



“But, first let me take a selfie!” These famous song lyrics can definitely apply to today’s news topic. Recently the internet blew up with a cuddly creature known as the Quokka. The Quokka is an animal known to inhabit Australia and belongs to the marsupial family (like kangaroos and wallabies). Born with very adorable looks, the Quokka had made its way into the human world as the first “selfie animal.” That’s right! Apparently, the Quokka is

completely fearless of people and takes wonderful pictures with tourists who visit Australia. Furthermore, it can take selfies and even “smile” at the camera. Images on the internet are available to see these cute pictures. The best part is that the Quokka is completely harmless to humans and is even considered vulnerable. Unfortunately, there are some people who are willing to take advantage of this factor.

Sadly, recent events unveiled that two French tourists had abused the poor animal. As stated in NewsChannel 4, the two men visiting Australia “sprayed an aerosol can and lit” the creature on fire. A video of this exists online where this action is clearly shown, accompanied with the two men’s sadistic laughter in the background. After uploading the video, the two men received harsh backlash from people who had viewed it. This incident alerted the authorities and the two men were arrested. Although they claimed that no harm was intended, the court fined them with \$4,000 for animal cruelty. Punishment well deserved, the two were proven guilty and have hopefully learned their lesson.

Although, the Quokka was indeed burned it did not receive any severe injuries, and is currently recovering. This story can serve as a reminder to have respect towards all living creatures. Such irrational behavior is wrong, especially if it is targeted against something so small. The Quokka is a common mammal, but if people continue treating it that way, it may one day become extinct. People should embrace its trust to us, and handle it with care. This message applies for everything around us. So let’s cherish all things in our lives and mark my words, they’ll be around for a long time. And with Earth Day here, now is the perfect time to start caring about the wildlife. Go outside and clean the world, help its creatures, and be sure to enjoy the wonderful beauty of nature. With that said, next time you visit Australia be sure to stop by one of the Quokkas and take a lovely selfie! *By: Ekaterina Zelenin*



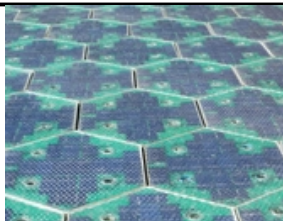
Why Worry About Two Degrees?

The year is 2045. Where you are living, there is extreme drought. You have to travel 20 miles just to get water. According to recent data collected by environmentalists, this might be the unfortunate reality. CNN columnist John D. Sutter states, “... one tiny little number – 2 degrees. It may be the most important number you’ve never heard of.” He said that on average, if we raise the earth’s temperature by two degrees Celsius, we would cause a major catastrophe. Recent temperature data that has been taken show that earth’s average temperature is rising at an almost exponential rate!

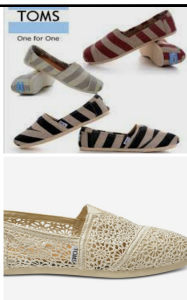
The good news: we can change the direction of this trend by drastically reducing carbon emissions. China is one of the leading contributors to Greenhouse emissions by cutting down vital forests. United Nations leaders will meet this December in Paris to talk about this issue. Katharine Hayhoe, an atmospheric scientist compares this conflict to smoking. The more we smoke, the more our health deteriorates. This is also true for greenhouse emissions... *(Visit the website to finish reading about climate change)* -Rohit M.

Solar Roadways - Is it Possible???

We’ve all seen solar panels, and know what they are. Daily, many of these produce energy all around the world, and even our school uses them to generate energy. Recently, a couple from Idaho had thought of a new idea – What if we made our roadways solar panels?



Now, this concept is being debated by people all over the country. One side of the discussion claims that this idea of solar roadways is definitely possible, and that the roads of the United States can be turned into solar roadways. On the other hand, many people believe that having solar roadways is not possible and that there are reasons that limit these solar-panel roads... *(Continued online) - Andy B. Visit the webpage to read more about this topic.*



Spring into fashion IT'S SPRING! The last thing you want to be wearing in this heat is hot fuzzy boots. Why not wear a pair of Toms? When you purchase a pair of Toms shoes you support improved health and an education for children who can't afford it. Also if you purchase a pair of Toms they will send a pair of shoes for a child who doesn't have any shoes. Toms are helping children around the world, but they are also very stylish and this season's top new trend. *The link is posted on the website www.actionnews.weebly.com/fashion -R&A*



A.W. ACTION NEWS



AUTISM AWARENESS



For the people who don't know what Autism is: It is a complex disorder that affects the brain development which can be shown in social interaction, verbal and

nonverbal communication and repetitive behavior. Autism has different levels known as the Autism Spectrum - it states the range of conditions from high to low in the brain's function. 1 out of 88 American children have this condition. Symptoms can be found at the age of 2. There are treatments to help people with this condition in order to help them live a better life. Treatments often include counseling and for parents and siblings on how to live with an Autistic sibling.

April is Autism Awareness Month. Look around at all of the blue in the school today, and you'll see supporters of Autism. The New Jersey Devils team also supports Autistic kids who play hockey. Remember "Never judge a book by its cover," those children with autism are certainly worth getting to know! -Supritaa M.S. with support from Raquel S.

SCHOOL MUSICAL!

April 17th and 18th
AWMS presented

"Legally Blonde Jr." for their 10th annual spring musical on Friday, April 17. It was a fun, quirky, energetic, and comedic



musical. The musical revolved around the main character, Elle Woods (played by Laura Cardona) who goes to Harvard Law School to win her boyfriend back. However in the process she learns that she really wants to be a lawyer and there is more to her than just a pretty face. She also realizes that she has to work hard to make it. Laura did a terrific job playing Elle Woods and she looked great in pink.

The supporting cast was excellent, especially Isabelle Thomas, who played Paulette, Zachary Blumenstyk who played the UPS man, Timothy Thompson who played professor Callahan, and Luke Berninger who played Elle's guide and love interest Emmett Forrest. The whole cast did an outstanding job. The background sets definitely added to the atmosphere. Mrs. Valencia, Mr. Grant Ms. Cofone, Mr. Heinbockel, Mr. Mecca, and Mr. Pandolfi did a great job putting this production together. Legally Blonde was definitely a hit with its audience members!!

- Tina Mehta

No More Phone Chargers? Imagine you were lost in the woods.

All alone, with nothing but your phone. But, lo and behold, you are running dangerously low on charge. Sooner or later, you're going to completely run out of juice, and then you'll be utterly stranded from all civilization. Well, fear no more. Recently, researchers working at Michigan State University have finally created a, "completely transparent luminescent solar contractor." To simplify that, they pretty much created a solar panel that is fit for a mobile device, like an iPhone.



Congrats to the School-wide Competition Winner: Jimmy G. from 7th grade!

Visit room 208 for your prize. Everyone else stay tuned for future challenges like this one.



EARTH DAY

Although it is still being tested, and a prototype is currently being developed, the researchers goal is to be able to put these solar panels, or have them built into, newer phones. Then, they can gather energy from the sun and use it to power the phones. Just think, you would never have to hear, "I'm running out of charge!" or "My phone died!" ever again. People would not need to carry chargers, or buy excessively expensive "charging cases" in hopes that they will get at least a few more minutes added to their phones battery life. No more clogs by the wall outlets, no more charging your phone in the car, and no more broken chargers. The worlds would be more eco-friendly, reducing our carbon-footprint immensely.

Not only would this invention better people's lives, but then Earth would thank us as well. Over the past hundred years, we have made so many changes to the Earth's ecosystems, from air pollution to global warming to eradicating entire forests, we have certainly left our mark on the world. However, now that we have done so much to destroy the Earth, we should start to think about shifting to cleaner energy sources that will not be as detrimental to our environment. This past Wednesday was Earth Day, but that doesn't mean that you can't still do something today, or even tomorrow. Get out with your friends, start a garden, plant trees, volunteer at local charities or organizations dedicated to helping clean up the Earth. Remember, it's Earth Day every day! By: Jeyda Birson