

MIDCITY TIMES



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Man In the Red Bandanna

By: Lexie Strickland

Welles Crowther (On the right) spent some of the darkest hours in American history saving the lives of strangers.

Crowther, 24 and an equalities trader for Sandler O'Neill Partners, worked on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center's south tower during 9/11. A former volunteer firefighter in his hometown of Nyack, N.Y., he was well versed in the proper way to handle an emergency. When United Airlines Flight 175 struck his building at 9:03 a.m., he promptly slipped back into the role.

"Mom, this is Welles. I want you to know that I'm Okay." He said in a voicemail left for his mother, Alison, at 9:12 a.m.

Amid the smoke, chaos and debris, Crowther helped injured and disoriented office workers to safety, risking his own life in the process. Though they couldn't see much through the haze, those he saved recalled a tall figure wearing a red bandanna to shield his lungs and mouth.

He had come down to the 78th-floor sky lobby, an alcove in the building with express elevators meant to speed up trips to the ground floor. In what's been described as a "strong, authoritative voice," Crowther directed survivors to the stairway and encouraged them to help others while he carried an injured woman on his back. After bringing her 15 floors down to safety, he made his way back up to help others.

One of the women he helped, Judy Rein, credits him with saving her life. Alison Crowther, knowing he always carried a red bandanna in his pocket, sent photographs of her son to both Young and Reins, who confirmed that Welles was indeed the man who had saved them.

"Everything we shared — all the details — led right to Welles, so it was really beautiful," Alison Crowther told CNN.

The family later learned that Welles' body had been recovered with other firefighters with the FDNY. They had been on their way back up the stairs of the South Tower with the "Jaws of Life," likely to help other survivors to safety.

Gone, but never forgotten. Crowther's selfless act of heroism became a symbol of perseverance, of courage and of hope in the aftermath of 9/11.



Gender Identity. By: Lexie Strickland and Tyranie Bostic

Gender Identity: the internal perception of an individual's gender, and how they label themselves.

Gender Identity refers to when a person chooses to identify as a different gender from their birth assigned gender. Males to Female, and Female to Male. Some people choose not to identify as any gender, and just want to be recognized as a human being. They are often referred to as: Zie or Zir.

Interview with Toria Seibert

When did you realize or start to suspect that you weren't comfortable being labeled as your birth assigned gender?

When I was twelve. I would dress up as a girl and stuff.

How did you tell you parents and siblings, and how did they react?

I told my mom, and she was afraid for me because I was transgender. My brother wasn't really happy about it, so I felt alone.

What is your thought on Caitlyn Jenner being the representative, or icon for the transgender community?

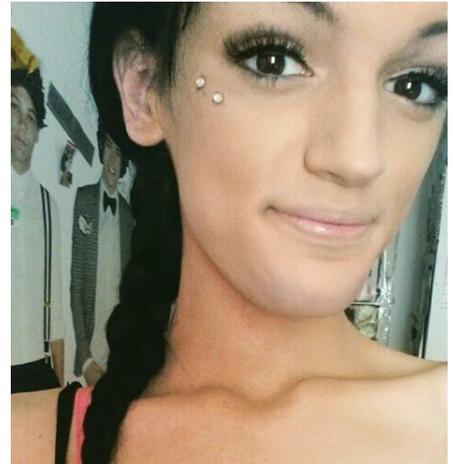
I think it's great. More people should learn, and not judge just right off the bat.

Do you feel more confident expressing yourself as a female rather than male?

Yeah, way more confident. I was really depressed as a guy.

What advice would you give to people who feel uncomfortable or as if they don't belong in their birth assigned gender?

Tell them to go for it, as long as you're confident in your own body, that's what matters.



New Rooms, What do you think?

By: Lacy Tucker and Cody Conger

"I like it very, very much, I love my new room! I love the music room too! It's beautiful!"

**"I wish they had a restroom upstairs and an elevator."
-Mr. Neilson**

"Some of them are small. Which is good for me because I'm not distracted."

**"The rooms are good the way they are."
-Toni Patrick**

"The Gym smells like Menards."

**"I would make it smell like sweet peas and flowers."
-Kayla**

"I like it; It's really cool."

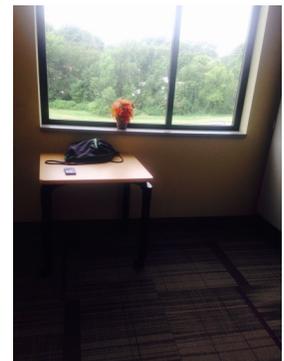
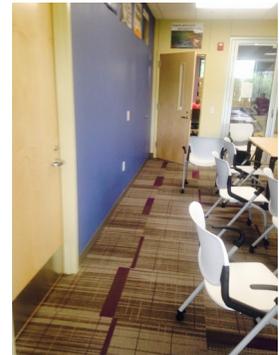
**"We could use some better basketballs."
-Marquies Angel**

"I like the basketball court,"

**"I can't find anything to change."
-Tavian Petersen**

"It is good."

**"It needs some places for people to sit,"
-Carlos**



FIRST MONTH AT MID CITY

By: Tyna and Zara

April (The new librarian): "I'm really happy to be here and to be working with the students!"
"I wish there was more room in the library for more students to come in."

Zara: "I'm excited for Woodshop."

Anakin: "There should be less people."

Armone: "Mid City sucks a lot less (than my last school)."

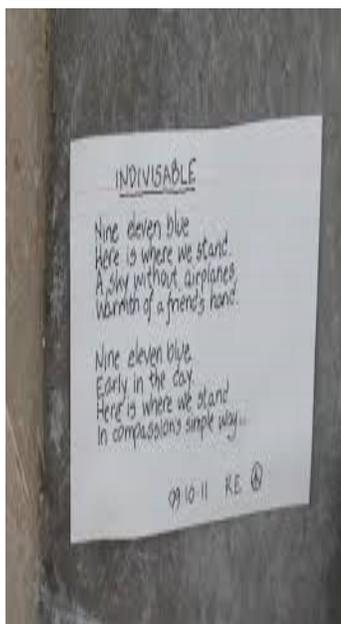
Denise: "Mid City's more updated and cooler."

Uno-Dos: "At least I get to wear hats in school.."

Tyna: "This school seems like something out of a fairy tale movie."



*"The new administrators are really nice. They made me feel welcome from the very first day I was here."
—Gabby Morales*



9/11

By: Tyranie

Let us give a moment of silence to honor all the men, women, and children who lost their lives on that horrific day. On September 11th, 2001 four planes set off, two of which crashed into the Twin Towers, one into the Pentagon, and one into a field. We will never forget that horrific day, and our hearts go out to the families who lost a loved one that terrible day.



GANG AWARENESS

Latin Kings, Vice Lord, Savage Life, etc. set out to do one thing that has been proven by not only people in the community, but a gang member himself who takes us into what it is like to be in the “life of a gang member”.

One officer of Mid City High School also lets us know what gangs are like in the eyes of the law. Most younger teens like to be in a gang because they won't really get in trouble for the things they do, They look up to the older people in the gang which encourages the teens to do the bad things that happen when it comes to gangs.

A former gang member informs us that he was originally in a gang, not only because his friends were pressuring him, but because drugs, alcohol, and the violent music he listened to, all influenced him to participate in gang activities. We learned that the former gang member was jumped into the gang when he first got in. This initiation to the gang put him in a coma for a little over two weeks. He was only an 11 year old boy at the time.

He was forced to do whatever the gang leaders told him. On March 23, 2012 this gang member was shot once in the chest, twice in the arm, and once in the back by one of the members of the gang he was involved in. He stated, “Gang violence and gangs are not worth losing your life over.”

The officer of Mid City notified us that there has been over 110 gang related shootings in Iowa just this year. He went on to say, “A gang is a group of close friends with an identifiable leadership, identifying with or claiming control over territory in a community, usually engaged in violent, or illegal activity.” He said that gangs are mostly made up of friends, almost like a sports team, but they get into trouble more than they try and accomplish .”

You have been taken into what the life of a gang member is truly like. It isn't what people think. It is a bad thing to get into. You either end up getting hurt, or hurting someone else. Don't let yourself be one of the innocent people that get hurt because you wanted to “be cool”. So do yourself a favor and stay in school.



Davenport Community
School District

Mid City High School
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<http://www.davenportschools.org/midcity/>

If you have suggestions, comments, questions or editorials, we meet every day in Mrs. Misbras room, on the third floor. Please include your name with all inquiries.

Look forward to the following features in the October version of "The MidCity Times":

- **Halloween Costumes**
- **Halloween Events**
- **October Birthdays**
- **Short Scary Stories**
- **Halloween Crossword**
- **"Up Close and Personal": New Staff**
- **Students of the Month**

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Autumn is Here

Autumn leaves
Red, gold and brown
Falling, swirling,
Drifting down.

Prickly conkers
Cracking, popping.
Branches snap,
Acorns dropping.

Picking pumpkins,
Juicy apples too.
Gathering blackberries
In hedgerows for you.

Foggy mornings
Damp, cold and grey.
Nature's blanket,
Clouding the day.

Swallows gather
Swooping up high.
Off they go
To Africa, they fly.

Hibernating hedgehog,
Finds somewhere to sleep.
Be sure it's not your bonfire
Or your rubbish heap.

Shorter days,
Frosty and wet.
Winter's round the corner,
But not quite yet.

Chad Rawls 01
Celestna Agbayani 03
Kylee Qullin 08
Nautica Carr 10
Alia Tyler 12
Kirsten Gumm 12
Demarques Hanes 13
Simon Ertzinger 13
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Abbie Boetger 26

