

December 18, 2017

# The Tornado Times

"Journalism is an act of faith in the future."

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Griggsville-Perry High School

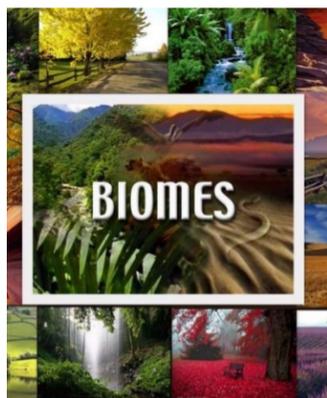
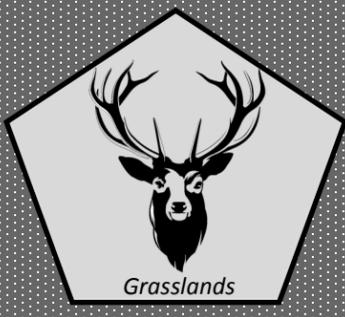
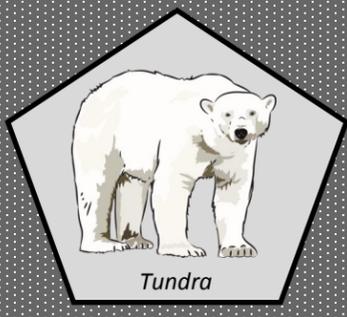
202 North Stanford, Griggsville, IL 62340

Volume 4, Issue 4

*I Always Feel at Home When I'm in My...*

"Biomes" are this year's homecoming theme— but what are they?

## BIOME!



## Cheerleaders Battle Absences to Build Team

By: Abeni Broyles

Working as a team isn't always easy, but the Griggsville-Perry cheerleaders have pushed and pulled to build their team this year.

Senior Ashlyn Crone said one of the most important things in coming together is practice.

"I feel like if you're a newbie and you don't really know the cheers you need to practice with the team so you get the feel of things," Crone said. "So I think [practice] really makes or breaks you."

One of the new team members, freshman cheerleader Jenna Kelley, said she looks up to some of the older cheerleaders.

"I turn to Maleah probably the most. She has helped me through volleyball and cheerleading and helped me get past my obstacles," said Kelley.

Kelley said senior cheerleader Mercedes Hannant has also been good to be around.

"I have troubles with the floor cheers and she helps me learn them and pushes me harder to do them," explained Kelley.

Continued on Pg. 2

## BI, BI, BIOMES

Cheerleaders reveal Homecoming Theme

By: Courtney Syrcle, and Ashlee Jones

This year the cheerleaders voted on the homecoming theme of biomes. Science teacher Christ Sheehan says biomes are all around us and that we are actually living in one right now.

"Biomes are the particular places where the animals and all the living and nonliving things can live based on the environment and the climates," says Sheehan. "The climate is going to determine the type of biome you live in."

Many different biomes can be chosen by the classes for their homecoming skits, lockers, wall decorations, and class t-shirts.

"Some of the biomes you would have are the tundra, and the tropical rainforest," said Sheehan, "through here we are the grasslands. [You can also choose] the savannah, the

**"[The other classes are] going to have to bring it."**  
-Mr. Taylor

chaparrals, taigas, which are like pine tree areas."

Homecoming is a time where all students at Griggsville-Perry come together and work with each other for a whole week to get the win for their class. Monday through Friday, students dress up to the specific day for points in the school-wide competition at the end of the week.

Fortunately for the students, there are many different ways classes can refresh their theme.

"[Students could recreate] the tundra, which is a cold area, because they could do nice cold frost areas. [They could] definitely do the tropical rainforest because you could have all kinds of trees and animals there,"

said Sheehan. "[Students could build] A desert, they could do that with the cactus and the roadrunner and that kind of information. And of course [students could make] the grassland through here with the deer, and any kind of animal through this area that they could do."

If students have any questions about their biome Sheehan would be one of the best people to go to in the school.

"I think [students will] get confused based on what animals, what type of plants, flora, and fauna in each biome," said Sheehan. "They might want to come talk to the science teacher and see if [those plants and animals] could happen."

Cheerleaders Jordan Brite and Maleah Richard want to see the whole school get involved in homecoming.

"I think [the freshmen] need to really get into it

and let loose. Don't worry about who is judging you. Homecoming is about having fun and not worrying about what people think," said Brite. "[People should be] really excited for our dress up days. They are going to be cool and unique," said Richard.

Mrs. Dokey, a senior sponsor, thinks her class will enjoy the biome theme.

"I think they will react well," said Dokey. "We've already started throwing ideas around and we are up for any challenge."

Senior sponsor Mr. Taylor is setting his goals towards getting the big win at this school year's homecoming.

"Hopefully, deciding early on their theme so they can have good teamwork and work towards a common goal. So they can get along and squash arguments early," said Taylor. "[The other classes are] going to have to bring it."

## Lady P-GP have a Winning Streak

"If you doubted us, you will regret it now"

By: Bailey Scoggins

The Pittsfield-Griggsville-Perry Lady Saukees have been hard at work this season with six am practices, after school practices, and moving Santa's sleigh across the gym floor.

The team has only two Griggsville-Perry players, seniors Lauren Kennedy and Madison Miller. The P-GP team have a record of five wins and six losses.

Although it can be tough to stay motivated after losing a game, the team tries their best to stay positive by not giving up.

"Coach's pep talk

before and after a game help get me through the [loss]," Kennedy said. "When coaches get mad, we just run and run and run at practices. It keeps us in good shape at the end of the games, so we fight through it."

Miller believes that the team will continue winning games. "We practice literally all the time and so it is only going up from here, like I do not see us going backwards anytime soon," said Miller.

The season is starting to look up after the P-GP team started a winning streak against West Central, Calhoun, and Liberty.

"Beating a team

[like West Central] that has been to state in high school is a pretty good accomplishment.

Even if we do not have fans there who want to see it," Kennedy said. "Knowing these were good teams in the past, and knowing that we have the ability this year, it feels pretty good, and if you doubted us, you will regret it now."

Miller said, "[this season] is going good because we have never really had a winning basketball team in the past, so now that we do, it feels pretty good."



Continued on Page. 2

**Cheerleading continued from page 1**

By: Abeni Broyles

Kelly said that it has been hard not being able to practice and cheer with all of the cheerleaders together in the same room.

"They gave us a CD of dances and then they recorded some of the floor cheers, and we were told to learn them before a deadline," Kelley said "That was kind of hard, but it ended up being okay because we got back together in the end."

Cheerleading Coach Kristine Bingham wrote the Tornado Times in an email that the team had a bonding experience over the summer.

"We had a sleepover before school and have worked hard together during the summer,"

Bingham said. "This year the girls seem to really come together."

Even though there hasn't been a game with every cheerleader able to participate, the girls who have cheered have been able to really pull through.

Senior Jordan Brite, who has four years of cheerleading experience, said, "It's going ok so far. I was sick the first game and there were two other girls gone so, I think it

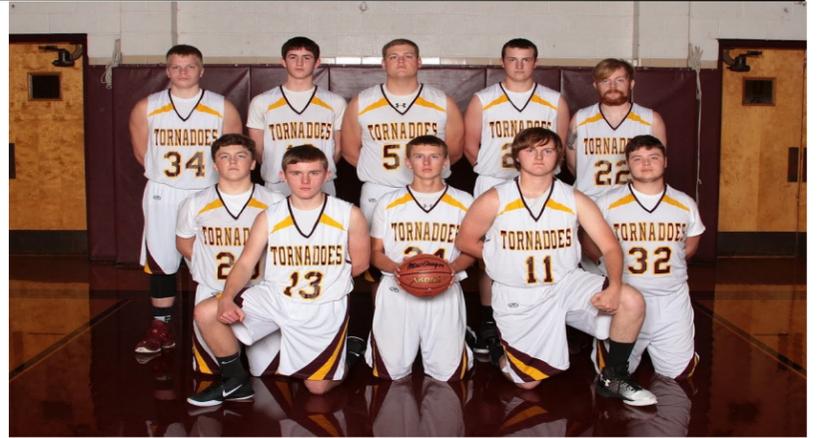
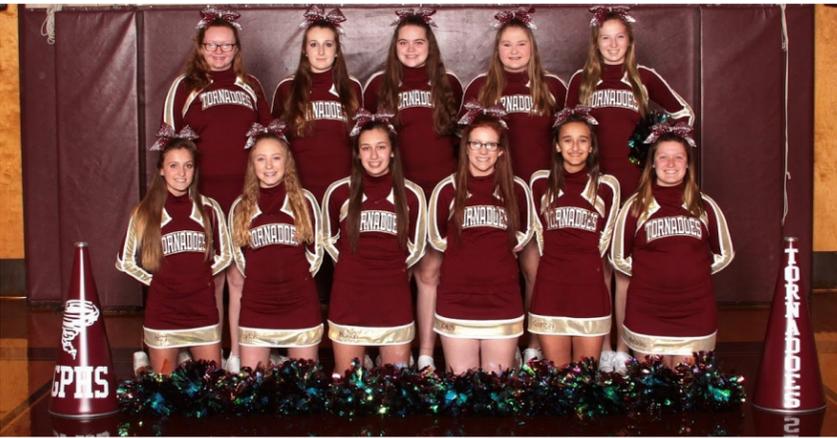
was just working on the absences.

"I think it's just working on being there we all have our reasons on why we can't be there," Brite added.

Mrs. Bingham has been satisfied with the cheerleaders accomplishments this year.

"The cheerleaders have performed very well this year.

We haven't been able to cheer with everyone yet, so we have had to do a lot of substituting at the last minute and everyone seems to pick up quickly."



**Hoop there it is**

By: Kaylie Scoggins

A new basketball season with a returning coach is taking the Griggsville Perry basketball team by storm.

Todd Bradshaw has returned to the bench coaching the boys and pushing them to be the best they can be. Along with him is Troy Kennedy as the assistant JV coach.

Mercedes Hannant, a cheerleader who has watched every game all four years of high school has positive thoughts on his return. "I think since we have Todd back and Troy stepping in the boys are getting better opportunities and position roles," Hannant said.

Some of the JV boys have to step up and play in varsity games due to lack of older boys.

"High school basketball is a lot more physical than middle school ball," freshman player Dalton McCallister said. The challenge of playing varsity does not discourage him though as he has dropped points in every varsity game he has played in.

Another freshman playing varsity is Tanner Leedy. "The competition is harder than middle school. Everyone is bigger," Leedy said.

The varsity took a bad loss against Brown County, but they are not discouraged.

"It is not fun losing by almost 50 points so I think we should play harder," Leedy said.

Senior Gage Crow still has hope the team will get better.

"[Brown County] was a championship team and we never gave up. I think we will get better as

the season goes on," Crow said. According to players the team is building and working on their fundamentals. They have some strengths that do not go unnoticed.

"We are determined and coachable. We have multiple sizes, tall, short, strong or small and quick," said Matthew Myers who plays center for the Griggsville-Perry Tornadoes.

Dakota Shoemaker also agrees with Myers stating that, "We are very coachable." Although we have strengths we also have a few weaknesses.

Myers says, "We are inexperienced and we cannot make shots in the games."

With each failed shot, comes a rebound they could grab. But Shoemaker says we fail to do just that. "We don't rebound, we forget our fundamentals, and we get emotional."

The Griggsville-Perry student section was small but mighty against the Western Wildcats.

"A student section helps hype us up. Even though we lose, the energy from them keeps us motivated," junior basketball player Colton Ivey said.

Senior Bailey Scoggins said she would like see a themed student section with more people.

"It is my last year, I am going to support the boys even if they lose," said Scoggins.

**Lady P-GP have a Winning Streak Continued**

By: Bailey Scoggins

Senior Kaylie Scoggins said, "the team will go far because West Central is really, really, really good, and now that [P-GP] have the fundamentals back."

Kennedy believes that the team works together so well because they get along with each other on and off the court.

Since this summer was the first we have ever played with[Pittsfield], it was new for me," Kennedy said. "Madison played with them last year, but every game our chemistry builds, and we play as one,

more and more."

Miller believes that the team works well together because the team talks and communicates well.

"Lauren is really good at seeing open spots on the floor. Her and Lily work really good together," said Miller.

The team sometimes has to push a metal sleigh, making practices tough.

"It looks like Santa's sleigh and [coach] wraps carpet on the bottom of it, so it's able to move on the gym

floor,"

Kennedy said, "I felt most like a team when we all had to push the death trap." "Our schedule is in the office, try to get to one of the games," Kennedy said.

The P-GP girls will play in the Beardstown tournament during December 26th to December 29th. The next home game, played in Pittsfield, is January 4th.

**OPINION:**

**Finals: Pro**

By: Courtney Syrcle

Many students would not say that finals are beneficial to their lives, but actually, I think that finals are very helpful.

From experience, Mrs. Dokey says that finals are good for students and their education.

"I had to take all of my finals during high school and I felt a lot more prepared for college finals," Mrs. Dokey said, "I had some friends in college that did not have to take finals exams during high school, and they were kind of blind sighted when they got to the college exams."

Even though students do not like to take finals I think they should, because in the long run they are going to be pretty useful for their future education.

"It gives the student and their parents an accurate idea of what they have learned that previous semester. With



that being said, it could show the student and the teacher that student's weak areas to know what can be worked on that next semester or next year," said Mrs. Dokey. "And then, for the teachers also I think it helps them judge how they taught the students that previous semester and know what they can work on."

In my personal opinion I like finals. I think that everyone should take finals because they are going to be preparing us for our future.

"I know most students wouldn't agree with me but, I think it actually prepares students for college exams, which

can be difficult so it gets them in the mindset of what they are going to be preparing for," said Mrs. Dokey. "I just encourage students to look at the big picture and realize that it does help them in the long run."

**Finals: Con**

By: Trinity Schaaf

In my personal opinion, I hate finals a lot.

I don't hate them because they are hard or boring, but because I could be staying home and sleeping instead of going to school.

Many people dislike finals for all sorts of different reasons.

"They are stressful, but I've never had to take any of them" said B Brown.

Many people stress over the final exams.

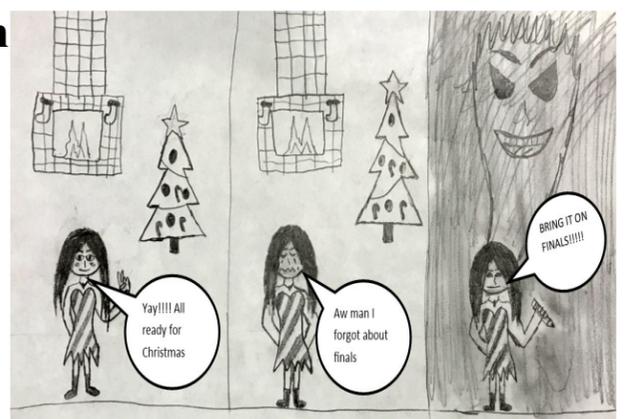
"Preparing for the finals stress me out, all the other information overwhelms me a lot," said Brown.

I personally hate having to prepare for the finals. Preparing for the finals is worse than the actual exams.

People tend to think the finals are hard.

"No, because it helps you out with your grade" said Michael McCallister.

I have had to take finals before. Last year when I took them I was very stressed but when I saw the actual exam I wasn't stressed anymore. They were actually quite easy. However, I have to say that I hate how they decide



how you have to take them.

You should only have to take them if your failing or get in trouble, not for attendance.

For example, I have to take them because I missed days because I have to go to the doctor a lot.

Why are they punishing us when it's not our fault if we have to go to the doctor? it's ignorant.

I also hate how if you fail the final that you are required to take it it affects your grade.

It shouldn't affect your grade and make you fail, it should only improve your grade.

All of these reasons are truly why I hate the final exams.

**Get-to-Know a Senior** Our ongoing series exploring the lives of GP seniors once more before they graduate

**It is all about Lexi**

Senior Alexis Walston is looking forward to graduating  
By: Ashlee Jones

Lexi Walston, a senior, at Griggsville Perry who is loved by her friends and her twin brother. A few staff members here at Griggsville have enjoyed watching her grow into the student she has become.

Lexi Walston has been a student at Griggsville since her freshman year. Walston enjoys being a senior. "It's great here," Walston said.

Walston is going to graduate this year. She said "It's great."

Walston has a few hobbies she loves to do.

Walston said her hobbies are "fishing and playing outside."

Another way Walston spends her time is watching tv on the

weekends.

Walston has a twin brother, his name is Nathan.

"It's great having a twin brother cause he takes me everywhere and always there for her when she needs him," Walston said. Walston's favorite kind of music is country.

"Kenny Chesney is my favorite country singer" said Walston.

Walston wants to become a teacher's assistant because she likes to help people.

Paige Srycle, senior, is friends with Lexi Walston. Throughout high school, Paige and Lexi have always had

a bond.

"I think our friendship is very strong, because I am there whenever she needs me and needs help," Srycle said.

Mr. Cowell, a teacher here at Griggsville Perry, is one of her teachers who is excited to see

what the future holds for her.

"Lexi is a great girl she works hard. She seems to be doing everything to graduate and I'm looking forward to seeing her graduate," said Cowell.

Mrs. Evans is the librarian here at Griggsville Perry. She has watched

Walston grow into the individual she is today.

"I am proud to see how hard Lexi has worked through the years and how much she has grown as a person. As a friend I am happy to see how well she has been doing and I'm sure she will have a very bright future." said Evans.



**Striving for Greatness**

Senior Duncan Bradshaw is hard at work.

By: Brayden Sonneborn

Playing sports and getting good grades is something hard to do, but not for Duncan Bradshaw.

Duncan Bradshaw and Jack Phillips were the winners of the Illinois state scholars.

They had to score in the 95th percentile in order to receive this award. It's a well deserved award seeing how hard they work, and how much effort they put into school.

Duncan Bradshaw is hardworking student who is known for playing basketball and football.

"[My favorite sport is] basketball," said Bradshaw "Because

I've played it for so long. " Bradshaw takes pride in the sports he plays, he tries his best on and off the court.

When Duncan is at school you almost always see him working one way or another.

He is either doing homework, studying or preparing for his next class.

He keeps his homework and notes organized so he can easily find things. Keeping these papers orga-

nized makes it easier to get better grades. Bradshaw keeps himself motivated by thinking about playing basketball and football.

Duncan is also a farmer who takes pride in what he does.

"I farm livestock and grain," Bradshaw said "It's what I want to pursue as a career." Duncan likes to farm and won't let anything else get in the way of it.

"I'd rather be farming than playing sports," Bradshaw said.

Bradshaw knows a lot about farming, he wants to further his education by going to college. After highschool Bradshaw wants to "go to college and possibly join the military."



**New beginnings are yet to come**

Senior Maleah Richard and all her plans

By: Mary Nash

Maleah Richard, senior, plans on attending University of Illinois for nursing.

Richard is looking at about 4 years of schooling.

Richard stated, "I just really want to help people and I like giving back to my community and I think it will be a good way to do both of those things."

Throughout this year and years before, Maleah has received quite a few awards and accomplished quite a lot!

"I was inducted into NHS my junior year and I think mostly just my volleyball accomplishments have meant a lot to me."

Volleyball means a

lot to Richard and it shows as she has taken home different awards to wrap up her final year.

"At the PCC tournament, I got all tournament team and all conference, then I was nominated for for all area special recognition, like an honor thing and then at the banquet I got most kills and most digs.

It was a great year and I think that I've made my most friendships through sports, it really helps you to bond with people," Richard said.

Going to college, Richard is going to miss her sports and may continue some.

"I'm definitely going to miss cheer and volleyball. I think I'll do some intramural sports, I heard there's some great sand volleyball!" Richard said.

One of Maleah's good friends is Madison Miller.

"She is very trustworthy and she cares a lot for everyone." Miller said.

You may not know this about Maleah but she has some hidden talents.

Miller says, "She knows how to play the piano and nobody knows that and she is really good at it so that's a talent!" Maleah is hilarious and can make anyone feel worthy.

"She is hilarious and I know I can always count on her no matter what." Miller said.

Although Maleah is going to miss her friends, she is ready for college.

"I think that I'm definitely going to miss my friends the most, but I'm ready for the next step in my life," Richard said.

With senior year coming to an end, it closes the door on some past opportunities.

However, Richard is staying optimistic.

"This past year has been a little rough, there have been a lot of ends, but I know next year there will be a lot of beginnings."



# Holiday Traditions

By: Brookelyn Crone

Family, friends, food, lights, drinks, presents are all part of the holiday season. The meaning of the holiday season comes from old english originally referred only to special religious days.

Many people may stay home and do nothing on Christmas Eve or day, while others may have lunch in their living room with family, or many other people may go to a family member's house to celebrate the holidays.

"Read a book and we watch Christmas vacation every year, we make cookies the day before Christmas" said Makenya McCurdy. "We don't really do anything" or some of us don't have to do anything on Christmas eve and still en-

joy the holiday season. Family traditions change each and every year but if you could add a tradition to your family and have it be that way for all of the other holiday season what would it be?

For some of us it would be to go out and have a night full of lights. While others it may be to have a Christmas day with your family. And it may be that you wouldn't want to change any of it.

"No, because I like our traditions and being with my family doing what we do." said Fiona Kelly.

Driving with family and friends while listening to Christmas music and drinking hot

chocolate is a great way to spend time with people you love during the holiday season. Happy holidays.



**Team Impact is hard at work this year, hosting a cookie walk, and organizing the closet in the band room.**

**If you see a team impact member, make sure you say thanks.**

## KAYLIE'S QUESTIONS

KAYLIE SCOGGINS ASKS IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE

What's the difference between justice and revenge?

"Justice is stopping people who want revenge while revenge is people who take matters into their own hands by horrible evil ways."

-Isaac Garrett



"Something."

-Brock Thomas



"Justice is a girl, revenge is a song."

-Colton Ivey



**Students are spreading Christmas cheer here at GP!**



## BUY A YEARBOOK!

**This year's theme is DON'T BLINK, you don't want to miss it.**

## Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.  
Each word is only used once.

- ELF
- TOY
- GIFT
- BELL
- TREE
- STAR
- SANTA
- COMET
- CUPID
- VIXEN
- CANDY
- FROSTY
- WREATH
- DASHER
- DONNER
- SLEIGH
- DANCER
- CHIMNEY
- BLITZEN
- RUDOLPH
- PRANCER
- SNOWMAN
- REINDEER

