Panther Post

A student publication of Erie High School, Erie IL

Vol. 2, Issue 5 February 2020

Dangerous Disadvantages of Drowsiness

by Austin Beaird

Sleep is a very significant factor in determining a person's ability to function well. Sleep impacts a variety of categories for people, such as their overall health, their weight gain and control, and their memory. If students are having to wake up early, then same ability to function well may recede. If students want to be able to perform at their highest level, they simply need to start getting more sleep. This is a very large root cause of many people's everyday problems.

Getting the right amount of sleep helps children's bodies to remain healthy. When they are not receiving enough sleep, students are increasing their chances of developing high blood pressure, strokes, and diabetes. Receiving the right amount of sleep at night helps regulate hormones and help nervous systems stay healthy. If a student's bad sleeping habits continue into his/her working adult life, they become much more likely to suffer from a stroke than adults who have healthier sleeping habits.

It also has been scientifically proven that receiving the right amount of sleep can help to control weight gain. When children have a bad night of sleep, it is less likely that they will exercise or even make themselves a healthy meal that day. When they do not get enough sleep this makes them hungrier than they would be on any other normal day. When someone gets a poor night's rest they tend to intake foods that are high in fat and calories the next day. When kids eat these foods, they gain weight, and when they are tired all of the time, their calorie intake adds up and they eventually become overweight. This is a pretty serious medical concern, as kids gaining weight rapidly and consuming the wrong types of food can be detrimental to their body system's health.

Another reason that students should be getting more sleep is because sleep is proven to improve memory. While people sleep, their brains refresh and reflect on the events from earlier that day so that we are able to remember the information from that day, the next day. If people do not get enough sleep, their brain may not store those events correctly and they could forget anywhere from some, to everything, from that day. When people do not get enough sleep, their brains may develop incorrect memories, which could lead to underachievement in school. This is obviously very concerning for schools as student performance would drop and grades would start to slip for anyone who is not receiving the correct amount of sleep.

In conclusion, sleep is a largely ignored, but incredibly important, aspect of everyday people's lives. This is especially true for students who are in school. Sleep impacts a variety of categories for people, such as their overall health, their weight gain and control, and their memory. In order for these things to be improved in everyday life, sleeping habits must be altered in a positive way that benefits each person. This is why it is important for sleep to be looked into and studied as a mental health state for students and people around the world.

Going to bed and waking up at the same times every day are keys to healthy sleep.

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Around School

A First Hand Dialogue

by Drake Rick

On Tuesday, Feb.11, State Senator Neil Anderson and State Representative Tony McCombie came to Erie High School for a visit. Both Illinois congressmen came to evaluate the new addition to the school this year. This includes the weight room, stem lab and art room on the west side. Mr. Orman introduced them to the school in the form of an assembly.

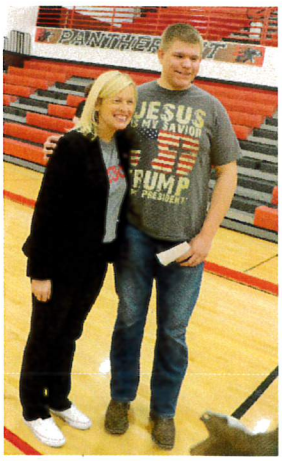
Anderson and McCombie first started to talk about themselves. Anderson represents the 36th senatorial district of Illinois while also having half of McCombie's district, generally. "I represent around 224,000 people in the 36th district," Anderson said. This is Anderson's sixth year in the State Senate. He grew up in the Quad Cities and graduated from Davenport Assumption High School. He went on to be a firefighter and paramedic before getting the job as a State Senator in 2013.

"Seeing what you guys have here now, you guys don't know how lucky you are to have facilities and a school like this," Anderson said to the students during the assembly. Anderson was impressed by what Erie High School was made up of. " Count your blessings because it's unlike any other school in my district." Anderson went on to talk about issues in Illinois saying, "The only way we fix our problems in Illinois, is if we grow our way out of it."

Tony McCombie is representing the 71st representative district in Illinois. She is in her third year as a representative on her second term. She comes from Savannah where she ended up being the mayor. She graduated from Western Illinois University and proceeded to becoming a State Representative after giving up her job as mayor in Savannah.

McCombie thinks it is important to understand the state of government at each level if anybody is an American citizen. She prefers to think that too many people are unethical and are not taught at a young age about their government and what actually happens within the government framework. As students asked questions of both her and Anderson, she commented "I'm very excited to see how engaged you guys will be for the future," she said in reference to knowledge and teachings of the government.

At the end of the assembly students Brody Grimes and Cameron Stout presented a plasma cutter remembrance for each individual.Following the presentations the students were welcome to speak to both McCombie and Anderson for further discussion and questions.

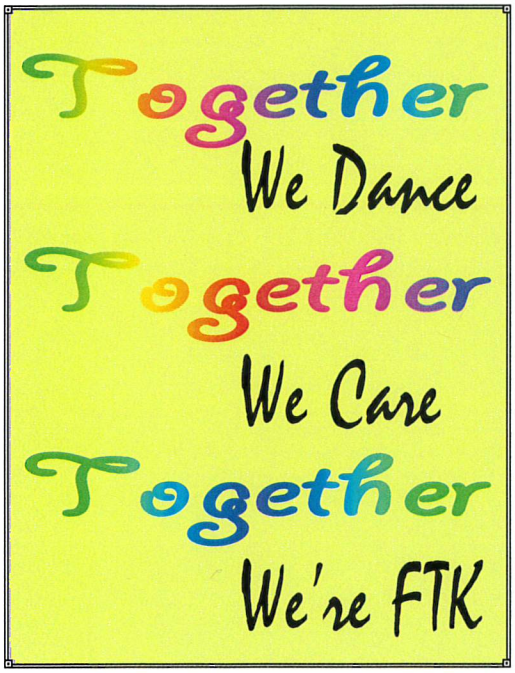


Clockwise: Mr. Orman introducing Brody Grimes and Cameron Stout to Neil Anderson and Tony McCombie. along with Mr. McCullough Industrial Arts teacher. *McCombie and Anderson showing their plasma cut Illinois cut remembrance with their district cut out within. *Elijah Friedrichsen poses with McCombie and Anderson. *Gunnar Wuebben speaking with Anderson and finally a group of ladies including JoHannah Ruff, Jenna Anderson, Kayre Kistler are chatting with McCombie.

Around School

Time to Party EHS Style

by Mrs. Proeger



The National Honor Society (NHS) has been planning the biggest "Dance Marathon Mini Event" for a number of months. Once gain we have teamed up with St. Ambrose University and Prophetstown High School (PHS) to participate in this event. Last year was our first year and we raised a little over $5000. All the proceeds are directed to St. Ambrose to add to their collegiate contest with other universities to see who can raise the most money for the ultimate winners - the children who have medical issues. This event is in conjunction with the Children's Miracle Network and benefits the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

For any family who is dealing with a child who is sick this event helps take some of the stress out of the families life. Quite often children are hospitalized for a number of weeks or months before being healthy enough to return home. Funds are provided in gift cards which can be used by the families for gas or they are given restaurant cards so the parents can take a bit of time out of their life to reconnect with each other outside of their child's illness. Other funds raised throughout this event are used in a variety of ways. There are entertainment items purchased; books, dvd's, games and general toys to help fill all those hospital hours. Funds also are given to promote research at the hospital, but most of what the colleges raised is for the direct physical comfort of the family and children. From promotional materials supplied by the Children's Miracle Network it states that funds can be used in a variety of ways. For example $7 pays for a child's meal in the hospital, $100 pays for a weeks worth of food for the family at the Ronald McDonald House, $300 provides 15 patients with a party. When they are well enough and can attend a summer camp, funds are available to assist with that.

Our NHS organization has planned a whole week's worth of fun March 2 - 6. The culminating event will be the evening of March 6 at the new gym at PHS/PLTMS. The idea behind the FTK Mini Event is gather together with friends for three hours of fun where no one sits down. We are doing all this activity for those children who cannot do it right now. We have a goal set this year to raise at least $6000 for the weeks activities.

Starting on March 2, the waffle bar returns. We promise we have learned from our Dec. experience and will be better prepared this time! Mid morning on March 2 will be an assembly and then during period 8 will be a basketball shoot out between students and teachers. Other activities planned for the week are a four-square volleyball game, pie if the teacher's faces, dodgeball game, and egg roulette. Other fun ideas are still being planned so please be sure and check the signs and the announcements for all details.

The Friday night event, March 6, will be from 8-11 p.m.. There is a suggested $10 donation for admittance. Events to be found this evening will include the dance, a jail to lock your friends up in for $1, dance requests for $1, games to include twister, kerplunk, giant jenga, glow in the dark bags game, limbo and a few other surprises. Snacks and beverages will be provided for nourishment. Dress attire for the evening is comfortable. Wear your dance marathon shirts from this year or last year, bright colors, and any school appropriate athletic wear.

If you did not attend the event last year, NHS is sure hoping you will come over to Prophetstown and party for a great cause at the "For The Kids" mini event. As stated earlier, months of planning and lunchtime meetings have occurred to help bring this event to life as we indeed Dance, Care, and Come Together for those who cannot be active right now in their lives.

st. ambrose
dance
marathon

Sports

Panther Style and With Pride

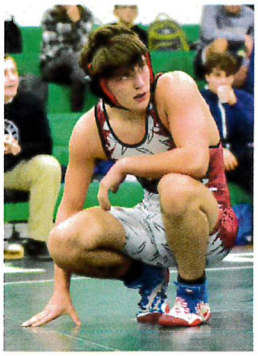
by Drake Rick

Sectionals for EP Panthers wrestling took place on Feb. 14 and 15 at Oregon High School. Wrestling in sectionals for the Panthers were Jace Grunder, Gunnar Wuebben, and Tyler Smith.

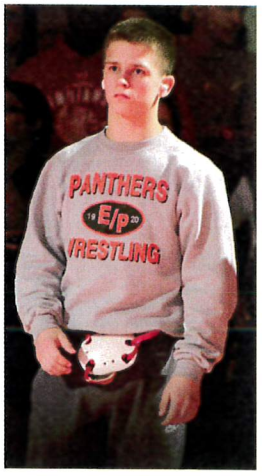
On Feb 19, at a school send off Coach McCullough was excited to announce that Grunder was going to State. "Jace is our first freshman state qualifier. The bar is set really high for Jace." During the assembly that day, he addressed the direction of the team. "We went 18-13 as a team... our goal was to win the conference. We figured it out the last week of the season and we were so close to being at the top of the conference. We did not wrestle well, but we were clicking like we needed by Friday."

Prophetstown's freshman Jace Grunder ended up advancing to the State Finals which start on Feb. 20. To make the trip to State and being in first place coming out of Regionals he beat his opening Sectional opponent from Johnsberg in the first round Grunder was beaten by Blakely from Dakota, in his second match. The match came close, 3-2. He still was able to advance after winning his final two matches that weekend. He lifted a bronze trophy by the end of the tournament.

In his first match of the Sectional weekend, Gunnar Wuebben, a junior, lost to D'Orazio of St. Francis by a technical fall. Wuebben was hoping for more in his second battle but ended up losing that match as well. He lost to a Riverdale Ram by 2 points which sent him home. "Gunnar was close to winning a match against a kid that beat him up earlier this year. That shows his progression this year," Coach McCullough said during the assembly.



Tyler Smith dominated in his first match of the tournament by 13 points in an 18-5 score against Habedank of Rockford Lutheran. He lost the next match to Wenzel from Dakota. However, he won his next two while pinning a wrestler from Sandwich. Smith went on to face Harmston from Lena-Winslow, who he lost to earlier in the year. He ended up losing that match 11-1, preventing him from going to State. For senior and co-captain Smith it was probably a bitter-sweet end to his career. He represented the Panthers well all season and will be missed next year. However, there are other teammates who will be stepping up to fill his spot hoping for as good of a season themselves next year.



Co-captain Wuebben will definitely have the desire and burn within him for next year. He saw what hard work and dedication can do for himself and his teammates and will continue to train hard for the Panther athletics. For now, he has accepted what was and is looking forward to his next sport in just a few weeks when the trapshooting team starts their second year as a oo-op sport. Last year they had success as members advanced to Nationals.

For Grunder, his Panther future as a wrestler is off to a great start. While the bar may be high for him, he has risen to many challenges this season. When McCullough asked the rest of the team who would like to wrestle him many raised their hand. His wrestling partner, Carter Jepson, knows first hand the kind of pressure Grunder can exert of his opponent.

All photos by Jessie Ottens and Dan Eyrich

Reflections

The Loss of Plastic

by Kelsey Stichter

Starting off 2020 with a bang, Thailand has decided to begin to ban single-use plastic bag usage in select stores, and hopefully all stores by 2021. With this new ban, people of Thailand have begun finding creative new ways to bag their groceries in a reusable fashion. This trend is not only entertaining, but also is taking away a large part of plastic waste contributing to the climate crisis: plastic bags.

A plastic bag can take anywhere from 400-1000 years to break down, and causes an estimated over 100,000 marine deaths per year. This new law, and an increasing trend of odd items as grocery bags is a great start towards the larger picture of other countries beginning to ban single use plastic items; in fact, states such as New Jersey and Massachusetts are moving closer to the same movement of completely banning the use of single-use plastic bags.

Some of my favorite items for carrying groceries are pictures here. Thailand residents got very creative as these pictures indicate various ways they have found to carry groceries A flower pot, laundry hampers, empty rice bags, wheelbarrows, baby carriers, laundry hampers, and sometimes just their own t-shirt are just a few ways they are rising to the new law.

The loss of plastic idea may be catching on here in the United States as well. Inspired by shops in Europe and Canada two enterprising women Amber Haukedahl and Kate Harnach opened "Tare Market" on Earth Day 2019 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Both of these business owners are committed to zero waste and being eco-friendly. Their mission is to help people reduce food and packaging waste.

In order to to do this all items are in a bulk style, food coop store. Shoppers here also bring their own containers where the first thing they do is weigh and mark their container. Then they fill each container and reweigh it for the amount to pay. By doing it this way they can package in Mason jars, muslin bags, reusable containers- whatever they want. The store also provides loaner containers.

The store sells planet friendly gear such as natural sponges and washable produce bags. "We make it easy for customers to do good for the Earth and their bodies." (thetaremarket.com)

Reflections

The End of a Legend

by Drake Rick

The last movie in the Skywalker saga finally come out and everyone was excited to see how it would conclude. Would the last film of the legendary story that is full of action packed scenes with lightsabers and blasters live up to its high expectations? Or would it fall down hard by failing to seize the audience's amazement?

The movie was a great movie. It did a great job of sticking with the action and feel of Star Wars, while also making a great action movie. Casual movie watchers, at least, should have liked the movie just based on the entertainment it offers. However, just because it is great did not mean it is perfect. Some plot holes and inconsistency in the speed of the plot have made this movie "unwatchable" for some fans.

The race to find Emperor Palpatine was unexpected yet an exciting experience for Star Wars fans. The set up and arc of Rey (Daisy Ridley) and Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) made it that much more amusing. In this story, Kylo Ren tries to finish what Darth Vader started by ruling the galaxy. However, he sees Palpatine as a threat to his place as the Supreme Leader of the galaxy. The confrontation between those three characters await.

JJ Abrams, the director of the movie, did an amazing job clearing up any glaringly false portrayals that Rian Johnson had made in the previous film. Rian Johnson's work on the last movie was widely accepted to be subpar.

Other positives present the good action and suspense. The lightsabers and blasters had amazing quality, and they did a good job introducing new characters to where it would be almost impossible for people to forget them.

They had great character development for the most part, good action, nice suspense, but the pace of the movie felt off. The movie felt like it started out fast and was completely slow for the rest of the movie until the very end. Reintroducing characters left some plot holes and questions unanswered as well. This aspect disturbed some watchers.

Legends were created in this last trilogy. Now that the saga is over, people will accept how it ended, even if there were some things that were left to be desired. Everyone agrees it was a good movie, even if it was not perfect.

A Brief History of History

by Mrs. Proeger

Half a century after the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery, Black History Month began in 1915. Unfortunately, it went relatively unnoticed within the white counterpart of the United States of America. However, in 1926 historian Carter G. Woodson, minister Jesse E. Moorland, and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and history proclaimed the second week in February to be " Negro History Week." They hoped to gain more ground promoting accomplishments by black Americans and making people aware that yes indeed, all colors and cultures of humans are equal.

The second week of February was chosen for this celebration as both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass had close birthdays. Schools, clubs, and community events were planned and the total idea of a Negro history recognition stayed. By the late 1960's largely in part to the civil rights movement, the Negro history week was re-named into Black History Month.

President Gerald Ford officially recognized the accomplishments in 1976 and called upon the citizens of the United Stated to "seize the opportunity to honor the too often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area endeavor throughout our history." Ford set the standard and every president since 1976 has declared February to be Black History Month and even declared a theme. This year the theme is "African Americans and the Vote." This theme honors the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment granting woman's suffrages and also the sesquicentennial celebration of the 1870 passing of the 15th amendment which outlawe discrimination.

It is the Panther Post staff's hope that every reader put aside whatever personal bias they may have and focus on the achievements of the blacks. These individuals, past and present, have made contributions in all areas of life in this country and in the rest of the world. The Panther Post staff independently chose people of interests to write about for you.

Did You Know?

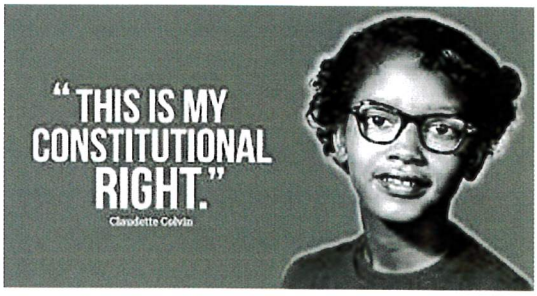
Constitutional Rights Equals Outcast Stigma

by Jaylee Stortz

Rosa Parks forever stamped her name in the history books as one of the most outspoken challengers of segregation laws when she refused to give up her Alabama bus seat to a white man in 1955. But often times we forget another who spoke out before her, like Claudette Colvin.

Claudette Colvin was born on Sept. 5, 1939. Like Rosa Parks, she was also from Alabama. She grew up in the poorer neighborhoods of Montgomery, while working hard in school and aspiring to one day be president.

When she was just 15, Colvin was on her way home from school on a city bus. She had paid her bus fare and sat down in an open seat. When a white woman came aboard and demanded Colvin move so she had a place to sit, Colvin refused. She argued, saying, "It's my constitutional right to sit here as much as that lady. I paid my fare, it's my constitutional right."

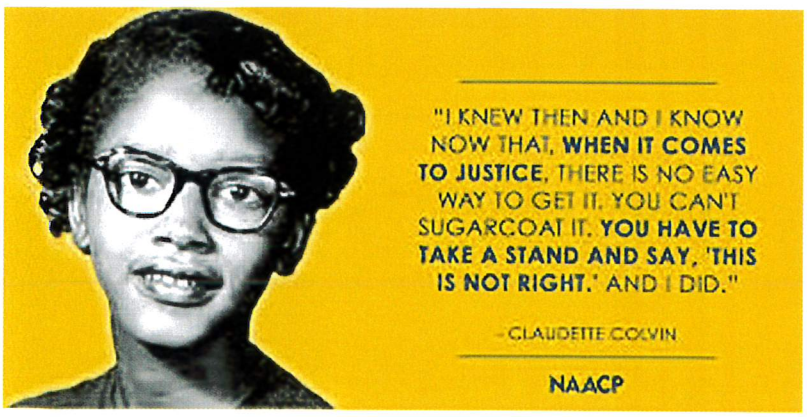


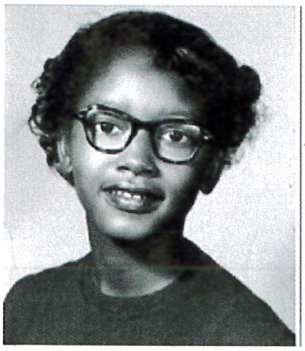
Colvin was arrested and sent to jail, where she sat for several hours. Her arrest held several charges, including violating the city's segregation laws. Luckily, her minister paid her bail and she was able to go home. Despite her freedom to be at home and with her family, Colvin stayed up all night out of fear that she would be attacked.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People briefly pondered using Colvin's case to attack segregation laws. In the end, they decided her young age and the fact that soon after she became pregnant made the association worry that her individual case would draw too much negative attention.

During her court case, Colvin identified herself as not guilty. Unfortunately, the court ruled against her and placed her in probation. Although it was one of the lighter legal sentences, Colvin faced several problems in the public eye afterwards. Once a quiet girl and hardworking student, she now had several labels on her back and was outcasted by the public.

Colvin later told a newspaper that she felt "Sojourner Truth was pushing down on one shoulder and Harriet Tubman was pushing down on the other." It is quite beautiful that Colvin had portrayed such bravery which she had derived from former inspirations like the ones she had mentioned. I hope that we, too, can take some inspiration from Colvin to stand up for what we feel is wrong also.





Girl, 15, Guilty In Bus Seat Case

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A 15-year-old girl who refused to move to the rear of a city bus was found guilty in Juvenile court here last Friday on charges of assault and battery, disorderly conduct and with violating a city ordinance which makes it "unlawful for any passenger to refuse or fail to take those seats assigned to the race which it belongs."

The girl, Claudette Colvin, was declared a ward of the state and placed on probation pending good behavior.

Robert W. Cleere, driver of the bus, told the court that the girl was seated near the front of his bus with a Negro woman when a group of white persons boarded the bus. Cleere said he asked both the girl and the woman to move to the rear. He said the woman moved but that Miss Colvin remained in her seat. Cleere said he then called police.

Did You Know?

The Influence of Marsha P. Johnson

by Kelsey Stichter

Marsha P. Johnson, a transgender woman born in 1945, is an extremely influential African American figure who is not recognized near as much as she should be. She worked with countless movements such as New York City's gay liberation movement, advocating for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and being one of the first people to create a shelter for trangender or LGBTQ+ youth who were homeless. On top of her amazing contributions, she stayed an iconic symbol and glimmer of hope for individuals struggling with their gender identity. She created powerful movements and protests advocating for the rights of everyone, and even stood up against excessive policing.

Her life was not always easy; she grew up in New Jersey and began wearing dresses at the age of five until she was notified that that "behavior" was not socially acceptable. After high school, she moved to New York with nothing but drive, a bag of clothes, and fifteen dollars in her pocket. The area she moved to was more progressive when it comes to LGBTQ+ rights than other areas, but still posed a challenge for getting a job. Because of this, she had to result to prostitution, and was often homeless. Despite her issues, she remained optimistic and relied on religion to push herself through. She became a drag performer, and enjoyed dressing in extravagant outfits and headpieces.

Johnson's legacy remains as rising up in a time of discrimination and prejudice, and giving youth a voice that they never had before. She should be remembered as the beautiful, determined activist she was, and a completely crucial figure for history today.

A Positive Proclaimer

by Austin Beaird

Melissa Viviane Jefferson, better known as Lizzo, is an American singer-songwriter, rapper, flutist, and body positivity icon. The Philadelphia Inquirer has said that 2019 was the year of body positivity and it is all thanks to Lizzo. She is credited for her efforts for inspiring people to love themselves and who they are, regardless of how they feel about themselves, their body size and general appearance.

Aside from her widely successful music career, which actually started around 2013 with the release of her first album *Lizzobangers.* Just recently her career and fame has really started to take off around 2019, with her album *Cuz I Love You* which peaked inside the top five of the Billboard 200, Lizzo is also a very avid activist for the body positivity movement that is sweeping the nation. Her many songs such as "Good as Hell," "Juice," and "Tempo," are all songs that preach the empowerment of loving yourself within your own body, no matter what it looks like.

Lizzo has been named "Entertainer of the Year" by Time in 2019 for her skyrocketing rise to fame and her contribution to music and her listeners. Lizzo continues to inspire new people every day with her music and her message which she has stayed true to over her years of writing and performing. Lizzo gives men, women, and children all over the world the ability to truly be yourself and appreciate who you are, no matter what you look like, so that is why she has been incredibly influential and deserves to be recognized for it.

Did You Know?

Passion for Justice

by Jaylee Stortz

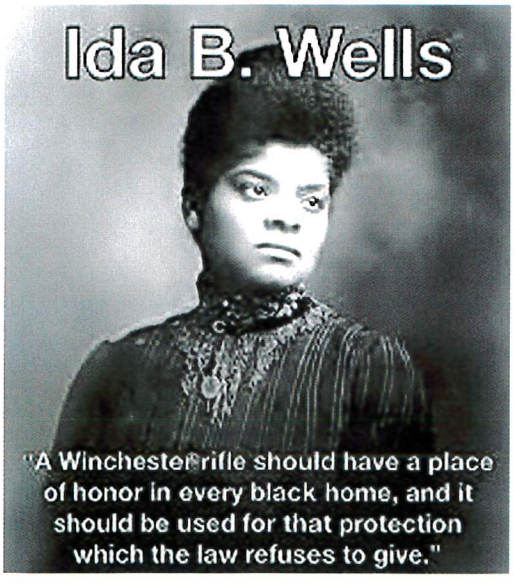
Ida B. Wells was an investigative journalist and early leader in the civil rights movement. She was born a slave on July 16, 1862; however, she did not know the life of slavery for long: six months after her birth, the issue of the Emancipation Proclamation freed all slaves in the Confederate states. But this did not make her life less difficult. In fact, her greatest struggles revolved around never truly being granted the freedom blacks had supposedly been given at the time.

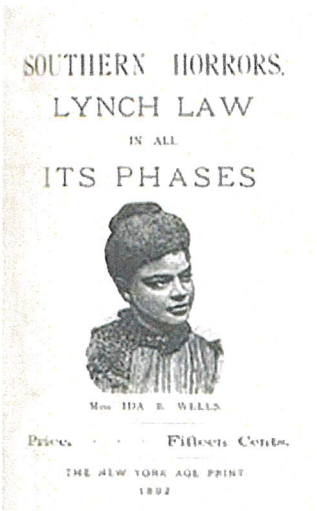
The Wells family were victims to racial prejudice and discriminatory values of powerful whites. Her parents were extremely involved in politics, believing that speaking out about racial equality had the ability to change it. Her father, James, even assisted in the start up of Shaw University (now Rust College), a school for newly freed slaves. Wells attended Shaw University, earning a good education until the age of 16 when tragedy struck. Both of her parents and one of her younger siblings passed in a yellow fever outbreak, and it was necessary that Wells drop out to care for the rest of her siblings. To earn a small living, she lied to and convinced a nearby school administrator that she was 18, and landed her first job as a teacher. She became a vocal critic, voicing the injustice of the poor conditions in black only schools.

Growing up, she was inspired by her parents' outspoken work on racial equality. She became a writer later in life, where she authored articles on civil rights for several black newspapers and periodicals. She existed under the safety of the moniker " Iola." She used pen and paper in clever and courageous ways that spoke for the injustice blacks felt at the time. She challenged the very fabric and foundation of 1800's society: race.

When she was 30, it seemed that Wells found her final calling: anti-lynching. Wells had always known she wanted to speak out about civil rights, but now she knew her exact focus. Wells put her own life at risk by investigating and exposing lynches all across the South. She wrote articles about the lynching of her friends and other African Americans. She faced several mobs and threats of angry whites who had been caught due to her articles.

But she did all this to save the lives of her people, and to honor the ones that she could not save.





1892

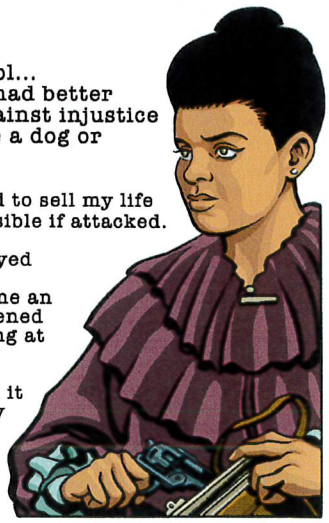
I bought a pistol...
I felt that one had better die fighting against injustice than to die like a dog or a rat in a trap.

I had determined to sell my life as dearly as possible if attacked.

They had destroyed my paper...
They had made me an exile and threatened my life for hinting at the truth.

I felt that I owed it to myself and my race to tell the whole truth.

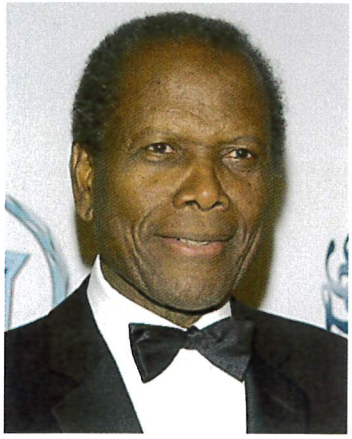
--Ida B. Wells



Did You Know?

With a Calming Dignity

by Drake Rick



Who is Sidney Poitier? He is actually a very well known director and actor in the late '60s and early '70s. Poitier was an African American that set the bar and inspired African Americans today. He has earned awards for things that were unimaginable in his era. So what has Poiter done that has lead him to where he is today?

Poitier was born on Feb. 20, 1927, in Miami, Florida. He grew up in poverty on a farm with his family and little to no education was given to him. By the time he was 15, he was going into a life of delinquency, so he was sent to live with his brother. He and his brother tried to work on stalling that lifestyle and work on something much more positive. When he was 18, he began working little jobs so he could support himself, but he ended up having to sleep in a bathroom on a bus. He then had a brief stint in the military afterwards.

Poitier saw an opening for an audition in Broadway and took it. However, his accent was judged as "impulsive" so he continued to work at it. His second try did not fail him once more and he was able to get the job. He got a small part in a musical called "Lysistrata."

He eventually caught the eye of Darryl F. Zanuck and got the opportunity to star in his first film in 1950. After starring in *"No Way Out,"* several years ahead was where he started getting bigger and bigger roles in movies. He eventually catapulted to stardom. In a movie called *"The Defiant Ones,"* Poitier was the first nominated African American for Best Actor. In 1963, he was the first African American to win an Oscar for a leading role in the movie *"Lilies of the Field."*

He remained active on the big screen. Poitier had touched on the civil rights movement a couple of times before in his movies, but what really hit was *"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner."* This film addressed racial misunderstandings by depicting the disappointment of a white woman's parents when she brought home a black man. This movie turned a lot of heads and still remains relevant in teaching about civil rights today. He kept the same idea in the movie in which he starred as an inner-city teacher called *"To Sir, With Love."* It was a movie about students having a disagreement and the teacher trying to fix their problems and change minds about their views.

Poitier was criticized for not being more "politically radical" in his movies. There was a particular article written about him in the New York Times that made him especially upset. He decided he would fire back at the people and direct a couple of movies that focused on racial inequality. The movie *"Buck and Preacher"* was one of the highest grossing films ever made by an African American director at that time. A great accomplishment for him and inspiration for the nation only wanted him to make more.

By 1988, Poitier had some other roles in movies after being absent for 10 years. Some of the movies he starred in: *"Sneakers," "One Man, One Vote,"* and *"Separate but Equal"* in which he was cast as Thurgood Marshall.

He married in 1950 to Juanita Hardy. Poitier had four children with her until they divorced in 1965.

Poitier still lives 92 years young, and is one of the greatest advocates for the civil rights movement that anybody has seen on the big screen.

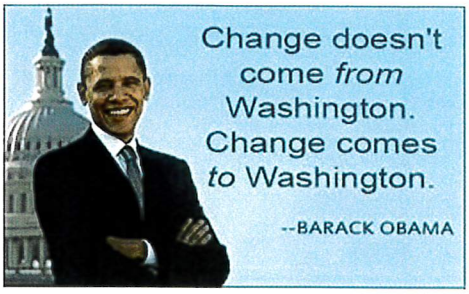
Sidney Poitier (John Prentice), Spencer Tracy, (Matt Drayton) Katharine Hepburn (Christina Drayton) in the 1967 film *"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner."* Prentice is a black doctor in love with a free thinking white woman who travels to San Francisco to seek approval from Drayton's parents to marry their daughter. The story line created quite a stir in the movie world as much as it did in the Drayton household when the family has one day to meet Prentice and decide to give their blessing for the marriage or not before the couple is scheduled to leave for leave. Unheard of in the movie world, there was tension created about this interracial relationship.

Did You Know?

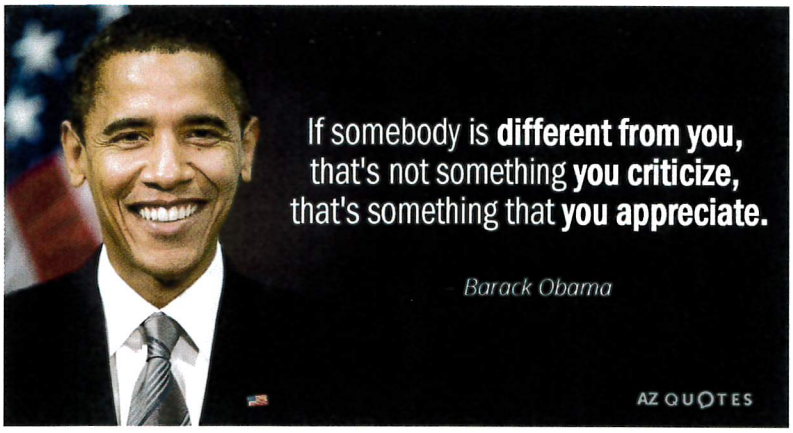
Defining a Destiny...Barack Obama

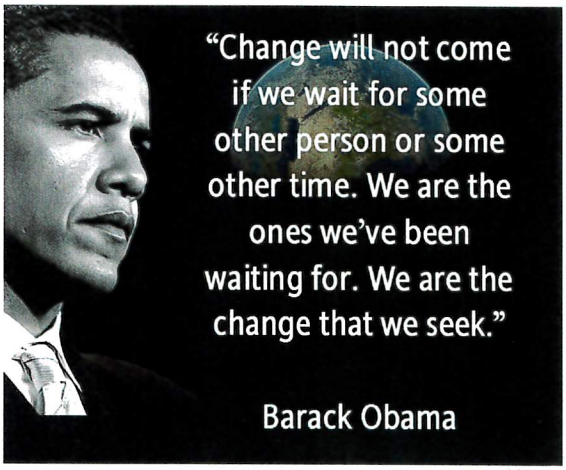
by Austin Beaird

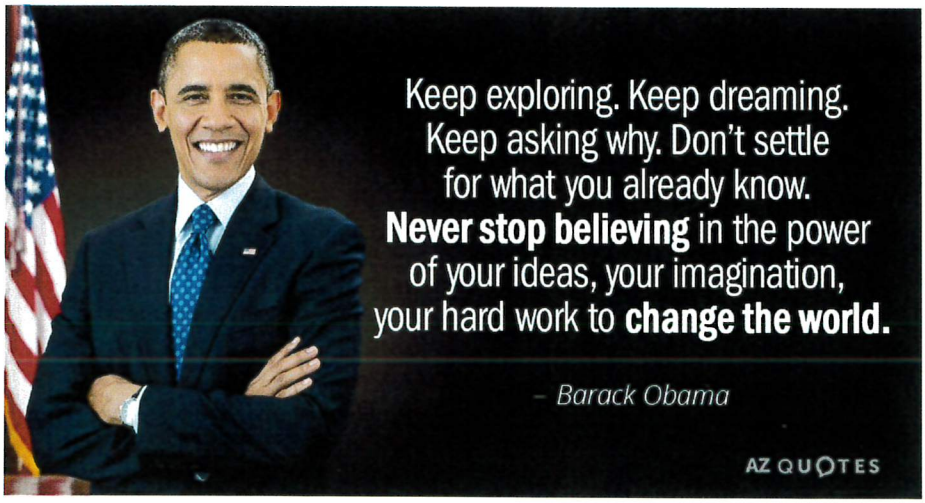
A Hawaiian born in 1961 became an influential citizen of the United States. Barack Hussein Obama II was a university professor teaching constitutional law at the University of Chicago for 12 years before becoming a state senator in 1997. Occidental College, Columbia University, and the Harvard Law School prepared him well to accept the challenge of this office. His term ended in 2004. Setting his sights even higher in the government Obama ran for the position of Illinois U.S. Senator and was elected to go to Washington D.C. representing the Illinois citizens in 2005. As an up and coming Senator he was recognized by the Democratic Party and answered the call to run for president. Obama, as we know, was successful in his bid for presidency and became the 44th president of the United States in 2008. More important than that fact was the fact that he became the first African American president.



This was a very significant event because it meant that true equality was becoming more of a reality for African Americans in America. Obama accrued many more achievements during his presidency such as, rescuing the country from the Great Recession, cutting the unemployment rate from 10% to 4.7%, signing the Affordable Care Act which provided health insurance to over 20 million uninsured Americans, and ended the war in Iraq with the capture and killing of Osama Bin Laden. Obama should be viewed without a doubt as one of the most influential African Americans alive and will go down in history for many to remember as the first black president of the United States of America, amongst his other accomplishments.







Did You Know?

Quiet Determination

by Drake Rick

If anybody ever wondered who the first African American woman to stage a public flight was, it is Bessie Coleman. Coleman, who was born in 1892, was an aviator. In fact, not only was she the first African American woman but she was also the first Native American descendant to earn a pilot's license.

Coleman was born in Atlanta, Texas, into a family of sharecroppers. She had 12 other siblings causing times to be extra tough. Her father left shortly after she was born in search of a better job in Oklahoma. Although times were tough, Coleman did graduat from high school. She decided to attend the Oklahoma Colored Agricultural and Normal University. However, she could only complete one term due to financial problems.

A few years later, Coleman moved to Chicago to live with her brothers. She worked as a manicurist in the White Sox Barber Shop listening to pilots returning from World War ! Between that and reading other accounts of the war Coleman bame intrigued with the idea of flying.

Flying schools in America denied her entry into their schools. The founder and publisher of the *Chicago Defender* newspaper, Robert Abbott, published her quest. She received a scholarship from the *Defender* and a banker to pay for her expenses to travel abroad and study aviation in Franc. Coleman was a self-starting, compelled individual. She aught herself French and relocated to France. There she attended the prestigious Caudron Brother's School of Aviation. Seven months later she emerged with her aviation license and also the distinction of being the first female African American Native American, and International African American person to receive a pilot's license.

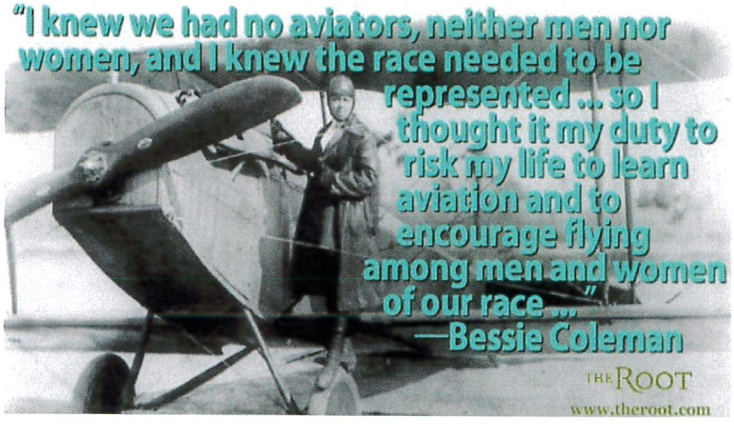
Coleman was always a goal setter. She believed would return to the United States and start a flying school for other African Americans who had been denied of their flight dream.

Instead, Coleman had to acknowledge the financial side of her dreams and became instead a stunt flying, barn storming pilot to support her new career and passion.

She hosted a public flight, in 1922, to show America her aerial skills. The public not only were treated to a good performance, they were witnessing the first African American female pilot living her dreams.

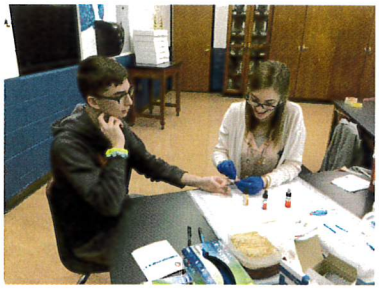
Queen Bess or Brave Bessie as she was often called accepted many challenges. However, while testing a newly purchased aircraft in 1926, something went woefully wrong and Coleman was killed at age 34.

"Because of Bessie Coleman," wrote Lieutenant William J. Powell in Black Wings (1934), dedicated to Coleman, "we have overcome that which was worse than racial barriers. We have overcome the barriers within ourselves and dared to dream." Powell worked tirelessly to promote black aviation and founding the Bessie Coleman Aero Club in 1929.



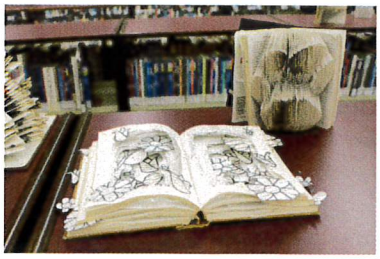
From the Camera

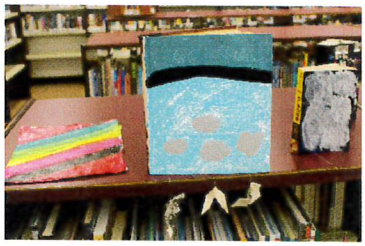
Students and staff had the opportunity to have their blood typed in Biology 1. The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center (MVRBC) came to school on Feb. 5 to assist with this project. Students learned their blood type along with their positive or negative factor. It was interesting to see what portion of the population shared their blood type and who they could be donors for. The staff from MVRBC will be back at school to assist the student council at the next blood drive on April 23.

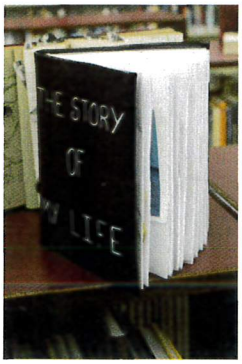


All photos by Mrs. Wall

The art students have been busy looking at books in a different way. The have bee taking an old, unused, unwanted book and transforming it into a piece of art, or turning them into a personal journal, art book, or simply a record of their life. Ms. Majeski explained this project as "The altered book is an expressive approach to keep items out of the landfill or forgotten in a basement Students breathed new creative life into these texts using creative methods such as folding, painting, cutting, carving tearing, collage, appliqué origami, subtractive poetry etc." The students were able to share their altered book art in the media center.







All photos by Drake Rick

From the Camera

Photo by Dan Eyrich

Kudos to Ella Heyvaert for being named to the TRAC All-Conference Honorable Mention list. Dan Eyrich provided this information from the Around Ptown.com website: "On Heyvaert the coach (Schroeder-Ranz) said,"Great to see coaches realize the impact she has on the game!" Adding,"Excited to see how their games evolve for next season! Setting the bar for our program!"

Season scores do not always reflect the quality of the team. Both the girls and boys teams have had some incredibly close games this year in wins and losses. What ultimately matters the most is the enjoyment each of these players get from working together under the direction of their coches, and learning to play for the enjoyment of the spectators. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to your sport.

Photo by Jen Holldorf

Three good friends, also fellow scouts, worked together with the rest of the troop to accomplish great things over the years for the Erie community. Scouts are a group of individuals who do good things with no real reward needed. Because of this, many of their tasks and projects may go unnoticed unless you are the parent of a scout.

For these three gentlemen, the high honor of Eagle Scout occurred for them at a ceremony earlier this year. The Panther Psst wanted to give a Kudos to them for this accomplishment. Many times communities might go for a long period of time with no Eagle Scouts, sometimes one Eagle Scout. It is quite an honor to have had three scouts achieve this honor together.

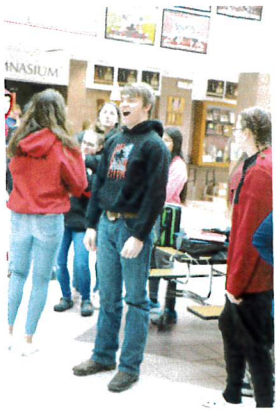
Their leadership and training have not gone unnoticed at school and within the community. As seniors, venturing into the service, or attending a college, they will continue to practice all their scout training, service, and helping with a hand wherever they land.

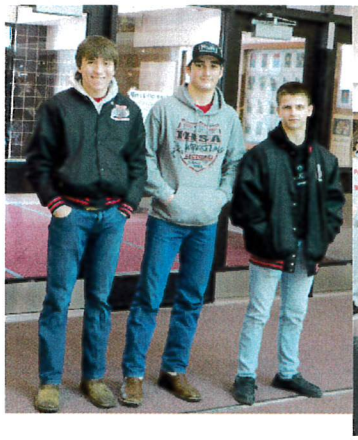
Working with a new manipulative, these Biology 1 students are studying the make up of protein following directions to assemble the model. Mrs. Wall was excited to see the students reactions and understanding develop through the use of these highly colorful shapes.

These young ladies were just a few of many to be drug tested last week. All athletes and members of organizations are placed into a random draw pull to take the test.

The EP Panther pep band performs at the games. Kudos to you all for a great sound and enthusiasm.

From the Camera





From the Camera