

The Stinger

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"In 1962, the Plumbers Local Union dumped 100 pounds of the dye into the river, making it green for a whole week" (page 2).



"It's a total combination of being proud and happy for the kids" (page 4).



"Ariana Grande is dropping a 13-song album titled Eternal Sunshine (page 8).



"Lunsford states, 'My expectation was for her to win it'" (page 12).

Staff contract negotiations and student opportunities

By **Mia Mitchell**
Editor-in-Chief

Since negotiations regarding staff contracts between the ZBFT Union and Administration have been going on all of this school year, students have been affected heavily. Not only has the tension and negotiations caused stress about possible delayed graduation, delayed spring sports, delayed prom, rescheduled SAT, extending school into summer, and much more, but it also has also affected students with regards to clubs and before/after school activities.

After speaking with the President of the ZBFT Union, Mrs. Regnier, last week, she explained, "We are doing what is called 'working the rules.' So, our contract day starts at 7:40, and it ends at 2:38, and those are the hours that we work between." This means that, outside of official clubs, sports and activities that run before and after school, teachers didn't do extra work, including emails, meetings after school, and volunteered time before 7:40 after 2:38 until they have a contact.

Some students have struggled with clubs because of the negotiations, and staff members were unable to volunteer because they were "working the rules." Jordan Lawrence, a Junior here at Zi-

on-Benton, faced "struggles with starting 'ZBTV.'" ZBTV was a potential broadcast news club that Lawrence was attempting to start with some friends, but it is no longer happening since the school announced that they are not approving new clubs, presumably until after the new contract is settled.

Lawrence explained, "Whenever we were ready to work on a project and responded/suggested projects, there were a lot of periods where we were just waiting and were never contacted again. It felt limiting. This made me and my team feel frustrated. The communication gaps and the constant back and forth... is frustrating and baffling. Students shouldn't be affected by this, but we are! Without teachers and their time, everyone's creativity and potential suffers, and potential opportunities are lost."

Another student, Lauren Hamilton, faced struggles towards the beginning of the year when trying to participate in a book club here at Zion. Hamilton stated, "The order for the books took a long time to come in." Hamilton went on to explain that by the time that the books arrived, staff were swamped with having to compress all of the things they do for students into contracted hours.

"Because of all of this and the chaos of the staff contracts we have not started a book club this year."

Hamilton further explains, "I felt a little frustrated and at the beginning of the year that we could not get the club started, while also I felt empathetic for the teachers because they are the ones who volunteer to help run these clubs, and I know that this time has also been tough and stressful on them."

Even though Jordan Lawrence and Lauren Hamilton have faced these struggles, they, as well as many other students, are hopeful for the rest of the year, since it seems as though tensions have settled. By the time this article will be published, picketing seems to have stopped, and teachers are no longer walking in and out together, it is assumed that some sort of agreement must have been made between administration and the Union.

So, hopefully the negotiations of staff contracts will become official soon, which likely will boost the overall morale throughout our high school, and will help students get back to where they want to be regarding clubs, activities, working with staff outside of normal school hours, and not having to worry about extra end-of-year stresses.

In This Issue

NEWS

Student Opportunities (1)
IL Election Season (2)
St. Pat's/Green River (2)
Million Minutes (3)
Neuralink (3)

OPINION

Spring Break (4)
Superstitions (4)

COMICS (5)

FEATURES

Title IX (6)
K. Stinson (6)
Women in History (7)
Your Two Cents (7)

ARTS

"Conversations" (8)
Women in Music (8)
Art & Poetry Showcase (9)

INFORMATION

ZBs You Should Know (10)
Zee-Bee Focus (10)
Rules (11)
College & Career (11)

SPORTS

State Wrestling (12)
Women in Sports (12)



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Mia Mitchell

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Mia Mitchell

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Esmeralda Vara

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Trinity Camara

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Election season starts

By **Maggie Mae McCarthy**
Stinger Reporter

All across the United States, the primary elections are taking place. From state to state, party nominees are voted on, and soon we will know who our presidential candidates will be for the upcoming 2024 presidential election.

The U.S. primary election is held before the presidential election to select who will appear on the ballot for their respective parties. Candidates must reach a specific number of delegates to be on the ballot for the presidential election in November. It can take many months for a candidate to reach the needed number of dele-

gates, but it will be very important to follow the numbers this month, as there are a large number of states holding their elections. It's possible a candidate may reach the required number of delegates within the month, however, it may take up till June with the last primary elections taking place June 4th.

On March 19th Illinois is holding its primary election. There are two republican candidates left in the running, former president Donald Trump leads, however, his eligibility is in dispute in certain states. Additionally, former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley remains in the race despite being notably be-

hind Trump. Current president Joe Biden leads the race as the democratic nominee with Dean Philips very far behind him.

Students turning 18 before the presidential election on November 5th are eligible to vote in the upcoming primary election, and it only takes a couple of simple steps to register via the Illinois online voter registration. There you can also find your voting location, learn how to vote, and get information on your presidential and local candidates as well. Your vote will play a role in the future of our country, and it's important that high schoolers begin the process now if eligible.

Chicago river turns green

By **Kassie Barbanida**
Stinger Reporter

St. Patrick's Day in Chicago is absolutely one of a kind as the city is bustling with party goers, cultural festivities at every corner, and the mesmerizing sight of the vibrant green Chicago River.

Chicago's first Irish parade in 1843 (more than 175 years ago) began the celebration of St. Patrick's Day in Chicago, and it is now a long established tradition. The Irish community of Chicago, residing in the South Side, embraces their heritage and culture through exciting events and activities in the city. Several events take place across the windy city: the river dyeing, the St. Patrick's Day parade, the South Side Irish Parade, and much more.

Believe it or not, the iconic tradition of dyeing the Chicago River was actually started by plumbers. In an effort to identify the

source of leaks in pipes, city workers used a vivid green dye that would stain their white overalls. Later in 1962, the Plumbers Local Union dumped 100 pounds of the dye into the river, making it green for a whole week. Since then, numerous people gather in the city to witness the unique event that has inspired other cities to dye their own local waterways.

The annual Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade is one of the biggest parades in the country and is the highlight of the city's exceptional St. Patrick's Day festivities. Now entering its 69th anniversary, the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band will lead the parade as they have since 1956. There will be loads of floats waving Irish flags, groups of talented Irish step dancers, and bagpipers throughout the three-hour celebration.

The community-based South Side Irish Parade began in 1979 when two

best friends believed that children should have a way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Continuing the tradition, all families are welcome to enjoy the performances by the bands, dance troupes, and the crowned parade queen.

From the captivating green river to the lively parades of skilled Irish individuals, people are brought together to honor St. Patrick's Day with unforgettable experiences. It captures Chicago's strong Irish community and its unity.

Photo credit: secretchicago.com



Zee-Bees compete in reading

By Janalise Jimenez
Stinger Reporter

Do you enjoy a challenge? Or like to read? Zion-Benton has recently bought the website BeanStack, with the help of Mr. Tate from the technology department. The website allows students and teachers to log reading minutes and create a competitive rank to see who has finished the most minutes, the overall minute goal being one million (Hence: Million Minutes Challenge).

Mrs. Will describes the challenge as, "a collaborative effort to increase the joy of reading throughout our district." She has prepared some prizes to those students with top minutes logged, saying, "We purchased a variety of small items [such as] pens to

stickers to fidgets, little bracelets, and then I have ordered some t-shirts. Honestly there is no prize that could equal students' time. It's more about the acknowledgment, but I also think it's fun to pick a little something." Mrs. Will is a devoted reader herself, describing reading as, "being able to walk along someone else's experiences." She continues to say, "that to me is probably why I like realistic fiction the best, even non fiction because it's someone's true story. I like the idea of experiencing lives outside my own." She hopes that through this challenge students can become avid readers as well, and says, "That regardless of how many minutes they log, we truly want our students to know that

we support their reading."

Similarly, Mrs. Di Grazia says that with the help of this challenge she hopes to teach students that reading, "is a habit that can re-center your brain and can be a joyful activity." Mrs. Di Grazia also recognizes the change already happening for students: "a bunch of students are in the top ten and are logging minutes on their own which is showing me that the format appeals to readers."

Classes get to compete for the challenge with a

goal in mind. Mrs. Di Grazia's English classes start the beginning of class with ten minutes of reading. She says, "I like challenges like this because it makes me accountable. First semester we got books and fell off reading. Now that there's a competition, I'm all in." Challenge yourself and take part in the school's goal of one million minutes. Sign up to Zion Benton's BeanStack site and see how many minutes you can log as well.



Musk connects brains to computers

By Jose Zavala
Stinger Reporter

Elon Musk, the CEO and co-founder of some companies you know today as SpaceX and Tesla, is known for many unique creations in the world today. He is not only making new ways of transportation above and below ground but is also overseeing things in outer space. Recently, with a company called Neuralink, Elon Musk has created a brain chip that allows one to assess their own technology through the brain.

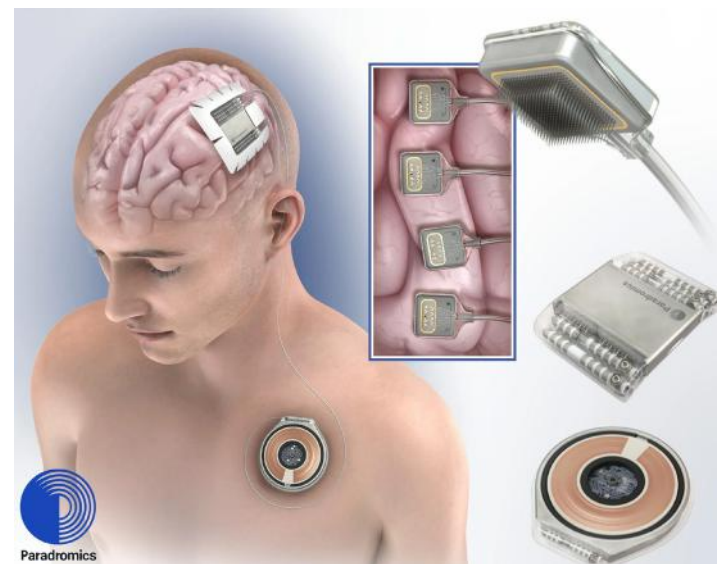
Musk, along with the company Neuralink, progressed through testing it out with their first human volunteer by having the chip implanted into their brain in January of this year. They say that the individual has made a full recovery and states that they now can communicate with a computer with only their

mind. They are currently planning on giving the product out to those with quadriplegia, a condition wherein a person is numb in all four of their limbs.

Rather than being an entertainment device, the chip was created to help those that have disabilities, so looking to get one like an apple vision pro is highly unlikely at this stage of development.

However, it does give people something to look forward to in the future when it comes to new technology overall. It creates new possibilities for which technology is acquired, and it is more of a benefit for those in need. Musk also stated that after curing many people with quadriplegia he would then work on creating a product that would restore eyesight for blind people which he would name "Telepathy."

Photo credit: statesman.com



Bees share spring break plans

By Jairo Rojas-Magallon
Stinger Reporter

As March arrives, so does our annual Spring Break, an opportunity for students and staff take time away from work and school to travel with family and friends or even just stay home and relax on the couch with no worries. Others, on the other hand, have work and take advantage of the extra hours to earn a few more bucks.

With Spring Break approaching, we asked a few students here at Zion-Benton what they think about the week and what it means to them. Alberto Guadarrama, a student here at Zion, states, "Spring break is such a good time to take a breather from all the schoolwork and recharge

your batteries, spending that time hanging out with friends, or diving into hobbies you love but don't usually have the time for. Plus, it's the perfect opportunity while you're enjoying the break; it's super smart to think about your future, too, finding ways to make some money can set you up for some solid financial footing later on, helping you build a better future."

Clarence Hilson, senior Zion student says, "I love Spring Break; it gives me a chance to relax and take my mind off of school." As you can see, a lot of students take the chance during break to not focus on any type of school work and take personal time. It gives the students a chance to come back to school once

break is over, to be able to give it their all into their school work. It's also good to take a mental break and focus on things that haven't gotten your attention if school was in the way.

We also asked Clarence what his plans were during spring break as he stated

"My plan for spring break is to work and workout and go out and do stuff." It's fair to say that everyone is looking forward to Spring Break, and we can't wait any longer for it to finally arrive so that we are not overwhelmed by school for a bit.

graphic credit: Stinger Notice Board



NJROTC wins Area Drill Competition

By Christina Collins
Guest Reporter

After coming up short 3 years in a row, the Fighting Zee-Bees won the Area 15 drill meet and earned the right to compete at Nationals at the Navy Base in Pensacola, Florida this spring.

This competition took months of preparation, and each cadet put forth their best effort and strove to take 1st overall. In the individual events, we took 4th in Unarmed Platoon, 3rd in Armed Exhibition, 2nd in the PT and Academic Portion, and 1st in Color Guard, Armed Platoon, Unarmed Exhibition, Personnel Inspection, and 1st Overall.

When asked what he thought about the win, drill team coach, Chief Vincent Nelson reflects, "It's a total combination of being proud and happy for the kids, especially the seniors." Cadets are

now preparing for nationals, and striving to win 1st overall in the nation.

Zion-Benton's NJROTC program has a long histo-

ry of successes, earning the honor of being one of the most decorated programs in the country year after year. We look for-

ward to future successes for the program and wish the crew the best of luck at the spring nationals competition in Florida.

graphic credit: V. Nelson



Happy St. Patrick's Day by Gloria Myers



March Feature: Women

Title IX opens access

By **Abbigail McLaughlin**
Stinger Reporter

If you aren't familiar, the Title IX (nine) law, created in 1972, prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance; this includes sports at our school. Here at Zion, the Title IX law has helped our athletic program grow and get more students involved in athletics. Most recently, adding a girls wrestling team and a boys bowling team. Throughout the years, sports have evolved

so much not only by adding varieties of athletic teams but gender-wise making opportunities equal for all. Women have always been late to opportunities including sports.

The Title IX law and the 14th Amendment go hand in hand. It's all about not favoring gender when it comes to basic rights everyone should have. So, if a federal funded program has a men's team they are required by law to offer it in a women's team too. This was signed into law by President Nixon; and

a woman named Patsy Mink was a major author and sponsor of the bill.

It is important to recognize how our athletics have changed and improved for the best. As March is Women's History Month, we would like to spread awareness of all the changes the world has made in order to assure discrimination between the male and female sexes is not an issue anymore, whether it's in jobs, opportunities or anywhere else including sports with the Title IX law and 14th amendment.

Local woman makes memories

By **Abbi McLaughlin**
Stinger Reporter

If you've attended any school events the past couple years, you've definitely seen Ms. Kathy Stinson walking around taking photos. She's a terrific photographer and captures so many special moments for many athletes, students, and everyone around here at our school.

After asking her how long she has been taking photos for, she shares "over 50 years. Professionally though, for 15 years." Stinson is always at every event she can attend just to get a great shot for us. She not only takes photos for our school but she also does private photo shoots whether it's just for fun, senior pictures, and more.

Her inspiration to start her career was mainly her children playing sports through the years. "I found at that time that I loved the action and that those shots were a lot of fun to capture, and I have a lot of photo albums of them playing soccer," she shares. In 2012 Stinson created her website and Facebook page for

the photos to be seen of the other kids she took photos for during her children's games. "Knowing my son was graduating in 2017, many of the students from the football and baseball teams asked me to come back the following year to photograph them, which I did, and I never stopped."

After asking what Stinson's favorite part of her work in photography is; she answers "getting to know the students, coaches, and ZBTHS staff. It warms my heart when they recognize me and say 'hi' and give me big hugs." Kathy adds how she loves seeing students grow into young adults as she photographs them from freshman to senior year.

At the end of the 2018-19 school year, Stinson was asked to be our school's new photographer as the previous one was retiring. After being asked to attend one game for each sport, all levels, she gladly accepted. Although, Stinson does so much more than she was originally asked. She not only attends almost every home game for all sports, but she even travels to away games to capture more moments and memories for our ZB athletes. We would love Stinson to know how absolutely amazing and appreciated she is to our school. Nothing she does goes unnoticed here at Zion. If you see her at any events be sure to say "hi!"

graphic credit: Emerald Night Photography



Modern women we will remember

By Trinity Camara
Editor-in-Chief

Women's History Month begins annually on March 1st and runs until March 31st. The month of March recognizes women of all backgrounds and their importance within our society. It celebrates all women and their contributions and achievements throughout history. While there are many influential women in the past, there are numerous women today who have made a positive impact within our world.

For example, a woman named Malala Yousafzai has spent many years of her life fighting for women's educational rights after she grew up in an environment where girls weren't allowed to attend school after the Taliban took control over her town. Because of her strong voice, she was targeted and attacked by a man, but she survived. Malala states,

"Every day I fight to ensure all girls receive 12 years of free, safe, quality education. I travel to many countries to meet girls fighting poverty, wars, child marriage and gender discrimination to go to school. Malala Fund is working so that their stories, like mine, can be heard around the world" (malala.org).

Secondly, a name which is recently very well known, Kamala Harris, is the first woman in United States history to be chosen as Vice President as well as the first woman of color to be elected in this position. Prior to being elected as our vice president, she served as Attorney-General in California and also in the senate. Harris once said "Anyone who claims to be a leader must speak like a leader. That means speaking with integrity and truth" (vogue.in).

In the field of science, there is accomplished woman by the name of

Photo credit: Britannica.com, NYTimes.com, news.mit.edu



Malala Yousafzai, Kamala Harris, and Susan Solomon made modern history

Susan Solomon, an atmospheric scientist. She has made a major contribution to the findings of the cause of hole in the ozone layer in Antarctica. She has led expeditions to Antarctica to find the measurements of chlorine dioxide which was the first discovery of what causes the current condition of the ozone layer. She's won many awards for her work such as "the Blue Planet Prize from the Asahi Foundation in Japan, the Carl-Gustaf Rossby Medal from the American

Meteorological Society, and the William Bowie Medal from the American Geophysical Union" (www.womenofthehall.org).

While these are only a few examples of accomplished women in society today, there are many more hardworking women of all backgrounds and careers. Whether they are political figures, scientists, mothers, activists, and more, all women are recognized during this month for diligence and purpose in our civilization.

Your Two Cents



"Zendaya"

Audrey Nah Gillentine



Who do you think is the best female living role model?



"Beyonce"

Nala Janae Brand



"Michelle Obama"

Jordan Gaston



"Female teachers. They go through a lot in school and earn the right to be a Teacher"

Taylor Humphres

By Donnie Anilao

ZB thespians reflect on racism

By **Rebekah Hampton**
Stinger Reporter

When you think of theater productions, you might think of lighthearted shows, perhaps a love story or a comedy. As a thespian myself, I can attest to the fact that theater can be very fun, but it can also get very serious. The hardest shows to perform are the ones that really mean something to audience members, for example, last school year's third play was about the tragedy of 9/11.

This school year's third play was based on yet another serious topic: racism. *Conversations About Race* was a three in one production that took place on February 22nd and 23rd, leading up to the Black History Month Program on the 24th. The directors be-

hind this production were our very own ZB students, Cristian Gibbs, Leilani Alessi, and Julian Lopez. They were highly dedicated to their productions and helped guide their cast members with the hard task of executing the

heavy messages of racism throughout our society. Leilani, the director of *Lift Every Voice*, thoughtfully stated, "The most important part of my production was the fact that I feel like it portrayed real problems that teenagers

face and portrayed it in a realistic way." Her play consisted of controversy over the *National Anthem*, and how different views amongst friends had exploded into an argument stemming from deep hurt.

Julian, the director of *Black Flag*, had also assisted Mrs. Regnier in directing in the past. With that in mind, when Julian was asked to give a piece of advice when it came to directing, he stated, "A piece of advice I would give is no matter the circumstances, keep going. Never give up, and just have fun!" Every student involved in this production had noticeably grown in their acting/directing abilities and the audience's reactions only proved this point even further.

Photo credit: Kelly Regnier



Antonio Neal and Alundre Brown depict a scene under the direction of Cristian Gibbs.

Women make music history

By **Samantha Whitlow**
Stinger Reporter

As we enter March, we aim to shine light on the success of women all around the world. From academics to athletics, women have excelled greatly. One field that they especially succeed in is music. In March and upcoming months, well-known female musicians are coming out with new music.

Coming out first on March 8th, Ariana Grande is dropping a 13-song album titled *Eternal Sunshine*. Grande first got her start at the age of 15 in the Broadway production of *13*. Arianators, Grande's fan base, have been anticipating this new music since 2020 when her last album, *Positions*, was released. It is said that the album will be a mix of house and R&B music.

The second album to

arrive is *Act II* by Beyonce, coming to us on March 29th. Beyonce will be taking a different approach from her 2022 album *Renaissance* by making the genre country. As for Beyonce, she first got her start as a lead singer in an R&B girl group named Destiny's Child. Will she stay in the country genre or will she stray back to R&B?

Photo credit: www.rollingstone.com



On February 4th, after winning the Grammy for Best Pop Vocal Album, Taylor Swift announced that she will be coming out with a new, 16-song album titled *The Tortured Poets Department* on April 19th. After dropping two re-records of her own albums, she has decided to drop new music. As the date approaches, Swift and her team have also been announcing special editions with bonus tracks!

Last but not least, Lana Del Rey is said to be dropping *Lasso*, a country album, sometime in September. As Beyonce goes from R&B to country, Del Rey is transferring from pop music. However, it is not known how many songs this album will contain. She got her big start in 2011 after dropping her first song "Video Games." Ever since then, Lana Del

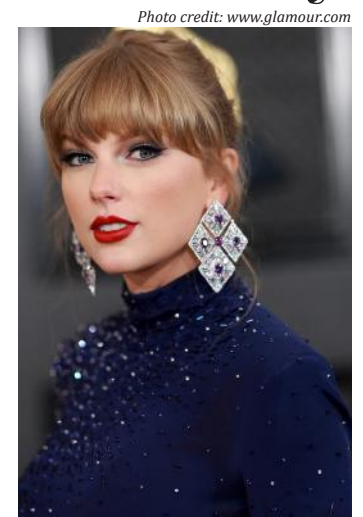


Photo credit: www.glamour.com

Rey has gained a dedicated and passionate fan base.

Look out for these upcoming music albums, and support these women who are paving the way for future generations of women to make music and inspire young women to make their marks on the world. We are ready to listen to what you all have to say.

Zee-Bee

Artist

Showcase



@zebluedino on Instagram

Adrian Tomon

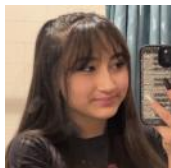
My art process usually starts with me watching a movie, anime series, or game that I like. After finding a piece of media that really interests me, I figure out which

characters I really like from them, and then I draw a quick sketch of them on paper. After sketching, I take a photo of the sketch and import it onto my iPad so that I can do lineart and coloring. I always have a reference photo of the specific character and a pose to help me with composition, color, and any other details that I would like to add for the finished drawing. Overall, I really enjoy making art just because I am able to have a blank canvas and fill it with a bunch of things that I really enjoy. :o

Zee-Bee

Poetry

Showcase



Your stories tapestry

In my story
You make the sunrise everyday and fall every evening.

In my story you are the sun
Center of my universe holding everything together
My world moves around your laugh
And your smile lights up my planet.

In my story you are the earth
Holding life's dearest positions in the palm of your hand.
You give water to the weak and captivate the beauty in the nature around you

In my story, you are the water,
Nurturing the world with your gentle touch,
Flowing through valleys, quenching every thirst,
A source of life, pure and essential.

In my story you are the stars
Brightest in the sky
Your smile lifts anger from the soul of the earths core
Relaxing the universe with just one grin

In my story you are the moon
Guiding my lost soul with your gentle glow,
Reflecting the light of the sun's warm embrace,
In the darkness, you bring a sense of peace,
A celestial companion through the night's embrace.

In my story you are important
A need to convey emotions like no other
A captivating essence
In a world of peril and caution, you're my safety, my refuge,
holding me close, a safety net wrapped around my heart
a comforting embrace, true and unconditional

You are my story

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P
I
E
N
E



margo may

my first love was margot may
no one noticed her except my eyes that lay
no one noticed margot may

so she sat there every day
in that janky old desk
in her little white dress
with her golden blond hair
with her skin freckled and fair
so i sat there every day
never wanting to look away

no one noticed margo may
no one noticed her raspberry flushed lips
how she would never skip
no one noticed her unspoken words
or her fascination with birds
the way she read her books
or her soft dainty look

margot may never noticed me
for who could i even be
so i sat there every day
and waited for margot may

oh how i the unnoticed boy noticed
the unnoticed margot may

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ZEE-BEES YOU SHOULD KNOW

Featured Student

Chyann Smith



My name is Chyann Smith and I am a senior here at ZB. I feel like I have really made my mark here at ZB through my creativity. When I was a sophomore I wrote poetry but it wasn't until junior year that I was recognized for my work. I performed for Black History Month and Women's

History Month last year with the help of Ms. Meyer and are old Vice Principal Doctor Stephenson. But I feel like I've received even more attention this year for my morning announcements and poetry performances during Black History Month. I encourage students to find themselves and to express who they truly are because adolescence is all about exploration, mistakes, and learning. So don't be afraid to try new things you might like.

Featured Staff

Mr. Geary



I have career goals to be in business leadership one day, and the opportunity to take up the dean role is a step into that direction. I love the kids, I love the classrooms, I loved everything I was able to do there, and I feel as though, in my new role, I get to help more people. The students in ZB are incredible. Poor choices in our students

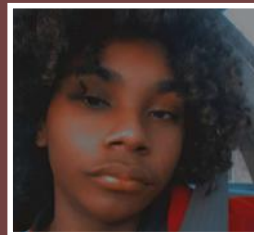
don't defy them, and I feel that the dean's office has an opportunity to build up our students, build up our relationships with our students and have a large impact. Personally, I loved to work with people. I found a great passion of mentoring in college and helping people reach their goals, and proceeded to pursue a career that would allow me to do that in a larger scale. I live at home with my wife Haley, my dog Piper, and cat Fran (No kids yet). I'm looking forward towards growing my family in the next few years.

ZEE-BEE FOCUS



By Donnie Anilao

What do you think about Lucky Charms (not the cereal)?



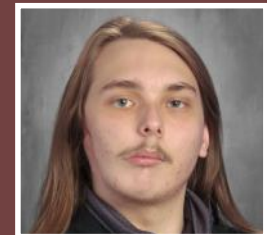
Antonio Neal

"I like them, and I in fact have some of my own."



Samuel Hall

"Never once have I found a four leaf clover...I think."



Kaden Leonard

"I'm Irish, and I like lucky charms."



Hector Gutierrez

"They are really cool, and I believe in good luck and lucky charms."



Adrian Mendoza

"Good...Because it gives the person using them a sense of encouragement or hope that they can get something done with it."

We do not accept any DoorDash or food deliveries to students.

DO NOT ORDER. we will turn them away and call your parent.

There is NO food allowed outside of the cafeteria.

Absolutely NO food in Advisory will be accepted.

The Student Handbook states...

At no time should cell phones or video imaging devices (including but not limited to camera phones, cameras, video phones, smart watches, etc) be used: for videoing, and/or sharing fights included but not limited to social media, texting, email, etc. Students who do shall be subjected to suspension.

Please be Digitally Responsible.



REGIONAL

SCHOLARSHIP

DATABASE

LOCAL

SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION

Scan for scholarship list for students in IL, Chicagoland, Lake County, and Zion-Benton areas.

Scan for scholarship application. Single application for consideration for multiple scholarships from the immediate Zion-Benton Community. Open to ZB/ZBE Seniors only.



Wrestler makes ZB history

By **Trinity Camara**
Editor-in-Chief
& **Esmeralda Vara**
Staff Editor

On February 24th, 2024, Ileen Castrejon won the IHSA State Wrestling Championship. She is the first wrestler here at ZBTHS to achieve such a major success, making history in this school. She won the tournament with a score of 4-0, winning her very last match of high school, achieving a very major triumph.

The head wrestling coach, Hal Lunsford, states, "My expectation was for her to win it. That's been the goal since day one and she did it," after he was questioned about what expectations he had for Ileen going into this tournament. He expressed

this statement because of the hard work he put into coaching his team.

After an interview with Ileen Castrejon, she expressed that she was proud of her accomplishment of winning the state championship after working diligently towards this goal. In her senior year, she achieved a goal that she has spent years months working toward.

Additionally, Jack Niemi, Executive Director of Athletics, recognizes another team member of the ZBTHS wrestling team. He says, "But that wasn't all... In her first trip to the IHSA State Championship, Naomi Foote came home with a medal as well. After going 2-1 on the first day of the tourney, Naomi beat her opponent from Stevenson

on day two, to advance to the medal round and came home with a 6th place medal. She is only a junior and will be back to seek more success next year."

Students and staff, congratulate Ileen Castrejon, Niomi Foote, and the many coaches who worked with these athletes such as Hal Lunsford, Marcos Torres, Joel Delgado, Danny Alaniz, and Vince Sroka, who helped them work towards this goal after a lot of hard

work and dedication. Congratulations to the entire wrestling team as well for their hard work this season.

Photo credit: Emerald Night Photography



Women athletes lead the way

By **Megan Galeana**
Staff Editor

Women have a long history of dominating in sports. The path for them has been paved over decades of dedication and hard work.

Among these amazing women is Serena Williams, an African-American athlete and tennis player about whom most would say that she was a "black champion in a predominantly white sport." According to www.businessinsider.com, Williams is important to the Afri-

can-American culture because she carries a record of "combined major titles in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles." She ended up retiring, putting more focus on her family and taking care of her daughter. Williams never liked the word "retire" because "It doesn't feel like a modern word to [her]." Williams' legacy will still remain in many people hearts.

Another phenomenal female athlete is Alex Morgan, an American soccer player. Alex Morgan is "one of the biggest stars

and highest wage earners of U.S. women's soccer" (www.britannica.com). Alex Morgan grew up in Diamond Bar, California and played many sports as a child, but soccer was not one of them until she was a teenager. Alex Morgan continues to play for "United States women's national soccer team and San Diego."

In addition to these two amazing athletes is Simone Biles. Biles is a famous African-American artistic gymnast. Since the "age of 6, [she] tried to start doing gymnastics"

(simonebiles.com). From 2014-2016 her name was everywhere as she was earning "gold and bronze medals and being the first woman to win three consecutive all-around titles in world gymnastics championships history."

There are plenty of role models for young Zee-Bee women to look up to throughout history and in more modern times. We look forward to many more female state champions in the future and will be ready to cheer them on in their triumphs.

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