

TIGER TIMES

Halloween Edition

Vol. 5 | No. 4 | Oct. 30, 2026

2	News Read about senior Cadie J's research on the scariest local urban legends.	2	Voice Find out which horror movies were filmed in Illinois.	3	Opinion See Taylor's perspective on which Halloween costumes will be the most popular.	4	Sports Read about how the soccer team is advancing into the sectional championship.
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Letter from the Editor

I think one of the best things about Halloween is that, for a little while, we get to believe in magic. We decorate our houses with things that aren't real, dress up as people we aren't, and tell stories about things we can't explain. There's something fun about imagining that the world is a little more mysterious than we give it credit for. This said, I also think there's magic in the things we see every day, especially when we aren't looking for it.

As Editor-in-Chief of the Tiger Times, I've come to appreciate just how much there is to notice. Writing has a way of making us stop and pay attention to things we might otherwise overlook. It gives ordinary moments a place on the page, where they can be remembered long after they've passed.

That's one of my favorite things about working on the newspaper. Our staff gets to take parts of our interests and turn them into something that other people can read and relate to. We spend hours writing, interviewing, editing and designing because we believe these stories matter. They might not always involve haunted houses or scary stories, but I think there's something pretty special about capturing the people and moments that make up our little corner of the world.

I hope that as you read this edition, you find a little bit of that magic for yourself. Maybe it's in a story you weren't expecting to enjoy, or a moment that reminds you why you love being part of this school. And if you've ever wanted to take pictures, design editions, or share a story of your own, we'd love to have you join us. You never know what you might create until you give it a chance.

I guess you don't need a wand, a spellbook, or a black cat to find a little magic. Sometimes, all you need is to look a little closer at the world around you. And sometimes, all it takes is a story. Happy Halloween, and happy reading! We hope you enjoy our Halloween Edition!

All my gratitude,
Addy D., your Editor-in-Chief

Weather whys: Creepiest weather stories throughout history

By Ella D.
Managing Editor

When we think of eerie things, the first things that come to mind are ghosts, cemeteries and woods. What most people don't think of that can be just as eerie if not more is the weather.

For decades creepy and wild weather has taken place around the world from temperatures climbing over 40 degrees in just seconds, tornadoes walking and the most random things falling out of the air. Weather too can make us feel uneasy.

On June 15, 1960 it was just after midnight. The town of Kopperl, Texas was fast asleep in their beds when all the sudden one by one residents woke up sweating feeling as if they had stuck their heads in an oven. Winds were

gusting over 75 mph feeling like a fiery slap in the face. Thermometers were reading up to 140 degrees, but how could that be? It was 94 not that long ago. Even more strange was when daylight showed and farmers found their crops scorched with black.

Although this event can not be proven given the time period, it is widely believed to be true and caused by a phenomenon called a heat burst.

If you think that story was creepy just wait until you hear this one. For this weird weather story we have to go back to the year 1873 in Kansas City, Missouri. On a warm day in mid-July residents were shocked to find frogs falling from the sky. Now, this may seem untrue, but it in fact was not. Although the

time period made it hard to find the real cause, scientists believe these amphibians were picked up from a tornado miles away and dropped on the citizens of Kansas City.

This same phenomenon happened in Iowa as well a few years later; the reason the frogs stayed in the storm for so long in both cases is believed to be the fact that they were probably frozen into hail stones.

This third event takes us to Jarrell, Texas on the day of May 27, 1997. Photographer Scott Beckwith went out to photograph the storms brewing across the state, unaware he would be capturing one of the most eerie and famous tornado photographs in history. Imagine this: you are already scared a tornado has touched down you look

up and it's walking? That is just what happened on that stormy day in Texas. The tornado looked as if it had two separate legs, and it was walking as it moved.

This would later become known as the "deadman walking tornado." It went on to kill 27 and scour the ground bare. Later, it was rated an EF-5. The walking visual was caused by a violent wind tunnel wrapping around the tornado itself; this is only seen in violent tornadoes.

These stories are just a few of the many eerie and creepy weather events that have happened, showing just how powerful and creepy mother nature can be. Next time you think of something spooky, I hope weather also comes to your mind.



A look into Illinois' spooky history: Local urban legends

By **Cadie J.**
News Reporter

Peoria State Hospital -

Anybody familiar with the Bartonville area has heard the story of the old Peoria State Hospital, or has even seen the main building before its demolition in 2016. For a total of 70 years, 63 buildings stood on the grounds and housed the “incurable insane.” While there are plenty of ghost stories that arose after its closing, there were even some that came out while the hospital was still in operation.

The most well-documented story is of “Manuel A. Bookbinder,” a patient who worked alongside the hospital’s burial crew and was said to have quietly wept at every funeral under the old elm in the potter’s field. He worked on the burial crew up until his own death, where hundreds of patients, nurses and even Dr. Zeller witnessed an apparition of “Old Book” appear under the elm tree and weep at his own funeral.

After its closure in 1972, the Bowen Building became a popular site for both explorers

and the dumb teens of the 80s, such as my dad and his friends. For years, I’ve heard the stories of running through the hallways, the abandoned rooms and the dark underground tunnels that led under the buildings. During one of their adventures, my dad and his friend, Jeremy, said that something screamed at them down the hall, but they never saw a thing.

Springdale Cemetery -

The Springdale Cemetery is no stranger to urban legends, being well known for its “witches circle,” the Purple family grave and the “woman in white.” Judge Norman Higgins Purple, the father of the “Purple Family,” was an Illinois Supreme Court Justice and was often rumored to have practiced witchcraft or to have been a warlock. Following his child’s death in 1836, the Purple Family plot was started.

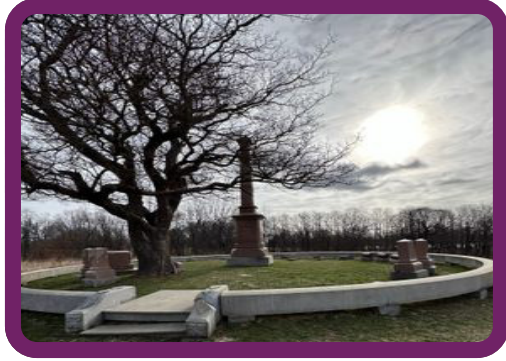
Their plot is now the final resting place for a total of six people: Norman, his wife Ann, three of their six children and one grandchild. The grave site has been adorned by a heap of stones that

are said to have been placed there to keep the evil spirits trapped and stop Norman from rising from the grave.

Moonpoint Cemetery -

There have been many paranormal sightings at the Moonpoint Cemetery, often tied back to the popular urban legend of the Hatchet Lady. Said to haunt the grounds since the late 60s, the story is of a mourning mother who lost her children and spiraled into insanity. During full moons, she has reportedly been spotted beside her child’s grave, wielding a hatchet and screaming in the ears of visitors, “Get out.”

Accompanying this story, rumors state that the apparition of a young boy wanders near other children’s graves at night. There are many other sightings and experiences that started appearing in the 60s, like “dancing lights,” shadowy figures, spectral knocks, unexpected engine failures and being trapped and/or unable to leave if a train passes on the nearby railroad while you are still inside the cemetery.



People pick: Favorite Halloween traditions

By **Ryleigh D.**
Voice Reporter

Senior Kas G.

I would get in a plastic wheelbarrow and get pushed around by my mom and dad. We would go trick-or-treating, and I would get to eat about half of my candy. We would also decorate the plastic wheelbarrow.

Sophomore Austin S.

Every Halloween, my family and I have a tradition of carving pumpkins and decorating our house with spooky decorations. After we finish, we put on our costumes and go trick-or-treating around the neighborhood together. When we get home, we watch a scary movie and eat some of the candy we collected.

Junior Ava K.

My favorite Halloween tradition would have to be carving pumpkins. My family and I carve them every year and put them on the porch for people to see. It is a great way to spend time with my family every Halloween.

Scary movies made in Illinois

By **Brody L.**
Voice Reporter

Halloween season is here, and you know what time it is: scary movie time. The top three best horror movies that were made in/about Illinois are “Halloween,” “Candyman” and “Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer.”

The best movie that was made in Illinois is “Halloween.” The main plot of that movie is that an escaped mental patient, Michael Myers, returns to his hometown Haddon Illinois to stalk and murder a teenager on Halloween night. There is no such place as Haddon in Illinois, but there is a place called Haddon in New Jersey. The movie itself, though, was made in California and, if you look closely, you can see palm trees in the background of certain shots.

The next scary movie that was made in Illinois is “Candyman.” The movie starts with the protagonist Helen. She is a graduate student from the University of Chicago and is studying urban legends that were in Illinois. Her and her friend were researching urban legends in Illinois, and they found one that was about a supernatural serial killer. What is meant to be a supernatural killing is when an entity takes control of someone’s body and the person can not control what that entity does. The movie was based on and filmed in Chicago.

The next movie is “Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer.” It was filmed in Chicago in the fall of 1985 and was based on a real person who was killing people; he then confessed to 600-1,000 murders that he did across the United States. The confessions ended up being false; later investigators found out that he did kill people, but only 12 people, not the 600-1,000 that he initially claimed.



Review: How good the local haunted houses are

By Emma M. and Romann N.
Voice Reporters

Vibe

Vibe Haunted House in Creve Coeur puts on an amazing Half Way to Halloween event. I went with my friend, her little brother and her niece, and we went earlier this month. It was overall just terrifying; it was set up like a maze, and most of the rooms looked the same. I was mainly scared when we all got to the maze. Not only was it smoky, but the maze was set up quite peculiarly. We started in an open area and walked in a hallway that led to a small four-foot box area, and we could go left, right or straight; some areas were blocked off. After we figured out which way we could go, clowns were popping out in front of us. By the time we finished, we were all terrified and ready to get out of there.



Spook Hollow

I went to Spook Hollow in Marquette Heights, IL, twice: once with my girlfriend and her parents, and the second time with my mom, my stepdad, my little sister, my mom's roommate, and my girlfriend. When I went both times, there were three different parts: the first part is M.C. Manor, which is the Morton building at the start; then there is Spook Hollow, which is the actual trail with little sheds and buildings along it that are decorated; and at the end, you go into M.C. Nightmare, which is the scariest part. When I went both times, it was nice weather, so it wasn't too cold but cold enough to make you a little more jumpy. The first time I went was scarier than the second time because I didn't know the layout. The second time I went, I only got scared once by an animatronic. Overall, here's what I found to be the most terrifying. There were a lot of actors that would jump out and scare you or follow you or talk to you. There were a lot of animatronics. When you go through it, it's dark, which is how it is supposed to be, so you can't see the actors, and you get scared more easily.

Factory of Fear

At Factory of Fear in Moline, IL, there are multiple floors, and each one focuses on a specific fear. In the first part, it's an abandoned office setting. It seems to be taken over by zombie-like humanoids who chase you around the office cubicle and block off exits. Focusing on the fear of living in a total dystopia and being trapped or claustrophobic. I was definitely scared when we got to the maze in the basement; it was pitch dark, and clowns were jumping out in front of us and chasing us down the maze. This haunted house definitely gives you the perfect mix of fun and fright.



Halloween costume predictions: What will be the most popular

By Taylor H.
Voice Reporter

Normally, the costumes that we see the most on Halloween are from movies or characters that have gone viral at some point in the year. Last year the most popular costumes were “K-pop Demon Hunters,” “Squid Games” and “Barbie” simply because each of those was a new release that year. This year, I predict four will be the most popular:



First: Coraline -

The “Coraline” movie has become very popular again this year; people have been making dolls and decorating Coraline's outfit for costumes. This year, people are trying to create a “nostalgic Halloween” with scary movies, older costumes and different fall treats. With that being said, I predict that Coraline and Wybie will most likely become a popular costume for couples, or even just a solo costume.



Second: Spider-Man -

With the new Spider-Man movie that came out earlier this year, “Spider-Man: Brand New Day,” it's no surprise that Spider-Man will become a very popular Halloween costume. Places like Spirit Halloween and Walmart have been stocking Spider-Man suits in their Halloween sections, so people can see it as they walk around. It's an easy and affordable solo costume, so I do not doubt that it will be popular.



Third: Dolly Parton -

Dolly Parton has always been a role model for many. When Dolly died on Aug. August 25, she claimed her spot as an icon forever! She is very famous and her death shocked the whole world. So, in honor of her, I think many people are going to recreate her most popular outfits for Halloween. Dolly will forever be loved as an icon, and I don't think people will ever stop dressing as her!



Fourth: Nikki Freeman -

The new movie “Obsession” came out earlier this year and went super viral for its suspenseful horror. The movie became so popular that Inde Navarrette made her big break just by playing Nikki's character. She gained lots of publicity because of interviews she did after the movie was released. So, I expect lots of people to dress like Nikki out of love for Inde and her role as the character.

Frightening the competition: The IB soccer team advances to Sectional Championship for the first time in school history

By Addy D.
Editor-in-Chief

The Illini Bluffs boys soccer team is advancing to the sectional championship with a victory over Fisher in the sectional semifinals, setting up a matchup with top-seeded Rock Island Alleman.

The second-seeded Tigers improved to 16-1-1 overall and will face Alleman, which enters the sectional final with a 16-5-1 record.

Senior Will Emhoff scored his thirty-ninth goal of the season on a second-half breakaway to help Illini Bluffs secure the semifinal victory. Emhoff, the program's all-time leading scorer, has been a big help to the Tigers' offense throughout the season.

Illini Bluffs' success this season has come in part from the preparation that began before the official start of the season. According to Emhoff, players organized open gyms to build team chemistry and prepare for the upcoming schedule.

"At the start of the season, we planned open gyms between the players," Emhoff said. "That helped us get ready for the season faster."

Emhoff also credited the team's senior players with helping establish leadership and providing guidance for younger teammates.

"A lot of seniors on the team, a lot of experienced seniors that have played soccer," Emhoff said. "So just that knowledge and wisdom helped even the underclassmen."



The soccer team poses after their sectional win.

The Tigers came to the game against Fisher as the lower seed, but they were confident heading into it. Griffin White, a senior player, said previous matchups against common opponents gave Illini Bluffs reason to believe it could win.

"We were the lower seed, but we were definitely supposed to beat them," White said. "Every game we played that we played the same team as Fisher, we played them better."

Illini Bluffs' defense has also contributed to its success. Emhoff identified the defense as one of the team's biggest assets throughout the season.

"Our defense has really made us go this far," Emhoff said.

The Tigers will have to play hard in the sectional final against Alleman. The Rocks enter the matchup as the top seed with a 16-5-1 record.

Illini Bluffs will take a 16-1-1 record into the championship game, with Emhoff leading the program's scoring record and contributing 39 goals this season.

The winner of the sectional final will advance to the next round of the postseason, the supersectional game.

2025's best athlete costumes

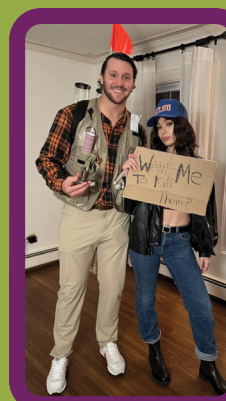
By Maxx H.
Sports Reporter

Last year on Halloween, one of the most talked about things were costumes that pro athletes wore. In my opinion, one of the most eye-catching costumes was Victor Wembenyama, who showed up in a slenderman outfit to his game against the Phoenix Suns on Halloween. The outfit suited him well. What else would a 7 foot 4 inch basketball player wear for Halloween?

On Halloween 2025 we saw Myles Garret defensive end on the Rams show up in an all out Freddy Krueger costume. He also took pictures in a tunnel. Myles has been known to always dress up for Halloween, given he's been known to dress up in a scary outfit; since 2021, he has dressed as "the creeper" from "Jeeper Creepers" in 2023 and the "Terminator" in 2024.

Now let's look at something a bit less scary. Josh Allen and his wife dressed up as the waterboy and his girlfriend on Halloween 2025. I thought this costume was amazing in relation to Josh being a football player and the waterboy being a football player. I love this costume mainly because I grew up watching "Waterboy" and I really like a couple costumes and I haven't seen this one yet.

Now these last three were all good costumes but not really comfortable when going out trick or treating or any other Halloween activities. In terms of the most comfortable Halloween costume of 2025, we have Giannis Antetokounmpo, former Milwaukee Bucks star, who showed up in a minion onesie. The costume is also funny, who doesn't like that?



Spookily successful: Fall sports recaps

By Romann N. and Kelsey O.
Sports Reporter and Senior Contributor

Golf recap-

The golf teams had a successful season, highlighted by a conference championship, a regional title and individual accomplishments.

The boys program included 17 JV players and 11 varsity players, while the girls team had six members. The boys varsity team won the ICAC conference championship and regionals. Senior Crew Fortin placed first at regionals, followed by junior Drew Dunn in third and sophomore Jacob Dunn in fifth.

One key asset for the team was Crew Fortin, who qualified for state for the fourth consecutive year, finishing ninth.

The girls also sent Camden and Brielle to sectionals. For Camden, it was her second sectional appearance, following her freshman year. The teams' accomplishments made this a memorable season.

Volleyball recap-

Illini Bluffs Tigers volleyball entered regionals with a 24-4 record. Ranked tenth in the state in 1A, the Tigers headed into regionals confident.

This season is a junior-dominated team with only one senior on the varsity team this year, Kelsey O'Connor.

Emmerson Eeten is an outside hitter and all-around player for the Tigers and has had a great season, reaching her 1,000 kills at their Hartem game this year.

She is also a statewide leader in hitting, ranked fourth in Illinois.

Maddy Stephens is the team's setter, and she reached 500 assists this year. Addi Woertz, another outside hitter and all-around player for the team, is also having a reputable season, earning her 500 kills this year.

The Tigers, seeded second in their region, won their regional championship match against Heyworth on Thursday, after winning their first two games against Lowpoint Washburn and Leroy.

This is the fifth year in a row that the Tigers have made an appearance in the regional championship, and the third regional title they have won in the past five years.

Comic: Gourdy's Halloween

By Kas G.
Cartoonist



Gourdys Halloween



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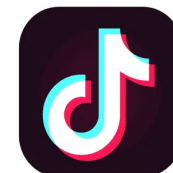
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Land acknowledgement

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!