The Trial of Kyle Rittenhouse

By Bella Baillie and Naomi Flores

On August 25, 2020, 17 year old Kyle Rittenhouse, carrying an automatic rifle, ran towards an angry group of protestors. He shot and killed two people and injured a third. Why? What was he doing there in the first place? Why did he have an automatic rifle? Jurors were faced with deciding his fate.

Rittenhouse traveled to Kenosha, Wisconsin, a few miles across the border from his home. He heard about the protests going on there on the shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by a police officer. He claims his mission there was to protect businesses from the protestors.

Late that night, Kyle Rittenhouse opened fire and killed 36 year old Joseph Rosenbaum. Witnesses say that just after that, Rittenhouse was on the ground and two men were actively trying to wrestle a gun away from him. One of those men is now dead—26 year old Anthony Huber. The other, 27 year old Gaige Grosskreutz, was injured.

Just after the shooting, Rittenhouse walked toward police officers with his hands raised but was not arrested. He went home that evening.

Rittenhouse was charged with first degree reckless homicide, first degree intentional homicide and one count of attempted intentional homicide. The possession of a dangerous weapon charge was dismissed. Rittenhouse, who is now 18, could be facing life in prison. He pled not guilty to all charges, claiming self defense. He claimed the angry mob was trying to attack him, and that he only fired because he felt he was in danger.

The defense tried to prove that Rittenhouse believed his life was in danger and that the method he used to defend himself was not unreasonable. The prosecution on the other hand, tried to show Rittenhouse as an aggressor looking for trouble, that he told other civilians that he was old enough to have a gun and that he was a certified medic, both of which are untrue. Prosecutors attempted to portray him as a “vigilante”. The trial has also brought into the spotlight issues of gun violence and white supremacy. Rittenhouse was in possession of an automatic weapon, capable of doing damage on a wider scale. Many gun control activists believe these weapons should not be available to the public. Rittenhouse was also underage, making it illegal to have the gun in the first place.

While awaiting trial, Rittenhouse was photographed in a bar, posing with members of the white supremacist group, The Proud

Volunteer Opportunities

by Mario Lara

Are you looking for a way to give back to our community while earning SLL hours? Consider volunteering your time with the Tacy Foundation. I’ve been a volunteer for a little over two years and it’s been a very rewarding experience.

The Tacy Foundation was founded by a local music teacher, Charlotte Tacy Holliday. Back in 2007, Ms. Holliday asked her students to play songs on the piano so she could create a music CD for breast cancer patients at Johns Hopkins University. Her best friend was facing cancer and this was a way to show her support through music. After creating the CD, Ms. Holliday decided that creating the Tacy Foundation was a great way to “respond to human suffering with the gift of music, following the foundation’s model of inspiring
Rittenhouse cont. from pg.1

Boys. His bail was posted by conservatives Rick Snyder and MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell, both supporters of former president Donald Trump who has been known to stoke the racial bonfires. A juror in the Rittenhouse trial, who has since been dismissed, was heard telling a joke about the police shooting of Jacob Blake, the reason the protests were happening in Kenosha the night of the shooting. There is also an issue of why he was not arrested the night of the shootings. If Kyle Rittenhouse was Black, would he have been arrested or even shot and killed? And to top it off, the judge in the trial is a very interesting character, often attacking the prosecution, seemingly biased. During the trial, the judge’s cell phone could be heard ringing (a travesty in itself) — to the tune of former president Trump’s campaign song.

Since the acquittal, Rittenhouse was seen on TV being interviewed by Fox News host Tucker Carlson. Since the acquittal, Rittenhouse was on TV being interviewed by Fox News host Tucker Carlson. Rittenhouse said nothing about being sorry for what he had done, only that he is the victim in all of this. What do you think?

The famous question was first introduced by Greek philosopher, Plutarch in “Quaestiones Convivales”.

Plutarch (full name: Mucius Plutarchus) was a Greek philosopher and writer born in ancient times. He was most famous for his works, the “The Parallel Lives” and the “The Moralia”. The famous question was first introduced in his “Quaestiones Convivales” published in the year 100 AD and was written in Ancient Greek. The answer to this question according to Plutarch is...the egg came first! But it’s not quite that simple.

Millions of years ago - when chickens weren't a thing yet - eggs easily dried out. Therefore, animals would lay their eggs in ponds to keep their eggs moist. It’s hard to tell when exactly, but at some point, the eggs evolved and no longer needed water to stay fresh. This evolution also added extra protection and the ability to store nutrients. Basically, this revolutionized eggs.

So, eggs came before chickens. But what about the egg that the chicken came out of? Let me say this the simplest way possible.

According to The Australian Academy of Science, the first chickens would have come from genetic mutation. Whenever two of those mutated almost-chickens mated, they would have had a complete chicken. Therefore, no matter exactly how it happened, the first true chicken would have hatched from an egg!

Now, the chicken eggs likely evolved over time, so if you’re being technical...Well, I hate to admit it, but chickens might have come before modern-day eggs. But, if you’re just talking about whether the first chicken egg or the first chicken came first, the egg wins.

Night at the Improv

We are so looking forward to the first “Night at the Improv” right here at Wood! Under the direction of English and Theatre teacher Ms. Somers, the night is sure to be a huge treat!

The Improv club (Drama Club) meets on Tuesdays and Wednesdays on the stage after school. They have been honing their skills since September.

“Night at the Improv” will take place on Friday, December 3 at 7PM in the Wood Cafeteria. Tickets are $5 and will be sold at the door.

There will be refreshments available for purchase. Come out and enjoy an evening of hilarious, spontaneous, and totally crazy entertainment by 30 of Wood’s finest and funniest performers!

We can’t wait!

The Improv, Photo Credit: Shutterstock.com

Protection after acquittal, Photo Credit: Wall Street Journal

Ocean (cont’d from pg. 1)

Aurora gently pulled the page from the notebook and folded it up so it fit inside the spiral shaped shell. She dropped it into the ocean, slowly sinking to the bottom like she did everyday. If someone were to look underneath the dock they would find a collection of shells and bottles that had sunk to the bottom. The bottles weighted with rocks so they wouldn’t float away.

Something was different this time the shell came back up. Aurora watched as the spiral opened and closed and when it opened it dropped into the water. Then again if she hadn’t wanted any one to read them she would have put them in a box.

“Are you a mermaid or something?”

“Yes! I’m Azure, your Aurora right?” Aurora nodded, “That’s me.”

Azure moved so that she was facing Aurora more. “Sorry about your friend, you seem to really miss her.”

“Yeah but who says I can’t make new friends? After all you already know a lot about me and I know next to nothing about you.”

Ocean (cont’d from pg. 1)

Aurora felt a sense of intrusion but then again if she hadn’t wanted anyone to read them she would have put them in a box.

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“Yeah but who says I can’t make new friends? After all you already know a lot about me and I know next to nothing about you.”

Two years later Azure and Aurora were on the edge of the water having a picnic when a truck pulled up in the driveway.

Azure looked curiously at the truck, “Who’s that?”

Aurora turned around and saw a blonde haired girl standing awkwardly by the truck, “Someone who I thought I’d never see again.”

Aurora got up and quickly ran over to where the girl was standing. When she made it over the blonde smiled, “Hi, Aurora.”

“Hello, Rose, I thought I’d never see you again.”

With that the pair set off towards Azure.

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“Hello, Rose, I thought I’d never see you again.”

A smile formed on Rose’s face, “Yeah, me too.”

The Improv, Photo Credit: Shutterstock.com

Advertisement, Photo Credit: Newsnow.com

An interesting fact to ponder: Did you know that scientists even believe that a T-Rex’s closest modern-day relative is a chicken? Chickens are pretty weird.

So there you have it! I hope that next time you hear the question, “Which came first?”, I sure hope you know the answer!
Social Media
By Alise Turner

How much do we really rely on social media? On October 4th of this year, Facebook and all its affiliated apps went down—Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger. They are some of the most used apps on the internet today, so when they went down, the world went crazy. Though they were only down for a little over five hours, the shutdown of Facebook exposed just how big the franchise is and how the world depends on it in many different ways.

In an interview with Sheera Frenkel of The New York Times, she states, “...many people use Facebook to log into other apps. They use it to log into their smart home systems, like their smart TVs, or even their smart thermostats. So when Facebook went down, people couldn’t access basic things around their house.” Just imagine relying on platforms that much, that you can’t even access basic things around your home... and that’s just one thing for which Facebook apps are used.

In another New York Times interview, Mark Donnelly, founder of HUH Clothing, a fashion brand focused on apps are used.

“With Facebook being down and Instagram to reach customers, the shutdown forced many to come to standstill. Many worry about that kind of power in one franchise. Lately Facebook has been under a lot of pressure. The company has been accused of ignoring the farms its services have been causing and now the world’s obvious dependence on one franchise is unsettling. Brooke Erin Duffy, a professor of communications at Cornell University says, “The abruptness of today’s outage highlights the staggering level of precarity that structures our increasingly digitally mediated work economy.”

Whether you use Facebook or not, it can be agreed that we rely a great deal on social media in our daily lives.

In other parts of the world, loss of social media could be a matter of life or death. The nonprofit, Cosas de Mujeres, relies on WhatsApp to help women who face domestic violence or trafficking.

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Volunteer Opportunities

- Create Handmade Cards
- Assembly care kits for military personnel that includes Tacy Foundation produced CDs or USBs and handmade cards which are then shipped around the United States and overseas.

The Tacy Foundation handmade Cards Projects is very important to me. I’m actually one of the co-Chairs. Interns that organizes and leads these projects so I’m going to write more about our projects in future issues.

The Cards Project is a great opportunity for you to create handmade greeting cards for people in need within our community. Throughout the year, we have several opportunities for you to create handmade cards:

- March/April/May: Thinking of you cards for hospital patients with Spring theme
- June/July: Thank you cards for military members (like Fisher House)
- Throughout the Year: Cheerful cards for hospital patients
- As needed: Thank you cards for teachers and front-line workers
- As needed: Support cards for a major event

You can create handmade cards with a standard, 5x7 card, which are folded in half. Envelopes are not necessary but are accepted. Sometimes, we do have pre-printed boxed cards available as well. Once you finish creating your cards, you should put all cards in one envelope or bag, and group/label them together by the type of card. At any time, you can drop off your cards at a home in Rockville and leave the cards in a box placed on a porch. Of course, you can also mail the cards to The Tacy Foundation as well. If you volunteer, we will give you more detailed information on specific directions. You will receive 1 SSL hour for every 15 handmade cards that you create. For pre-made cards, 3 pre-printed cards equals 2.5 hours. There is no limit for the number of cards; however, the cards must be thoughtfully written with several sentences and be appropriate for the project.

To learn more about the Tacy Foundation or to sign up for volunteer opportunities, please visit the web site: https://www.tacyfoundation.org/

Since you’ve read this article, I hope you consider volunteering for the Tacy Foundation. Remember to sign up for these opportunities and give back to our community all year long.

Homecoming!
By Yara Elbarony

Homecoming is an event to cherish for a long time, especially your first one. For us, the students of Earle B. Wood middle school, this is our first homecoming since the pandemic hit, which made it hard for us to socialize. The process of preparing for Homecoming was an adventure. It was really fun. The best part is that we all had so much creativity inside inspired by Halloween parties. I thank Ms. Blankenship because without her we wouldn’t have this amazing opportunity to forget about the past problems in our world. I thank her for even including us in the decision-making and half of the responsibility to prepare for Homecoming. I find it very important for responsibility skills.

Later, we asked some of the students from grades 6th to 8th to give us their best reviews about what their thoughts were about the party. One 7th grader said, “Homecoming is fun in my opinion and the songs are good!” Another added, “I really liked the dance, the pizza and loved the songs.”

But some people said, “Pretty cool but more pizza would have been more cool; I didn’t get any.” There were forms that needed to be filled out that asked, “What songs would you like?” Many people filled in those forms. No wonder the songs were awesome. But one thing that wasn’t enough was the pizza. Which made a lot of people sad. But other than that, everything went as planned, and everyone was showing their best moves on the dance floor with DJ!!!
Town Center Eats
By Paolo Monteleone

If you are looking for a place to eat in Rockville Town Center well, you’ve come to the right place. Here are a number of places to eat, in no particular order, with descriptions of what they serve, their menu, my picks and more.

Starting off this list is Giuseppe’s Pizza. Their menu consists of many appetizers, salads, calzone, parmesan subs and beverages. Some appetizers that sound interesting and reasonably priced are “Mozzarella Marinara” for $5.50, “Chicken Fingers” for $5.75, “Garlic Toast” for $1.95, the classic “French Fries” for $2.95 and “Buffalo Wings (and or- der of 10)” for $7.35. There are many more appetizers but those are the ones that stand out in my opinion.

Next up are salads, which they have plenty of, all for $6.20. Start- ing off we have the all around fav- orite, “Caesar salad.” Also on the menu is the “Grilled hot chicken salad” which seems interesting, the “Greek salad” and the “Chub salad” which sound tasty. Person- ally, I’m not a salad person so I don’t really have any experience at all on that subject so you’re on your own there.

Next up is why I eat at Giuseppe’s-Pizza—the pizza. One slice of cheese pizza is $2.45—add thirty cents if you get toppings. The pizza here is amaz- ing and I 100% recommend it. Giuseppe’s has plenty more items on their menu, and I suggest you come on to Giuseppe’s to try them out.

The next restaurant I suggest is, Pot- belly, Potbelly is a fresh sub fo- cused restaurant. Their sandwiches are fantastic. It’s like Subway but on steroids. They have a variety of sand- witches you can have, they also have many drinks, bagged chips, amazing desserts and more.

Let’s start off with the sandwiches. My favorite is the “Tuna Salad Sub”. For the price of $7, you get what looks to be a six inch sandwich stuffed with tuna and salad. (hence the name). Another great sandwich I suggest is the “Roast Beef Sub”. This includes Angus roast beef, and provo- lone. This sandwich is also $7. The next and final sandwich I recommend is the “Smoked Ham Sub” also for $7. You get a sub which includes hickory smoked ham and swiss cheese.

Potbelly also includes salads, all for the price of $8.30. The salads they provide are the “Farmhouse Salad”, the “Powerhouse Salad”, the “Apple Walnut Salad”, and the “Chicken Sal- ad”.

They also provide a “Pick-Your-Pair” option. This allows you to mix menu items to make your own dish, like combining a half sandwich with a cup or soup or half salad. These “Pick- Your-Pair” combos can range between $8.62 to $10. Another thing that they offer is “Soup and Mac”. This is a small cup of soup served with chili or mac-n-cheese. Next up are the des- serts!

Potbelly serves milkshakes and cook- ies for dessert. Some of the cookies they have are oatmeal, chocolate, and sugar all for a $1.79. My favorite desert is the milkshake and they have them for $4.50. They have four fla- vers: vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, and Oreo. I highly recommend their milkshakes.

Right next to Potbelly is Ben & Jer- ry’s. Many of you probably know and have had Ben and Jerry’s. They are a classic ice cream company. Ben & Jerry’s is amazing but quite expen- sive. Ben & Jerry’s has many flavors of ice cream. The ice cream cups are $6 and come with two scoops of ice cream. My personal favorites are “Chocolate chip cookie dough” and “Chocolate Fudge Brownie”. “Mint Chocolate Chunk” is very good as well. Who knew chocolate chips and mint would mix so well? A classic is “Chocolate: plain old good choco- late.” “Milk and Cookies” is another amazing classic-ish flavour. You can also try the “Powerhouse Sandwich”, the “Apple Walnut Salad”, and the “Chicken Sal- ad”.

The wash basins are used by the deceased to clean their face before eating the food their families have left for them.

In America and in Canada, Halloween is celebrated by go- ing trick or treating, going to Halloween parties and wearing costumes. Trick or treating is a popular tradition commonly done by Canadians and Ameri- cans alike across both coun- tries. Typically during trick or treating, people receive candy or other treats. Halloween par- ties are also common and take place with groups of people at a person’s house. Halloween parties usually have games and other activities that people do. For example people may bob for apples.

Lastly, the staple of Halloween, are the costumes that people wear. Costumes often range from characters in movies, vid- eo games and even made up characters. Costumes are worn for parties, for trick or treating and for fun.

Halloween is celebrated throughout the world with a number of beliefs, traditions and customs. Halloween is also a time to gather with others and enjoy each other’s compa- ny. I hope your Halloween was safe and fun!

Garfield Facts
1. Garfield is a tabby cat.
2. The first Garfield comic came out in 1978.
3. Garfield was born in a restaurant kitchen.
4. His favorite food is lasa- nege.
5. He was named after Jim Davis’s grand- father.
6. Garfield is called Gustaf in Sweden.
7. He had an existential crisis in the 1980s.
8. He’s more than the star of a comic strip.
9. Garfield brings in big money.
10. Garfield holds two Guinness World Rec- ords titles.
The Fennec Fox

By Shayla Raven Metcalf

Get ready for cuteness overload! The fennec fox is a mammal and is the smallest of the world’s foxes. In the wild, fennec foxes eat insects—particularly grasshoppers and locusts—as well as small rodents, lizards, birds and their eggs. They will also consume roots, fruits and leaves, which help them to hydrate. Fennec foxes are nocturnal, allowing them to sleep during the hottest parts of the day. In addition to protecting them from heat, their large ears are a resource for locating and detecting faint sounds, small rodents and reptiles, that can be most readily found in their favorite snack? As mentioned earlier, the Fennec fox is a staple in their diet. But what is it that they are most interested in? For the Fennec fox is an omnivore, making small prey. Large ears are a resource for locating them from the heat, their small size allowing them to sleep during the hottest parts of the day. Fennec foxes are nocturnal, allowing them to move about the landscape without being detected. In total, the attack consisted of 353 Imperial Japanese dive bombers, torpedo bombers and fighters. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt addressed the nation and declared war on the Empire of Japan.

Even though the attack was unexpected, the Japanese failed to destroy the submarine and fuel storage facilities. In addition to this failure, the aircraft carriers which were supposed to be at Oahu, were instead conducting other operations at sea. These U.S. aircraft carriers would later play a pivotal part in the Pacific military campaigns during World War II and again in The Korean War. The USS Arizona was one of the two battleships destroyed by the Japanese. Designated BB-38 by the Navy, the Arizona was first commissioned in 1916. The Arizona operated in the Atlantic traveling to France, in the Caribbean, in the Mediterranean and in Perú. In August of 1921, the ship set sail to Southern California where it would be stationed until 1929. From 1929 to 1931 the Arizona would undergo modernization at Norfolk, Virginia. After the modernization the Arizona escorted former President Herbert Hoover on his tour of the Caribbean. After finishing the tour, the Arizona continued service in the Pacific fleet. In 1940, the USS Arizona along with a number of other ships began to operate out of Pearl Harbor.

In total, 2,403 servicemen and civilians died during the attack. In total, 2,403 servicemen and civilians died during the attack. Over 1,178 people were wounded. Out of the 2,403 people that died 1,177 deaths were from the USS Arizona. Only 208 people survived aboard the Arizona.

On the Island of Oahu, there is a memorial for the USS Arizona. This year’s ceremony dedicated to the attack on Pearl Harbor, mark the 80th anniversary of the tragedy. The ceremony’s theme will be about valor, sacrifice and peace. The ceremony will be held on Tuesday, December 7. The ceremony will include a wreath laying by Marine Corps Base Hawaii, a bell ringing by the USS Bowfin and a performance by the Pearl Harbor Mass Band. The ceremony also includes a USS Oklahoma ceremony on Ford Island.

The attack on Pearl Harbor may seem long ago, but many in the United States remember and lived through the attack. As we remember the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, make sure to thank all those who currently serve and our veterans of past and current conflicts.
After School Activities

By Mrs. Bowman

After school activities are in full swing here at Wood! There are so many offerings for after school—we really are lucky to have all the options.

Some of our after school offerings are new this year. We have the Improv Club run by Ms. Somers, the Anime/Manga club run by Ms. Werfel, the Space Inquiry club run by Ms. Blanksen and Triple Treble run by Ms. Cox.

Many of our former clubs are back: intramurals, Poms, newspaper/podcasting, sewing, American Sign Language, Theater, and jazz band to name a few.

If you haven’t had a chance to try out any of our after school offerings, you really need to check them out. The list can be found in the morning announcements slide show that you find in your email inbox each day. After school activities happen on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and transportation is provided. Check them out!

Top 5 Most Popular Taylor Swift Songs

According to Billboard

1. “You Belong with Me”
2. “Style”
3. “Dear John”
4. “State of Grace”
5. “Mean”

Pumpkin for Pups

By Grace Davis

As the weather cools down and the leaves start to change colors, stores start rolling out fall products. Among these you’ll find lots of pumpkin flavored drinks, pumpkin flavored cookies, pumpkin flavored everything! But if you look closely you’ll notice that there’s not much in the way of pumpkin flavored dog treats. While that’s fine because many dogs prefer a treat with the taste of meat, it’s still nice to have the option of a non-meat treat from time to time.

For many dogs this means a carrot or sweet potato treat. So why not pumpkin? Pumpkin is good for dogs (in small amounts based on their size) in many different ways! It contains nutrients and fiber that is good for them as well as being able to help their digestive systems. Just in time we have a recipe that will give your dog a nice crunch to go along with fall flavors!

Pumpkin Flavored Dog Treats

- 2 eggs
- 2 ½ cups of flour (I used oat flour)
- ½ cup of pumpkin (plain pumpkin NOT pumpkin pie mix)
- 2-3 tablespoons of peanut butter
- At least one baking pan (you can choose to double the recipe, needing more than one pan)
- Mixing bowl (or stand mixer)
- Mixing spoon
- Cookie cutters (optional)

First step is to preheat your oven to 350°F and get out your ingredients. Next you’ll want to combine all your ingredients in a bowl and mix until they are a dough consistency. If your mixture is too wet, add some flour. If it’s too dry and crumbling, add some water. Next you’ll want to prep your cutting area with flour. Take about ⅛ cup and sprinkle it lightly on the surface. You may also want to lightly dust your rolling pin or whatever you’re using to roll your dough out as well so it doesn’t stick too much. After rolling it out you can cut fun shapes like bones or pumpkins you can also cut them into training treats by cutting them into small squares. Place your cut out dough onto your baking tray and put it into the oven for 20-25 minutes. If you would like your treats to be softer you should cook them for about 20-21 minutes and if you want them to be crunchy 25-26 minutes is recommended. Once your treats are done and cooled you’ll want to give one to your official taste tester. These treats should be sealed in an airtight container or bag for up to two weeks.

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