



The Billie Bulletin

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Senora Watne: Maestra asombrosa

By Lorena Albright

Mrs. Watne is a significant part of Pleasant Hill High School. Not only has she been teaching at Pleasant Hill for almost eleven years, but she has had almost every student in her class for one or more years. As a Spanish teacher her job is a little harder than most. Teaching multiple freshmen students another language is a challenge in and of itself, but she does a fantastic job at this task for all grades.

Her passion for Spanish began in high school, "I learned to love Spanish in high school. I had the best teacher for three years who was so inspirational, I'll never forget her." She then figured out that she could double major in college, so she added Spanish as a second major. This allowed her to do a semester abroad in Spain. Her first teaching job was a social studies class with two periods of Spanish which she quickly learned was a fun subject to teach.

After returning from her semester abroad she was almost fluent in Spanish. Spending three years in Miami, Florida was a big help and teaching Spanish made her grammar better, she said. Before teaching at Pleasant Hill she changed jobs quite frequently. She has taught first grade Spanish, 4th grade social studies, middle school social studies, Spanish, and Science, high school Social studies and Spanish, adult GED, and college ESL classes.

If she could have a different job besides teaching Spanish, she said she would "be a tv show host for a travel show, like Samantha Brown or Rick Steves." Her favorite place she has traveled is Sintra, Portugal. She went there once in college and loved it, so she and her husband went there for their honeymoon. At that time Expedia was fairly new and had a mistake on their website. They found a castle turned hotel to stay at for 88 cents a night, and Expedia honored their mistake, so they stayed ten days in a castle for under \$10 total!

Before the pandemic Mrs. Watne went on many student trips at the end of each year. Her favorite place she traveled was Perú because it was her first time in South America, and a totally new experience for her. When asked what her favorite part about being a teacher is, she responded with, "My favorite part of being a teacher is having fun with my students, and hopefully inspiring them to love learning languages."

We got some students to tell us their opinions about her, "Mrs. Watne is awesome, she is very funny and always cracks herself up," "Mrs. Watne is a very fun teacher and makes learning Spanish very enjoyable." "Mrs. Watne cares about her students and she is genuinely so funny and it makes class so much fun."

She is an experienced traveler and an amazing teacher and we are glad to have her.

For whom the Bell Tolls

By Bella Malekzadeh

PHHS is experiencing change. With all of the changes there are going to be some unpleasant changes but sometimes what needs to be changed is unclear.

One change that has elicited a lot of opinions is the new bell to signal switching classes. Some kids wonder if it is needed.

Or what about the "evil sound" it makes? Aurora Brott is kind of neutral. She said "I think they should've spent their money on something else." She also says "It sounds like a prison bell."

Addie Hyland agrees. She said she thinks that the bells are confusing with middle school and high school bells being at the same time and people usually leave class to the wrong bell.

Kyra Bebb also has a few things she dislikes about the bell. She said, "I don't like the sounds of the bell. There's nothing wrong with it and I feel like it's a good thing but they need to make the sounds for high school and middle school different."

After interviewing a few others, people seem to agree and have problems with the bells as they are.

Does administration have similar concerns? Mr. Salmond said "I think they're outstanding!" But, he also stated that there is room for improvement and having auditory signals as a heads up for when class is ending is super important and helpful. Salmond said his experiences in all other schools indicate that they have had bells, but the school within schools (high school and middle school) makes it hard because of interrupting classes. Considering what Mr. Salmond said improvement seems to be needed but the administration is committed to the reality of the bell system.

STUDENT REACTIONS TO THE NEW BELL SOUND

- It reminds me of the national EAS alarms— like you're about to die now
- It sounds like the purge alert
- An Alarm
- It reminds me of an alarm clock you never wake up to no matter how loud you put it.
- It reminds me of when the air fryer is done cooking and it makes a buzzing sound.
- It sounds like the phone alert when a child gets kidnapped
- An abattoir
- Prison cells unlocking
- The end of the world

Motocross Madness

by Tim Meinzen

Zach McGuire is the best motocross rider in our school. And maybe the best his age in the state. But a crash while racing nearly killed him and has put him in months of painful recovery from a crushed pelvis. Even so, Zach thinks only of getting back on the bike and out on the course.

Before he can do that he has to endure months of rehab, much of it while in a reclining wheelchair pushed by his friends around school.

Zach was riding for the Loretta Lynn National, the biggest amateur motocross race, in November. Motocross races take about 20 minutes on a lap of hills and drops that are completed in roughly three minutes. The thrill of motocross is riding fast but close on the dirt track. It is dangerous and Zach was under no illusions regarding the safety of his chosen passion.

Zach came by motocross from his father who also raced bikes. For Zach, motocross offers a "fast paced" race in which the rider has to rely on themselves and the ride is "always on the edge." "I always feel alive doing it" emphasized Zach.

Zach did much of his training locally, but he is critical of local track conditions. However, he admits, the poor quality of the tracks helped him become a better rider. He now competes largely in other states, particularly California and Texas.

Zach has ideas about a future away from Motocross. He talks of going to a trade school for electrical or plumbing. He wants to have a family and he knows the career of motocross racers is short. From 18-30 is the range for racers and once you lose a competitive edge, the slightest decline means you are not competitive.

To stay fit for racing Zach had to work out. He says he is "super strong, but not bulky—toned."

Cardio is huge, so he works out off the bike with balance balls, yoga balls, and counterweights. Despite the workouts, Zach admits he is "not super good on diet" which frustrates his mom.

Zach said that competitive riders often do not go to school but do online work, which his parents refuse to allow Zach to do. He believes that those riders have a significant advantage because of the time they get to ride. That doesn't mean that Zach feels he can't compete. Quite the contrary, he is eager to race. And that eagerness had its devastating consequence.

Zach was racing in California when he came up fast on a triple hill. The steep hills



had blind descents so when he came down and saw two riders down, he "scrubbed hard to the right" to avoid two other crashes, but he had too much speed, and was tossed off his bike at about 50 mph. As he tumbled in the dirt, with his "bell rung" another biker smashed into him and shattered his pelvis into five pieces.

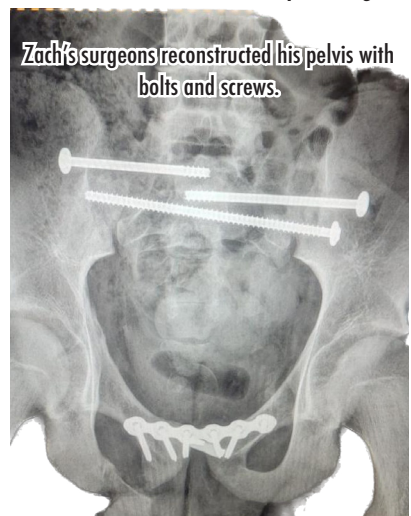
He could feel his "internals all slooshing" with traumatic bleeding and lost all feeling in his legs. The track medics ran over and called Lifeflight helicopter. Meanwhile the medics pumped fentanyl into Zach to staunch the pain. When the chopper showed up it took six minutes to reach the hospital where the doctors had to deal with enormous internal blood loss. Zach said "everything turned white, then I was out, zero blood pressure, [as though I] died. More fentanyl was pumped into him while they tied his pelvis together with straps and had to give him two full units of blood during the flight.

The next day Zach faced five hour surgery in which 70% was completed by "robots." His intestines continued to work despite massive bruising. He spent seven weeks in bed in near constant pain with a bruised coccyx, seven hematomas and "other scary things." And he has lost about 20 lbs through the ordeal.

Currently he is beginning to use a walker, but still constantly uncomfortable and in pain.

The talk and laughter of his buddies provides a distraction, but only for a little bit. During his recovery he has had to make visits to the emergency room several times. His folks, already committed to his racing career, have been just as focussed on getting him back to health, and that has not been easy.

Despite his current agony, Zach still "loves" motocross and is eager to get back on the bike. That determination to face the same risks comes with the sport.



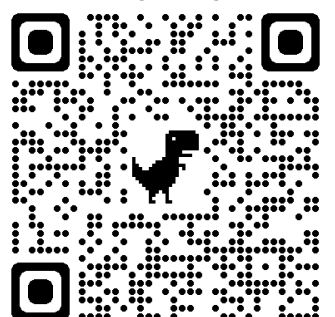
Zach's surgeons reconstructed his pelvis with bolts and screws.

Students litter parking lot with trash



Some students have been leaving their trash by their parking spots despite trash cans within 75 feet. The actions of these students means that our janitors are forced to work extra to clean up their slop. When asked if they were involved, several students denied that they were indeed the litter bugs.

Find the Billie Bulletin online



An adoption story

By Alia Blatch

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be adopted? Well I'm here to tell because I'm adopted and I've been with my adopted family since I was 4 years old.

I'm now 17 years old and that means I've been with them for 14 years now.

It's a little different being adopted because a lot of kids are taken away from their biological family when very young. Most of the time, kids don't know why they are adopted until their step parents explain it to them once they are old enough. I don't get to see my biological parents anymore until I'm 18 because of some complicated choices they made. I have to wait until I'm ready and my step parents say it's okay or it's appropriate to see my biological parents.

I was taken from my biological parents and put into foster care



Abigail and Alea Blatch

because they both had mental illnesses and didn't have the healthy ways of being parents. My biological mom actually didn't know she was going to have twins. When we were born, my sister and I weighed one pound and two ounces and the size of a regular adult hand.

Later, in in foster care it didn't make sense to me why I was going house to house. That's just how foster care works. Once the family you are with doesn't want to take care of you you're put in a spot for a new home. One foster mom had two kids, a boy and a girl. At the time her kids didn't live with her so I'm pretty sure that's why we were put with her. She didn't have much but one very detailed visual I remembered, she had a wall of soup cans.

The last foster care home I was taken from was okay. I thought "wow another house, another boring long life!" But one day we were picked up from our last foster care home. We got in our social service counselor car and were on our way to this house. I was thinking it's another foster care home and I wasn't going to let them take me away again. I thought they were taking me away from my biological parents, and I was really scared.

When I lived with my grandma, I got to see my parents at least once a week and they got to do something fun with me. I saw my dad once a week in Siletz and Newport and I got to see my mom here in Eugene for only a little while. Our grandma took care of us and our soon-to-be-step sister would come over and play with us. We also had a half brother. He had the same mom but a different dad. He was always there with us too.

Once we got to the new "foster home" I was angry. I didn't want to get out of that car. No joke, my counselor and this family I didn't know had to pull me out of my car seat while I screamed "I DON'T WANNA LEAVE!! I DON'T WANNA LEAVE!"

I balled my eyes out. I was really confused. They finally got me out of the car and I walked to the front door with my sister where we met this group of people looking at us.

We finally figured out that we were going to be adopted. I didn't really know what that meant, but we found out that we would have an older brother named Reece and two older sisters named Karlie and Rachel. We also found out that we were officially with a family forever.

My sister and I grew to love this family. We had lots of fun meeting new families and fit right in. It can be a little scary with the whole "moving from house to house": through foster care experience. But once we grew up we found out there was a good reason to be with this family, we wouldn't be where we are if it wasn't for adoption.

My adoptive parents, Ron and Kari didn't really want more kids but they asked Reece, Karlie and Rachel if it was okay to adopt twin girls. They approved and we live a nice life with them.

That's why getting adopted isn't too bad. After all it is just like if you are with your biological family but better.

Sofia Gonzalez and Jimena Jimenez bring large pots to school on "Anything but a Backpack" Day during Spirit Week.



Wilson aims to build character

By Deanna Helvie

Caleb Wilson is a new teacher here at Pleasant Hill. He teaches health classes as well as PE. At first glance, Mr. Wilson seems like your average teacher. But as students, we tend to overlook the depth that our teachers have in their personalities.

"It all began in the small town of Springfield, Oregon." Mr. Wilson grew up with two teachers as parents. They spent summers going to the lake, salmon fishing, and playing basketball, his favorite sport.

As he grew he found his love for music. He was a percussionist in his middle school band, and in his high school career, he was even a "sound cloud rapper" although he advises that his students will never discover his adolescent musical talent. To this day Mr. Wilson still dabbles on the drumset and the acoustic guitar. He is a lover of every genre of music and he has been to many live concerts including AC/DC, Def Leppard, Motley Crue, Metallica, Scorpions, Steve Miller Band, and more.

After graduating from Thurston High School Mr. Wilson acquired a bachelor's degree in Health Promotion and Health Behavior from Oregon State University and a master's degree in Teaching with endorsements in P.E. and Health from Pacific University.

During college, he worked many part-time jobs including a graveyard baker at a donut shop (Nutcakes in Philomath), a pressure washer for U of O Athletics (pressure washed Autzen Stadium. "Every single crevice"), Jerry's Home Improvement, and more. Mr. Wilson has also worked in health-related jobs leading up to his work at Pleasant Hill, these jobs include the Boys & Girls Club, Kidsports, and as a basketball official for Oregon Amateur Basketball.

In his free time he enjoys spending time with family and friends, being in nature, and "a nice afternoon BBQ with yard games such as cornhole."

Mr. Wilson has always loved sports. His favorite is basketball. He is excited to be the head coach of the JV2 boy's basketball team at the high school this year. He also still plays "pick-up basketball" and watches sports on TV including the NBA, NFL, MLB, and UFC. Mr. Wilson has a competitive spirit and loves to play fantasy football with a group of friends.

So far, Mr. Wilson has had a positive experience here at Pleasant Hill. "I'm really grateful to be here...feel that I've found a home." Mr. Wilson is excited to have the opportunity to build connections with his students and colleagues. And he hopes to make a positive impact in the Pleasant Hill School District and community.

"My goal is to build an impactful P.E./Health program, but also to help students build character and develop skills that will allow them to succeed in life after high school, regardless of where their life takes them."

He advises high school students is to enjoy their experience and time while they have the opportunity. "Success is the ability to go from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm."



Angel returns to Pleasant Hill

by Emily Krauss

New role, same face.

Angel Cabrera joined Pleasant Hill this year as an EA, but this isn't her first rodeo here. She actually graduated from Pleasant Hill in 2019. I interviewed this PHILL alum, learned a lot about her story, and role within the school.

Ms. Cabrera moved from California the summer after freshman year of high school. She was here from sophomore year until she graduated in 2019. After she graduated she enrolled at Lane Community College. She is still finishing up some of her classes at Lane, but she only has two classes left and a couple internship hours. She plans to graduate soon with an Associated Human Services degree.

She originally came back to Pleasant Hill Elementary School doing co-op for college before transferring to the middle and high school. She said she plans to work at Pleasant Hill for a while and that "it's a good fit."

When asked about what she thought of PHHS when she was a student here, Angel said "I enjoyed Pleasant Hill, my favorite school I've ever been to. And I was told by the old counselor, Cheryl Ruiz, before she retired, 'you're gonna find your way back into the school district one day.' And sure enough, I'm here."

She also added that "all of the students are great. It's a little different with the new administration of course, but I've gotten to know everyone. I enjoy working with everyone so it's been fine."

As for what it's like being back at Pleasant Hill, she said that it's comfortable just because I went here and I really enjoyed the school. So it's just good to be back in an environment that I felt comfortable in, that I really liked. So I'd say that's the best part—that and all of the students and the relationships I have with the students. I actually still know some of them from when I was in high school. I also have cousins that were in elementary school and are 6th graders now. So I have a lot of people that I know."

And while she's happy to be back, she adds that she didn't expect to return to a school setting like this. She said "my goal was to be a social worker, because that's what I was told by Meinzen when I was a student here. Cheryl Ruiz said kind of the same thing. So I looked into social services and I thought I'd be a really good fit. But then I started doing my internship here and so I just liked it better and that's what I went with."

Taking us through what she does in a day she said "I do a few things on my computer before students are in session or school classes are in session. I work in the special education department and work with 6 students in the classroom. So I'll grab a few of them in the morning from the parking lot and walk them to class. And then I'm just in the classroom except for breakfast and lunch. I monitor the cafeteria and make sure the kids are doing what they're supposed to and they're not running wild. 7th period I walk with a student and we do recycling and go look at the fish in Ms. White's room. Then we'll go to Ms. Hill's room and do some fun stuff with her Billie box. That's my day. It's just in the classroom helping the students, doing their work and problem solving; things like that."

One thing that she wants students to know about her was that "I was here not that long ago, so I'm pretty close in age to a lot of them." She also gave some advice, saying "a lot of students right now think that work is not important, but at the end of the day it's what gets you your diploma. Not a lot else really matters from high school."

Ms. Cabrera said a lot of kids think she is a student, because of how young she is, but, in reality, Ms. Cabrera has lots of experience as a Billie.



Controlling Parenting Doesn't Work

by India Isaacson

In my life I have been very fortunate to have wonderful, trusting parents. But as I go through my life, I meet many kids who have parents who will restrict them in ways beyond just regulating and protecting them.

Both of my parents experienced this to some degree, and while they have turned out to be amazing parents, it doesn't mean that they didn't have trouble in the past. My mom and I have discussed this many times, and I think it's an important issue.

Controlling your kids and their lives won't work.

First, I want to make it clear I am not saying just let your kids have no restrictions. Parents should absolutely watch over what their kid has access to on the internet. You should have things set in place to keep your kid safe. Even if you set rules such as time limits on how long they can access the internet or keep them from having a phone and social media, that's respectable. I completely get that, and I even agree with most, if not all of it. Where the problem comes into play with restrictions is when it goes to controlling your kids.

My parents have mostly let me work out who I want to be as a person on my own. They were very attentive, but they never forced us to do things that we didn't feel was right. As I've grown up, I have made friends with whom I want to, watched and listened to what I like, and been allowed to go pretty much anywhere I want to. Their only requirements were that when I was little they had to be with me, and now they ask that at the very least, I check in with them and keep them updated on how I'm doing.

They've made me feel comfortable to come to them if I need something, and that's the most important thing. I can go to them about almost anything and I know that. I don't cause trouble, I get good grades, I put myself on a good sleep schedule, and I did this because I knew it was how to get by in life. My parents trusted me to be a good and responsible person.

Most parents and probably some kids are disagreeing at this point, because some kids do just like to cause trouble. Most children, in fact, are quite mischievous. So that's why implementing some rules to regulate what your child is consuming is fine. But to give an example of what not to do, I must mention what one of my grandparents did to one of my parents.

My grandparents had some trouble with their kids before my mom, and as she was the youngest, they wanted to be sure she was raised "correctly." But to make sure my mom didn't cause trouble, my grandparents put strict rules on her. This caused her to feel that they didn't trust her, and she would cause a lot of trouble as a kid. It even got to a point where my grandparents were going to go to Youth At Risk and enforce their rules for her as law, and if she broke those rules she would go to juvy. (Juvenile Detention)

Some of these rules were understandable, but others (such as "you can't watch Rosanne" just because they didn't agree with the humor) were ridiculous. It took a therapist intervening to make them stop what they were doing before they lost my mom's trust altogether.

After that, they gave her some trust. They even went on a trip and allowed her to stay home because she didn't want to go! My mom said that after they trusted her, she acted better than she ever had before because they didn't immediately expect her to do bad. She kept the house in order and made sure everything was as her parents would like it, because they finally gave her trust, and she wasn't about to lose it. After she was given some trust by her parents, she knew she was responsible for keeping that trust and didn't want to risk losing it and the freedom she felt with it.

When you restrict and control your child to extreme lengths, it causes resentment and pain. You will never truly have a good relationship, because like any relationship—platonic or not—it must be one built on trust. So if you ever have a kid, or if you're a parent reading this, try to trust your kid, because it can make all the difference.

Are you beautiful?

by Ellie Thebo

Do you consider yourself beautiful?

If you do, then you're a part of the 4% of women who do. But why do only a small percentage of women think of themselves as "beautiful"?

It's extremely hard to feel confident when ever-changing beauty standards are being pressured onto women. Women young and old are constantly being pushed to fix and change themselves to better fit the standards.

Social Media is the main contributor to these toxic beauty standards. Online, you can find millions of websites on how to get a cinched waist, a bigger butt, how to be prettier, how to shrink your nose, or how to get crystal clear skin.

There are many toxic trends online that are intentionally meant to put people down for their looks. Some of the most popular beauty trends are things like checking if you have a symmetrical face, showing off what you eat in a day, or checking if you have the golden ratio, or the perfect face.

If you actually look at the people who do these trends 99% of them have perfect side profiles, or only eat like 2 strawberries and a walnut a day—which is not realistic at all. Do you have a ski slope nose? How many calories do you eat a day? See what this filter rates your face!

These trends can cripple your confidence, making you feel like you have to change something about yourself. It's

hard not to feel bad when all you see is photoshopped "perfect" people and unrealistic filters.

Photoshop is used in nearly every beauty ad or magazine made for women. These ads and magazines promote an almost unachievable standard. You may think your favorite models or celebrities have perfect, poreless glowing skin, but in reality, most of them have skin texture just like us.

Women are expected to fit into the beauty standard, no matter how unachievable it is. Today's beauty standard mainly consists of being skinny and toned, yet having almost impossible curves, and if you don't fit into those standards, then you're considered "ugly" or "unattractive". Today, the perception of "beauty" is totally flawed. These days, you're considered ugly if you don't fit the standards. Yes you may be skinny but do you have curves? Yes you are curvy, but are you skinny? It's literally impossible.

Beauty standards are constantly changing. About every 10 years there is a whole new standard. Just a little over 100 years ago the beauty standards were completely different. Women were expected to have a round, full figure. And, in the 1990's women wanted the "heroin chic" body type, which is tall and slim, with an adolescent figure.

It's pointless to try and follow the beauty standard. You may have the perfect body right now, but in 5 years your body will be "outdated".

The Californication of...Portugal

by Wesleigh Harr

Climate change, taxes, and politics that people all over the world have to deal with, specifically the US often causes stress and the desire to change where people live. Due to some of these issues, Americans have been moving across the country and even the world in masses. This presents new issues for other countries as these foreign arrivals have begun presenting similar tax problems to the native inhabitants of said countries. The country of Portugal is one such victim of the desire of Americans, and Californians, to move to find better housing and health care prices while still keeping the climate that they enjoyed from home.

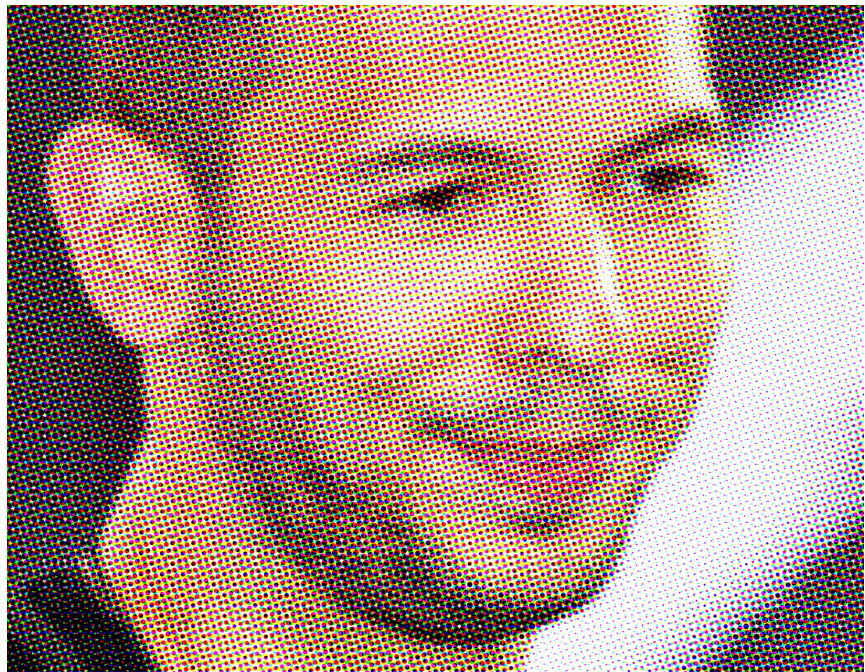
Californians make up the majority of these numbers, as many of them became upset over the rising cost needed to live in California. This made the appeal of Portugal that much more apparent with the lower housing and health care prices and the warmer climate being similar to Californias.

California Dreamin, however, presents many problems to Portuguese citizens. Californians bring the same issues from America to Portugal. The housing prices in Portugal have skyrocketed in recent years which has resulted in the eviction of many native citizens. This has led to many protests taking place in the streets of Lisbon, Portugal mainly where citizens speak on the gentrification that is happening.

To make matters worse, it seems that many of the Californians don't entirely understand what they are causing in Portugal as most of them only speak on how much they love the views and perks that come with living in the beautiful country. Most of the time they only mention the lower prices and the similarities to their favorite parts of California. These new prices however are making everything harder for regular citizens as they have been largely forced to the outskirts of Lisbon, making simple tasks such as getting groceries that much harder.

Unfortunately, it seems that there is no end to the rising unrest and disdain towards the new inhabitants of Portugal as the prices are still climbing and more and more citizens are being forced out of their homes. The government in Portugal is searching for a good solution to this issue and finding a way to allow new and old citizens to live together in harmony.

Andrew Tate: a misogynist monster



by Jennah Kopperud

It's more than likely that you've heard the name Andrew Tate by now as his controversial opinions and recent arrest have made his name an increasingly hot topic. He is normally a social media "influencer" and a misogynist—a misogynist is someone who dislikes, despises or is strongly prejudiced against women." Oxford Dictionary.

I encourage anyone reading this who supports Andrew Tate to please read the entirety of this article and reflect on the people you look up to. It is important to remember that Tate has many accusations against him and is wanted in several countries. It has been argued that Andrew is a dangerous man to be given such a big platform to spread his misogynistic viewpoints to vulnerable and impressionable young men.

After hearing just a few of Andrew's notions I am appalled that this is the man who is "bringing back masculinity" and even more appalled that even after his arrest many men are saying things like "free bro" or "free top g."

In a society where women have been struggling for equality for centuries and continue to fight injustice it is sickening that these opinions are blindly being followed by many boys who won't even realize the harm they may cause. Even though Tate has been banned from many social media platforms, he still has many followers trying to stand up for him claiming that he is innocent of the crimes he is being detained in Romania for.

So what are all these "controversial" opinions? I'd like to start by saying that some of the following topics may be difficult for some to read who have struggled with sexual assault in any degree. Tate uses very strong language so please be aware of that as well. Some of this will become fairly graphic but I believe it is important for us to realize how truly sick this man is. Let's start with some of the less shocking things Andrew believes.

Andrew believes that women are his property and that if a man is dating a woman then that woman is his property. Here is just one of the quotes where Andrew displays this ideology, "A woman can't go around [-] and pretend it's the same as a man running around [-], it's absolutely not the same. A man can only cheat if he loves someone else. If I have a woman who I truly love, and I go out and [-] and I come back to her and I don't care about the other girl and I only love my girl. That's not cheating, that's exercise. If she even talks to a dude, it's cheating."

In a separate instance Tate states the fol-

lowing: "If a woman is going out with a man, she belongs to that man, that's his woman. So she wants to do "O. F." (a website where people can post exclusive pictures/videos and people pay to see these) "she owes him some money because she's his." This is just the tip of the iceberg.

Tate is also a predator, his supporters might say "oh he was just joking in this" but I can't remember the last time it was funny to joke about a 21 year old wanting to date a 16 year old. Here Tate proudly brags about a 16 year old he was talking to. "April B. That was her name. I was like you're hot, so I messaged her and she's like 'I'm only 16' [-]I'm 21, I don't care. So I picked up April Baker in my Mazda RX8."

This is the thing with a lot of Tate's supporters, since Andrew is very materialistic he bases his worth on his money and his cars and that's one of the reasons so many young men look up to him: he's "impressive" and "successful."

I could go on about how wealth and materials give far too much power to men who do not deserve it, but that is a conversation for another day. I am now going to refer to one specific voice memo that Tate sent to one of his victim's who spoke up about Tate's abuse. Tate details how he enjoys the actions that hurt this woman. He brags about how dangerous he is, and how smart he is and how what he did to her was not a big deal and her fault for complaining. Tate goes on to blame the victim for "being offended" when in fact she was terrified.

Men like Andrew Tate have been feeding you, or your brothers, or sons, or friends, extremely dangerous points of view that promote behavior like this. So I ask that we please think before we give just anyone a platform. And I hope that for the sake of all women, we learn to teach men that it is okay to have emotions and be vulnerable, you do not have to be violent because that is what society has always told you to be.

Let go of the anger and try to adopt a kinder, more gentle approach to life. You'll be happier for it. Not only is toxic masculinity dangerous to women it is also dangerous to men. So think of your family, your daughters, girlfriends, mothers, your friends. Would you be okay with Tate even being near your daughters or future daughters? Are these the kind of men you want interacting with the women in your life? No? Then change the narrative. Stop giving these men the power to do whatever they want.

"Not only is toxic masculinity dangerous to women it is also dangerous to men."



The Maestro - Eli Brenn

by Carson Bernardo

You may from time to time see Senior Elijah Brenn roaming the halls of Pleasant Hill High School, spreading laughs and smiles wherever he goes. Whether that's through jokes, silliness, or just pure kindness, he always finds a way to cheer you up. I asked Elijah a few questions so we can all get to know him better:

"What do you enjoy about school?"

"I enjoy coming to school everyday to be around the people I love and to hopefully learn new and exciting things. I particularly enjoy my statistics and choir classes."

"Where do you see yourself after graduating this year?"

"I plan to go to UO next fall and double major in music composition and mathematics. Ideally, I will be charging ahead with my piano studies in both classical and jazz playing."

"Who do you depend on?"

"To get through the day, I depend on my family, my girlfriend, and my unhealthy obsession with music. They all help me when I am feeling my lowest."

"What could this school do to make the overall experience for students of all ages better?"

"Nothing specific, but both the students and the staff can always strive to practice more empathy and remember that everybody has their own problems that they are balancing with the other aspects of their lives."

"What advice would you give to your peers about succeeding in school?"

"DO. NOT. PROCRASTINATE. I cannot tell you how much stress it has caused me throughout high school. Not doing something now does not make it easier to do later."

"What defines you as a person? How would you describe yourself?"

"I am a person who loves music, games, math, and people. Overall, I'd say what defines me is my want to keep learning and growing for the rest of my life."

"What motivates you to get up in the morning and continue on with your day?"

"This is a hard question. Some mornings I would really rather not. However, when I get up in the morning, it's not for anything in particular. My mind just tells me that this is something I have to do, which helps me get through."



The multi talented Alex Cloyd

by Abigail Blatch

What student has a passion for music and wrestles?

His name is Alex Cloyd. He is a junior in high school and is a very friendly person. He has 3 siblings, two older brothers and a younger sister. His older brother is 21, and the second oldest is 20, and then his youngest sister is 15. He enjoys music very much and has a big passion for it.

He has many favorite subjects that are in Music, history, and P.E. Alex likes music. He said that "Mrs. Violette had forced me into the class." But he eventually learned the history behind music and just had a passion for it, and Mrs. Violette had also told him "to keep going through music."

His second favorite subject in school is history because he is able to learn about the past of what America used to be. And just enjoys Mr. Neill and he says "He is very cool".

Cloyd also enjoys P.E. because he just likes playing dodgeball. But like his favorite subjects his hobbies are music. And working out.

When he graduates high school, he wants to get a job in business and finance, or work in the music production industry. He also wants to eventually head to college at the University of Oregon, or New York school of music.

He has said that he is most proud of "My progress into more music opportunities". But it seems like he just enjoys music and the art of it because it is obvious to anyone who notices Alex Cloyd.

Templin time



by Lena Daniel

Luke Templin is a senior this year and has lived in Pleasant Hill since he was 6 years old. As a kid he enjoyed going to OMSI and Oregon Zoo with his family. He also recalls a fun trip with his family when he was a kid and he loved the ride 'California Screamin.' Nowadays, he enjoys watching TV and movies, playing with his dogs, and swimming.

When asked what topic sparks his interest so much that he could talk about it for hours, he said, "I really enjoy talking about some of my favorite TV shows like The Office because they are really funny and I like remembering the funny moments in the shows. Sometimes something in life will remind me of an episode and make me laugh."

A big accomplishment of his is getting his driver's license because he has the freedom to go wherever he wants by himself. If he could travel anywhere in the world, he would "visit Europe because it seems like it would be very fun and lots of beautiful sights and activities."

After high school, Luke plans on going to college. He is debating between attending Oregon State University or somewhere out of state. Although he doesn't necessarily have a dream job for the future, he is eager to study mechanical engineering wherever he chooses to go. In 10 years, he expects he will have a job and house or apartment of his own and he also looks forward to being able to live on his own.

Fenley takes big step towards nursing



by Liesel Everett

School, on its own, is a huge responsibility. Despite this, some students at Pleasant Hill go above and beyond by taking on a job. One of those students is one of our very own seniors, Shyanne Fenley.

Outside of school, Shyanne works as a certified nursing assistant or CNA. She began pursuing this career at the beginning of last summer. She went through lots of training including going to school 7 days a week for a month from 8am to 4pm. She then had two weeks of clinicals and a few tests she had to pass before getting her certification.

She now works many hours a week on top of attending school. One of her favorite parts of the job is that she gets to help people and get connected with them. Being a CNA isn't just all about meeting new people though, Shyanne also deals with lots of unnerving situations. For an average person, a lot of these things might be too much but for a nurse, it's just what you do and deal with.

Shyanne plans on continuing pursuing this career and getting her BSN or Bachelor of Science in Nursing and eventually would like to become a delivery and labor nurse.



Willardson knows Wikipedia

by Jacqueline Pineda

Kat Willardson is a junior and just one of the many interesting students here at Pleasant Hill. When asked how she would describe herself she said "I like to think that I'm a decently friendly person." Also, she says that if she could be an animal she would choose to be a possum, "they're a really neat animal and they sometimes look like they walked into a really awkward moment."

Some of her hobbies include working on her YJ Wrangler, cooking, and drawing. Along with those, her favorite way to waste time is by reading Wikipedia articles while listening to music.

On a more personal note, Kat shared some of her core beliefs. "I'd say knowing your value and doing the best you can in any given scenario. Personal responsibility is really important and you should take accountability for your actions. Treat people how you want to be treated."

Lastly, when asked where she would like to see herself in ten years she said "Honestly I'd like to have a house, consistently have food, and be able to pay my bills."



My sister, my Angel

by Rosie Paredes

Many people who meet Angel Calva see her as a shy, timid person but when you're her sister you see sides of her no one else sees.

But we can talk about that later. Let's get to know her first. Angel is very athletic but can be very lazy at times. She has a strong passion for basketball and doesn't really like other sports. She also swings the varsity team.

At home she absolutely adores our dog, Sammy. Her favorite classes are Math and Publications. She loves metal, rap and other music related to these genres. Regarding clothes, she has many styles and always makes them look good.

She doesn't like pickles, mustard, tuna, and ketchup on her cheeseburger which I find very weird. She doesn't like country music.

One thing that makes her mad is the police abusing their power.

The most important things to her are her family and friends.

You wouldn't think she is weird because she's so calm at school but when she is at home she acts like she just got high on pixie sticks. She admires her mom for always taking care of her as a single parent.

Angel can also make me laugh by making weird faces, telling funny jokes and even just being funny in general. She likes spending time with her family and loves to go camping in the summer. She has one sister, me, a single mom and two dogs.

For her future job she wants to be a coder, she wants this job not only for the money but also because you can travel anywhere and only need your computer to do your work.

That's only a little bit about her, but you should get to know her yourself to find out more.



The Delightful Miss Dutton

By Angel Calva

Katie Dutton is an outgoing person who can make friends with anyone. Katie is the most true and kindest person I have ever met.

Katie is funny and has the humor of a middle schooler. She is passionate about things she likes and works hard in whatever she's doing—whether that might be school work or getting better at basketball.

She has two siblings, Matt Dutton, and Emily Dutton. She has a dog named Rudy and a cat named Socco.

Katie plays in varsity Basketball and Volleyball and is also in FFA and shows pigs and ducks. She has been at Pleasant Hill since preschool, and has made a lot of friends along the way.

One of Katie's favorite memories was going to the beach when she was younger, she's always loved the beach and it is one of her favorite places to go to. One time her family went to the beach and they saw a wedding.

Some of my favorite memories occurred when we went to Wings and Waves Water park with Camille Frederick for Katie's birthday.

Katie Dutton's favorite artist is Baby Keem or 21 Savage. She doesn't read a lot and her favorite food is steak.

Katie is so nice to everyone she meets and is an amazing friend once you get to know her.



Charlotte Keepers the counselor, the traveler, the NASA engineer

by Ellie Epperson

Charlotte Keepers, a sophomore, wants to get a degree in Aerospace engineering. "I hope to get a job at NASA or SpaceX and help send people to space!"

NASA's mission, according to nasa.gov, is to "...explore the unknown in air and space, innovate for the benefit of humanity, and inspire the world through discovery." This is what Charlotte Keepers wants for her future.

Charlotte, however, is a leader now as well. Her ability to be friendly and hardworking helps her succeed. Charlotte is part of many leadership groups in school as well as outside of school. She is part of Reach Club and is on the executive committee of the Pleasant Hill Honor Society. During the summer Charlotte is a counselor at Camp Harlow.

"My favorite thing to do in my spare time is be a camp counselor! I love getting to make connections with both the kids and my co-counselors. Kids are hilarious and always bring so much happiness with them. I love getting to know them and they also help me to get to know myself better. I think kids bring out the best in people, so camp is one of my favorite places to be!"

One thing most people may not know about Charlotte is that she enjoys hunting.

"Everyone always seems really surprised when I mention that I enjoy hunting. My dad and I like going up to Klamath Falls every year to hunt together. Last year, I was fortunate enough to kill a buck with a muzzle-loader and a bull elk with a rifle on the same day, within a few hours of each other!"

Charlotte is also in 4H and spends much time raising show steer.

She hopes to be able to visit all seven continents someday. She wants to explore the world and see all that it has to offer. Bungee jumping, sky-diving, and swimming with sharks are all things on her bucket list.

"I want to have as many adventures as I can in my lifetime!"

Man, Oh, Mann

by Jack Perini

Ryan Lee Mann. Mann-Lee Ryan. Ry. High-Ry.

I suck at nicknames. Let's just go with Ryan.

I've heard that the better you know a person, the harder it is to describe them. That being so, here ends my story on Ryan Mann...

Just kidding, I've known Ryan for a long, long time. He's a junior, (sixteen years old) has three sisters, three dogs, works for his neighbor, rides quads, plays video games, card games.

I know more than that though. We've been best friends since Kindergarten, probably because we have similar ways of thinking, and senses of humor. We also had every class together in Elementary. And we were pretty introverted, so one best friend was all we needed. Suffice it to say, I've got the inner scoop on Mr. Mann. And I could say anything. Mwa ha ha ha ha!

It's nice to hang this power over his head, except I can't reach up there. He's tall now. But for real, I only have nice things to say about Ryan. He's a diligent worker, and actually kind of smart (Yeah- I wouldn't believe that either).

No, I'm still kidding. He taught me how to solve a Rubik's cube (he's wicked fast at it), and how to play most of the games we do together. Though I'm still the Monopoly champ.

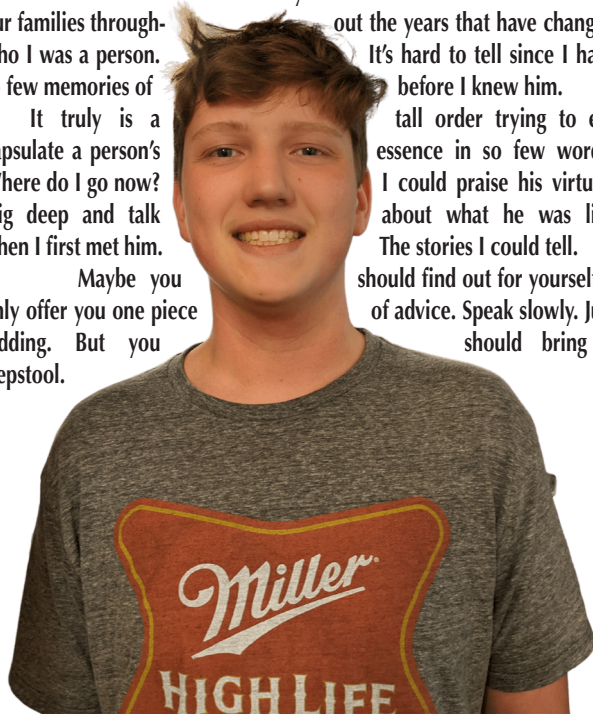
But on a more real note, Ryan's been through some pretty serious family stuff. Things not particularly fun. Things I'm glad I never had to go through. I commend him for not letting all of that hamper him. He truly is a good guy.

I think that the idea of wanting to be one of the good guys is why he aspires to be a police officer in the future. We'd be lucky to have someone like him on the right side of the law. It's a tough job, but Ryan's the Mann for it. I'm glad I can say we've been so tight for so long. I can honestly tell you that I think of him as another brother. That's a testament to the impact he's had on me.

If I had to nail down what about Ryan has impacted me the most, I would be hard pressed to put it into words. Maybe it's his ability to just be who he is, his laid back personality. Although upon further reflection, it may just be the fact that we are so alike and have been friends forever that allows us to be who we are. Maybe it's interactions between us and our families throughout the years that have changed who I was a person. It's hard to tell since I have so few memories of before I knew him.

It truly is a tall order trying to encapsulate a person's essence in so few words. Where do I go now? I could praise his virtues. Dig deep and talk about what he was like when I first met him. The stories I could tell.

Maybe you should find out for yourself. I only offer you one piece of advice. Speak slowly. Just kidding. But you should bring a stepstool.



'Mazing Mrs. Moch

By Sophia Brock

"Pleasant Hill is a very unique and wonderful school, even though I went away I always wanted to come back," says Amanda Moch, middle school teacher and former Billie. With a passion for making a difference in her students' lives.

Moch makes strong connections and celebrates small victories. She knew she wanted to be a teacher from a young age, and even made fake assignments so she could grade them. In high school she had several teachers whose passion for their jobs inspired her, one of which being Mr. Meinzen.

Her tight-knit graduating class left her knowing she wanted to come back and teach at Pleasant Hill. Teaching middle school wasn't something that she planned specifically, but it was the only thing that fit. Middle school students have a thrill for learning, with more maturity than elementary students, but the job certainly doesn't come without its challenges. Moch meets kids where they are and strives to make what they're learning enjoyable and it isn't easy. She finds motivation in small successes and seeing things "click" with students.

She loves to get out and explore. Moch enjoys traveling, camping, and most importantly, spending time with her family.

A passion for her students and the entirety of Pleasant Hill makes Moch a bright light in our community.

Miles of smiles: Kendall Carey

by Sami Pemberton

Kendall Carey is a relatively new student at PHill. Kendall attended Mountain View Academy and before that, Thurston. Kendall says the best thing about Pleasant Hill is that "everybody knows everyone," but the worst thing is that as a sophomore you can't be a TA and you can't leave campus for lunch.

Kendall runs cross country and smiles a lot when running. The reason she does that is because in her words "I love the team and even though we're working hard we have fun while putting the work in." Kendall describes herself as "joyful, happy, positive, and hard working." Anybody who knows her knows that whatever she is doing or wanting to do she works really hard to succeed but at the same time has fun while getting things done.

When Kendall graduates high school she intends to become an ultrasound technician. An ultrasound technician uses imaging equipment and soundwaves to form images of many different parts of the body. They are trained to acquire and analyze the sonographic images. These images that the ultrasound technicians take are used to help doctors diagnose and treat many medical conditions.

Ellie Epperson is one of Kendall Carey's good friends so I asked why she became friends with her. Ellie Epperson said "she works hard at everything she does, and is always looking on the positive side of things" also described as pretty nice, and enjoyable.

Something that might surprise you when you meet Kendall is that you don't get to see the real her until she gets to know you really well. Something that surprised her when she came to Pleasant Hill last year was that if someone's lights were on in a car everyone knew exactly whose car it belongs to and that they call their name over the intercom.



Billy Fields works for Lane ESD to bring support to Lane County schools and students by helping improve success rate for students of color and creating a happier and more inclusive school community—the perfect assignment for a kid from Oklahoma. Here he entertains and enlightens Publications class with his stories and ideas for creating a welcoming classroom.

Boys Basketball Knows What's Up

by Josie Heacock

This year the Pleasant Hill Boys Basketball team is ranked #8 in the 3A league with 15 wins and 4 losses. At the head of this success is Coach Darwin Terry. Coach Terry has been coaching for about 30 years and has played basketball himself. "I played high school basketball at Yoncalla High School, Yoncalla, OR. I was a 3-year Varsity player and starter in my junior and senior years. And [I was] 1st team all-league my senior year."

As a coach, he wants his players to, "Embrace the opportunity to play basketball, strives to meet our team core values, excel in the classroom in academics, by striving to attend school every day." He speaks highly of his players: "It's an excellent group of players...I'm proud of each player who works hard in the classroom and on the court."

Brooks Wilcox, a power forward and varsity starter describes (Coach Terry) as, "Very positive, always learning, [a] great guy to be around." Wilcox said that one of the things he loves about basketball is, "[the] teamwork, being around the team [and] being around the environment."

Senior Matthew Dutton said that he loves, "Just coming together as a team and playing with everyone, it's fun. Being a part of something." Coach Terry is, "A caring guy, really cares a lot about everyone in the program... Done a lot to help us out and get our name out [there] and improve the opportunities around here."

The JV head Coach C.J. Johnson is described by Jamon Heacock as "Smart, competitive, and very knowledgeable about the game. He relates very well with players and is extremely caring towards us. I appreciate his competitive spirit." Jamon is a sophomore and has been playing since he was in kindergarten. Cameron Hansen said that [Coach Johnson] has "A lot of knowledge about basketball and I like him as a coach." Other players said that Coach Caleb Wilson (Head JV2 Coach) is a guy who, "Wants what's best and wants to have fun."

This just goes to show that the coaches at Phill can make a difference.



Above: Matt Nguyen looks to drive through a gang of Bulldogs.

Right near: Shyanne Fenley punches past her defenders while Brooke Weimer sets for a rebound. Right: Claire Crawford prepares to put the rebound back into the hoop in a win against Creswell.



Ranked 6th in state with a sparkling 19-1 record the girls basketball team has battered other teams in the league. According to Claire Crawford this is because the girls "have a better connection, we work together better this year." The Billies have an outstanding defense, led by the larceny of Brooke Weimers and Kiley Campos. Cheyenne Green plays strong in the paint and Shyanne is fearless in her drives to the basket. The Billies look to push deep into the State tournament testing their prowess against Banks and Corbett, 3A powers.

Sugitani means soccer

by Andrew Taylor



The boys soccer coach, Ryota Sugitani, is fiercely passionate about the program. His love for the game, and this community is unmistakable. I got to ask him a few questions about his life, and his coaching.

Where did he grow up?

He was born and raised in Japan. Then he explained to me that he had a troubled youth and that his parents wanted him out of their sight, and no high school would accept him. So he moved to the states at sixteen, without knowing a word of English. I asked him if this changed him for the better?

He said he didn't know but he said that it definitely changed him. He said to me there's no reason to dwell on the past, you have to focus on the now and do the best thing possible.

Sugitani told me that he only coached here in Pleasant Hill and he will never coach anywhere else.

He owns his own business in real estate. He told me that having his own business gives him enough time to coach. He had two siblings: a younger one, and an older one. One of them still lives in Japan, while the other one lives in the Bay Area.

I asked him why he loves soccer, and honestly he gave me a beautiful answer. He said; "It's a simple game, all you need are your feet and a ball. Yet, it's a deep sport with no right answer; we get to be creative. That's why we call it the beautiful game."

I wrapped up my interview with one final question: what makes you different from other coaches?

He said to me he doesn't know, and he'd like me to answer that question. So I'll try to do it justice: Ryota is incredibly motivational. When I joined the program as a freshman we had a very good team. We were undefeated, and I was very fortunate to be a part of that. He motivated us to fight so hard at every game, and we were determined to get to state. Yet we didn't that year—very few times have I cried that much.

His passion for the game and for the players makes him different from other coaches. And it shows.



Gavin Hoellrich prepares to flip his opponent. Hoellrich had a dominant season losing only once.

Wrestling season draws to a crescendo

by Camille Hicks

After three long months, we come up on the end of the wrestling season, and the much anticipated district meet is near. The team has expanded, grown in strength and skill, and is ready to take on these last few weeks.

We've recently hosted the annual Senior Night at our last home dual, celebrating our seniors: Hunter Drews (126), Brazen Ellis (182), Blake Richardson (160), Marc Griffiths (152), and Gavin Hoellrich (152). The team has also participated in several other tournaments this month, including Screamin' Eagle at Santiam Christian, Nick Lutz Memorial at Siuslaw, and the King of the Hill at home. Many athletes took home 1st, 2nd, or 3rd placements. Gavin Hoellrich and Gavin Haratyk both took home 1st at the Nick Lutz Memorial. Wade Sprague and Gavin Hoellrich placed 1st at Screamin' Eagle.

Several members this year are first-time wrestlers including; Camille Hicks (11), Cael Shepard (10), Brandon Tobey (9), Ethan Ogan (9), Hunter Patterson-Giles (9), and Peyton Buckley (9). Peyton Buckley recalls wise words said at practice, "no crying in the wrestling room."

Wrestling is one of the most strenuous sports, mentally and physically. Though many of us agree that that only makes it more enjoyable: wins are more appreciated, there is more sportsmanship, and every tournament and practice feels like an accomplishment.

As the finish nears, we're looking forward to seeing what's in store for Pleasant Hill wrestlers, including last practices and tournaments, districts and state.



Transfer time

by Hezekiah Louis

I know all about being a “transferred” kid. So does Jossalyn Bathe. Jossalyn has attended more than 10 different schools in her educational career. How does that affect her?

Turns out that she is a very adaptable person even though she didn’t understand what was going on. The hard part was that it was tough to make friends. She can’t really say anything about tips to success but “try to find your group and try to adapt to your environment and find the people you trust and if you can keep at it you will succeed.” It was hard making friends because she had trouble finding her type of friends. Being a transferred kid is a little hard. You don’t know if people are going to be nice or mean and it gets your anxiety levels very high. Plus if it’s a big school then it makes it even harder because you don’t know where to go walking down endless hallways with infinite doors.

Even if you find the class it’s still pretty scary when you enter. It can feel like a thousand little eyes will turn to look at you as if you are a criminal walking into a classroom. After that the teacher would ask you if you are new here. You Answer with a “yes” and find a seat. Students will just watch you find your seat.

After that the class would end and you still wouldn’t know where to go. If you had a paper with the classes and door numbers on them you are considered lucky. The hard part would be finding the rooms. Be sure you have a paper along with it but walking around in a big school would be quite the challenge.

Once the day would end you would jump into your parents car or the bus go home and talk to your mother or father about the experience you had and then breathe a sigh of relief.

Next day, do it all over again.



The light that is Ludwig

by Sari Strinz

Mr. Ludwig is known as one of the most energetic, kind, and compassionate teachers in our school. Not only do students learn musical education from him, but they also learn to be interested in what they learn from him too. We all know Mr. Ludwig as the great teacher he is today, but how did Mr. Ludwig become the great teacher we all know?

One of the questions I asked Mr. Ludwig was why he chose music as his career path? After I asked this question he shared with me a great story about how in high school his sophomore year, he got a solo that wasn’t very good and was mad at his teacher because he didn’t get the solo he wanted. And one day after class his teacher pulled him aside and talked to him about how well he thought Mr. Ludwig could do it if he kept going in the musical career path. Mr. Ludwig’s teacher also told him about an All Star Choir that could help him learn more about music and be around people who love music as much as he does. Mr. Ludwig told me that after he auditioned and made it into the All Star Choir it changed his whole perspective on music and made him want to keep going and want to learn more about it.

“Being around all those like minded people and how they all loved music and wanted to actually be there. Man, it was like a whole new world.”

After sophomore year Mr. Ludwig knew he wanted to teach the things he had learned to others. Mr. Ludwig wants to inspire kids to do more and be more like his teachers did for him. And as we all know today he does a great job of that!

I asked Mr. Ludwig for some advice he would give to aspiring musicians? Mr. Ludwig said that it really depends on what you’re looking to do with music. But one of the things that helps no matter what is, if you’re really looking to get into music seriously then get involved with it as much as you can now. Whether that be in choir, band, or even any outside music club available. And always look to learn from the people around you. And after you do that you’ll find what you want to do.

Mr. Ludwig has learned a lot and has a lot to share with us all. He is not only a great teacher but also a great student of life. He is able to guide and inspire students, as well as joke around and have fun too. Many look up to and admire Mr. Ludwig for all that he does and so do I.

Getting your first job is hard to do

by Kelcie Goddard

Getting a job as a teenager is tricky. You would think that getting a job would be pretty easy especially now when every place says they are hiring, but no it’s not that easy.

There are many struggles in getting a job. Here are some of the struggles: needing experience to get experience, applying but not hearing back, getting rejected, not a good enough resume, not the right age, and many more.

Companies want someone who has experience for the job title they are applying for, but what if you have no experience? How are you supposed to get experience if you never get a chance for a job?

I think that if companies say they need help, and that they are hiring, they should hire inexperienced teens. Everybody starts somewhere, and there’s a reason for training. Some teens have only had volunteer experience and community service, and even with that they still have trouble getting hired.

Getting a job when you’re a teenager and still in high school is important. Getting a job shows you a little bit of what work life is like. You have a chance to save up money for the future, and be independent and be able to spend your hard earned money which is rewarding. Working when you’re young gives you many skills: learning how to be an adult, working on communication skills, good management and organization skills, and positive work ethic and responsibility. All of these things prepare you for the future.

Hey employers, think of the ABBA “Take a Chance On Me.”



The Billie Babble podcast is in its launch with Lena Daniel (right) and Lorena Albright. Kelcie Goddard also assists.

The Billie Babble

Still teaching after all these years

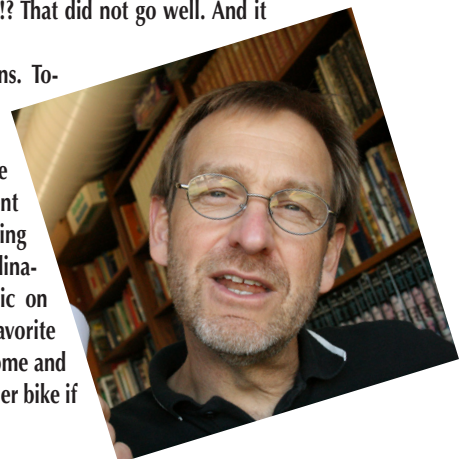
by Aurora Brott

At the age of 62 with 35 years of teaching under his belt, Timothy Meizen has a ton of stories to tell. Meizen is a semi-retired teacher now, and is teaching publications and directs the yearbook.

Thirty-nine years ago, Meizen, was a volunteer teacher for the Peace Corps, this is when he taught his first class in Africa. He was impressed by how hard the kids worked to learn. Knowing how determined they were to learn, and knowing that he enjoyed helping them, he fell in love with teaching.

He went to the University of Oregon and got a Master’s in teaching Geography. Seven years after falling for the classroom he had his first real full time teaching job experience, at Pleasant Hill. He has taught many things at Pleasant Hill: US History; AP History; World History; Publications, Psychology. Could you believe that he was once a music teacher!? That did not go well. And it was in Africa.

He has two, now adult sons. Tobias, the oldest, is an Engineer for Intel. He is smart and is an outdoor adventure lover. The youngest, Thomas, is a grad student who is passionate about preserving nature, specifically birds and pollinators. Thomas also composes music on the piano—some of Meizen’s favorite music. His wife loves staying at home and working in the garden. She rides her bike if she needs to go anywhere.



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS - 6th Grade Oregon Battle of the Books group read its way to Regionals as brilliant and fun readers of prolific prose. Left to right: Alexis Moch, Aria Verma, Caroline Carlson, and Emerson Hill.



Living in the Mudhole

a local history by Hunter C. Giles

Just about everyone here at Pleasant Hill has been to Eugene. From the abundance of local shops, restaurants and art to the unique mixture of cultures from all over the globe, Eugene has a little something for everybody. But what do you know about Eugene's founding, its history, and its humble origin?

For thousands of years, the Eugene area was the home of the Chifin, Winefelly and Long Tom bands of Kalapuya people, before they largely were removed from their territory onto reservations over the course of the 19th Century. Kalapuya bands typically consisted of extended families that would occupy a year-round village, with some members splitting off into smaller groups and departing to gather seasonal food, and raw materials during the spring and summer. Bands would frequently have a single leader, usually the most wealthy male, who would resolve arguments, settle collective debts of the community, and would provide food for feasts.

Eugene Skinner, the first white settler in the area (and the town's namesake), described the valley between two buttes at a bend in the Willamette River as "Beautiful, surrounded by these hills, reminding me of a bird's nest."

Eugene Skinner reportedly made his land claim above the valley floor due to flooding based on advice from native tribes and chose to live at a place once known to the Kalapuya as Ya-Po-Ah (meaning 'high place'), and now known as Skinner's Butte. Skinner and his family moved into their cabin in the spring of 1847, and a post office named after the family was established in 1850. Skinner settled down and worked as a postmaster, along with operating a ferry service across the Willamette River. Eugene Skinner died in 1864 from cold exposure after trying to rescue his cattle from a flood three years prior.

In 1851, a townsite was laid out by Eugene Skinner and Judge D.M. Risdon, the latter of whom became the first to build a house within the town's limits. It was initially difficult to develop in the area due to weather conditions, leading to Eugene being known as 'Skinner's Mudhole.' The settlers moved to higher ground for building, and in 1853 the town was elected the seat of the newly founded Lane County, Oregon.

Eugene was incorporated in 1862 as Eugene City, changed to City of Eugene in 1864, and eventually shortened to just Eugene in 1889.

Eugene's early economy was largely based on lumber products, the first sawmill in the town opened in 1851, powered by water from the millrace that ran through town from the Willamette River. Other mills and factories opened in quick succession, and Eugene grew into a center for transporting and processing lumber from neighboring towns. A distillery was opened in 1851, it produced around seventy gallons of whiskey per day and paid more in taxes than any other business in the town, which had a population of around 800 people.

The first public school in Eugene was built in 1856, three years before Oregon attained statehood, and a year before the first church, the Cumberland Presbyterian was built.

Incorporation as a city was debated in the early 1860's, and some citizens of the town at the time suggested placing more financial emphasis on public education as opposed to municipal government. This comes from an account in the Eugene State Republican, an early anti-slavery newspaper founded by Hilyard Shaw and Benjamin Davis in 1862. Eugene's development continued slowly over time, but the young city would experience rapid growth after the founding of the University of Oregon in the early 1870s.

The University of Oregon began construction in 1873, and quickly grew into a bedrock of Eugene's burgeoning community. It was supported by a creative funding drive that included contributions of livestock and other produce that was converted into cash. The college opened its doors in 1876, with five faculty members teaching the first group of students attending the school. Two years later, the college produced its first graduating class.

To this day, the college has graduated eight governors, 18 Pulitzer Prize winners, 13 Olympic medalists, nine Academy Award winners, six NFL Hall of Famers, and a Heisman Trophy winner, and over 24,000 students from all 50 states and over 95 countries attend the University of Oregon. The University of Oregon is represented in several sports by the Oregon Ducks.

By the early 1900's, Eugene became a city rife in potential for those seeking opportunity, proclaiming itself the 'Immigrant's Mecca'. Eugene was displayed in advertising and other publications abroad as an agricultural paradise, with excellent farmland and profit opportunities for those willing to work for them.

Eugene would rapidly expand over the first few decades of the 20th Century, with its population nearly tripling in size between 1900 (3,236 people) to 1920 (10,600). Eugene remained ahead of the curve in regards to both conservative and progressive politics, with the decision to recognize women's right to vote being recognized in Lane County nearly a decade before women were given the right statewide, and twenty years before the passing of the 19th Amendment. Eugene voted in 1911 to prohibit alcohol nine years before the ratification of the 18th Amendment under the 'local option' law, even though nearby Springfield remained a 'wet' town.

Racial inequality remained a common standard of life for many years in Eugene, though. A meeting of the Ku Klux Klan in 1924 was reported to have 'huge crowds' according to the Daily Guard, which ended with a fireworks display and a cross burning over Skinner Butte, with the letters KKK being burnt into the hillside. Non-whites were excluded from many neighborhoods by laws stretching into the 1950's, revealing that Eugene favored segregationist policies.

Enrollment in the University of Oregon topped 10,000 in 1963, and reached over 17,000 students in 1969 as more young people moved to the city. Stores offering natural foods such as The Kiva and Sundance became a staple of shopping in Eugene, and programs such as BRING Recycling began around this time, with volunteers collecting over 400 tons of recycled glass in the first year.

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Stegosaurus and their Plates



By Sage Campbell

Over 150 million years ago, dinosaurs roamed this planet. My favorite dinosaur, the stegosaurus, was a plated dinosaur with spikes on its tail. It was also a herbivore. The stegosaurus grew from 21 feet to 30ft. It had a very small head and brain for its size. The front legs were quite a bit shorter than the back legs.

The plates on the stegosaurus was its most noticeable feature. The plates were triangular and bony, it was often believed that they had two rows of these plates, but it was discovered in the 1970s that it actually alternates. The plates were bony but they also had lots of blood vessels. It is thought that the plates were used as radiators, that they released heat. Or they attracted a mate.

On the back of the stegosaurus, or the tail. There were 4 bony spikes. It is believed that they were used as a defense mechanism. The spinal cord next to the sanctum was actually bigger than the brain. On account of its small brain, it is believed that it was very slow moving.

Many buildings in Eugene were destroyed during the urban renewal movement in the early 1970's, which lead to larger department stores being consolidated into the Valley River Center. Sections of Willamette Street and Broadway were closed to automobile traffic to create a walking-friendly shopping area in Eugene's city center. Many businesses in Eugene struggled despite this, and vacant storefronts became a frequent sight throughout the end of the twentieth century. By its end, all but one or two blocks had been reopened to vehicle traffic.

As time went on, Eugene became known as a haven for liberal and alternative thought and lifestyles because of the many diverse groups of people living there, and the predominately progressive community and school of thought that developed within the city.

As of 2019, Eugene has over 40 miles of bike paths, including a the 19.5-mile Ruth Bascom Riverbank Trail System. Eugene is also known for its excellent parks and open spaces, such as Hendricks Park, Alton Baker Park and Skinner Butte Park, which was bought by city residents in 1938 during the Great Depression.

Another thing Eugene is known for is it's history in professional running, where athletes and coaches such as Bill Bowerman, Steve Prefontaine, Kenny Moore, Bill Dellinger and Phil Knight (the founder of Nike) trained and lived. Eugene is also credited as the home of the jogging movement in America, after Bill Bowerman visited New Zealand and saw people of different fitness levels participating in slow, steady running as a group activity.

Eugene is considered the primary cultural center of the Upper Willamette Valley, and is home to many venues and acts such as the Eugene Symphony, the Hult Center and the Cuthbert Amphitheater.

Through the decades, Eugene's community has held events such as the Oregon Country Fair that draw in thousands of visitors to the city every summer. Eugene is also home to many media outlets, including six television stations, over a dozen radio stations, and the Register Guard newspaper.

Noted residents of Eugene include former governors John Whiteaker, Neil Goldschmidt, John Kitzhaber, Ted Kulongoski and artists and entertainers such as Maude Kerns, David Ogden Stiers, Richard Brautigan, Damon Knight and Kate Wilhelm.

by Maddy Gunn

Mid-morning air and steady,
 Quiet driving, people striving to be calm in the chill of an early day.
 Your heart starts thumping faster, gathering your things in order to
 look out together,
 You style your hair in a new way,
 Will they accept the way you look today?
 Now is everything here? Time to leave, looking around you make sure
 that you have just a few minutes left for just a few deep breaths.
 7:00 rushing to get down to meet the yellow vehicle coming towards
 your driveway,
 Your heart rate picks up even more, glancing down at your watch,
 Why does this always feel like a chore?
 8:00
 Ok, just a little time to spare, pencil out, notebook open, do you have
 anything missing?
 Your mother texts you,
 Deep thoughts start popping up, is she ok? Did you leave something
 at home? A knot starts to build in your stomach,
 Great.

End of the Semester Billie

