

Follow the Sports Editors' best sports movies bracket. Turn to page 6 to find out who wins.



the Echo

Illiana Christian High School



Read about serious trending issues such as opioids (pg. 5) and arming teachers (pg. 2).

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Lansing, Illinois

The Show stages fundraiser for Go Club

Kade Bouwer
Co-Sports Editor

Students, parents, and teachers packed the auditorium on March 16 to see the Show. DeBo's Kin, consisting of seniors Josh Smits, Jake Lyzenga, Jared Trivette, and George Van Ryn, won the Show with a performance of "What Makes You Beautiful" by One Direction.

The event raised over \$500 for Go Club operations such as the Bean Bag tournament and bringing food to Night Ministries.

Co-sponsor of Go Club and teacher, Ms. Johnson, said, "I think it went really well. I had a lot of fun. I thought Ben [Wiersema] and Ben [Fabrizius] did a great job hosting. They were funny and kept it moving. Our contestants did well too."

During the competition the

hosts got the crowd involved using an assortment of games such as dad jokes and name-that-song.

"[The games] added a good thing to the Show, so the audience didn't get bored," said Freshman Jaxson Smit. "They were fun and exciting to watch."

After the competition was over, the audience voted Josh Harris as the MVP of the Show.

Junior Tavares Van Kuiken said, "[Josh Harris] had a great sense of humor. He brought a lot of people joy and I think he totally deserved that award."

Although many people enjoyed the Show, some bemoaned the winning act.

Former winner, Junior Annie Weemhoff said, "I think it was a little unfair how the winning group just copied their dance from a video game and didn't come up with the moves themselves."



The winning group, DeBo's Kin, featured four senior baseball players impersonating One Direction.

Photo by Jim Kamphuis



English teacher Mrs. Emily Hillegonds adjusts the bracket after an eventful weekend of games.

Photo by Beth Boonstra

Method to their madness

English Department hosts March Madness bracket competition for students

Alex Wondaal
Co-Sports Editor

In a creative twist on the traditional March Madness bracket pool, Illiana's English department matched 64 teams with 64 characters from novels and short stories read in any one of the English courses at Illiana.

All students were allowed to join in on the fun for free, and the winner will be awarded with a \$40 Amazon gift card, courtesy of English Teacher Emily Hill-

egonds.

English teachers Sara Johnson and Hillegonds tried their best to logically correspond teams and their mascots with fitting characters. For example, The Michigan State Spartans team was paired with Menelaus, the Greek Spartan Hero. And Achilles was paired with the University of North Carolina Tar Heels. They also tried to pair "the feistier women in Literature" with wildcat mascots.

Hillegonds, who according to Johnson runs 98% of the project

said, "I got the idea from the Lansing public library and I wanted to do something similar." Hillegonds says she hopes to have a similar project next year with minor improvements.

Senior Rylee Benes, a contender for the \$40 prize, based her bracket picks on the teams and not the characters. Benes said, "I love watching the closer games towards the end with my Dad; he gets really excited." She said if she wins the prize she hopes to use the money for college.

"I might buy a backpack or something," said Benes.

New grading scale to level playing field

Cate Peerbolte
Co-Feature Editor

Last month the school board began the process of changing the grading scale to the "standard scale." This scale is used by many other high schools according to Principal Mr. Boonstra.

Boonstra said, "The standard scale is a 60-70-80-90 system. Meaning a 90 is an 'A', a 80 a 'B', a 70 a 'C', a 60 a 'D', below that is a 'F'. The scale includes ranges for pluses and minuses, but that is the basic idea of it."

Illiana's current, common grading scale was introduced three years ago. Before this each class had its own grading scale established by the teacher. Boonstra explained, "With this system there was a perception of injustice because percentages between classes did not result in the same letter grade. The current grading scale was created by averaging all of the teachers' individual scales."

Illiana's current scale and the standard scale are only a few points different. But Guidance Counselor Mr. Zandstra said, "Being on the standard scale will make more sense to college admissions. It will especially

help in situations where GPA is the determining factor for scholarships." He continued "Illiana's rigor and difficulty in classes will not change. Teachers will still give grades based on what students earn."

Mrs. Aardsma said, "The standard scale makes more sense because students and teachers alike will easily know a letter grade from a percentage."

Mrs. Teach, the Director of Student Services, said, "The difference of two points on the grading scale will not be a huge change, but I hope that students feel it is more fair. I hope they will still work hard towards achieving their teachers' high expectations."

The Education Committee of the school board sent the change to the Curriculum Council for consideration. The Curriculum Council expressed no strong feelings either way, paving the way for the Education Committee to move forward with it. Finally the school board will have to approve of the change.

Boonstra said, "If the scale is changed, past grades will not be affected. Grades are determined by the scale at the time they were given."

Giving teachers guns could backfire

On Feb. 14 nineteen year old Nikolas Cruz killed seventeen innocent people inside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida.

On Feb.28 fifty-three year old social studies teacher Randal Davidson barricaded himself in a classroom in Georgia and fired a gun at a window causing the school to go into lockdown.



Natalie Togtman
Co-Arts Editor

On Feb. 20 thirteen year old Keith Simmons planned to shoot fellow students, but changed his mind last minute and shot himself instead.

On March 2 nineteen year old James E. Davis shot and killed his parents in his University of Central Michigan dorm room, a gun free zone.

School shootings always raise the question “Should teachers be armed with guns?” I wish the answer was as simple as “yes” or “no,” but unfortunately it’s not. This problem has many layers. However, for the sake of space, I am going to try to simplify. No, teachers should not be armed with guns.

Arming teachers with guns would only be an added expense for schools, would allow students easier access to a gun, and would raise the question, “Would a teacher be willing to shoot someone? Especially a student?”

According to tribstar.com, in Illinois it costs about \$150 to get a concealed carry permit, and a firearm costs roughly \$600 depending on the model of the gun. Training can cost as much as \$275. Assuming only 20% of teachers in Illinois would carry a gun that would cost the state roughly \$25,915 for teachers to be prepared in the event of a school shooting. President Trump also recommended that every teacher who would carry a gun should receive a bonus, another added expense.

English teacher Mrs. Emily Hillegonds said, “What if the attacker was a former student? I don’t think I would be able to shoot a former student. I wouldn’t be able to shoot a former student without at least thinking twice about it. Obviously I want to protect the majority but I would definitely have to do a double take. On top of that if I was able to shoot someone, it would definitely affect me after.”

Shooting someone would be difficult for anyone, but it would be more difficult for someone who dedicates almost all their time to education. In “Do we really want to turn our teachers into warriors?” in the Chicago Tribune, Paul Barker, a former veteran, argues, “Killing anyone, even in defense of your family, is not consequence free. Even if you’re legally justified, taking a life establishes a relationship between you and that person’s family that haunts you for the rest of your life.” Is it fair to ask teachers to bear that burden?

Plus, putting guns in classrooms would give students easier access to guns. The point of guns in the classroom is to protect, right? What happens if a student who is not mentally well gets a hold of the teacher’s gun? What protects the students then? In fact, the item that was supposed to be for protection is now being used as a weapon. And, what if the teacher is unwell? If that sounds ridiculous remember that only one month ago a teacher did shoot his gun at school. And only two weeks ago a teacher in California shot three students in class while - ironically - teaching a lesson on gun safety.

School shootings are tragic and I think we should take action and enforce stricter gun laws, but arming teachers won’t stop school shootings. Arming teachers with guns might, in fact, do the exact opposite. There have to be better solutions.



Photo by Peter Boonstra

Teachers Sara Johnson and Kathy Shiekers work with senior Jordan Miller to make and serve spaghetti at the mission trip fundraiser event.

Students serve food, raise funds for mission trips

Jaden Denton
Reporter

Students going on the mission trips to Uganda and The Dominican Republic have raised over \$36,000 to help fund the trips. For the first time, Illiana will send two service teams on trips over spring break, one to Uganda and one to the Dominican Republic.

Each student needs around \$1,600 to go on the trip and that includes costs for the plane tickets, meals, and lodging.

Fundraising was done mainly by the students, such as Emma Groot who sent out letters to her family, put flyers in her church, and on the “Culver’s Cares” fundraising night.

“[Fundraising efforts

are] going really well and I’m happy about it,” said Groot.

The students planned two major events for fundraising, the Culver’s Cares night on February 28 and the annual spaghetti dinner between performances of the musical on March 10. The Culver’s event raised around \$3,000 and the spaghetti dinner raised

\$3,322, not including expenses.

Teachers and faculty leading the trips played instrumental roles in planning these fundraisers.

“I’m over-the-moon happy and so thankful to the Illiana community,” said Ms. Johnson, who will be co-leading the trip to Uganda along with Mr. Boonstra.

Firearms proposal fires up teachers

Liz VanDrunen
Co-Feature Editor

On Wednesday Feb.14, Nikolas Cruz opened fire at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, killing 17 and wounding others in Parkland, Florida.

According to CNN as of March 8, this was the eighth school shooting so far in 2018, and since then there have been six more.

Eight days later, President Donald Trump announced his support of National Rifle Association’s (NRA) position to arm highly trained teachers to protect schools against mass shootings.

Since the Sandy Hook massacre, legislation in various state capitals across the country has looked to arm school staff. At least 10 states allow staff members to possess or have access to a firearm on school grounds, according to an

analysis by the Education Commission of the States.

As of now, Illiana Christian High school has not adopted this idea.

Vice Principal, AJ Turkstra said, “Personally think it’ll be a pretty dark day when school administrators have to start carrying guns.”

He added that he would prefer the hiring of a security personnel that would be on site during the school day and evening hours, though that would be an expensive system.

Mr. Darren DeBoer, a social studies teacher, agreed with Turkstra, saying, “I not for arming teachers, but I’m not opposed to having a gun on campus if it’s secured and accessible to select people who have been trained and are approved by the board. If we had Mr. Boonstra and Mr. Turkstra and maybe another administrator

who had access to a gun, I wouldn’t be opposed to it. But the guidelines to where it’s stored and how it’s accessed would have to be very clear.”

Mr. Jeff White, another social studies teacher said, “Do we all want school safety? You bet we all want school safety, but how we get school safety is another issue.

White supports having the choice to carry a gun at school for the protection of students.

Mr. Rick Veldman, a business teacher, agrees. He said, “I do not want to be at the mercy of someone that comes in here with a gun.”

He then went on to say how in an event of a school shooting, the police wouldn’t be able to get here in time.

Lansing’s Chief of Police, Mr. Dennis Murrin said, “Whatever laws are established by the President and our lawmakers for school safety,

we [the Lansing Police Department] will work with local educators to create policies and procedures that are safe for everyone involved.”

Mrs. Emily Hillegonds, an English teacher at Illiana said, “It’s a bad idea: one, we all get angry and when you give teachers weapons, rash decisions may be made; two, money-wise it is impractical because many schools already can’t fund their budgets.”

Mrs. Mary Lagerwey, a Bible teacher, is choosing to show her opposition to the idea by participating in the March 4 Our Lives march in Chicago on March 24, with a sign saying ‘I’M A TEACHER GIVE ME SENSIBLE GUN LAWS, NOT A GUN.’

“I hope Illiana, as a private Christian school, will have the option of doing the right thing, not the mandated thing,” said Lagerwey.

Wind Ensemble experiences Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Kylie Boss
Reporter

The Illiana Christian Wind Ensemble traveled downtown on March 7 to watch the Chicago Symphony Orchestra rehearse. The group of about forty-six left school during first period and arrived at the Symphony Center just in time, said band director Mrs. Pat Menninga..

Wind Ensemble along with the other high school groups in the packed Symphony Center listened while the Chicago Symphony Orchestra rehearsed. Junior Danielle DeBoer explained the rehearsal as a “stop and go” event. “We would listen, and then they would stop, and then they would fix this part, etc.”

Illiana’s group, said Menninga,

was lucky to get box seats for the first time in ten years. “They were really nice seats,” said Menninga.

Junior Alec Vanderzee also enjoyed the seats and said, “We could see the whole orchestra and got a really good sound experience.”

After the rehearsal, members of the orchestra participated in a question and answer segment where students asked questions to the members. “The contrabassoon player was very funny,” said Menninga. “The kids thought he was great.”

Wind Ensemble has been seeing the Chicago Symphony Orchestra rehearse for about ten years, said Menninga. “I love it, and the kids love it too.”

“The Chicago Symphony is one of the best symphonies in the world,” said Menninga.



Photo by Alex Wondaal

Students Autumn Olthoff, Sam Dekker, Tim Triesenberg, and Jake DeYoung recover from giving blood.

Illiana blood drive supports local community

Riley Goodwin
Co-News Editor

On Monday, March 20, 40 students participated in the bi-annual blood drive

that took place between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm in Illiana’s cafeteria.

Giving students the opportunity to donate blood helps them to feel

as though they’re a part of something larger than themselves.

Sophomore Nick Van Essen said, “It is awesome that organizations like this one are giving high school students the opportunity to save lives.”

Heartland Blood Centers, the organization student council brought in, is the sole provider of blood products to 10 hospitals in NW Indiana.

“We aren’t sending blood to places far away from us,” said student council co-sponsor Neil Zandstra. “We are making a difference in our own community.”

“The nurses working for Heartland brag about how well behaved, respectful, and kind Illiana students are,” said Zandstra. “They say every time they see ‘Illiana Christian’ on their list of schools, they always find a way to come here.”

Math team adds regional win despite new factors

Cassie Laninga
Co-News Editor

Illiana’s math team successfully competed in regionals on Saturday, Feb. 24, grabbing first place and the right to compete downstate.

“People don’t think math is relaxing or fun, but doing math on a Saturday morning is very relaxing. There’s no stress about it,” said senior Paul Kamp.

“Regionals went really well,” said math teacher Mr. Lagerwey. “I wasn’t sure how we were going to do because we had new and stronger opponents we had not faced before.”

“Of course we got first place at regionals,” said senior Andrew Feikema, who placed first in the pre-calculus portion. “We beat Marian Catholic, and our score was 12th state wide in the 2A division. I crushed the individual competition big time, but I can’t say the same for my performance in the 2-person competition. Matthew [Haak] bailed me out.”

Sophomore Eddie Huang placed first in geometry, sophomore Sam Boonstra placed first in algebra 2, seniors Andrew Feikema and Matthew Haak placed first in the 2-person competition, and seniors Esther Lagerwey and Paul Kamp placed first in the oral competition.

“I’m proud of the way everyone performed,” said Kamp. “Everyone on the math team is important. They all score points.”

The whole team qualified for state and will travel to the University of Illinois on May 5 for the competition.



Photo by Jeff White

Students Ashley Pigatti, Trent Kamp, Alex Wondaal, Jordan Bivins, and Emma Slings talk politics with Illinois Representative Marcus Evans.

Students get ‘close-up’ views of state capitals

Liz VanDrunen
Co-Feature Editor

Mr. Jeff White, an Illiana history teacher, accompanied twelve juniors for the Springfield and Indianapolis Close-up trip on Thursday and Friday, March 1-2.

Jordan Bivins, Seth Bouwer, Trent Kamp, Alli Murrin, Cate Peerbolte, Ashley Pigatti, Emma Slings, Andrew Smits, Parrish Townes,

Alec VanderZee, Alex Wondaal, and Erin Yonkman left for Springfield, Illinois at 5 a.m. Once arriving in Springfield they toured the Lincoln Tomb and Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

Slings said, “It was really cool to step back in history and see how people lived back then.”

After seeing the current Illinois State Capitol and the Old Illinois State Capitol,

the group, concluded their Springfield tour with a visit to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and then left for Indianapolis, Thursday afternoon.

They started their Friday with tours of the Indiana State Capitol and of the Soldier’s and Sailor’s Monument, a Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site.

Kamp said, “Our Indiana capitol tour interested

me the most because we got to compare it with Illinois’ buildings, which had much inferior chandeliers, as well as politicians.”

On their way back, they stopped at the Tippecanoe Battlefield in Battle Ground, Indiana.

Murrin said, “We visited the site where the Battle of Tippecanoe was fought, and were able to get a lot of energy out after being on the bus so long.”

Kamp, Pigatti, VanderZee and Wondaal were able to go on both this Close-up trip and the Washington D.C. trip

Pigatti said, “In Washington D.C., we got to see federal level and its effects on domestic affairs, and on the state trip, we saw the local affairs and we got to have more of an insight into what affects us more directly.”

VanderZee said, “We actually got to meet with more representatives on the Illinois and Indianapolis trip, but the D.C. one was more impressive and had a wider variety of places to visit. Also, D.C. allowed us to meet more fun people.”

Davids, Bible 5 students ‘blow up Easter’

Jordan Bivins
Reporter

Bible 5 students and Mr. Lance Davids decide to “Blow Up Easter” this spring by performing different activities around school to highlight the importance of the holiday to Christians.

Bible teacher Mr. Lance Davids explained, “Good Friday and Easter are the

events that give us the right to stand before God.” He thinks that we take that right for granted sometimes.

He said he doesn’t want Easter and Good Friday just to be a thing we celebrate, but to become a part of our lives. Some of the activities the Bible 5 students participated in included meeting during the lunch periods to pray for people, fast-

ing from phones and technology, fasting from food, and writing devotions. He wants his students to encourage others to remember what Jesus did for us.

Davids said, “I’m always trying to make faith more applicable.”

Senior Kyle Zuidema felt he would be most useful by planning and coordinating an Easter chapel like

nothing before.

Zuidema says, “We’re going to talk about the last seven words of Jesus before he dies on the cross and when he’s on the cross.” Chapel committee is planning to gather up seven different faculty members to speak. They’re going to sing a few songs that talk about the cross and the power that it holds.

Opioid addiction leads to tragedy

Riley Goodwin

Co-News Editor

“It was an important day,” said Arlene Kelley. “I had to be up and out the door by 6:30AM to make it to a meeting in Schaumburg with my company’s social media director.”

Arlene woke up, showered, put on her favorite pair of black dress capris to match her black, lace top, and out the door she went, not forgetting to tell her husband goodbye followed with an, “I love you” and a reminder that she would be home late because of meetings.

Arlene, who lived with her husband of 10 years and her granddaughter, was used to working long days that kept her away from her family, but had no idea her seemingly normal day would end so incomprehensibly.

Her husband, Tim Kelley, had been sick, physically and mentally, most of their marriage. He struggled with heart and lung complications, depression, anxiety, and paranoia. For the first 8 years of their marriage, Tim had been a fun-loving, Christian man.

“He was the funniest, most charming man I had ever met,” said Arlene. “When he walked in the room, everyone’s eyes lit up.”

The two remaining years of their marriage were rockier. Tim dealt with severe back pain due to bulging discs, which resulted in his needing prescription pain medication. Knowing the Tim she had known for the past eight years, Arlene never thought twice about her husband handling painkillers irresponsibly. It wasn’t until Easter of 2014 that she noticed something was wrong.

“Tim had been a little off for a few days leading up to Easter,” said Arlene. Then on Easter, Tim refused to leave his room all day, not even for dinner.

Trying to convince him to join the family, Arlene’s son, Craig asked him to come out. Without cause, Tim exploded.

He screamed at his stepson, threatening to hit him.

Craig’s wife rushed their children out the back door to the car while they continued to argue.

No one understood what set him off. Arlene and her eldest granddaughter, Riley, tried to stop Tim’s episode, but nothing worked. He screamed at them as well and eventually everyone departed and left him alone.

Arlene and Riley drove to the nearest forest preserve, parked the car, and cried.

No one understood what had just taken place.

This was not the loving, compassionate husband and grandfather they knew. This was someone they had never seen before, someone they hoped they’d never see again.

“Come to find out he had been abusing his pain medication,” Arlene said. “He had been taking too many, would run out, and was now having to go a week with no medication... withdrawal.”

His addiction soon became something bigger than any of them had imagined. Slowly but surely, the person they once knew became a stranger living in their home. There was now a constant battle for the pills. Arlene strategically hid his pill bottles, hoping he wouldn’t find them. Eventually she bought a safe to keep them in, but once she fell asleep at night he would steal the keys and take more.

It was a daily fight between the two of them.

He would take all the pills she would give him, beg for more, and explode when she told him he wasn’t allowed any more until morning.

This lasted until Arlene left for work on July 26, 2016.

“We didn’t talk that morning because we had gotten in a fight about the pills the night before,” said Arlene. “I was mad at him, but I know

I told him I loved him before I left. I always did.”

She worked all day, then headed to the car at 6PM.

“I tried to call him as soon as I got in the car, but it went to voice-mail,” she said. “I figured he was just sleeping, so I didn’t think too much of it.”

Pulling unto the driveway at 7:05 p.m., she shut off the car, gathered her purse and briefcase, and walked to her porch.

Stiff from the long car ride, she struggled up the stairs and tried the doorknob.

It was locked.

Due to Tim’s poor health, they never locked the door in case the paramedics needed to come inside.

Suspicious, she dug through her purse, found her keys, and unlocked it.

She walked into the kitchen, set her things down on the counter and called his name. She turned her head and, from the kitchen, she saw Tim laying on the ground in front of their bed.

“I thought he had fallen, so I ran to the bedroom, still calling his name,” said Arlene.

When she walked in, she couldn’t comprehend what she was seeing.

“There was blood everywhere,” she said, “pools of blood next to his side of the bed, coming from his arm, all around him.”

She ran back into the kitchen, grabbed her phone, and called 911.

“My husband killed himself! My husband killed himself!” she repeated to the dispatcher.

She walked back into their bedroom, stepped over the pool of blood next to his side of the bed and saw a bloody razor laying on his nightstand. In a panic, she ran back to the front door to make sure it was open for the paramedics. Looking down by the door, she noticed more blood in the carpet.

“He must’ve walked over to the door and locked it after he realized what had done,” she said.

There was blood everywhere—in the front room, the hallway, the kitchen, the bathroom, everywhere.

“You could hardly see the carpet in our bedroom,” she said. “Even the bottoms of his feet were stained red. It looked like a scene from a horror movie.”

She called

Nation’s opioid crisis continues to grow

Beth Boonstra

Co-Editor in Chief

March 6, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a report that, between July 2016 and Sept. 2017, opioid overdoses have increased by about 30 percent on average nationwide.

The Midwest led the way for the country with a whopping 69.7 percent spike in opioid overdoses, according to the report.

CDC Director Anne Schuchat said to National Public Radio (NPR), ““We saw, sadly, that in every region, in every age group of adults, in both men and women, overdoses from opioids are increasing.”” This opioid overdose epidemic is killing more people per year than traffic-related accidents.

President Donald Trump has declared this epidemic to be an emergency. Congress has talked a lot about doing something, but both have made little progress. Trump talks of using the death penalty on drug dealers as a solution to this epidemic. Other activists say that a better emergency room treatment process could prevent users from overdosing again. Others say doctors should be more careful not to prescribe these opiates in ways that can easily lead to addiction. Experts say that many of these one-size-fits-all solutions don’t stand a chance against this deep and widespread problem.

Opiates control the pain and emotion centers of the brain and for many this feeling of numbness is easily addicting. Most people who are addicted to opioids first used them for medical purposes, but once the prescription ran out they just couldn’t stop.

her son Craig, so frantic she misdialled his number twice. After finally punching in the correct numbers, she reached him.

“Craig, I think Tim tried to commit suicide. I called 911, but I am so scared. Please get here,” she cried.

“I will get there as quickly as I can,” he replied.

Finally, after what seemed an eternity, the paramedics arrived. They began working on him right there on her bedroom floor. About 20 minutes passed before they stabilized him enough to place him on the gurney and move him to the ambulance.

Arriving at the hospital around 7:30 p.m., Arlene and her family members waited while doctors continued to work on him for several more hours. The silent tension was finally broken by the clicking heels of the doctor entering the room.

“Mrs. Kelley, your husband wrote ‘Do Not Resuscitate’ on his chest,” the doctor said.

The announcement met stunned silence. He added that Tim’s handwritten message had no legal standing if the family wished for them to continue working on him.

“I want to save him,” she replied. “I want to save my husband.”

So that’s exactly what the doctors tried to do.

But after 39 and a half hours, the doctors all gathered in his room with Arlene and the family. There was nothing more they could do. The suggested the family think about removing life support.

After receiving this news, Arlene asked the family to give her a few moments alone with him. The family slowly filtered out, pushing the gray curtains out of the way to stoop and kiss her on the forehead as she wept.

At 10:03 a.m. the family gathered back into the room after Arlene

finished signing her husband’s DNR, the ink smearing from her tears.

The nurse came in, reached over Arlene’s husband, disconnected the ventilator, and removed the tubing from his nose and throat.

There he lay, his breathing heavy and exasperated. The upper half of his body jerked up and down with each inhalation and exhalation. His mouth hung open and drooped to the right. His eyelids fluttered open, then closed again, creating a false hope that maybe, just maybe, he was coming back.

“After about 5 minutes of no life support, I asked my granddaughter, Riley, to sing ‘Amazing Grace,’ said Arlene. “I knew she would do it for her grandpa, and she did.”

The family, though distraught, sang with her, holding hands, as she led. Then, at 10:20 a.m. the steady beeping of the heart monitor began to slow.

“It’s happening,” said Arlene. “He’s going to heaven.”

“I love you, Timmy. I love you so much,” she said.

At 10:23 a.m. the beeping stopped.

The room was silent.

Arlene got up from her chair and laid her head on her dead husband’s chest and cried. She ran her hands up and down his arm, then her fingers through his coarse, gray beard.

“I love you, Timmy,” she whispered as the nurse came into the room and requested that the family head to the grieving room.

There the family began making funeral arrangements while Arlene fell into the arms of her granddaughter. Their pastor met them and said a prayer for peace, understanding, and consolation.

“It was an important day,” said Arlene, her voice trailing off. “It was an important day.”



Photo courtesy of Riley Goodwin

Tim and Arlene Kelley pose for a picture at in-laws house on July 6, 2011.

“...I thought the message and the way we portrayed the ending was awesome.”
-Mrs. Mary Lagerwey



Haleigh Olthof
Co-News Editor

The Illiana Drama department presented its annual musical, *The Show Must Go On*, on March 8, 9 and 10 despite a change of plans that led to time constraints.

“We were planning to do ‘Godspell,’ but out of nowhere, on late notice, we found out that we couldn’t do ‘Godspell,’” said junior Kaneisha Perry, who played Amazing Maisy from *Seussical the Musical* in this year’s show. “So the teachers had to put together this show. . . . It was something new.”

Director Mary Lagerwey said there were several logistical challenges the Drama Department had to overcome to put on

Musical’s theme of community, faith wows crowd

this musical. Because the musical was changed on late notice, actors had limited time to learn their lines and songs, and directors had less time to gather music from different sources and find instruments and vocalists for each song.

Senior Michelle Van Kalker, who has both acted in past Illiana productions and painted sets for them, said the sets for this musical weren’t any harder to prepare than sets for past musicals.

“It’s the same amount of [sets] we would usually do for a show; it’s just that we’re reusing certain things” such as the classroom scene used for songs from *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; *Alligators All Around*; *Really Rosie*; and *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*

Helping with costumes for this musical, however, was “completely different” from past years, accord-

ing to junior Annie Weemhoff.

“In costumes, we have a reputation of not doing much,” she said, but this year she and other students had to help actors change into and out of costumes in between scenes.

Senior Evan Conrad participated in sets running for the first time this year after building sets in the past. Of sets running he said, “You have to be timely, you have to be quiet, and you have to know where everything goes—all the right places at all the right times.”

“I really appreciated the kids’ hard work,” said Lagerwey, adding that students came to practice on a Friday and Monday when school was not in session.

The cast and crew received a standing ovation Thursday after the three-hour performance.

Senior Sarah Kuipers, who attended the show, said it was “one of the best shows I’ve seen at Illiana.”

Illiana drama makes lasting impact on alumni

Former English teacher moves to Los Angeles to pursue dreams



www.lastagealliance.com

Riley Goodwin
Co-News Editor

Phyllis Schuringa started her drama career at Illiana as a student in 1970. She invested her time and energy into the plays and musicals and tried her best to get as involved as she could in whatever was presented to her. She graduated from Illiana in 1974, she returned as an English teacher in 1977 and taught for 4 years. During those 4 years, Schuringa played a major role in Illiana’s drama department by directing the plays and musicals.

This taste of directing encouraged her to take a leap into the directing field professionally. She stopped teaching at Illiana in 1981 and furthered her directing career at

Illinois State University where she studied MSA Directing for another 3 years.

During this time she also picked up an internship at Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago. She was interning under Randall Arney and was a jack of all trades, so to speak. She worked at Steppenwolf Theater for 17 years and did everything from working the box office to the artistic office. She focused primarily on casting because that was what was needed at the time. After 17 years, Arney decided to move to Los Angeles and he invited Schuringa to join him. She did.

“My favorite part about LA is its diversity,” said Schuringa. “There’s nothing you can’t find. There are so many extremely talented people here and it makes casting roles for plays a lot easier.”

Schuringa is currently working as a casting director at the Geffen Playhouse, where she has been for 17 years.

“I work with a team of 4,” said Schuringa. “We help plan the upcoming seasons out, find virtually the entire cast for each play, hold auditions, and introduce actors to the directors.”

“I really love to completely immerse myself in the world of the play,” said Schuringa. “It requires a lot of research and imagination, more than you’d expect. I love placing myself in the middle of the story and imagining I’m right there, living it.”



Photo courtesy of Breadwig Ballinger

Kaley Osterman and her castmate acting in ‘The Drowsy Chaperone’ Student finds herself in work at Skokie Theater

Cassie Laninga
Co-Photo Editor

Kaeley Osterman, former graduate of 2013, took her talent from Illiana’s stage to a full time job at Skokie Theater in Skokie Illinois. Osterman had her first performance there in Nov. of 2017, performing in “Rocket City, Alabama” and being the wardrobe assistance for it. By Nov. of 2018, Oster-

man is set to professionally costume a show all by herself.

“I love being able to do what I love and get paid for it,” said Osterman. “I’d never really thought I’d make it this far, but here I am.”

When she was at Illiana, Osterman performed in shows like “Comedy of Errors,” “Oliver,” “Charlotte’s Web,” “The Hiding Place,” and “Beauty and the Beast.” Osterman said Illiana inspired her to

have a career in the theater.

“Teachers like Mr. DeVries, Mrs. Lagerwey, and Mrs. Bulkema who let me have the opportunity to be on stage inspired me. They were a few of the people who showed faith in me through my years there and they let me be myself and have fun on stage. I realized how much I felt called to do that with my life.”

Osterman said she was definitely discouraged by people not to follow her career path.

“There have been plenty of people who have asked what I am going to do for my real job and if I had a backup one. They told me studying theater was a waste of time and money,” said Osterman. “My family was always supportive and I owe a lot to them for encouraging me.”

Her advice to would-be actors?

Osterman said, “Just go for it. The world needs great actors and artists and directors and people with great creativity. It really needs it.”



Photo courtesy of Aaron Menninga

Liz VanDrunen
Co-Feature Editor

Aaron Menninga graduated from Illiana in 2005. He then went to Northwestern University to get his major in Theatre and Animate Arts.

Theatre major discovers his passion for architecture

This led to Menninga working as a freelance Scenic Designer and Technical Director.

In Theatre, a Scenic Designer establishes an overall visual concept for the production and designs the stage environment, and a Technical Director oversees the workflow of a production, making sure that all work is safe.

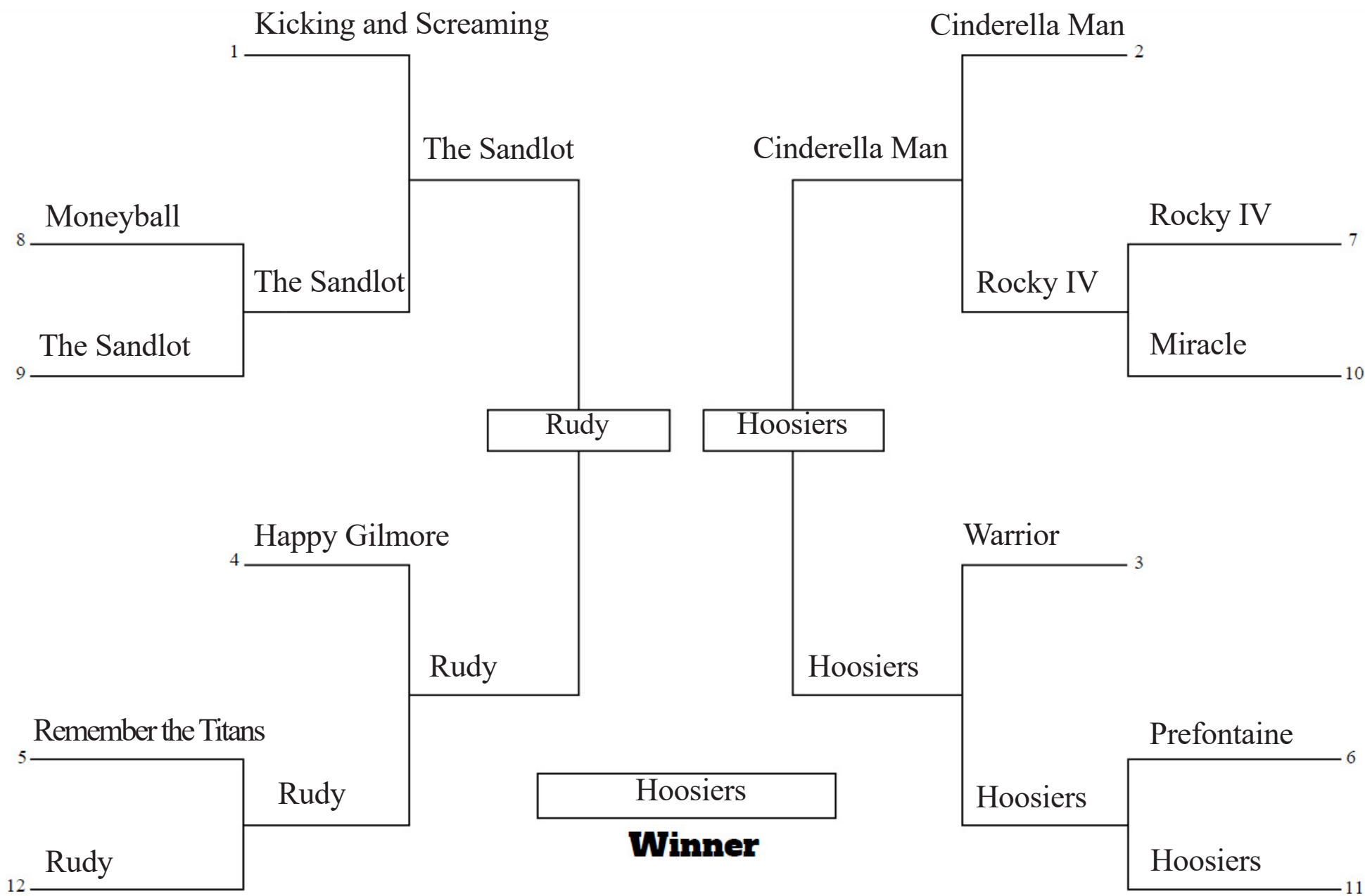
His interest for designing and building led Menninga to go to graduate school for architecture. He received his architecture degree from

Harvard University and is now a project architect working on residential projects in New York City.

“It was at Illiana that I became interested in Theatre and Art which propelled me to pursue Architecture and continue to inform my work as a designer,” said Menninga. “Entering high school, there are so many directions your life can go. The teachers, classes and extracurriculars (especially Theatre) at Illiana pointed me the initial direction that led me to where I am today.”

March Madness: Greatest Sports Movies of all Time

We picked our favorite twelve sports flicks and pitted them against eachother -- March style. Here are the results:



Round One

Moneyball vs. The Sandlot

Despite “Moneyball’s” revolutionary use of statistics, they couldn’t slide past the classic humor of “The Sandlot”. Both Movies are great, but the tie goes to the runner on this one.

Remember the Titans vs. Rudy

“Remember the Titans” is an inspiring film that will keep you on the edge of your bleacher for the full 113 minutes, but in an ironic twist, it just wasn’t as memorable as “Rudy”.

Rocky IV vs. Miracle

Both teams destroyed the Soviet Union, but after Balboa defeated communism through-out the entire world via boxing match, we had to give the fourth of

the classic double trilogy the dub. If you don’t like that pick, you can change!

Prefontaine vs. Hoosiers

“Prefontaine” is one of only about three distance running movies that isn’t cheesy, unrealistic, and hard to get through. In fact, it’s the best running movie out there. But the locker room speech in the middle of “Hoosiers” had enough momentum to push the film into the next round.

Elite Eight

Kicking and Screaming vs. The Sandlot

What happens when a legendary comedian and a legendarier actor and the legendariest NFL coach make a kids’ movie together? You get an instant classic, but if you think those three are enough to upset Scotty and his gang of sluggers, well, you’re killin’ me

Smalls.

Happy Gilmore vs. Rudy

Adam Sandler’s funniest movie was funny enough to make even my mom not hate Adam Sandler for 92 minutes, but despite the drive of a knockout cast, “Happy Gilmore” just couldn’t tap it in. “Rudy” gets to play another round.

Cinderella Man vs. Rocky IV

By unanimous decision, the Bulldog defeated the Italian Stallion. “Cinderella Man” is based on a true story, but Rocky was hilariously unlikely. Two of the best boxing movies of all time took to the ring together, but Russell Crowe and the rest of the knockout cast left victoriously.

Warrior vs. Hoosiers

“Warrior” will make

that, it advances to the final four.

Final Four

The Sandlot vs. Rudy

Never before have we wanted two winners so badly. While Smalls and the squad bring us all back to the greatest moments of our own childhoods, “Rudy” advances everything good about an athlete: determination, perseverance, and heart.

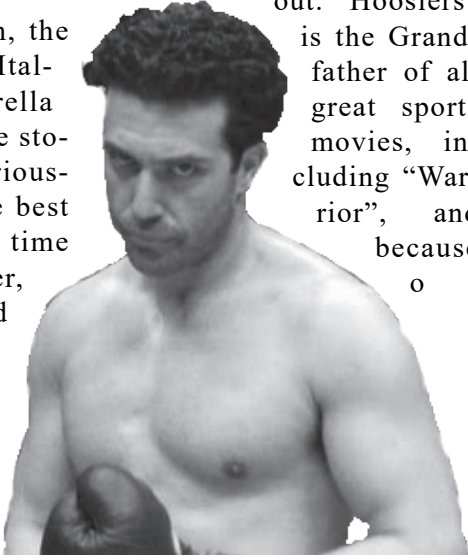
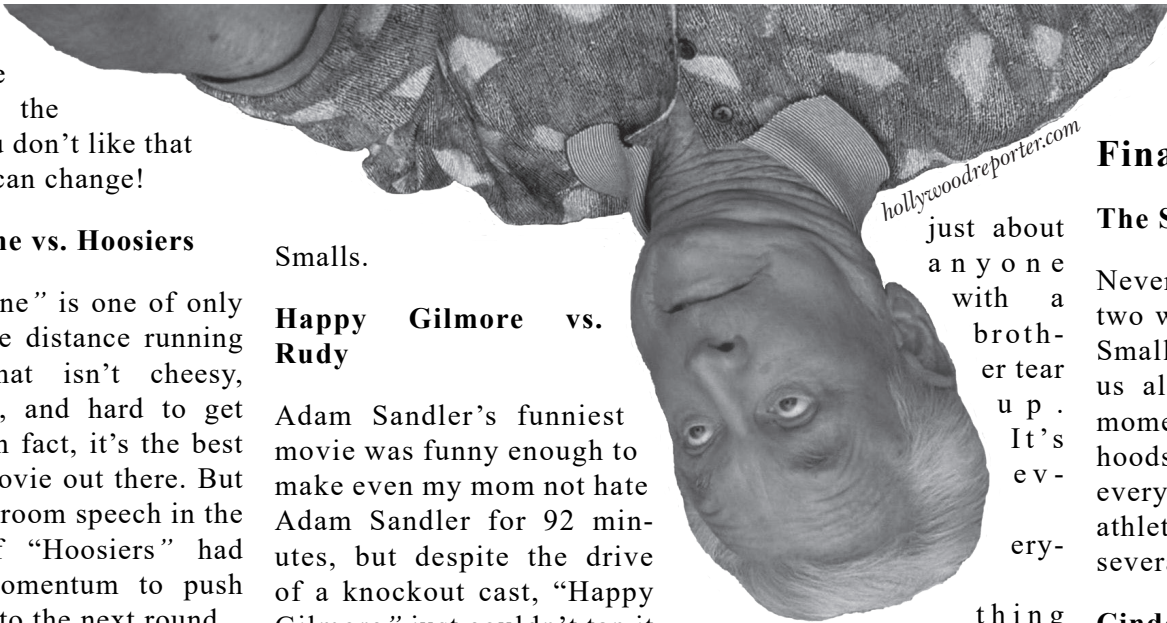
Cinderella Man vs. Hoosiers

Braddock gave it all he had, but it wasn’t enough. Don’t worry though, he’s safe with Mae and the kids, eating well.

The Championship

Rudy vs. Hoosiers

Indiana Underdogs both end up in the big dance of movie about big dances. After a triple overtime finish with 39 lead changes, we decided “Hoosiers” is the best film you can watch. If we would explain why, it wouldn’t be the greatest, you’ll just have to see it for yourself.



A tribute to David White

Maddie Holesinger
Co-Editor in Chief

Softball coach David White passed away at fifty-five years old on Feb. 17.

Born in 1963, White grew up to become a partner in his family’s business, White’s Pit Stop. He enjoyed going to the drag strip on Sunday afternoons where he supported and sponsored many racers over the years. As a sports addict, he began to coach his daughter Brittany and soon fell in love with the game of softball.

Over the years, he mentored countless girls and taught them not only to be better softball players, but also to embrace their God-given talents.

“There was one time when I was getting down on myself for a mistake I kept making on the field and he pulled me aside and encouraged me to keep going,” said Katie Eriks, who was coached by White for a year. “He cared for each individual player. He wanted to help each and every one of us on specific things we were struggling with in the game.”

White did his best every day, and pushed his softball players to do the same. Everyone that met him admired him. His sense of humor and laughter was contagious.

At Illiana, White coached for

two years. He was remembered by the girls as being passionate, patient, hardworking, determined, and loving.

“My fondest memory of Coach White was when we were playing Chicago Christian and we had two outs and a runner on 3rd. I was up to bat. Before I stepped to the plate he walked over to me and told me to take a deep breath, believe in myself and to do what I do best,” said Payton Van Kalker. “He smiled and said I know you can win this game for us and walked back to first base. I took what he said to heart, got into the box and laid down the perfect bunt down the first base line. I was safe and so was the runner who scored the winning run. It was a great feeling knowing he believed in me to win the game.”

Among other things, what made White such a great coach was that he was always supportive of his players no matter what mistakes they made. He wasn’t afraid to give constructive criticism to any of his players, which helped each of the girls to be better at the sport they loved even though it was difficult to hear at the time.

“Growing together on and off the field can be hard to accomplish sometimes,” said Van Kalker. “Coach White will forever be in my heart, and I’ll continue to pray for his family.”

Boys volleyball bumps back from bad season

Grant Gibson
Co-Photo Editor

Thanks to an earlier start than last year, longer practices each day, and a synergy between returning athletes, Illiana’s 2018 boys volleyball team has started much stronger, their 5-3 record bearing witness to hard work and great chemistry.

They began with a standout win on Mar. 19 against last year’s seventh-best team in Indiana.

Although Illiana will most likely not participate in state competitions for several years after the move, boys volleyball will go unaffected. The Indiana High School Athlete Association doesn’t recognize men’s

volleyball as a varsity sport, yet there’s still a state tournament.

“We didn’t have much experience last year,” said outside hitter Jack Davids, but this year, they started in a better spot, allowing them to focus on advanced skills more than fundamentals.

“Most of our guys have played together,” said setter Austin Clark.

Another change from last year is the absence of 6’6” outside hitter Mark Hernandez, whose knee injury was predicted to have a negative output.

Clark added, “But after our first few games, we’re at about where I thought we would be with him.”



Sports Catch-ups



Boys, Girls Track

Maddie Holesinger
Co-Editor in Chief

Illiana’s girls track team got off to a rough start in their first two competitions. Multiple girls had not been competing regularly because of injury from unfortunate events, because of fear of injury, and because of lack of conditioning.

The first two meets, one at Olivet Nazarene and the other at Lincoln Way East, were only scored individually, so the team is unsure about how well their team will score as a whole.

“We have really good talent coming in, especially in shotput, from our freshman. I think our team is still trying to get strong, and we all have room for improvement,” said senior Ariel Shaffer, a mid-distance runner.

The third meet, conference, which was at Glenbard South, went better than expected. The boy’s team also competed at that meet. Senior Even Jones placed third in high jump and hopes to continue to climb the ladder to the top. Their team also entered a 4x800 that scored well.

“Our team is really small; we lost a lot of good seniors last year,” said Maddie DeYoung, a senior distance runner. “We are focusing right now more on individuals since we don’t have any relays that can run right now.”

The boy’s team has not yet competed with all 26 of their athletes, 15 of whom have never run before.

“Right now, we are working on re-building our team, since track is new to so many of them,” said Coach Jim Piskowy.

Girls Soccer

Kade Bouwer
Co-Sports Editor

The girls soccer team started the season 2-1 with wins over Reed-Custer High School and Kennedy High School.

After a forgettable 5-8 season last year, the team is hoping for better results this year.

Junior Emma Slings said, “Our last season was more a rebuilding season. We lost most of our starting varsity players, so we had to learn how to work together and fill the roles of those that had left.”

Senior goalkeeper Sara Bosman said, “I think that we are better unified as a group because of the way we are talking with each other. Our game has improved because of that.”

“Our coach says that he doesn’t care about our record and that the only thing we are working toward is postseason,” said Slings. “I am hoping that we go farther than last year and win Regionals again and win Sectionals.”

Boys Baseball

Jo Mulder
Co-Sports Editor

Spring is in the air and the sounds of baseball return to Illiana. The team began its season with a “W” and a score of 13-2 over Rich Central. The strong start gave some confidence on the outlook of the season, but according to junior DJ Gladney, the team could improve on defense by signing for bunts or steals. The second game against Evergreen Park, ended with defeat and a score of 11-5.

According to junior Colton DeJong, in order to improve, the team has focused on lots of drill work. They have also been working on “hustling” on defense. However, with the combination of poor weather and it being so early in the season, practicing outdoors is difficult to do.

Varsity has promising players such as seniors Jared Trivette and Tony Lucito. According to Coach Darren DeBoer, the hitting is looking extremely promising. The main concern now is the younger pitchers.

Boys Tennis

Alex Wondaal
Co-Sports Editor

“We slaughtered them,” junior Andrew Smits said of the tennis team’s opening win over Providence Catholic.

The team is hoping to mirror last year’s success with their new head coach, Michael Eberly, and an experienced band of juniors and seniors.

Juniors Lawton Bouwer and Seth Bouwer switch off first and second singles, while Smits and Junior Kade Bouwer play first doubles. Seniors Andrew Feikema and Matthew Rietveld play second doubles.

Lawton Bouwer said the team’s overall goal is “to get as many guys down state as possible... and our new coach has been great; he’s very knowledgeable about the game.”

Male Athlete of the Month

Four year varsity volleyball player, Garret VanderZee, has been a leader both on and off the court this year for their team. Even though they only have played a few games, he has stood out.

“Our success relies heavily on how well [VanderZee] is playing and his positive outlook on the game,” said Junior Jack Davids. “He is always making big plays when we need it the most and is always pumping us up.”

Senior Payton Smit said, “He is a really great guy. He is a hard worker and really encouraging. I can tell he gives 100 percent every practice and every game.”



Female Athlete of the Month

Kaylee Evers is rolling into her second varsity soccer season, and she’s only a sophomore.

Sometimes playing midfield and sometimes playing offense, Evers has helped the team to a healthy 3-1 start to the season.

Evers said the best part of playing with older teammates is gaining knowledge from players who have seen more time on the field.

Junior teammate Annie Weemhoff said of Evers, “She’s an amazing player. She controls the field, and she’s very positive and encouraging.”

Editorial

Sharing your testimony: calling or command?

1 Peter 3:15 NIV “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”

Peter clearly states in this verse that we should be ready to give our testimony to anyone who asks to hear it. The word “testimony” can be used in different ways. One can give a testimony as a witness in a courtroom, testifying to their personal knowledge of an event. But what does it mean to be Christian and give a testimony? Well, really it means about the same thing. A testimony with reference to God is standing as a witness to tell others how Christ has moved in our hearts and lives. Testimonies can often be about how God has taken us out of tough times, which helped build our faith in him. Many of us grew up in Christian households and with loving families, so, maybe we think that our testimony isn’t “moving” enough to share with others. Testimonials do not have to involve overcoming an obstacle. They can talk about the great things God has done for us, like waking us up every morning and providing us with food and shelter. The sole purpose of our testimony is to show others that Jesus

is alive and is changing lives.

God comes to us all in different ways; that means that each of us has a different story to tell about our experience with him. God has put us in this place and this time for a purpose. He has a story specific for each and every one of us and in those stories and messages are testimonies for others to hear. God has allowed us to follow the paths we do in order to change us and

is just as important as speaking it. When our actions reflect Christ and match the words coming out of our mouths, others will be able to see that our testimony is true. Peter tells us to answer the questions our lives should inspire: How can you be so hopeful in such difficult circumstances?

People are going to be curious about your hopefulness. Hope is an interesting subject, and most people

knocking on people’s doors, forcing your testimony down people’s throat. As Christians, when we give our testimony, we must give it with gentleness and respect. God does not tell us to chastise others who are curious about our religion. We should explain our faith without grating on other people, and hopefully encouraging them to come back for more.

So what does this mean for us? Spring mission trips may seem like a better opportunity for some to give a testimony, but testimonies can happen anywhere at any time. The chance may arise on any day. A non-religious friend might ask out of the blue why you believe in Christ, or Mr. Davids might ask to share your testimony in Praise Crowd, or a co-worker might ask you why you don’t swear like the other guys. Whenever you may be, there is always going to be an opportunity to give your testimony and you’ve got to be prepared. When asked on the spot like that, there is no “let me think about it” or “can I tell you later?”. When the time comes, we must be ready. We cannot pass up an opportunity to tell someone about the goodness of God. How ready are you give an answer for your hope?

“God comes to us all in different ways; that means that each of us has a different story to tell...”

hopefully change others along the way. Once we realize that God is working in our lives, it is our job to tell others what he has done. Again, this is the basis of a Christian testimony.

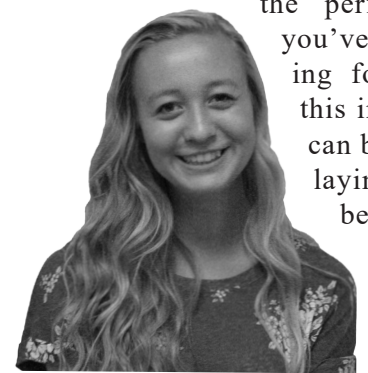
When we set apart Christ as Lord, he changes us. People who watch us will notice a difference in our behavior, whether that we’ve refrained from cursing or that we started going to church every Sunday. In this way, we are testifying by our actions. Living the gospel

ple want to understand it. So when people ask why we are so hopeful, we must be prepared to defend the source of our hope. When we tell others about the good things God has done for us, we should feel no shame or fear in doing it. Believers are called to openly share to the good news of Christ.

Sharing, however, does not mean that we should bombard others with our testimony. Peter says to be prepared to give our testimony to whoever asks, not to go

Finding new pleasure in old companion

Have you ever wished you could travel across the world? Do you aspire to learn more about others and the way that they think? Are you searching for love? Do you need a good stress reliever? Well, I have



Beth Boonstra
Co-Editor-in-Chief

the perfect solution you’ve been waiting for. To use this invention, you can be anywhere--laying on your bed, riding the bus, sitting in the waiting room. You simply separate the slightly thicker cov-

ering from the stack of papers bound together. You may begin use by directing your eyes towards the top left of the first paper and slowly scanning towards the right. When you reach the end of that string of words, you return to the left side of the paper which we call a page and begin to scan the second row of words. Once one reaches the bottom of said page, rotate the page so that it sits on its back side and continue on the back of it. Simply repeat until you reach the end. The act of using this invention is known as reading, and it can produce various positive benefits. The quick and catchy name for this product is a “Book.”

These words, once deciphered, can create realistic characters, settings, and plots. These trigger something in our minds called imagination or the ability to formulate original images, ideas, and scenarios that do not exist in reality but in the mind. Many adults have lost this ability with age, and reading is the best known way to gain some of this imagination back. The best books on the market can make you cry, laugh, ponder the meaning of life, fall in love, step out of your comfort zone, question social norms, go on adventures, fight for justice, or even discover yourself.

For some this may be your first time hearing of this miraculous invention. For others this may be stirring some vaguely fond memories from the past. Maybe you remember a better time when you had nothing better to do than pick up a good old-fashioned book and fill your brain with knowledge. Now you simply can’t seem to find the time for or the value in reading in the hustle and bustle of your crazy life, but that just means that you need reading now more than ever. In addition to relieving stress, books guide us and shape us and push us to be who we are. If you thought you loved reading back in elementary school, you have only seen the teeny, tiny, tip of the iceberg. Those were beginner level books. Imagine how much more life-changing a good book would be now when you can actually do something with all that knowledge and meaning and truth. So go ahead and take that chance. Pick up a book. You may be surprised by what you find both within the book and within the world around you by reading.

the Echo)))

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Cassie Laninga
Riley Goodwin

Feature

Grant Gibson
Liz VanDrunen
Cate Peerbolte

Arts

Natalie Togtman
Lauren Curtis

Sports

Alex Wondaal
Kade Bouwer
Jo Mulder

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Editorials, unless otherwise stated, have been written by an editor and reflect the opinion of the majority of the Echo staff. Opinions expressed are not necessarily that of the administration, faculty, or student organizations.

Letters to the editor can be submitted to the advisor or sent to the school. All letters must be signed and must not exceed 250 words. They will be printed provided there is enough room and content is not offensive to the general public. Names will not be wfor doing so.

March for Our Lives



On March 24, people of every race and age united in the March for Our Lives as they protested against gun violence in schools and neighborhoods.. The Chicago march was held in Union Park. Illiana students, faculty, and alumni joined in to make a statement in hopes for safer communities.

The newspaper is a forum for expression; therefore, we encourage feedback or commentary. Please contact us at theillianaecho@gmail.com