

STUDENTS ATTEND CLIMATE STRIKE

BY SARA RHOMBERG

Thousands of people filled the streets of Iowa City on Oct. 4 to advocate for climate change, and among these were six students from Mount Vernon High School. The appearance of teen climate change activist Greta Thunberg sparked interest in students and the public, and over 3000 attended the strike. Speakers at the strike included the mayor of Iowa City, Thunberg, and students from Iowa City West and City High. Mount Vernon students Dallas Olberding, Remy Merrill, Abbie Morf, Nellie Morf, Parker Whitham, and Hedy Zmolek participated in the student-led strike and even made posters to hold up.

The climate strike was organized by students from City High and Iowa City West High School as a part of a program they participate in called “Fridays for Future”, which is a program that was started by teen climate change activist Greta Thunberg. Fridays for Future is a school strike for climate change, where students organize a strike in their town that is open to the public. Whitham, a freshman, said she learned a lot about climate change last year in her science class, and it interested her. “I’ve always wanted to go to a strike or protest, but there has never been one close enough for me to go to” Whitham said. The climate strike in Iowa City was the perfect opportunity for Whitham to attend a strike, and it was for an issue which she was interested in.

“The point of having the strike in Iowa City was to have the university administrators recognize that the university needed to



Hedy Zmolek, Parker Whitham, Dallas Olberding, Abby Morf, and Remy Merrill protest in Iowa City Oct. 4.

be coal free” said Zmolek, a freshman. With the high attendance numbers at the strike and the powerful speeches given, the University of Iowa has now pledged to be coal-free by the year 2025.

The strike was a very powerful experience for Mount Vernon High School students. “It helped me realize how much change is possible because there were so many people there that all wanted change” Zmolek said. During the strike, students participated in the 11 minutes of silence. Zmolek said that this time of silence represented the 11 years we have before climate change becomes irreversible.

“The experience of being together with a bunch of other people who agree with what I believe in was really empowering” Whitham said. “It was a great learning experience.”

IN THE HEADLINES...

NATIONAL NEWS OF THE YEAR



The coronavirus, or COVID-19, outbreak began in the Wuhan region of China and spread across the world. The virus is highly contagious and is easily transferrable between people. Photo from AP Images subscription.

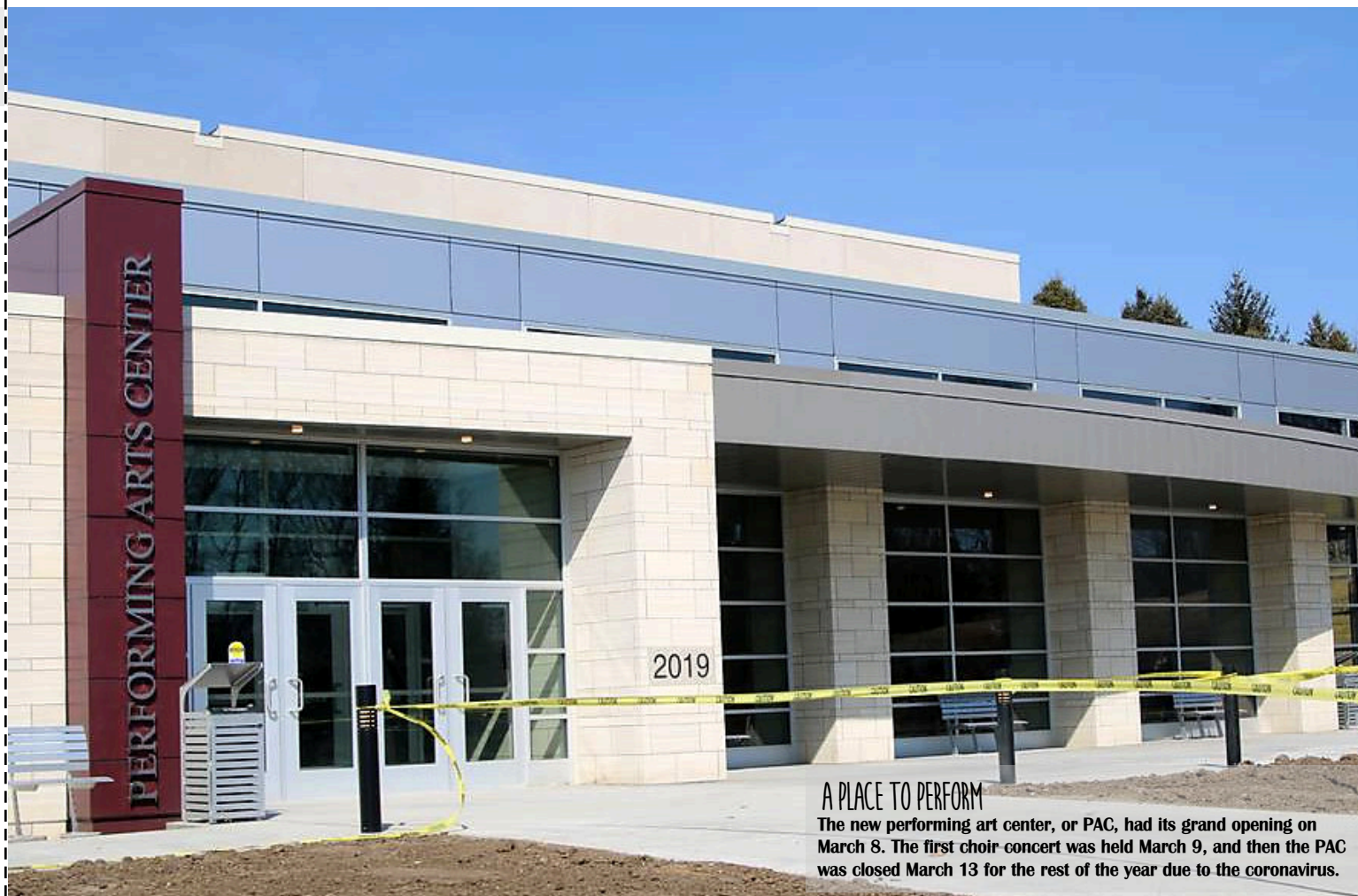
NBA Star Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna Bryant died in a tragic helicopter crash along with seven other passengers on Jan. 26. Photo from AP Images subscription.



President Donald Trump was impeached on Dec. 18 for allegations of foreign interference in the presidential election. However, he was acquitted of all charges on Feb. 5. Photo from AP Images subscription.

Smoke rises from fires on the east coast of Australia, taken by ISS astronauts Jan. 4, 2020. Credit: NASA Crew Earth Observations (CEO). More than a billion animals were killed and more than 46 billion acres were burned in the bushfires that started in June 2019 and continued through February 2020.





A PLACE TO PERFORM

The new performing art center, or PAC, had its grand opening on March 8. The first choir concert was held March 9, and then the PAC was closed March 13 for the rest of the year due to the coronavirus.

TRIM LINE



State Champions! Mount Vernon Volleyball dominated Kuemper Catholic 3-0 in the state final game on Nov. 15. Photo by Lillie Hawker.



The Lester Buresh Family Community Wellness Center opened in February. Many Mount Vernon High School students are employed by the LBC. It was closed for social distancing from March through May.



On to State! The Mount Vernon boys' basketball team beat Central DeWitt in the regional final and headed to state for the first time since 2012. Photo by Michaela Rowell.



Mount Vernon Alumni Tristan Wirfs ('17) was drafted to play professional football for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Impactful Stories

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST NEWS EVENT OF THE YEAR?



KOBE BRYANT'S HELICOPTER CRASH

NICOLE SULLIVAN '20



THE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

BEN SULLIVAN '21



THE CORONAVIRUS

MAX SHADY '20

Questions asked in March 2020

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