

The Billie Bulletin



Class of 2024 heads out into the Big World

Track, softball and baseball make an impact at State

Right: Freshman Ryan Thomas blasts past the finish to win 1st in the 100 meters at State. Boys played deep into the state tourney while the softball teams brilliant season ended up in a disappointing loss. Picture courtesy of Ben Lonergan/Register Guard. Thomas is joined by the the 4X100 girls relay team which took second, while Zac Seratte took fifth in high jump.



PH Baptist feeds the 5000 OK, just the 130+ Billies who come on Thursdays for a free lunch.



With over one hundred high school student streaming over Pleasant Hill Baptist on Thursdays at lunch we wondered why the church took on this project. The answer was "we love this school." The dozen men and women of PH Baptist have, for the last two years, made it their mission to offer free food to upperclassmen at the high school. As many as 160 students have walked or driven to the church to eat the tasty free meals. The servers acknowledge the politeness of the students and the hope that students will associate the gift of food with the servers example of Christian grace. This mission, supported enthusiastically by the congregation costs roughly \$3000 and many hours of volunteer time. PH Baptist started this "tasty" ministry but it is now spreading to other local schools as members want students to know that they are Christians by their love for the kids.

Should PHHS ban cell phones?

By Ellie Epperson

I know you've probably heard the same spiel about phones a million times. "Get off your phones! Phones at my desk! Phones in your backpacks!" Teachers have tried countless methods for restricting phone use during an already short class period.

Illing Middle School, in Connecticut, tried something new, something that I have a feeling would be fairly controversial at Pleasant Hill High School.

At the beginning of the day, students must place their phone inside a pouch that has a locking mechanism that will be unlocked at the end of the day. The pouch is fabric and can be easily cut through in case of an emergency.

The students at Illing were mad at first. It was a hard adjustment but soon enough teachers began noticing improvements in multiple ways. Inappropriate AirDrops, mindless scrolling, and excessively long bathroom breaks all began to decrease. While in groups, the students at Illing students still expressed dislike for the cell phone pouches. But interestingly enough, in one-on-one conversations many students revealed that they felt they were making more friends than they did before.

Our teachers have tried a variety of ways to get us to put our phones away for just a little bit. Senora Watne has put clear boxes on top of her desks where students are told to put their phones in before class starts and can only be accessed after class is out.

"Getting more students to put their phones away more often would be good. Obviously I grew up in an era where we didn't have our phones with us all day at school and we were fine. My guess is that students are not on board. [It's an] interesting idea though," said Mr. Neill about the phone pouches.

The student response at Pleasant Hill was largely as expected. Merin Cunningham (12) said, "Absolutely not, I'm sorry." Many other students said similar things, reiterating different forms of why they needed their phones. However still, some can see how it might be a positive.

"I see where it could be nice, like mental breaks and stuff but I [still] don't know," said Karley Bloxham (12).

Some feel that phones are extremely useful tools and that phones are the way of society for the future.

Mr. Gray is a proponent of phones, but he knows that he is in the minority with this point of view among teachers particularly.

"I like phones... I think they're important if you need to contact your parents during the day. And on top of that I use them for tools, constantly. We're using calculators on our phones all the time in my classes."

He feels that although he grew up with flip phones, and it used to be easier to keep phones put away, society is changing.

"I have my phone in my pocket all day long, I'm utilizing it all day long, sometimes for personal use, sometimes professional but I have to get my job done with my phone attached to me. So are we preparing you for the real world if we're making you lock your phone up all day? Are we helping you be successful in school? Absolutely, because you'll be a lot more focused. But is that the right [thing]?" asked Mr. Gray.

What is the future of education and how does it co-exist with our advancing technologies? Phones can be an extremely useful tool but learning to become masters of ourselves rather than slaves to them is the tricky part.

The littles keep their phones away

By Siena Shaddon

Walking down a middle school hallway you are likely to see kids with their phones constantly in their hands or pockets, games being played on their phone during class, texting friends, and taking repeated pictures and videos of themselves and their friends.

All of this is a very different setting when compared to an elementary school hallway. At the elementary school, kids are walking to class talking with friends about last night's game, drawing and coloring at their desks, or playing board games on the classroom rug. There are no phones in sight, not in their pockets or on any of the students' desks.

When I interviewed fifth grade teacher, Nicola Shaddon, she shared that at the elementary school, the policy is for students to keep their phones inside their backpacks at all times—pretty different from the middle school campus.

Mrs. Shaddon said "To be honest, I don't even know who has a cell phone because they are kept in their backpacks while students are at school. If students need to contact their parents during the school day, students can use the school's phone. Students can call their parents anytime."

She also said, "Parents notify the front office when they need to update their child on after school plans. The office then sends that message to the child and their teacher."

This shows how the system of communication that existed before the widespread use of cell phones, can still thrive with today's youth.

The Indomitable Joan Hladky

By Aria Verma

Joan Hladky, a teacher and pillar in our community has worked at the school for 56 years. After her retirement she still comes in to help DI and Shakespeare club. Joan Hladky is as “Smart as a whip. She is so smart and strong and fierce with tenacity,” said Ms McCool, who has worked with Ms. Hladky for 30 years.

“She's a strong community member involved in everything and people have a great deal of respect and admiration for her,” said Mr Meinzen

Ms Hladky has been teaching the Shakespeare club for more than 20 years taking kids to ashland to see Shakespearean plays like Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, and Taming of the Shrew.

“Every time we do the Shakespeare [club], she loves going to the Greenleaf Cafe in Ashland, and that's where we would always go, and I've gone with several other teachers, but it was always Ms Hladky and me and another teacher, and so it was always just really fun and relaxing and learn about her,” said Ms McCool.

Tim Meinzen, who has taught in the District for over 30 years, has admired the way Ms. Hladky always pushed students to do their best. “Sometimes, that meant that kids felt intimidated or in tears, but all of those students credit Ms. Hladky with being the teacher who taught them best how to write.”

Community member Laura Swezey wrote online “What an amazing lady. I am 57 and I had her as a teacher starting when I was a kid. My kids had her too and she is still teaching! She was tough but she was excellent.”

Though most know Ms Hladky as a teacher or colleague, there are some thing people might not know like she is an avid Duck fan “When we email, we always talk about the Ducks and “Go Ducks”, and she goes to all the games too, so that's always been a fun connection with her as well.” Said Ms McCool

She was also very involved with the Eugene symphony “We as an elementary school took a field trip to the Holt Center to watch the symphony.” Said Ms Hill who had Ms Hladky in Elementary and Middle school. Ms Hladky works to teach Destination Imagination (DI). DI is a STEAM/STEM program in which teams make skits and/or build something to complete different tasks.

“The Destination Imagination global community is united by a core belief that when students have the freedom to grow and collaborate without boundaries, their confidence explodes and the world opens up to them in new ways.” reports DI website.

Ms Hladky is an important part of the community. “Without Ms Hladky there would be no DI or Shakespeare,” said Ms Hill. Without her many external activities offered at school wouldn't be



Ms. Bonaventure's Adventure in Africa

By Katrina Biggs

English teacher, Ms. Bonaventure joined the Peace Corps for two years after graduating from college. She came to teach at a school in Cameroon, Central Africa, 1995-1997.

“Having a purpose is very important for me,” said Ms. Bonaventure. Going to Africa gave her a purpose.

The Peace Corps gave her a job and a place to live in Kalfou. Although her house was humble she made do with what she had. She lived in a cinder block house with a tin roof. Her house didn't have any running water. She didn't have a toilet inside, but she had a pit toilet outside. She had a reed fence all around her house. She worked at a school teaching English to some farm kids, who spoke French and tribal languages.

Many of the people in Kalfou were kind. “It was either 120 degrees, or rainy with lots of wind”.

It was tough living, but she got a stipend, about \$500, every month to get food. The market where she got her food was small, outside and didn't have a lot of stuff because they were pretty limited.

“It was harder to come back to America than it was going there, because I had changed so much and everyone that I had left behind had not.” said Ms. Bonaventure.

She had to get accustomed to how the U.S. worked again, because of how long she was away, and Africa is really different from the U.S. “It's very noisy in America, which was hard to deal with, a sensory overload. There was no media.

And after all these years of living in America she is excited because she added, “This summer I'm going to a 30 year reunion with some of my friends from the Peace Corps.”

Dakota Hyland is a stand out

By Rhianna Prakash

Who is Dakota Hyland?

Many may know her as a well rounded student, outstanding athlete, team player, and a kind person. A lot of people don't know what's behind all of that. Let's take a look at what we know.

Dakota is a senior. She is on the girls soccer team and track team. Her relationship with her family is very important to her.

Dakota says that her parents inspire her because they've always worked so hard to provide a life for her at home and outside of home that above and beyond meets her everyday needs. They also make sure that she has experiences that are enriching to her life while chasing their own dreams. Her dad has had multiple career shifts as far as figuring out what he wants to do and her mom sells children's books. The Hylands found a way to make it work for their family. They have family dinners every night and they sacrifice much to make it to their sporting events, support any trips they take or risks whether it be in academics or athletics.

No matter how much she puts herself out there her family always supports her. “It really inspires me to work hard and keep focused on what really matters.”

After high school she plans to attend Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts. Dakota is going to major in writing literature and publishing. She's going to minor in creative marketing. She was recruited for their Division 3 women's soccer team and plans to play for them. 10 years down the road Dakota sees herself graduating from college and be a literary agent—not necessarily in journalism but in the print side of things.

As far as career she sees herself working for a large Publishing House somewhere where she will have a lot of opportunities to move up “the food chain.”

She sees traveling in her future, now that everything is online and digital it's a lot easier to do things remotely. She is passionate about traveling and experiencing other cultures, she hopes to live in Europe someday.

Speaking of traveling, one of Dakota's favorite memories at Pleasant Hill is going to Washington D.C. This was a part of the Close-Up Foundation experience. Dakota didn't know any of the people she went with but when you put yourself out there with Social Circles that don't know anything about you you grow as a person.

Transfer Talk

By Kylie Lan

I interviewed 2 seniors, Emily Baker and Cole Baker, and asked them to shed light on their experiences transferring to a new school. Being a transfer student, I want to know more about others' thoughts and feelings so I'm grateful that they were willing to answer my questions!

Why did you come to Pleasant Hill?

Emily - “I transferred to Pleasant Hill my junior year due to the volleyball program. I fell in love with the environment, team and coaching staff so after a few open gyms, I knew this was where I wanted to continue my volleyball and academic years left of high school. “

Cole - “I came to Pleasant Hill because I had moved into the district and had heard really good things about the school.”

How has your experience been here?

Emily - “My experience here has had its ups and downs but overall I've met some amazing people and memories I will always be grateful for.” - Cole - “My experience has been great; It's one of the best schools I've attended.

In comparison, how is Pleasant Hill compared to your old school?

Emily - “Pleasant Hill and Cottage Grove have a lot of differences because of the population and schooling system. I would have to say Pleasant hill has more of a community feel then Cottage Grove does.

Cole - “It's definitely a smaller school but I think that's what I really like about the school.”

Has being at this school shaped you in any way?

Emily - “This school has shaped me into a more independent person due to the distance between the school and where I live. It's also helped me feel like I'm part of a small family and I'm more appreciative of smaller towns.” - Cole - “I think it's shaped me into a more talkative and open person.”

What do you think of the staff and the teachers?

Emily - “I love most of the teachers here because they truly care and respect their students, especially Mr Neill.” -Cole - “I think all the staff and teachers are mostly great and want the students to succeed.”

How much different is Pleasant Hill's education system compared to your old school?

Emily - “ Due to the sizes of the classes the teachers at Pleasant Hill are able to help you more than at Cottage Grove which I think is really setting you up for success. I would have to say Pleasant Hill is further ahead than my old school is schooling wise and they're preparing us more for after high school with all of the AP classes.”

Cole - “It's really different because the smaller school setting lets the teachers be able to help kids and build a bond with them better than they would at a bigger school which I really like.”



She said it was really cool to go with people she didn't know and weren't friends with. She said it was really cool to go with people she didn't know and wasn't friends with. She experienced people from different cultures and backgrounds on the trip with her. It brought a different perspective coming from a really small school. She believes it helped her grow as a person, not just politically but also helped her figure out what she wanted to do. The DC trip made her realize what's important to her like traveling. It was fascinating for her to see what other High School experiences were like. On Close Up, kids attended from all across the country.

“The hardest part is probably that I am involved in a lot of things at the school, but also I do have a family, a life, and my sister, Addison, who is a competitive gymnast and travels pretty much every weekend for her meets. I love watching her.”

“Also I am a member of my church and my youth group.” Balancing everything is really hard. Sometimes I struggle with what to

give my time to because I'm kind of a perfectionist and I want to do well at everything, but I don't want to let people down so I kind of feel like I stretch myself a little thin. Trying to do honors society, reach club, book club, track, soccer, school, and Church it's kind of a lot.”

My parents inspire me just because they've always worked so hard to provide a life for me at home and a life for me outside of home that is above and beyond—not just meeting my everyday needs but making sure I have experiences that are enriching to my life.” Yet they also chase their dreams—as cliché as that sounds Emerson College has this very cool program in the Netherlands where they own this 17th century castle and you actually go and live there and then you're about a 30 minutes drive from Amsterdam and there's lots of publishing opportunities.

Hyland added, “Don't take life too seriously because high school is just a chapter of your life. It's not your entire life so don't get sucked into the drama and social aspects of it. Really enjoy yourself and try things that maybe you are not used to or meet some people who have different ideas than you know or views and opinions and that can really stretch you as a person.”

Kind as Katrina



By Maddy Gunn

Katrina Biggs is someone to admire.

I first met Katrina when she was relatively new to Pleasant Hill. Her bright smile and kind personality were refreshing. You don't meet many people who are kind to everyone and expect nothing whatsoever in return.

This is what makes Katrina so special. She has a wonderful attitude that is comforting to be around. But, beyond that, Katrina can easily put a smile on your face with little effort. She also has a unique ability to uplift others when they happen to be feeling down or sad.

Not only is she a Senior here and part of our track team, but she is also a twin to the equally impressive Miya Biggs. After high school, Katrina plans to travel to Spain with her sister for six months to participate in a mission led by their church.

She has also shared her love for anything food-related. She has a collection of cookbooks, along with a handful of recipes that we have exchanged a few times. She plans to pursue her love for cooking through a culinary school program after her mission ends.

I can attest that she is extremely talented in making scrumptious sweet treats. Katrina has many ambitions for her future but one thing I'm not sure she realizes is how she positively impacts many people now. She is the type of person you would want to be friends with upon meeting her. But, before she leaves for life after high school, she continues to make other people's lives “sweeter.”

You gotta read these great books this summer

By Mark Buchan

Good storybooks have become increasingly difficult to find, almost like jewels mixed in with advertisements and alternate agendas, but don't worry, I am here to help you navigate.

These books contain truly captivating tales that will have you constantly on the edge of your seat, wondering what happens next. Without further ado, let's get started.

Fairy Tale by Stephen King:

In this novel, the young Charlie Reade struggles with his grief over losing his mother and his father's descent into alcoholism. Things start to look better when his father goes through recovery and becomes sober, but then, his life is flipped upside down when he saves an old man's life and inherits the keys to an alternate dimension.

As Charlie travels through this dark world, he reflects on who he is as a person and looks at his own morality. He reminds the reader at many points that he is not necessarily always a good person, but he does make an effort to be. He has many regrets, but he can notice that he has done bad things and do better in the future.

This book is honestly pretty dark at some points, but by the end it leaves you with a sense of goodness in the world. It displays King's ability to write protagonists that are not always perfect, and this makes them much more relatable.

The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel by Michael Scott:

The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel is a book series that takes characters from history and many different world mythologies to create a compelling story.

It follows Sophie and Josh Newman, ordinary twins that are thrust into an extraordinary world completely beyond their comprehension. Michael Scott almost exclusively takes characters from either history or myth, and this creates a massively entertaining story. These books are absurd in some places, but they are written well enough that you can overlook the absurdity. It is very difficult to write about this series without giving massive spoilers, but trust me, it's good.

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne:

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea might be one of the greatest books of all time. It has inspired people in marine-related fields for almost a hundred years. The

story follows Professor Pierre Aronnax, the renowned marine biologist, who is invited to board the Abraham Lincoln (one of the United States finest ships) in search of the sea beast that they believe is a massive narwhal. He is accompanied by his assistant and master of marine classification, Conseil.

On the *Abraham Lincoln*, he becomes acquainted with Ned Land, a master harpooner from Canada. He is known for his short fuse and large appetite.

After the inevitable sinking of the Abraham Lincoln, their group is taken captive on a very advanced submarine that is captained by a super genius that has distanced himself from the land to live in the ocean.

It might sound a little weird when explained out loud, but this book is genuinely fantastic in the way that it is told, especially for something that was written in the 1800s. If you're looking for a sci-fi adventure, you can't really go wrong with Jules Verne.

These books have entertained me to a massive degree, and I hope they entertain you in the same way. I know that I have definitely undersold a lot of these books, but I don't want to give too many spoilers.

Show Some Respect

By Greta Gramzow

Did you know that according to a long established custom, the Flag of the United States of America must be presented in specific ways?

Consider this scenario: printing the flag on a paper plate for the Fourth of July. Seems innocuous enough, but that is not respectful according to the old rules. The reason for this 'rule' is that you are placing items above the flag and later on throwing it away. Now, obviously if you think about it, that's reasonable if it were an actual flag. Since it's just a harmless plate, we think nothing of it.

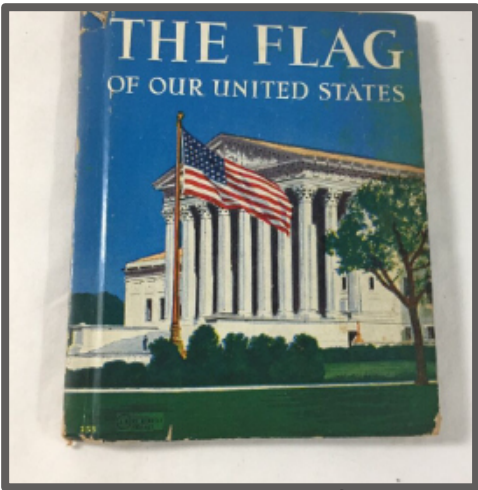
A book written by James A. Moss, published in 1940, states many details about the flag. Including its history, how to pledge and how to present the flag. Believe it or not, you can still find this book available on Amazon. It is titled, "The Flag of Our United States."

On page 52, you can find a short list of "cautions to observe in display." Number eleven was listed above: "Do not use the flag as a portion of a costume or of an athletic uniform. Do not embroider it upon cushions or handkerchiefs or print it on paper napkins or boxes."

Another reason for this rule, is that if you have a piece of clothing with nothing but the American flag on it, like shorts or a handkerchief, it appears as if you took the flag and cut it up to make clothing out of it—which is disrespectful.

Here's another you might be familiar with: "Do not let the Flag touch the ground or the floor, or trail in the water. " If the flag ever does touch the ground, you must burn it. However, the book states nothing involving destroying our flag over a small mistake. Which is actually stated in bullet point one: "Do not permit disrespect to be shown to the Flag of the United States."

However, a paragraph states on page 53: "Torn, soiled, or badly faded Flags should not be displayed. When a Flag is in such a condition that it is no longer a



fitting emblem to display, it should be destroyed as a whole, privately, preferably by burning or by some other method lacking in any suggestion of irreverence or disrespect."

Last, I'd like to point out in that last quote, that what is stated applies to printing on a shirt. An image showing an old, worn down flag is considered inappropriate—especially if there is a logo or lettering in front of it. In fact, as I searched up, "shirt with worn down flag" to find image examples... Well, I don't think I can quite say I was disappointed but at the same time it was violating the rules of decorum. This is stated again in bullet point twelve: "Do not put lettering of any kind upon the Flag."

The point is, some people think they are being patriotic by having the flag on their merchandise, or having it displayed the wrong way without even realizing it. When really, such common displays can be a form of disrespect to the Flag, according to the rules.

I cannot list the full etiquette mentioned in this book, but you are welcome to search for the book online. It states a lot of important information including how to display it on your car, how buntings should properly be displayed, and far more.

I recommend looking into this book if you are passionate about your patriotism. It is unfortunate that these standards have been forgotten over the years.

Solar Jazz owns State competitions: below are Steven Gunn on trumpet, Noah Bernacki on drums, ever the outstanding musician, Jayden Apker on keyboards and Wes Harr on bass.

Solar Jazz: Our underrated jazz band

By Zoe Harr

When you think of the superstars of our school, who do you think of? The football team? Or the baseball team, or the wrestling team, or any of the sports teams?

Probably.

But what about our jazz bands? I bet that you've never considered them before. But here's why you should.

Solar Jazz, Pleasant Hill's elite jazz band, is one of the most successful bands here since this school's creation. It is comprised of Ethan Bahen, Casey Templin, Noah Bernacki, Wesleigh Harr, Spencer Smith, Jayden Apker, James Hoopman, Levi Ross, Alex Groeper, Caitlin Olinger, Steven Gunn, and India Isaacson.

May 5, 2024, they came home from Mt. Hood Jazz Festival with their seventh first place win since the beginning of this year!

Their seventh!

This hasn't been done in years, and I believe that it isn't getting enough attention. And Solar Jazz has one more amazing opportunity this year to get eight wins at the State Competition at Mt Hood. Zac Tendick, the director of Solar Jazz, and all of our bands, has been with them on this spectacular journey.

You're probably wondering why I'm writing this. And why you're reading it!

Sadly, our music department is often very misunderstood, or misinterpreted. It is often compared to sports, or put into categories with sports. Solar Jazz needs more recognition, and so does our music department!

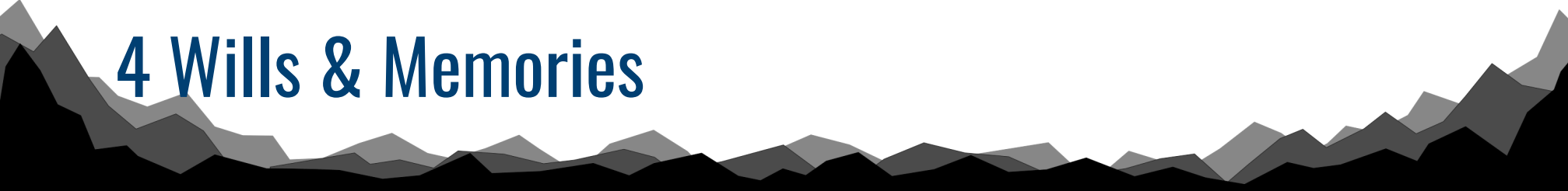
For some, Solar Jazz means groove. It means making music with others and living for jazz as a language and art form. For others, it might mean the joy of winning first place at a festival! So let's cheer on Solar Jazz as they go to the State Competition this year

The Billie Bulletin

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Alexis Moch
Charlie Neal
Murphy Sprague
Ollie Doane
Darren Soper
Andrew Taylor





4 Wills & Memories

Miya Biggs
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: freshman year where it was online because we had this homeschool group that we could go to and we got home made meals.
I will...keep looking forward
What did you learn most from high school?
Do your work once you get it, don't hold it off. It would end up getting harder to finish
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Some of the teachers.

Hannah Huff
Confession: Any time I asked a teacher "Can I go to the counselors office to talk about college stuff?" I was actually just skipping. I'm sorry mom.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Bus rides during volleyball season, and all the random spontaneous adventures I went on with my friends.
In 10 years...
Selling millions of dollars in Real Estate and living in a sunnier place.
I will...Ruby Jackson my amazing parking spot.
What did you learn most from high school?
No one will remember that embarrassing thing you did a week from now.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Middle school reward trips!!!!!!!!!!!!

Katrina Biggs
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: lunch at the church
In 10 years...
I Would most likely be a baker
I will...Be going with the flow
What did you learn most from High School?
I learned English the most, especially grammar.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Taking photos for publications class.

Eli Larson
Confession: I got straight A's by using copy and paste.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Playing baseball
In 10 years...
Working

Sophia Brock
Confession: "helping" some of my classmates with stats tests junior year, I also almost rear-ended Clarissa one time but it wasn't my fault I swear.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Lunchtime cruises in Katt's jeep
In 10 years...
I will still be competing with my dogs every weekend
I will...
My parking spot to my brother, even though it sucks.
What did you learn most from high school?
It's so beyond pointless to study for anything, ever.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Neill's government class, friends, the good teachers, goofing off, and yapping constantly.

Emily Baker
Confession: I regret transferring here.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Beating sisters during my junior year of volleyball.
In 10 years...
Hopefully moved out of Oregon and be a successful teacher.
I will...be nice to MOST of the teachers
What did you learn most from high school?
you have to choose your friends carefully
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Seeing Mr Neill everyday

Ryan Mattie
Confession: Chat GPT was my best friend junior year.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Skipping class
In 10 years...
I will be a Lineman.
I will...Don't wear tail's. It's weird
What did you learn most from High school?
How to talk my way out of trouble.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Being able to go fishing whenever I want.

Gabby Roper
Confession:Bella and I said "screw that" to the fire drill and hid in the bathroom
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: June 7, 2024 @7:00pm
In 10 years...
hopefully be chillin' as a stay at home mom
I will...my loathing for calculus to my brother, Gage
What did you learn most from High school?
nothing that is going to help me in the real world, that's for sure
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
burritos for lunch with Sophie

Derek Holman
Confession: I have 6,291 hours on rust
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Mr.Billie Pageant
In 10 years...
I'll be flyng for a big company making bank \$
I will...
Caleb my knee and in class sleeping abilities
What did you learn most from high school?
Neill's class is the easiest to sleep in
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
I'll miss baseball and volleyball

Olivia Ogan
Confession: I have left school plenty of times when I asked to work out in the commons or in the library.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: My favorite memory is sitting out in the parking lot with my friends Junior year and just talking.
In 10 years...
I will have a great job and more people to spend my free time with.
I will...someone to take my place and be a little menace to Smead.
What did you learn most from high school?
The first thing is, I much rather go to work than be in school. The second thing is, that people you consider to be friends, or closer to you, will eventually leave even if you consider them to be the closest to you. Not everything will last.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Honestly not much. Two things I will miss for sure are dressing up for things like Prom and seeing a handful of friends that I don't see outside of school.

Jackson Miller
Confession: I only skipped one class
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: leaving
In 10 years...
swimming in money, driving whatever damn car I wanna drive.
I will...chase your dreams but not through a school system.

Zachary Seratte
Confession: I slept everyday in Spanish class
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: the track meet store stops
In 10 years...
work as a heavy machine operator or a welder
I will...My jumping skills to Kyler Seratte, doug and aiden
What did you learn most from high school?
how to sleep sitting up
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
the athletics

Chloe Meyer
Confession: I use to skip track practices sometimes with my benched bestie to do pottery
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Art after school with Ms.Jampolsky and my best friend Katrina
In 10 years...
I have no idea but I hope I'm happy doing it
I will...my pencil to Mrs.Dow
What did you learn most from High school?
How to change gratefully
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
The teachers

Nate Curtis
Confession: I confess to using staff WiFi all year
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: hanging with all my boys at school and baseball practice
In 10 years...
hopefully working and making money or playing baseball
I will...
I will my clutch hitting to - Alejandro Zilkowski / will my mechanic skills to Nic Perkins
What did you learn most from high school?

that if you actually care about something you can change
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
sports and the people

Jacody Hawkins
Confession: I played clash every clash period
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Football
In 10 years...
Beating Matt in clash
I will...I wanna will my ability to pass any class no matter the grade to Ben
What did you learn most from high school?
School ain't sh**
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Friends

Xaiver Jas
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill:
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
the friends we made along the way.

Danica Martin
Confession: I broke 4 not 3 drill bits working on my table project. Sorry Steve my bad.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Sophomore year at my old high school Del Sol when I finally got to be in in-person school post COVID. I met new people and connected with old friends again. Junior/Senior year I liked spending lunch with my friends everyday.
In 10 years...
Hopefully working on my permanent home, fostering animals, and being roommates with some friend/s.
I will...pass down my art/academics balance to my younger brother Jacoby so he can go further then I could with both :)
What did you learn most from high school?
Take advantage of the resources here and appreciate the staff. They truly are helping me set up post high school and my junior/senior year.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Woodshop/Art and my friends.

Joseph Arney
Confession: Not doing work and still passing
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Being sick and not showing up
In 10 years...
leaching off the government

Elizabeth Vannatta
Confession: Google had help me through my whole high school career
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Hanging out with my friend throughout the school year
In 10 years...
I will be traveling
I will...What did you learn most from High School?
That friends come from everywhere
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Spending time with my friend and the nice staff

Kathleen Willardson
Confession: In another world I could have been obsessed with Suzuki Samurais or 2nd gen Ford Broncos if either of my folks brought their rigs up to Oregon
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Getting stuck in traffic for an hour and half with Sophie on Halloween, nearly rear ending someone, and going trick 'r treating
In 10 years...
Having too many jeeps and being married for insurance benefits B)
I will...My ability to speedrun essays and somehow get close to full points to Casey, my parking spot to Charlie, the ability to turn in loaned items from the library on time to Murphy, to Ryan I leave my ability to bs assignments, and last but not least although he's also a senior, my ability to get to places on time to Alex G
What did you learn most from High school?
That you can do a lot of stuff last minute and be fine
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Hanging out with my friends during lunch and Neill's gov class

Brody Hill
Confession: I confess to being the protagonist
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: early jr. year playing games with the fellas

Ethan Kobbe
Confession: I Confess to taking two lunches and holding them in a way where they look like one whenever I could
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: I snuck into the supply closet during one of the tournaments hosted here and donned the school mascots head (I have picture proof)
In 10 years...
I will be muddling through adult life, still calling my mom to ask her what to say whenever I go the doctors office
I will...pass down my crude and objectively weird humor to nobody in particular
What did you learn most from high school?
that real life teaches more than school
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
the lack of responsibilities (minus the schoolwork)

Lily Corey
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: One of my favorite memories throughout my high school life has to be going to outdoor school as a councilor.
In 10 years...
Hopefully good things
What did you learn most from high school?
From my high school years I learned about who I am and who I want to surround myself with.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
I will miss all of the memories and experiences from Pleasant Hill.

Dakota Hyland
Confession: Don't be fooled, I usually just fake it until I make it.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: My favorite memory over my high school career at Pleasant Hill is probably playing soccer and running track.
In 10 years...
In ten years I will be working remotely for Penguin Random House Publishing as an online desktop publisher living in London or Europe and traveling in my spare time. I will also be paying off student-debt until the day I die.
I will...my parking spot and study habits to my lil' Sis Ads MaGee, I will my speed and bad jokes to Soleis Jones (Crazy Lady), and I will my leadership skills in soccer to Isabelle Hammond-Mendez & Ashlyn Johnson.
What did you learn most from high school?
I learned that it's not what you know, but it's who you know.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
I will miss my teachers, coaches, classmates, and teammates who made this high school experience what it was.

Madeline Gunn
Confession: I confess
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Picking pears with Mr. Meinzen and his "favorite students"
In 10 years...
I want to be either a nurse or a naturopathic doctor
I will...water and my water bottle to Kesslyn Bell (You need to be hydrated!), my patience to Josie Chevalier, my phone to Mr. Gardner's wall, my heart to my Junior friends
What did you learn most from high school?
How to deal with difficult people
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
The friends I will leave behind :{

Jeidda Crawford
Confession: love sleeping but scared of death
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: hanging with my friends
In 10 years...
hopefully be a nurse
I will...My humor
What did you learn most from high school?
keep to yourself and keep trucking along
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
My friends

Raigan Obie
Confession: I was never sick at any appointments.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Playing sports with my friends
In 10 years...
Still waiting for a shaker
I will...Claire Crawford my basketball skills
What did you learn most from high school?
Don't stress over little things.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
The close community, sports, and my friends.

Camrie Taber
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Being part of FFA
In 10 years...
I will hopefully be making a lot of money and building my own house
I will...something I would tell the underclassmen, just have fun, enjoy school and your youth while you can.
What did you learn most from high school?
I learned about agriculture
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill High School? The end of the year feeling when the sun comes out and the classes felt shorter.

Jessica Clough
Confession: I was late to class junior year because me and my friends went swimming in the Dexter reservoir
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Track and Cross country
In 10 years...
I'll be doing research for NASA
I will...My cat to Aurora Brott
What did you learn most from high school?
Time Management
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
The Community

Brielle Rasmussen
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill was going to prom my Junior year.
In 10 years...
I will be a dance studio owner and married with two kids.
I will...A trait I want to give to an underclassmen is to have self-discipline because your future self will thank you and it will lead to a great successful path in the future if you stick with it.
What did you learn most from high school?
What I learned most about my high school years is you will change and grow and learn about yourself each year no matter what. You will grow into a different version of yourself and see how quickly life goes on. You will learn to cherish each moment no matter what because before you know it, you will be graduating and moving on to the next chapter in your life.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
What I will miss about Pleasant Hill is the genuine people that I met here and also the connections that I made with other people as well.

Steven Gunn
Confession: Dating at a tiny 3a school is an absolute joke, I don't recommend it.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: My favorite memory from my years at Pleasant Hill was winning state for music and being team captain for the 2023 soccer season.
In 10 years...
Riding Mountain bikes professionally and climbing mountains baby.
I will...Not take the senior parking spots in the morning.
What did you learn most from high school?
That's COVID was terrible and it wrecked most of the experience. Also, do your best to stay on top of your work.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
The music especially, I absolutely love the program and the people! And I'll miss the track team and soccer.

Taylor Seimears
Confession: All the Fridays I have called in sick, I was just play hokey
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: 2024 cheer competitions
In 10 years...
I hope I will be married with my first or second child working as an interior designer
I will teach someone how to advocate for themselves in high school
What did you learn most from high school?
How to write a resume
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Mr. Neill, Ms.White, Ms.Fiona

Robbie Casey
Confession: I've been microdosing uranium
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: I have a lot of good memories, but my most cherished ones have to be the Jazz Festival and the Wind Ensemble Festivals (I'm writing this before going to the state championship, I hope we win!)
In 10 years...
I hope to be living comfortably with my cat(s), hopefully doing something in the engineering field
Or you know, being thrown back into the pit from whence I came-- It's ambiguous, really
I will...my undeniable rizz and winning smile to Charlie Neal (he'll need it), all my green jolly ranchers to Murphy Sprague(enjoy), three wild +4 cards to India Isaacson (use them WISELY) , and 2000 doubloons to Wesleigh Harr (use them UNWISELY)
What did you learn most from high school?
THE GRINDSET COMES FIRST!! 🔥
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
My friends and teachers, I'll never meet anyone quite like you all. :')

Alex Cloyd
Confession: in the 4th grade when my class and I went on the Scotch broom field trip I forgot where we were supposed to throw away the scotch broom, so I just threw it back onto the field.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: my favorite memory is walking up the stage and receiving my diploma
In 10 years...
Living my best life
I will...don't forget drake the snake
What did you learn most from high school?
to enjoy your time with your friends , you don't really ever know if your ever gonna see them again
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Absolutely nothing.

Camble Ellis
Confession: Brandon Tobey told me where he hid his pot of gold.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Mr. Billie was good to me
In 10 years...
I will be designing cars
I will...My speed to Smellie Epperson, my humor to Micah D, my parking spot to Vedder Anderson, and my morning energy, chemistry skills, and unjustified confidence to Claire Crawford.
What did you learn most from high school?
As a kid, you make so many mistakes. It's frustrating, but it's just nature. The big thing is learning from them. I've changed as a person since I came into high school, and that's because I went out and made mistakes and grew. High school definitely taught me what kind of person I want to be, and how to change to be that person.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
My family

Cody Rusche
Confession: Just so you know it was me!
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Varsity Baseball Medford Tournament
In 10 years...
Having a family
I will...Gavin Foglio my height
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Noel and I's Miscellaneous conversations, Always the best. Love you Mrs. D

Ryan Lane
Confession: I confess that I never tried to win best dressed I just naturally have drip
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Undeclared League champs in soccer
In 10 years...
I'll hopefully be a paramedic
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
The Silly Spuad

Sophia Longworth
Confession: I am the proof unexcused absences have no consequences.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Making and performing a sock puppet show in Ms. Bonaventure's World Literature class sophomore year
In 10 years...
regretting not purchasing a house during the 2008 recession
I will...my compassion to the sophomore class because they so desperately need it.
What did you learn most from high school?
Friendly conversation will get you far
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
The last few weeks of school where nothing is too serious and everyone is playing games in the sun

Zoey Brott
Confession: The back row of AP Bio quickly and regularly devolved into laughter and life updates. Sorry Miss Messersmith I swear I paid attention.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Going swimming in the lake during lunch with friends. We showed up late and wet to Spanish class.
In 10 years...

Wills & Memories 5

I want to be doing research and working on Nuclear Space Systems. Publishing research papers, and working for NASA.
I will...Sleep deprivation, all broken motors, and motor controllers to Charlotte.
What did you learn most from high school?
How to ask questions and advocate for myself. Friends and family are great support. <3
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
The sheep, friends, community, and FFA.

Alyssa Basaraba

Confession: First night of the Mr. Billie Coast retreat me, Dj, Sawyer, Braedon, Abigail and Alea all stayed up secretly hanging out talking, when we were supposed to be asleep hours before.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Mr. Billie Retreat and Pageant.
In 10 years...
I will be living happily and traveling, maybe settling down with a family being a stay at home mom.
I will...my procrastination to to Zoey Hartsell, my awesome driving skills to my sister Olivia and my parking spot to my sister Erica.
What did you learn most from high school?
You don't actually have to read any of the books in English classes to pass with an A.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
I will miss the laid back teachers that actually have one-on-one relationships with their students (Ms. Goschie, Mr.Joel, Mrs. White, Mr. Neill and Steve Smith)

Jack Perini

Confession: I'm not giving you anything that easily.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: "Running" through the river during cross country practice.
In 10 years...
I will be an engineer, probably still somewhere nearby.
I will...my pushup voice to Charlotte Keepers.
What did you learn most from high school?
How to make it seem like I'm working really, really hard.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
My friends

Abigail Blatch

Confession: I'm the reason why there is a massive paint stain on the ground next to the metal shop
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: The Mr.Billie pageant, The coast trip with the Mr.Billie boys and having late night talks in the room right next to the stairs.
In 10 years...
Be the owner of my own restaurant and being the head chef of that restaurant and hopefully have a family.
I will...My left arm to Steve Smith for the times when he needs it.
What did you learn most from high school?
Don't overthink an assignment when you can just use google.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Having fun chants in the student section at the Basketball, Volleyball and Football Games.

Deanna Helvie

Confession: When I was in the 3rd grade I forged Mrs.Stoneburg's signature.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: "Everything that comes out of her mouth is garbage!" - Jacqueline
In 10 years...
Paying Taxes
I will Microphone #1 to Peyton Myers
What did you learn most from high school?
The people you surround yourself with do not define you as a person.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
My Friends

Merin Cunningham

Confession: I either prank called or forked most of you
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: The Mr. Billie program (aka Braedon Hazel winning)
In 10 years...
I WILL be Taylor Swift
I will...
my ability to find a Quizlet for any AP Gov assignment to Tessa Hammond.
What did you learn most from high school?
ChatGPT is smarter than google
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Rollin with the homies

Karley Bloxham

Confession: I am Groot
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Being a part of Mr. Billie, it was definitely the highlight of my Senior year.
In 10 years...
On the Eras Tour (our version), Merin will become Taylor Swift, and I will be her backup dancer.
I will...my strength to my sister, that she will survive the freshman class.
What did you learn most from high school?
If you were born after 2006 you are incompetent.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Merin's house, AKA my Mojo Dojo Casa House

Kaydence Henage

Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Discovering FFA and how FFA has become a huge part of my life
In 10 years...
Raising my own cattle and having a business from it
What did you learn most from high school?
I learned a lot about agriculture!
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
FFA

Clayton Williams

Confession: the blanket hides my attached twin on my back
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: the snow days
In 10 years...
at this very moment, waiting to get off of work since it'll be a Friday.
I will...pass my tiredness down to the youngest of the next generation
What did you learn most from high school?
How to not die
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
The schedule I have built since 4th grade

Jayden Apker

In 10 years...
Halfway through my psychiatrist residency
What did you learn most from high school?
Waiting until the last minute to turn that essay in didn't turn out as bad as I thought
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Lake days after school in May and June

Ryan Mann

Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Winning the home meet in discus
In 10 years...
I will be a police officer of some kind
I will...my crypto stocks to Mr. Neill
What did you learn most from high school?
how to get out of doing homework
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Teachers

Alexander Ramos

Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Meeting my true Friends
In 10 years...
Working
What did you learn most from high school?
Work ethic
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Workshop classes

Caden Richardson

Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: my grandpa was watching when I hit my first home run.
In 10 years...
Playing in the MLB
I will...Alejandro my pitching arm and Caleb my swing
What did you learn most from high school?
Baseball is life
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Playing Baseball

Sawyer Ireland

Confession: 6 of us stayed up 4-5 hours later than we were supposed to at the Mr Billies retreat
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: When DJ, Vano, Emily B and I went to Emily K

house over the summer and stayed up until 5am swimming and making brownies
In 10 years...
Working my own car customs business with my brother and dad
I will...my height to Vano
What did you learn most from high school?
Learn to not care what people think
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Bugging Neill in every class

Kayla Lane

Confession: I confess to Ande McDaniel and I going to Panda Express instead of class and still managing to get back in time.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Watching the Staff Vs High school basketball game last year.
In 10 years...
I hope to be a successful designer... Or just successful.
I will...My pink pig from outdoor school to Alyssa B.
What did you learn most from high school?
Music was the only thing keeping me going.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
The conversations we have in 6th period Ap Gov.

Tressa Geyer

Confession: All I want to do is eat chalk. So much. All the time.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Beating Santiam Christian and winning the girls' soccer league my sophomore year.
In 10 years...
I will be ruling over the world with an iron fist and outlawing slugs, the color purple, pineapple on pizza, anyone who attended the University of Michigan, and the concept of raising your hand to go to the bathroom.
I will...
my fully charged calculator and ability to do basic math to Emily Krauss.
What did you learn most from high school?
Ultimately, your worth is not defined by your grades, activities, or awards but by your relationships with others and the positive impact you leave on the world.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
I will miss more than anything my caring, intelligent, hard-working, stunning, selfless, interesting, driven, incredible friends <3

Katelynn Litson

Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Senior year
In 10 years...
Oncology year
What did you learn most from high school?
Tardies and absences don't beat experiences
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Not having to pay for school

Addie Bahen

Confession: I spent the night before my AP U.S. History test watching Yellowjackets instead of studying, and I still passed so I don't regret it
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Having a TA period sophomore year and using it to ditch and go get food with my friends
In 10 years...
I will be 28 years old
I will...bestow to Ellie Epperson the entire defensive line for our soccer team
What did you learn most from high school?
You don't actually need to read the assigned books to pass the class
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Some of the people. Not all, but some.

Noah Bernacki

Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: My favorite memory from high school is winning every music competition we competed in, including the State jazz competition.
In 10 years...
I will be a full-time musician, doing a mix of performance and teaching.
I will...Future outstanding musician awards to Levi Ross.
What did you learn most from high school?
I learned that community is important, and that being a well rounded individual will take you far.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
I will miss the small community and being able to know so much of my class.

Madison Michlanski

In 10 years...
I see myself working as a forensic scientist

Ashton Moncreif

Confession: I did burnouts in the parking lot
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: when that clock hit 3:10 and I was off to work
In 10 years...
I will be a journeyman electrician.
I will...The baddest 6.0 to Kaden Fisher
What did you learn most from high school?
bust your work out so you can marketplace the rest of the time
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Friends

Bella Black

Confession: I'm the one who pulled the fire alarm during lunch that one time
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: When Raigan, Karley, Merin, and I skipped class to get dutch.
In 10 years...
I hope to be married, have a family, a home, and a good job that I enjoy.
I will...My ability to get my homework done to my brother Sawyer and my ability to stay out of trouble to Carter. And lastly, I will Trey my ability to not procrastinate.
What did you learn most from high school?
That hard work and determination are the keys to success.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
I will miss getting to see my friends every day and the luxury of not having to work all the time.

Lily Rodrigues

Confession: A rat has been controlling me. By typing this he reveals himself. Sup' nerds.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: My favorite memory was when Jessica, tears in her eyes, used the electric sharpener to continuously sharpen a handful of pencils during Mr. Schmead's lecture.
In 10 years...
I hope to be working as a neurologist.
I will...The incoming freshmen an ounce of sanity.
What did you learn most from high school?
I discovered I am a natural blond.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
I'll miss looking at the sheeps.

Madi Hardy

Confession: In elementary school I would steal all the markers.
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Being able to be on varsity cheer my whole high school career. It brought me close to so many people and I'm so thankful for it.
In 10 years...
I will be working in a hospital as a child life specialist.
I will...My tumbling skills to Laynie. I will my driving skills to Ally. Lastly I will my love life to Sarenity.
What did you learn most from high school?
I learned who my real friends are and how to be less shy.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
I will miss my best friends. All my little underclassmen.

Camille Hicks

Confession: half the time when I was marked absent for an "appointment" it was getting Sunrise with my mom or dad
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Cross country as a whole
I will...girls wrestling to Peyton Buckley
What did you learn most from high school?
Chemistry is awful
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
My adopted sophomore Peyton Buckley

Dominic Duckett

Confession: I cheated in both of my history classes
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: getting in trouble for running in the hall ways when I was on crutches
In 10 years...
I will own a restaurant
I will...Bryce the ability to block
What did you learn most from high school?
how not to be a Dumb A**
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
My friends

Delaney Fischer

Confession: I've actually never been to Disneyland
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Barn dances during covid and Mr. Billie!
In 10 years...
Hopefully living somewhere warm with a family of my own
I will... My brother my spot on the cheer team
What did you learn most from high school?
cherish your friendships. that's the most important thing.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
The community and my friends

Braedon Hazel

Confession: I confess that I still don't know what to do in a roundabout, not actually, don't worry
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: Participating in the Mr. Billie program
In 10 years...
I'll probably be doing something stupid, and if I'm not then I'll be bored.
I will...My procrastination ability to the next poor soul who wants to graduate.
What did you learn most from high school?
I learned that a nap is all you need to make it through class, the one you're sleeping through anyways.
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Everything, nothing, I don't really know... Probably the people.

Ricky Pulido

Confession: Jeffrey Epstein didn't kill himself
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: being a D1 athlete during lunch football
In 10 years...
surviving a nuclear wasteland
What did you learn most from high school?
time goes by fast
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Being a underclassmen and hanging with upperclassmen

Brent Davisson

Confession: i have not read a single book in English
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: idk too many
In 10 years...
making games
What did you learn most from high school?
math
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
My friends

Cadence Wheaton

In 10 years...
I'll be an ultrasound tech specializing in pediatrics
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Mr Neill

Gavin Haratyk

Confession: wrestling is worth it
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: wrestling
In 10 years...
working
What did you learn most from high school?
Self improvement
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Wrestling and friends

Cole Baker

Confession: I put ketchup on my eggs🍳
Favorite memory at Pleasant Hill: My junior year when I had a different truck every week for like a month and a half because I kept trading them🚚
In 10 years...
Be rich or dead
I will...ldk just don't go to too much school. Do enough to pass and have fun with ur friends
What did you learn most from high school?
Spend time having fun not stressing
What will you miss most about Pleasant Hill?
Still being a kid

Matt Nguyen

I will... My basketball skills to Landon Melvin

Savannah White

I confess I accidentally slammed into a locker and dented it, then ran from the scene.
Favorite memory:One of my favorite memories was during junior year in June where my friends and I would go hop in the lake at lunch, then return back to Mrs. Watne's class drenched.
In 10 years I hope to have a beautiful house in the woods where I can have my own animals. I also hope to have a job that I enjoy and that I can hangout with my friends like I do now.
I will all of my binders and notebooks chalked full of information to my younger brother, Peyton.
What did you learn most from your high school year?
I learned that hard work goes way farther than talent.
What will you miss about Pleasant Hill?
I will miss the ability to see all my friends at school and the community of Pleasant Hill.

Alea Blatch

I confess I may have left the outdoor school cabin at night to go to the bathroom because my counselors didn't wake up
Favorite memory when Alyssa, Abby and I were on lunch break and we almost drove up a tow truck ramp but swerved just in time. and mr billie nights
In 10 years....
itwill be hopefully married and having a family and pursuing a career in teacher assisting or flight attending
I will my kindness and caring to the underclassmen
What did you learn most from your high school year?
that your grades really do matter and that if you put the work in you'll get it don
What will you miss about Pleasant Hill?
the relationship with friends and all the stupid laughs

Raegan Luiz

Favorite memory hacky sack in the courtyard with friends
In 10 years...still playing I want watermelon
I will my wardrobe to Ruby
I will my volleyball skills to Cheyenne
I will Steve Smith a belt
What did you learn most from your high school year?
Neill hates nap time
What will you miss about Pleasant Hill? sports

Hunter Allen

Confession
I didn't read a single book throughout high school
Favorite memory Bringing home the League title in both Soccer and Baseball my Sophomore year
In 10 years....I will finally have my dream car (Adrian's Corolla)
I will my Goalie Skills to Vedder Anderson
I will my swing to Alejandro Ziolkowski
I will my amazing hair to Caleb Van Orstrand
What did you learn most from your high school year?
I love Spark Notes
What will you miss about Pleasant Hill?
The long bus rides with my team

Chloe Gates

Confession I really love cows
Favorite memory Senior pranks and sleeping in a tent on the track
In 10 years....Diesel Mechanic
I will...Actually pay attention and stay on top of your work. If you slack off and don't try in the first 2 years, the last 2 are going to be more difficult then it should be.
What did you learn most from your high school year? People are fake
What will you miss about Pleasant Hill? Steve

Alex Groeper

Confession:I might have ADHD
Favorite memory aEvery Jazz festival
In 10 years...I will be finishing my PHD in biomedical engineering
What did you learn most from your high school year?
I learned how to procrastinate the smart way
What will you miss about Pleasant Hill?
Being in band and the amazing teachers

6 sports

What does Caitlin Clark Mean to women’s Basketball?

By Angel Calva
Trying to get open on the right wing side of the court I glance at the clock, time running out ...10, 9, then 8 seconds left. The ball gets passed around the 3-point line making sure the defense doesn’t get the ball. Then I move trying to get open, and as the ball is getting passed to me, I see the defender closing the gap between me and the ball, almost getting it. I jump forward and take the ball, I spin around and glance at the clock. 2 seconds. I shoot from the three and SWISHHHHH! This is how Caitlin Clark works.

Caitlin Clark is now a WNBA player for the Indiana Fever, previously playing for the Iowa Hawkeyes in college. is regarded as “one of the greatest collegiate players of all time.” Caitlin Clark is the NCAA D1 all-time leading scorer and has broken Stephen Curry’s NCAA single-season three-point record. Caitlin Clark has been extremely influential for women’s basketball, finally shining a light on this game and getting more people to watch by 60% (Alex Leeds Matthews Women’s College Basketball: How Caitlin Clark rewrote the rules).

Even if you don’t know much about Caitlin Clark, she is most known for her 3-point shots, and her creative ways to get to the basket; Making basketball her form of art.

When the high school basketball girls were asked the question, what does Caitlin Clark mean to you? Trinity Hawkins replied “Nothing really, don’t know much about her. All I know is that she’s a great player but not very much of a team player.” And Anna Crawford said, “Honestly I don’t pay much attention to Caitlin Clark but from what I have seen and heard, I think it is pretty inspiring to see a woman have so much offensive skill and help her team so much offensively.”

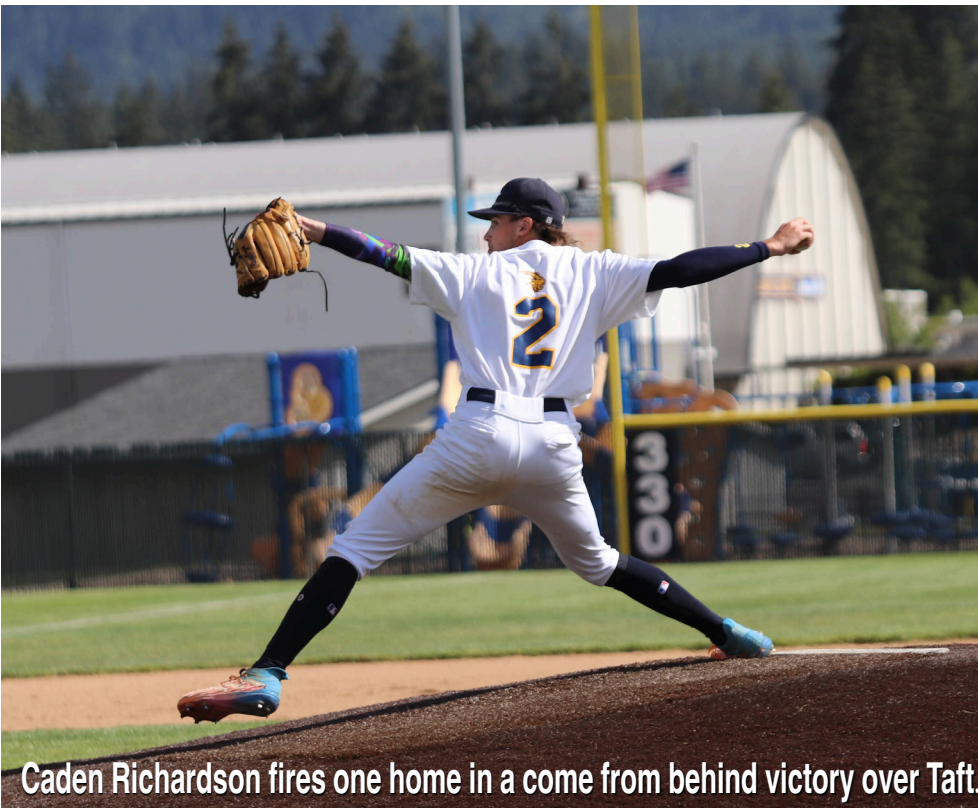
Even though some girls don’t know a lot about her, each agrees that Caitlin Clark is a good player, and good players are what they look up to. It’s important to have players like Caitlin Clark to look up to because women basketball players don’t often get the spotlight (especially in college), so when girls look at women like Caitlin Clark, they can see a little of themselves in her.

Pleasant Hills girls basketball coach Paxton Miller said “I have a great appreciation for her as a coach, a teacher, and as a fan. She is a transcendent talent, who I think has used her impact and her platform in a meaningful and positive way. That is a difficult thing to do, especially when the spotlight is always on you.

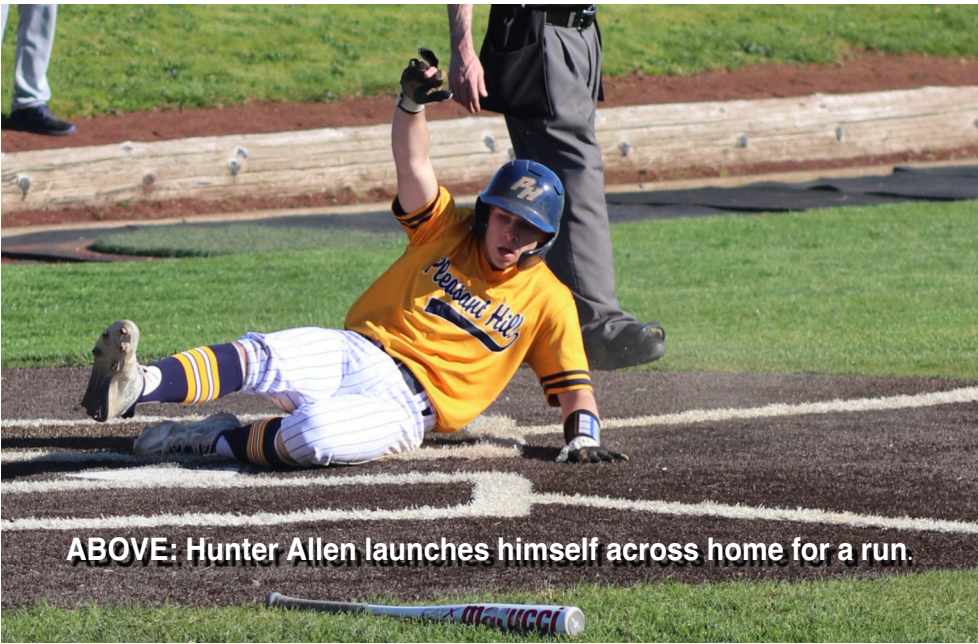
As a player, she is obviously extremely talented, but I have an even greater admiration for her intangibles. She leads, she exemplifies toughness, she’s fearless, and competes. Her skill and ability is a testament to her work ethic, sacrifice, and commitment to her craft. I think she is a great role model for young people both off the floor and on.

And as a teacher and girls basketball coach, her voice means a lot to me. She has really propelled women’s basketball in the last few years. The growth, attention, and appreciation of the sport have been long overdue. She has inspired a lot of young women and children and it’s been very exciting to watch unfold.”

To many, basketball is a sport where people compete to win. But to others, it’s a game of passion.



Caden Richardson fires one home in a come from behind victory over Taft.



ABOVE: Hunter Allen launches himself across home for a run.

SOFTBALL SHOWS RESILIENCE WITH NEW HEAD COACH

By Josie Heacock

With their own head coach stepping down 3 quarters of the way through the season, the softball girls have been resilient in pushing forward with new head coach, Ryan Black. Black has been active on the team as a first-baseman coach and stepping into the new position as head coach was natural. “I feel like he grows better and stronger relationships with the girls. [He is] less of a coach and more of a role model for us,”said Piper Fisher, a sophomore.

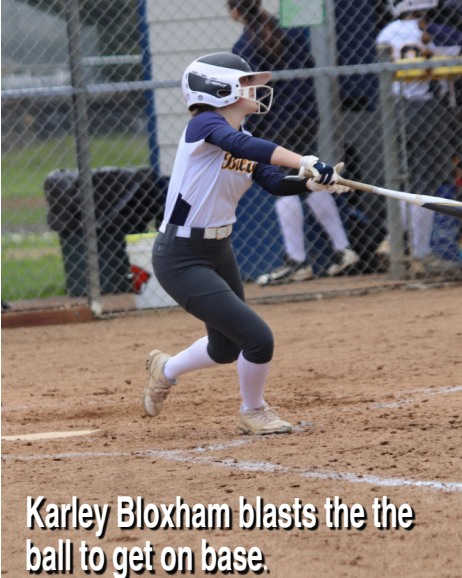
Alexis Pardee stated that the transition hasn’t been easy, but the endgame will be worth it. “I think it’s been kinda hard, because he’s not as strict as Steve was and he’s more laid back. It’s been hard to get back into the group of what we’ve had before. [However] it’s given us relaxation and now we aren’t as stressed out all of the time. We are having more fun.”

The girls have already completed the majority of their games, with a few left before the end of the season. They are currently ranked #10 in OSAA, with a league record of 10-3. The team is tied in the Mountain Valley Conference with Harrisburg/Monroe.

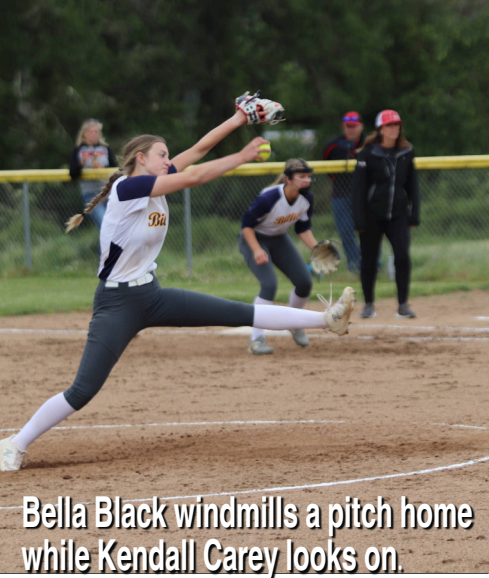
Piper Fisher gave insight to the rest of the season: “We are kinda just playing it by ear, we don’t know what’s going to happen. If we make it to state, great, that would be super awesome. If we don’t, I guess we could blame it on our coach leaving halfway through the season. [But] we are content with where we are, and if we make it to state, that would make us more content with our season.”

“I feel pretty great, it’s a lot happier now. It’s not a lot of negativity anymore, we can actually have fun. We can laugh about things.” Piper Fisher said. With their eyes still set on the future, the team is working hard to reach their goals despite setbacks.

OSAA report: Softball team is #11 in State with a 13-7 record sitting just behind Harrisburg but after losing to in the tournament their shining season set. But they remain the OSAA 3A Mountain Valley Conference League Champions!



Karley Bloxham blasts the the ball to get on base.



Bella Black windmills a pitch home while Kendall Carey looks on.

BASEBALL AIMS TO FINISH SEASON STRONG

By Josie Heacock

“[It’s] the last dance” said Alejandro Ziolkowski describing the baseball team’s last season with Coach Bowden. Beloved by many, Mr. Bowden is stepping down after this final 2024 season as baseball’s head coach. “It’s really sad, I’ve had him for 3 years and he’s a really great mentor.” Ziolkowski said.

Most might think the leaving of their coach would create a sense of urgency or need to go big or go home, but the team is approaching it differently. “We are trying to go one game at a time. Our goal is to win league. We’ve played all the top teams in [the] 3A [division]. We’ve beaten Douglas, had a heartbreaker with Banks (lost by a run) - we’ve played the best and beaten the best.”

Speaking of the best, the team’s seniors have stepped up and taken a role as leaders and role models for the team. Seniors Caden Richardson, John Fitzpatrick, Hunter Allen, and Nate Curtis have all been “Solid in the line up this year, they’ve [all] been doing well this year.”

“Caden [Richardson] is definitely a leader, so is Hunter [Allen]. They all have their own ways of leading. Hunter will stay after practice and help some of the JV kids with catching. DJ [Holman] is a leader and he will play anywhere and he will walk the team through things. Caden is a good role model.” Caleb Vanordstrand, a junior said.

The season hasn’t been easy, with the knowledge of their coach leaving, sickness among players, and having many games cancelled, the team has felt the effects. Vanordstrand said, “We all have our eyes locked on the league championship, right now we are second in state and we are trying to win out and hopefully get that number one spot for state. We need to take it one step at a time.”

The Billies finished strong and exciting but were beaten by Brookings-Harbor 6-4 in State Semifinals to end their sparkling season.

TRACK SENDS COMPETITORS TO DISTRICTS

By Josie Heacock

The PHHS track team is sending off a copious amount of athletes to Districts, including 13 seniors. These seniors have been working hard—some even for years—to get to where they are today. The 2024 Districts are their last one ever, and they plan on making it count.

These athletes are dedicated and show up everyday, ready to push themselves to new heights. With the season coming to an end, many of the athletes, underclassmen and juniors included, are giving it their all.

Stars athletes this season include sophomore Ryan Thomas, who the 100m state champion, and performed well in the 4x400m relay. Andrew Taylor, a junior, excelled at the 200m with a 23.41 time (4th at districts). Braedon Hazel was the Javelin district champion with 157’3” as a senior. Senior Steven Gunn was the javelin district runner up with 153’7”. Camille Hicks, a senior, was talented at both javelin and shot put.

Summing up the season, Coach Kevin Smead said, “This season is especially special to me, this group of seniors was the first group I coached here at Pleasant Hill and what a pleasure it has been to guide them on the track team. I think that we have made a lot of good improvements this year around training that will only echo into the future hopefully garnering even more and more interest in the sport on the whole it has been a very rewarding season”The track team is sending off a copious amount of athletes to Districts, including 13 seniors. These seniors have been working hard—some even for years—to get to where they are today. The 2024 Districts is their last one ever, and they plan on making it count.

These athletes are dedicated and show up everyday, ready to push themselves to new heights. With the season coming to an end, many of the athletes, underclassmen and juniors included, are giving it their all. Star athletes this season include sophomore Ryan Thomas, who is ranked number one in the girls’ 100 meter race. SENIOR QUALIFIERS (districts) - Dakota Hyland, Steven Gunn, Jackson Weller, Zach Seratte, Noah Bernacki, Miya Biggs, Jessica Clough, Katrina Biggs, Ryan Mann, Jack Perini, Braeden Hazel, Paige Hinkle, and Camille Hicks.

Below: Dough Green soars over the high jump bar while Jessica Clough displays her concentration in the long jump.



Mrs. Brothers loves books

By Caroline Carlson

We have all been in the Library for various reasons, whether you had Chromebook problems or actually are going for a book we have encountered Mrs. Amy Brothers, our trusty Librarian. But how did she become the person who can save our necks and then break our backs with good reads? This is how she became ‘THE LIBRARIAN.’



I asked what inspired her to be a Librarian, she said “When I saw the job and the qualifications that I qualified for. And I love books.” Just another example of why to always live life to the fullest.

But where did her love of books come from? “ My mom and grandmother always read to me and I always enjoyed it. My dad read to me too but not as much.”

When everyone was little we all had big dreams on what our career would be but many do not pursue those dreams because either they develop different ideas or say you wanted to be an astronaut (you have a 0.083% chance. Keep dreaming). Mrs.Brothers wanted to be an animator. Now she has a degree in animation.

I asked what some pros and cons were of being a Librarian. “Pros, all the books you can read and talking books with students! Some cons are when students mistreat books or when I have to throw them out [because they are unusable.]”

Mrs. Brothers is an easy person to talk about most anything and these interview questions on the spot she handled and answered well. What really stumped her is when I asked what her top reads are. She grabbed an index card and started thinking.

“It’s hard on the spot like that.” After some thinking she came up with six pieces of literature, including Shadows and Bones series, The Archive duology, Mistborn series, Emberally Ashes series, and West with Giraffes (spoiler alert! Mrs. Brothers claimed it to be sad.)

I hope now the next time you walk into the Library with a busted Chromebook or needing a text book for that homework you didn’t finish with a lead up of awkward silence, you might just ask about our Librarian’s amazing life.



Getting to the Core: Who is Lily Corey?



Salmond addresses questions about new Rewards policy

By Alexis Moch

*No more reward trip?
No more incentives?*

Some of us in middle school are angry or just confused with the new Rewards Trip policy. It used to be that everybody would go unless you had a major referral. Now the policy is that for everyone to go, we have to have less than 100 D’s or F’s for our grades. reached out to the source, Mr. Salmond, to fully understand why this change was necessary.

Can you explain the policy towards reward trips and field trips?

“As it pertains to policy and reward trips, this explanation first rests in our School Board Policy IICA “Field Trips and Special Events”. A few portions of this policy that drive my perspective are:

“The district recognizes the value of special activities to the total school program” “Field trips and other curricular/ co-curricular activities involving travel may be authorized by the superintendent or designee when such trips or activities contribute to the achievement of desirable educational/social/cultural goals”

In Other Words, ensuring reward trips and field trips align with our educational goals. Whenever evaluating a reward trip or field trip, these policies and goals guide our decision making.”

Why do you believe this policy change is important?

“When striving to produce “students with high levels of academic and personal achievement, who are ready for post-secondary excellence, and who are prepared for productive, compassionate citizenship,”, I believe intrinsic motivation is paramount.”

How do you think this policy will affect students with A’s and B’s?

“By this question I believe you are referring to our 3rd quarter goal of 100 or fewer D’s or F’s school wide for a school wide ice skating trip. If so, I assume not going ice skating was a disappointment. That being said, I feel that setting school-wide goals for our students can have a positive impact on increasing our sense of community and celebration of all that we all bring to Pleasant Hill Middle School on a daily basis.”

What would you say to students who feel this new policy is unfair?

“If by this question you mean that some students felt it was unfair they were not taken ice skating even though they earned C’s or better in the 3rd quarter, my message would be most akin to that of a sports team. As a team we had a goal, but did not meet that goal. That being said, we are committed to finding ways to continually celebrate our individual and collective victories.”

Many students at Pleasant Hill Middle School are frustrated over this new policy. They work hard for their grades and have enjoyed being rewarded through extrinsic motivations.

Change is hard, but what is more challenging is the unknown. Many students expressed frustration around not knowing how many D’s and F’s we had at any given moment.

Drone day: Tressa Geyer, Emily Krauss, Tessa Hammond and Sophia Longworth learn to fly Mr. Gray’s drone.

Asking For Help

by Taliegh Jackson

Asking for help is by far one of the most important things someone can do in their lives. Whether they are asking for their mental state or for something as easy as homework, it is important. I’m focusing on how important it is to ask for help when it comes to your mental state. As someone who has, and still is struggling with mental issues, I have come to understand how important it is to tell someone you need help. You may feel like a burden but bad mental health can be a matter of life or death. This sounds exaggerated but it is true. I struggled for years with my mental health. At a point in my life I did not sleep whatsoever and this led me to develop psychosis (psychotic disorder) that made me hallucinate. I had to get psychiatric treatment where I was put on medication, simply because I would not ask for help with my sleeping issues.

Mental health issues are no joke> Sometimes we may be tempted to judge someone’s problems as fake or for attention or just something you don’t get, but people do die every single day from mental health issues. Issues like depression and self harm often get joked about, but these conditions are not a funny matter. Self harm has ended lives.

Suicide happens for a reason, it shouldn’t be taken lightly. No matter how happy someone looks they can be struggling internally and that’s why always ask them if they’re ok and need help. Someone can be the most athletic, happy person you’ve met and still be hurting mentally; whether from depression, anxiety, or other or issues.. Things like depression and anxiety tend to get worse over time without help, don’t be afraid to reach out.

You may be asking “How do I get help?” or “How do I help my friends?”

I can’t fully tell you how to do so because I’m not you, nor do i know what you’re going through, but if you’re struggling with suicidal thoughts, there are hotlines you can call. Talk to your family, your friends and any adult that can help you because YOUR life matters.

Helping a friend is also complicated—especially if you have never experienced anything similar.. What I suggest is letting them know, no matter how unserious your relationship with them may be, that they can always talk to you about anything and you’re there for them.

If you know they’re struggling but can’t help, tell somebody. You may and most likely will feel like a snitch but their life could be on the line and you might not even know it.

The main problem is how some people would rather suffer in silence, outright refuse help or even wish to get worse. This is often due to a fear of leaving their comfort zone they’ve found in their mental illness, or even due to needing attention from people if they aren’t given it at home.

How do you help those who don’t want help? Well you can always tell an adult without their consent, or you can slowly try to get them from that comfort zone to a state where they want help. Depending on what feelings they have, don’t treat them like they’re monsters, Mentally unwell will not feel the same as you.

Comfort them and show them that you would care if they were gone. If this gets to a point of exhaustion, move this onto an adult who will help. Then move on with your life. Don’t ruin your mental state trying to help when you can always have someone who is trained to work with mental health crises.

People who are suffering don’t tend to reach out. These people would rather suffer in silence to not be a “burden,” and from experience, this feeling is hard and everlasting to escape from. If you feel your friend is trying to or is going to kill themselves, REACH OUT. Save lives, Don’t be silent.

Dial 988 for a Suicide Hotline, There are people out there for you.

school were Ms.Jampolsky, Mrs.Bonaventure, and Mrs.Devish. Ms.Jampolsky was always there to help pick people up when they were down and has always offered a positive outlook. Mrs.Bonaventure has always had the best assignments that really make you think and use your creative skills within Language Arts. Mrs.Devish is a newer teacher and is already one of my favorites because she makes math fun and teaches in a way that everyone has a chance to succeed.

7.What don't folks here know about you?

Many people at Pleasant Hill don't know that I grew up with an addict parent and lived with my grandparents most of my life. Some people may think that if I could go back and change my childhood I would, however if anything all of my experiences make me who I am today and I like to see the light in that.

8. In 10 years I will be.....

In 10 years I hope to be living happily with a job I love, having been traveling the world, and living life to the fullest I possibly can.

9. What matters most to you in life?

What matters most to me in life is authenticity and genuineness. I think that life is all about finding ways to bring yourself happiness by being authentically yourself, surrounding yourself with people you love, finding your passions in life, and making good choices.

The Billie Backside



Is Prom Worth The Hype?

By Abbie Landers

Finally after so many years prom is finally here for Juniors! Considered a “right of passage” for all teenagers in the form of a semi-formal event Prom looms large in the imagination of some students.

But, is it really everything youngsters imagine it to be? Will their fantasies of a High School Musical-esc prom come to life? Well, let’s ask Seniors who already experienced prom once before.

After asking Abigail and Alea Blatch they said “It’s definitely worth going once, just for the experience. [Prom] had good music but a weird photo booth.”

We even interviewed Mr. Gardner and asked if he once experienced prom as a Junior. He never went his Junior year but he did go Senior year with a group of friends without any dates. He noted he “doesn’t like dancing” but overall the experience was worth it!

In conclusion to “Is Prom Worth The Hype?” ...Yes! Even if you don’t have a date (you don’t need one in the first place) go with friends, enjoy yourself and have fun! Make memories so you can fondly look back at your Junior / Senior prom.

The eclectic tastes in art and music of three Billies

By Evander Ruiz and Raelynn DuBose

Today, we had the pleasure of interviewing three students: Greta Gramzow, Olive Brown, and AJ Taylor. Our aim was to explore their artistic musical tastes and delve deeper into their passion for the art. We asked them to share their thoughts on their favorite artists, including a detailed description of their work, and what they love about them.

During our first interview, Olive Brown's passion for the legendary (but controversial) Michael Jackson was evident. He spoke with eagerness about Michael's funky style, and eventually, Olive revealed that Michael's vocal range is what truly captivates him. He described Michael's music as having a smooth quality, perfectly complemented by the artist's undeniable charisma. Olive's admiration for Michael Jackson's music was not just evident in his words, but also in the way he spoke about him with respect and admiration. Olive's favorite songs by Micheal are “Rock with You” and “Remember theTime.”

AJ Taylor, expressed his admiration for the Irish singer and songwriter Hozier. According to AJ, Hozier's music resonates with him deeply. He particularly likes the fact that Hozier's songs are consistent in quality, and he rarely deviates too far from his genre. AJ went on to describe Hozier as a great artist, he truly thinks Hozier is a true “banger.” AJ favorite song by Hozier is “From eden.”

During our last conversation, Greta Gramzow shared with us her love for Lyn Lapid, a musician whose artistry she deeply appreciates. Greta spoke of Lyn's enchanting voice, which captivated her with its rich, harmonious, and velvety tones. However, Greta emphasized that it wasn't just Lyn's music that impressed her; it was also her kind and friendly nature that made her stand out. Greta described Lyn as a genuinely nice person with a great sense of humor, who creates beautiful and awe-inspiring music. Greta was clearly enamored with Lyn, and her passionate description of Lyn's music and personality was evident in Greta’s eyes. Greta's favorite song by Lyn is “Eastside.”

People have lots of music preferences. Despite the vast diversity in musical taste, it was discovered that every individual holds a special place in their heart for a particular artist or band. Music, as an art form, has the power to connect people on a universal level, transcending boundaries and bringing individuals together.

Raelynn DuBose's favorite singer is Benson Boone. Benson sings the song “Beautiful Things” A singer-songwriter who made his name on American Idol in 2021. I would describe his voice as calming, energetic, and mellifluous. I can really tell he thinks about what goes into his music. You can really hear and see he puts time and effort into his songs. One of my favorite songs of his is “What was”. This song is truly magnificent, the way his voice flows with the instruments, and how raw his voice sounds is just truly beautiful.

Evander Ruiz, on the other hand, favorite singer is Elton John. Elton John is a British singer and songwriter who was mainly known for his work during the 1970s but experienced a resurgence in popularity due to the hit movie “Sing” featuring his song “I'm Still Standing”. He loves the vibe of his songs and finds them classic, enjoyable, and impressive. Also that Elton has accomplished many great things in the music industry, including releasing four albums in one year. Evander is very passionate about Elton John.

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Kindergarten memories

By Sienna Malekzadeh

Consider Kindergarten—the simple yet complex times of the first year as a student. You might recall the crumbs leftover from daily snacktime, all the games kids make at recess, scraps left behind from the cut and paste crafts, and the “roaring” tables in the lunchroom.

Some memories may be more vivid than others, but we all have at least one thing we remember from that easy going period.

Abigail Blatch said that she remembers bringing home “Clifford the dog”, her class “pet” at the time. Every kid got a chance to take it to their house. They just had to take photos along with it.

“I remember all the games we played during recess,”Alexis Moch said. Her kindergarten adventures were only seven short years ago. “Fish-out-o-water on the play structure, and “Chicken”, which always got a little heated.”

Two other students, Brooklyn Breslaw and Claire Newman recall dancing to ABC songs as well as Go Noodle. Many of the songs played have forever been engraved inside our minds, as some of us still sing to the very tunes.

Teacher, Mrs. Moch recollected memories of earning ice cream cones every Friday if she got her homework done. A reward that was certainly going to raise the amount of children accomplishing their tasks.

Our memories may be light and somewhat trivial, let’s not forget kindergarten is where we all build our foundations to become the students we are today.

Platonic love is the sweet spot

By Zoe Harr

We all know about romantic love and familial love, right? But have you ever considered platonic love? Why do we frown upon it? Sometimes it’s just as simple as not understanding it? But whatever the reason, the big question is why?

The first key to understanding platonic love is knowing what it is! Platonic love is loving someone unrelated to you in a non sexual or romantic way. Not everyone is into romance shenanigans, you know. But platonic love can even be as simple as caring about your friends very strongly! It’s endearing!

However, a lot of people think it’s weird. “I believe that platonic love is something that definitely exists,” says Aria Verma, a 7th grader. “I definitely have platonic love with all of my friends, and I don't think it's weird.”

Talk of “love” can be heinous in some people’s eyes if you have very close friends of different genders. The classic, “Oh my gosh! You guys are so cute!” Or, “I ship you guys, you should get together!” gets old over time, you know? Loving your friends doesn’t have to be romantic! Such love shows we care about them on a deeper level.

“I mean, I definitely feel platonic love with my friends, definitely.” says Dominik Hammond-Mendez, another 7th grader. Duke LaRoche also joined our conversation!

“Having a crush is like, I think you're pretty and I want to date you and you're just hot. Having friends like platonic love, it's like dude, you're my friend, I love you. It's a different kind of way.”

In another sense, friends are people we care a lot about, but we wouldn’t want to date. Something to keep in mind, though, is that sometimes things change. You may end up having feelings for a friend!

But it's important to draw the lines between friendship and a crush. “When I think of loving a friend I think kind of like a Sisterhood, or a Brotherhood, or you think of them as family, and less like a romantic crush.” said Caroline Carlson. She explained, friends can be family! However, friends might mean different things to everybody. Now that's up to you.

If it’s confusing sometimes, then that’s okay! You have all the time in the world to figure it out. And on the bright side, your friends will be there for you every step of the way!

Staff exodus marks year of change

By Tim Meinzen

After a year of upheaval and change, several teachers have announced they are leaving the fold. Before the end of the semester, Principal Garth Gerot announced he was leaving. In his spot stepped Chris Reiersgaard as Principal. Reiersgaard has accepted a second year on his contract to be our Principal next year.

This spring an exodus began with the announcement of Metal shop teacher and baseball coach Johnny Bowden that he accepted a teaching and coaching job at Elmira High School. According to Bowden “the main reason for taking a new job is distance and travel. Bowden lives over on the far west side of Eugene near the school I will be working at next year near Elmira. Bowden will be teaching wood shop, metal shop and small engine / automotive.

Kyle Ludwig will be taking the vocal teaching job at Roseburg High School where he has connections and will be teaching high school vocal entirely, his particular passion.

Jennifer Crim, English teacher is leaving to because of the challenge of creating four new preps without any supporting curriculum. She does not know what she will do next, but her passion to help kids was a common thread in her teaching.

Jake Gardner, English teacher, will also be leaving the profession. He admitted that last year was “the most challenging year” of his life. Gardner was discouraged by six preps (separate classes to prepare for) in the last year in addition to the “apathy toward all things English and blatant disregard of any form of phone policy by the vast majority of the student body.” He said he began to find “no joy in what I used to love.” He is “stepping away from this career until I can rediscover the desire and joy that drew me to this career in the first place.”

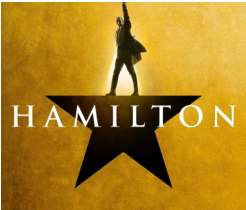
He added that “I am grateful for the opportunity given to me here at PHHS, and heartbroken that it became what it did. I also have an infinite supply of gratitude to the students that stayed curious, tried their hardest, and whose attitudes brightened my days. I will never forget you guys. Right: Jake Gardner serves Shirley Temples at Prom



The Billie Extra

Hamilton coming to the Hult center

By Ava Loose and Izabella Giles



You may know Hamilton as the Broadway play with historically interesting and catchy songs that were popping up on social media. But there's more to Hamilton than just the songs.

If you want to find out more and have a great in-person experience then you're in luck. In 2025 Hamilton the Broadway musical is coming back to the Hult Center. You may be wondering why I said coming back to the Hult Center. The play has already been here before but it's coming back. It's an amazing production and the actors and actresses I saw when I went added their own spins to the play.

Hamilton the Musical is a bibliographical show about one of the founding fathers, Alexander Hamilton. The show basically raps and sings about his life from different people's perspectives: George Washington, Eliza Schuyler(his wife), Aaron Burr(his enemy), Angelica Schuyler(his wife's sister), Thomas Jefferson, etc.

The first quarter of the play is him kind of talking about himself and how he came to the U.S. He was born in poverty on the Island of St. Croix, but through his own brains and ambition made it to the colonies and committed himself to winning independence for the colonies.

I loved the show and you will too. Hamilton runs next March, 2025 to April 2025 at the Silva concert hall in Eugene. The downside is that to get tickets for the play, you have to buy tickets for several plays at the same time. Or you could watch the play on Disney +.

Eva Aguilara is a champion

By Ava Loose

You may love horses because they are beautiful and cute. Or you may have a big fear of horses because they are big scary things, but to 8th grader, Eva Aguilara horses are her life.

Eva always wanted to always work with horses. She said "horses are my main focus. I do love playing volleyball and soccer but horses definitely take up the most amount of my time."

This is not surprising because Eva is an accomplished rider and competitor. She has most recently earned a 3rd place ranking in the world of horse riding.

Aguilara said that she does all kinds of riding with her horse.

"I've done everything with them. I did Western Pleasure and English pleasure. She recently returned from a 6 day show in Oklahoma in a riding competition called a American Buckskin Registry Association (ABRA).

Eva is one of the premier riders in the world, yet her beloved horse has aged out so Eva is considering other options including competing in barrel racing.



High School Decisions: Smart Choices Or Lazy Choices

By Jaxson James Potts

There are many ways to approach school, but I'm going to focus on two: smart choices or lazy choices. Smart choices involve taking AP and honors courses, lazy choices are just getting by, or doing the graduation requirements. Smart choice people tend to not procrastinate and get their work done quickly, lazy choice people tend to procrastinate.

Here are the answers to some questions by a "smart choice" person (Nolan Driessnack) and a "lazy choice person" (Mark Buchan-but he is still very smart).

When I asked Nolan Driessnack "What are you passionate about? He said, "Video games," Nolan says his gift is, "Intelligent/Fast thinking." Nolan identified the type of dream job he would want: "Computer software engineer."

When I asked Mark Buchan what he was passionate about he told me "Computers, making fun of people online." Mark's gift is being "good at on-the-spot thinking and common sense."

Their answers show that they are similar in perspectives and plans for the future. But it's how you approach school that can make you a different person: Nolan Driessnack gets his work done, gets high grades, and also goes for more demanding classes to be the best he can be. Mark does what he needs to do to get at least a C in a class and ensure that he will meet graduation requirements.

Mark is different from Nolan in that Mark sees school as a job he does not want. Then he thinks teachers are giving work that is not relevant. He also never liked doing presentations, like other students had to. He gets the bare minimum done and procrastinates about work.

Nolan is different from Mark because he sees school as a stepping stone to greater things. His ideology of school is vastly different from Mark's point of view. Nolan's view is that school is a needed part of a developing adult.



Another popular event were the inflatable battle bonkers. Coleman Sprague dodges a death lunge by Teagan Roche.

Can Video Games help you?

By Darren Soper

Many older people think that video games can hurt your brain but that is very wrong. Video games can give you community building skills and communication skills. Most video games are multiplayer and when you play with other people you can enjoy good times with random people or your friends.

For example, I have been playing a lot of video games recently with my friends and I have made a lot of friends just from playing online.

Video games can give you other skills, not just social skills. They can give you better problem solving skills. Since video games have been around a lot of people have stated that they have given them better problem solving skills.

These skills can help you figure out how to fix something like a broken table or use them to get out of situations you don't want to be in like being stuck in a hole or on a roof. Most parents think that video games are not good for your health but it can be a good place for making friends and learning skills.

Video games can also make you smarter and increase your thinking skills. There is a certain type of video game you have to play which is first person shooter games. They can exercise your perceptual attention with immediate feedback with increasing levels of challenge. First person shooters can help with tasks not just inside of games. They can increase the ability to make decisions correctly.



Tetris still exists and teens are keeping it alive.

By Andrew Taylor

Recently Tetris world records have been broken and they've been broken by young people, like really young people. But why?

Before I begin, I need to tell you some background. Professional Tetris players play on an actual 1989 Nintendo Entertainment System. They will sometimes have modded games for tracking scores, but they play on all the original hardware.

Recently, after a huge skill based advancement named "Rolling" players have been able to break huge records.

Rolling is where you put the remote on your thigh or foot, and one hand under the remote and the other on the buttons. Your hand under the remote "rolls" and moves the remote quickly up and down, and your other hand presses on the button.

These skill advancements lead to Willis Gibson getting the game to crash due to the computer being unable to process the points. But, it's not technically the end of the game, it's more like potholes that stop the game from functioning, there's more Tetris if you avoid the potholes, or if you have a modified version of Tetris.

After this 2 other players got the game to crash and one of them, "PixelAndy" took the world record in February of this year, with a score of 8.9 million. With that score the race to ten million started.

And one player Alex Thatch went to get ten million and to be the fourth person to finish the game. He hit ten million and tried to "finish the game" but the system he was on was modified to reset the score and represent 1 million, 1.1million, and 1.2 million as A,B, and C. So the system didn't crash due to the calculation error never occurring.

And so he kept going on and he finished the game with a score of 16 Million, doubling what the world record was before.

The three people I mentioned were all teens from varying ages, Willis Gibson was 13 and only played Tetris for three years, Pixel Andy was 19, and Alex Thatch was 15.



During Springfest, the newish game, Gaga Ball, found great enthusiasm as players strove to keep the ball from hitting their legs. Here are Brandon Tobey, Blake Bender and Camble Ellis.