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Warning to Soon to be Senior Graduates

By Aiden Mangrich

From personal experience I know that without warning the school will be deactivating your school email after you leave, meaning anything saved to your google drive will be unrecoverable soon after graduation. If you and or someone you know has content you will be wanting to take with you after graduation, please remember to transfer over all content to a personal drive, for example an email not connected through a service like work or school, or a computer you have access to.

Creating a Personal Email Account

By Brooke

Many students have relied on their student email accounts most of their lives. Unfortunately after graduation those accounts are deleted along with all of your previous documents you may have saved. Fortunately there is something you can do to change that and it is super easy. Create your own personal email account. Here is how to set up your email account step by step:

1. Sign onto a computer or laptop and search gmail.
2. Then choose create account and enter in all the information it asks for.
3. After all of that is complete, your email is successfully set up! Congratulations!

Why Was There No Warning for the Derecho?

By Evan Weber

The short answer is, there was, and you probably ignored it.

However, I can't blame you for it, because most people aren't informed on what a tornado warning or a severe thunderstorm warning is. Nevermind what an SPC outlook or a PDS Tornado watch is.

Most people think that "Tornado Sirens" and an annoying buzzing notification on your screen are the only forms of warning, and that a majority of the time they are false. This is why people lose their lives in tornadoes, they subconsciously ignore warnings and these severe threats because when they get a tornado warning, a tornado does not hit their house. Some people get fed up with AMBER alerts and disable those, and weather warnings while they're at it.

The Siren system is designed to warn people outside in the event of an emergency, this doesn't just include weather. In the event of an attack on the US from another country, such and an invasion or nuclear strike, they will sound an attack tone. You will most likely never experience this in your lifetime, if you do the world is probably ending.

(Continued on page 2)

Why was there no Warning for the Derecho?

(Continuation from page 1)

So with that in mind, let's go over the August 10 event, as it was a mind boggling day in the weather community. Usually the routine of a weather geek is wake up, pick up phone, and go check the Storm Prediction Center severe outlooks. If you looked at August 9th's outlook for August 10th, it wouldn't even cross your mind as a historic event. Most weather geeks woke up on the morning of August 10th to an absolutely insane event that was already unfolding. (See the August 10th Diagram)

So when there's a tornado warning, a tornado probably won't destroy your house, but it can, so with that in mind, always find a safe and structurally sound place to hide in that event. Most tornadoes are rain wrapped and are totally invisible until it is too late. Be sure to read the details of a warning as well, it will provide an in-depth explanation of the situation, you can download the KCRG app and view the details of the warning. In the case of the derecho, it was clearly stated that widespread 100 MPH winds had already caused damage and were imminent to hit the CR Area.

In short, take shelter during a Tornado Warning, and a Severe Thunderstorm Warning in which the sirens are sounded. We understand weather more now than ever, but it is still extremely unpredictable in some cases.

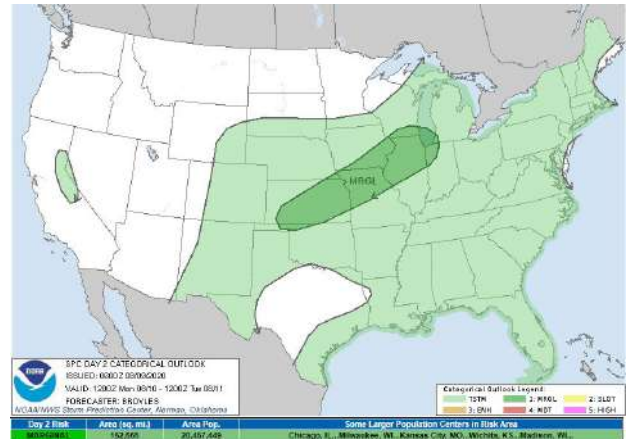
Iowa Basketball Coach's Sentence Upheld

By Keegan Mesch

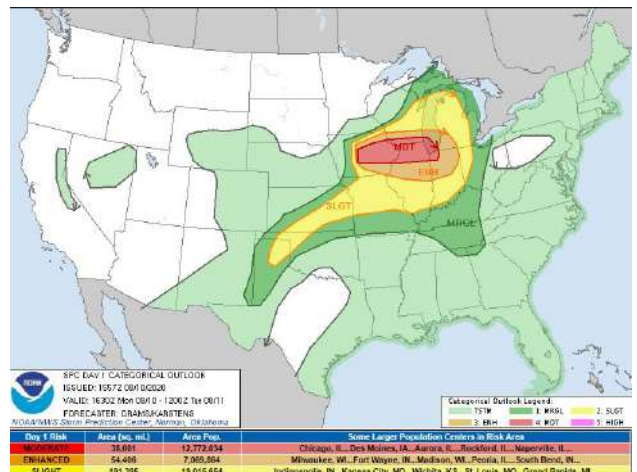
A Federal appeals court upheld the life sentence Monday on an Iowa youth basketball coach, who exploited more than 400 boys over the last 20 years. A panel of the U.S Circuit Court of Appeals rejected Greg Stephen's argument that the 180-year sentence was not fitting and excessive because he did not physically injure or kill his victims. Stephen coached with Iowa's most promising basketball players as a coach of the Iowa Barnstormers. The Barnstormers compete nationally and are sponsored by Adidas, many teens Stephen coached earned scholarships from schools such as Wisconsin, Northern Iowa, and Iowa. Stephen would pretend to be a female and lure them into sending explicit videos and pictures. Stephen would also secretly record players undressing in the bathrooms in the hotels at tournaments. Stephen will be serving his sentence in federal penitentiary in Tucson, Arizona.

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/crime-and-courts/2021/01/04/court-upholds-sentence-former-iowa-youth-basketball-coach-greg-stephen/4129440001/>

Aug 9th for Aug 10th



Aug 10th



Shooting on SW Side of Cedar Rapids

By Keegan Mesch

December 22, 2020 an 18-year-old woman was shot on the southwest side of Cedar Rapids. The Cedar Rapids police identified the woman as Marisa Doolin of Cedar Rapids. Doolin was found at 3:25 pm. Investigators said she sustained a life-threatening gunshot wound. Emergency care was given but she was later declared dead after being on life support for an unidentified amount of time.

<https://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/public-safety/marisa-doolin-cedar-rapids-shot-apartment-uhc-johnson-county-examiner-20210104>

Writer's Block

By Aiden Mangrich

I feel as if my head is empty, my fingers made of concrete. I'm dragging, I'm pushing, I don't know what to do. I have to write but my hands won't move my head won't think. I'm stuck in the headspace of silence and black. My thoughts are being eaten by the void, they're being stolen from me. What can I do?

Art Show and Tell

Created By Aiden Mangrich

In my spare time I like to make little pieces of art. Some hold great meaning, describing through imagery an emotion I can't describe using just simple descriptions, while others are just things I thought were interesting, something that caught my eye.



Poetry of an Unconscious Mind

By Aiden Mangrich

In life you may find yourself talking but without very much reason, this happens a lot with me to be honest. Awhile back this post on twitter went around, of this guy taking his girlfriend's sleep talking and making them into little poems. I thought it was interesting so I started to write down a few of the things I caught myself speaking without cause, so without further ado I present to you my unconscious thoughts.

Ocean beneath the Mountain.	Sleeping Metaphor on Life.	Hearing Identified.
So... I felt like I was swimming... but then... I was climbing.	It's as if they're trying to tell us that our spark, what makes us special, isn't who we are... but what makes us who we are.	All the sounds are on different tracks, like I can hear them... but they all have their place in the room.

Movie Review: *Almost Famous*

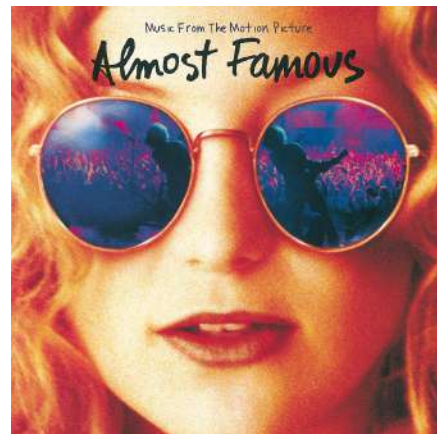
By Rylan Peyton

During the 1970's when the waves of rock and roll were receding from the shores of time, child prodigy William Miller found himself relentlessly fixated on the *sounds* of music through his rock and roll journalism. Miller is asked by *Rolling Stone* magazine to write an article about an upcoming band named Stillwater and through their love for music, lead guitarist Russell Hammond shows William his own reflection of passion. Despite the protective objections of his mother, Miller is taken on a journey across the horizons of perspective.

Personal Opinion:

For having just seen this movie last night (as of this time now), I have to admit it is one of my favorites to date, even though at times, it may appear cheesy. Though it has strong undertones of love, rock and roll, and an overall boogie, my own interpretation of this is to follow your own *unique* passions and to never give in to the abandonment of your dreams; for it all starts up *here*.

For the record, one of my favorite scenes involves Russell standing on top of a roof on some acid screaming "I am a golden god!" while everyone waits for him to jump into the pool, meanwhile William is trying to calm him down, from the ground using his words. Eventually Russell just decides it's a good idea to come down from the roof but before he could take three steps back someone yelled "jump!" and then he ran, jumping soulfully off the roof and into the pool.



Terrorist Strike on Civilians in Mali

By Keegan Mesch

In a village in central Mali at least 20 people were killed in a confirmed airstrike, when Islamic extremists confronted a wedding party, as a witness said on Tuesday. The French, who carried out operations against rebels in the region, declined comment on reported deaths and there has been no immediate response from the Malian Government.

A man told The Associated Press that the extremists approached a group of people celebrating a wedding on Sunday, saying that the men in attendance needed to separate from the women in attendance. They were in the process of obeying the orders when the air strike commenced.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2021-01-05/witnesses-say-20-are-killed-in-an-airstrike-in-central-mali>

More Infectious Covid Strain Replacing Old Covid Strain

By Keegan Mesch

Some experts are worried whether the current vaccines will be effective against the variant known as, 501Y.V2. This strain is rapidly replacing other strains in the country, but some don't know what the findings mean at this point. Here's what scientists know so far, there's different strains of Covid in different parts of the world, most do not draw concern from experts because it is normal for viruses to mutate. Although, there is one from South Africa that carries multiple mutations. They include K417N, E484K, and N501Y. Scientists are hopeful that the vaccines will be effective in treating the Covid mutations.

<https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/south-african-sars-cov-2-variant-alarms-scientists-68317>

Teacher Opinion of Virtual Learning

By Aiden Mangrich and Jennifer Hanners

As students in Journalism we thought it would be interesting to find out how our teacher felt about online learning, here are her responses and the questions asked.

Who are you, and what do you do?

“Kourtney Albright, English Teacher.”

Were you at all prepared when we switched to virtual Learning?

“Prepared.”

How did you feel about virtual learning at first?

“Nervous.”

Now that you have had some time to adjust how do you feel about virtual learning now?

“I feel like simultaneously teaching in person and online is going well given our current situation. I feel like we stumbled upon something that works well for alternative education. Attendance has been good, better than I would have expected. Virtual learning provides students with the opportunity to attend classes from home, even when they are not feeling well or have other obstacles that would otherwise keep them from attending their classes.”

Do you prefer virtual learning or in person, and why?

“I prefer teaching students in person because I enjoy the interaction. I feel like students tend to engage more with the material when they are in person. It is also easier because I don't have to worry about all of the different technology aspects of virtual learning. That being said, I do like students having the option to attend classes virtually because I would rather have them in class virtually than not at all.”



Assorted Train Photos

By Evan Weber

Last night, one of 5 newly announced Heritage Units led M337 westbound. CN #8952, the Grand Trunk Western heritage unit, along with a few other interesting locomotives



This was caught by one of my close colleagues in Manchester, at the time of writing this, it is currently in Dubuque leading M338 back to Kirk Yard, IN.

CN L563 approaching Hiawatha, a man running the crossing on his bike would crash right in front of me and I would catch it all on video.



An all CSX Lashup on CN M338, this shot was taken at Earlville, making every bit of 50MPH Track speed.



L567 leveling off the grade along I380, it is one of the steepest



railroad grades in Iowa and there have been many occasions where trains didn't have enough horsepower to make it up the grade, usually they go back down to the yard and leave behind a few cars.

Things You Should Know When Applying For a Job: My Opinion

By Sophie Wood

When applying for a job there are a few things you should do before looking. First you should know what job you're looking for. It could be in fast food, retail, or any other field you're interested in. Knowing this will make it easier to search and find exactly what you're looking for.

When applying, also make sure you read the requirements as some businesses will only hire those 18 and older or they may require a diploma. On the application make sure you are giving as much detail as possible when answering questions. This will show that you put effort into the application; thus, making it seem like you are interested and serious about the job. After you have an application filled out, make sure you are checking your email and watching for phone calls in order to stay in contact with your potential employer.



Documentary *Blackfish* Available on Netflix

By Sophie Wood

Blackfish is a documentary about Orcas in captivity. The show follows different incidents of orca accidents at various water parks. It explains how the orcas were treated and how safety regulations were set aside in order to bring in more profit for the park. This documentary is available to watch on Netflix.

<https://publicdomainvectors.org/en/free-clipart/Interview-with-tux-symbol-vector-image/33188.html>

Hobbies I Picked Up Over Quarantine that are Easy and Fun to Do

By Sophie Wood

When quarantine hit I picked up a couple fun hobbies that are easy, fun, and definitely worth trying!

1. Paint By Diamond:

Painting by diamonds are super fun activities to do when trying to pass the time. It comes with a sticky sheet with numbers on it and you are provided corresponding diamonds that you stick on the sticky sheet. These are fairly cheap and easy to do.

2. Intricate Coloring:

Over quaranting I bought a few coloring books that had very intricate details and bought matching fine tip gel pens and sharpies to use. Since the details are so fine working in small areas helps distract from a larger more intimidating project making it easier to complete and lots of satisfaction when completed.



Pictured:
Diamond Art
Painting of
Starry Night

Bowling

By Colton Oltmann

Bowling is a family fun game where anyone can go bowl and hang out with family and friends. In bowling a high game is 300 where you get 12 strikes in a row.



Bowling for Linn-Mar

By Colton Oltmann

Bowling for Linn-Mar is really fun, especially if you like bowling. If you want to bowl for school you need good grades. If you bowl for school you get to leave school early to go bowl.

Marcus Theatres During the Pandemic

By Nate Walters

Marcus Theatres is the more expensive movie theater in our area.

MarcusTheatres is located on Council Street in Cedar Rapids but this is not the only location they own, they have other locations in different states. *Wonder Woman 1984*, *News of the World*, and *The Croods: A New Age* are the most popular showings out at the moment. Seats and hours have been cut in half due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Marcus Theatres not only sells pop, popcorn, and candy, but they also sell hotdogs, pizza, burgers, fries, chicken strips, mozzarella sticks, nachos, pretzel bites etc.

Attack on The Capitol

By Nate Walters

January 6, 2021 a mob broke into the White House, hoping to overturn Trump's loss in the election, but they did not succeed. 5 people died and many have been arrested and have lost their jobs as they are being identified. They started building tall black fences around the white house that are "non-scalable." They will be in place for at least 30 days to ensure the safety of President Biden.



The Most Useless Holiday

By Nate Walters

I hate Valentine's Day because I don't think there should be just one day when you go on dates or give someone flowers or chocolates. I feel that Valentine's Day could be considered any day of any year. Valentine's Day is the one day of the year that you have to do these things with someone you love but who says I can't just do that tomorrow? Or the day before Valentine's Day? Honestly it all depends on if you want to go on "romantic dates" or give someone flowers or balloons. It shouldn't be once a year, it should be whenever you feel like it because to me Valentine's Day is more of a chore than a choice. It's not only a stupid holiday, it's the worst holiday.

The Most Important School Subject: Math

By Nate Walters

Math is the best subject to take in school. Math takes a lot of skill to master and can be used in science as well. Without math we wouldn't have science, and without science we wouldn't be as primitive. Sometimes we use math without even thinking about it. For example, paying for food, how much you should tip someone, or even counting how much fruit you grew in your garden.

Marion High School's Recent Request for Bond

By Nate Walters

Marion Independent School District is my district. I will graduate this May from Marion High School. Due to derecho damage the school is wanting a \$31 million dollar bond for projects in the district. Vote for the bond on March 2, 2021. To pass, the bond needs 60 percent majority voter approval. Please vote so our school can be repaired.



Rose Bowl During COVID Pandemic

By Nate Walters

Many people are football fans. The biggest game, other than the Super Bowl is the Rose Bowl. It is usually played in California but because of COVID it was actually played in Arlington, Texas on January 1, 2021. The Fighting Irish, Notre Dame, played against the Crimson Tide Alabama. Alabama won.



Hobbies For Quarantine

By Nate Walters

Many people learned new things and had hobbies during Covid. I had a hobby, it was called sleeping. Many other people took up more active hobbies. These hobbies included knitting, doing puzzles, cooking, exercising, painting, reading books, writing poems, playing video games, science experiments, and many more. What did you do during this time?

Top 3 Prebuilt Gaming Computers

By Conrad Vertz



3. iBUYPOWER Gaming PC Computer Desktop Trace 4 9310

CPU - AMD Ryzen 5 3600 GPU - AMD Radeon RX 5500 XT 4GB RAM - 8GB STORAGE - 240GB SSD
Price - 699.99 \$

While this sounds like a great entry level gaming PC, it only has the 4 GB GDDR6 version of the 5500 XT which for only twenty dollars more you can get the 8GB version. That being said, this still is a great option as it has the Ryzen 5 3600 on AMD's Zen 2 Architecture as it has 6 cores and 12 threads this CPU will not bottleneck the 5500 XT, on the other hand the ram is in single channel and the Ryzen series is known to want to run in dual channel, and with its single stick of DDR4, you may want to upgrade it. Lastly it only has a 240GB ssd and most of today's games are in the 100 gigabyte range, and they call this a gaming PC, yet you'll only be able to hold one or two games on it unless you're playing smaller indie style or e-sports games. All in all, this is a pretty good option if you're on a budget.

Link: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08FPL6S4Y?tag=wepcus-20>



2. MSI - Codex R Gaming Desktop

CPU - Intel Core i7 10700F GPU - Nvidia GeForce RTX 2060 RAM - 16GB STORAGE - 512GB SSD
Price - 1099.99 \$

The mid range build is this the MSI Codex R Gaming Desktop, it sports a 10th generation Intel Core i7 10700F, an eight core, sixteen thread processor, and its paired with the RTX 2060 6GB graphics card, this card should allow you to play pretty much anything. With an adequate amount of RAM, that being 16GB of DDR4 3000, this is another good pick.

<https://www.bestbuy.com/site/msi-codex-r-gaming-desktop>



1. iBuypower Intel Ampere Gaming II

CPU - Intel Core i9 10900KF GPU - Nvidia GeForce RTX 3070 RAM - 32GB STORAGE - 1TB SSD and a 1TB HD
Price 2418.00 \$

The high priced pre built doubles the number two spot at just over 2400 dollars, but has lots of good specs in it, boasting a 10 core 20 thread 10th generation Core i9 this can do serious gaming and is a beast. Paired with nVIDIA's newest series of offerings the RTX 3070 with 8GB of GDDR6 it can play games flawlessly in 1440p and is capable of 4K gaming. Other specs include 32GB of DDR4 3000 ram, is plenty enough and can handle a large workload, and you'll have no problem with the 1TB m.2 nVME SSD loading applications fast and booting into windows quickly and for games a 1TB hard drive.

<https://www.ibuypower.com/Store/Intel-Z490-Ampere-Gaming-II>

My Thoughts:

Whilst all of these systems are good gaming computers and all can certainly play most games at 1080p currently, you are better off on building your own, as it is easy if you follow a computer build guide to build your own computer and save money. But with short supply of the higher end graphics cards currently, it is probably the best option to get your hands on a RTX 30 series card if you can't wait for the market to stabilize and for prices to come down and there to be availability of these cards. These three currently are the ones I would recommend to anyone looking for a pre built.

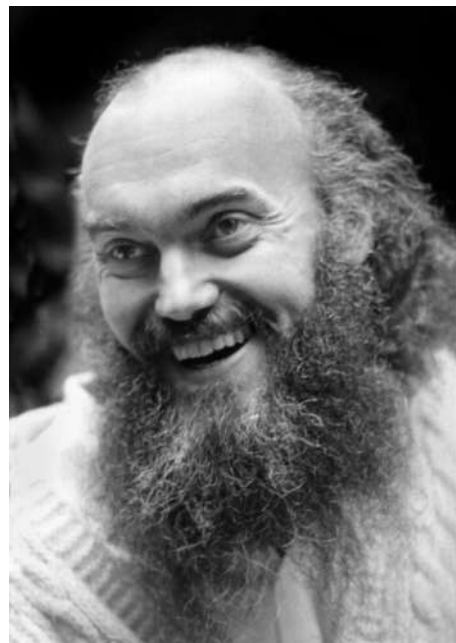
Remembering Ram Dass (1931-2019)

By Rylan Peyton

“In 1961, while at Harvard, explorations of human consciousness led Ram Dass, in collaboration with Timothy Leary, Ralph Metzner, Aldous Huxley, and Allen Ginsberg, to pursue intensive research with psilocybin, LSD-25, and other psychedelic chemicals. Out of this research came two books: *The Psychedelic Experience* (co-authored with Leary and Metzner, and based on *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, published by University Books); and *LSD* (with Sidney Cohen and Lawrence Schiller, published by New American Library). Because of the highly controversial nature of their research, Richard Alpert and Timothy Leary became personae non-grata and were dismissed from Harvard in 1963. Tim Leary and Alpert then went to Mexico, ate mushrooms, and went from being academics to counter-culture icons, legends in their own time, and young at that. For Ram Dass psychedelic work turned out to be a prelude to the mystical country of the spirit and the source of consciousness itself. Mind expansion via chemical substances became a catalyst for the spiritual seeking. This naturally led him eastward to the traditional headwater of mystical rivers, India. Once there, a series of seeming coincidences led him to Neem Karoli Baba and the transformation from Richard Alpert to Ram Dass.”

How Ram Dass Has Impacted My Life:

Through the several hours I've spent reading and listening to Ram Dass one thing I've been coming to understand is how to just be with myself. His understanding has offered me a place to see a glimpse of my soul through that which is reflected. Reflection is an unitary skill that requires consolidation with oneself, and the other (however you may perceive “the other”) and it is something most of us avoid, whether we know it or not; gravity pulls things together and “like attracts like.” Ram Dass has an invigorating sense of perception that takes people into higher states of awareness or being that which come close to the inexplicable.



Potent Quotes:

“Everything changes once we identify with being the witness to the story, instead of the actor in it.” - Ram Dass

“We are all affecting the world every moment, whether we mean to or not. Our actions and states of mind matter, because we are so deeply interconnected with one another.” - Ram Dass

“It's only when caterpillarness is done that one becomes a butterfly. That again is part of this paradox. You cannot rip away caterpillarness. The whole trip occurs in an unfolding process of which we have no control.” - Ram Dass

“We're fascinated by the words--but where we meet is in the silence behind them.” - Ram Dass

“The next message you need is always right where you are.” - Ram Dass

“About Ram Dass • Ram Dass.” *Ram Dass*, 17 Aug. 2020, www.ramdass.org/about-ram-dass/.



Broken Love

By Jennifer Hanners

As you lay there, I watch in silence. Your beauty amazes me. Your eyes are bluer than the ocean; bluer than the night sky, I love to gaze into them. Freckles cover your pale face. And your golden-brown hair gently rests upon your white silky pillow. A strand of hair falls in front of your face. Gently I move my hand over to the side of your cheek grabbing the strand of hair to move it past your ear and upon your shoulder.

I never thought we'd be so close. So scared you'd never love me back the same; so I watched in silence, when... When I finally spoke; you spoke back to me. You became my world, my everything. Our love was beautiful, passionate, and true.

But it was tragic too. It ended. You broke my heart and I broke yours; A turbulent game we created. My first love, my first heartbreak.

Overthinking

By Jennifer Hanners

OVERTHINKING! It's the worst; it's what causes so much pain and anxiety. Overthinking is a prison itself. It fills your chest with weight and your mind with tiredness. It's the beginning to an end; a double edged sword. Overthinking is a demon sitting in the back of your mind; the voice telling you that you are wrong, that you are dumb, that you are a failure, and that you'll be nothing, thus making you overthink every decision you've ever made or are about to make. And not all demons are the same, some come in other forms; like the ones closet to us, our friends, our surrounding, and worst of all, our society and ourselves.

Just now as writing this, I'm overthinking every word I type or delete. I want it to represent how I feel, so as I'm writing I'm just describing how I'm feeling. Like right now; do I want to finish this sentence or delete it all? Overthinking is a deadly game, that many lose to and it's sad. Overthinking sends you to a point where you're just done, because you are so tired of just thinking in general. Tell me am I right or am I wrong? Please let me know, because at this point, I don't know.

An Original

By Rylan Peyton

Picture Puzzle Pattern Door

Listen through me one time more.

Speak the language of the Higher, but only if you so desire.

Picture Puzzle Pattern Door, Please depict Me, one time more;

If you hollar, make a dare, Picture Puzzle Pattern Door I can see you through the air;

Skip all that chatter, for I am the Mad Hatter,

Picture Puzzle Pattern Door where do *YOU* matter?

Books: Books, Books galore; let me take you down this corridor. Where might I find you, shall there be two of us? Can't we wait knowing we'll be one?

What about the depths of time: where are we returning to?

Matter not, for you are the Silhouette of thought;

Chained by your taste of acquisition.

Walk through this World, Unfettered must you be:

Cling to the light, for we walk by faith not by sight.

Ode to Brooke

By Nate Walters

I am so happy we are friends

It's like you've known me

All my life.

We laugh

We fight

And we eat Panda Garden

I am so happy we are friends

I've never had such a great friend.

Thank you

Sudoku Challenge!

By Sophie Wood

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sudoku-by-L2G-20050714.svg>

Excerpts From The Tao Teh Ching (*Classic of the Way and Virtue*)

By Rylan Peyton



The highest form of goodness is like water.
Water knows how to benefit all things without
striving
with them.
It stays in places loathed by all men.
Therefore, it comes near the Tao.

In choosing your dwelling, know how to keep to the
ground.

In cultivating your mind, know how to dive in the
hidden deeps.

In dealing with others, know how to be gentle and
kind.

In speaking, know how to keep your words.

In governing, know how to maintain order.

In transacting business, know how to be efficient.

In making a move, know how to choose the right
moment.

If you do not strive with others,
You will be free from blame.

Tao can be talked about, but not the Eternal Tao.
Names can be named, but not the Eternal Name.

As the origin of heaven-and-earth, it is nameless:
As “the Mother” of all things, it is nameable.

So, as ever hidden, we should look at its inner essence:
As always manifest, we should look at its outer aspects.

These two flow from the same source, though
differently named;
And both are called mysteries.

The Mystery of mysteries is the Door of all essence.



The Tao Teh Ching or Classic of the Way and Virtue, traditionally arose in China somewhere between the 6th and 4th century B.C. Not much can be said surrounding it's origins but many believe a man by the name of “Lao Tzu” wrote and published this text. Lao Tzu isn't a traditional name in context but rather a title given to an “Old Sage”. The Tao Teh Ching was a heavily studied text and way of life for many.

The City of Denver making haset approaching Marion. This train doesn't stop in Marion and as a result the photo was taken when the train was doing 80 MPH. Mark Llanzua Collection

The Way Marion Was

By Evan Weber

Marion Depot in the 1950's this served as a freight and passenger depot.
Darren Ferreter collection



Marion is its own independent city, much like Hiawatha and Robins, but is still directly connected to Cedar Rapids. The sole reason that Marion was founded in 1839 was because in the 1830's, the railroad came to town. A Regional RR had built a line from Dubuque, carrying many goods and passengers, however the passengers described it as an awful and slow way to travel, but just two years later, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St Paul Railroad, AKA "The Milwaukee Road" had purchased the line from Dubuque and a line from Council Bluffs to Sabula, IA.

In the 1950's The MILW had just discontinued its premiere passenger train through Marion, "The Midwest Hiawatha," which featured a steam locomotive capable of holding 100 MPH. Although trains only were permitted for 80 through town, as a replacement, the Union Pacific and the Milwaukee Road entered an agreement in 1955 to join together and run Diesel powered passenger trains across the country, utilizing both companies' equipment and trackage, ending a previous contract with the Chicago and Northwestern, which owned a Transcon line a few miles south, and all the way up until March 30, 1971 with the creation of Amtrak, which was the US's nationalized passenger train company. There was no replacement train created and regular passenger service would end forever.

On Occasion, Amtrak would run detours through Marion if the ATSF line had become obstructed by a Wreck or Flooding. However this did not mean you could board the train in Marion, at least not at normal prices...

In 1964, Marion was one of the busiest places on the MILW system, 30 trains east and west totalled out to 60 trains a day, almost a train every 15 to 20 minutes at that point. Only 13 years later, in 1977, the Milwaukee Road would declare bankruptcy and abandon the Pacific Extension in the Northwest. This severely dropped the traffic on the Transcon, as a result, there were only 15 trains a day in summer of 1977. By New Year's 1980, track speed was 10 MPH from Marion to Sabula due to worsening track conditions.

On March 1, 1980 at 5PM, MILW train 106 arrived in Marion, picked up cars, and unsurprisingly, had No drop offs, and departed Marion. Later that summer in June of 1980, a "cleanup train" came into Marion to gather all remaining rail equipment on property. This was the last **Train** to run through Marion. In the mid 80's the lines East and West of Marion were abandoned and the tracks were ripped up and scrapped. A small portion of line into Marion stayed in place until 2005 when the last customer, Marion Iron, decided to move and no longer receive rail service. It is crazy to think that 2000 tons of metal once flew down 6th Avenue at 80MPH, but now you can only go 25....



Westbound MILW Midwest Hiawatha at Marion in the 1940's
Darren Ferreter Collection



Eastbound High Priority Piggyback train flying through Martelle in summer of 1975. Mark Llanzua Photo

NASCAR Moves Iowa Track & Date

By Conrad Vertz

Iowa Speedway was home to the Truck Series and Xfinity Series up until last season. Due to covid the races were moved to another track, this would be the last hit to the track as Iowa Speedway was already bleeding out money. There were no new plans for the track, and when the upcoming 2021 season schedule was confirmed Iowa Speedway would not return, but that the track replacing it would be just 35 minutes away, Knoxville Raceway! Albeit though, only the Truck Series would be going as, the Xfinity Series had already replaced any Iowa race. The race at Knoxville will be July 9, 2021 at 9pm EST.

[What's the future of Iowa Speedway?](#)
[Knoxville Raceway Iowa](#)

The Ultimate Grilled Cheese

By Owen Larson

INGREDIENTS

- 3 Ounces cream cheese, softened
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon garlic powder
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon salt
- 10 slices Italian bread
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened

Directions - in a bowl mix cream cheese and mayonnaise until smooth. Stir the cheeses, garlic powder and salt into the mix, spread the mix on 5 slices of bread, about $\frac{1}{3}$ cup on each then place remaining bread on top

Butter the outside of the bread, toast sandwiches for 4-5 minutes or until lightly browned on each side on medium heat.

Winter Slow Cooker Barbeque Recipe

By Conrad Vertz

What you need?

- 5 lb Roast Beef
- 1 Bottle of Sweet Baby Rays
- 1 pack Dry Onion Soup Mix
- 1 Onion (Cut up)



Directions

Cut the roast into smaller chunks, add in slow cooker, whilst putting the cut up onion with the dry onion soup mix. After adding all onion and soup mix, add in the whole bottle of bbq sauce.

Slow cook on high for 2 hours

After the two hours, stir to break up the meat into smaller pieces and turn on low and let cook for 6 more hours. Then Enjoy!

[Recipe](#)



Winter
Freezing
February
Gloves
Boots
SnowAngel
Snowballs

Cold
December
Ice
Hat
Scarf
Skiing

SnowMan
January
Snowflake
Coat
Shovel
Christmas

[Crossword](#)

By Conrad Vertz

Top 10 Movies of 2020:**An Opinion**

By Brooke

*Lady of Venom**The Marksman**Mortal Kombat**The Mimic**Tom and Jerry**Pieces of a woman**Herself**The Suicide Squad**Nobody**Land***Martin Luther King Jr.**

By Brooke

Martin Luther King was a social activist and Baptist minister who played a key role in the American Civil Rights Movement from the 1950's until his assassination in 1968. He was an activist for African American rights and was a huge part of the Civil Rights Movement. He was a huge part of the Montgomery Bus Boycott along with the voting rights act. He was also honored with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and his lessons are still relevant today.

5 Fun Facts About Martin Luther King Jr.

By Brooke

He was born with the name Michael.

He entered college at the age of 15.

He went to prison nearly 30 times.

He escaped assassination 10 years before his death.

How to Make a Quick and Cute Mason Jar Craft

By Brooke

Supplies:

Blue paint

White paint

Paint brushes

Mason jar

Directions:

First you will just paint blue all over the jar

Next you will need to let the paint dry

After the paint dries use a smaller brush and draw on little snowflakes

Lastly let it dry and it is complete

**Free Word Search**

Found By Austin Curtis

Happy New Year!

AULD LANG SYNE
BABY
BALL
BALLOONS
CALENDAR
CELEBRATION
CHAMPAGNE
CLOCK
CONFETTI
COUNTDOWN
DANCING
DECEMBER
EVE

FATHER TIME
FIRECRACKER
FIRST
FLUTE
GAMES
GOWN
HAPPY
HAT
HOURGLASS
INVITATION
JANUARY
KISS
MIDNIGHT

MUSIC
NOISE MAKER
PARTY
RESOLUTION
SPARKLER
STREAMER
TIMES SQUARE
TOAST
TRADITION
TUXEDO
VOW
YEAR

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Local, State, National, and Global Current Events By Carter Vieth

Missing Teens

Rylea Ostrander, 13, and Elizabeth Rodgers, 14, were seen walking to Rustic Park in Lost Nation after school on Thursday. Hours later, the girls were reported missing. The Sheriff's Offices for Jones and Clinton counties, as well as the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, led search efforts on Thursday night. Illinois State Police found the girls two hours away in Princeton, Illinois on Friday morning.

<https://www.kcrg.com/2021/01/09/missing-jones-county-teens-found-in-illinois/>

Cedar Rapids Crime Rates

Cedar Rapids released the final numbers on crime rates in 2020. Police Chief Jerman said that it was the most violent year he has seen in the eight years of running the department, a 15% crime rate increase. That includes the shooting death of 18-year-old Marisa Doolin just before Christmas.

<https://www.kcrg.com/2021/01/08/cedar-rapids-police-release-2020-crime-data-violent-crime-up-15/>

LA Dodgers' Hall of Fame Manager Dies

Tommy Lasorda, the LA Dodgers' Hall of Fame Manager, died at age 93 due to a heart attack. He was with the organization for 71 seasons. The Dodgers said Friday that he had a heart attack at his home in Fullerton, California. Resuscitation attempts were made on the way to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly before 11 p.m. Thursday. Lasorda had a history of heart problems, including a heart attack in 1996 that ended his managerial career and another in 2012 that required him to have a pacemaker.

https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/30674374/hall-fame-los-angeles-dodgers-manager-tommy-lasorda-dies-93

Baghdad Judge Issues Arrest Warrant for President Donald Trump Due to Airstrike that Killed Two

An Iraqi judge issued an arrest warrant for President Donald Trump due to an airstrike that killed two. The warrant was issued by a judge in Baghdad's investigative court tasked with probing the Washington-directed drone strike that killed Gen. Qassim Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the court's media office said. The two were killed outside the capital's airport last January. <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2021/01/07/iraq-issues-arrest-warrant-trump-over-soleimani-killing.html>

Rumors on Kanye

By Austin Curtis

Rumors have been going on about Kanye West, a used to be good rapper, about his relationship with Kim Kardashian. Now what we know is that Kanye and Kim are getting a divorce but what we don't know is why. Now an influencer in the L.A. scene has started spreading a rumor that began on the TikTok platform and that rumor is Kanye has a relationship with male body guru Jeffree Star. The influencer claims her evidence comes from her lawyer who happens to be Kanye's too who mentioned Jeffree's name in their divorce papers. Now Kanye has had moments with other males in the past but are these ones true?

Rap Legend in Hospital

By Austin Curtis

Dr. Dre has been reported to be in the hospital following a severe brain aneurysm, he is said to be receiving the best care and hopefully will recover. For those who don't know who Dr. Dre is, he is an American rapper whose real name is Andre Romelle Young. Along with being a rapper he is also a record producer, audio engineer, record executive, and entrepreneur. He is the founder and CEO of Aftermath Entertainment and Beats Electronics. He has made a big impact on the rap community and will hopefully get better soon.

Colorless

By Jennifer Hanners

White filled the room. The walls, the floor, the bed sheets were all white. Where was I? Using most of my strength, I slowly pushed myself into a sitting position. I looked around the room. There really was no color. The only colored thing in the room was the blue in my veins. Sliding my legs over to the side of the bed, I go to place my feet on the floor, but quickly retracting from shock of the frozen floor.

Hesitating another moment, I then place both feet on the floor. Looking down my arm, I see there is a needle poked into it. I slowly remove the needle from my arm, blood rises to the surface. I put my hand over it to try and stop the bleeding. It wasn't bleeding that bad, but enough to where people would notice. I walked around the bed to the other side of the room to peer out the door window leading into the hallway of the hospital. There were doctors and nurses walking past the door to my room. Why was I here? What happened? Was I dead? Did I die? I needed answers; I needed to know why I was here.

Without any hesitation I grabbed the silver handle with a firm grip and swung the door open. One step after another I was standing in the middle of the hallway. Many people passed by me with nothing more than a glance, then they carried on with their day. Standing there, a shiver was sent down my spine. I wondered if anyone would stop? Was anyone here to visit me? Did I have a family? Why was everything all white? It was all so colorless.

Easy Valentines Craft

By Malea Harmon



This is an easy craft for your significant other on Valentine's day! All you need is popsicle sticks, buttons, a hot glue gun, and some paint. This is a perfect box to fill with goodies.

Photo from
pinterest.

2 Ingredient Strawberry Fudge

By Malea Harmon

All you need is:

16 oz can of strawberry frosting any brand
12 oz package of white chocolate chips
Valentine sprinkles



Directions:

Line an 8x8 baking dish with foil and spray with non-stick cooking spray.

Pour the white chocolate chips into a microwave safe dish. Hit in the microwave in 30 second increments, stirring until melted.

Once the chocolate chips have melted completely, stir in the strawberry frosting.

Pour the fudge mixture into the prepared baking dish.

Use the back of a spoon to spread the fudge and sprinkle with Valentine sprinkles.

Place in the fridge 2 hours to set.

Use a sharp knife to cut the fudge into pieces.

Recipe from craftymorning.com

At Home Beginner Workouts

By Malea Harmon

Looking for easy ways to get in shape at home? It's very common over the holiday time to gain weight with Christmas and Thanksgiving meals as well as quarantine. Here is an easy at home workout found on pinterest.



Stress Relief Activities

By Malea Harmon

Do you suffer from stress? Here are some activities to help!

1. Read
2. Write
3. Draw
4. Drink more water
5. Exercise
6. Take deep breaths
7. Listen to music
8. Take a bath or shower
9. Go on a walk
10. Cook a new recipe



Why Do Trains Hit Things?

By Evan Weber

Trains are the heaviest moving objects on land, as I type this, today's CN M338 is 18,000 tons. Clearly, that's a lot of weight, and making that mass move requires a mind boggling amount of horsepower, and to bring it to a stop, requires even more. Trains have lots, and lots of brakes, on every single wheel there is a brake, despite this, most loaded trains will take a mile to stop at 50 MPH. Most people don't know that and still run around the gates, and some don't make it. But some people end up on tracks unintentionally, low clearance trucks can get caught on a rise in the pavement, in that case, it is time to leave the vehicle and call the railroad. Legally, there must be a posted phone number on every railroad crossing in the US. The sign will be blue, it will have a number, and an identification number to tell the operator where the crossing is. The phone operator will inform the dispatcher that a crossing is blocked and will halt train traffic until it is clear, but sometimes you end up in the wrong place at the wrong time.

In short, a train will not stop in time, like ever, so it is essential that you and your vehicle stay off the tracks and cross safely.

All the Engineer of a train can do is throw the train into emergency, after that he or she is powerless to do anything. Many people sue train crews for "Doing nothing" but these people don't understand the physics behind trains.



BNSF 5005 is still faithfully serving its purpose after repairs, here it is in 2016 (railpictures.net)

BNSF 5005 struck a vehicle and carried it half a mile in 2009 (Photo in CC)



Employee at Casey's: My Experience

By Austin Curtis

Working at Casey's General Stores is not always an easy task; it can be extremely difficult at times having to deal with unsatisfied customers so you need top customer service. You can get slammed in the kitchen so bad you'd think your working at Papa John's, and it doesn't make the work any easier when you have a boss stressed out. It causes more problems for you and your coworkers

As one employee said "Some days it's alright and others it's the absolute worst."

Another one said that "The \$12 an hour paycheck is the only thing keeping me going here." For some it can be a real struggle working there and for others it can be a lot easier, but if you're looking to get a job with Casey's just know the grass isn't always the greenest.

Things to Think About Before Getting VR

By Owen Larson

VR can be a very fun thing to do but there are some things you need to consider before deciding what VR headset is for you. First thing to consider, is that they can cause motion sickness for those who are sensitive to that. Another thing for all headsets is to make sure you have enough space to use it. These two things are something you will have to consider before getting any headset.

There are two options for headsets, stand alone and pc headsets, they both have their advantages and disadvantages. Stand alone headsets advantages are that they can be played anywhere and you don't need to buy anything else except for games and the headset itself. The disadvantage is that it won't be as powerful as pc headsets. Pc headsets advantages are that it is the most powerful headsets you can get and you have a big library of games to choose from. The disadvantage, you need a strong enough computer to use it and they tend to be more expensive than stand alone headsets.

The best stand alone headset on market is the Oculus Quest 2 and the best pc headset is the Valve Index. Make sure you know what you need out of your headset before buying one to make sure you have the best VR experience

No More PogChamp

By Nina Seay

In recent news Twitch has banned the use of the PogChamp emote due to the latest controversy on Twitter. The user, Gooteck's Twitter during the 6th of January had begun to post about the Capitol siege. Twitter claims the tweets "Encourage further violence" and have banned the use of the arguably beloved Pogchamp emote on Twitch.

Emotional Abuse Awareness

By Nina Seay

Abusive relationships can come in all shapes and sizes.
 Friend to friend, lover to lover, parent to child and back.
 Many times the abuser gains at the loss of the abused.
 Emotional abuse comes in the form of guilt and manipulation,
 making the abused feel much worse about themselves.
 Abusers prey on those they think are weak.
 If you feel like you are being abused please talk to someone.
 Parents, counselors, friends, anyone.
 You don't deserve it and you are worth it.



Signs of Suicidal Behavior

By Nina Seay

The signs of suicide often go unnoticed until it is too late.
 There are many subtle and not-so-subtle signs of suicidal tendencies.
 Making jokes about suicide, and talking about death often is a red flag.
 Giving items away, not eating, and talking about "when I'm gone..."
 Telling people goodbye, or shutting out friends and family.
 Hiding often and losing interest in anything you found joy in.
 If you or a loved one shows one or more of these behaviors,
 please talk to someone and get help.
 There is always a chance to be better and for a better life.
 Your life means something.

Source of Photos: Google Images

Marion Iowa Weather Forecast

By Nina Seay

Throughout the next week in Marion the weather points
 to being cloudy overcast with partial sunshine dotting in on
 Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.
 Highs are expected to be in the mid 30s with lows dipping into the
 single digits.

Sudoku

Created By Nina Seay

3		6	5		8	4		
5	2							
	8	7					3	1
		3		1			8	
9			8	6	3			5
	5			9		6		
1	3					2	5	
							7	4
		5	2		6	3		

Teriyaki Glaze

By Nina Seay

1 tbsp Teriyaki Sauce
 ½ tsp Brown Sugar
 1 tps hoisin sauce
 ¼ tsp soy sauce

Mix together and heat until
 the sugar is dissolved.
 Put on whatever you want.
 It goes well with fish and
 chicken.



Twitter Bans President Donald Trump Permanently

By Nina Seay

In other recent Twitter news, Twitter has banned President Donald J. Trump from the use of their site permanently due to his tweets and words on the attack on DC on January 6, 2021. In response the president has been attempting to dodge the ban and start up new accounts on other websites, such as Instagram.

Twitter says, "After close review of the tweets from the @realDonaldTrump account and the context around them, we have permanently suspended the account due to risk of further incitement of violence."



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