



COVID LEARNING- DISTANCE AND IN PERSON

Avery Laird looks out her window while doing school with her pup. For LIPI (Limited in Person Instruction) Georgia Warren gets Jay Gray teaching—in person.

Corona-cation no longer?

by Katie Dutton

As we know, a lot of crazy events have taken place this year affecting our school year and our activities. So what's actually going to happen? There's nothing we know for certain, however, there are possibilities and plans to do some really cool things to make help more accessible and easy.

Although we don't know a lot for certain, Assistant Principal Mr. Hoberg has some answers for us. I asked him if there was any chance we could go back to school in person and he said "Yes."

"We will be back to school, in some capacity. On Monday, November 30th we will begin offering one-on-one In-person Instruction. Students will continue to have live instruction via Zoom in the morning. Those students who would like additional support can meet with their teachers, at the school, in the afternoon. Teachers will be reaching out to you to request a meeting or students can request a meeting with their teacher. Under current guidelines, students are limited to 2 hours in the building."

There is also a possibility towards the start of 2021 to meet in bigger groups. Hoberg also says "Hopefully, in January or February, we will be able to bring in half of the student body each week. Students would be placed in grade level cohorts (10-14 students) and assigned

classrooms. They would be able to see 4 teachers each week. It's possible, a student may not have access to their "classroom" teacher but a teacher none-the-less. We are still restricted to 2 hours per day in the classroom."

If these plans go through, school would look a whole lot different. Mr Hoberg says that we must follow the safety measures no matter how big the group is. He says the measures would be "(1) When students arrive on campus they must go directly to their assigned classroom. Students will not be able to "hangout" in the hallways, commons, or in the parking lot. (2) Everyone will be required to wear a mask when on school grounds. (3) Students will be placed in a grade level cohort (10-14 students). (4) Each student will be assigned a seat in the classroom and will be 6 feet apart from another student. (5) Parents will be required to check out their student if they are leaving during their 2 hour class time."

As much as we miss school, the school and staff members miss us as well. The good thing is if all plans work out then we should be able to work with some others once again. However these plans don't come together without effort so please keep remembering to wear your masks when in public and follow safety guidelines.



by Jane Brock

We all rely on vaccines. Most of us are vaccinated multiple times and most of us have been taught from a very young age that vaccines keep us safe. But how do they actually work?

The first vaccine was created in 1798. Since then, scientists and doctors have been developing vaccines to create immunity to all sorts of viruses. Bacterial infections, another problem, are dealt with antibiotics. Vaccines tackle viruses.

That's it right? But how do they bring down viruses?

Vaccines build immunity to viruses and that's how they keep us safe, we might assume.

Well, not exactly.

Like most things, misinformation about vaccines spreads like wildfire. Some infamous misconceptions about vaccines are that they cause autism, or that infants can't handle as many vaccines as they are given. These beliefs have little hard evidence behind them. Spreading misinformation about vaccines can lead to death.

Many people believe that vaccines are created with small amounts of deadly chemicals. However, vaccines are created using the body's natural response for viruses. Vaccines are created with a deactivated virus that then activates the body's immune system.

You know when you have a cold, and your parents tell you that you can't ever get that specific cold again because your immune system built up an immunity to it? That's how vaccines work. A vaccine tricks your body into thinking that you got the active virus, and it builds up an immunity so you can't ever get that virus again.

So why is this relevant? I'm sure you can guess this one.

Most of us have been quarantined for the past nine months due to the Covid-19 virus. And now suddenly everyone is talking about a vaccine. But most of us are saying that without knowing how the process actually works. Even then, the process to develop a vaccine isn't nearly as simple as I explained.

The new Covid19 vaccines are not dependent upon deactivated Covid viruses. They do trick the body into thinking that the vaccine is the virus, and the body reacts by building up antibodies to defeat any Covid viruses that might show up.

This means that people who are afraid that a vaccine will give us Covid, can rest assured the vaccine cannot, because the vaccine only contains an instruction code for a protein.

All of this means we cannot wait to get the vaccine out. But it will take time to vaccinate the 70-80% of the population to achieve immunity.

Alexa Ellis Prepares For Life After Covid

by Claire Crawford



Alexa Ellis is filled with ambition. She will need to be, to make her dream come true. She wants to become a Medical Doctor in the elite US Air Force Academy. If she makes it, she will be the first Billie woman to become an Air Force Cadet.

Besides or because of her big dreams, Alexa is the senior class president, National Honor Society vice president, president of REACH (community service club), captain of the girls basketball team, and she even works a job on the weekend.

Alexa has been dedicating a lot of [CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]

Feeding the flock: Lunch Ladies get the job done



Lisa Jones and Crystal Jones feed hundreds

by Kurt Perini

Three hard working women have been doing the behind-scenes work for our breakfasts and lunches everyday. Lisa Jones, Crystal Jones and Kathie Fischer prepare lunch food for anyone 18 and under in the school district. Despite the pandemic, the "Lunch Ladies" still haven't lost a beat and picked up right where they left off.

"We are so happy to provide lunches," said Lisa Jones. Whether it is the student or parents/guardians, either can come to school and get a lunch and say "hi.", it makes our days even brighter."

"Providing food for children is so important and the district recognizes the importance," said Kathie Fisher

What all three of them do miss is the interaction of a regular day school schedule and working all around the time to provide our energy and interest moving forward in the day.

"The Lunch Lady team here at Pleasant

Hill has worked very closely together and we help each other plan our current food distribution to the community," said Crystal Jones.

Every school day from Monday to Friday from 10:45 AM to 12:45 PM sack lunches are available out the door of the auxiliary gym. The Lunch Ladies will hand out sack lunches and cartons of milk to any student in our district, for free in front of the Auxiliary gym.

But keep your social distance (of course)!

Now this just begs the question. Is it really true that Lunch Ladies work seven days a week during the school year?

"Yes, a Lunch Ladies Job is never done. Those sloppy Joes have to be made" said Lisa Jones.

So the next time you see any of the Lunch Ladies again, thank them. Because they are working just as hard as we do on a daily basis.

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The Billie Bulletin



by Isabel Hammond-Mendez

Want a Christmas tree or a wreath? How about both? The place I recommend is Northern Lights.

Northern Lights Christmas Tree farm has been open since 1990. Owners, Bob and Lynn Schattel moved to Oregon from Alaska. They named their farm Northern Lights because, "It was a good way to remember where we are from," Lynn said.

They have been growing Christmas trees since they opened and ten years later they started to grow pumpkins. Steve Daletas grows the pumpkins at the tree farm. The biggest pumpkin he has grown was 2,050 pounds. The Schattels

also have 30 cattle, two goats, and ten chickens.

What inspired them to start a tree farm, you may ask?

Simply because they love Oregon. They thought that farming would be a good lifestyle for them. Northern Lights grows four different types of trees: Noble Fir, Grand Fir, Douglas Fir, and Nordman Fir. They also grow corn for the corn maze, hay, alfalfa, sunflowers, gourds, and winter squash, and, of course, pumpkins.

Northern Lights attracts around 1,000 people a week during the fall and Christmas season. You can visit their website at <http://www.northernlightschristmastreefarm.com>

Survival Games for a Pandemic

by Josie Chevalier

During 2020, video games have played a huge role in a lot of people's (especially young people's) lives. They've helped many of us socialize and have something to do during the pandemic.

Several games have been popular this year, but three of those games are the most notable: *Animal Crossing*, *Fall Guys*, and *Among Us*.

Animal Crossing: New Horizons was the first to rise up in popularity, releasing about the same time as the United States went into lockdown.

Animal Crossing is a game released by Nintendo for the Nintendo Switch in which you are transported to a deserted island to live on. You can talk to the other sentient, animal villagers, decorate the island, or even visit your friends' islands.

It's an extremely relaxing and wholesome game. You are meant to make only a little progress each day, and spend the rest of the day enjoying other in-game hobbies such as fishing, catching bugs, digging up fossils, creating clothes, decorating the island, and more. It's also great for connecting with your friends during COVID-19.

Animal Crossing is still popular now, but it's golden age was around from April to July.

Come August, *Fall Guys* had dramatically risen in popularity.

Fall Guys is a battle royale, platformer game released by Mediatonic for the PlayStation 4 and PC. There are several courses and team games that are played throughout the match. Round-by-round, players are eliminated until one player is declared the winner.

Battle royales are generally intense, even when the characters are ragdolls and you are jumping from place-to-place, so, of course, this game is stressful. However, *Fall Guys* is not quite as intense as some other games.

For the entire month of August, *Fall Guys* reigned supreme. Although, by the dawn of September, a new game would take its place.

Ever since September, *Among Us* has exploded in popularity.

Among Us is a mafia-style (murder mystery) game released by Innersloth for PC and mobile. One, two, or three of the four to ten players are imposters while the rest are crewmates. The crewmates must figure out who the imposters are and vote them off the ship or finish their tasks to win. The imposters win by killing all of the crewmates or successfully sabotaging the ship.

If you're trying to relax, this is not a good game. *Among Us* is a stress-inducing madhouse of a game with its own lingo and strategies that you must know to win. It's especially stressful if you receive the role of the imposter because of trying your hardest not to seem "sus", which includes: not running from the body, not letting someone see you vent or kill, not wandering aimlessly, having a good alibi, faking accusations with evidence, and much more.

Currently, *Among Us* is almost as popular as it was in September, despite the fact that it was released two years ago.

These games give us social interaction and a break from realizing that there is a crazy pandemic and political madness, which is the main reason that people even play these games at all. These games are the main positive highlight of 2020.

First-Hand Experience and Wisdom on College Applications

by Lily Rodrigues

Plenty of people agree that college is an unforgettable experience that can shape who you are and build life-long relationships. It's a time of maturing into adulthood while also paving your own future. Yeah, college is great.

What's not-so-great, on the other hand, is getting into college. And then paying for it.

Fortunately, we have a survivor who can shed some light on how he tackled college applications. Senior, Ben Rodrigues has recently finished sending out his applications and is now willing to share his experience and impart his wisdom to future college-applicants.

First, there are three different opportunities when applying to colleges: Early Action, Early Admissions, and Regular Admissions. Early Action is the earliest and Regular Admissions is the latest. Take note that not all colleges accept Early Action. Ben applied for two colleges with Early Admissions, U of O and Oregon State.

Using early action and early admissions can be incredibly helpful if you are applying for multiple colleges. It gives you time to compare the colleges without making a commitment. Ben recommends applying early, "If you have the time and you can hit that deadline, uh, I'd encourage a lot of people to hit it."

Before writing his admissions essay, Ben did a lot of research to determine his topic. He found sources suggesting focusing on a specific event in his life, so that's what he did. Ben chose to write about his childhood dream of becoming an engineer along with how he concluded that engineering was still his passion.

After picking your topic, it's time to start writing. Even after finding a topic, the drive to sit and write is oftentimes hard to find. Especially if you're also dealing with regular school-work like Ben or a part-time job.

"Finding the topic was the easy part so when I started writing I kind of just...I kind of like, let it stew for a while, that didn't work. So I kind of just forced myself to start writing... I felt like I wasn't going anywhere, but I had something written and once I had something written, motivation was able to find me... But it was really about starting and forcing myself to get something out there."

For Ben, the biggest challenge he faced when submitting his applications was time. He gave himself about a month to write his entry and ask for letters of recommendation. He regrets giving himself only a month to get this done, saying, "I feel like I did the best of my abilities with the given time and everything. If there was even a little bit of a chance that I could have gotten any bit better, I probably would've done it."

Although, time wasn't the only source of anxiety.

"The expectation surrounding it [the work], like the idea that like, if I do have some major oversight that could cost me like, an entire, like, future, to put it dramatically, which is a lot of stress. Time definitely played a role, not to discredit that, but I would say, just, [it was] me on myself."

All-in-all, Ben wrote a great entry and got stellar letters of recommendation. He hopes that in sharing his experience, Ben can help others feel more prepared. Or, at least, not make the same mistakes he did. Ben's final advice for those starting their applications?

"Confidence, time, and plan[ning]. Those are really the only three things you need."

What is college like now?

by Tessa Hammond

Like schools in our area, college this year is also a lot different because of Covid 19.

I interviewed a couple college students on what it is like to attend college in the middle of a pandemic.

Myah Cunningham's (2019.Goes to BYU.) first description of college this year was "Weird". There are new rules because of Covid 19.

Amanda Whetten (2017.Goes to Bushnell University.) said "We wear masks in class and while outside on campus, other than that it's fine!"

Both go in person to class a couple of times a week. But have to stay socially distanced and have on masks. The rest of their classes are online.

But they are glad to have some in-person classes and see their friends. Since they don't have to walk to classes as much, they get more time to do other stuff.

All they have to do is sit at their desk and wait to join class.

It is hard to meet new people because students aren't on the campus as often.

Online classes are hard to learn in. Myah Cunningham said that "Technology can be difficult, so trying to learn difficult chemistry formulas from a camera isn't fun."

Amanda Whetten is on her college school soccer team and her team gets tested every week. They wear masks while practicing too. But she is grateful that she can at least see her friends and play soccer.

ALEXA FROM PAGE 1-

time to prepare for life after high school, but she also finds time for fun. Alexa loves to hike and play with her dog. She has also started doing CrossFit five times a week. Right now she is enjoying reading *Live* by Sadie Robertson and is into watching Bruce Willis movies. She has been listening to Matthew West and Crowder lately.

Alexa wants to be a doctor and is in the process of applying to the United States Air Force Academy. She chose the Academy because the military had "really good opportunities" and it matches her personality really well. She would be the second Billie to make it in the prestigious Academy. (Kyler Martin-2018 is an Academy cadet currently). In the Air Force Alexa would be helping the people who protect our country.

To apply to the Academy, she has written essays and taken both physical and medical tests. In her physical test she ran a 6:39 mile (a personal best), did 39 pushups in two minutes, and did 86 situps in two minutes.

She has emailed Oregon's two Senators to get interviews and recommendations. If she is accepted, she will be representing Oregon.

Alexa has been interviewed by many people, and she will be meeting with an Air Force officer soon. The Air Force Academy is harder to get into than other schools and Alexa mentioned that only 12% of people who apply get accepted.

Alexa wants to "inspire the younger generation" and help people. I think everything that Alexa is doing is impressive and inspiring.

The incredible Mrs. Billings

By Lorena Albright

If you go to Pleasant Hill you probably know and love the one and only Mrs. Billings.

She is truly one of the best teachers I've ever had. Aside from working here at Pleasant Hill for almost six years, and teaching many different English classes, she has quite a fun life outside of school.

She loves to read, cook, hike, play volleyball, and hangout with her daughter. She teaches four classes, AP English, English 4, Accelerated English and English 1.

Something that might surprise you is she didn't always know that she wanted to be a teacher but thank goodness she is because she is a wonderful one. I asked which class was her favorite to teach and she said "That's hard, because I just switched up my classes, so it's hard to have a favorite. I do really love teaching Accelerated English. This is my third year teaching it and it's just so much fun."

Of course being an English teacher, she has read mounds of different books and when asked which one is her favorite read she said "You know that's an impossible answer for an English teacher!"

But I recently read both 'Starless Sea' by Erin Morgenstern and 'A Little Life' by Hanya Yanagihara and they both ruined me."



Stepping away from books, I also asked her about her music taste. She says her favorite type of music is almost impossible to answer but she tends to lean towards indie folk music. She has also been listening to lofi hip hop music obsessively while preparing to teach.

I also asked her what her favorite song is and she said "Ummm... probably L.I.E. by The Shivers, Thurs 6-25 by SALES or Two Weeks by FKA Twigs. But that is another incredibly hard question!"

Then, I asked what her favorite thing about being a Billie is and she said:

"How welcoming this community has been to an outsider like me."

“If you are not paying for the product, then you ARE the product”-Social Dilemma

OPINION

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“The Social Dilemma” is a MUST SEE documentary

By Anna Reed

The Social Dilemma (Netflix) is a good documentary. The documentary focuses on a lot of different topics that don't get talked about a lot today. And The Social Dilemma is actually entertaining to watch instead of just being a boring documentary. It's fast-paced and covers it covers how little things that we do regarding technology and social media affect our thoughts and our opinions. The Social Dilemma shows how society can be controlled by one little thing.

Unfortunately, it also shows how society can easily be manipulated by big companies who are trying to grasp your attention in any way possible. It is easy to get away from these traps but many people don't.

Most of The Social Dilemma is focused on these people who worked for big companies such as Google, Amazon, Pinterest, and Facebook.

The interviewees report on all the bad things about the companies and how pretty much they use little psychological things just to keep you hooked onto your phone.

You're a money machine. The whole idea is that people will come to need that machine to go 24/7. The big tech companies will do anything—and I mean anything—just to keep you tapping away or even picking up your phone for a second.

The Social Dilemma isn't just some people coming together and bashing technology.

There are some positive parts of this documentary. But when the producers badmouth technology and companies they are doing it in a way that informs you of the dangers. The producers are not trying to lecture to you, they're trying to teach you something.

The Social Dilemma creators use facts and actual science instead of just using their opinions. They show how Generation Z and Generation Y are going on fewer dates, having fewer friends, and being more isolated. Cyberbullying is up as well. Other generations were not as tied to social media so do not face these problems.

The Social Dilemma shows how much suicide rates have gone up. The documentary also talks about unrealistic body standards and how social media have presented an idealized body for young individuals. This can be extremely damaging. The documentary also tells about how parents should allow electronics for kids.

We need to stop having five-year-olds and six-year-olds completely addicted to videogames. They hardly know math or how to read. Imagine how vulnerable they are to being sucked into a device that's designed to keep older kids or adults hooked. Some people in the documentary suggest having DO NOT DISTURB on as a small thing.

Again, most of them worked for tech companies and they don't allow their kids to have social media until they're at least 12. But even at the age of 12 people are easily addicted.

It is true that the choices you make can be addictive, not the things that you have to choose from.

This documentary is one of the best documentaries I've seen so far this year and honestly none of us have anything better to do so I do recommend watching it.

So watch the Social Dilemma and see if you learn something.

Video games don't cause real world problems

by Wesleigh Harr

Now before I begin, please understand that this is biased. I have been playing video games since I was four and disagree with many of the criticisms against video games, so please keep that in mind.

Do video games cause real world problems, such as sexism, racism, violence, crime, etc? This topic has been under debate since about 1982, when an Atari game called General Custer featured adult themes and was heavily criticized for allowing the player to rape a bound Native woman. This game was soon banned, and rightfully so.

However, over time, video games gained more and more criticism by parents and news media outlets such as Fox News. People believe that video games introduce misogynistic and racist thoughts into young players, as well as making them violent. Series such as Call of Duty and GTA (Grand Theft Auto) seemed to attract these debates a lot more than some other franchises.

Even some of the more family-friendly franchises like the Legend of Zelda have been said to be sexist for having the player rescue a princess, somehow illustrating that women can't fend for themselves and are always the victim.

Anita Sarkeesian, a critic who focuses primarily on the portrayal of women in popular media, is well known for being debunked multiple times when trying to prove that women are shown as weak in video games. Another argument that Sarkeesian has made in the past is that the gaming industry and gamers exclude women and other races, or as she put it, the game industry is “a boy's club.”

Many have also stated that violent video games, especially first-person shooters, such as Call of Duty, cause mass shooting.

This has been proven wrong. According to the APA (American Psy-

chological Association), there is no evidence that supports the idea that video games cause shootings.

When it comes to race and gender in video games, one of the biggest points I would like to make is the demographic of gamers within the gaming industry. The majority of gamers are white men, so naturally game developers would cater their games to this demographic.

One of the biggest arguments against video games is that there isn't enough diversity with them. With games such as the Witcher 3, a game that takes place in an area hardly ever covered in gaming, people said that it didn't have enough diversity because of the fact that it starred an all white cast. This game takes place in Poland, made by a Polish developer, based on a series of books written by a Polish author, based on Polish mythology.

So as far as Polish games go, The Witcher is the only game series to take place in this area. So when people ask for diversity in the Witcher, referencing back to the demographic, the developers would make this game to support the majority of people who buy their game. Also, what is the primary skin color in Poland? White.

So essentially, the majority of these criticisms are based on debunked theories and baseless claims. Now remember, I have obviously taken a side in this situation, this is completely biased. However the facts are there, and I hope that some people can start to understand the situation a bit more. In recent years, the gaming community has fought back against these arguments because we are tired of being attacked with arguments that are not backed by facts.

SANTA CLAUS A MENACE?

by Taylor Evans

It's that time of year again!

Ya know, when you cross your fingers in hopes of snow and count the days until you get to open your presents on Christmas Day.

But, every time this jolly season comes around I think about Santa. And then I have to ask “why are kids so excited for him to come into their house?”

Santa Is Creepy

In the Christmas song “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town” The lyrics say “you better watch out, you better not cry” then explains that you should “watch out” ‘cause Santa is coming.

This may not be as alarming since the popular idea is that kids should behave if they want Santa to give them presents, but if you listen to other lyrics such as “he sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake” they make him look more like a creep stalking kids.

Santa is also associated with the “Krampus” who is said to punish naughty children at Christmas time. This doesn't look good for old Saint Nick's image.

The name Krampus is believed to be obtained from the word claw in some European language. Claus and claw are similar names, and if you switch the N in Santa's name it becomes Satan, Satan Claw. This also makes it seem there is more than one reason to be good when Santa comes around.

Santa Is Unfair

I don't believe in Santa. I mean an old guy that travels all over the world in a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer just never seemed that believable to me.

Knowing that my parents are the ones that put the presents under the tree, I realize it's a little unfair for the unfortunate kids that can't afford to have presents at Christmas. I mean what are you gonna tell them, “Santa didn't have enough presents”? Or you could have a kid that has been on their best behavior and gets socks while the spoiled kid gets an expensive gift.

Then again, who doesn't want socks?

The point is that depending on your parents, the gifts appear if you've been naughty or nice. This is unfair! According to the legend you are supposed to be rewarded for being well behaved, not rewarded for no reason whatsoever.

I know there is more to Christmas than presents under the tree, but I'm just saying that Santa's a little sus and needs to be investigated more. Just to be sure he won't come after me I'll bake him some extra cookies and be sure to listen for jingle bells close by.

If I go missing, YOU KNOW WHO DID IT!



Illustration by Taylor Evans



Allie and John Fitzgerald take in the school during Limited In Person Instruction time.

Considering Online School

by Jarek Jeffs

Do you wonder what other students are thinking about school? Will other kids have the same views on school as you? I decided to find out, so you will know that people are all over the place in their views of school.

The first question I asked was “Do you like online School? And why?”

Avani Casey (grade 9) answered, “I'm OK with it, but it's a little troubling. I get distracted so easily and I get lost just as easily! Though, I do manage to pull through somehow.”

Another person also said, “I do like online school. I like working on and improving all of my skills. I also like the flexibility.”

Of all the people I asked, they all preferred to go to school like we used to, Mckayli Seaton (grade 7) said, “I prefer it in person, but I don't mind it too much, but I do think it is harder to get help with things over a distance.”

What they miss most about being on the school campus is being able to be with friends, teachers, and others. They also miss the vending machines (that's mainly me), but they mainly miss the social aspect of school.

“I miss being in the classroom environment and doing work physically. It is odd to do all of this work online, especially for science.”

Another person also said, “I miss being able to feel as focused as I would in class, I also miss the human connection. Also, I find it hard to retain information online in a quick video call.”

This is just a little bit of what's going on through other students' brains, keep it going and hopefully school will change to your liking.



Ms. Jampolsky works with Page Schenfeld providing sketching pointers.

CONGRATULATIONS!

**to the Boys Basketball team for being selected as the 3A recipient of the Les Schwab Team of the Month award for November! The criteria for this award touches on all aspects of education-based sports, which includes performance, dedication in the classroom, and service to the community.*

** to our November High School Students of the Month:*

Freshman - Tressa Geyer
Sophomore - Elizabeth Brown
Junior - Lara Rupnawar
Senior - Dakota Ervin

**to our Most Improved High School students For November:*

Freshman - Caden Richardson
Sophomore - David McIntyre
Junior - Anna Marie Reed
Senior - David Cook

**to Zoey Brott and Tressa Geyer for winning 2nd place in the Thru the Trees Video Contest! This was a Pacific Northwest student competition which included huge cash prizes. You may view their winning video at [thruthetrees.org](https://www.thruthetrees.org) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7JHhmtJTVk&feature=emb_logo*



Dating during Covid

by Ruby Jackson

College can be one of the scariest, exciting, most complicated and memorable time of your life. At least that's what they tell me. I haven't been fortunate enough to leave home and live my own life. But the age old question still remains the same.

Will I ever find love? Or should I say, will they ever find love? How hard is dating in college, and has a worldwide pandemic made it even harder? So I decided to do some research. I ended up getting survey results from 30 college students. They all had different backgrounds and came from different colleges. Some answers were funny, some were serious, and some were just a little bit woeful. So how is college dating life? How is it different than before? Here are my questions.

Are you more hesitant to go on dates because of Covid?

What a question. Seeing as some people don't seem to realize that there's even a pandemic going on, these answers may vary. Overall, the results were pretty even. 36.7% said "no", 36.7% said "kinda" and 26.7% said "yes." I would have expected more people to be a little more cautious because of covid.

What is the best Covid date to go on?

There was a surprising amount of covid-friendly dates. From Netflix parties, to hanging outdoors, people had some pretty fun ideas. Julia Pavlosek, a freshman at Oregon State, and a Pleasant Hill Alum, thought of a pretty fun idea. "If we were all perfect at social distancing, no date at all. However, I'm particular to grabbing takeout. Hikes or FaceTime dates are also great too."

My personal favorite included "getting tested together." and "Hmmm, I don't know I still want to go somewhere public for the first few dates (in case they kidnap and kill me) but I don't want Covid." It seems like everyone is still trying to figure this out. Maybe some more than others.

Are you less motivated to go out and meet people because of Covid?

Now here is the more real part of covid. The sad truth that nobody really wants to talk about. Almost 50% of the people I surveyed answered "yes" to this question. Yes Covid is annoying but it is having a serious toll on people's motivation and mental health. Most college kids answered my questions with sad remarks saying, they don't get to meet a lot of people and make as many memories as they thought they would.

Do you think Covid has made dating more difficult or less common for you?

A whopping 66.7% either answered "yes" or "kinda." Even more sad, 23.3% answered "I was lonely before, and I'm still lonely now." Wow, only mildly pathetic. I thought college was the time to meet people but apparently not. It's not like it's their fault. Just Miss Rona's.

Overall, dating seems kinda rough for college kids these days. Here are some more of the many struggles they are facing:

"It's harder to meet people, and you can't tell if boys are cute because they wear masks and might have a secret moustache."

"It's difficult to get to know other people, especially since it's heavily discouraged to interact with people who don't live with you. Also, the masks cover everyone's faces, so you can't even see what the other person looks like."

"Covid also prevents you from making friends not just dates too, so yeah, haha that's fun."



Chicks can do tricks!



by Hannah Norton, Special Correspondent

Usually when you think of training animals you think of training dogs to sit, stay, and come.

But you never think about training chickens.

So why would you train a chicken?

Well when you live on eight acres and have 55 animals you tend to want to make things easy. Our chickens know that when they hear us coming through our gate they know to go back into the yard to get their "scratch."

This is an example of training them without really intending to do so. But it makes things easier if they go into the safe chicken yard to lock them up for the night.

I've been working with my 4-H chicken named Luna. Luna is a 4 year-old Old English Game Bantam, a breed which originated in Great Britain.

When I first got Luna she was quite calm and was clearly handled a lot as a chick. I worked with her on trusting me and eventually got to the point where we were able to start working on 4-H stuff like health checks. 4-H has helped me also with public speaking skills, responsibility, and the importance of knowing about the care of the animals I own.

4-H isn't just for animals but for activities like art, sewing, horticulture and baking to name a few. This is my 7th year in 4-H. Every year I compete in showmanship classes (which is basically testing your knowledge) and breed classes (which is basically competing against other animals of the same breed to see which one looks the best). We have a fun little costume contest after the competitions.

So I just thought "what if I dress Luna up?"

So that year Luna was dressed up as cotton candy and she actually liked it. So my sister Jessica, her bantam chicken, Hermione (Luna's sister), Luna, and I grabbed some scrap fabric and started making dresses.

Luna loved it!

If she was a human she would be a model.

So basically the trick to training chickens is handling them and getting them to trust you. Being patient, and finding what motivates them also helps.

You can clicker train chickens just like dogs. I am clicker training Luna and am motivating her with clothes. Whether it's food, handling, or dress up, all animals have something that motivates them.

If you want to make your life easier, training an animal is a good way to do it. People have trained their dogs to grab a soda out of the fridge. I've trained my alpaca Zeke to bow, jump, and lie down.

Any animal can be trained to some extent. I've trained my snake not to bite my hand off when I feed her. Or my dove to fly to my arm.

Depending on what habit you want to fix or to learn is always an important thing to do to prevent injury to both the animal or the owner. No matter what size its brain, all have some amount of intelligence.

Chickens can be a lot of fun to train. Whether it's for fixing a habit or doing something for fun like an obstacle course, training keeps an animal's mind working as long as you're willing to put in the effort.

Around School and About



Winter Camping, are you crazy?

by Daxton Bloxham

When we hear the word "camping" we think of summer and being outdoors, but what about winter camping?

Winter camping is like summer camping but in a more frigid environment in the complete opposite time of the year. Yes I am talking about the great outdoors but in winter.

There is such a thing as winter camping and there are many ways you can go about it.

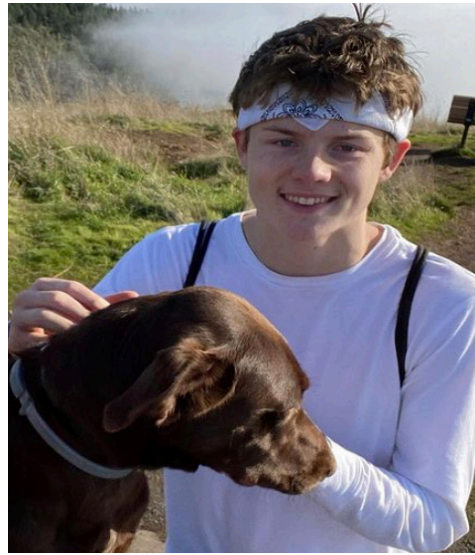
Consider snow camping. Snow camping is basically digging a hole in deep snow and sleeping in it.

Sounds cold but the snow actually can keep you warm believe it or not. And, of course, you may be wondering where and why you might want to do this so I have come up with a list of cool places to explore and camp out.

#1. The Oregon Coast. The coast does not get any snow. If it does, it is only a little mainly because the ocean warms up the coastline preventing snow from ever forming—unless you remember the year 2019! Now if you're not really for snow well then Bandon may be one of your options. Famous for its large beach rocks and for even golfing in dunes, it holds many opportunities for exploring.

#2 The Willamette Valley. On the other side of the Coast Range it can snow a lot. The first place which you probably have heard of because of its waterfalls is Silver Falls State Park. There are multiple cabins and campsites so at least you have the option of not sleeping in the snow.

#3 The Cascades. If you are into skiing and snowboarding at all you might be interested in going to Hoodoo. It is not just a place for snowsports but also has campgrounds which make it perfect for skiing and snowboarding without having to travel too far. There are many places you can snow camp and it does not always have to be a campground. We live in a state that is full of nature with countless places to discover and experience and if you are up for something new for change you should give a winter campout a try because you may just enjoy it.



Upper left, Bella Malekzadeh collects her 6th Grade Student of the Month award with her mom and sister. Lower left, the Middle School Student Council sells raffle tickets for Mr. Bowden relief. Middle upper is a screen shot showing senior Student of the Month award going to Dakota Ervin via Zoom. Below middle is Makayla Boaz doing Zoom school with a buddy. Above top is Gabe Trafton with his dog on Pisgah above the clouds. Above bottom Mr. Joel Smith works with Kloee Harris as HS Student Council advisor.

Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa and other holidays of Winter

by Emily Krauss

Everyone celebrates the winter holidays differently, and there are countless different winter celebrations across the world. One of the more popular holiday traditions is Christmas. Christmas is widely celebrated across the world. In fact, over two billion people throughout 160 different countries celebrate Christmas.

Christmas is traditionally a Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus. The official day was created in Rome around 336CE, however it wasn't widely celebrated until around the 9th century. Some of the more popular Christmas celebrations like decorating trees came from Germany.

Another Holiday tradition that is based on religion is *Hanukkah* or *Chanukah*. Hanukkah is a Jewish tradition that dates back to 165 BCE. Hanukkah is an eight day celebration of lights. Every night of Hanukkah, a candle is lit on the menorah. Hanukkah was first celebrated when the Jewish army led by Judah Maccabeas defeated the mighty Greek army, for control over their Holy Temple in Jerusalem. To celebrate their win, a menorah was lit in the temple, and even though there was very little oil, the menorah stayed lit for 8 days. To remember this phenomenon and the reclaiming of the Holy Temple, Hanukkah was created. In Hebrew, Hanukkah means dedication. This year Hanukkah starts on December 10 and goes until December 18, 2020.

Kwanzaa is another winter holiday. Kwanzaa is a pan-African and African American Holiday that is celebrated widely. Kwanzaa starts December 26 and ends on January 1st. Every night of Kwanzaa, people light a candle to represent the 7 different principles represented (one for each day). The 7 principles are, "Umoja" (Unity), 'Kujichagulia' (Self-Determination), 'Ujima' (Collective Work and Responsibility), 'Ujamaa' (Cooperative Economics), 'Nia' (Purpose), 'Kuumba' (Creativity), and 'Imani' (Faith).

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga. It is a holiday that celebrates African tradition. Tarik Richardson (a PHD candidate at Temple university), said "My favorite part of Kwanzaa is definitely the aspect of initially celebrating African culture and heritage, and being able to bring together community members

who might otherwise not have a reason to come together."

A holiday tradition that many people around the world celebrate is the *Winter Solstice*. The Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year, and occurs on December 21 every year. The Winter Solstice is celebrated in festivals all over the world.

In China during the Winter Solstice, they throw huge celebrations. The Winter Solstice is only 6 weeks before the Chinese New Year, and the Winter Solstice is believed to be the day when everyone gets one year older.

In Iran, they celebrate *Shab-e Yalda* which is the celebration of Mithra, the sun god and how Mithra beat the darkness. They gather together, light fires to show the way and perform good deeds. They eat special foods like nuts and pomegranates.

In Japan, *Toji* is celebrated. Toji is not like a festival and is more of a traditional practice that is centered around the idea of the new year with good luck and health. It is a very special holiday for farmers, as it marks the sun's return (which farmers need to grow their plants.) The farmers light big bonfires on Mount Fuji.

In Sweden, some people celebrate *Santa Lucia's Day*. Santa Lucia is a celebration honoring a Third-Century Saint. On December 13, girls in Sweden dress up in white dresses with red sashes and a wreath of burning candles on their heads. They wake up their family with songs, coffee, and buns that are called 'Lucia Cats'.

Another Holiday that celebrates a Saint is *St. Nicholas Day*. This is a mainly European celebration that honors St. Nicholas of Myra, a man whose life inspired figures such as Santa Claus, and Father Time. Saint Nic of Myra died around December 6, 343 AD. Children put out small bags, socks, stockings, or shoes on December 6, and they are then filled with small treats or fruits. Churches also hold celebrations on this day.

There are many other Winter Holidays that people celebrate, so this really only covers a little bit of them. Every holiday tradition is unique and special to the people who celebrate it.

Among the boys

by Jordan Pierzina



I have five older brothers, zero sisters, and am the youngest in my family. Let me introduce you to everyone: Dalton (age 27), Trystan (age 26) Kamryn (age 22) Jacob (age almost 17), and Jared (age 15). These are my five older brothers. Then there is me, Jordan.

During the holiday season my brothers who have moved out come visit more often. This is an enjoyable time because I love getting to spend time with my family—even when adding on with my brother's significant others and their kids.

I get teased and picked on, but most of the time I don't mind, because I don't get to be with them all that often. Of course being the only girl has its perks. Like even though I'm the youngest, I don't get very many hand me downs because I'm the only girl.

I also have lots of protection and my family is very protective of me. Sometimes they get me in trouble for something that hasn't ever happened.

For example my dad is very strict when it comes to boys, so at Thanksgiving when I was talking about how I have the brain of a 24-year old and trying to make myself look smarter, my brother, Trystan said "You're only saying you have the brain of a 24-year old because you have a crush on a 24-year old." (I don't by the way.) That got me loads of glares from my dad.

That leads me into my next thing. BOYS.

My family are very over the top with me now at the age where I start liking boys. So any chance they get they can try to embarrass me.

My brothers like to tell my male friends weird things I did when I was little, or embarrassing things like I do now. They love telling someone how many times I run into a wall a day. This is what any boy I meet gets to hear.

Three out of my five brothers have moved out so now I only live with two and, man, I feel bad for my parents because even with just two teenage boys in the house it's a hassle. But it was all six kids in a house when I was little so let's just talk about that.

When I was a baby and my brothers were all playing tag and someone didn't want to get tagged they would run over to my mom and grab me. They would then say if someone came near them "Can't tag me. I have the baby!"

Now during Christmas, my dad's side all spends time at my grandma's house where we have lots of fun and laughs. It was really funny two years ago watching all the adults try to ride my hoverboard. My brother, Dalton (age 27), kept running it into walls so it was hilarious..

Being the youngest and only girl doesn't actually change things too much too be honest. I do have my own room. Teasing comes up a lot in our family but more often with my siblings. They tease me on how short I am, how I act, how small my hands are, and how "girly" I can be—despite me not being very girly.

There is a big age gap between me and my brothers and I am 14 years younger than my oldest brother, Dalton. But despite that fact, I am included in a lot of things. For Dalton's birthday this year we all went soccer golfing in Portland and it was awesome because I don't usually get to experience things like that. Trystan wrestled in high-school so I was always being taught moves.

These experiences always ended up with me tapping out. We all wrestled and roughhoused when I was younger and now I guess I'm more calm since they have moved out. They are all pretty tough. I mean Trystan and Kamryn still have a record in the weight room at the high school.

But I think I could take them on in certain topics. Educational things, soccer, and sometimes I can beat them in basketball. I don't regret being the youngest and only girl. It makes me unique.

Growing community, one vegetable at a time



by Ellie Epperson

It's sunny outside, yet a chill is still in the air. Two gardeners put on their boots and work jackets and step into the fresh air. Dark, tall trees surround the perimeter of the nine acre lot. They stride towards the off-centered vegetable garden.

A spider sits in the center of an intricate web, dotted with dew drops. A young deer trots alongside the orchard snacking on spoiled apples that are purposely thrown outside the gate for them. One gardener has already gotten out their work gloves and is nurturing the baby kale sprouts. The other is in the vineyard examining the soon-to-be ripe grapes.

These gardeners are my close friends, Don Schneider and Elin England. They have been gardening for many years. In the 1980s, Elin and Don were living in San Francisco, California. In San Francisco, they had a 26-foot-wide lot where they could grow a small garden, but realizing what they really desired, they moved to Oregon. The property they are currently living on has nine acres of beautiful land, providing plenty of opportunity for growing.

What motivated this couple to come out to Pleasant Hill was an event that occurred during their years in San Francisco.

"Prior to moving from San Francisco at the end of the 1980s, we were in a situation where you had to stand in line at the checkout...at midnight for an hour. So that gives you some idea of how crowded and removed from one's food source average people are. I mean literally we would shop at midnight because then, an hour standing in the checkout line was good."

While they lived in San Francisco, an eye-opening experience unfolded before their eyes. Someone had stacked the paper towels too close to the lights in the Safeway dock and warehouses. This resulted in the entire building burning to the ground.

"Two days later everyone was standing at that Safeway, and looking at each other's empty carts and going 'Hmm...!'" Within a couple of days, the food in the town grocer had run out.

"We saw the food supply go away in 48 hours because of the fragility of the food chain, (and) this really struck us. And we were just at that point looking to start a family and I thought, I'm not sure I want to try to raise children in a place like this."

Don Schneider and Elin England had already been involved in various types of organic gardening when this occurred, but what this made clear was that "living in the middle of millions of people without access to a more extensive and reliable food source was not going to work out if such a disruption were to go on for more than a few days."

The garden they are involved with now, actually has many components to it. "There's the vegetable garden, and then there's the orchard and the vineyard," says Elin.

Originally, the garden was a way to provide for their family, but over time, it has expanded to a way of sharing with their community. In fact last year, they estimated that they were putting "healthy, organic, nutrition into about 200 eager

bellies."

It takes them about 850 hours per year and \$5000 of "inputs" to make this happen. "It is our version of 'tithing' or giving back," Don says.

Community is a word that has different meanings to different people. Don believes that community can be brought together by a garden: "[It a garden] illuminates what's important and what is really healthy. And so there's belonging that the garden illuminates for me. I belong to this local community of animals, (for example) the deer that are counting on me to toss apples out of the orchard for them ...there's a community. You guys, with your families."

They have been able to, in the past, host a dinner every Sunday for their friends and neighbors where they would share food that they had worked hard to grow. Don and Elin have even shared their wisdom and knowledge with some young families. The families got to participate in growing and working hard to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

Elin and Don have shared much with the Pleasant Hill community in particular. Many times a co-worker has received a fresh apple on their desk, a box of kale and collard greens appears on a neighbors doorstep, or a friend is given a fresh basket of deep red raspberries. Don and Elin's contribution to the community is one that will never be forgotten and will have far-reaching effects. The garden is not only a food source, not only a beautiful sight to see, but a master of nature, and an artisan of a growing community.

Below: Don Schneider and Elin England, an American Gothic, and great neighbors.



To find social distance, hunt with a bow

by Holton Halstead

Elk hunting means a lot of things that have to be prepared such as having enough food and water. We take about two and a half weeks worth of food. We store it all in a cooler with ice. We usually take our travel trailer but it takes longer to pull it over to eastern Oregon but it is always worth it. With a trailer you have a warm dry place to come back to when you are done hunting.

Then you have to find out where you're going to hunt, how you're going to hunt and where you're going to camp. A tag costs about 30 dollars that's just for the general season and general units. A unit is a parcel of land that you can hunt on.

We usually wake up about 4 in the morning, get our packs ready with water, snacks and game bags. A gamebag is a white cloth bag that you put the meat in once you have cut the animal up so that the meat doesn't get all dirty. A game bag weighs about a pound and we usually take about 4 of them. I usually wear camouflage pants, a long sleeve shirt and a zip up coat. I wear a camo hat and hiking boots. This whole outfit weighs about 4 pounds, my bow weighs about 4 pounds and my pack weighs about 12 pounds. Sometimes we have to drive to the spot where we hunt or if we're lucky we walk out of camp and start hunting. But that is not so common.

Around 5:30 am, when the sky lightens, we usually set up and call. What that entails is my dad bugling and cow calling with me about 150 yards ahead of my dad. Bugling is what a bull elk (a male elk) does about 6:00 to 6:45 to attract cow elk. Often we keep hiking, covering about six miles in the morning.

We stop around one o'clock. Sometimes we go back to camp or we sleep and take a nap outside and hunt back to the camp for the evening. In the evening we hunt from about four to dark. You never know if you will see elk or not, but you always do the best you can and hope everything works out.

If we find no elk then we repeat until we get one. This year I was fortunate to see a big bull. It was the last week that we were going to be hunting and my dad and I went out in the morning. We had a little longer of a walk so we were a little late to setup and call.

As we were walking up this old skid road the stillness of the woods was split by a big bugle. My dad and I looked at each other, grinned and nodded our heads as a sign for, Let's go get 'em! So we started off into this patch of really tight tamarack trees and we headed straight for the bugle. My dad set me up about 150 yards in front of him and he started to call. This big bull started coming up from the bottom of this patch of timber while I got ready. I focused on controlling my breathing and saw his antlers come through the trees. I wasn't in the best spot as there was only a little opening that I was able to shoot through. The bull came up over the ridge and paralleled a wall of brush with the tiny foot by foot opening. I yelled at him and let the arrow fly. The wounded elk wheeled and took off. We tracked his blood trail for about 400 yards and then it just dried up. So we think that I hit him a little high and didn't hit any vitals. Needless to say we ended up not finding him and were very disappointed.

When we do get an elk down, we make sure the elk is dead. We then have to skin it and quarter it. We cut the back hips and legs off, then we cut the front shoulder off along with the leg. Each front quarter weighs about 50 pounds and the hind quarters are about 75 pounds each. Then we cut the backstrap out. There are two of them they run along each side of the spine and weigh about 15 pounds. Finally we take the neck meat which totals out to about 50 pounds. One mile with a pack on your back exhausts you, but it is all worth it. I usually carry one hind quarter, the back straps, and half the neck meat which equals little over one hundred pounds plus my bow.

If you do end up getting an elk and get it home you've got to cut up the meat and package it. This consists of trimming all the sinew and fat off the meat and cutting it into cuts of meat that you can throw in the pan and cook up or put in the freezer for later. I love elk hunting because it provides a challenge and it's what I've grown up around. The thought of killing an animal that big with a small arrow gives of big sense of accomplishment.



Senior Kyle Gordon shows off a big blacktail he shot. Kyle is also adept at hunting with the bow. Below, a Gray Fox investigates the school at night.



High Expectations: DRESSAGE

by Abbie Hock

Quiz Time: What Olympic sport has been around since the beginning of the Olympics in 776 BC?

You might answer sprinting, or wrestling, or jumping, but you could answer... Dressage!

What? Dressage.

What is that? Glad you asked.

Dressage is described as the highest expression of horse training and it is performed in the Olympics and World Equestrian Games it is made to "maximize a horse's potential as a riding horse."

But first some history: The first we ever heard of dressage was in 680 BCE in ancient Greece in their Olympic games. In 1532/CE the first dressage riding school was established in Italy and in 1556 they added music. In 1634 William Cavendish built a riding house at Bolsover Castle which is now the model for modern-day dressage arenas. In 1658 William Cavendish established military training which pushed away from the brutality of knights and towards the cavalry horses. In 1737 the first Spanish riding school was built in Australia where in 1873 the first dressage competition was held.

The most expensive dressage horse is named Totilas and is worth around \$21 million dollars. A well bred dressage horse is worth \$40,00 at the age of 4. I once saw one for \$100,000 that wasn't trained. The equine industry is worth \$300 billion dollars and contributes \$39 billion dollars to the US economy. In a dressage show the rider takes a test full of movements like a pirouette or a simple canter transition. Each movement is evaluated from 1-10, 5 being a mediocre score and you'd probably aim for 7-7.5. Dressage is evaluated on 1.rhythm and regularity 2.relaxation 3.contact 4.impulsion 5.straightness but most importantly collection

Now "collection" is technically the point of the other 5 but roll with it. Have you ever seen a stallion trotting because he was excited around a mare?

If so, you noticed he seemed as if he was floating. If you were to look even closer he would round his back and engage his core which made him carry himself in a manner called "self-carriage" (I know, so creative.)

This is the most efficient way for a horse to move around. Horses normally they are put together in a weird way. But training them in dressage provides horses self carriage. But that is not how horses normally act.

Basically imagine walking around slouched all your life. In my experience with training, dressage horses stand and walk around like they are floating. This is by choice the more trained they are.

Why do dressage? Dressage is the basis of every other equestrian event: Show jumping, eventing, western pleasure, even barrel racing. It's a sport that I can work into everything I do with horses. It's made to improve a horse's performance in everyday tasks. It interested me because the levels were so different and complicated. I used to hate dressage when I was younger but my trainers would force me to do it and I'm glad they did.



Above, Avery Laired, Sean Williams, Kellen Parrish and Kurt Perini help with wreaths to raise money for senior night. Below Hannah Selander takes a break from practicing with her trombone masked.



CROSS COUNTRY: THE LITERAL LONG RUN

by Camille Hicks

The definition of cross country is this, "Cross country running is a sport in which teams and individuals run a race on open-air courses over natural terrain such as dirt or grass."

However, as cheesy as it sounds, cross country is so much more than just running. Of course, I love running, but the sport is more than its definition. Cross country, also known as XC, is about teamwork, knowing yourself, and connecting your brain and body.

When you're running, it's a constant battle between your body and your mind. Your mind tells you to stop. That voice in your head will tell you that you're too tired, too slow, your lungs hurt, or your legs hurt. It is the hardest thing to keep going, and sometimes you can't. However, when you do, it's an amazing thing. I can't explain the feeling, but for my runners out there, you understand.

Austin Ratliff, a sophomore, says, "I like cross country because I have too short of an attention span to run on a track." I think I can say for a lot of XC runners that running on the trails is preferable to the track!

I began running the summer between grades sixth and seventh. This season will be my third year on the Pleasant Hill cross country team. And I am hooked.

From the moment I began running, I knew it was my thing, and I was good. I'm not saying that I was a superstar or some up and coming State champion, but I was dedicated. I am dedicated.

My first year, seventh grade season, I placed 15th at districts. I ran the next year, eighth grade season, and placed 12th at districts. While this doesn't sound like the best progression, I dropped 50 seconds off my seventh grade time, and I went to State. Sadly, we haven't, and we might not even have a districts this year.

The team consists of a lot of different people. Kurt Perini, Austin Ratliff, Athena Sprague, Owen Laird, Luci Brady, Coleman Sprague, Soleis Jones-Burris, Kenna, Cambria Hunter, and me!

We, the team, started running back in July. We have continued running till now. However, this year I began running in April in preparation for track—if it was going to happen. We run three times a week at the track. We used to run at Elijah Bristow, but since daylight savings, Beth Sprague, our coach, moved us to the track for safety.

The team is so much different now. In my first year the high school and middle teams were separate. High school had just been high school for a long time, and then all these little sixth graders joined (hence, me.) The team continued to change, some people left, and others stayed. Now, there is no middle school or high school team, we are one.

Kurt Perini, senior, caption of the team says, "I love the Teammates and coaches in Cross country. They are the most supportive human beings out there, no matter if it is at a house, practices or a meet. Especially a huge highlight every year is going up to Tillamook and doing the mud run. Along with being the team captain this year, it's awesome that more people are enjoying running, no matter their reason behind it." We are simply, the Pleasant Hill Cross Country team. And we are committed.

Below: Beth Sprague and Michele Stowell inspire as coaches. Picture from fall of 2019.



On The Back Of An Angel

by Delaney Clark

As I walk down to the gate,
I feel the cold nipping at my cheeks
Forcing them to be happy and rosey
I place my hands on the gate,
The cold metal soon melting away,
Leaving handprints on the cold rust
Bailey, I am here!
I shout as I looked up at the towering treetops
All I can hear is the birds chirping
Until it happened
I hear thunder as he gallops up the hill to get to me,
Nostrils flaring,
Mane whipping in the breeze
I hop the gate as he stops right in front of me
Nostrils swaying back and forth,
Like a hummingbird's wings
Even in his sweet,
Kind eyes
I can still see mischief
A twinkle in his eye makes me smile
I put my hand on his shoulder
I can feel his strong heartbeat
His tireless breath
The blood gushing through his veins
His muscles stick out
When I mount this beautiful creature,
It feels like
I am about to go over a waterfall
Have an adventure
As we gallop through the trees
I feel as if I am floating on a cloud
It feels amazing to be on the back of an angel

Sand

by Evander Ruiz

At the beach the sand feels like salt, dry and warm.
Sand looks like a thousand little lights sparkling.
When it blows, it feels like millions of shards hitting
your skin.
Sand can take any shape you want.
Sand is the building block of miniature castles,
but it can be destroyed by the swooping ocean.
Brown and yellow are the colors of
a beautiful beach, either in the
yellow and orange sun or the glistening moon.
Sand is a home for critters and creatures.
Islands made of sand
out in the ocean like a village
with a palm tree.

Family Zoom: The best thing during Covid Times

by Ellie Bahen

One of the things I look forward to each week is seeing my family—well, sort of seeing them that is.

Every Sunday, all of my mom's side of the family does a Zoom meeting to chat and check in. It sounds simple, and it's really fun! We take turns being the host of the meeting and planning fun activities to do. Then, we go around sharing what we did that week or showing everyone things that we made (drawings, paintings, etc).

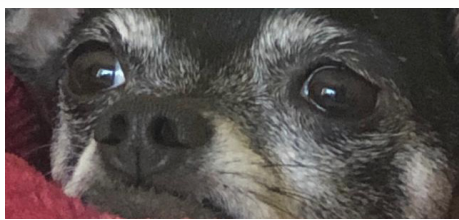
My cousins, my siblings and I, and even my aunt talk about how school is going. My cousins are doing homeschool, while my siblings and I are doing online school. Sometimes, we'll play something on our instruments, like my grandpa. My brother plays the piano, I play the flute, my grandpa plays the saxophone, and my cousins play the cello.

One of my favorite activities to do is a Mad-libs. We all name out an adjective or a noun and at the end, one person reads out the stories we created. One time, my brother was reading it out loud and he couldn't stop laughing. Once, we even played telephone and it was hilarious!

We also have a super fun segment called "What's for dinner?"

Each week, one person chooses what dish everyone is going to have one day during the week. Then we go over what we are having for dinner (or what we've already had for dinner).

After that, we just chat, laugh, and have a good time. It's hard not being able to get together with family, but we're trying to make the best of it.



by Angel Calva

We just adopted my best friend, Sammy.
Sammy is a black and white, drama queen, and all of three years old.
And she is a chihuahua.

I chose her because she was trying to escape her pen at the Pet Adoption Place. She was really sweet, and no one had adopted her for three years. So I did.
But we had to get shots. So we chose the local veterinarian at the Pleasant Hill Animal Hospital.

The Pleasant Hill Animal Hospital sits at the intersection of Ridgeway Rd and Hwy 58, just east of the GAS STATION. The veterinarians who work at PHAH are William Young, Hans Larsen, Craig Seyler, and Dr. Powers. Their support team is made up of Jerrah King, Jessica Trout, Michele Larsen, Chayse Musolf, Kyra Touchstone, and Fiona Brooks.

PHAH has a lot to offer like tips on your first puppy or kitten, dental care, diagnostic services, preventive care, surgical services, and even a new wellness program coming soon.

Dr. Powers is the veterinarian at Pleasant Hill Animal Hospital. She was born and raised on the Oregon coast and graduated with a degree in Biology from Oregon Tech, and then completed her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) at Oregon State University.

Powers is passionate about preserving the special relationship between people and their pets and nothing excites her more than helping a sick pet become well and reuniting them with their family. She and her husband have three dogs, two Chihuahuas (Thelma and Louise) and a mixed breed (Jackson).

Her mission is to care for your pet as if it was her own. She wants pet owners to be informed of their pet's treatment options and explain all matters in terms everyone can understand. The entire healthcare team is committed to providing personal attention to the unique concerns of each individual pet owner. The Pleasant Hill Animal Hospital provides compassionate care to pet patients and pet owners and welcome any positive or negative feedback regarding the care your animals receive.

In their mission statement, they mention that they are also a surgery center. Some of the surgeries they perform are elective surgeries like neuter and spay, dental cleaning and extractions, soft tissue surgery, and orthopedics, like fractures.

Michele Larsen is a part of the PHAH team, she began her veterinary career as a receptionist in the small country town of White Salmon, Washington in the 1990s. After leaving the area and continuing over 40 years of experience in customer service, she found herself looking to rejoin the veterinary field after moving to Oregon. Michele loves learning new things every day and is always impressed with the way humans and animals can communicate non-verbally to correctly diagnose ailments. She is a dedicated team member who treats her coworkers as well as clients and their pets like family. She has even adopted our elderly clinic cat, providing him a quiet and relaxing retirement. When Michele is not working, she is enjoying the Pacific Northwest and spending time with her children and grandson, as well as her beloved grand-pup, "Hyzer".

It is crucial for us to support our local businesses, especially ones that care very much for their customers. Pleasant Hill Animal Hospital ensures that they give your pet the best care possible treating them as if they were their own.



The Bahens keep family going with fun Zooms



Crossing the border and finding my family

by Lauren Cazares

For two weeks in October, I experienced what it feels like to be a Mexican citizen.

I didn't visit Cancun or a Los Cabos resort. I didn't even stay in a hotel. Instead, I lived with my father's family in Hermosillo, just inland from Baja California. Hermosillo is the capital of the state of Sonora and is located on the border of California and Arizona. It is in a desert, which makes it very hot and dry. In Hermosillo, the temperatures are consistently above 115 degrees. While I was there in the month of October, the average was around 105 degrees. However, because this was late fall, most people wore long sleeves and pants and some even wore jackets!

I spent my time visiting family. It was the first time that I got to meet many of my cousins, aunts, and uncles. The first weekend I was there, they surprised me with a "welcome to Mexico!" party.

We danced, ate, and played traditional games all night. They took me to see many famous places including the city's largest cathedral, a viewpoint of the city called Cerro de la Campana, and an open air market. They also took me to a lot of great places to eat. I went to numerous taco stands where I bought the most delicious fifty cent tacos, an authentic Japanese Anime cafe, and every morning, I walked to the *panaderia* to get fresh *pan dulce*. But the best part was the street food.

On every corner, there were different authentic food vendors. I had snow cones with fresh vanilla, ice cream that was the consistency of fresh snow, mango con chile, and more tacos.

Mexico felt very welcoming, but because of COVID, there were many restrictions just like here. However, my cousins told me that at the beginning of the quarantine, it was much stricter. No one could leave the house after 6 pm, and only one person per household could go grocery shopping. Now they are much more relaxed and are slowly returning to normal.

School is still online, however, but it consists of morning classes Monday through Friday. One surprising difference I saw between the countries' restrictions for preventing Covid was how they made you step on a wet mat before you entered a store. They said this was to prevent spreading the virus through your shoes. They were surprised we weren't doing that here.

Even though I was only in Mexico for two weeks, I am already planning my next trip. I am hoping to go for spring break and two of my cousins are spending Christmas here, so I'll be able to show them our culture as well.

Up from Texas

by Payton Wolbeck

I just moved here from Texas, and I get asked all the time what Texas is like. Well today I'm going to shed some light from the Lone Star state on the subject.

Yes, sometimes I miss Texas but I'm so excited to have the opportunity to come to Oregon and start this new adventure.

Therefore let's jump right in! Texas is cultured in many different ways.

As they say everything's BIGGER in Texas. Texas is full of bonfires, grills, and guns. Down "yonder" we love to go huntin', fishin', muddin', campin' and almost anything you want to try. Texas is spectacular because every county is like a big family unit. It's quite something.

Well, as you know, every good has a bad so let's unveil it all.

First off we all know about the dreaded heat of Texas. It's so hot and humid you could cook a steak on the road. I never really tried this, but we like to say that it could happen. Another saying is that you can never have a perfect hair day unless hairspray is your best friend. An upside of the hot and humid is that it doesn't get too cold and if it "snows" it's now named a Texas blizzard.

Texas has a lot to offer. You just have to let go and enjoy the experience of it all—not a mountain in sight, but trees that reach the clouds and a sunset that will take your breath away. The smell of fresh-cut grass in the prairie, the sight of a variety of animals, and the warmth of the sun as you watch the clouds pass by are all the best parts of Texas. At night it's pitch black and you're able to see even the dimmest of stars shine bright. Texas is a huge and beautiful place.

But now, I am in Oregon, and eager to see all that the Pacific Northwest has to offer. So far the school experience for me has been a change in itself—From the new mascot to the new teachers, to new friends.

The school work here is a lot less and the teachers don't Zoom back in Texas. However, in Texas, it's tricky. We were treated like college students. They took the saying "Prep Them For The Future" quite seriously. But when we were in school it was different. Most teachers are nice but you always have the one that is awful, for lack of a better word.

Overall school was fun. I involved myself in a lot of different activities like UIL (The University Interscholastic League exists to provide educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests), choir, drill team, NJHS, cheer, spirit squad, band, soccer, and many other things. My former school, Carthage High School, also has a diverse population of students.

But now Pleasant Hill is my home and I am looking forward to a new start.



Our Past:
Pleasant Hill History
Part 2

by Richard Adams

With the help of James Hendricks, he erected a small log house on the southwest corner of what is now the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, near where the entrance road is now. It was used as both a school and a church for the first four years and was supported by subscription. In April of 1853 a meeting was held and the following “school-directors” (school board members) were elected: Edward Mullholland, Gilmore Callison, and James Mitchell, with John Gilfrey elected as clerk. At that same meeting, the directors voted to erect a new school building on 40 acres of land donated by Elijah Bristow from the NW corner of his claim.

The building was erected the following year in 1854 by Robert Callison. District Number 1 originally included Pleasant Hill and what would later be the districts of Edenvale, Enterprise, and parts of Coast Fork and Cloverdale.

The first Union High School in Lane County was built on land either donated by H.C. Wheeler, or “purchased from Joseph Pestal, 1/4 mile east of the PH cemetery on the south side of the highway,” according the Verna Manning Mauney, an early teacher in the elementary school, married to Berry Mauney, who graduated from PHHS in 1927. The school was east of the current (2010) Elementary school about where the newer Junior High gym is today, The older gym south of that one was built in 1953 to replace one that burned down in 1951.

In 1908 a group of people from the five districts, Pleasant Hill, Enterprise, Coast Fork, Edenvale, and Trent, met and elected a school board member from each district. Those elected were Will Wheeler, Chairman; R.J. Hemphill, Clerk, Bert Beaver, W.C. Reeve, E.P. Lattin, and Fred Cook.

Although only the first five districts were official, many students came from non-high school districts: Zion, Lowell, Jasper, Goshen and Cloverdale. They had to pay tuition which changed from year to year. Some years it was as small as \$1 per student.

Details of other buildings in the Pleasant Hill community, including a cheese factory, can be found on the Pleasant Hill CD-ROM in selections from the “Lane County Historian” from June of 1959.

In 1908, Pleasant Hill started its first high school classes. There were other high schools in the area: Eugene had started its first public high school in 1899 with four teachers (there had been a private religious high school, St. Johns, started in 1870, taught by Rev. McManus) and Cottage Grove built their first high school in 1891 with one teacher. Springfield later started their high school in 1909 with four teachers, the year after Pleasant Hill High School began as a separate room with Mrs. Clara S. Corum as the first teacher.

The Billie Bulletin Staff

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Ophelia and Alex Ramos provide fresh, delicious food for Billies.

Have a good day at Buen Dia!

By Jacqueline Pineda

Buen Dia is a newish Mexican food truck right that sits along Pleasant Hill Coffee in the lot with Pleasant Hill Feed Store. It is a family-owned business that offers an array of Mexican food, including fresh tacos, burritos and handmade corn tortillas.

Ophelia Ramos is the owner of Buen Dia and she was inspired to open her truck because of her family. Alex attends school at PHHS and his brother graduated from Thurston.

“I want to make them proud of being Hispanic” Ophelia said.

“We are a good example of hard working people, making a difference for the good of the community.”

The Ramos family decided to open their business here in tiny PHill because PHill lacked a place for fresh and local Mexican food.

They are also looking forward to when students can go back to in person classes after Covid dies down. Then Buen Dia will be offering student discounts at their truck.

The hours at Buen Dia, as of now are from Tues-Fri between the hours of 9 - 3:30pm and once schools open they will open on Mondays also.

Al-in-all Buen Dia is a fresh new food spot and if you are looking for great Mexican food you should give them a try!!

Pleasant Hill Feed Store provides for Billies...
and sheep, and dogs and cats and more



Travis Parr serves the PHill community and beyond in his family store.

The Billie Bulletin interviewed Travis Parr, owner of the Pleasant Hill Feed Store a local instution. How is running a business during Covid different from running a business during normal times?

Running a business during this pandemic, we do many curbside phone order. Where before it was all in person sales. Also having to make sure things are sanitized multiple times a day is challenging, along with making sure our patrons are following the rules.

What do you like about running a family owned business?

Running a family business can be difficult and enjoyable at the same time. Trying to fill the shoes of your parents and making changes at the same time can be challenging but rewarding. I enjoy seeing many local residents each day.

How is your store set apart from other feed stores?

Pleasant Hill Feed sets itself apart from others stores by being community oriented and family owned. We offer delivery service all over Lane County and even down to Douglas County. Our motto is “Offering World Class Service.”

Do you have any advice to kids who want to start their own business?

Make sure you are ready to put in long hours and always try to be the best you can be.

Do you have a certain variety of things that you only sell, or is it a large variety of farm and feed?

For the most part we sell a large variety of products related to animals, from birds, pets, to livestock and we also try to keep hardware and other miscellaneous farm equipment. Also if you don't see something, please ask if we can bring it in to keep shopping local.

A reviewer online pointed this out in their five star review, “If you call ahead, they will set things aside for you, they generally know the items that they carry very well and can make good recommendations.”

2nd Installment
A Vampire Primer
by JJ Seitz

Moving on. How do you get your blood? You said something about your mom being picky with who you feed off of. Do animals work just as well? Or does it have to be people? And is it consensual?

“Okay, time to clear up a misconception. Yes most vampires stalk and drain the blood from unwilling people, it's an ugly side of our community, so I'm not going to walk on eggshells here. I'm going to acknowledge that it still happens in the twenty-first century, so there's no bad blood between you and me.”

“Of course for me it's always consensual. With cows or horses, yes we can take blood from them too, you kinda have to be a vampire to know the difference between taste and flavor, but the best way I can put it is this.”

“Humans are like the tasty barbecue chips, while everything else is the plain, unsalted kind. Not to sound too predatory here, but humans taste a lot better than other creatures. I've learned it's because humans possess powerful souls of which they imprint their blood with, akin to wine, human blood gets riper and tastier the wiser the person in question is.”

“It's why the blood of smart people is so dang expensive where I live. Perhaps vampires are designed to hunt smarter humans, I know up until recent decades most of my kind did hunt humans out in the open, so I'm happy I've been given the opportunity to live alongside them instead of in the shadows like my ancestors did.”

“It's a much more fulfilling existence.”

Very enlightening. Were you born a vampire? Or did you somehow turn later? To my knowledge a person being born a vampire is possible, albeit very rare.

“You are correct. I'm what's considered a dhampir [vampire slang for a second generation child in any given family]. Vampires cannot breed normally since they are undead, so it takes a human to give what we call the spark of life to the mother so their body can become active for a little while. Once the child is born [i.e. me] their body dies once again.

“Unlike regular vampires, dhampir's do physically age, only much, much slower than the average person, and we require less blood to function normally. However, I can't turn into a coven of bats or regenerate severed fingers in mere seconds so blah!”

“An upside is that I can eat garlic pizza so that's a big win in my book, haha.”

Where are you from--If you don't mind me asking?

“I was born and raised in Bolivia, actually. My mother migrated here in 1846. Most, if not all, of my extended family, aunts, uncles, cousins, stayed in France, however, so it's a pain to see each other. But I always enjoy the trips there, Paris is truly a wonderful city once you've explored it.”

This might be rude, but how old are you? From the manner in which you talk and the year your mother came to Bolivia, would imply a rather large age gap between you and her.

“No worries. I was born in 1974, so I'm currently 46--which is still rather young for a vampire mind you. I'm still considered a teenager. Vampires don't reach adulthood until they've lived for a hundred years minimum. Heck, I'm still technically a pre-teen until I get past 50.”

Wow, that's amazing.

In my studies, the creature known as the Vampire are often given bad raps. In my last article describing such a monster, I have been besieged by many humans and vampires alike, most of these interactions have been through mail or phone, even the errant fax if you can believe it.

Perhaps vampires in general prefer old school methods of communication as well, while the ink and quill has long since gone out of fashion, I have received a number of letters written in cursive, of which I can not read.

One such note sent to me, by a relatively “young” vampire, has expressed concern about some of the more barbed details I discussed. Namely, she stated that while a paper about her kin is appreciated [should the facts I present be accurate] she wanted me to show the humanity within vampires, to shed light on a sweeter side of their life, pun intended.

I wrote back to her, my interest thoroughly peaked. I stated that while communicating through the post is rather professional and quaint, it's rather burdensome for my wallet. So I kindly asked if there was a way we could exchange information over the internet.

A reply found its way into my mailbox on November 3rd. She explained that, apparently, she forgot she sent the letter to me. Halloween is almost akin to a second religion to vampires [and other creatures of the night] and in all the fanfare and hullabaloo of the annual festivities, it slipped her mind.

She stated and I quote [:with permission from the young fledgling:]

“I am flattered that you wrote back to me, Kaleb. When I wrote my letter originally, I expected it to wind up stuffed into a filing cabinet somewhere, to be forever forgotten. I did not know you were a single person--probably should have checked the mailing address more carefully.

Oh well.

I am happy to hear back from you nonetheless. It's always a pleasure to speak with another person. People get so wrapped up in the negatives of my race, and that's what being a vampire is, a race. Most of my people consider ourselves an ethnicity, similar to Italian-Americans of your country.

We are yet another sub-category of a species that binds us all. We think, we love, we laugh and hate; we may venture forth into the night; we may live our daily lives under the gleaming shadow of the moon, but, in essence, we are the same. We are innately human, we are sentient beings, we possess the same rights you do, we have families as you do, I'm not trying to come off as preachy, just be careful about what you publish. That's all I ask.

Yes we can speak online. Right now I'm currently doing nightly Zoom classes, Covid-19 still prevails quite powerfully in my home country as well as yours, night and day, the virus is a nose-to-the-grindstone worker.

We could chat over the phone? My English teacher, Miss Sangre, said I've been making great strides in learning your language, so I might snap a photo of this letter on my phone and show it to her for my quarter final.”

The rest of the letter was composed of contact details, gmail, cell number, etc. I am certain she would not want me sharing that information with the general school population so we are moving onwards.

If my interest was aroused beforehand, then this recent letter poured gasoline on my burning curiosity. My questions were;

“Can vampires get Covid-19? And how most importantly.” “What country does she originate from?” “Can she please elaborate on her views towards humanity and vampires as a singular race?”

It's all so fascinating isn't it? You must remember that I based my old thesis off of dusty tomes and books I found at the town library--most of which were of dubious accuracy. So it took a combined effort of rampant examination, a good sense of logic and common sense, to discern what was real or not.

Drafting up a quick response, she wrote back in a timely manner, which of course was a few days ago on November 14th. You'd think it'd be faster over email, but that's not the case here.

She explained that now thanksgiving preparations are consuming most of her free time, they are visiting this distant family this year, who live far away in France, so planning the trip and packing has been a hassle.

Over the course of three days, I sent a number of emails to her, of which she readily responded to. The reason being is that she wanted me to send her a bulk of questions at once

2020 Yearbooks are available for \$60--at the office!
We need your pictures of your students during this distance learning time.
Please email Mr. Meinzen (tmeinzen@gmail.com) your pictures of your students! We will be so grateful.