. She would wear sparkles and rhinestones on her clothing, a big

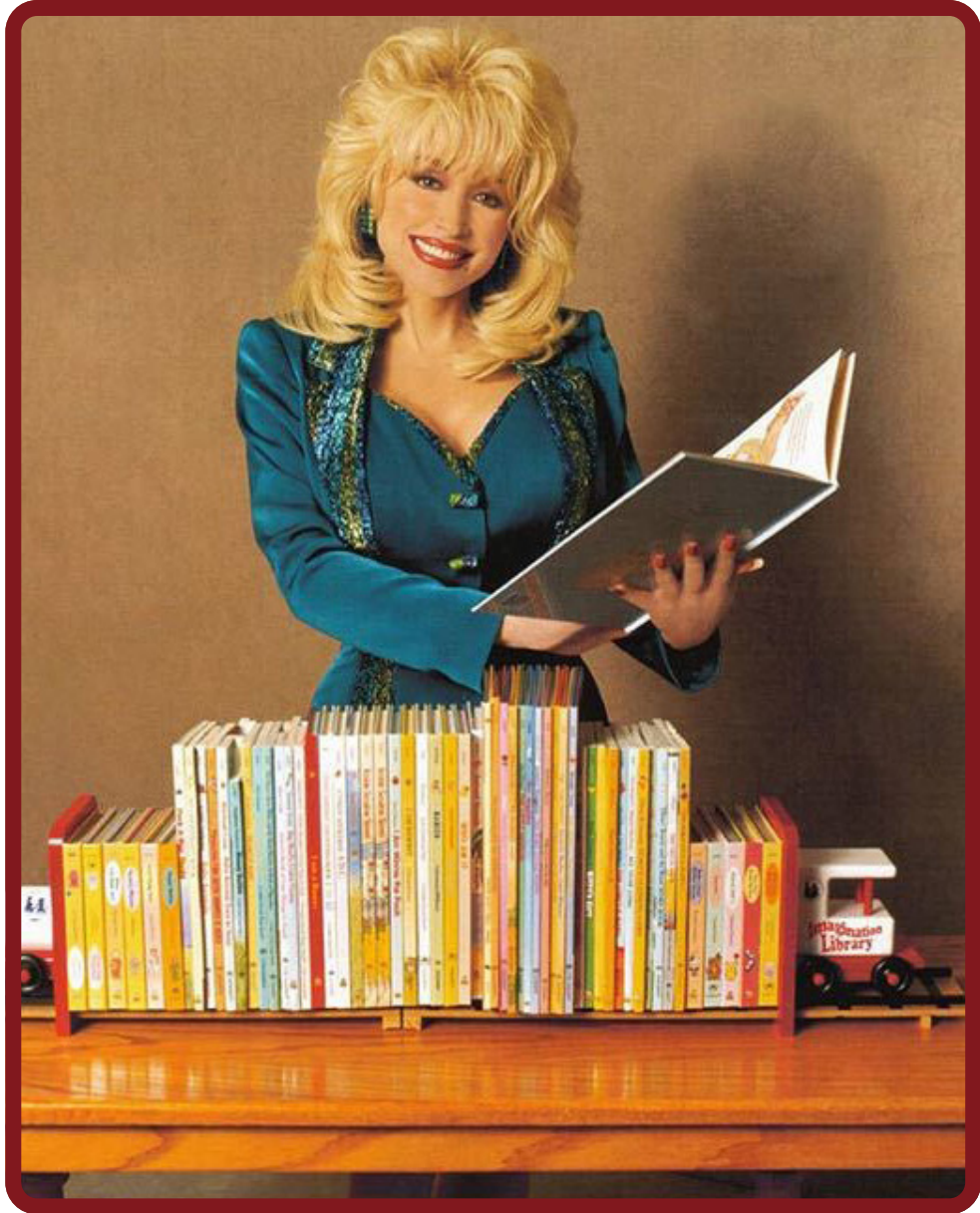
blonde wig, and high-end clothing. Her wig was one of fan favorites because it symbolized her large personality in the best way possible, and it showed her sense of humor.

Her style also impacted a lot of young women; it showed them that they can enjoy makeup, heels and fashion for themselves. This is telling women that they don't need to have a man's opinion in their fashion choices. Her main goal was to improve people's lives and let them live freely without others' opinions.

Dolly was a great humanitarian to her fans; this made her fans feel close to her like a family. Dolly did lots of things for her community, including giving away free books, impacting families, giving financial aid, aiding job creation, providing vaccine funding and inspiring trust.

The most interesting cause to me is the free books one; it was in honor of her father, Robert Lee Parton. She did this because she wanted to give children the opportunity to learn how to read because her father never got the opportunity. She donated more than 304 million books to children so they can start reading. This is inspiring for many people of all ages; people look up to Dolly because of all the things that she did for the community.

Dolly was a very inspirational person to a lot of people; she has done a lot for her community. She had an imagination library, a buddy program for people to graduate from school, employee tuition, wildfire relief to help people after the big fires and she donated money to media contributions to get people



to be heard.

One thing I think is interesting is the buddy program. I think that it is very cool that she gave out money to kids who graduate from school, and it made the dropout rate go from 35 percent to 6 percent. She would have two people be buddies, and they both have to graduate to get the money, so this would make them want to graduate more because they get a prize at the end of the eighth-grade year.

From the members of her small community to the millions who listened to her music, Dolly was a big part of a lot of people's lives because of what she did. Dolly had a really big legacy, and because of this, everyone is so sad she is gone; it was a big loss to a lot of people. She was a very inspirational person, had a very good style and was heartfelt and emotional for others; her music is still famous to this day because everyone relates to it. Dolly impacted everyone's life.

Basketball superstar, Russell Westbrook, retires

By Romann N.
Sports Reporter

On Aug. 12, 2026, the basketball world was shocked to hear MVP superstar Russell Westbrook retired after 18 incredible seasons in the NBA. Russell Westbrook was loved by many, being a great player all around.

He had some great teammates such as Kevin Durant and James Harden on the Oklahoma City Thunder; they were considered a super team. Russell Westbrook had a career high of 58 points in a single game, but, sadly, his career came to an end.

Russell Westbrook retired because team offers did not match

the role or contract terms he wanted, but I think it's also because people hated on him and called him "Russell Westbrick," so he retired and became a co-founder of a new basketball league called Project B. He announced his retirement through a social media video post. Nobody was expecting him to retire so soon; people suspected he would retire in two to three years, not now. Russell Westbrook played his last professional NBA game with the Sacramento Kings versus the Philadelphia 76ers

All his fans are sad that he retired because he was a good player that some people disliked, but deep down liked how he played.

Thirteen other NBA players have commented on his retirement, and some celebrities such as Kevin Hart, Ciara, La La Anthony and Angel Reese.

Russell Westbrook has made a great impact on the basketball community, and his retirement has left everyone in the basketball world in shock, leaving a variety of people missing the experience of watching him play and specifically dunk on people.

Though the retirement is sad, it will help him move forward on his way to starting his new basketball league. Being a retired NBA player will help boost the popularity of the league.



Bears consider move to Indiana

By Maxx H.
Sports Reporter

The Chicago Bears plan to move out of Soldier Field, where they have played since the 1970s and won the Super Bowl in 1986, and out of Illinois, where they have played since 1924 and where their history began.

The Bears are planning to move to Hammond, Indiana, but why, and will this be the end of all of their history made in Illinois?

In December 2025, the Chicago Bears announced to the public that they are planning on moving to a stadium in Hammond, Indiana. The Bears moving is more likely than not; the percentage that they are gonna move is around 55 percent to 60 percent.

Many fans believe the Bears moving is a bluff to Illinois lawmakers, who think that it is a tactical leverage play to pressure Springfield into offering a lower price to rebuild the stadium, and some people believe that this is an embarrassing brand disconnect. All of the fans have very

different opinions. Some people are frustrated that the Bears are betraying them and are mad they aren't staying loyal to Illinois.

On the other hand, some fans are supportive, saying this is a good move that's still close to home, and people believe they need a change, and some are excited for more parking and more available seats.

For me, the Bears have never really been my favorite. Still, living in Illinois all my life, there's no way I can hate them, so I do not really agree with the move because then Illinois is gonna have no NFL team. If I ever want to go to any football game, it will not be in my home state, so I would say I am not frustrated, just disappointed.

I think that the Bears should stay in Illinois and keep all of their history in Illinois and bring home another Super Bowl ring. This means if the Bears move away from Illinois, I will no longer be a fan, and I say all of their history here will be forgotten. No one knows exactly when their decision will be made, but most likely by the end of autumn and early winter 2026.



Check out our Mental Health Fair photo gallery at ibhstigertimes.com



One-on-one: What NFL team has the best/worst mascot from Disney collab

Best: Detriot Lions with Simba
Worst: Miami Dolphins with King Triton

By Brody L.
Sports Reporter

Something new is happening in NFL history: the Disney collab. In this collab, Disney picks mascots for NFL teams. Different teams have different mascots: the Kansas City Chiefs have the Big Bad Wolf, the New York Giants have Wreck-It Ralph, and the Tennessee Titans have Thanos, to name a few.

The collab happened to launch a Disney collection with the NFL. The NFL wanted to make history and make some merch that people can only buy for the 2026 football season. Some teams got a really great mascot, like the Detroit Lions, and some got the worst, like the Miami Dolphins.

What makes something good is if it goes with the team's original mascot. The Detroit Lions' mascot is Simba from "The Lion King." Their original symbol was just a lion; then they made Simba so they look alike, and it goes with their name. What makes something bad is if it does not go with their name, like how the miami dolphins disney mascot is King Triton from "The Little Mermaid."

The different designs for the teams are really colorful and stand out and catch your eye and make you think that you want to buy them. Some are very broad and are dark and do not match their original design, like Pluto from "Mickey Mouse Clubhouse" for the Cleveland Browns. Some go together really well, like the New York Jets. Their Disney mascot is Buzz Lightyear from "Toy Story."

I think that the Detroit Lions have the best because their original mascot was just a lion; now it is Simba from "The Lion King," and their design is original, unlike the Miami Dolphins; their team mascot is King Triton.

While my opponent, Romann, thinks the Panthers are good because their Disney mascot is a literal panther from "The Jungle Book," the original colors for the Panthers are blue and black, and the blue is too bright and featured too prominently.

I think that Chewbacca is bad but is better than King Triton because it is cold in Wisconsin, and Chewbacca has a lot of fur on him, so that makes more sense. But King Triton for Miami does not make sense because the original mascot for Miami is a dolphin, and King Triton is a merman and does not look like a dolphin.

I think that the Detroit Lions have the most intimidation because they have a lion, and the Dolphins don't have an intimidating mascot because it is just a merman, and it does not look like a good mascot.

Best: Carolina Panthers with Bagheera
Worst: Green Bay Packers with Chewbacca

By Romann N.
Sports Reporter

The NFL is doing something new; they have done a collaboration with Disney. They have assigned every team a Disney, Marvel or Pixar character; to name a few, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have Captain Hook and the San Francisco 49ers have Stinky Pete. This is something that has never been done in the history of the NFL, and all the merch is in the Disney store right now till the end of the football season.

What makes something like this good or bad depends on whether it goes with the original mascot. For example, the Carolina Panthers just had a panther before, but for the collab they got Bagheera from "The Jungle Book," which fits, so it's a good one. A bad one would be the Green Bay Packers, who got Chewbacca from "Star Wars," which doesn't fit.

I think the best is the Carolina Panthers because they got Bagheera from "The Jungle Book." It goes with the team name and the original mascot which was just a black panther. They have the best one because it just fits in with the original one so well. It sticks with the theme and name of the team. And all around fits the team super well.

The Panthers have the best one by far. I mean, there are other good ones, like the Tennessee Titans, who have Thanos, but the Panthers just stayed with the theme of the team super well. Another good one is the Philadelphia Eagles, who got Doctor Doom, who fits with them super well too; the colors fit super well with the green and grey.

I think the worst is the Green Bay Packers. They got Chewbacca from "Star Wars." It doesn't fit with the Packers at all; it is so out of the blue. The Packers could have gotten anyone else, like Ratatouille. The Packers don't really have any Disney characters that fit, so it would be random anyways but Chewbacca is just weird.

The Packers have the worst one by far. I mean, there are other teams that are bad, like the Commanders, who have Hamm from "Toy Story," which is bad, but the Packers are worse. The Packers didn't stay on theme, which makes it not that good, and I think they could've done better.



Detriot Lions with Simba from "The Lion King."



Miami Dolphins with King Triton from "The Little Mermaid."



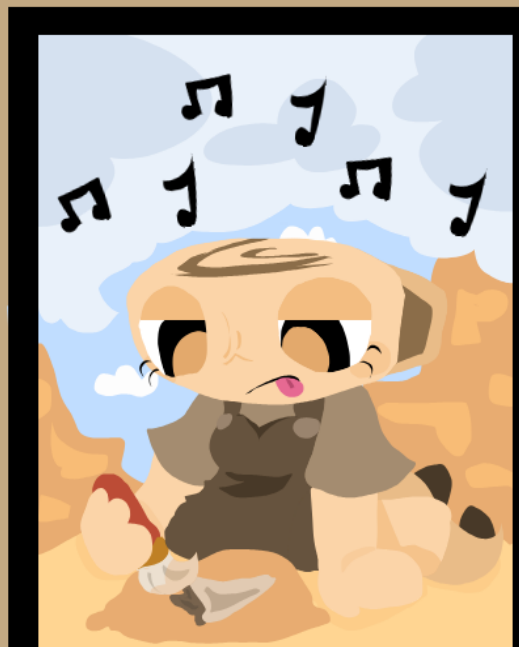
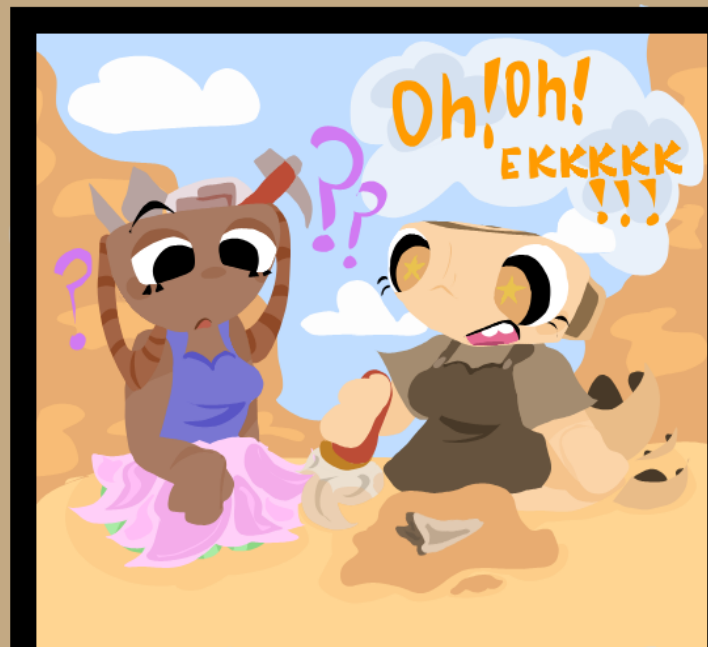
Carolina Panthers with Bagheera from "The Jungle Book."



Green Bay Packers with Chewbacca from "Star Wars."

Comic strip: Digging ventures

By Kasper G.
Cartoonist



Shelly
&
Bassie



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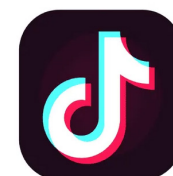
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Land acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the Indigenous people who originally inhabited this land on which we now live. The Peoria Tribe, an Algonquian-speaking people of the Illinois Confederation, were the original inhabitants of the land that now includes Timber Township, now Glasford.

Culturally, the Peoria practiced a nature-centered religion and were known for being open and welcoming. They often accepted other cultures into their tribe, married into other tribes, adopted white children, and welcomed former enslaved people into their community.

The Peoria were pressured to move from their ancestral land between 1818 and 1832 when the Treaty of Edwardsville was signed, and white settlers began to aggressively move into their territory.

We cannot undo the past, but we can shed light on it to give them the acknowledgement they deserve.

If you are interested in contributing to The Tiger Times, email Ms. Sewell at jsewell@ib327.com
We would love to have you join us!