

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENQUIRER

NEW YEAR, SAME MISSION

By Luke Waugh (Grade 12)

"It has been another excellent month for Edgewood's Environmental Club! We are still working hard to create as many sleeping mats and pillows out of donated plastic grocery bags for the unhoused population in Bloomington. Furthermore, we are in the final stages of implementing battery disposal sites in each school on Edgewood's campus! The sites will keep dangerous materials out of landfills and promote the reuse of materials to produce new



Edgewood High School

batteries. Additionally, the club continues to promote environmental awareness through social media, tapping into younger audiences. The club is doing tremendous work in our community and schools to promote sustainable environmental practices! We look forward to finding new opportunities to serve the local community in any way possible!"



*Syrup holder
made from
plastic lids*

Photo from Mrs. Myers

STAFF INTERVIEW

By Gabby Buckley (Grade 12)

For this month, Mrs. Wilson is being featured as a heavy participant in helping the school community become more environmentally friendly. For the last couple months she has worked tirelessly to implement the plastic program, which is a set of plastic extruders that take bottle caps, and mold them into different shapes, which are then implemented in the ILC Design Shop's products. Mrs. Wilson specifically believes in this being student-ran, because of the creativity and imagination that it takes for young minds to take this project on. Her goal for her interns is to expand recycling to other types of "trash products" such as coffee grinds and water bottles to further establish Edgewood's part in going green. Her message encourages students to implement recycling into their lives, such as using paper bags and glass bottles, because of the importance in the small steps to making the world greener.

STUDENT INTERVIEW

By: Hannah Clark (Grade 11)

This month I reached out to Landen Beauchamp, another senior at EHS and one of the design team leaders. Beauchamp said, "Environmental Club has been a very informative experience for me as I have learned so much about how to properly recycle and cleanly contribute to my community through outreach. Environmental Club has opened my eyes to the damage happening in my environment and far beyond and I realized I needed to be a person who started doing something about it. After I graduate, I will really miss the close and family-like environment of the club and how I was able to work in coordinated groups to accomplish large goals. Obviously, I will continue to promote efforts after high school, but it may be harder as an individual rather than in groups which is why everyone should join Environmental Club. It is much easier to help our environment together rather than alone."

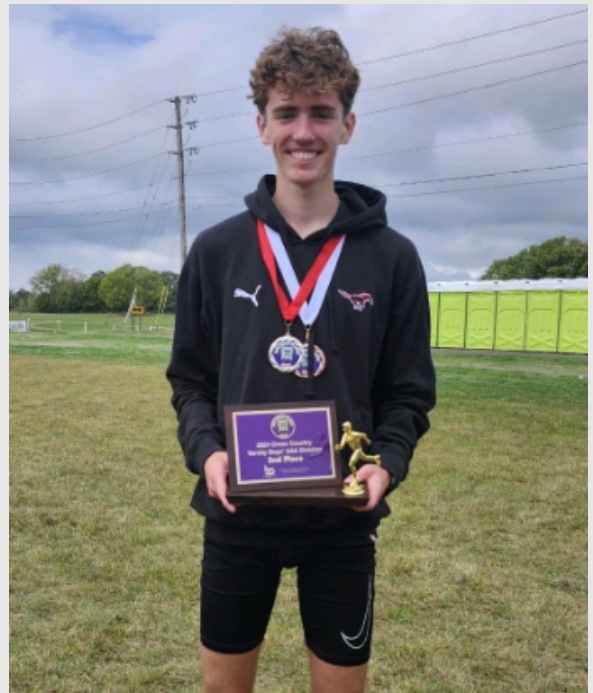


Photo from Landen Beauchamp

*A pontoon
boat
cruises on
Lake
Monroe*



Photo by the Herald Times

MONROE COUNTY NEWS

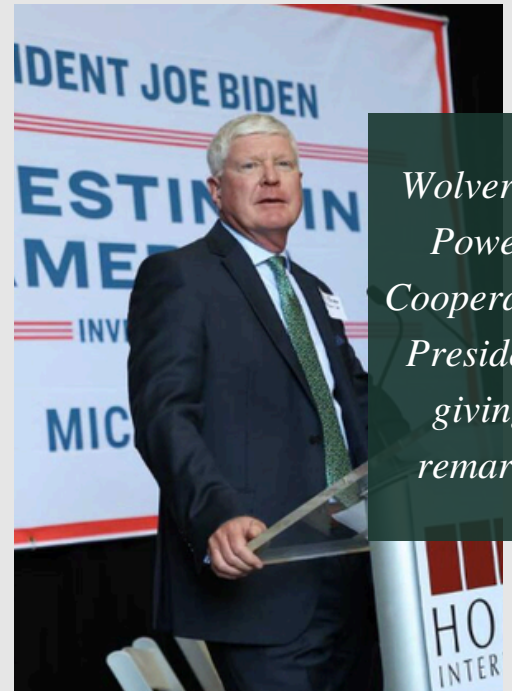
By Chrislyn Miller (Grade 12)

A distinguished part of Monroe County is Lake Monroe. Built and owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1960, Lake Monroe plays a vital role in the togetherness of Hoosiers in the area. Though it is deeply loved, citizens of Monroe County have not been taking care of the lake. This means the lake is in danger of no longer being useful for Hoosiers. Lake Monroe is used for drinking water more than anything else, and one issue is the pollution of the water from herbicides. Herbicides are used to rid the lake of weeds and other pesky plants, but when this substance is used, it has run-off that ends up in the lake. Another reason for concern is the bacterial infection from septic systems. This occurs when septic tanks in surrounding areas are installed improperly, which leads to the contamination of bacteria. With these issues, the cost of healthy drinking water will increase and the lake’s overall viability timeline will decrease. To combat these concerns, we need to educate locals, potentially plant winter crops to prevent more herbicides from entering the lake and place further inspections on our septic systems. If we work to implement these ideas, then we can help preserve Lake Monroe along with many other important resources.

STATE-WIDE NEWS

By Meri Crowe (Grade 12)

The government is prioritizing our environment more and more these days. In recent news, The U.S. Department Of Agriculture disclosed that \$1.3 billion will be given to Hoosier Energy and Wolverine Power Cooperative from the USDA’s Empowering Rural America (New ERA) program. This money will aid the costs necessary to recommission the Palisades nuclear plant. This company pledges to deliver carbon-free, environmentally friendly power to the entire region. The CEO of Bloomington, Indiana-based Hoosier, said the Palisades project “is a tremendous win for electric cooperatives and demonstrates our ability to collaborate and innovate for our members and the hundreds of thousands of member-consumers we serve.” This plant is not only providing sustainable energy for the residents of Indiana but also filling their hearts with hope for the future. This revolutionary step forward will hopefully encourage others to take like-minded approaches.



*Wolverine
Power
Cooperative
President
giving
remarks*

Photo Credit: Matthew Mitchell Photo Studio



Fire in West Milford, New Jersey, United States on November 9th, 2024

Kyle Mazza, Getty Images

NATIONAL NEWS

Kylie Miller (Grade 10)

New York triggers smoke warnings due to wildfires in New Jersey. The lack of significant rain in New York City during October is part of the reason the government has warned citizens of the area to be careful about using grills and gasoline outside. In Bergen County, New Jersey a fire alongside the Palisades is burning across the George Washington Bridge. Smoke from the fire blowing across the Hudson River into the city of Manhattan. In Gloucester County, a fire seemed to be burning across the Delaware River blowing smoke into Philadelphia. There seemed to be at least three other fires burning across the state at that time.

GLOBAL NEWS

By: Xander Frye & Addy Hash (Grade 12)

Six European countries- Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, and the UK- pledged €200 million to the world’s largest biodiversity fund at the Conference of Parties (COP16) Convention on Biological Diversity. The fund gets money to countries and communities working to conserve, restore, and ensure the long-term health of wild species and ecosystems. Projects were approved in Fiji, Brazil, Gabon, and Mexico earlier this year. The fund has a ‘30x30 goal’ of protecting 30% of the planet by 2030. More countries are preparing to access and support the fund in the future.



A view of the closing session at the United Nations COP16 nature summit

Camilo Rodriguez, Reuters

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