



TIGER TIMES



March Edition

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Womens history month: Important women in local history

By **Kyra P.**
Senior Reporter

March is women's history month, and throughout history, women have frequently gone under acknowledged for their accomplishments, not getting the credit they deserve for their feats. In the spirit of this month, here are four interesting women from just the greater Peoria/Illinois area alone!

Annie Malone

Mrs. Annie Malone was best known as a business owner and inventor. She was born on Aug 9, 1869. In just three decades, she founded and developed a large and prominent commercial and educational enterprise centered on cosmetics for African-American women. She was married to Aaron Eugene Malone from 1914 to 1927. Her first product was a hair product. She created this while experimenting with hair and different hair care. She developed her own line of non-damaging hair straighteners, special oils and hair-stimulant products for African-American women. She named her new product "Wonderful Hair Grower." She sold these door to door. Her products and sales began to revolutionize hair-care methods for all African Americans. Due to the high demand for her product in St. Louis, Turnbo opened her first shop in 1902 at 2223 Market Street. By the 1920s, Annie Turnbo Malone had become a multi-millionaire. In 1924, she paid income tax of nearly \$40,000, reportedly the highest ever recorded at that time in Missouri. While extremely wealthy, Malone lived modestly, giving thousands of dollars to the local black YMCA. She later passed May 10, 1957 (age 87 years), at Provident Hospital of Cook County, Chicago, IL.

Betty Friedan

Betty was born Feb 4, 1921, in Peoria, IL. She founded the National Organization for Women, and she stood for reproductive freedom for all. Her spouse was Carl Friedan, and she had a son named Daniel. She studied at the University of California, Berkeley, Smith College and Peoria High School. She is known as a local writer and activist. She wrote "The Feminine Mystique" in 1963. It is credited as the second wave of feminism in the 20th century. The book's main idea was to describe the assumptions that women would be fulfilled by their housework, marriage, sexual lives, and children, and to combat against them. Around three million copies were sold in the first three years. Rosin, the author of *The End of Men* says, even 50 years later, "The Feminine Mystique is still relevant especially when it comes to our understanding of women and domesticity." After writing her book, she later went on to influence the push for the 1963 Equal Pay Act, the budding pro-choice movement, and other activists, both through her writing and through her co-founding of the National Organization for Women, whose charter she drafted in language similar to that of her book. She passed on her 85th birthday, Feb 4, 2006.

Lydia Moss Bradley

July 31, 1816, Lydia Moss Bradley was born in Vevay, IN. She was known as a wealthy bank president and philanthropist. She also founded Bradley Polytechnic Institute in Peoria, IL (1897). She became the first female member of a national bank board, the First Nation Bank of Peoria (Now Commerce Bank). She was also the first American woman ever to draft



a marriage contract, a "prenuptial agreement"- in modern words. She did this to protect her assets which she filed when she married Memphis businessman Edward Clark, in December of 1869. Bradley then gave her land to the Society of St Francis to build a hospital, now known as OSF St. Francis Medical Center. In 1884, she built the Bradley Home for Aged Women to care for widowed and childless women and financed the construction of the Universalist church in Peoria. She also helped establish the first park system in Illinois. She donated 30 acres, with instructions to create a park in memory of her daughter, Laura Bradley. Bradley always considered Bradley University to be her fondest project, which she established in 1896 to honor her husband Tobias and her 6 children, who all died at an early age. Mrs. Bradley later died on January 16, 1908, in Peoria, IL.

Gwendolyn Brooks

Mrs. Brooks is widely known to be a 20th-century African-American poet. She wrote over 20 books in her

lifetime. She was the first black woman to win the Pulitzer Prize, and also the first to hold the role of Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress. She was born June 7, 1917, in Topeka, Kansas. She is now referred to as "Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry," as she served as the Illinois poet laureate for 32 years. Brooks has combined a strong commitment to racial identity and equality with a mastery of poetic techniques. She also managed to bridge the gap between the academic poets of her generation (1940s) and the young blank militant writers of the 1960s. She lived an educated, inspiring, and fulfilling life. Brooks put some of the finishing touches on the second volume of her autobiography at the age of 68 while serving as a Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress, one of her many duties, was visiting the local schools and seeing the children prosper, and she loved doing just that, it was her favorite thing. Eventually, Mrs. Brooks passed away in December 2000 in Chicago, Illinois.

Spring play preview: The Matchmaker

By **Aidan R.**
Copy Desk Chief

Behind the IBHS' iconic red curtains, the cast and crew of Thorton Wilder's "The Matchmaker" are hard at work, and there is plenty to be talked about.

The Matchmaker is a stageplay written by Thorton Wilder in 1954. The play is set in Yonkers, New York in 1880, and will quickly keep you on the edge of your seat as you watch the comical and bright characters come to life.

As merchant Horace Vandergelder (Will G.) plans to take a day trip to New York, he informs his chief clerk, Cornelius Hackl (Brody B.), that he has intentions of getting married to a special lady he will be meeting. Vandergelder then instructs that Cornelius and Barnaby Tucker (Dylan W.), the "impertinent fool," have one duty: to keep an eye on the store.

After Vandergelder heads off to

New York, his store clerks, Barnaby and Cornelius decide that they don't have enough adventure in their life and that they are going to head to New York, where they claim that they aren't coming back to Yonkers until they've "Kissed a girl!"

Later, the iconic Dolly Levi (Delaney O.), a matchmaker, explains that she plans to arrange a marriage for the very Mr. Vandergelder and that she should meet him at the Harmonia Gardens restaurant that evening.

As the scene shifts to New York, we are met again with Barnaby and Cornelius, after eventually persuading a pair of young ladies that they are "very wealthy men." The ladies suggest that the clerks take them to dinner that evening at the finest restaurant in all of New York, the Harmonia Gardens. Under pressure, the clerks agree, in

desperate attempts to not blow their cover.

After everyone arrives at the Harmonia Gardens, chaos ensues after everybody finally figures out what's happening.

Apart from the fun and colorful show itself, a few notable things are happening behind the scenes as well.

Senior, Delaney O., playing Dolly Levi, is introduced to the stage for the first time in what feels like an instant. Dolly Levi is among the main characters, and it's simply not easy to memorize all those lines, especially as a newcomer. We asked Delaney what her secret to memorization was, and she replied, "I learned that utilizing my poor little sister is a good idea", and "... before bed, I'll read lines to myself."

While getting a lead role as a newcomer is a super big deal, we can't brush past the seasoned actors that

have been on the stage for many years, leading up to this moment. Theater veteran Brody B. is playing Cornelius Hackl in the Drama Club's

It's truly incredible, the amount of dedication that goes into putting on a production, especially the little things that the audience doesn't typically think about.

Since the show is set to be in 1880, the crew and Ms. Sewell have been working diligently to ensure that the costumes, props, and set are all time-period appropriate; taking weekend trips to go look at rental costumes and finding new ways to look at specific problems.

Now that you are well-versed in what's going on behind the scenes, be sure to give the show a view in the IBHS theater on March 15th and 16th at 7:30 PM, and March 17th at 2:30 PM.

Your attendance and support means a lot to everyone involved.

Senior Column: Make your mark

By Hunter R.
Assistant Sports Editor

A tattoo is something so many people can't wait to get to justify they are young adults, but for me, the meaning behind my tattoos goes much farther.

I had wanted tattoos ever since I was 16 and had seen all my older friends, including people I have looked up to, starting to get tattoos. I was then promised to get a tattoo on my 18th birthday, which was then scheduled, but as it got close to time the appointment was changed to a month after so that I could have "time to think on it" as my mom told me.

The reality of that was it was a good idea because in that month I completely changed what I wanted to get and am thankful I thought about the fact that it will be on my body the rest of my life. The month felt like forever while I couldn't stop thinking about it. Yet it finally came and I was scared, down to the moment the ink hit my skin I was panicking. Come to find out the pain is really bearable, it is more or less a burning sensation that numbs itself as it goes on. I then finished my two first tattoos and was ready to walk right back and get another one.

Ever since, I have been in love with getting tattoos, I enjoy every part of it. You can express yourself on your body and it looks good while doing it. You can choose a permanent piece of artwork to put on you with it being anything you could imagine. You can preserve what's important to you and have it to remind you everyday. The meaning can go so much farther, when you put something that is important to you behind the ink you can never regret it. Putting meaning behind my tattoos is what I feel separates me from a lot of others. I have based all my four tattoos off something that has meaning, and that is what makes mine unique.

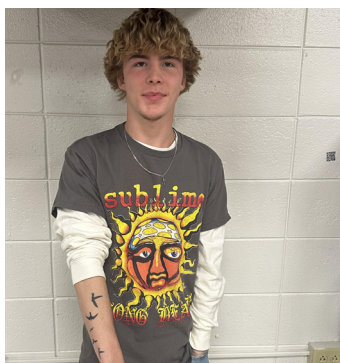
My first one is on my chest, this one says "after the clouds the sun" which has a double meaning to me. The first one being my liking for sunsets and how I feel like they are personal to me. The meaning in other words is after getting through the process of anything the prize is in the end.

My second is on my thigh saying "ad astra per aspera" which is in Latin meaning "through adversity to the stars". The personal meaning of this one is pushing yourself through anything you don't want to do, this relates to my wrestling career and generally life because I see a lot of people stop when it gets tough. I am grateful for myself seeing that when others stop I push myself through anything seeming to block the road of where I want to go.

My third being on my wrist which is the Grateful Dead lightning bolt and the year 80' beside it. This one is for my Dad, due to his liking in Grateful Dead. My Dad had been the most inspirational person in my life and the person I look up to the most. We both share our music taste, and Grateful Dead is something that reminds me of him while I decided to pair it with his birth year.

My fourth and most favorite being five birds on my forearm. This one is most special to me because it is for all 3 of my brothers and parents.

They are really important to me and I think the Tattoos don't just look cool but they have a hidden meaning behind it nobody would know but me.



Student survey: What is the best Easter candy?

By Adela G.
Public Relations Manager

There is no such feeling as opening a colorful egg during an Easter egg hunt and finding a delectable piece of candy likewise finding something that is practically inedible. We pulled 55 students from Illini Bluffs High School and got their opinions on some of the most classic Easter candy, and the results were very mixed.

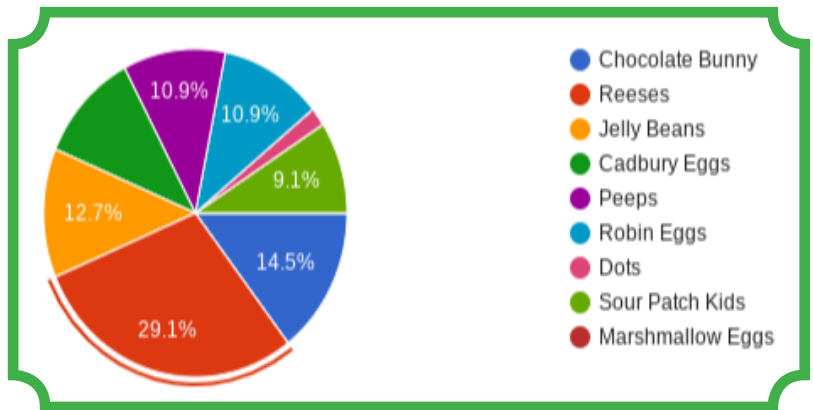
We put options of the most popular Easter candy such as Chocolate Bunny, Reeses, Jelly Beans, Cadbury Eggs, Peeps, Robin Eggs, Dots, Sour Patch Kids and Marshmallow Egg. Out of the 55 students, 29.1% or 16 of them chose Reeses, making it the most popular candy of all. During Easter, Reeses releases the egg version which is very popular for this holiday.

"The chocolate to peanut butter ratio is the best in the Reese's eggs," Junior Megan R. side.

Peeps, on the other hand, were one of the middle of the road candies with 10.9% of the vote that some people really enjoy and some people despise, with sophomore Anna C. stating, "Peeps are absolutely the best easter candy. First off, what's there not to love about them? They come in different easter shapes and flavors! They are the highlight of every easter. Second of all, it's PURE SUGAR, there's nothing more I need than my peeps to bring my family together on Easter morning."

The least popular candy was a tie between Dots and Marshmallow Eggs with one vote each. Neither of these candies are fan favorites for this time of year so it may be best to keep them out of your Easter baskets.

Regardless of your preferences, Easter candy is sure to have an option for you.



Easter basket must haves

By Hunter R.
Assistant Sports Editor

It is the time of year when you get to wake up to all the sweets everyone tells you not to eat. Easter baskets are a staple in the Easter holiday tradition for kids of all ages. Getting the right things in your Easter basket is essential while they change so much every year with new trends. The fun-filled basket is colorful and trendy so when putting a basket together, it has to be up to date with the current trends. Here is a starter list of the essentials everyone needs in their basket.

Peeps

These are some of the most important things to have just because of the aesthetic. There are many mixed opinions behind Peeps, but a recurring thought is they taste better stale. Peeps are a staple in an Easter basket.



Spring colored Stanley

Your basket changes every year with the latest trends. This year it happens to be a Stanley tumbler. With the spring time just beginning and all the colors of light blue, light pink, yellow, etc popping out, why not pair it with a spring colored Stanley.



Sidewalk chalk

The weather is just getting warm and everyone is starting to spend their time outside. For all ages, sidewalk chalk can be a fun project. Easter is all about the new colors and sidewalk chalk is a great way to get in the holiday spirit.



Jelly beans

The one day of the year that is all about eating candy, and who doesn't love candy? We want to see that color filled basket with all the candy we like. No matter if it's chocolate, gummy, fruity, etc. everyone has their candy of choice, but the most essential Easter candy by far is jelly beans.



Easter Legos

Legos are a staple in many people's lives and nobody can go wrong with them. They are universal for any age and always have seasonal sets coming out.



Spring clothes or apparel gift cards

The weather gets warmer and all the sweatshirts turn into tees and pants turn into shorts. With all new trends bringing you into summer, clothes are one of the best ways to keep up.



One-on-one: Grimace shake vs. Shamrock shake

By **Zoe C. & Alex M.**
Copy Editor, Senior Reporter

Shamrock shake

The Shamrock Shake is a slightly minty combo of vanilla soft serve, mint syrup, and a sweet whipped topping. 1974 Shake sales helped build the first Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia. The grimace shake never helped build anything



like that. 5 cents from every Shamrock Shake sold will be donated to Ronald McDonald Houses in Indiana. They're green and sweet and they're raising money for a good cause! The Shamrock Shakes are back at McDonald's, and they serve an important purpose. I think very highly of Shamrock Shakes, and I look forward to its yearly appearance.

Grimace shake

The Grimace Shake is definitely a unique and fun twist on the classic Shamrock Shake. While the Shamrock Shake is mainly known for its minty flavor, the bittersweet berry flavor of the Grimace Shake adds a whole new dimension that is enjoyed by all ages. In addition to being delicious, the viral trend on TikTok focuses on the shake's mysterious mascot. This Grimace Shake trend has a creepy and odd origin that definitely makes it more memorable and intriguing. In my opinion, the Grimace Shake takes the crown as the better choice.



The origins of superstitions

By **Tommy P.**
Senior Reporter

March is known as the month of luck and superstition. We all know about Groundhog Day, birthday wishes, Friday the 13th, and Knock on Wood, but does anyone know the origins behind these "lucky" things or superstitions?

The first Groundhog Day celebration was held on Feb. 2, 1877, in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. The tradition was created by a newspaper editor in Punxsutawney named Clymer Freas, who ironically was part of a groundhog hunting club.

Even though this is when it first started, the origin goes back to German culture from when they settled in the U.S. Germans used animals to see how long hibernation periods lasted. They tracked badgers and found groundhogs to be the next best thing. This led to the tradition that is still around today that we all love. However, that is nothing compared to the pure hope of birthday wishes.

Blowing out your birthday candles is known to grant you any wish you make. People do this every day, without even knowing where this tradition came from. Wishing on candles dates back to the ancient Greeks, when they baked cakes and blew out candles to ask Artemis (the moon goddess) for a favor. The candle smoke was believed to carry your message up to the gods. Blowing candles out has been around forever, and people probably never knew it was connected to the Greek gods. Friday the 13th is a good movie series, but what about superstition? Does anyone know where that came from?

The Friday the 13th superstition is believed to be a "cursed" day that causes terrible things. The superstition is also thought to have biblical roots connected to its origin. According to

the Bible, Judas, who is said to have betrayed Jesus, was the 13th guest to the Last Supper, and Friday is the day people believe to be the day Jesus was crucified. Also, in many cultures, twelve is considered a "perfect" number, and adding one more is said to throw things off. When bad things are said like this, people use the term "Knock on wood" to prevent these things. Even though people don't know the origin or what it means, they trust those three simple words.

Knock on wood is one of the most giant superstitions out there. The superstition dates back to the ancient pagans. They used to believe spirits lived in the trees, and knocking on the trunks would summon them for protection. The gesture was also used to thank them when a good thing happened. The tradition later took shape in many other cultures. Some Christians associated the tradition with the cross, and Jews associated it with knocking on wooden doors of synagogues while seeking shelter during the Spanish Inquisition. This superstition has many different interpretations throughout many cultures and has a long history.

In conclusion, superstitions and "lucky" things are never considered. People hear about them from someone and do it without knowing what it means or where it came from. Superstitions come from around the world and have origins that date back a hundred years. Next time you find something "lucky" or have a superstition, maybe look it up as the origin could be excellent, or you could find out that it doesn't mean what you thought it did.



Senior Column: Go with the flow

By **Dylan W.**
Chief Graphic Designer

Welp. Here I am, nearing the end of my senior year of high school, and honestly, it wasn't that bad. High School can be a lot sometimes and everybody has their way of dealing with it and while it's not the most straightforward or easiest thing to do I found a way of thinking that made my high school experience a relatively smooth one.

If you play video games you are likely going to understand the feeling of getting a new game and having to learn how it works. As you get more and more experience in the game you learn what in the game you can't control or stop from happening. There are some things you can get around and you have to just go with it and deal with whatever you have to deal with. Now this may sound like random ramblings but I do have a point with this.

High School and life in general is very similar to this experience. As you progress through a game it gets harder but at the same time you get stronger and learn more about the game to make getting through it easier. This is akin to something like math class for example. Math class in elementary school is obviously not as complex as high school math but since you get a better understanding of the subject you are able to understand the more complex topics. This is how I see it at least.

In some games, there is the concept of a "permadeath" mode. In this mode when you lose you can't just load a save and try again. You have to completely start the game over and there's nothing you can do about it so you just have to accept the loss and move on. I see life to be like this and high school has made that very clear.

As you're getting more responsibilities in high school, it gets harder to be on top of every little thing. It's likely that there is something that you might miss or not do well on but the best thing that I have learned to do is just to not stress about it and go with the flow. Stressing about something upcoming or something that you would have liked to change just makes things harder to get through.

Just like a game you have to live with any challenge as you can't just skip it (unless it's a game where you can but I digress). I've learned to accept anything that happens and I realize when I can't change something. This is what made my highschool experience somewhat enjoyable as I'm not constantly having to stress about an unavoidable test or project due. I can just go with the flow.



Apple Vision Pros:

By **Liam M.**
Managing Editor

The new Apple Vision Pro is the next step in VR type technology, just having come out on Feb 2. of this year. With this new technology, there is plenty of excitement along with concerns over this new product. It has plenty of new features, expanding upon the VR platform, mixing the internet world with the real one. Some features include being able to see what is around you, along with the addition of having the internet at your disposal, being able to use apps and the web with the wave of your hand, and your eyes. With this, you can sit on your couch, and watch a movie-theater size movie, without the need for a TV. You can check the stock market and keep up to date on your friend's social media posts, all the while going about your business that you usually do.

With this revolutionary technology, there are plenty of reasons people are excited. People look forward to being able to watch movies without the need for a TV as previously mentioned, and are able to get online work done without the

need of a computer and the like. You can open and use apps with the wave of a hand, and just by using your eyes. This product can very easily cut costs for the average homeowner, as with it you wouldn't need to buy a TV, a work computer and similar things.

With this new tech, also comes concerns and issues, as is with all things new. They do come at a hefty price, of \$3499. Along with this, the Apple Vision comes with all the same issues as VR platforms before it. People have been returning theirs due to the fact that it gives them headaches, migraines, and nausea. There have also been complaints of the fact that it is too bulky, and too heavy on the front, making it uncomfortable. With new things such as this, there is also the opportunity for people to abuse it, or use it irresponsibly.

Whether you find it to be a good thing or a bad thing, the Apple Vision Pro is showing how far technology has come, and that there will be more advancements in the near future.

US Issues class unpacks death of prominent Russian critic

By **Celine L.**
Editor-in-Chief

As told in global headlines, Alexey Navalny was pronounced dead on Feb. 16 after taking a walk in the Arctic prison he was being held at. Navalny was an outspoken critic and an important figure in the growing opposition against Russia.

In Ms. Gresham's U.S. Issues class, Navalny was a major topic we discussed when watching documentaries about Navalny and the war in Ukraine. We first watched a documentary that explained the entire story of when Navalny was poisoned with Novichok in 2020. Navalny's allies had accused Putin and other Russian officials of being behind this act. After he returned to Russia from Germany, where he was treated for his poisoning, he was promptly arrested on charges which he dismissed as "politically motivated."

At the end of this documentary, the U.S. Issues class started to feel passionately about Navalny, going as far as stating that he should be president of Russia.

Once this documentary was over, we briefly moved on to new topics. We started watching a documentary, "20 Days in Mariupol," which eventually brought the Navalny conversations back to the table. After seeing the events happening in Ukraine, students started discussing the idea of Navalny's impossible presidency again.

Shortly after this, the class discovered that Navalny had suddenly died in prison after taking a walk. After having several discussions about it, the class seemed to have collectively agreed that this was Putin's second attempt to assassinate Navalny, and it turned out to be successful. Some students had their suspicions that Navalny was never truly dead and was just being held somewhere off the grid. This was proven false after his body was returned to his family a week after his death.

This news brought some hints of anger and sadness to the class. Some students expressed concern for the future of Russia as their most outspoken opposition leader is now deceased. Others think there will be someone new that will take Navalny's place.

Alexey Navalny's death was definitely sad news for our U.S. Issues class, but also inspiring to keep learning as much as possible about current events with Russia. Navalny's story has left its mark on the world and surely will continue to inspire for many years to come.

Happy Birthday

- March 4..... Gabby G., Evan N.
- March 5.....Adrienne G.
- March 6.....Kaylynn S.
- March 7.....Annabelle F.
- March 12.....Chrstian L.
- March 13.....Avery M, Emily P.
- March 15.....Morgan L.
- March 16.....Ashten T.
- March 19.....Mazzi R.
- March 20.....Andrew B., Jordan M.
- March 21.....Skylar G., Charlie F.
- March 22.....Liam M., Kato N.
- March 23.....Izzy D., Levi A.
- March 24.....Will A., Nolan C.
- March 25.....Al W.
- March 28.....Landon W.
- March 29.....Emily N.
- March 30.....Tessa H., Trevor R.
- March 31.....Will C., Kainen P.

Tiger on the Prowl: What are you most excited for prom?

By **Lalaina Z.**
Copy Editor



I'm most excited to get ready with my friends and see everyone dressed up."
-Reese C.



"After prom." - Brody B.



"The drama and the food" - Alexis R.

"I'm excited for the party bus before prom and then going to after prom."

- Wyatt H.



Her'story: A trip for destiny for IB girls basketball

By Will G.
Junior Sports Editor



The Lady Tigers have come a long way to make it the championship game in CEFCU Arena. Illini bluffs versus Okawville in the final game of 1A girls basketball was a thriller. Both teams played very well with many defensive stops and offensive looks.

The Tigers would maintain a one point lead at the half 15-14, looking for any way to take control of the game and

solidify their season with a first place finish in the state. Okawville scored more of the points in the second quarter but the defense from IB was able to keep a lead.

Back to back scoring starting with an Annabelle Fortin three, an answer with a three from Okawville Alayna Kraus. Rushing down the court Brooke Buchen leads her offense with passing all around.

The pass finds Lily Luczkowiak and is fouled for free throw attempts. Okawville uses a turnover for three points and takes momentum. Another three by Okawville to extend the lead to ten points with IB looking for any answer back.

With the fourth quarter starting a down by ten a comeback would need to be mounted. Layup foul missed free throw turned into a four point play for the Tigers. Arrant pass turnover turns into a foul with free throws on the other side.

Costly turnovers by IB helped Okawville with momentum, but an offensive foul on Kraus was taken by Buchen. Luczkowiak with a nice euro step to bring the game down to an eight point lead for Okawville.

With no more fouls to give, any foul sends a shooter to the line for free throws. A three by Fortin cuts into the Okawville lead but with under a minute left many more threes will have to be sunk for the completion of the comeback.

The comeback fell short with the final being 48-36 Okawville. Falling short of first place the Lady Tigers still accomplished many achievements for their season.

Coming back from last year's loss in the regional championship to finishing second in the state in 1A with an overall

record of 32-5.

The Tigers had to work all season for there state run, losing earlier last year in the playoffs it wasn't accounted for that they would make it to state and even the championship game. Many people counted them out but they bonded together for their season.

"The journey has been unreal" Lily Luczkowiak had to say about her team's season.

Unreal as it gets but finishing 32-5 with beating the number one ranked team in 1A the Lady Tigers have everything to be proud of. Their road to victory was all of a team effort; not one player took them to state and not one player took them to the championship game.

Emotional Reese Cruik spoke for her team, "I'm just very grateful for being a part of something so great."

History was made by the Girls basketball team at Illini Bluffs in many ways. A 32-5 record one of the best in school history, a state appearance second time in girls basketball at IB, and finally a second place finish, first time ever in either boys or girls basketball a team made it to the championship game and a second place trophy.

IB Coach Jim Belville on his team's accomplishments, "Amazing, couldn't have asked for such a better group."

Track season kick-off:

By Nolan S.
Senior Reporter

Track team keeps momentum rolling from successful 23 spring season

A second and fourth-place fourth place finish at last year's conferences for the boys; three total state qualifiers: Tori Brown, Hank Alvey, and Nolan Solomon; four athletes who all have personal bests under the state qualifying mark; and a 2023 state finalist. The IBHS track team is hopeful that this recipe for success will ensure their 2024 season is a great one.

"Last season was by all accounts a tremendous success, and it gets better knowing that we only lost one senior." returning track coach Jim Roberston said.

A vacancy in the head coach spot opened at the end of last season and Ryan Murphy, the former middle school track coach, decided he was up for the challenge. He coached multiple middle school state qualifiers, including the record-breaking 4X400 team that placed third at state.

"I'm very excited to have Mr. Murphy as our coach for this upcoming track season, and I'm thrilled to learn and gain experience from him. I'm especially hopeful for him to show me my full potential as an athlete," senior Josh Howard said.

There are also some freshmen making a splash, including Cru F. who placed 8th in the 1600 meter at state, running a sub five minute mile. Also Sam S., a high jumper who will no doubt be an asset to the team.

Although sectionals didn't pan out the way he would have liked last year, junior Jayden W. is expected to do big things this year. He has a long jump personal best over the state qualifying mark and is hopeful to make his first visit to Eastern Illinois University this May.

"I got to do track with Jayden in the summer and it was really fun seeing him grow as a person and a jumper. I'm really excited to jump with him and practice together and I know that he'll go far and that this is really his year," junior Tori B. said.

Another junior ready for redemption is Tori B.. She placed 14th at state last year missing the finals by just 0.13 meters in the triple jump. She is looking forward to coming back this season and making a splash at the state meet in May.

"I am sure this season is going to be a great season full of medals for Tori and the rest of the team, and hopefully everyone succeeds all the way through the state meet." Junior Fisher D. said.

"I have no doubts this season is going to be one to remember." coach Robertson said.

Baseball Preseason Preview

By Wyatt H.
Senior Reporter

As the weather is becoming warmer, some see this as a sign that the best time of year is about to begin: baseball season.

Illini Bluffs has had good success in recent years, with a sectional championship in 2021, and winning regionals the past four years. Last year's team finished with a good record of 15-9 and look to improve that this year.

The Tigers lost two senior starters from last year, in second baseman Chris F. and pitcher/first baseman Brandon C. who were key pieces in their success, and will look to replace them.

One of the key players that will help fill the gap is senior Bradley Commit Joshua V., who is the team's ace pitcher. Josh is optimistic about how the season can pan out.

"I believe that we can definitely win a regional championship again, and go further," Josh said.

The Tigers have four seniors on the team this year, Chris D., Ian O., Landon W., and already mentioned Joshua V. They will more than likely have to rely on underclassmen to help them achieve their goals. Junior Toby C. is looking forward to taking on his role in helping the team succeed. "I'm going to do what I can to hit and field with minimal mistakes," Toby said.

Achieving these goals won't be easy though, as the Tigers' schedule has some good competition. Playing teams such as Brimfield, Delevan and Tremont, all of which finished with over 15 wins last season.

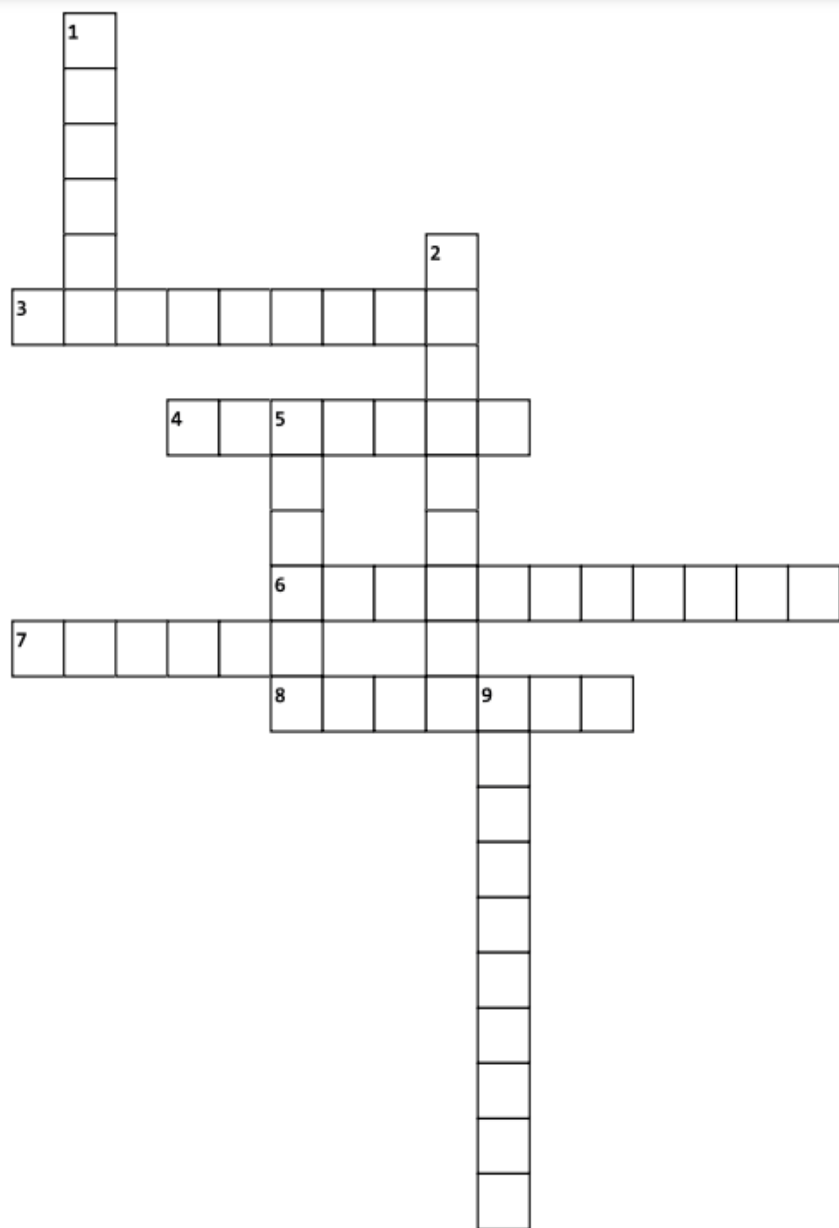
The team is confident that they'll have what it takes to win these matchups, as long as they, "have no errors" and "put the ball in play".

We'll all be looking forward to another great season, and hopefully a wion that goes very, far into postseason.



February Crossword

Answers posted at ibhstigertimes.com



Across

- 3. popular lawn game
- 4. a rare green object found in extreme hill biomes in popular game made of blocks
- 6. this takes away your sleep
- 7. Johnny got a gold
- 8. symbol of hope

Down

- 1. flew around before you came
- 2. a candy with a round shape, originated from a candy maker in boston
- 5. a holiday which includes a bunny who leaves eggs filled with surprises
- 9. IB's signature sport

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