

# The Redbird Word.

"If I am not safe in Alton, I shall not be safe anywhere." - Lovejoy

VOLUME 92 - NO. 3

ALTON ILLINOIS, NOVEMBER, 2019.

Elijah P. Lovejoy Memorial Issue



Photo Courtesy of "NATIONAL ABOLITION HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM"

A Drawing of Elijah P. Lovejoy

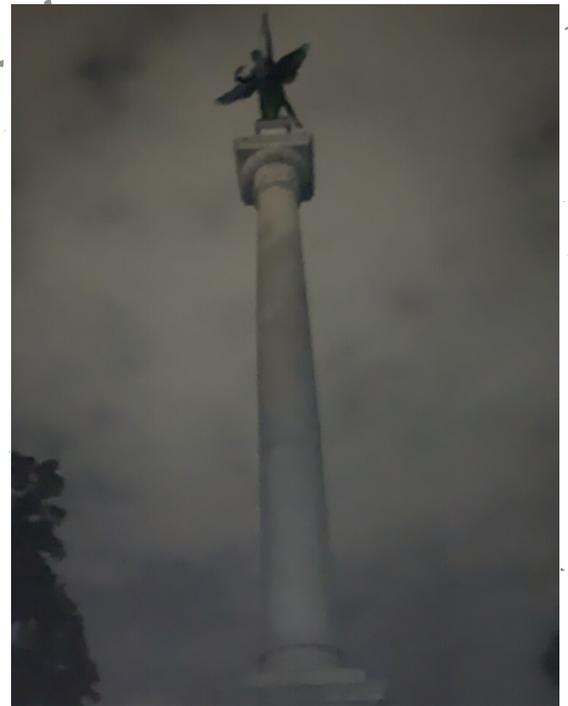


Photo by Skye Murphy

Elijah P. Lovejoy Monument at the Alton Cemetery

## Remembering Lovejoy

Alton Cemetery- November 9, 1935 service will take place at The Alton Cemetery.

Obituary- Elijah P. Lovejoy, born in Albion, Maine on November 9, 1802. Lovejoy died on November 7, 1837 at age 35, at the Observer Press Warehouse in Alton Illinois, during a dispute with a pro-slavery mob. Lovejoy graduated from Waterville College, and lead College Avenue Presbyterian Church. He started "The Alton Observer" press, and worked persistently against slavery. He protected his work and ideals on freedom till his death.

- Cover made by Skye Murphy, Assistant Editor

**"The Alton Observer" Attacked** the man died thirty minutes after the shot. There were two occasions of use of torches with purpose of lighting the warehouse on fire. Ladders were placed on the building and Mr. Lovejoy was shot while he made attempts to remove them. "My God. I am shot." Were Lovejoy's last reported words from witnesses. His body was not removed from the crime scene until the morning after.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Alton Illinois - after the shot. There were two occasions of use of torches with purpose of lighting the warehouse on fire. Ladders were placed on the building and Mr. Lovejoy was shot while he made attempts to remove them. "My God. I am shot." Were Lovejoy's last reported words from witnesses. His body was not removed from the crime scene until the morning after.

November 7, 1837 Elijah P. Lovejoy was shot in the chest by a man armed with a shotgun, defending The Alton Observer. Early this morning an anti-abolitionist mob approached Withrop Gilman, and Mr. Lovejoy's warehouse for The Alton Observer press. Lovejoy had previously created a militia, consisted of 20 armed men. The situation quickly escalated from stone-throwing to reported shots fired. A young carpenter is reported shot by one of Lovejoy's militia men,

### A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Many may not know, but the month of November is one to remember and honor the birth and death of Elijah P. Lovejoy. Lovejoy was a resident of Illinois from 1836 until his premature death in 1837. He was a journalist who stood for the truth and the editor of the Alton Observer (previously the St. Louis Observer). He was an abolitionist and a minister, so his editorials featuring his anti-slavery views and Bible quotes sparked a lot of anger. However, even with the negative reactions to his paper, Elijah Lovejoy refused to print anything he did not believe to be true or moral. He did have many followers in Illinois, a free state, but plenty of residents were still pro-slavery. In response to his paper, an angry mob threw three of Lovejoy's presses into the Mississippi River. This didn't stop Lovejoy, though. He ordered new presses and hid them in a warehouse in order to continue printing his paper. This act, however, led to his murder on November 9, 1837. In honor of a true journalist, the staff of the Redbird Word has dedicated our November issue to Elijah P. Lovejoy. This issue features people doing good in our community and doing what is right, as well as featured local items or events dedicated to Lovejoy. We even went as far as to incorporate the style of the Alton Observer into the Redbird Word. We are very proud of this issue, and hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoyed making it.

*Leanne Bagent*  
*Editor-in-Chief*

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**Ahmad Chapman**

### Editor of the Month



**Thomas Drake**

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## Senior Teaches Dance to Young Children

By Jaylah Crawford, Reporter

Olivia McAfoos is a senior at Alton High who teaches younger children how to dance. McAfoos has been dancing since she was 13-years-old and started at Showtime Productions in Alton.

Dancing hasn't just taught McAfoos moves, but it helped her learn about herself too. McAfoos said dancing has taught her to learn her self worth and helped build up confidence. "I have pushed myself beyond points I thought I couldn't and it gave me strength," said McAfoos.

When it comes to dancing, McAfoos said you must have a lot of patience. She has also learned that every little detail in dancing makes everything feel so real.

However, McAfoos spends most of her free time going to the studio to help children. She may help them with new dances that they have just learned or work with them while they are on school break. Every time she goes to the studio, she is working with a child.

Throughout the week, McAfoos attends the studio four times. She attends Dazzle Dance Company which is located in Bethalto. The only time she has time for dance is outside of school.

There are expectations that McAfoos said she hopes that each child follows. She hopes that each child she works with learns to become more patient when learning new things. "It isn't the easiest to pick skills up," stated McAfoos. She believes that as long as you stay focused and have a positive attitude towards everything that you do, it will lean toward improvement in each dance.



Senior, Olivia McAfoos  
Photo Courtesy of O. McAfoos

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## Senior Athlete Impacts the Community

By Dominique Reinier, Reporter

Have you ever volunteered just because it has made you happy? Have you volunteered because it could really help your future? Well, this athlete does both. Lauren Weiner, a senior cheerleader and pole vault for the track team at AHS, spends most of her time helping the community by volunteering at local hospitals.

This past summer, she started volunteering at hospitals on her own, but ever since she was little, her family has been volunteering together. Weiner also helps with basketball by participating as a scorekeeper.



Senior, Lauren Weiner  
Photo Courtesy of L.  
Weiner

### Boys Varsity Soccer Player Making a Change Outside of the Game

By Princella Hayes, Sports Editor



Senior, Braden Schrimpf  
Photo Courtesy of B. Schrimpf

Weiner says she wants to work in the medical field, so volunteering at hospitals has allowed her to get a lot of exposure and an idea of what her future could entail.

Weiner knows that she is going to pursue a career as a pediatrician when she gets older. "I wanted to keep going back and volunteering at the hospital because I enjoyed it and loved getting to be in the hospital environment," said Weiner. Weiner said when you volunteer you are doing good for others and the community around you, which gives you a genuine feeling of accomplishment. Being a volunteer can also give a sense of pride and identity.

Weiner acknowledges that after high school she plans to continue volunteering. She said she is continuously happy during her volunteering hours and feels even better afterward. "I want people to know that volunteering can be really fun and rewarding. I believe that every person should have some experience with volunteer work to see all of the good it can do," said Weiner.

Senior Braden Schrimpf has been playing soccer for as long as he can remember, starting at the young age of three-years-old. While he's been taking the soccer world by storm, he's decided to step outside of the game. On Schrimpf's free time, he likes to volunteer.

The Community Hope Center was opened in Cottage Hills in 1988 by Leameal and Crystal Davis. The organization is able to stay up and running with its overwhelming amount of volunteers which equals over 170. The main goal of the center is to help the people in the community that endure financial hardships with necessities such as their soup kitchen, toiletries, grooming and other services all for free.

At the center, Schrimpf does a number of things. He helps prepare and give meals in the soup kitchen, along with preparing and transporting food boxes for the people who need them. In the process, he's learned how to make a killer grilled cheese that he loves to share with the patrons of the center.

Volunteering has opened the eyes of Schrimpf and he feels as if it has made him a better person overall.

"I really appreciate what I have, and the way I interact with people has totally changed, I feel like I'm just a nicer person now. It's great," said Schrimpf.

Schrimpf encourages all people to volunteer because he feels it is a humbling experience that everyone should have. He also would like to participate in more projects in the near future and maybe even start some of his own.



Senior, Anzaria Simon posing with her 'little sister' Sophomore Desiree Petty.

Photo by P. Hayes

## Cheerleaders Welcome the Underclassmen as Sisters

By Lily Hilterbrand and Princella Hayes, Editors

Mentors are those we look up to in order to guide us in the right direction. Often times, they're our own peers. The cheerleaders of Alton High have created an uplifting environment, with upperclassmen taking leadership roles to help out incoming cheerleaders.

Senior Anzaria Simon has been the big sister of sophomore Desiree Petty for almost three years. During their time shared together, they have both benefited from the program. Not only does it help them with cheer, but also with their overall high school experience.

"It makes you closer with the underclassmen and other new people, because without it I may not even have talked to them," said Simon. Also, with being a big sister, she has influenced Petty and has prepared her for becoming a big sister.

Petty said she is looking forward to carrying on the traditions that have been passed down to her and creating her own to pass down to her future little sisters. This program helped her coming into high school and making friends, and she hopes to have the same effect on others.

LOVEJOY LEAVES LASTING LEGACY

By Thomas Drake, Web Editor

# ELIJAH P. LOVEJOY TIMELINE

1802

BORN ON NOVEMBER 9TH, 1802.

1826

GRADUATED COLBY COLLEGE

1831

STUDIES AT PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SUMMARY IN NEW JERSEY

Elijah P. Lovejoy is one of the most-overlooked heroes of America. Lovejoy was born in the town of Albion, Maine on Nov. 9, 1802. His mother was a homemaker and his father was a minister who would raise him and his siblings to be educated young men. Lovejoy would attend Waterville College, which later became Colby. According to Colby's Website, he was the class poet and valedictorian. Lovejoy graduated in 1826 at the age of 24. He hoped to become a teacher, but he was unsuccessful in finding work in New England.

In 1827 Lovejoy found himself in St.Louis with little money and not knowing anyone in the bustling city. He briefly taught school, but he lost interest in teaching and moved to New Jersey in 1831 to study at Princeton Theological Seminary. He returned to Missouri as a minister in 1833.

According to altonweb.com, Lovejoy became a pastor of the Des Peres Presbyterian Church and started a religious newspaper called the St. Louis Observer. The Observer aimed to promote religious and moral education for St. Louis. The editorials that Lovejoy wrote gained attention. The site, St. Louis Media History, indicates the first issue of St. Louis Observer came out on Nov. 22, 1833.

Lovejoy was an abolitionist, so his editorials were largely anti-slavery. With Missouri being a slave state, many people didn't agree. He did have some supporters, but those who were pro-slavery despised him for his views. "Being a portal of the underground railroad, Lovejoy opened the eyes of a lot of people in the area about the horrors of slavery," said history teacher David Hurley.

The locals harassed him constantly for his newspaper. His house was burglarized and printing press destroyed in July 1836 by a mob. Lovejoy moved to Alton to get away from the harassment.

Even though Illinois was a free state, some citizens were pro slavery. Freed slaves or escapees weren't safe. "He was one of the leading voices of the time speaking against slavery in Illinois. And the fact that Missouri is so close makes it a hot topic," said history teacher Matthew Claxton.

He started the Alton Observer in 1836. The Observer would publish stories of the local news and national news. Lovejoy continued to write editorials on religion and his abolitionist views. He was also an active supporter of the Anti-Slavery Society of Illinois.

Lovejoy's activism gained support, but was also heavily opposed by the citizens of Alton. Three presses of his were destroyed and thrown into the river. Lovejoy ordered a new press and had it installed in a warehouse on Nov. 7, 1837. To protect the press, Lovejoy got 20 of his friends and their guns to make a militia.

A mob formed outside of the warehouse and set a fire to burn Lovejoy and his friends out. The owner of the warehouse, William S. Gilman said to the mob, "We have no ill feelings toward, any of you and should much regret to do any injury; but we are authorized by the Mayor to defend our property and shall do so with our lives."

When the mob fired into the warehouse, the militia returned fire, killing one person. The mob tried to burn the roof of the warehouse and smoke the militia out. They put ladders against the house and climbed up. Lovejoy noticed and threw the ladders back down with a militia man. Lovejoy was shot trying to remove a ladder. According to altonweb.com, "He died in the arms of his friend Thaddeus Hurlbut." Lovejoy was laid to rest on Nov. 9, 1837 in an unmarked grave. He died just two days before he would have turned thirty five. In 1857, Abraham Lincoln wrote a letter emphasizing the importance of Lovejoy's actions. "Lovejoy's tragic death for freedom in every sense marked his sad ending as the most important single event that ever happened in the new world," wrote Lincoln.

Even though his death was tragic, it sparked a new era for America. "Lovejoy put Alton on the map because he was the first white man to die to get rid of slavery. He was a martyr for the cause," said history teacher Todd Fortschneider. The popularity of the abolitionist movement increased, and across the nation ideas of statewide emancipation started. Lovejoy's legacy lives on locally. Lovejoy Elementary School, Lovejoy Library at SIUE, and especially the Lovejoy Memorial, which was built in honor of him thirty years after his death, honor his memory.

## ELIJAH P. LOVEJOY TIMELINE

1833

RETURNS TO ST. LOUIS.  
STARTS THE ST. LOUIS  
OBSERVER ON NOVEMBER  
22ND.

1836

MOVES TO  
ALTON AND  
PUBLISHES  
THE ALTON  
OBSERVER

1837

LOVEJOY WAS KILLED  
BY A MOB ON NOVEMBER  
7TH. WAS BURIED  
ON NOVEMBER 9TH.

## St. Baldricks raises funds to fight cancer

By Caroline Hussey,  
Reporter

Oct. 31 was a special day, not just because of Halloween, but because of a special event that took place at Alton High School. St. Baldricks is a non-profit organization that helps to raise funds to find the cure to cancer. To do this, volunteers raise money by asking for donations and in turn they will shave their heads.

Alton High School has been a participant in this organization for many years now. Twenty "shavees" were able to raise over \$7,000 to help fight cancer, and students got to watch and cheer on their peers in the gymnasium. The students all bought \$1 tickets with those funds also going to the organization.

At the event, students who paid for tickets walked into gymnasium and were greeted with energetic music and a stage decorated in green and white balloons, the organizations colors. At various times during the event, student volunteers threw green frisbees, bracelets, and beads into the crowd so that the students could also show their support against cancer.



Shavees show off their new bald heads Picture by L. Bagent

Before the shaving commenced, the head of the organization at Alton High made an announcement that got lots of cheers from the crowd. In the last three years, Alton High alone has raised over \$100,000.

Shavees then took to the stage. Each were handed a sign with their name on and was greeted by a stylist from various businesses in Alton, which Belcher informed the crowd had all volunteered in the last 48 hours.

Many of the shavees seemed nervous. Shavee Natalie Boyles even got a little emotional.

"It's just a big deal for a teenage girl to cut off all her hair I guess," Boyles said. But that didn't stop her. "I decided to do this for Mrs. Birch, she just got diagnosed with breast cancer and I wanted to do it in her honor."

Students shaving their heads in honor of a friend or family seemed to be common among the shavees. Shavee Evan Valladares said, "I just really think it's a good cause and my grandpa died from cancer a few years ago so I guess it's just in memory of him."



Grant Lockheart gets his head shaved.  
Picture by L. Bagent

## Lovejoy Music Festival showcases young performers

By Leanne Bagent, Editor-in-Chief

The town of Alton does many things to honor Elijah P. Lovejoy, one example is the annual Lovejoy Music Festival held at Lovejoy Elementary School. Chris Jarden, an Alton School District band teacher and the director of the Alton High Jazz Band, said, "This event occurs every single year, on the first Thursday in November, if I'm not mistaken." This year the festival was held on November 7. It featured music groups from all grade levels of Alton students. Fifth grade choir from West Elementary, the Alton Middle School honors choir, AHS Chamber Singers, the AHS Symphonic Orchestra, and the AHS Jazz Band performed at music event. "We get representation from the entire music department and all grade levels at this concert," said Jarden.



Alton High School Chamber Singers perform.

Photo Courtesy of A. Gray



Laura Plummer conducts Alton High School Symphonic Orchestra.

Photo by C. Hussey

### ABOB Supports Young Musicians

By Chloe Bayer, Reporter and Leanne Bagent, EIC

The Alton Band and Orchestra Builders (ABOB) partners with the Alton School District to provide music, equipment, and instruments for band and orchestra students of all ages. ABOB has supported the Alton music program for over 60 years. This important organization is entirely run by band and orchestra parents who volunteer their time. Bruce Wagner is the head of ABOB.

ABOB hosts fundraisers such as selling brooms, cups, pastries, and pizzas, as well as hosting two vendor fairs a year and 'Dine-Out for ABOB' nights. These dine-out nights are when local businesses, such as Shivers' or Olga's, agree to donate a percentage of their profit on certain nights to ABOB.

"I like the fundraisers, and I feel like a lot of people in the community also like the fundraisers, they really like when we sell the brooms I don't know what it is about the brooms but they are cheap and durable and people in the community really like them," head drum major Aslyn Keith said.

ABOB fundraises and donates their time to the Alton School District in order to make sure the music program has enough funding and volunteers to keep the program running. Keith said, "We raise money so we can buy new uniforms, new instruments, show music, and stuff that the whole music program needs."

The Alton Band and Orchestra Builders is an organization based solely on making sure Alton's music students are receiving opportunities that other school music programs don't have.





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### Local Journalist Seeks the Truth

By Paige Marquis, Reporter, Leanne Bagent, EIC, Lily Hilterbrand, Editor, Summer Murphy, AE

Cory Davenport has always known he wanted to be a writer since he was in high school. Around the age of 21, he realized that he should be a reporter. Davenport has worked at Riverbender.com and The Telegraph. He wanted a change, so now he has his own online media outlet, The Sunken Press.

Greatly inspired by Elijah P. Lovejoy, he built his news source with a need to spread truth in the local Alton community. Davenport built The Sunken Press out of a GoFundMe page and does not support the usage of advertising with journalism. "Think about who pays for your media," Davenport said, after explaining how an advertisement could affect the impact of a news story being covered due to sponsorship.

Journalist Davenport is not in it for the money, "If I write something and something happens- that's really cool because that is the purpose of journalism," he said. His purpose for The Sunken Press is to not report on the community, but to be one with the community as well. "To watch people come together to do something good, or come together to fix something bad," Mr. Davenport is not worried about gaining a large amount of money "That's probably the payoff."

Davenport said he is, "just as connected to the community as everyone else is. "The things that are happening, I feel affect me just as much as they do anyone else. I go out of my way to experience a great many things," Davenport said. The Sunken Press doesn't get as many views as his work with the Telegraph did, but Davenport said that doesn't matter to him. "I know how to clickbait, that's fine, but I want to work on things that matter to me," he said. A big issue in the Riverbend area is homelessness, Davenport takes this situation seriously and has even created a whole series on thesunkenpress.org concerning the topic.

Davenport enjoys when his stories spark a change. He tries to bring things to light, and the topic is something that he holds close to him. "Reporters should always have a bias towards the truth," said Davenport.

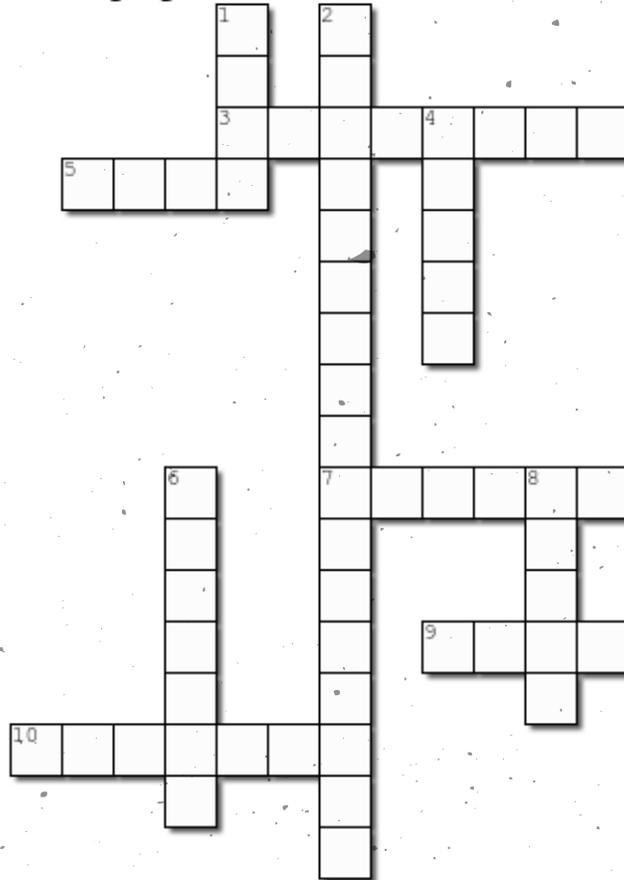
Readers can subscribe to thesunkenpress.org for a 5 dollar monthly fee.



Cory Davenport poses for a picture with the RBW Staff  
Picture by A. Gray

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Lovejoy Crossword Puzzle



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

### Across

- 3. What month was he born in
- 5. Where is the library name after him located
- 7. What is Lovejoy's first name
- 9. How was he killed
- 10. Who was he married to

### Down

- 1. How many siblings does he have
- 2. What local elementary school is named after him
- 4. Where was he born
- 6. What town did he move to
- 8. What town was a monument built for him in Illinois

### Answer Key

How many siblings does he have? Nine  
 What local elementary school is named after him? Lovejoy Elementary  
 What month was he born in? November  
 Where was he born? Maine  
 Where is the library named after him located? SIVE  
 What town did he move to? St. Louis  
 What is Lovejoy's first name? Elijah  
 What town was a monument built for him in Illinois? Alton  
 How was he killed? Shot  
 Who was he married to? Cecilia



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