



TIGER TIMES



October Edition

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2

Opinion

Find out who was the best dressed at this year's homecoming.

3

Voice

Learn about where to get the best fall-themed drinks.

3

Review

Read a review on the new movie 'Verity' and whether it's worth the watch

4

Comic Strip

Find out about Gourdy's preparations for Halloween.



Musical cast and crew.

IB Drama Club presents 'The Addams Family'

By Emma M.
News Reporter

Get ready for a spooky, family-friendly time. This Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Illini Bluffs Drama Club presents The Addams Family Musical.

English teacher Mrs. Seaman is directing the musical, her directorial debut at Illini Bluffs. Not only did Mrs. Seaman go to college to be an English teacher, but she also got a scholarship in regard to theater. Whilst pursuing her majors in English and secondary education, she also took on a minor of theater. After college, she decided it was time to step away from theater so that she could focus on being the best mom she could be. Now that her children are almost

grown up, she has decided to jump right back into theater.

“I just wanted to get home and be with my babies,” Seaman said. “Now that they’re old, it’s like, I can go back and do something that I love, and I’ve missed. It has been fun to get back into it.”

Seaman was hesitant about taking the offer, but after catching wind of who would be helping her, she decided to go for it. She attributes a lot of the success of the musical to her choreographer, costumer and choral director.

“Yeah, I could not have done it if it wasn’t for Ms. McKean, Ms. Sewell and Mr. Ganshaw. There is no way,” Seaman said.

Even though the teachers are

involved in the theater program, Illini Bluffs Theater prides itself on focusing on the students. Senior Izzy L. is playing Morticia and takes performing this “dream role” very seriously.

“It is my dream role, and it is my dream musical, so I’m very excited. I’m really happy. I feel like it’s perfect,” said Izzy L.

There is more than just getting assigned a part and just memorizing your lines, though. Although the Drama Club members seem to enjoy it, there’s a lot of hard work that goes into it to make sure everything goes perfectly.

“Chaos goes into it, but there’s also like... There’s a lot of rehearsals every single day after school, and it’s, like, going over lines, going over acts, making sure that everyone knows where they’re going,” said Izzy L.

Not only is it hard work for the people who need to memorize lines,

but there are also people who have to build the props and sets.

“I did set building, so the main platforms that everyone stands on, I helped build those, and then the smaller pieces, like... some of the chairs, and then some of the buildings that they lay on,” said sophomore Zak L.

Although it’s “hard work and takes a lot of time,” he still manages to find the joy in building and is happy he gets to pursue something he loves.

“I’ve always loved just pretty much building, and the Drama Club gives me a perfect opportunity to pursue that, and build these props that are gonna be for these shows that quite a few people go to see,” said Zak L.

When doing a project you enjoy, sometimes it’s difficult for people to pinpoint their favorite part, but Zak knew right away, and he was excited for the opportunity to share it.

“There’s a chair; that one part, a spike comes out of it, that was really fun to build. We put a bunch of foam all over it, and I’m gonna paint that pretty soon. That was very fun to build, and it’s a really funny scene where that comes on,” said Zak L.

From scenes to set, The Addams Family has been a great time for everyone, especially director Mrs. Seaman.

“The show is awesome, and the kids are awesome, and everybody’s gonna have fun, ‘cause it’s a ookie spooky show,” Seaman said.

IBHS podcast team secures one of ten finalist titles in NPR's 'Student Podcast Challenge'

By Addy D.
Editor-in-Chief

A team of six students from Illini Bluffs High School has been named one of 10 finalists in the 2026 NPR Student Podcast Challenge. The students earned national recognition for their podcast, which explores how a meteor that struck millions of years ago still affects life in their small town.

The team’s podcast, “A Small Town’s Meteoric Significance,” discusses the geological history

of Glasford, a village of about 850 residents, and how a crater formed roughly 450 million years ago now stores natural gas underground.

The team includes Addy Dooley, Anna Crall, Carson Becker, Lillian Karl, Mallory Stone and Aidan Bell. They worked with English and journalism teacher Jade Sewell, their advisor, who encouraged them to enter after learning about the competition at a conference.

“I first learned about the NPR student podcast at The Illinois



Digital Educators Conference in February,” Sewell said. “This year, I sat in on a session about podcasting where the host mentioned the NPR podcast challenge. It caught my attention, and so I brought it back and proposed it to the students. We had a large group who were very interested, and so we immediately began planning.”

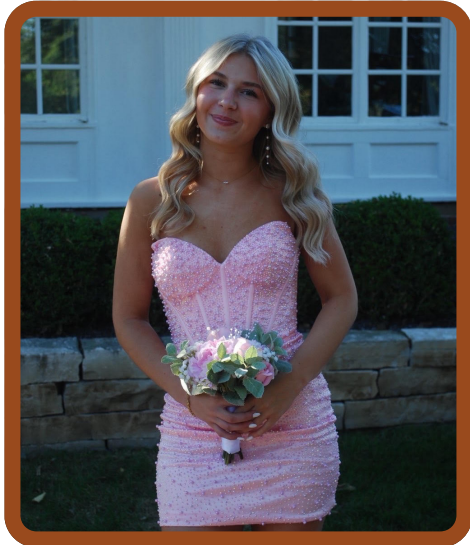
Now in its eighth year, the NPR Student Podcast Challenge invites middle and high school students to create podcasts about subjects that interest them. For this year, NPR received more than 1,500 entries from students in 42 states across the middle and high school groups. The Illini Bluffs team was selected

Article cont. on page two.

HOCO best dressed: All the details of the winner fits

By Taylor H.
Voice Reporter

This year's homecoming, "A Night on the Bayou," had many stunning individuals and couples, including Kelsey O'Connor and Sam Souba, who won homecoming court. However, a few really caught my eye. They stood out, and I remembered their outfits for days after because of the effort and thought that went into part of their outfits. While it was hard to narrow it down, here's my top four.



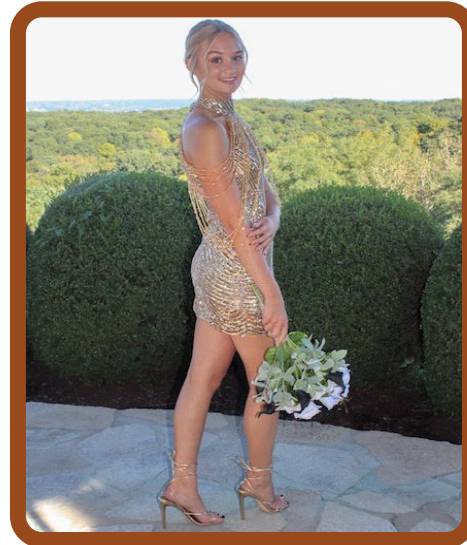
Alayna H.

Alayna H. is a senior who served on homecoming court in more ways than one. Her dress was a beautiful baby pink—her favorite feature of the dress—and was covered in pearls and gemstones, with corset boning down the front. She absolutely sparkled under the lights! She said she got the Amarra dress from a small dress shop in the Springfield mall for a little over \$400.



Addi W.

Addi W. is a junior who was also on the homecoming court. Her dress was a beautiful pink with an array of beautiful pink flowers with stunning gold accents, not to mention the big bow in the back! She got her dress from Dillard's for around \$110. Her whole look had so much thought put into it; from the shoes and little flowers in her bouquet to her jewelry, everything was intentional.



Harlow M.

Harlow M. is a senior; her dress was a sparkly gold with beaded sleeves that fell down her arms and back perfectly! It was almost like a disco ball, which was definitely the eye-catching part of the dress. She got it at a boutique in Alabama called "Classy Threads." Even though the dress was on the more expensive side, she said, "It was totally worth it!" Overall, her outfit was so unique and pretty.



Eva H.

Sophomore Eva H. absolutely stunned at homecoming in a one-of-a-kind black dress with layered skirts lined with white lace and a little bow in the front. The skirt was pinned up in the front with the lace falling down her legs... so stunning! She got the dress from Abercrombie & Fitch. Eva's outfit was one of my personal favorites because of how different it was from what we usually see. It was so uniquely her!

Finalists of NPR Student Podcast Challenge cont.

as one of 10 finalists, making the students part of a very small group that was recognized nationally for their work.

The idea for the content of the podcast came from an incident that occurred at the students' school in 2021, when a gas-like smell triggered an evacuation from the building. The smell came from mercaptan, a chemical added to natural gas to make leaks easier to detect. Ameren had only released the odorant during a routine test that checks that the odor is still working, rather than actually releasing natural gas itself.

"I was pretty confused at first, and then we evacuated I was scared, but then after being out there for so long I kind of calmed down and just chatted with my friends," script writer and podcast host Carson Becker said. "It was an interesting way to get out of class."

After the incident, Ameren began communicating before test releases to the school so there wouldn't be another scare. The event prompted questions about why a natural gas storage facility was located in Glasford, so once they began the research, it led

the students to discover that an unusual geological feature beneath their community--a crater left by a meteor impact hundreds of millions of years ago--was still shaping their community today.

"I had no clue there was a meteor crater under our school and town. So it was a big shock, and I was excited to learn more," Becker said.

Although the crater has been buried beneath layers of impermeable rock and is filled in with porous rock, its structure is able to support underground natural gas storage. The crater measures about 2.4 miles across and extends deeper than the height of the Eiffel Tower, according to information shared in the team's research.

"[Learning about the crater] made me feel like the world is a small world after all. That we are just this little rock floating in space," Becker said.

To really bring the podcast to life, the students researched and did on-site reporting and interviews. As agreed upon by the team, one of the project's highlights was a visit to the Ameren natural gas storage facility.



Anna Crall, Carson Becker, Addy Dooley, Lillian Karl, Mallory Stone and Aidan Bell conducting research and interviewing at Ameren.

"The hats and goggles were so fun to wear. I do wish we got to see more of the infrastructure of the crater, though," Becker said.

The team emphasized that the finished podcast represented far more work than its seven minute run time might suggest.

"The podcast itself is less than eight minutes long but reflects months of work," Sewell said.

Their hard work did not go unnoticed, though. The finalist selection was especially this was Illini Bluffs' first year entering the NPR Student Podcast Challenge.

"I was shocked to find out we were in the finals," Sewell said. "Honestly, we didn't hear back for months after submitting, so I kind of assumed we didn't make it on. That was disappointing; I thought we would at least get an honorable mention. When I got the email from NPR that we were a finalist a few weeks ago, I shrieked. I couldn't believe it."

Although the Illini Bluffs team did not take the top prize, being named one of 10 finalists marked a significant achievement for the students and their school.

The best fall-themed drinks and where to find them

By Cadie J.
Voice Reporter



Charlie Brown & Snoopy - Starbucks

While not being officially recognized under "Pumpkin Picks" Starbucks has released two special drinks for this fall season. Their Charlie Brown and Snoopy drinks have become unsurprisingly popular, both being unique frappuccinos topped with the same pumpkin spice cold foam. While the Snoopy is better for those who want an extra sweet cookies n' cream treat, for those mocha lovers, the Charlie Brown is the perfect chocolate blend.

The Pumpkin Patch - Dunkin Donuts

Dunkin has released a whole line of new fall favorites, called "The Pumpkin Patch," featuring nine different coffee options along with three pumpkin-flavored treats. The pumpkin pie coffee chiller is perfect for those who love the cold coffee taste and want a hint of pumpkin spice, while the pumpkin spice signature latte is an amazing option for our hot coffee lovers. Both of these match well with their pumpkin munchkin donut holes.

Jack & Jasper - Black Sheep

The local favorite, Black Sheep Coffee, had another menu change in the past month. While we lost some amazing options, it brought in two new fall-themed flavors, Jack & Jasper. Jack, a pumpkin and toasted marshmallow latte, is available in both iced & hot options, while Jasper is a lotus energy drink with a caramel and green apple flavor. Both flavors are both unique and absolutely delicious. I would recommend them to anyone who asked for my opinion.

Over The Garden Wall- CxT Coffee

CxT Roasting Company has come out with a seasonal menu themed around "Over The Garden Wall." This line features five unique drinks dedicated to the setting and characters of the Cartoon Network original series, including Into The Unknown chai tea latte, Bluebird Blues matcha tonic, Bluebird Blues espresso tonic, Uncle Endicott caffe latte and the Pottstown caffe latte. Overall, their fall selection is very diverse and provides a fun way to encapsulate the fall vibe.

Movie review: 'Verity'

By Elyse C.
Voice Reporter

On Friday, Oct. 2, excitement spread through Colleen Hoover fans as yet another one of her books officially had its own movie: Verity.

The movie "Verity" is a thriller about a woman named Lowen Ashleigh, who gets a job finishing writing a book series for a famous author, Verity Crawford, who got into a car accident that left her incapacitated and unable to continue writing. Lowen moves into Verity's house, where she discovers an odd manuscript that reveals dark secrets about Verity and her family. As Lowen spends more time with Verity's husband, Jeremy, she begins to question what really happened to their family and relationships. The movie blends romance, suspense and scary moments that keep everyone awake and wondering. Some parts may be confusing, but there are lots of twists that keep it interesting.

Earning over \$15 million dollars at the box office, the movie was highly liked by fans, but the critics had different opinions. Some critics liked "Verity," saying that there were a lot of twists, while others found the story was confusing or slow in what was happening. The

poster and trailer made the movie look mysterious, interesting and scary. They made me want to know what was going to happen next, keeping me entertained. I wanted to see the movie because everyone was talking about the book,

The beginning of the movie was good because there was a lot happening right away; it caught my attention and made me want to keep watching. At first, it was not hard to understand; it was really interesting, and a lot happened. Some parts were confusing, but I started to understand the storyline as the movie went on. The boring parts were in the middle of the movie; there were some parts where I wanted to take a nap because I felt like they were not needed. There were also sad parts, like when the daughter died and when the dad was upset about losing her. Those scenes were emotional because he was going through so much. I smiled every time I saw Crew; it made me smile because he was just so cute and innocent in the movie. I watched the movie with my friends, who seemed to like the movie, and stayed invested in what was happening throughout the movie.

I personally liked the movie



because it was interesting, scary, and full of surprises. Even though some parts were slow, I still enjoyed watching the movie. I feel that the movie did follow the plot well because there were some confusing parts, but everything started to make more sense as the movie continued. It wasn't very hard to follow even though there were some confusing parts because there was a lot that was happening, and it was hard to know what was true. However, I started to understand the story better as I kept watching the movie. I agree with some of the critics because there were parts that were slow and confusing. However, I still think the movie was good because it kept me interested and made me want to know what would happen next. I would watch it again because the second time I watch it, I would better understand the confusing parts and notice things that I didn't notice the first time. I would recommend it to people who enjoy scary, mysterious movies with a little bit of romance and unexpected twists.

Fall word search

E	R	M	H	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	K	U	R
G	D	A	P	M	I	T	A	A	V	R	V	G	N
G	I	O	N	O	F	I	N	A	L	I	S	T	S
I	L	R	M	I	A	H	F	M	R	S	C	A	M
F	T	V	U	S	L	A	L	E	A	V	E	S	I
A	I	P	T	A	M	U	S	I	C	A	L	S	R
L	D	M	U	D	F	C	A	U	E	R	A	U	L
L	M	C	A	R	U	Y	P	O	L	P	F	C	U
D	U	Y	T	A	R	T	L	L	P	U	O	E	P
R	U	N	R	H	V	I	A	H	P	N	E	S	G
I	E	S	P	C	V	R	L	L	A	T	L	I	N
N	S	U	N	R	M	E	U	L	L	A	L	N	N
K	D	N	S	O	A	V	A	O	I	P	R	P	S
S	L	H	O	M	E	C	O	M	I	N	G	O	O

Word Bank

- autumn
apple
musical
fall drinks
homecoming
- pumpkin
orchard
musical
leaves
finalists

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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!