



# TIGER TIMES



November Edition

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## The American Legion:

*Giving back to the community on Veterans Day and every day*

By **Liam M.**

Senior Reporter

Everyone celebrates and honors veterans on Veterans Day, for obvious reasons. What goes under the radar for most, though, is that veterans are much more prominent and involved within their communities than just the one day dedicated to them.

The American Legion, for example, is highly involved with the community and our school. They are very involved in several school and community events and are the main reason some are able to happen. Some of their main events include Veterans Day and Memorial Day, amongst others.

On a local level, our legion post helps the school with a multitude of things, including Veterans Day. The legion is the colorguard, proudly hoisting the flag up for the ceremony, as well as simply being there to support the school. The legion also has a few speakers come up to contribute to the ceremony, as well as providing a three round cannon volley for taps.

Memorial Day is another very important event that the legion helps run and make sure it happens every year. They, yet again, provide a three round cannon volley for fallen comrades and taps. They even bring in a pastor to give a speech and prayer for all those who were lost in battle. There, the legion once again hoists the flag and provides a space of remembrance for those who were lost in combat.

Boy's and Girl's State are very important programs that the legion sponsors, on top of everything else. While Memorial and Veterans Day occurs on a local level, run by our legion post, Boy's and Girl's state are national events where incoming seniors from all around travel to various location, including Eastern Illinois University here in Illinois, to learn about politics, government, and citizenship. A couple of national laws now in use have actually been proposed by attendants of Boy's and Girl's State.

Our legion post contributes much to the school and the community. Without them, we would have a much harder time running these events, and would have a lot less depth to these events if we did manage to do them without the legion. They're highly integrated with our community, and deserve a lot more recognition than they receive.

Most of the legionnaires are now getting older and have a harder time providing all the amazing things they do. So next time you see our american legion around, why don't you go thank them for all they do for us, on top of all the service they've done?



Students applaud veterans at 2023 ceremony.

## A call to action:

The canned food drive needs your help!

By **Addy D.**

Freshman Reporter

The canned food drive is off to a slower start than the students and staff at IB wanted, but that doesn't mean we can't make a comeback, Tigers! Make sure to participate and help all you can.

"It's been a slow start, but we're on our way," said Canned Food Drive facilitator and IBHS Librarian Mrs. Coulter. "But, many hands make light work. The more engagement we have from every student the closer we'll get to our goal."

Though the canned food drive just started, IB students and staff hope to gain momentum.

"I expect that over the course of next week and this one, things will start to ramp up. I really do think that once students start seeing the food pile up it will be an incentive to go out and do more," says Mrs. Coulter when asked how the canned food drive is going so far.

So, how is it all starting to add up? Well, the goal is to fill 100 baskets, with each basket containing the same variety and amount of each food item. And while food donations just started being received in mid-November, there has not been a lot of food collected yet.

"I think students oftentimes want to volunteer and they don't know how and this is the how. It's easy and it's right here and it's local and you can see the benefits," said Mrs. Coulter.

Money is being raised by Community Hour teams who are responsible for collecting money, One team is planning a bake sale, other teams are applying for grants, and others are crafting for the Holiday Lane booth.

On November 18th, during Holiday Lane, there will be a booth where IBHS Community Hours are selling items ranging from Christmas ornaments and picture frames to keychains, bows, and t-shirts. All of the profit made from the booth will be going straight towards the canned food drive.

"I think it's a perfect opportunity for students to be able to jump in and help," said Mrs. Coulter.

As an important reminder, all of these efforts are in service of getting food baskets in the hands of local families before Christmas. And so, on December 16th, IB Christmas Hope will take all the collected food and bring it down to the American Legion at the bottom of Glasford Hill. Finally, the IBHS boys basketball team will pack the food into baskets, load the baskets into their vehicles, and deliver them to the houses of those receiving a basket.



Current donations kept in library.



## Madrigal preview

By **Dylan W.**

Senior Reporter

The holiday season is just around the corner and there's nothing better to kick it off than the Illini Bluffs annual Madrigal. Every year the Choir Department puts on a madrigal dinner filled with beautiful music, delicious food and a great acting performance that is completely student-written and directed.

For the past three madrigals, Alumni Jake Thomas had written and directed the show aspect of the experience. He spent lots of time ensuring his show was well-written and entertaining. Knowing that he would not be around to make another script for the 2023 Madrigal, Jake decided to find somebody to take the torch of writing last year's Madrigal. This led him to choose Ethyn D. and Aidan R. to be this year's madrigal writers.

"At the beginning, we had no clue what we were doing," Co-Director Aidan said, "but the writing process was a good experience"

Before this year's madrigal, Ethyn and Aidan had acted in the shows that Jake had written and have acted in many other shows. When they got the task to write this year's madrigal they met together a began to plan.

Once they got a basic plot and some writing, they would show off their script to others to get feedback and constructive criticism. This process led them to create a script they can say they're proud of. After months of writing, the two soon found themselves in the director's seat, which is a new experience for both of them.

"There is a certain joy you get to feel when you see something you write come alive before you," Co-Director Ethyn said.

Since Oct. 23, Ethyn and Aidan have been working with the cast of the madrigal to bring their show to their vision. Getting ahead of their planned schedule early on, they have been able to make sure that the show will be both interesting and entertaining for the audience.

If you're interested in coming to see the 2023 madrigal on Dec. 2 or 3, you can still buy tickets until Nov. 27. Tickets are \$25 per person and they can be ordered from the QR code below. The form will give more information on payments and deadlines and you may ask our highschools choir director Ms. Lestina during the school day.





# Senior send-Off:

## Three involved seniors look to the future

By **Hunter R.**  
Senior Reporter

Your high school career is one of the most memorable times of your life. Going to a small school, you get the chance to grow up and learn with one another. You get to walk some of the most memorable moments of your life with these people, from running around on the playground to figuring out what you want to do in your life.

Three seniors that look forward to the beautiful opportunities that life has to offer include Levi A., Nikki O. and Lily L.

“My favorite part of high school is spending time with all of my friends and classmates,” Senior Nicole O. said when talking about her favorite memories of high school.

Nicole, who many know as Nikki, is ready for her future and already working on it now.

“I’d like to go to college, medical school, and hopefully become a surgeon,” Nikki O. said.

Keeping her dreams big, she is nothing short of on the path to accomplishing those goals.

Nikki is a part of our school’s golf team and spends a lot of her time on the course. She is also proudly a part of our National Honor Society and the art club.

Senior Levi A., on the other hand, can be found on the soccer field showing off his skills on defense. Levi played on the varsity soccer team, is on top of the competition and has played for years now. In his spare time, you can find him in the gym or hanging out with his friends.

“I will probably go to a college down south because you know the hotter the better,” Levi A. said.

He wants to end up on the beach somewhere and do some traveling. He would like to take a break year after high school before leaving for college to make the most of what’s left. He doesn’t have a set plan of what he wants to become but would like to do something that takes physical work, something “hands-on” that would “make a lot of money.”

After college Levi plans on doing some traveling.

“I want to go to the coastline or somewhere on the beach... somewhere exotic,” Levi A. said.

Lily L. can be found on the court, for either basketball or volleyball she has had some big accomplishments in her high school career. She has scored over one thousand points and has made the 3rd All-State team for IHSA basketball.

Despite her glorious basketball career, she has also made some good memories in the classroom and halls as well.

“I think my favorite part of high school has been powderpuff because we are a competitive class and we’ve won the last two years. It just makes it more memorable and more fun and gets everyone excited for homecoming,” Lily L. said.

Lily will continue her career at ICC and major in business. She is excited to play for the next two years at that level. She would like to transfer to a different school after her two years to play and learn somewhere else.

These seniors have enjoyed their time here at Illini Bluffs. They have built relationships with their classmates, teachers, and peers.

“I’ll definitely miss Mr. Wirth’s class,” Levi A. said.

With the school being as small as it is, the relationships built are that much closer so it makes it harder to leave.

“I’ll also miss most of our teachers because we have gotten close to them over the past four years and it’s our last year with them.” Lily L. said.

These students have made some great memories and made the most of their high school experience. With that, they would like to leave some words of advice for the underclassmen.

“Enjoy your time in the moment. I was always looking forward to the future, and now that I look back on it, I had so much fun in the past and I didn’t realize it until now. Don’t take it for granted because you might never talk to these people you see everyday ever again,” Nikki said.



# Tiger on the prowl: What are you thankful for?



“I am thankful for my family and my brother coming home.”

-Cassy G.



“My family. This is the one time of year we all get together, have good food, and have a good time.”

-Jacob R.



“Spending time with my friends and the food.”

-Emily P.



“Sparkling grape juice.”

-Shelby B.

Do you have a passion for writing, designing or creating?  
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# Staff picks: Best Thanksgiving food



**Sweet Potatoes - Celine L. & Lauren C.**

“Sweet potatoes are like mashed potatoes, but with character. Why choose the plain and boring option when you could slap some sweet potatoes onto your plate?”

“Sweet potatoes are delicious. They are a dessert that isn’t called a dessert, which makes them taste ten times better.”



**Green Bean Casserole - Zoe C.**

“The savory flavors are absorbed into the bread that turns soft and gooey. It is both rich and simple and goes well with everything else on your plate.”



**Mashed Potatoes - Dylan W.**

“Mashed potatoes are simply delightful. This delectable dish is the pinnacle of what some would call the Thanksgiving feast. Its sophisticated taste brings a warmth that no other food provides to those who enact in the process of eating at Thanksgiving.”

**Mac & Cheese - Addy D.**

I am a very picky eater, so Mac & Cheese is really the only thing I eat!



**Chicken and Dumplings - Adrienne G.**

This has always been the one food that we only get on Thanksgiving. Me and my grandma make it from scratch and it just brings lots of joy.

# Student survey:

Which is the better holiday feast?

**By Lauren B.**  
Sophomore Reporter

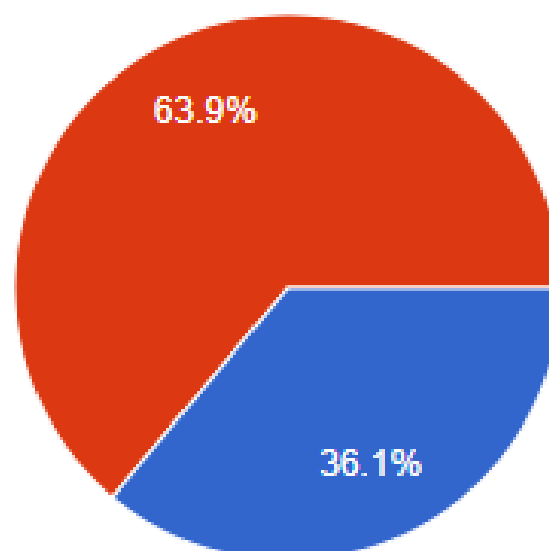
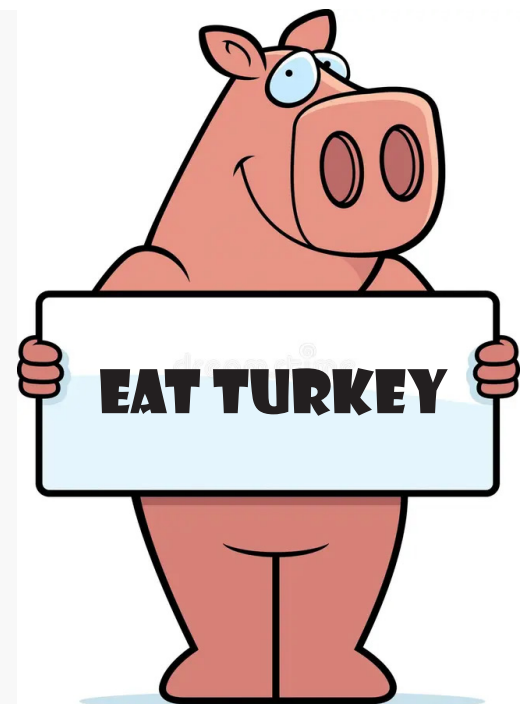
It’s no surprise that stores are starting to stock up on delicious holiday treats. With the holidays not too far ahead, everyone is preparing their meals, and their stomachs, for an amazing holiday feast. Who doesn’t love a plate full of green bean casserole, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce and...turkey? Ham? You could always have both, but the question needs to be asked, which is the better option?

Ham. it’s crispy, flavorful, and, by vote, better. Most people enjoy eating ham for its intense flavor and personality. Ham can be cooked in a multitude of ways. Honey glazed, coated pineapple and brown sugar, and a simple seasoning coat, all of which make a ham enticing to its eater. “Ham is really good. It has so much more flavor compared to TRASH turkey. Turkey is bland, boring, dull, dry and drab. Ham is just better.”

Many people believe that there is always room for two, Turkey on Thanksgiving and Ham on Christmas. “It makes sense to have both. One to enjoy at a Thanksgiving feast and one for a nice Christmas dinner. I prefer to eat turkey on Thanksgiving because I see it as traditional, and Ham on Christmas Eve as it brings the holiday spirit and gets me excited for Christmas.”

On the opposing side is Turkey. The turkey is a Thanksgiving symbol of pilgrimage and can be seen as a Thanksgiving classic. To some, the holidays wouldn’t be complete without a yummy turkey smothered in gravy and mashed potatoes, and many enjoy breaking the wishbone after the holidays are over. Due to turkey having less flavor, you can coat it in your favorite holiday foods and toppings and enjoy making your own special flavors! “Ham is good, but Turkey is the better of the two because it is always eaten on special occasions in my house.”

Overall, ham seems like the more popular holiday treat. With multiple ways to enjoy a nice slow-cooked or smoked ham, you’re sure to find a tasty recipe for the holidays that is perfect for all your holiday needs.



● Turkey  
● Ham



# Black Friday Box-store retail:

By **Zoe C.**  
Senior Reporter

This time of year, we are on the hunt for local sales. From toys to electronics to clothes and appliances, getting the best deals this Christmas season is a smart financial move to help you save some money.

## Dollar General One Day Only Sales-

On Thanksgiving day, Dollar General opens an hour early and is open an hour later. This gives shoppers a chance to scope out some bargains. For starters, Christmas trees, lights, toppers, skirts, and ornaments are all 50% off! Toys are buy one, get one 75% off and you can save up to \$15 on appliances like Toastmasters, Babycakes, and Frigidaire.

You can save up to 10\$ on pajamas for the entire family. Bedding, throws, and blankets are also half-off. Finally, there is a wide selection of perfect gifts for your loved ones, karaoke microphones, drones, assorted gaming accessories, and wireless earbuds are all 25%-50% off!

## Walmart Thanksgiving Sale-

If you are looking for deals on tech, Walmart delivers on Nov. 22! There are multiple TVs on sale, you can save up to \$80 for a Roku and up to \$120 on soundbars, subwoofers, and speakers. Beats Wireless

Headphones that would originally be \$350 are on sale for \$100.

You can save up to \$80 on the latest Apple Watch and Airpod Pros. Most of their sales are going on the day before Thanksgiving so stop by that day for great deals.

## Target Black Friday Deals-

The week of Black Friday, a wide selection of products and brands are marked down to amazing prices. To start, you can get up to 30% off of TVs, soundbars, and streaming devices. You can also save up to \$60 on select Fitbit devices.

The PlayStation bundles are going to be very popular this year as it comes with a PS5, a wireless controller, and either Marvel's Spider-Man 2 or COD MW III. This bundle is only \$499 when it is normally \$560. Target also carries clothes and appliances with some cash off. Shopping here on Black Friday week is sure to save you money.



# Black Friday clothing and apparel:

By **Kyra P.**  
Senior Reporter

This Black Friday, there are tons of sales to look for, including Aeropostale, Kohls and JCPenney — all of which are close and convenient!

## Aeropostale "All You Can Haul"-

Aeropostale is a widely known clothing store, which has a great selection of Black Friday deals! They offer a four-day sale called "All You Can Haul."

During this generous promotion, shoppers could snag major storewide savings starting the Wednesday before Thanksgiving through the Saturday after Black Friday. They offer storewide discounts of 60% to 70% off everything online and in stores. Girl's and guy's T-shirts start at \$5.87, jeggings start at \$15.87, and hoodies and joggers start at \$9.87.



## Kohl's Seasonal Deals-

At Kohl's you can earn \$10 Kohl's cash for every \$50 spent, going November 19th-22nd. You can also get an extra 15% off if you order in-store online from Nov. 19 to Nov. 24.

The store opens Friday at 5 am There are Super deals offered on Thursday and Friday only (Nov. 23 and 24) For example, a shirt that was originally priced at 18 dollars is now going for \$14 and pants that were 35 dollars are now going for \$28! With many other deals on appliances, furniture, and jewelry!



## JCPenny's Coupons and Deals-

At Jcpenny on Nov. 24 at 5 am you have a chance to win \$10 off a \$10 purchase, \$100 off a \$100 purchase or a \$500 purchase, or a \$500 coupon. At 9 am you could get a \$10 off \$20 coupon when you spend \$50+ on gift cards, at 11 pm you have a chance to win FREE diamonds, and at 5 pm you have a chance to win \$500 off a \$500 purchase! "Let us cover your cart!" "Thousands of deals are so low, you don't need a coupon!"

For example, there are shirts originally priced at \$45 for \$20, and pants originally priced at \$55 for \$22.99! With many other great deals on appliances, clothing items, jewelry, etc. The Northwoods Mall is a great place to go to on Black Friday, even though it may be crowded it has many stores inside, including all that I have mentioned above plus many more! It is open from 7 am to 8 pm for Black Friday only, but regular hours are from 10 am to 7 pm.



# Online shopping takes the cake

By **Lalaina Z.**  
Senior Reporter

Black Friday has been around since the 1950s, when police in Philadelphia complained about the amount of shoppers in stores on the day after Thanksgiving, dubbing it "Black Friday" because of their negative perception of the large crowds. Black Friday, which is known as the first day of Christmas shopping, is mainly known for the huge sales that happen in stores.

Along with Black Friday, the Monday after Thanksgiving is known as Cyber Monday, a concept which emerged in the early 2000s. This day comes with large online discounts on many different shopping sites.

Black Friday has always been highly intriguing to families looking to shop for Christmas while saving money. However, over the past few years, Cyber Monday has skyrocketed and more people are purchasing online than ever before.

NBC News calculates that an average of \$8.9 billion is spent during Black Friday. Cyber Monday has now overtaken Black Friday, raking in approximately \$10.7 billion each year.

Shoppers may lean towards Cyber Monday for many different reasons. They enjoy getting the exact same deals online without a hassle, and that is what has made this day continue to grow.

You can find almost anything you desire online, and Cyber Monday decreases prices on everything you need for Christmas. Most online retailers now offer free shipping on Cyber Monday, which makes these deals more appealing.

Black Friday often encourages competition between shoppers to get the items they want before others get to it. The chaos of these competitions gives Black Friday a bad reputation and makes people feel negatively about this day.

Along with the competitions, there are large crowds, long lines and stores swarming with people. These create a stressful environment to shop in and is one of the main reasons why people tend to shop online and avoid these deals all together. However, in recent years, the Black Friday crowds have decreased in size and have changed drastically.

The National Retail Foundation's survey found that the number of Black Friday shoppers continues to decrease and the amount spent per shopper has also decreased. This year, Black Friday deals in stores like Target, Walmart and Amazon started as early as October.





## Illini Bluffs inquiries

By Lauren C. and Delaney O.

Senior Reporters

"What do I get a Swiftly for Christmas?"

Dear gift giver,

A little birdie named Delaney told me that Taylor Swift just dropped a Christmas merch line, so that seems like a good place to start. Or you could always go with a good old-fashioned poster or record. At the end of the day, just remember that Swifties are people too.

-Lauren

How big would you dream if you knew you couldn't fail?

Dear deep sleeper,

Real big. I would dance in the streets and sing as loud as possible in public. If failure were impossible, then I would have nothing to fear. On a related side note, fear of failure is something that prevents many people from giving something their all. We are afraid of the potential outcomes and let what-ifs dictate many of our choices. Life is too short to have regrets. So dream as big as possible, regardless of whether you might fail or not. The only thing certain is death. Thank you, America. I hope the takeaway is to ask the guy out! Apply for the job, write the book, try out for the team! You may never have these chances again, and if you just don't try something, then failure is guaranteed. At least by trying you stand a chance.

-Lauren

How do I know what college to pick?

Dear stressed senior,

Choosing the right college is an important and sometimes difficult decision in life. However, there are a couple of things that you can do to take steps in the decision-making process without the stress of deciding. Scheduling visits and applying to potential colleges and universities can give you a glimpse into what your life might look like at that given place. Researching potential colleges is also a crucial step in the deciding process. It is important to find a college that meets your needs when it comes to size, location and housing options, as well as other aspects that matter to you. Lastly, one of the best pieces of advice I have ever received is to make a pro-con list for each college. The experience of choosing a college is universally stressful, but hopefully these tips will help you make the best decision for you.

-Delaney O.

## Thanksgiving origins:

By Katie A.

Senior Reporter

Thanksgiving, a time to eat the freshly baked goodies from Grandma's secret recipe book. The aroma fills the air, while your body is forced to bypass all your favorite comfort foods in the dining room. The laughter and excitement pour from room to room. All of your family is there, with relatives you only see once a year those who can never remember your name.

The extended family asks how school is going for lack of better conversation, to which the reply is always, "fine". Then comes the well-awaited main attraction, DINNER. Family races to the front of the line, only letting the grandparents and great aunts and uncles to the front. After going through the line, the poor, festive, plastic plate is drooping from the weight of all the food. Before you know it, you've gone back for seconds, thirds, and for those brave few, fourths.

The first Thanksgiving was also a shared bounty of food and company. During that foundational feast, two opposing sides enjoyed a meal and peaceful camaraderie. The year was 1621. The English colonists survived a long, fatal winter, where they lost half of their population to the bitter conditions after arriving in Plymouth only a year before.

History credits Squanto, a member of the Pawtuxet tribe, who significantly helped the colonists learn the way of the land. He taught them how to cultivate corn, catch fish and avoid poisonous plants. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims finally gathered enough food to sustain the entire community. The Pilgrim's Governor, William Bradford, put in order a celebratory feast in honor of the successful corn harvest. He inhibited the colonists' Native American allies, including the Chief of Wampanoag, Massasoit. This was the first ever "Thanksgiving."

George Washington was the first to issue a proclamation for Thanksgiving in 1789, though this did not establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday. In his proclamation, Washington declared that the need for such a day stems from the Almighty's care for the people and soldiers prior to the American Revolution and his assistance in achieving independence.

In the 1800s, magazine editor and author Sarah Hale petitioned congress for many years to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday. During the Civil War in 1863, president Abraham Lincoln officially re-established the Thanksgiving celebration, which has been celebrated annually since.

Under FDR's presidency congress officially decided to "freeze" the date of Thanksgiving, which had fluctuated year-to-year, making it the final Thursday in the month of November.

Today Thanksgiving may not be as seen on the Hallmark channel, or in a movie. It is, however, a time to enjoy being in others' company, eat (mostly) delicious food, and remember what it is to be thankful. So this holiday, let the food and company be enough, with the joy of Thanksgiving filling your home.

## Fall feels:

The perfect playlist for a cozy fall vibe.

By Lauren B.

Sophomore Reporter

"Sweater Weather" by The Neighborhood

Although this song may be a bit overplayed, it is a classic sure to get you into the fall mood.

"Halfway Up" by The Brook & The Bluff

With a calming and slow beat, this song is not only a fall favorite, but the best song for gloomy days.

"What Once Was" by Hers

The catchy tune and great vocalizations in this song are soft and cool, and the lyrics are deep and meaningful.

"This Is The Life" by Micky

With the simple guitar and touching lyrics, this song will get anyone in the chilly autumn mood.

"Maple Syrup" by The Backseat Lovers

This song is truly one of a kind, and I can't even begin to express how amazing this song is. You just have to listen.

"Cardigan" by Taylor Swift

This song is a classic, the og "fall song". What more needs to be said?

"Video Games" by Lana Del Rey

This song is relaxing and simple, not to mention sung by Lana Del Rey. Video Games is one of the most cozy songs to listen to on rainy fall days.

"Matilda" by Harry Styles

I didn't even know this was a song until 2 weeks ago, but I can't stop listening. The lyrics are sweet but calming, the music is peaceful, and you can feel fall in the song.

"American Honey" by Current Joys

Although this song may be considered "classic" it will never go out of style. This song gives off the best fall beautiful, and the vocals are soft and touching.

"August" by Flipturn

This song is all about love during fall. The quiet yet emotion-packed lyrics make for the best fall love song.

"Waste My Time" by The Crystal Casino Band

This song keeps the music simple and smooth, yet the lyrics make it uite the complex song.

"I hope that you think of me" by Pity Party (Girls Club), Lucys

This song is full of fun guitar and drums, not to mention the catchy lyrics.

"Wasteland, Baby" by Hozier

Although Hozier naturally gives off fall vibes, this song is perfect for a quite afternoon in the fall sun.

"Poison" by Cavetown

This song has deep and meaningful lyrics, as well as calming yet sad music, and only works during a gloomy and cold fall day.

"Freakin' Out On The Interstate" by Briston Maroney

This song is all about love and gives off October vibes. 10/10 would recommend.

"Cherry Wine" - Live by Hozier

Maybe I shouldn't pick favorites, but this is by far the best song on this playlist. This song makes me feel like curling up next to the fire with some tea and a good book for hours on end.

"Sparks" by Coldplay

This song is quiet yet moody, and gives the feeling of a quiet October afternoon.

"Atlantis" by Seafret

This song is sad and meaningful and reminds me of a quiet Sunday morning.

"Answers" by The Franklin Electric

Not only is this song super catchy, but the guitar is beautiful, and the vocals are soft and touching.

"Pool House" by The Backseat Lovers

This song is a fun and happy song and feels like the last summer swim, with fall just around the corner.



# Conference rankings:

By Wyatt H. and Will G.

Senior and Junior Reporters

Another year, another season of basketball. This time of year is extremely exciting for basketball enthusiasts who get to watch competitive games. This year, the Inter-County Athletic Conference will be a group to watch, as it will be one of the most competitive conferences in the Central Illinois area.

Here is a ranking of who we believe will be the best teams in the ICAC.

## Illini Bluffs

The projected #1 team going into this season is Illini Bluffs. After being ranked #1 in the state in the 1A conference, the Tigers have high hopes of winning the conference this year. Losing starter Brandon C. puts IB at a disadvantage, but junior Jayden W. and the rest of the starting line up will work together to fill this hole.

All State and First Team ICAC Hank A. returns with ICAC Honorable Mention Wyatt H. as well as Second Team Toby C. and Second Team Devon W. Coaches Clay Vass, Trey David and Joe Waters have also added a new member to the staff, alumni and former player Taylor Bruninga. Taylor played D1 basketball at Illinois State University and will greatly help the Tigers.

As long as the Tigers maintain their style of play the entire season, it will definitely be a successful one, with high possibilities at a deep run in the postseason.

## Peoria Christian

The team we believe is the second ranked team is Peoria Christian. Last season, the Chargers finished with a record of 24-11 in regular season and 5-2 in the conference.

Peoria Christian is a solid team, doing well on both sides of the ball, offensively and defensively. On offense, the Chargers like to get out aggressively and try to outrun their opponents in the transition game.

Continuing the fast-paced play, they like to play up-in-your-face defense, preventing their opponents from having a chance to think and causing a lot of turnovers in their favor. The Chargers lost a few senior starters from last year, including First Team ICAC Kitan Isawumi and Honorable Mention Adam Pepper. Returning players include First Team ICAC Malachi Persinger, Jameson Fischer and Drew Gohring. The head coach in charge of leading the team is Jason Persinger who has been coaching at the helm of the well-established program for 6 years now.

The Chargers have won the ICAC Tournament for the past two years and will fight for the number one spot. The loss of some key players though will hurt, but Malachi Persinger could lead the Chargers to another conference win.

## Delavan

The Delevan Panthers had a pretty solid season last year, finishing with a record of 15-17 in the regular season and 5-3 in conference. They should be able to have another successful season, as they didn't lose any senior players last year and should have everyone returning.

Not losing players works in their favor, allowing their chemistry to continue to grow and allowing the team to progress without having to start from scratch. Some key players for the Panthers are Senior guard, Second Team ICAC Cooper Hansen, Second Team ICAC Micah Brockhouse, and Senior Forward Zach McLean. These seniors will help guide the underclassmen and any potential newcomers.

If everything goes right for the panthers, second-year Head Coach Dan Hansen could be looking at a very successful season.

## Brimfield

Ranked fourth on our list is Brimfield. They also had a solid season with a final record of 14-17 in the regular season and a 5-3 record in conference play.

The Indians lost First Team ICAC Senior Forward Oliver Heinz, but have returning starters that include Second Team ICAC Drew Kieser and Camden Blodgett to pick up where they left off. A chance at the ICAC title is likely for the Indians but will be difficult.

## Elmwood

Last year, the Trojans went 22-10 overall with a 6-5 record in conference play. This team has very upside potential and could crack the top 3 if their players come together.

The Trojans' notable players that graduated were First Team ICAC Zach Howerton and Honorable Mention Brendan Williams. Younger talent will be leading this team with only a few upperclassmen returning, including Second Team ICAC Bo Windish and Layne Durst.

Josh Fugitt brings his young talent team into the ICAC conference looking for a middle finish. With this young team, it's hard to predict where they would end up, but it will likely be in the middle of the pack.

## Peoria Heights

Peoria Heights went 11-18 overall and 3-10 last year in the ICAC Conference. They are 6 on our ranking with high upside again because of the young talent that can explode for them. If the young talent can't perform, though, it may be another middle-end finish for the Patriots.

Leading the Patriots are Second Team ICAC Camron Williams and Senior Finn Heath. Peoria Heights will be mostly run by Juniors, but the few Seniors should come up as the leaders propel the team as best as they can.

Jimmy Jordan is coming into his seventh year of coaching at Peoria Heights and looking at the bottom of the barrel in the ICAC Conference. Again just like Brimfield there is upside for the young team but are hard to predict since young players are unpredictable.

## ROWVA

ROWVA/Williamsfield is 7th on our rankings. The Cougars had a successful season last year with a final record of 21-10, which might make it a surprise for them to be this low. This rank is due to them losing key seniors Forward Graham White and Guard Adam Kohl, who were a big part of their success last season.

They could have a successful year again since they have returning players, including Guard Lewis Sams and Forward Riley Danner. The Cougars very easily could make a run for the conference championship, as head coach Bob Anderson is notorious for having very good teams, and this could be one of them.

As the season progresses, we will get to see how good this ROWVA team can be, and hopefully they can live up to their potential.

## North Fulton

Last, but not least, on our rankings is North Fulton. The Wildcats are looking to bounce back from last season after finishing with a record of 6-22.

Losing seniors Stryker Strait and Quentin McCallister is definitely going to hurt the Wildcats, but the loss won't be devastating, as they still have Jace Weaver, Kaden Bowles Jr. and Brody Thum returning, who all played significant minutes last season. Now another year older and more mature, these players can be notably better and can help the Wildcats compete in the conference.

It may be another struggle year for the Wildcats, but with more experience that the younger players can get, they will be able to become better players. In the meantime, a last place finish in the ICAC Conference seems realistic for the Wildcats this year.

# Helping hand: Volleyball players reflect on season

By Will G.

Junior Reporter

IB Girls Volleyball Team played as hard as they could this season but sadly fell short in the Sectional Championship game. New head coach Quincy Thompson led her new team to a 25-5-1 overall record and a 9-1 conference record. The Tigers this year provided 3 college commits Brooke B. Annabelle F. and Reese C.

At the beginning of the season, there were many questions for the Tigers as they got a new coach and how would the players be with their new coach. Now at the end of the season it is clear how the players reacted and played with their new coach.

"The fun part about coming in to coach, is the group of seniors I had them before when they were 2nd graders." Coach Thompson said about the group of seniors she coached this year.

Coming into the season, all three recruits had a basic understanding of where they wanted to go to play volleyball for a college career. With Coach Thompson being a late arrival to their volleyball careers, she still supported them and made them better players as a whole.

"In the beginning she made the season fun and enjoyable," senior Reese C. said.

In addition to the overall morale increase, Thompson also provided additional guidance about strategy, which was essential in the unpredictable season. Specifically, senior Annabelle F. noted that Thompson helped the team improve their "volleyball iq" and was essential in helping adjust to the season's injuries and the coaching transition.

Indeed, injuries would be a significant setback early on in the season. Everyone had to accept roles midway towards the end of the season with coming off the bench and new positions. Addy C. would miss some weeks with a shoulder injury that would then lead to her becoming the libero. In that time, Lexi B. stepped up into a starting role and Chloe E. had more production for her young career.

"The season had brought us tremendous momentum heading into the postseason." Junior Brenna D. said.

That momentum would eventually lead them to a Regional Championship at Peoria Heights. The run was sparked with a two set victory over Peoria Heights, and in the Championship game, a two set victory over Brimfield 25-18 and 25-17. The Sectional Semi-Final at Princeville was against Kewanee-Wethersfield, and the Tigers rolled through the first set with a 25-14 win. Kewanee-Wethersfield did bounce back for the second set, but the Tigers prevailed 25-19.

In the championship game, the Tigers faced up against Annawan. The first set took over 30 points with Annawan taking a 33-31 win of the first set. Annawan went on a hot streak to start the second set, but IB was able to make the set close until running out of gas and losing the second set 25-20.

Despite the loss at sectionals, Coach Thompson is proud of the talent displayed throughout the season. They hit bumps along the way, but came together in the end for a shot at winning the sectional championship game.

"I most definitely feel that this has been a successful season for us." Coach Thompson stated.

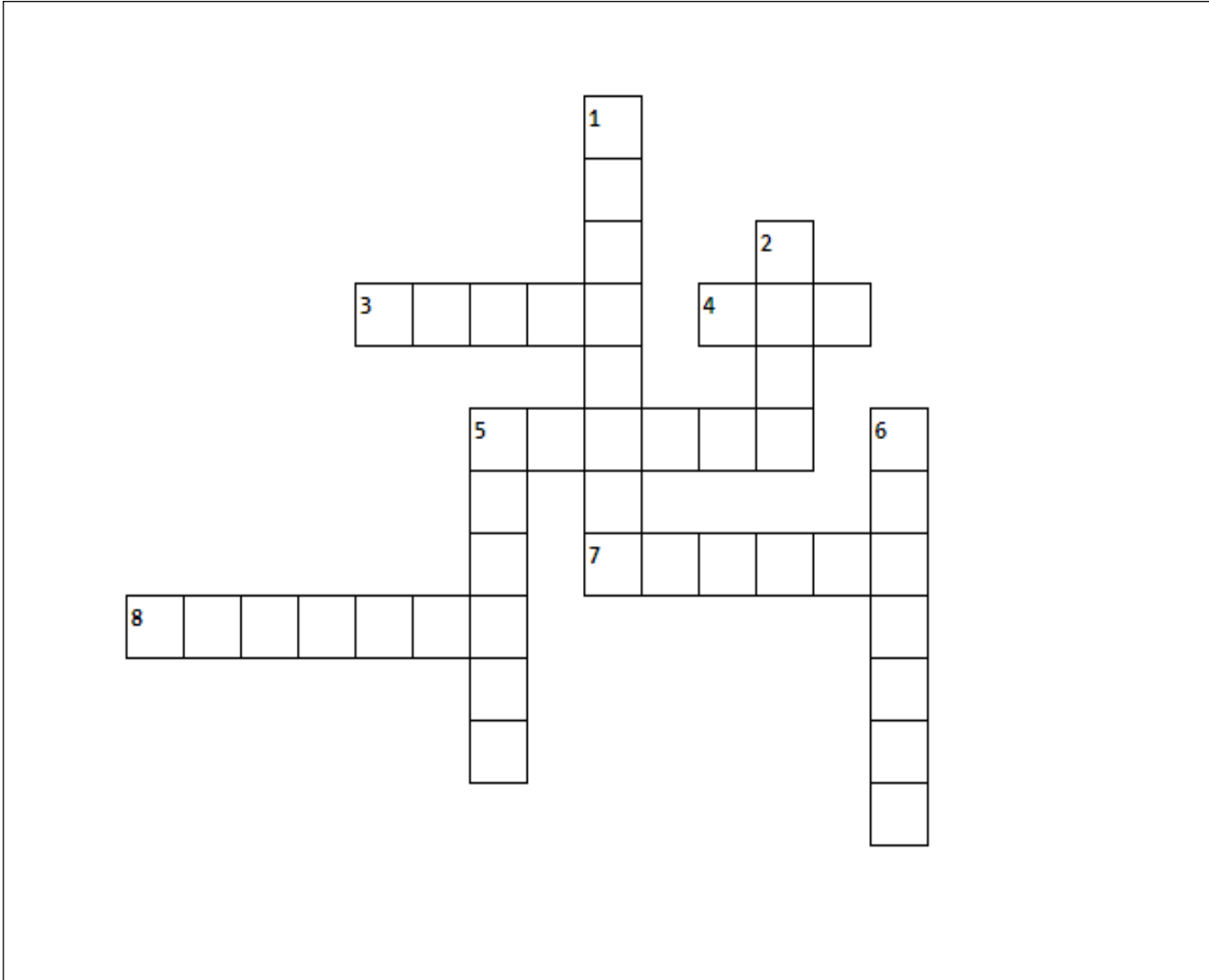
It was a very successful season in many different ways, but with the loss at Princeville, next year is already starting to become an idea. Six seniors are graduating and only 4 remaining varsity players coming back give Coach Thompson a little bit of a predicament.

Looking for "new positions" and creating "leaders on and off the field" will be a goal for next year according to Thompson. The success that has followed the juniors and sophomores for the past years will help in the process of "rebuilding," as it is not a clean sweep of the team but more of revamp for the program. Contributions from different players will be essential for the Tigers next year as they look forward to a season of trust and leadership.



# November Crossword

Answers posted at [ibhstigertimes.com](http://ibhstigertimes.com)



### Across

- Chronically online Monday.
- The preferred holiday meal.
- ICAC Conference #1s
- American organization; big part of our community
- It's a fruit, actually.

### Down

- 1. Funny feast
- 2. Bring more!
- 5. It's giving
- 6. Brought Thanksgiving back.

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## Artist of the month: Izzy L.

