

THE PROWLER

PLAINFIELD NORTH

WHAT'S THE LATEST?



Woodman's Opening Spotlight



Tigers Golf: Season Recaps



Talking Over a 4-Day Week

& MORE

Pumpkin patches return with rising popularity

Madison Derks
Editor-in-Chief

Close your eyes and imagine your-self walking through a corn maze with your family: you may be picking a variety of granny smith or honeycrisp apples, crawling through the corn pit with your siblings, or drinking warm apple cider with sugar-coated apple cider donuts. The tradition of pumpkin patches has been an American family staple during the autumn months, though as we get older, the meaning of pumpkin patches changes from a family outing to an aesthetically pleasing social media post.

Pumpkin patches are not only a family friendly destination, but also an aesthetically pleasing backdrop for a fall-focused Instagram post for the younger generations hoping to get the dopamine rush of a shared post, view, or repost. Pumpkin patches are also full of fun activities as well, from hay rides, corn mazes, and apple picking, there is something for everyone and every age during the fall season.

However, nowadays pumpkin patches have become the main attraction of the autumn season. Yes, the fun activities that pumpkin patches bring are enticing to many, but the social media aspect of pumpkin patches has taken over. Every year, we see a flood of social media posts documenting people's pumpkin patch adventures, and as we get older our view of pumpkin patches shifts, we go from waiting to go and pick out the perfect pumpkin, to now wanting to take the perfect picture.

"Well, people love a photo op—pumpkin patches and nature in general are natural photo ops. So yeah, people see others like influencers or whatnot going to pumpkin patches. And yeah, just a trend, right?" Plainfield North student Piper Sugrue said.

Sugrue's comment further addresses the idea that the view of pumpkin



Assorted pumpkins

Photo Credit: Alina Brinza

patches evolve as we get older. Instead of having the main focus on the magic of pumpkin patches and the fall season alone, we are now focused on getting the perfect fall backdrop, and cozy autumn vibe for a social media post.

Now, none of this is wrong or out of the ordinary; it is just how our society works, and the nostalgia and magic of pumpkin patches is not entirely lost. Many are still going outside into nature, enjoying the outdoors, and having fun with friends and family during the fall season.

If you still want to relive the nostalgia of pumpkin patches, there are various pumpkin patches around our area, such as Keller's Farm Stand, Siegel's Pumpkin Farm, the Sugar Grove Pumpkin Farm, and many more.

A Plainfield North student Katelyn Mcnamara says, "Honestly cause they're pretty, they are cuter to look at!"

Regardless of your reasoning for going to a pumpkin patch this fall, make sure to have fun and soak it all in, the nostalgia will take over, and all of a sudden you'll be a little kid again enjoying the magic of pumpkin patches and the joy of being around family and friends.

“Practical Magic 2” is a fall must-see

Roselie Carr

Features Writer

“Practical Magic” originally entered the world of cinema in 1998, a story that combined elements of romance and fantasy, with a witch-ful twist. Fans of the cult classic as well as new generations were met with an exciting new movie release: “Practical Magic 2” on Sept. 10, 2026.

Both stories on-screen have been adapted from books originally written by Alice Hoffman. Yet the original “Practical Magic” movie was directed by Griffin Dunne, with the new one being taken on by Susanne Bier.

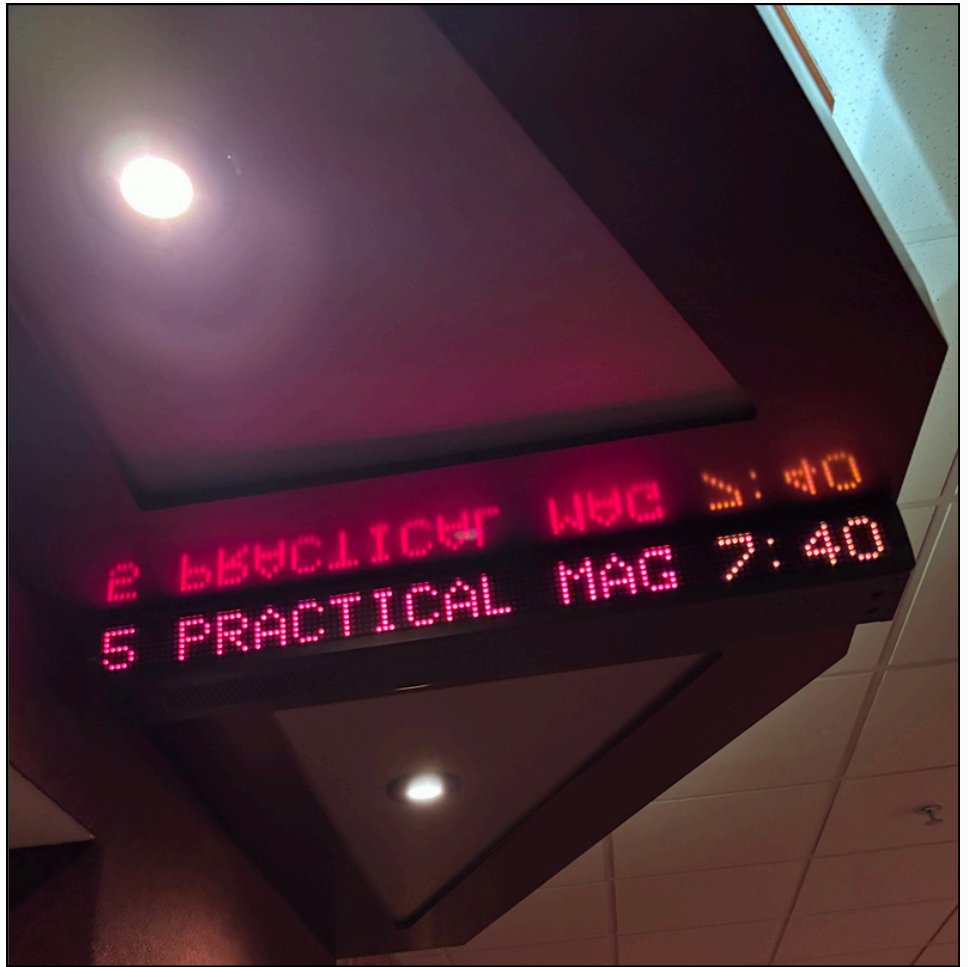
There were high expectations set from the original, as a movie that redefined the way witches are viewed. Rather than being seen as villainous, “Practical Magic” transformed witches into the epitome of feminine empowerment and resilience. Its sequel would have a lot of work to do to succeed, especially with a long period of time between production.

Based on Hoffman’s 2021 novel “The Book of Magic,” the new movie follows the multi-generational Owens family as the characters try to confront a family curse that has negatively impacted the romance side of their lives.

Going to see this new movie in theaters was a very fun experience I would recommend to all. It was super engaging, with a carefully chosen cast and a plot that was easy to follow.

Sally Owens, played by returning star Sandra Bullock, is the main witch in “Practical Magic 2” and is trying to protect her daughters from the magic they possess in them, even going so far as to stop using magic herself, which causes a feud between her and her sister Gillian, played by returning star Nicole Kidman.

After the death of their aunt Franny, played by returning star Stockard Channing, Sally’s daughter Kylie tries to break the ancestral love curse to save her dying boyfriend. The



“Practical Magic 2” theater sign

Photo Credit: Roselie Carr

family then triggers a dangerous chain of events, involving dark magic and a potential new love, forcing the Owens women to reunite and make sacrifices to protect each other.

Each character in this movie has not only an incredible script but they are also represented by thoughtfully chosen actors. Each with the physical aseptic of the role but also that cinematic look. Take Joey King for example: she looks just like the rebel teenager who would fall in love and do anything for him. Having these actors resemble the character they portray makes the viewers connect with the film.

Even if you haven’t watched the first movie, you can easily pick up on what is happening in this movie. Though the movie seems long itself, there are lots of parts that capture the viewer’s attention.

One good scene from this movie

was when Kylie was about to be burned for witchcraft. The directors do a great job of making a difference from dark magic to their magic; this is seen in that scene when the flashbacks of dark magic appear. The flashbacks create little moments that change the reader’s view of the magic they use and shift the overall mood.

One bad scene, however, was the door break-down scene. In this scene, Sally gets so angry and powerful that she breaks down a locked door with her mind. However, the CGI could have been better. It did accomplish the goal they had, but it could have better used current technology.

Overall, it was an amazing movie to go watch with family and friends. With a plot so easy to follow combined with heartfelt moments, “Practical Magic 2” is a movie you should check out before fall ends.

“The Odyssey” is the year’s best high-grossing film

Alexander Frantik

Staff Writer

This year has been a great year for movies, and the numbers back it up. Per Variety, this summer has had the highest box-office gross of all time, previously held by 2013, with 4.67 billion dollars. With such a big year, several questions have been raised, one being: which movie has been the most influential for cinema this year?

It is first important to note two movies that made up a majority of the income: “The Odyssey” and “Spiderman: Brand New Day.” These movies have made 1.78 billion and 2.5 billion respectively at the global level, according to The Numbers.

“Spiderman: Brand New Day” made a whopping three-quarters of a billion dollars more than “The Odyssey,” but does that mean that it’s better? For many reasons, “The Odyssey” is actually the better movie of the two.

Let’s start with the adapted material for the two movies. “The Odyssey” is a Greek epic by Homer from the 8th century B.C. Whereas “Spiderman: Brand New Day” adapts many different comics and creates its own, mostly new story, derived from them, just like all superhero movies.

Although I do enjoy a good superhero story, “The Odyssey” has definitely lasted the test of time and is taught in classrooms all around the world as the premier ancient Greek story. I believe that with source material with something as timeless as “The Odyssey,” it is a pretty hard story to mess up.



“Movie theater seats

Photo Credit: Felix Mooneeram via Unsplash

“The Odyssey” also had a star-studded cast, with actors such as Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Anne Hathaway, Robert Pattinson, Zendaya, Charlize Theron, Mia Goth, Benny Safdie and even Travis Scott. It is very hard to top that list of characters, and I don’t think any movie in recent years does that, including “Spiderman: Brand New Day.” All of these actors paired up with Christopher Nolan—director of movies such as The Dark Knight, Interstellar, Oppenheimer, and Inception—and his amazing writing creates a wonderfully made film.

Additionally, this almost three-hour-long epic was the first movie ever to be shot completely on Imax 70mm film.

Although some people might say that “The Odyssey” is a slower film in

general than “Spiderman: Brand New Day,” it has a much more complex and thought-provoking plot. “The Odyssey” is much more sparse, however, this sparseness builds up the plot and characters, especially Telemachus—played by Tom Holland—and Queen Penelope—played by Anne Hathaway—to create more meaningful climaxes in the movie.

I really enjoyed both of these movies and I had a great time watching them in movie theaters. There are so many more great movies coming out this year that are worth watching, like “Avengers: Doomsday,” “Dune Part 3,” “Werewolf,” “Clayface,” and many more. Keep your eyes out for movies like these in theaters and you might just get to see the next highest grossing film yourself.

What’s new?
Have a movie
you want
reviewed next?
Share it here!





Across

2. BOBBING FOR
3. WHERE YOU PICK OUT YOUR PUMPKINS
4. LIGHTS UP THE HALLOWEEN NIGHT SKY
5. TYPE OF MAZE ON HALLOWEEN
8. A WITCH RIDES A _____
10. A RIDE YOU TAKE ON HALLOWEEN
11. PUT THIS ON YOUR FACE TO LOOK SCARY
13. GHOSTS SAY _____
14. THEY CAME BACK TO LIFE HALLOWEEN NIGHT
18. YOU CARVE MY FACE
19. FAMOUS HALLOWEEN SAYING

Down

1. WERE WOLVES _____ AT THE MOON
2. SEASON HALLOWEEN FALLS ON
6. HALLOWEEN MONTH
7. TYPE OF PARTIES ON HALLOWEEN
9. I WANT TO SUCK YOUR BLOOD!
12. TYPES OF STORIES TOLD ON HALLOWEEN
15. HALLOWEEN SONG _____ MASH
16. PUT ME IN THE BAG!
17. A HAUNTED PLACE WHERE PEOPLE LIVED



OR



We want to hear from YOU!
Should people decorate for holidays before the previous one is over? Share your answer using the QR code for a chance to be featured in our next edition. Stay tuned: poll results will be shared in December!

The perks of a 4 day school week

Natalie DeRoss, Connor Eydenberg, and Andrew Parry
Staff Writers



Students in a classroom

Photo Credit: Vitaly Gariev via Unsplash

Since the early twentieth century, the world has adopted a five-day work week to revolve their schedule around. As the world has developed, modern schools have adopted this same pattern. However, what if schools were never meant to use this schedule?

A new wave of thinking has brought forth the proposition of switching schools to a four-day school week. The switch would come with an improvement in mental health, increase in attendance, and more free time for all members of a school building.

Teen mental health has also become a growing concern across schools. Administrators have begun adding “mental health days” for students to use throughout the year for when they need a day off. Plainfield North High School, for example, has allowed for five of these days to be used for each student.

By removing one day from the week, every student across schools would be able to get thirty-six days off per year.

“Mental health would improve tremendously as students would face less stress and more time off,” Andrew,

Parry, a senior at Plainfield North, said.

The reduction of stress would in turn lead to a decrease in anxiety, depression, and other mental health struggles.

The four-day schedule would also improve attendance at a rate higher than of the five-day week schedule. Burning out throughout the week is more common than ever, especially in the middle of the week. Having a Wednesday off would allow students to reset and refocus so they can conquer the rest of the week or weekend.

“We have pinpointed Wednesdays as the perfect day to take off as it allows students and staff members to get a mid-week break,” Connor Eydenberg another senior at Plainfield North noted.

Fridays could also be an ideal day to take off as it gives students an extended weekend to catch up on work and rest.

Many opponents to this idea would argue that valuable learning time gets lost. The average school day is about seven hours long, meaning that each student would lose about one third of a

day, which could be spent expanding their knowledge.

One way to counteract this would be to shortly expand the school day. In order to adjust to the day of the week that gets lost, districts can begin by adding the lost time to the other four days of the week.

“The school day could be expanded by about an hour to adjust to the day taken off, allowing for the missed time to not be affected,” Natalie DeRoss, a senior at Plainfield North stated.

For example, if a school district decided to take Friday off, the school day on Monday–Thursday could be extended by an hour. This would allow teachers to not need to adjust the curriculum too much and could still get full lessons in.

One final important reason that a four day school week would be beneficial would be how students would get a whole extra day of free time to focus on athletics, working, or even sleeping. Any of these would be beneficial to a student.

Parry suggested that “Athletic schedules could expand as students would have more time off to practice and play.” Eydenberg agreed, but instead focused on the working perspective saying, “More students could get jobs and make money with the expanded time that they would have.”

Overall, we believe that a four day school week would benefit students, teachers, and all members of the school community. Students would be allowed more time off to recharge and refresh their minds for their heavy workloads.

As the famous William Shakespeare once said in “Macheth”: “Sleep that knits up the ravelled sleeve of care / The death of each day's life, sore labour's bath / Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course / Chief nourisher in life's feast.” Rest is beneficial for every aspect of our lives!

Grand opening of Woodman's food market

New opportunities for North students

Erin Young

Associate Editor-in-Chief

Woodman's Food Market had their grand opening on Sept. 29, at 11751 S Route 59. The store is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day, spanning over 243,500 thousand square-feet. To make the opening possible, many new employees were to be hired, which makes it a great opportunity for Plainfield North students to find jobs close to school.

Woodman's currently has only 21 stores located in Northern Wisconsin and the greater Chicago area in Illinois. Of the 21, Plainfield is the newest store to be opened. The grocery store has been completely employee-owned since 1998 and encourages employees to improve efficiency and reduce shrinkage.

Prices at the food market are 10% to 40% lower than a traditional grocery store, such as Jewel Osco or Meijer. Prices are so low due to bypassing intermediaries and bulk buying, dodging credit card fees, eliminating high-labor departments, loss leaders to drive food traffic (gas station), and no extravagant store displays.

The food market is unique in many ways, one being that the store is selective in ways to pay. Accepted payment methods include: cash, check, debit cards (PIN required), and Discover credit cards.

There are a few jobs available for teens at the grocery store: bagger, parcel clerk, cashier (for older teens), stocking clerk (grocery/produce), and cart attendant/janitorial support. All of these jobs are easy to apply to and allow students to learn good communication skills while still in high school.

"This job is convenient for highschoolers because it allows them to gain skills like communication and hands on customer service experiences that can be used in future jobs." Mallory Weitzmann, a junior at Plainfield North and bagger at Woodman's, explained.



SOutside of Woodman's in Plainfield

Photo Credit: Roselie Carr

To be able to work at Woodman's, you must be 16 or older, and the process to apply is fairly easy. If you are interested, go to: [Woodman's Employment Application](#) and select the "Plainfield" store. Once you submit your application and get an interview, the rest is simple.

66 IT IS A
WELCOMING
COMMUNITY
THAT ALLOWS
CHARACTER
GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT
FOR FUTURE
SKILLS THAT
HELP FOR
FUTURE
LEADERSHIP
ROLES. 99

"We grabbed a number to get called on and we were taken to a private area to get interviewed by a manager where they asked simple yes or no

questions and asked about your availability and flexibility," explained Weitzmann.

Working at the food market means reasonable hours per week. On average, they hope to get teens 15-25 hours a week during the school year, this ensures that student workers can balance school, home, and work life; this aims to prevent burnout in teen workers.

Other than reasonable hours, Woodman's also offers flexible scheduling for students. On breakdown, the food market is a great place to work while studying, since the store is open 24/7, managers can easily make schedules around high school classes and extracurricular activities.

There are other benefits to working at Woodmans as well, such as competitive starting wages. Woodman's has historically been known for their higher wages between 15 to 18 dollars per hour, with an average price of 16.65 dollars per hour.

"I would promote working at Woodman's to high school students because it is a welcoming community that allows character growth and development for future skills that help for future leadership roles," Weitzmann reported.

Plainfield North golf teams finish strong

In the process, history is made

Sophia Francis
Sports Editor



From left to right: Emily Sullivan, Chloe Lee, Kiley Sanborn, Annie Halvorsen, Brooke Ellinghaus, and Alesia Haynes
Photo Credit: @PNHSGirlsGolf on X

Plainfield North's boys and girls golf teams are closing off their season strong with new team records and wins as both teams advance in championship matches.

Over the past month, the boys golf team didn't win conference, but they still advanced to regionals, performing well at both.

"Coach is very structured and strict in a good way, where he pushes us to get better," Jack Herman, a varsity player, stated.

Varsity Coach Kneip creates a good atmosphere for the boys by providing them with drills and keeping them structured throughout the season, while also allowing them to compete in fun activities like the Tiger Cup, which is a match where both junior varsity and varsity players compete together, which allowed for the members to mix in some fun into their season.

According to players, they had a lot of ups and downs this season, but they believe by staying focused and disciplined, they will continue to be

consistent all the way till the end. Working on their stats and spending more time training in the simulator has also helped prepare them for their end of season matches.

On the girls side, the team won their conference, regionals, and sectional meet, only losing one match the whole season. They were the first in school history to win conference for girls golf, and can now say they've had players advance to state, carrying on their winning streak.

The girls agreed one of the things that led them to performing as well as they did was their amazing coaches.

"Our coaches helped us perform well by always being there for us and supportive no matter what," Emily Sullivan, a varsity player, stated.

Along with the support from the coaches, the girls have also been putting in a lot of work to lead them to this point. By practicing everyday after school, they were able to focus on what needs work so they can be even better next year, as well as reflect on what they have done well.

"I need to work on getting stronger and making sure my irons and driver go further, then I will have a big advantage next year," Sullivan said.

One of the varsity players, Chloe Lee, advanced to state and ended up taking 8th place overall. While she is only a freshman, this is a huge accomplishment. According to her, one of the factors that led her to playing so well is the work she put in throughout the summer as well as the school year.

"You always wish you could have done better, but, for my first year, I learned a lot and am looking forward to next year," Lee stated.

As both the boys and girls seasons come to an end, they are able to say with confidence that they played to the best of their ability, and are proud of where their hard work led them. With the help of the coaching staff as well as the work ethic of the players the 2026 season will be remembered for years to come.