



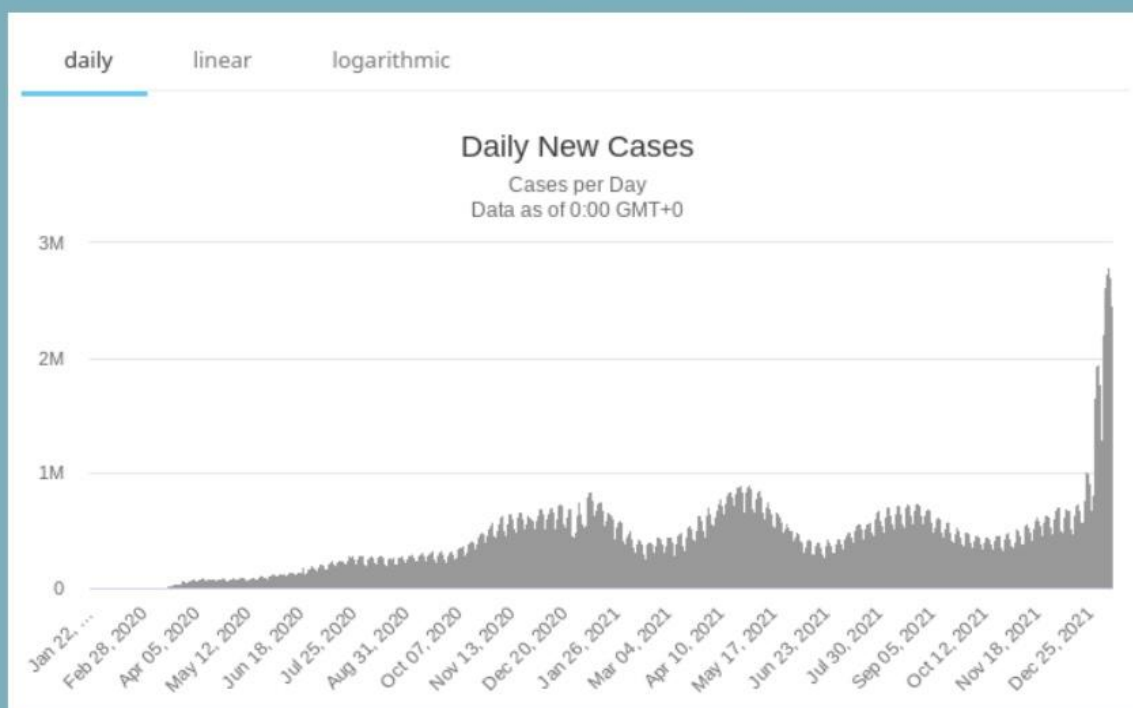
WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

THE PANTHER POST

STUDENT NEWS PAPER

One Million Cases Recorded in One Day

By: Sandra Cruz



Picture: worldometers.info/coronavirus/

The U.S. blew through global records, reporting more than 1 million diagnosed COVID-19 cases as the Omicron variant continues to drive surges. The number is also more than twice the case count reported by any other country at any time during the pandemic. The previous record was set by India, which reported more than 414,000 cases during a surge of the Delta variant in May 2021, the news outlet reported. The record comes after a holiday weekend, so a backlog of cases likely contributed to the number. Still, the U.S. is averaging about 480,000 new infections each day – the highest average ever reported. As public health experts have noted, the numbers we are seeing could also be an undercount. With so many people testing themselves at home, it is hard to capture the true number of cases. Many people are relying on at-home rapid tests, the results of which do not get automatically reported to health departments like PCR tests do. The country's devastating milestone is more than twice the case count seen anywhere else in the world.





Officials report more than 56 million coronavirus cases across the U.S. since the start of the pandemic and nearly 830,000 deaths. COVID-19 hospitalizations have surpassed 100,000 patients again, according to the latest data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Still, the massive number of cases is leading to many hospitalizations overall. A total of 1,366,754 Hoosiers have tested positive for COVID-19 since March 2020. At least nine states and Washington, DC, have reported record numbers of coronavirus-related child hospitalizations, the news outlet reported. The states are Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maine, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Washington, D.C., and Florida have had the largest jumps in new cases in the last two weeks. Covid cases increased by 902 percent in Washington in that time, while cases in Florida rose by 744 percent, according to an NBC News analysis of state and local health data. The new data comes after top US pandemic adviser Dr Anthony Fauci said the country was experiencing "almost a vertical increase" in coronavirus cases. The peak, he said, may be only weeks away. Since the start of the pandemic, the US has recorded the most Covid-19 deaths with 826,064, followed by Brazil with 619,133, India with 481,893 and Russia with 311,353. Europe, as well as the United States and Canada, are the world's infection hotspots.

The Omicron variant, the most transmissible strain to date, accounted for about 59 percent of US cases in the week ending December 25, according to government modeling. The Omicron variant appears to cause milder disease than earlier coronavirus variants, so a lower percentage of people may need to be hospitalized, USA Today reported. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) halved the isolation period for asymptomatic COVID cases to five days, in a bid to blunt mass Omicron-induced disruption as infections hit new highs in multiple states. The CDC shortened the recommended interval between the second dose and booster shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine from six months to five months. Since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020, more than 827,800 Americans have died from COVID-19. A total of 19,084 Hoosiers have died from COVID-19; that number on Friday was reported as 18,959. Another 712 "probable" deaths have occurred but a positive test is not on record. A total of 17,177,563 tests have been administered to 4,844,040 Hoosiers. Sixty-three percent of the country's population is fully vaccinated, according to Johns Hopkins data. ISDH says 8,754,651 vaccination doses have been administered to Hoosiers, and 3,584,749 Hoosiers are fully vaccinated. Though the recent spike in Covid-19 infections isn't causing the same surge in hospitalizations and deaths as the country saw earlier in the pandemic, omicron's spread has disrupted life across the country—from closed schools and shuttered offices to the breakdown of global supply chains.



The 3r's Society

By Cristal Velazquez

Every morning at Washington High School, shortly after 8:30 a.m., Mrs. Williams, along with the help of Ms. Franklin and Ms. Velazquez, make the morning announcements. These announcements include everything from upcoming school sporting events, clubs and extracurricular activities, and special announcements being made from guidance counselors/student management. On Wednesdays, an announcement is made that the Three R's Society will be picking up recycling. It is asked that teachers leave their recycling outside of their classroom due to the fact that the club begins to pick up at 3:35 p.m. This announcement is directed towards teachers, but what is the Three R's Society? What do they do? Is it a special club that is only welcoming towards some students? Is it even a club to begin with?



3 R's
Society



Love the Earth

everyday is
**EARTH
DAY**





The Three R's Society is the Recycling Club, but revised, it has been updated to include a variety of tasks. Previously at Washington High School, the Recycling Club only picked up recycling before school, once every two weeks. This was done for years, but stopped once students went virtual in the spring of 2020. When students came back to in-person classes in the fall of 2021, the club met for the first time in a year and a half and a lot was talked about. The students who met decided to talk about what could be improved and how it can be improved, one of the biggest concerns being that the recycling wasn't picked up as often as it should be. Along with this came the fact that the club used to pick up half an hour before school began, so on many occasions, teachers had not arrived yet to set their recycling out and some students couldn't even enter the building as the doors were still locked.



The decision was made to pick up every Wednesday after school in order to give teachers the opportunity to set out their recycling anytime during the day and it would be guaranteed that the recycling would be picked up. The Three R's Society has also been meeting on Thursdays after school in order to discuss fundraisers and ideas of items that can be added to the school in order to help save the planet, one step at a time. As time goes on, the club continues to grow and many ideas are in the works, ranging from getting reusable cups to adding different bins around the school. The club allows anyone to join, it doesn't matter what grade you're in, everyone is welcomed! If you wish to join, please contact the club's sponsor, Mrs. Connolly via email, jconnolly@sbcsc.k12.in.us or the club's president, Cristal Velazquez via email, cristal82350@students.sbcsc.k12.in.us



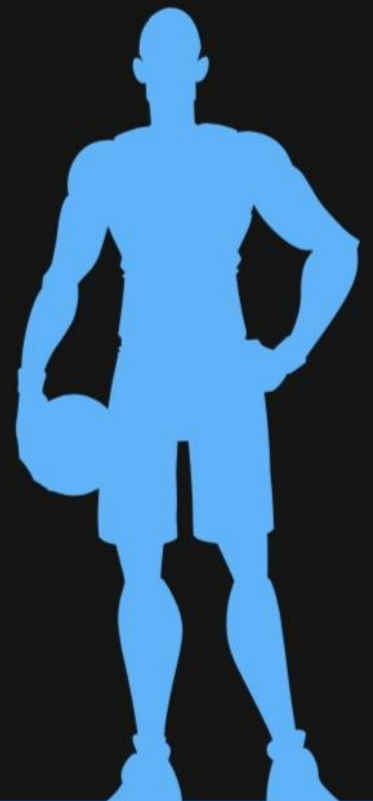
A PLAYER'S STANDPOINT:
PANTHER BOYS BASKETBALL

BY: MILA REYNOLDS



Now marks the near half way point for the 2021-2022 Indiana high school boys basketball season, and the South Bend Washington Boys Basketball team has started off pretty strong. January 6, 2022 left Washington with a win against Bremen, moving them to a 9-3 record, already giving them more wins than last year's final record of 7-17. Having faced many adversities in the past, the Panthers have persevered and decided to work harder and come closer together as a team.

"Last year, I felt like we were very young, with not enough varsity experience. This year we put in the extra work, pushing each other to get better, our bond getting better as we go," Terrence Reid explains.



Reid, who also goes by the name, "Tank", has returned this year starting varsity as a PG. Averaging 4 points and 2 assists for his sophomore season, he has jumped to averaging 10 points and 3 assists as a junior. This personal improvement has helped the Panthers in their successful season so far.



"I have not only grown as a player, but also as a young man. The coaches talk to me everyday about working hard, both on and off the court, especially in school. I have worked hard every day, sometimes even twice a day when I would workout before school, and that has put me in the position that I am in now. I am one of the leading scorers on my team, and could arguably be one of the top defenders in the city." says Reid, who also averages just under 4 steals per game.

Jawan Agnew, has also improved from averaging 5 points and 4 rebounds his junior year, to averaging 10 points and 7 rebounds in his now senior year. For Agnew, the numbers and the statistics are not the most important things to him. After losing his sister just recently, he has a completely different perspective on life, including basketball.



“Right now I am dealing with my sister's unexpected passing, but with the support from my family, my team and the community, I am going to continue to make my sister proud. I want people to remember me as a leader and as a “voice”. I want to impact and change the culture for generations to come, and not just for basketball, but for the community.” Jawan continues, *“If I could tell future basketball players one thing, I would tell them to play the game with a purpose and to have fun because those 4 years of high school go by so fast.”*



The Panthers have all faced adversity on and off the court, and having lost three games this year, that only brought them closer together. With another half of a season to go, the Panthers will only have more time to get better as a team. They will play South Bend Adams on Friday the 14th, an inner city rival game, along with the Winter Homecoming.

ARE ALL HACKERS BAD?

by Terren Leonard



Picture: protecsecuritysystems.com

Over the last 50 years hackers have advanced their methods, and developed thousands of ways to hack, or exploit. Some hackers just want to test their knowledge and find out their limits, while others have malicious intent. Those who are just testing their limits sometimes send in their code to developers, ultimately helping them further their security firewalls, and decreasing their vulnerabilities. Even if the harmless hackers do not submit their code, or inform the developers, the trace that they left behind will remain, along with small strands of code.

One of the most common methods of hacking are Denial of Service attacks, also known as DDosing. This method of hacking sends packets to someone's router, wifi network, or even website, and causes it to crash, ultimately denying their service. This method of hacking was primarily used by a group that calls themselves Lizard Squad back in 2014, and is carried on today by tens of thousands people all over the world today. Although Lizard Squad only chose to hack the PlayStation Network, their actions opened up the doors for all of the petty hackers today, such as young kids, or even angry adults. All of which are using small 5 Gb Denial of Service websites made for stressing a network, causing it to crash for a small amount of time.



An infamous hacker primarily known from his activities during the early 2000s was named Gary McKinnon. McKinnon single handedly hacked into about 100 different government computers around the United States. One of the major computers he managed to hack into was those of the pentagon, while searching for hidden information on UFOs and free energy suppression. If he had found something that was actually useful, would this information have benefited the public, or would it have sent the world into the opposite direction?

In my opinion the evolution of hacking is advancing very rapidly. Hackers are learning to hack into just about everything that has a wifi connection, or a signal in general. Whether it is your bank account, or your electronic toaster, there is always going to be a vulnerability within it that can be tested. As the age of technology advances so does the capability of exploits, even if no one is noticing the dramatic change, it is there!

**IN
REMEMBRANCE
OF MARTIN
LUTHER KING
JUNIOR: HIS
LEGACY AND
IMPACT**



EVERY HUMAN IS EQUAL

17 . 01 . 2022

By: Savannah Banks



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., BORN JANUARY 15, 1929, WOULD HAVE BEEN TURNING 93 THIS MONTH. IN HIS EARLY YEARS, MARTIN WAS KNOWN AS A MINISTER OF A BAPTIST CHURCH BY THE NAME OF "EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH." THAT WAS THE VERY CHURCH IN WHICH HIS FATHER TAUGHT AND WHERE MARTIN BEGAN HIS DUTIES AS ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST MEMORABLE CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT WAS ONE THAT WENT ON FROM 1919 TO THE LATE 1960S IN WHICH AFRICAN AMERICANS CONSTANTLY FOUND WAYS TO COMBAT THE LAWS WHICH SEGREGATED THEM FROM THE WHITE PEOPLE OF AMERICA. COMING FROM THE SOUTH, THE MORE HEAVILY SEGREGATED AND RACIST PART OF AMERICA, MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAS WELL AWARE OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE COUNTRY THOUGHT BLACKS AND WHITES SHOULD COEXIST—SEPARATELY. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT WRONG IN AMERICA, ALONG WITH OTHER AFRICAN AMERICAN ACTIVISTS, MARTIN OFFICIALLY BEGAN PARTICIPATING IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN 1955 WITH THE BUS BOYCOTT. THIS PARTICULAR PART OF THE MOVEMENT WAS WHEN AFRICAN AMERICANS REFUSED TO USE PUBLIC BUSES IN ORDER TO PROTEST THE SEGREGATION OF BLACK AND WHITE BUS PASSENGERS, IN WHICH BLACK PASSENGERS HAD TO BE SEATED IN THE BACK WHILE WHITE PASSENGERS SAT AT THE FRONT. THIS MOVEMENT LASTED A LITTLE OVER 380 DAYS WITH THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT INTEGRATING THE BUSES ON DECEMBER 21, 1956, AND STATING THAT THE SEGREGATION OF BUSES WAS UNCONSTITUTIONAL. AFTER THE BUS BOYCOTT, MARTIN TRULY BEGAN LEADING THE MOVEMENT AS THE LEADER HE IS REMEMBERED AS BY STARTING THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, ALONG WITH HIS TRUSTED FRIEND RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY. WITH THIS ORGANIZATION, IN WHICH MARTIN AND RALPH FOUNDED IN 1957, THE TWO AFRICAN AMERICAN ACTIVISTS HOPED TO ORGANIZE PROTESTS THAT WOULD ADVANCE THE RIGHTS OF BLACK PEOPLE IN AMERICA. ONE OF THE ORGANIZATION'S FIRST ACTS WAS THE CRUSADE FOR CITIZENSHIP. THE CRUSADE FOR CITIZENSHIP WAS A NONVIOLENT CAMPAIGN IN WHICH AFRICAN AMERICANS ATTEMPTED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON THE LAW WHICH PROHIBITED BLACK PEOPLE FROM VOTING. THOUGH DUE TO LACK OF SUPPORT, THE OUTCOME WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL AND DID NOT GRANT ENOUGH BLACK PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH THE RIGHT TO VOTE. FAST FORWARD TO APRIL OF 1963, THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, LED BY MARTIN AND RALPH, PERFORMED SEVERAL PROTESTS IN THE FORM OF LIBRARY SIT-INS, CHURCH KNEEL-INS, AND MARCHES ON CITY BUILDINGS ALL IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA. UNFORTUNATELY, THE NON-VIOLENT PROTESTS ENDED IN MASS ARRESTS. ON APRIL 12 THAT YEAR, MARTIN WAS ARRESTED FOR DEMONSTRATING WITHOUT A PERMIT WHILE PARTICIPATING IN AN ANTI-SEGREGATION MARCH TOWARD CITY HALL IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA. EVEN THOUGH THE END RESULT WAS PREDICTABLE FOR MARTIN, HE STILL WENT OUT TO MARCH IN ORDER TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF HIS PEOPLE. CONSIDERING THAT HIS WIFE WAS RECOVERING FROM THE BIRTH OF THEIR FOURTH CHILD AT THE TIME, THE DECISION COULD NOT HAVE BEEN EASY. FORTUNATELY, MARTIN WAS RELEASED ONLY ELEVEN DAYS LATER. LATER THAT YEAR, MARTIN PARTICIPATED IN THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON, IN WHICH AN ESTIMATED 250,000 MARCHED TO THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON D.C. TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE INTEGRATION OF AMERICA. AT THIS MOVEMENT, MARTIN DELIVERED HIS MOST RENOWNED SPEECH TITLED, "I HAVE A DREAM." THAT VERY SPEECH IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN THE TURNING POINT FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND MADE WAY FOR THE PASSING OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT IN 1964. EVEN WITH THE VICTORY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT, MARTIN DID NOT END HIS DUTIES, AS BLACK PEOPLE STILL WEREN'T GIVEN COMPLETE EQUALITY. UNFORTUNATELY, MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAS KILLED ON APRIL 4, 1968, ONLY FOUR YEARS AFTER THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT WAS PASSED. THE CAUSE BEING ASSASSINATION WITH A GUN BY 40 YEAR OLD JAMES EARL RAY.

IT HAS BEEN 51 YEARS SINCE THE PASSING OF THE LEGENDARY MINISTER AND ACTIVIST MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., AND HIS IMPACT CAN STILL BE SEEN TODAY AS PEOPLE OF ALL DIFFERENT COLORS ARE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE AND SPEAK FREELY. ALTHOUGH AMERICA IS NOT 100 PERCENT EQUAL, NO ONE CAN DENY THAT THE COUNTRY HAS COME FAR, AND THAT MARTIN PLAYED A ROLE IN THAT PROGRESS. AS GENERATIONS LEARN ABOUT AFRICAN AMERICANS' STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY AND PEACE, MARTIN WILL ALWAYS BE AN IMPORTANT ACTIVIST TO MENTION AS HIS DUTIES TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, AND TODAY'S WORLD, MADE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.



In the Remembrance of Martin Luther King Junior: His Legacy and Impact

By Savannah Banks

Martin Luther King Jr., born January 15, 1929, would have been turning 93 this month. In his early years, Martin was known as a minister of a Baptist church by the name of "Ebenezer Baptist Church." That was the very church in which his father taught and where Martin began his duties as one of America's most memorable civil rights activists. The Civil Rights Movement was one that went on from 1919 to the late 1960s in which African Americans constantly found ways to combat the laws which segregated them from the white people of America.

Coming from the South, the more heavily segregated and racist part of America, Martin Luther King Jr. was well aware of the way in which the country thought blacks and whites should coexist- separately. Acknowledging that wrong in America, along with other African American activists, Martin officially began participating in the civil rights movement in 1955 with the bus boycott. This particular part of the movement was when African Americans refused to use public buses in order to protest the segregation of black and white bus passengers, in which black passengers had to be seated in the back while white passengers sat at the front. This movement lasted a little over 380 days with the United States Supreme Court integrating the buses on December 21, 1956, and stating that the segregation of buses was unconstitutional.

After the bus boycott, Martin truly began leading the movement as the leader he is remembered as by starting the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, along with his trusted friend Ralph David Abernathy. With this organization, in which Martin and Ralph founded in 1957, the two African American activists hoped to organize protests that would advance the rights of black people in America. One of the organization's first acts was the Crusade for Citizenship. The Crusade for Citizenship was a nonviolent campaign in which African Americans attempted to communicate with the government on the law which prohibited black people from voting. Though due to lack of support, the outcome was not successful and did not grant enough black people in the South the right to vote. Fast Forward to April of 1963, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, led by Martin and Ralph, performed several protests in the form of library sit-ins, church kneel-ins, and marches on city buildings all in Birmingham, Alabama.

Unfortunately, the non-violent protests ended in mass arrests. On April 12 that year, Martin was arrested for demonstrating without a permit while participating in an anti-segregation march toward city hall in Birmingham, Alabama. Even though the end result was predictable for Martin, he still went out to march in order to fight for the rights of his people. Considering that his wife was recovering from the birth of their fourth child at the time, the decision could not have been easy. Fortunately, Martin was released only eleven days later. Later that year, Martin participated in the March on Washington, in which an estimated 250,000 marched to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. to show support for the integration of America.

At this movement, Martin delivered his most renowned speech titled, "I Have a Dream." That very speech is said to have been the turning point for the Civil Rights Movement and made way for the passing of the Civil Rights Act in 1964. Even with the victory of the Civil Rights Act, Martin did not end his duties, as black people still weren't given complete equality. Unfortunately, Martin Luther King Jr. was killed on April 4, 1968, only four years after the Civil Rights Act was passed. The cause being assassination with a gun by 40 year old James Earl Ray.

It has been 51 years since the passing of the legendary minister and activist Martin Luther King Jr., and his impact can still be seen today as people of all different colors are able to communicate and speak freely. Although America is not 100% equal, no one can deny that the country has come far, and that Martin played a role in that progress. As generations learn about African Americans' struggle for equality and peace, Martin will always be an important activist to mention as his duties to the Civil Rights Movement, and today's world, made a significant impact.

An illustration of a hand holding a microphone. The hand is rendered in a stylized, blocky manner with a reddish-brown color. It is gripping a black microphone with a silver, spherical, grid-patterned head. The hand is wearing a white shirt cuff and a dark suit jacket. The background is a solid dark blue color.

"I Have A Dream...."

Girls Basketball Senior Night



Class Of 2022

