



TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2017 BY JACOB MOAK



- Special points of interest:**
- Virtual Reality-Virtual Environment
 - CJHS Softball and Baseball
 - BAND
 - Fishing
 - CJHS Artist

The 2017 solar eclipse was amazing. This solar eclipse was very exciting, because it was the first solar eclipse in over 300 years to cover the United States border-to-border. A solar eclipse happens when the sun, moon, and earth line up together. Many people traveled for this rare event, many to little ol' Carbondale.

Many people from all places came to Southern Illinois to witness this awesome event. People from Italy, Australia, Poland, Denmark, and many more places came. Some people traveled from inside the United States. Large TV companies visited Saluki Stadium, including The Weather Channel, in Carbondale reporting from Saluki Stadium. Unfortunately, for the people in Carbondale, just as totality was about to start, clouds rolled in. However, many people in Southern Illinois got to see the eclipse. My brother, and my grandparents, and I watched from my grandparents' back-

yard. My dad watched from Crab Orchard Lake and he got to see the eclipse perfectly. A lot of people went to Walker's Bluff to the Ozzy Osbourne concert. All in all, most of Southern Illinois got to see totality.

This particular solar eclipse covered all of the United States, west to east. In 2024, the next solar eclipse will cover most of the eastern U.S., and Carbondale

will be in the center of it. Unfortunately, in billions of years, the moon will be so far away, there will be no more solar eclipses. So, watch those solar eclipses while you can!

I interviewed Mr. Johnny Tindall, Mr. Kolbe Herron, and Mr. Ayeden Moyer about their personal experiences watching the total solar eclipse. Mr.

Tindall said he went to Ms. Jaye Palmer's house and also had cross country try-outs. Mr. Moyer said he traveled to his friend's house and also swam in the pool. Mr. Herron said he didn't travel and actually just stayed at his own house to watch the eclipse. Mr. Moyer described this



day as once in a lifetime opportunity. Mr. Herron and Mr. Tindall both echoed Moyer's response and

agreed a that the eclipse was amazing.

No matter where you were or who you were with, there is no doubt that the eclipse was an amazing view that will return to us in seven years.

ANDREW THE ARTIST BY EVAN MURPHY

Have you ever known someone that is amazing at something and you just wish you were that good? Andrew Mitchell is that person to me. Every time I see him draw I'm amazed.

Every body has their own talents. I don't know mine yet. Personally, I look up to Andrew and his drawing abilities. He said to me, "Drawing is not for competition, that takes the fun out of it." I personally agree with this quote. I asked him a few questions so you can know him a little more.

Q: Why do you draw?

Andrew: It's fun.

Q: Has anyone else in your family drawn before?

Andrew: Both sides of my family like to draw.

Q: When did you start drawing?

Andrew: Four years old.

Q: Will your future career involve your talent?

Andrew: No.

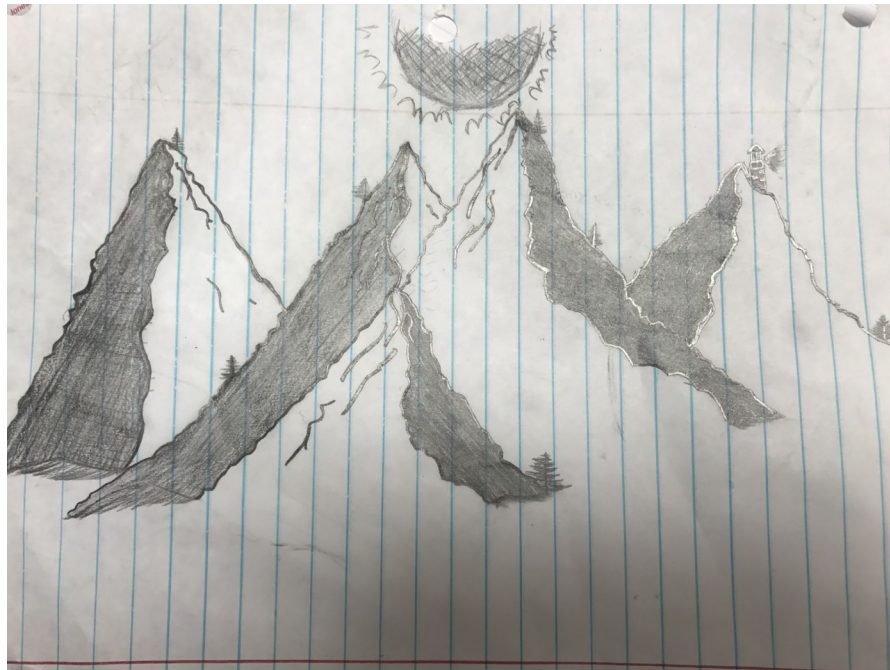
Q: How long did it take you to get this good?

Andrew: Five years.

Q: Are you proud of your talents?

Andrew: Yes.

Hopefully, our Q & A has helped you learn a little bit more about Andrew. My real reason for writing this article was to show people was an awesome talent he possess. If you also have a talent and want to share it with the school, come and tell someone on the Central Press staff and we might write about you!



VIRTUAL REALITY—VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT

BY DANIEL PITCHERS

Virtual reality, is a wonderful device that "connects" your mind to the program. Many have been waiting for the greatest thing to ever be invented, and this is the start. Commonly it is used in a way of entertainment, but perhaps it's purpose is to help investigate other things.

Virtual Reality is

the computer generation of a three dimensional image, meaning that you can interact with it. Depending on how it's used, virtual reality can be useful in a variety of ways. The creator of virtual reality is Ivan Sutherland. The date it was first released to the public was on April 5, 2016 (HTC Vive). That's quite recent, isn't it?

Virtual reality is quite an intriguing device, from the fact it can let you interact with your environment or at least, your VIRTUAL environment. This young device has a lot of potential.



DUQUOIN STATE FAIR

BY SPENCER METRO

The DuQuoin State Fair is a fun place to go with your family and friends. They have rides, delicious food, and many other exhibits to explore.

The state fair is known for its exciting rides. You can purchase tickets individually or armbands that are available for the best deal. There are rides for small children, teenagers, and adults. The tilt-a-whirl spins you around and it makes some people dizzy, but not me. The midway is a place where you can try your luck at winning a prize if you have the cash and

talent.

State fairs across the country are known for their food. There are many delicious foods to explore at the fair. One of my favorite treats is the corn dog. You can't get a better dog than at the fair! If you are into sweets, you may delight your taste buds with a freshly fried funnel cake or maybe even a deep fried Oreo.

The helicopters at the fair are really neat to watch take off. The music at the fair is cool to listen to. Seeing the State Police is always fun and the police

cars look nice. There are political tents at the fair where you can purchase tickets for political dinners that are going on.

I interviewed Delany who went to the Du Quoin State Fair this year. Delany said that she spends time with her family while she is at the state fair. She stayed at the fair six hours. Delany said that she enjoyed some delicious nachos.

If you haven't been to the fair, you still have time. The last day to go is Monday, September 4th.

FISHING

BY GAGE ALLEN



Fishing is a sport enjoyed by millions. Some of those million actually compete, while others do it for fun. A well known pro is Kevin Vandam. He has won hundreds of fishing tournaments and is notorious for his spinner bait fish. His spinner baits have helped him win multiple tournaments.

There are so many different kind of lures out there to use. I myself prefer soft plastic lures of any kind. They will usually work, but some are better in some situations. Let's say for example, that it is a windy day with clear blue skies, a soft plastic with a weight would work better than one without a weight.

Your arsenal is a very important thing when you are fishing. You need certain rods and reels and line for top water. The pros prefer 7:1:0 gear ratio, because with that it will allow you to reel in a lot faster than a let's say a 6:3:1 gear ratio. This is due to it spinning more. The 7:1:0 gear ratio will usually cost more than the one that spins slower. For the rods for top water, most pros prefer a 7'1 medium heavy action rod. For soft plastics (bait) they prefer a 6'9 medium action rod, because it would help out on the hook set.

If you enjoy fishing, there is a fishing team at West Frankfort High School. The coach, Mr. Hefner, is a teacher at CJHS. He said that he started fishing around the age of four and that he has been bass fishing for around three years. Mr. Hefner said that in the three years that he has been bass fishing, he has won first place three times. The reason that Mr. Hefner became the fishing coach was because he didn't want see the program fail with the lack of a coach, so he stepped up to help the program when they were in need. He said that he thinks fishing is a sport if a tournament is involved, but otherwise it is just for fun.

I hope to join the fishing team in high school. If you like fishing as much as I do, you might want to check out this program. Hanging out with Mr. Hefner is always a plus.

WHAT PET IS BEST FOR YOU?

BY PAIGE BURNETT

Animals are fun, exciting, and can make interesting pets. You can have cats, dogs, and even some unusual animals as pets. An example of an unusual pet would be a rat.

You can have all kinds of animals as pets. Some people even own snakes, even hundreds of them! The food that you need to feed them are rats and mice. I believe that snakes prefer alive animals and to catch their own food. I find snakes scary and I also think it is scary that some young kids own snakes. You would think kids are scared of snakes, but some of them are not. In fact, some parents and kids hold their pet snakes and even let them wrap around their bodies. It is scary to me because the snake could easily squeeze them and hurt them. I would not own a snake, I think snakes are creepy and I couldn't trust them at all.

Some people, not a whole lot of people, own animals that could eat them! These animals might include tigers and lions. I would think it would take years to train a tiger to like you. Since they eat meat, they could eat you! I know for a fact that I wouldn't want to own a lion or tiger or something that could eat me. Lions and tigers are beautiful animals and they can be fun, as well as, really active. It would be really neat to pet and see and play with a lion or tiger in person, but I personally would stick to the safe choice and go to the zoo.

I would think most people would want to own a simple pet, like a cat or a dog, because they are so playful and happy. Older dogs and cats tend to just sit around and be lazy because they've had their fun and it's their time to rest. Cats and dogs definitely make loving and caring pets.

I own a small animal, a really small animal, called a guinea pig. They are fun too, but they do sleep a whole lot. A really creepy and weird fact is that they actually sleep with their eyes open. I do not know why they do that, but supposedly if they sleep with their eyes closed they are sick or there is something wrong with them. Guinea pigs make interesting sounds. By the sounds they make you can figure out whether they are stressed, hungry, and a whole lot more. When guinea pigs are happy they jump around and run really, really fast. They also get really big over time. Guinea pigs live up to six or seven years, sometimes even longer than that. You can even train them to do tricks just like any other animal.

Before purchasing a pet make sure you look at all your options.

BASEBALL AT CJHS BY GAVIN MANN

The 2017 WF Redbirds junior high baseball is a very hard working team. We hope to have an excellent winning season this year, as well as, to make our school happy.

Mr. O is the coach and he helps us to improve to be the best we can. He is always nice and helpful. Everyone on the team looks up to him.

The junior high baseball team practices every day that we don't have a game. All my teammates have to maintain good grades to

stay on the team. Most of us have played many years together. We are a close team and always ready to play some ball.

If you would like to be apart of the junior high baseball team next year, you need to practice this summer and play on a team. You also need some equipment like a baseball bat (drop 3), a helmet, a glove, and batting gloves.

If you want to be a good baseball player you have to practice to get better. The

most important thing you want to get better at is defense. If you want to get better at batting, you can hire a hitting coach who will help you get your swings down. Overall, if you want to be on the team next year, you have to know the game.

Currently the CJHS baseball team is 5-6, but we play into October so there is plenty of time to improve. Come out and see us play!



CJHS SOFTBALL BY EMMA GASS

The West Frankfort Lady Redbirds are currently 7-7. They have been working very hard since the beginning of summer to get where they are now.

Revlyn Willis is an eighth grader who has been playing for eleven years. She plays center field, but can play anywhere you put her. Revlyn said that there's more to softball than what meets the eye. She said it takes

dedication, but, most importantly it takes heart and you have to want it.

Shelbie Arrington is a seventh grader that has played since she was four years old. She plays first, second, third, and right field. She said it takes hard work, skills, and dedication. She can't wait to play next year!

Dayanara Degler (Bob) is also a seventh grader. She started

playing to keep her active during the summer. She was four years old when she started paying. Her motto is to always stay positive and cheer on her team. Bob is the catcher, but can play shortstop and outfield. She looks forward to playing next year.

Revlyn, Shelbie, and Dayanara are just a few of the seventeen other amazing girls on the team. Be sure to catch a game this season.

CJHS BAND

BY JOSEPH KAHL

Many kids are excited for band this year and currently there are 30 kids in band.

Mason Clark, a 7th grade band member, is learning how to play the saxophone. This is the first time he has played an instrument. Something that he likes about band is the sound of all of the instruments together when he's playing. Mason is really excited to learn to play the saxophone this year. There are three other kids playing the same instrument as him, and he said this makes him more confident.

Andrew Jacobs, another 7th grade band member, is learning how to play the trumpet. This is his first time playing an instrument. Something he enjoys about band is playing with friends and learning how to play his instrument. There are three other kids playing with him, and Andrew said that he thinks band is super fun.

Arynn Studer, a 7th grade band member,

is playing the flute. She has been playing this instrument for a couple years. Something she likes about band is being able to play for instrument in school. Arynn is excited to play in parades. There are many kids playing the same instrument as her. She is happy that she is not alone.

Trista Snyder, a 8th grade band member is playing the drums. She has played an instrument from 4th grade through 6th grade, and now she is playing again this year. Something she enjoys is the music of all the instruments together. Something she is really excited for this year is marching in parades. She said that there are some kids playing with her and this makes her more confident.

Coral Belcher, another 8th grade band member, is playing the flute. She has not played an instrument before. Her favorite things about band are playing with friends and the music teacher, Mr. Johnson. She is excited about learning how to play an instrument. She said that she was thinking about switching to the trumpet. Coral said there are a lot of kids playing with her, and they are all her friends especially Conner Walley.

It seems a lot of kids are really excited for band this year. This year's band has a lot of potential. As Andrew put it, band is super fun!

