

# Blue & White

A Weekly Production from the MHS Journalism Class

P.O. Box 580-Montezuma, IA 50171- [www.montezuma-schools.org/BlueWhite.aspx](http://www.montezuma-schools.org/BlueWhite.aspx)

## A Scientific Issue, Not a Political One

A feature on the Earth's changing climate.

By Chase Talbert

A couple weeks ago it was over 50 degrees in Montezuma, Iowa during mid-January. You can dismiss this as circumstantial evidence, but the changes being seen across the Earth cannot be. This isn't a political issue, this is a scientific issue that we can only fix if we unite together to solve a problem that will, and is at this moment affecting everyone.

Before the evidence is presented, let's think about this a moment. If nearly 30,000 of the world's scientists can agree that this is a very real and very threatening issue, for people whose job is to prove each other wrong that should be a big enough sign for deniers.

If the agreement of tens of thousands of the Earth's brightest minds isn't enough to make you believe, how about we get to the numbers. Scientists at NASA have calculated that the speed of climate change, while occurring at ten times the normal speed of post ice age recovery temperatures, has a probability of over 95% that

it is being caused by the people who call it home.

The temperature of the Earth has been slowly increasing since the late 1800s most of the increases have occurred in the last 35 years. Since the late 1800s and especially the last four decades, the temperature of the Earth has been increasing by two degrees fahrenheit a year.

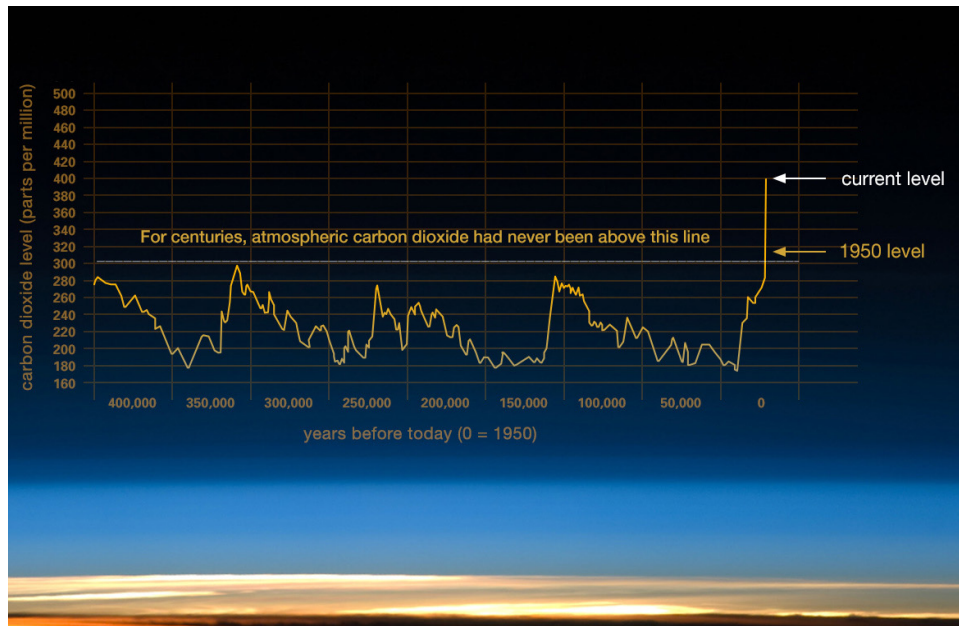
The land isn't the only place that has been seeing a rise in temperature in the last few centuries, the oceans as well have become .302 degrees hotter, which seems like nothing compared to two or even a degree a year, but to the fish it could be the difference between life and death.

Rising temperatures on land and sea, what's the big deal if it gets a few degrees warmer in the winter and the summer, where's the harm in that? Well, when the temperatures go up, the ice in Antarctica, Greenland, and the North Pole all melt. The more the ice melts, the more the water goes into the ocean, and the more water in the ocean the higher water levels are gonna get.

In the last century, the sea level rose by eight inches, and in only the first 20 years of this century the sea levels are rising at twice the rate they were during the 1900s. The current Earth is hospitable for now, but will it be for our great grandchildren or their children, if we can fix it now why wouldn't we?

Our problems, much like the problems of our planet at the moment, will not go away unless we are willing to do something about them. So, carpool with people if you're going to the same place, walk somewhere if it's close enough, and don't keep lights on when you aren't in a room.

There are tons of other ways to help reduce our impact on the Earth, but we must all give a little in order to get anything from our efforts. This is our world and we must take responsibility for our actions and although the Earth will survive regardless of how drastic the climate changes, if we want to remain on the place we call home something's gotta give.



**A LOOK AT THE DATA:** The above graph shows atmospheric carbon dioxide levels for millenia. Until recent history, the level has never been above 300 parts per million. Since 1950, the level has spiked to over 400 parts per million. Carbon dioxide is a plentiful greenhouse gas in the atmosphere.

Graph credit: Vostok ice core data/J.R. Petit et al.; NOAA Mauna Loa CO2 record.

## MHS Students Working Hard: A Feature on Student Jobs



**WORKING HARD?** Freshman Brian Diaz perches upon his lawn mower, checking his phone. While he is not working at Yolanda's Tacos, Diaz mows lawns in town upon request.

Photo courtesy of Maria Pedroza

By Brayden Stockman

High school is the time that many people first start working, and this is very true for the students at Montezuma High School. Whether they work in town or outside, many get their first job during their career as an MHS student.

One student who works a job for a smaller business in Montezuma is sophomore Blake Stone, who is a dishwasher at Sauce'd, the local restaurant. He doesn't work specific hours, instead working whenever he can, but it's not because he hates his job. He says that he really enjoys the job except for, as he puts it, "Dealing with angry customers that don't understand our struggle." In the future, he plans on working in technology or music.

One student who has a different type of job is sophomore Preston Hirsch, who is not employed by a company but works for homeowners at the lake as a landscaper. "I work from the summer to the end of fall. I usually finish up yards on the weekends," said Hirsch, who lives and works at Lake Ponderosa. He mostly mows lawns,

but he sometimes shovels snow during the winter.

While he says that he enjoys what he does, he also wishes he had a mower with a larger deck so he could mow yards more efficiently. "The hardest part of the job is packing up vehicles such as a lawn mower or a weed wacker on the trailer," said Hirsch. In the future, he plans on going into a field related to technology or music.

Brian Diaz, a freshman, is slightly different, as he works with his parents during the summer at the local taco truck Yolanda's Tacos. He says he enjoys working at the truck, stating, "I like getting to know many people and

learn business skills for the future." He says he believes that the hardest part of the job is his hours, which can sometimes be from sunup to sundown. In the future, he plans on working with technology. He also mows yards around towns by request.

While students may be working different jobs, they are still learning important skills to use for their future, even if their current job is different from what they plan to do. Getting a job in high school allows them to hone their skills over a longer period of time, so that they can be the best possible after their school career.

### Missed an issue? No problem!

The Blue & White is now online.

Go to [www.montezuma-schools.org/BlueWhite.aspx](http://www.montezuma-schools.org/BlueWhite.aspx) to see our previous issues!

## What's coming up for Montezuma Speech & Drama

By Carrie Jennings

The 2018 Speech and Drama is really beginning to take off with the Large Group State event taking place on February 3rd and the Individual Districts event happening on February 24th at Tri-County.

The Montezuma Speech participants are hard at work getting ready for their events especially the ones who are participating in both events.

Large group and individual Speech are quite different. Of course, they are different in size; large group, naturally, is performed by a group of people while individual is performed by a single student.

The categories are also different. Musical Theater, Improv, Radio Broadcasting, and Mime can be done as a group or as an individual, but there are many categories solely for large group or individual.

For example, Poetry and Storytelling are two categories in individual, and One Act Play and

Short Film are two categories in large group.

Practices tend to be different, too. Practices for large group events are typically done with all or most of your group with your coach.

However, practices for individual events are sometimes done with the other members of your category or a similar category (such as Literary Program and Prose) and your coach or by yourself at home.

While there are a handful of students who solely do group or individual events for Speech, most actually enjoy participating in both. However, like anything, they typically have a favorite.

Mariah Seaton, sophomore, enjoys individual contest the most because "you don't have to worry about anyone else and whether they come to practice or not. You just have to worry about yourself."

Senior Ashley Armstrong agrees with Seaton wholeheartedly. "I

like not having to rely on team members all the time," she says.

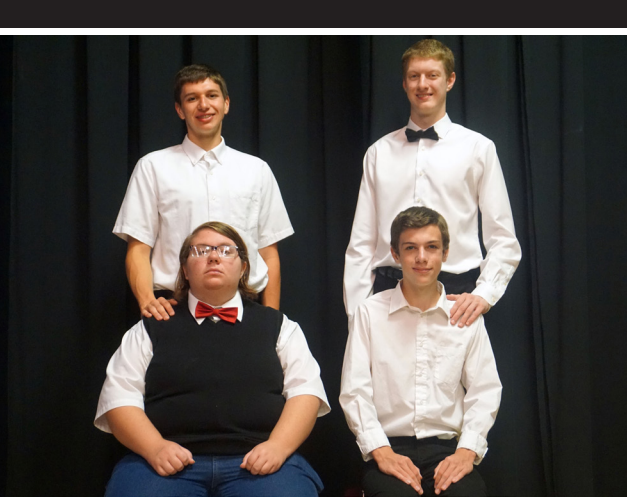
Shelby Helm, senior, however, has a different point of view. She states that she likes large group because "you have more minds to collaborate with when picking and practicing a piece."

Junior Koby Shoemaker is one of the outliers in stating that he enjoys both individual and group Speech equally. "I like the interaction you have in large group," he explains, "but I also like having no one [potentially] holding me back in individual."

All in all, large group and individual Speech both have their advantages and perks, so whether you like one or the other, you should always be sure to go and watch the Speech events.

Individual Districts will be at Tri-County of February 24th; be sure to cheer them on.

## The Blue and White Staff



## Calendar of Events

**Thursday**  
No Activities

**Friday**  
JV/V Boys BB vs ICA: Here - 6:00 pm

**Saturday**  
District Wrestling Meet @ TBA - 12:00 pm

**Monday**  
No Activities

**Tuesday**  
V Girls BB Quarterfinals: Here - 7:00 pm

**Wednesday**  
No Activities

**Thursday**  
V Boys BB Quarterfinals @ TBA State Wrestling Tournament @ Wells Fargo Arena