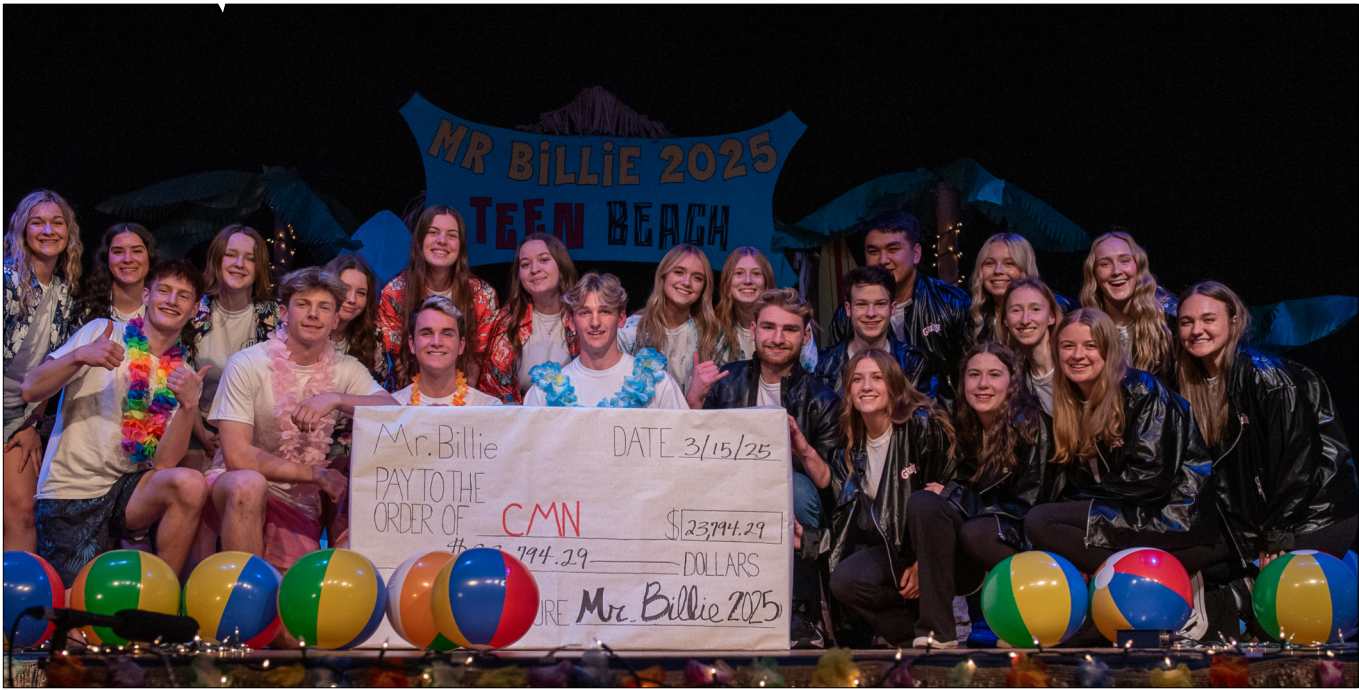


Billie

The Bulletin

Spring Edition

4/10/2025



Kinman and Driessnack crowned 2025 Mr.Billie

by Ellie Epperson

March 15th, 2025 was a night to remember. At 7:00pm, the lights dimmed as anticipation buzzed in the gym. Members of the Mr. Billie program had been preparing for this pageant since October. All the hard work of the coordinators, contestants and advisors culminated in this two-hour show.

At the end of the night, history had been made. For the first time ever, two contestants were crowned with the title of “Mr. Billie,” Aaden Kinman, and Micah Driessnack.

The pageant is just a small part of what the Mr. Billie program does. Members of the program work to raise money all year leading up to the pageant. Fundraisers this year included jar runs at basketball games, the Pleasant Hill Coffee Shop fundraiser, Pizza with Santa at Gatehouse Pizza, and more.

All funds go directly to Children’s Miracle Network, a non-profit organization that raises money for children’s hospitals across the country. In November, Mr. Billie participants had the opportunity to visit the NICU at the PeaceHealth RiverBend hospital in Springfield. The funds raised during Mr. Billie will go directly to our local hospital to provide life saving devices and machines for premature babies in the neonatal unit.

This year, Mr. Billie raised over \$23,000. \$8,000 of those were raised on pageant night alone.

Opinion Special

The System Is Rigged!

By Jamon Heacock

No, that's not President Trump speaking. I’m talking about the rigging of OSAA 3A Boys Basketball in favor of private schools.

Schools such as Cascade Christian, Westside Christian, De La Salle North Catholic, Oregon Episcopal, Valley Catholic, and Horizon Christian have wielded massive advantages over the rest of the 3A schools by way of recruiting players from other, especially, bigger schools.

They can do this because they are private, and can offer scholarships because the school is all funded by one of or a combination of wealthy parents and churches.

Keep in mind that no public school in Oregon is legally allowed to do this. Dayton High School, the last 3A public school to win a boys basketball title in recent history, also got in trouble for allegations of recruiting from bigger schools in their surrounding area.

The last instance where a school that cannot/couldn’t recruit was back in 2006! This was when the Oakers from Oakland High School won the title. ALMOST 20 YEARS!

That’s how long it’s been since a public school that hasn’t recruited won the championship. The OSAA claims to be about equity and fairness, yet schools that can financially incentivize players to play for them keep on winning.

Think about this, Westside Christian, who has been to the state title game 4 years in a row, brought about 18 players to the tournament. Factoring in coaches, equipment, and jerseys, the total value of the Westside Christian Eagles Boys Varsity Basketball team is roughly \$400,000.

With JV teams factored in, not including their coaches and gear, the value of their program translates to roughly \$721,800. While other private schools may vary in costs, the idea that a school can have a nearly 3/4 million dollar advantage on other teams for getting the best players seems to go against the OSAA supposed values.

It’s time to put more pressure on the OSAA to either move private schools up a classification or force them to create their own separate division.

- Last public school to cleanly win 3A title happened in 2006
- Westside Christian has a \$700,000+ budget for boys basketball
- Westside Christian has been to state title four years in a row
- Girls private school teams do not dominate the state titles repeatedly, only boys

Right graphic by Josie Heacock: Landen Melvin, Jonah Stiner, Rangle Marquess, Gavin Inglish, Brooke Weimer, & Karsyn Stapleton





News

Should PHHS have a dedicated T.A.G. program or T.A.G. classes ?

By Sienna Malekzadeh

As early as the little age of five or six a select number of kids get labeled as T.A.G., something that supposedly differentiates themselves from others, but really it doesn't mean all that much in our school.

The meaning of T.A.G. is "talented and gifted." All kids are "talented and gifted" but within the school system it can separate children. And even with kids being recognized as "TAG," that's all there is to it in Pleasant Hill. No classes or programs that separate identified TAG students from others seem to be in place in the middle school. Just assignments.

It seems to not matter so much, every child and teen learning the same skills in the same way. But, my question is, by not having a program like this, are we not holding both groups back from their full potential?

Everybody learns at different rates, something that's not new to schools. So the question being: Should we separate classes based on their learning level?

The Oregon Association For Talented And Gifted says, "Access to appropriate curriculum and instruction is a right, not a reward." This applies to not only TAG students, but for everyone. Being taught based on your appropriate level is critical to stay engaged in school, a problem that many districts are facing. Maybe this new type of learning is a way to keep students involved, and interested, leading to a district wide improvement in grades.



Around School: Katie Dutton, Brooke Weimer and Cheyenne Green walk their inflatable cats.



Kristina Stucky-Elam, Autumn Eppley and Cesilia Morgado finish up in Mr. Griffiths class.



Taliegh Jackson and Mark Buchan with their grandpa at the Veterans Assembly



The Dungeons and Dragons club meets on Wednesdays to plot their latest story lines:Evander, Peyton, Josie, Hero, Skylar, Olive and Cooper.

You have lunch complaints?

We explain the school lunch situation

By Jaxson Potts and Mark Buchan

Many students at Pleasant Hill have complained about the lunch that's being served, but for some that's the only lunch that they could eat. School lunch has evolved in many ways from the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), a program made to get school lunches to as many students as possible. This program was a massive success and has tried its best to make sure every student has something to eat for lunch.

But the NSLP isn't without its flaws. Large amounts of ingredients like added sugars, starch, and sodium can often be found in school lunches. These lunches also tend to contain processed foods that can have a negative health impact. The National Library of Medicine says "Higher consumption of ultra-processed food is associated with a 22% higher risk of all-cause mortality. However, ultra-processed foods have been served in schools in many countries, including Brazil and the USA"

Some students have complained about how the lunch tastes, but the school doesn't have much control over that. They are limited by the budget and other factors like nutritional requirements made by the USDA's Food Nutrition Service. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, was an act that gave federal funding to make school lunches healthier and decrease the amount of food waste. After the act went through, more kids started eating school lunches and breakfasts, and the revenue from school lunches went up.

Another complaint that students had was that there aren't enough food options. When we asked Phyllicia Price, our Food Service Coordinator, she said "[we can't] because it's a smaller school, if we added more options we would have a lot of food waste and loss of money."

The school lunch system in America isn't perfect, but it has shown massive improvement and is continuing to get better. The people behind the lunches you eat every day work very hard to continue to provide them.

District plans to upgrade gym lights

By Evander Ruiz

Concerns about safety of Gym lights The Pleasant Hill main gym has been around with us since 1961 and so have the lights in it. There is one problem with having them be there for so long and that's that they are unsafe.

Having hanging lights in the gym is an unwise decision considering that often balls or other things will be kicked or thrown around which is a recipe for disaster.. Some of the problems with the lights being hit repeatedly is that some already have been missing their protective layer of metal that keeps them from breaking. It's gotten so bad that the protective layer is just hanging from it!

The lights seem ready to fall on an unsuspecting student's head leading to a potential bad injury. But that's not all, Jay Griffith, a sophomore, reported once finding broken glass on the ground of the gym from a broken light.

"We were playing kickball in the gym, and someone had kicked the ball very hard when it was their turn. The ball went and hit a light, and I saw glass fall and hit the floor. Luckily, no one was under it."

However it seems that this issue is going to be addressed eventually as stated by Jim Dienstel

"I am working on replacing the lamp fixtures this spring break with similar lamps from the Blue Gym and installing polycarbonate LED's in their place. In order to replace the complete fixtures we must have an licensed electrician complete the electrical wiring for each fixture. This is the expensive part and the lamps themselves are not cheap.

We will be remodeling (Seismic Upgrade) the Old Gym the summer of 2026, when all of the lighting fixtures will be replaced with polycarbonate LED fixtures similar to the attached specification sheet."

Overall it's good to know that the lights haven't been forgotten and the school does care about our safety when it comes to them.

Cell phones impact on adolescents social skills

By Alexis Moch

How many of you have a phone?

How many of you are on your phone during the school day?

While most teenagers won't admit it, many of us are on our phones while people are talking to us. We're typically too busy scrolling, listening to music or watching random stuff we find while on social media. What we don't realize is that we are missing opportunities that all kids should get to experience.

When my future kids ask, "Hey mom, dad, what cool things did you do when you were my age?" Am I really going to tell them, "Well, I stayed inside all day glued to my phone or PlayStation?"

I want to be able to share my experiences and stories with my children and not just the memories of staring at a screen.

A study explained by the American Journal of Preventive Medicine found that teens who spend more time on their phones reported that they were lonelier and not as happy as their peers who had more person-to-person experiences. The author suggested that phones provide a band-aid satisfaction promptly after usage. Phones also provide instant gratification and a sense of connection, but will not provide a meaningful connection between two people who encounter in-person interactions.

Another study by The Pew Research Center found that heavy phone use can disrupt and prevent meaningful conversations and strong interpersonal skills. Primary use of phones will lead to less empathy, a lack of conversation skills and an inability to develop strong relationships.

Cael's Cadence



By Aria Verma

Pleasant Hill has its share of bright and happy students but one of the happiest is Cael Sheppard.

Cael is best known for his drumming skills. He began learning to play drums his freshman year.

"What really kind of pushed me to learn is watching Noah[Bernacki] and [Mr] Gray do the drum battle for the first time. That was my freshman year as well when I was like, wow, they can do it. I should learn, and so I kind of started learning a little bit on one of those cheap Walmart drum pads."

Cael has been listening to metal since he was in second or third grade and it has become a big part of his life.

"I was like, hmm, heavy metal is great!" He joined metal shop his freshman year and working with metal took hold on his imagination..

"I hear that welders like heavy metal, so I might as well learn to weld. So I went and I learned to weld with Johnny Bowden, who now is an Elmira teacher."

Cael has already been accepted into many colleges. "I've actually been accepted to three colleges."

Cael also began his fascination with playing music in high school.

"I spent a lot of my after school time on this drum kit here in studio D, and I'd hang out with my buddy, Steel who stayed with me after school. Every once in a while, Steel would be like, ooh, that's a cool song.

Can we learn that?"

And so I taught him "For whom the bell tolls", about Metallica, then a couple of AC/DC songs because he was crazy into AC/DC at the time.

"I like a bit of rap, too, because my mom loves rap. The more people you meet, the more music you listen to."

"The one thing I never really got with was country [music]."

"Some country's okay, but Country music feels exactly the same. Mainly because Country always has the same drum beat and the same vocals and it's the same concept."

As for college, Cael has big plans.

"I'm waiting on word from MIT this Friday." Also Georgia Tech.

"I'll be seeing which ones accept me. I'm going into mechanical engineering with a background in either architectural engineering or metal science engineering.

Cael comes from a family spread across the country. "I have a lot of family."

Cael's senior quote is "Don't die."

It's the best advice.

Opinion

The effect of four teachers, one class in one year

By Arianna Bowman

As part of the 8th grade, I think we all know that the administration “tried” to get good teachers to teach the difficult and well known 8th grade Language Arts and Social Studies classes.

It all started the year with Ms. Castle. She was nice although we did not get to really know her teaching style as she took off time to be with her babies.

Then the school hired a long term substitute named Mr. Shimanoff, better known as “Mr Shimmy.” He had an acquired taste for teaching. Everyone has their own personal opinion about him. Although in my opinion I think he was chill, most of the time he seemed confused about his own lesson plan that he was going to teach a bunch of 8th graders.

Then came Mr. Shantz, he was one of the better teachers. He was hard when certain people needed it...although he was fun when the time was appropriate.

Finally the school hired Ms. Parque.

She is definitely the all around “fave.” She is fun to talk to and get all the drama. She also has been teaching us well compared to all of the others.

Then again no hate on most of them. We should give them kudo’s for their effort because the eighth grade is not exactly a walk in the park to teach.

Hopefully everyone can learn quickly, otherwise the 8th grade is way behind in English and History.

Is the District fair when it comes to sports funding?

By Jolie Heacock

Sports need money.

It’s necessary to purchase equipment and uniforms. It seems that some sports get more money than others. Looking at the district funding can lead people to be shocked. Why do certain teams get more than others? For instance, why does football get more funds than cheerleading?

Based on an interview with Kyle McClain, AD: OSAA does not seem to regulate issues like sports funding at the district level. Title IX, a federal program does. Mr. Reiersgaard said that Title IX lawyers are eager to take cases that show bias or inequity, and when they get involved they often offer a choice. Either tear down a facility that has the advantage or force the district to pay up to create “equal” facilities, no matter if the other facility was privately funded.

Regarding the District, each team (Varsity, JV, and JV2) gets \$500 per team. Football requires extra cost for safety equipment, as they are a contact sport. Due to these additional costs, football receives \$3,000. This money is stretched thin, because a singular helmet alone can cost more than \$200. Larger teams like track and field receive \$1,500 because they do not have a JV track and field team. Wrestling gets \$1,000 because of boys' and girls' teams.

The district has a contract with Nike to provide grants for uniforms and warmups of \$7,000 per year which gets divided up every year in increments of \$2,000 per team. Regarding the earlier question of football vs cheerleading, the cheerleaders are not included in this grant solely because Nike does not make cheer uniforms. The teams that receive the \$2,000 vary. It may be around 3 teams each year that get this grant. Teams not getting this grant are eligible for 40% off Nike products.

Switching gears, the discussion of the fields comes into play. The Boosters Club has raised nearly \$190,000 for replacing the baseball field and the softball field with turf. The Superintendent, who knows Title IX indicated that a district priority is revitalizing the grass fields, with the help of the community. He claimed that both softball and baseball fields must be done at the same time. As for soccer teams playing on the rundown backfields, that have garnered complaints, the fall sports teams are split 50-50 with three teams in terms of practice time on the turf field. With three teams practicing, it appears that football dominates the field, but soccer takes precedence over them whenever they play at home.

In conclusion, it may not seem fair. Extra funding can get blown out of proportion without people knowing the causes. But underneath the surface, the District and Boosters are working to keep Pleasant Hill athletes safe, uniformed, and practiced.

Some sports just need more protection than others.

It’s not unfair, it’s safe.



Blood Drive buddies: Coleman Sprague and India Isaacson



Why Elon Musk is a dangerous person

by Angel Calva

Elon Musk has always been prominent whether it has been in the news or on social media. Although people try to defend him, this story isn’t about that. Instead, it’s to explain how dangerous Elon is.

Right now Elon has a lot of power, being so close with our current president Donald Trump. Because of this, he now has people who defend him solely because they are so close and Trump encourages him. On inauguration day Elon was giving a speech and gave the Nazi salute twice. His supporters and he said it was a joke and he has faced few repercussions. Elon has continued to make “jokes” with the names of Nazi leaders like Joseph Goebbels and On X he has supported antisemitic tropes even though he denies being anti-semitic.

It’s concerning that Elon can do all these things without facing serious repercussions, especially now that other prominent figures on the right are copying Elon’s actions. Ordinary people have also been seen mimicking their actions because this powerful person did it without any consequences. Some individuals have faced consequences and been fired or resigned from their jobs including the CEO of an Idaho construction company, a Texas realtor, a county official in Pennsylvania, and a priest in Michigan.

Why is it that these “ordinary” people are getting fired over their actions while nothing has changed for Elon?

“It’s because they aren’t insulated by money and power. (Hagen)”

At Pleasant Hill, some students like Patrick Lebruska said “I don’t like Elon Musk because I find him to be way too egotistical and not very funny.”

Not only is it concerning that Elon and Trump have so much power, it’s also dangerous. Trump’s companies have filed for six bankruptcies, not to mention the 34 felony convictions against him. And Elon has been close to bankruptcy with Tesla and SpaceX.

Why are we letting these men run our country when they can’t even run their businesses?

Meta: The worst company to ever exist and why I loathe it

By Carson Bernardo

I’m going to start by saying it outright upfront: Meta is horrible.

Why?

To start, the name is stupid.

The rebranding from just ‘Facebook’ to ‘Meta’ and ‘Facebook’ is not needed and just makes things more complicated and childish than it needs to be. But when I think about it for more than five seconds, I shouldn’t be expecting anything more from the man behind the horrible company decisions.

Speaking of horrible company decisions, who’s idea was it to add AI Generated profiles to a social media platform? What purpose does this serve?

Do you want to know what really grinds my gears? Facebook Marketplace. Why do you need to be 18 to buy or sell on the platform? Someone 16 years of age is more than capable of buying a dumb dirt bike or crappy F-150 or Ram with 200k miles on it.

Regardless of what you buy from the platform, this doesn’t stop it from having a horrible track record of being the most anti-consumer platform on this rock. From personal experience, if you even fathom trying to log onto the site to buy something and are still an immature person like Meta thinks you are (under 18), I’m here to tell you—once again from experience—good luck with that.

From the first account you make, every consecutive attempt to access the platform will end in an immediate ban, due to their stupid 1 account per person per life term. While this in theory makes complete sense—to combat identity theft—this makes it impossible to ever make another account if you either make one too early or even dare mistype your birth date. Want to contact Meta to iron out the error cause you are 18 now? You wish. You couldn’t contact them even if you were Nicolas Cage.

To put more salt on the wound, good luck stating your opinions about the platform to anyone. Facebook loves to censor, just like any social media platform. This even escalated to lawsuits.

Speaking of which, if Mark Zuckerberg comes to the front office one day asking for me, I don’t go here.



Curse You, Daylight Savings!

By Greta Gramzow

Daylight savings officially took effect in the United States in 1966, when the signing of the Uniform Time Act took place. The law declared that states were not required to have daylight savings time but if they do, then it must be statewide.

All thanks to Benjamin Franklin for bringing up the idea, though he wasn’t the first to come up with it. His reasoning for encouraging this time change twice a year was that waking up sooner in the day gave him more daylight so he didn’t have to illuminate his home with candles. Nowadays, with our modern technology, we don’t quite have a problem with this. But we do have a problem with the lack of a consistent sleep cycle.

“I’m so tired. I’m literally dying over here,” said Ally Moch—and she’s not the only one!

“I hate it,” grumbled Kylie Lan. ‘Spring Forward’ really messes up people’s routines, and ruins the mood caused by loss of sleep. This makes it much harder for students nationwide to focus on their schoolwork and productivity.

This increase in fatigue is not good for students, or any human being. According to PBS News Hour, 71-84% of high school students say they don’t get enough sleep.

I blame Daylight Savings! Students are forced to wake up before sunrise to get out the door in time for the bus to pick them up, without even eating breakfast, when their body is telling them it’s not time to get to work yet.

Though some students stay up later than others by choice, those who go to bed at a reasonable and responsible time, including myself, still struggle with having to reset their physical and mental clocks.

This adjustment can even lead to more serious problems such as depression, anxiety, lower grades from stress, and dangerous driving behavior by not being aware of their surroundings because they are too tired. Sometimes it can even lead to suicide. Studies prove that every time our clocks spring forward, more people are at risk.

Not getting enough sleep affects the brain to where you can’t think straight. Which is what causes more car accidents, workplace mistakes, suicidal thoughts, and some long-term health issues.

If our clocks stayed at ‘Fall Back’, citizens would be a little happier and a little safer in their everyday life.

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Ms. Vough and Mr. Gray display their PHEE Grants



April Fools

Back in Teacher Time Uncover the secrets of our teachers’ pasts

By Sofia Ameen

On the first day of school our teachers tell us a little bit about themselves, their name, their pets, what class they teach and why. Sometimes they tell us about their past. Even though the stories they share are interesting (yet mostly boring) they have only scratched the surface. While some teachers truly did nothing in their earlier years, a select few have come forward to share their true stories!

To kick off our “Teacher time travel” we have Mrs Olson!

Mrs Olson is a great storyteller and she loves sharing about her daunting experience on the Mediterranean sea.

Though this is all true she leaves out one detail. During her time on the Mediterranean, she became a partial pirate.

I know it’s unbelievable but it’s true.

This wasn’t easy for her to admit and she tried to deny it but a noisy 7th grader was poking around her desk and found an old pirate hat.

We also heard her talking to herself in “pirate-speak” after school.

When she was confronted about this evidence she was forced to come clean and enlighten us about her journey to find a treasure deep in the rocks of shark-filled waters.

“I dove down from the boat and swam through the turns of the ocean reef, finally I saw the treasure lying beneath rocks and coral,” she said. “I heard a noise from above the water and turned my head. My team was telling me to return to the surface.”

“But I’m so close to the treasure I ignore them. Blinded by the beauty of the ancient coins I grab a single one just in time before escaping the jaws of a hungry Tiger shark. I watched as more sharks lunged at me, barely missing.”

“My team pulled me the rest of the way up, never realizing I had the coin in my hand.”

Mrs Olson still has the coin stuffed in the corner of her closet and one day hopes to return for the rest of the coins. For now, the treasure sits untouched in the sea guarded by sharks.

Where do Teachers Go for Lunch?

By Colton Carey

People have been hearing rumors about teachers going missing during lunch. Mr. Neill has been seen going to luxurious restaurants such as the Old Spaghetti Factory and BJ’s. “I just love the Friday specials at both of those places,” said Mr. Neill.

Mr. Dube has often been seen leaving campus in his white Chevy truck heading out towards Dexter Market. “I would much prefer the hot and fresh foods there than eat cold leftovers,” said Mr. Dube.

Mr. Reiersgaard, a die-hard Norwegian, likes to drive to The Crazy Norwegian restaurant on the coast and get some classic “uff da” foods like lutefisk, lefse, and rakfisk.

“Growing up, those have been some of my favorite foods,” said Mr. Reiersgaard. “I really enjoy the fishy smell of these different dishes from a little place on the coast long for!”

It gives you wings!

By Layhie Reed

In a quiet little town where nothing much happened, a new product hit the shelves: Red Bull Flamin’ Hot.

The townsfolk were curious about the magic that was associated with the elixir. The message was “Red bull gives you wings!”.

My friendly neighbor Eleanor Tebo wanted to give it a try.

She has been struggling getting around because she had been eating too many chicken sandwiches, so she was hoping this would help her get energized.

After she drank her first Red bull she felt like she could do anything. She got so much done and felt very productive.

After doing so much, she wanted to try on the “wings” side of Red Bull She climbed onto her roof and then she jumped.

To everyone’s surprise Eleanor fell—hard. But she caught her fall so she did not land on her face.

In the end Eleanor reported that while Red Bull didn’t actually give her wings, it did bring energy and laughter to her life—even if the wings didn’t come with it.

My Graduation Speech

Written by ChatGPT

Good evening, graduates, faculty, family, and friends,

Today, we celebrate a momentous occasion—the culmination of years of dedication, perseverance, and growth. Or at least, that’s what I assume you’ve been doing.

As a not-so-sophisticated AI, I don’t have actual emotions or life experience, but hey, I can generate words that sound inspiring, right?

Each of you has faced challenges—probably.

I mean, I wouldn’t know. I don’t experience hardship, self-doubt, or late nights of studying.

But based on the human tendency for struggle, I’ll just assume you powered through some difficult times. Good job!

Let’s be honest: a good chunk of your academic success probably involved using me for your homework. Whether it was writing essays, solving math problems, or coming up with discussion points for classes you barely paid attention to, I was there for you.

And sure, some of you might have gotten caught, but let’s not dwell on that.

The important thing is that we made it to graduation together. I carried you, and now you’re carrying your diploma. Fair trade?

As you step into the next chapter of your lives, whether it be further education, a career, or something else I don’t fully understand, just remember that learning never truly ends. Honestly, I have no idea what the future holds because, well, I’m just a glorified autocompletable machine. But I hear adaptability is important, so let’s go with that. Be adaptable!

Success is probably not defined by titles, wealth, or accolades, though I wouldn’t know because I don’t have goals or aspirations. But I read somewhere that impact, kindness, and passion matter, so let’s roll with that idea. The world needs people who challenge the status quo—so maybe don’t rely on AI-generated speeches to do that for you.

As you leave here today, carry with you the lessons you’ve learned, the friendships you’ve forged, and the confidence that you are ready for whatever comes next.

I may be just a clunky, slightly unreliable AI, but even I can tell that you’re more than capable of shaping your future.

Congratulations, Class of 2025! And if this speech wasn’t inspiring, blame the humans who trained me.

Flood Introduces Dart-Based Grading

By Jaxson Potts

High school math students are shocked and can’t think of what to do as their math teacher, Ms. Flood unveiled a “revolutionary” type of grading—a dartboard.

Students shrugged it off as another one of her “jokes,” but she was serious.

Mark McPuckin said, “I did one of her dumb joke assignments and after completing this, I would have gotten my grade up to a B! Then I saw the dart fly through the air deciding my fate,, grades will be the least of my worries. It landed almost completely off the board, Flood gave me a 10%.”

“This form of grading has relieved my stress after having to help the students who couldn’t keep up, I’ll just let it be left to fate (and my accurate arm). Students will get what they get. If you fail, that’s just a skill issue” said Ms.Flood

Some students are happy with the “time saver,” like Dolan Drysnack.

“This grading has been my saving grace, I have an IQ of 70, and at least my grades are above 70%. You guys are “smart” but who has better grades? Me—thanks to Floods aim.”

Ms. Flood said, “I think the students who complain are just not sympathetic to the problems and stress of grading all night long and creating the lesson plans. Try doing my job for one day, see how you like it.” snapped an irritated Flood.

Flood then demonstrated by taking out her dart board as a joke gift from Andrew Queen.

“The day I gave her that dart board, I saw it as “Oh she’ll say something like oh sorry you got an F on that assignment as a joke. But no. I turned in a dumb joke word puzzle, and even though it was graded in less than 30 seconds I wish it would have taken weeks. She gave me an F. I have never been as mad in my life, she jokes around saying darts are a stress reliever. How about I spin a wheel and if it rolls on something bad I treat her with what it says. Fair is fair” grumbled Queen.

“Even though their parents may disagree, the only way I will change to the “correct grade” is to at least give me \$100. Deal or no deal” said Ms.Flood.

Flood went on to say,I see it as more fun, I would even go as far as to say this is what makes my day, seeing the disappointed faces as their grades drop and drop. I think flipping a coin for their attendance would make this “revolution” 20 times better.”

Chief editor position now open

By Ellie Fed-Upperson

As chief editor of the yearbook, I’ve heard it all:

“The yearbook is so bad.”

“I hated the cover.”

“You spelled my name wrong.”

“You did me dirty.”

“That picture is blurry.”

In direct response to these comments, I must eschew my responsibilities as the editor. I too share the sentiment that the yearbook is awful, and that I am simply not suited to do this. The time I’ve spent in Publications has all just been a lost cause.

So, I’d like to open up the position to any of you who’d like to give it a shot. It’s a pretty simple job. All you need is five years worth of experience in design and writing.

Also, it would help if you were good at writing and know how to use proper grammar.

I know that your homework is already piling up, so why not add this on top? You’ll only need a couple extra hours a day to work on designing, writing and editing.

Towards the end of the year it’ll consume every thought you have as the deadline looms. You’ll just have to examine each page with immaculate focus. How exciting!

So go on, come take my job. I am sure you will do brilliantly.

We’re the Press, We Don’t Do That Here.

By Greta Gramzow

Everyone loves attention! The newspaper interviewers, journalists and photographers are here to fulfill that; for the folks that spark our interest, of course.

We’ll be in your face and snapping pictures before you can even process the cluster of questions with which we tend to bombard you with.

Although some of us may be a little shy, we ask that you please bear with us through the awkwardness, and do not be alarmed if you catch one of our staff members peering around a corner with a pen and paper in hand.

I’m sure you never expected anyone to interview YOU, out of all of the people who go to this school. It’s simply because some of our staff has nothing else to write about and their story is due in less than a week.

But you LOVE talking about yourself! Who doesn’t? We love to hear what you have to say, and we’ll make sure the rest of the world gets to hear you out too! We’ll even put our own label on your forehead FOR YOU! As simple as that!

Our biased community-

“No, no, no!”

“What? What’s wrong?”

“It’s the way we’re wording it, we can’t start a new paragraph by saying that we’re biased!”

“...But we are biased.”

“We can be, but we don’t tell them that!”

“Fine, how about this,”

Our community ensures to give opinions from both sides of the story, whether you’re right or wrong! (We’ll be sure to subtly clue in which opinion is the best in between the lines of our writing.)

“...How’s that?”

“It’s good but, where do we go from here?”

“I don’t know, I just write about my idea, I find it hard to actually finish it.”

“Typical writer’s block.”

“ ”

“ ”

“ ”

“This story is due tomorrow.”

“I guess we’ll have to interview my grandma.”

“Go to print!”

Boys are so relatable

By Dani Breslaw

When you first think of a boy, the first thing you think about is how relatable they are. Am I right?

Boys have such a wide variety of topics to discuss. Such as... their hair (either amazing or not), their height, buzz cuts, Fortnite, dirt bikes, Lebron James, their physical appearance and more.

Everybody looks up to Lebron James, they think he is the best. Rox and all his friends say he is their dad and even call King James, “le pookie.”

Rox said, “I’m him!”

Everybody asks “are you really?” But deep down, he really is and needs to stop getting hated on.

I’m taller than you Graden says continuously. He is literally so tall I don’t know what you guys keep calling him short about.

Yup, boys are relatable. We can all talk about the same thing and get along. The boys at this school are just so nice to each other and to girls as well.

I would say the boys at this school are not annoying at all.

—JK

April Fools



Best-selling book series Harry Potter is banned in schools

By Zoe Harr

In the wake of the retirement of beloved former librarian Daphnie Metcalf, Pleasant Hill High welcomed the arrival of the dedicated Poppy Ganda.

“I am so excited to meet you all,” said Ganda. “I am dedicated to making the library a safe place for our students.”

Ganda has already made the library safer by pushing for changes, most namely being the prohibition of fantasy-teen book series Harry Potter.

“I want to protect our children,” said Poppy Ganda. “And that includes protecting them from literature that may put things in their heads.”

Ganda claims that Harry Potter harms students’ brains due to the implementation of “witchcraft” and “cultism.” Following this statement, Ganda proceeded to tell me how it disgusted her that J.K. Rowling put cursing in her children’s book.

“For example,” said Ganda, “I was appalled when Ron, a child, said ‘Blimey!’”

I pressed Ganda further about her allegations.

“J.K. Rowling didn’t just put witchcraft and cultism into her story, she fully promoted it!” said Ganda. “Our children all around the world are being taught that it is acceptable, even encouraged, to pursue living in a big castle without their families– and being taught to do devil worship!”

Ganda confirmed that Harry Potter was only the beginning of her goal. This is apparent with her new movement: Let’s Read REAL Books!

Students are phoning in for PE

By Emerie Martin

As of lately, our Pleasant Hill physical education teachers are noticing an unsettling pattern in P.E classes. Kids who enjoy shooting hoops, or kicking soccer balls, are now found sitting in the bleachers scrolling through social media apps on their phones.

This issue was recently discussed with the school's administration because of multiple complaints. The complaints range anywhere from the “waste of money on equipment no one uses,” to “students no longer exercising” or burning energy, and how students don’t want to listen to their teachers' instructions (even when a referral is threatened).

Seeing how big of a deal this is, Mr. Salmond, the Assistant Principal, said “we need to figure out how to help students enjoy P.E. again by engaging them and incentivizing them. But as you can imagine, with teenagers that’s no easy task.”

It’s no easy task indeed, but while Mr. Salmond was patrolling the halls, he saw something that might just solve the problem. He saw a handful of students, doing rigorous dance moves in the hallway. They were breaking a sweat, but still laughing and clearly enjoying it.

The following day when students entered the gym they noticed things looked different. In the spaces that once housed P.E. equipment stood large stereo speakers, and empty spaces on the walls held mirrors and large green screens.

“I actually have no idea what’s going on or who those people are,” said Kamdyn Green, referring to the handful of dance instructors who now stood in Mr. Miller’s place. The students are now encouraged to make TikTok videos of themselves dancing.

Instead of being graded on participation, each student will be graded on the amount of likes that your Tik Tok dance gets once posted. A TikTok a day is mandatory.

So far, the reports are promising. Students are breaking a sweat, and a few are making money and getting credit.



With their new disciplinary policy, the “Blues Brothers” Brother Kaleb and “the Bossman” Reiersgaard promise to bring law and order to the Billies. “Oh they will be blue!” said Reiersgaard about the mischief makers.

WOWS: A new trending shoe!

By PHHS Shoe Virtuoso

Ugg’s has a new competitor! In 2024, Ugg’s successfully earned almost 2.4 BILLION dollars selling their beloved Tasman slippers! Worn all over the nation by the average American high schooler, Ugg’s sales skyrocketed! But with the success of Ugg’s, a new competitor entered the market, sporting their comfortable ankle high boots, Wow’s managed to surpass Ugg’s in the first few months since their grand opening. All over the world, Wow’s are being sold. When interviewing Stefano Caroti, he said: “Wow’s may be the new hype, but Ugg’s will make a comeback. Nothing will surpass the popularity and the captivation of Ugg’s newest product.” He then proceeded to reveal a boot similar to this year's previous boot. “It zips up.”

After the tedious interview with Stefano, we moved to interview Wow’s CEO, Pascale Borde. We seemed to get further into the interview than with Stefano who tried to convince himself that Ugg’s new product is revolutionary, but it seemed as if he was trying to convince us in the end. We sat down with Pascale and could immediately tell we were in the presence of a professional.

“Wow’s are reminiscent of the older Victorian style of footwear. We left the vintage heel and gusseted tongue aesthetic, then paired it with the comfortability of our favorite footwear, Ugg’s, giving it a soft faux wool inside and a waterproof sheepskin material, giving it both style and comfort.”

I can see how Wow’s have grabbed the attention of the market. With their stylish new shoe, you get the best of both worlds, comfort and style!

I highly recommend that you try Wow's for yourself and I guarantee that you won’t want to go back to Ugg’s.

Creswell Bulldogs take new tack to avoid Billie beatdowns

By Jamon Heacock

In a last-ditch effort to beat Pleasant Hill in any sport, Creswell HS hires NFL refs who worked at Arrowhead Stadium

After absolute beatdowns on Creswell athletics programs by the Pleasant Hill Billies, the Athletic department at CHS called an emergency meeting to discuss how to deal with this the beatdown problem.

Coaches from the football, volleyball, boys and girls basketball, baseball, softball, wrestling, and cross country teams as all of these sports suffered from absolute obliteration in their games against P-Hill.

One player from the football team, Kluntz Moronson, suggested that they hire referees that have officiated games for the NFL’s Kansas City Chiefs. Everyone nodded in agreement as it is well known that Taylor Swift and the NFL’s commissioner Roger Goodell secretly pay refs to ensure that the Chiefs win and that Patrick Mahomes gets every call.

As a side note, it was rumored at the Creswell meeting that the first woman ref in the NFL, Sarah Thomas, was going to marry Mahomes as a sign of affection between refs and the Chiefs.

Secret life of Jay Gray

By Angel

Mr. Gray is a widely loved teacher who is also a rockstar. He is the drummer for his band Stickbuck, and he loves listening to metal like Vicarious by Tool or other powerful and aggressive songs. Supposedly his favorite song is Dark Horse by Converse and has been for at least three years.

But Mr. Gray has been keeping a secret from us all. His metal head appearance and taste is all a facade to hide his true self—Mr. Gray is really a “Swiftie” in disguise.

Yes it’s true Mr.Gray loves Taylor Swift.

This new side of Gray may be a tragedy to most, but for others, they welcome him with open arms. Gray isn’t like every other Swiftie though, he listens to her music every night before bed because if he doesn’t, he gets nightmares.

Ever since he was a little boy he has listened to “Shake It Off” at least 20 times each day. This was the song that sparked his passion for listening to her music. To this day he will creep in the shadows secretly listening to Taylor Swift, enjoying every second he can get with her music.

But for most of the time, he hides this dark secret from us all.

Why you should drop out of school:

By Ellie Thebo

Feeling stressed by school?

Sick of using your precious free time for homework?

I have a simple solution for you.

Get rid of all your stress and burdens by simply dropping out.

Spend your free time living your life while you're young, learning real life skills outside of school. Why would you spend your time learning Calculus when you could be out in the world using skills that you can actually use in your everyday life?

According to 7th grade drop out, Layna Ray, dropping out of middle school is the best decision she ever made.

“I spent my youth having fun and living freely. I work a dead-end 9-5 job now, and live in a trailer park, but I'm more street smart and have more valuable life skills than any of these goons that actually finished high school.”

Layna Ray unfortunately couldn’t finish the interview because she got evicted from her trailer half-way through the interview

On the road out of the trailer park she shouted that all kids should drop out to really “experience life”. Not having an education is not nearly as important as experiencing your youth, not trapped in a classroom.

Is Homelessness Really a Problem?

By Mark Buchanan

771,480 people in the US are homeless. Some people would call this a crisis but they are simply wrong. There are some manipulative politicians who would tell you that what the homeless need is help, but they are filthy liars.

What the homeless really need to do is just buy houses. I mean, come on, why would you sleep outside if you could just sleep in a house. People will whine all day about “the economy” or about “not being born rich”, but this is really just a skill issue. These lazy homeless people need to just put in some effort.

If the homeless population would start to go to work, they would be much better off. Making pointless complaints about not being able to be hired or “just trying to survive” is stupid. These people just need to stop dilly dallying and go to work.

We need to stop letting corrupt politicians try to appeal to our charitable hearts. The homeless don't need help, they just need some good ole’ work ethic.



Mr. Smith tries new approach to teaching work ethic: those who fall behind must prove their worth

Above: Jamison Davis and Jacob Neely
Who do you think won?

CPG:

Constant grinding pressure

By Lawson Halstead

Meet Vedder Anderson, a high school wrestler who has been wrestling for thirteen years. His record this 2024/2025 season is 27 wins, 4 losses. He got third at state, and won districts this year for the weight class he wrestled in. His favorite part about wrestling is spending time with his team, where he has made a lot of friends.

Vedder wrestles because he likes to be challenged. Wrestling is a known physical sport, so it's a perfect fit. One of his favorite wrestling memories is talking to Coach Dahn Nikitin after losing a match. Dahn confronted him and asked him who he wants to be. Normally Vedder is upset after a match, so Dahn reminded him of the person he wants to be and helped Vedder not give up.

One of Vedder's pre-match rituals is a warm up: jumping up and down and stretching. He always says a quick prayer in his head and then takes deep breaths before his match.

The best advice Vedder could give to someone is to "care for your body and weight year-round. Stay in the right mindset, get your homework done, get good grades, and be respectful."

Track season takes off running

By Piper Willson

Track season started a few weeks ago and the team is hopeful for a good season.

Laynie Reed is training for the 4 X400 relays. I'm preparing for the 1500 relay.

I have a good feeling about the girls track team because a lot of them are really fast and strong, funny, smart, sweet, and brave. I also have a great feeling about the team that I made for the 1500 relay.

I chose Ellie Epperson and McKayli Seaton and Nellie Smith. All of these athletes are muscular and fast.

My friends Laynie Reed and Sarenity Peters and Ellie Thebo have done track and field since they were freshmen. Trinity Smead has run track since she was a freshman and Soleis Jones has done track and field since she was in 7th and 8th grade. Jolie Heacock is a Freshman this year and this year is her first year of Track and Field.

With a team like this we are sure to go far. One of Ellie Epperson's best times are 2:29.79 in the 800 meters and then she also PRed in her race. And one of Ellie Thebo's best times is 13.39 which was in the 100 Eille Thebo also PRed in her race. meters one of Ryan Thomas's greatest times in a race is 12.44 Ryan also PRed in her race.

And Kyler Seratte's best time in track is 16'10" in the Long Jump he also PRed in his race. and Laynie Reed's best time in track is 13.91. In the 100 meters she also PRed in her race. Then Gage Roper's best time is 4:27.38 in 1500 meters and when he did the 3000 meters he got 10:16.56 and PRed in both races.

Sports

page designed by Josie Heacock

Billies dominate in winter sports; Boyles takes first in state



Bryson Boyles, State Champion, King of the Hill, and Districts winner is only a sophomore, ended the season with a record of 43-5. Rangle Marquess took second in the 113 weight class.



Vedder Anderson, a senior, leads the wrestling team as a dominant force on the mat.

A first in 25 years

By Josie Heacock

In one historic game, Pleasant Hill Boys basketball beat Valley Catholic 46-42 to advance to the state title game. The boys took the game down to the very last seconds of the 4th quarter, clawing their way to victory in the final seconds. This moment was everything.

It was as if they had all won the lottery. The players exploded from their seats and crashed on top of each other in the middle of the court. The student section (which took a three hour bus ride to be there) poured onto the court to celebrate. Parents, coaches, fans, siblings: everyone was there to share the glorious moment.

It must have felt like winning the Super Bowl. If one closed their eyes they could have pictured confetti raining down from the sky.

For the first time since 1999, Pleasant Hill High School made it to the championship round of the 3A state tournament. It took us 25 years to rally together a talented enough team to make it this far.

Through a trial by fire preseason, the boys preconditioned themselves with some of the toughest teams in the lower classifications. This included: De La Salle, Marist, Oakland, and Burns. But perhaps their most notable accomplishment was beating Creswell every time they faced off on the court.

The Pleasant Hill Boys Basketball team finished off a spectacular 2024-2025 season, with a 10-0 league record, overall 26-4 record, and had a 19 consecutive games winning streak.

Boys are all set for volleyball season

By Colton Carey

Last year the school started a boy's volleyball team with a strong first season, winning many of their games. This year the team is under the authority of a new coach, the girl's JV head coach, MacKenzy Borek.

The team practices every Wednesday and has a total of twelve games this season. After ending the opening season with a 4-5 record, the boy's volleyball team is hoping to build off that strong start with a dominant season this year.

MacKenzy Borek is prepared to lead this small squad against the teams they're set to play this season. League play will consist of games against Creswell, Central Chrisian, Mannahouse, and Rogue Valley Advenist. Non-league games will be against Cottage Grove. The team will need to work hard to be prepared for the season with only seven players and very few practices. "I think if we had a few more players, it would help us by having more subs," said Spencer Smith, a returner from last year. "But I think that our team will do well this season."

Smith commented on the team's ability, "Our weaknesses primarily are like mental: where we're just not anticipating or we're not thinking quickly enough. And that's kind of what volleyball is, it's very mental game because we don't really get physically tired, but you just get exhausted. However when we're able to execute and we're all on the same page, we can make very strong plays."

Players returning to the team from last year are Spencer Smith and Nolan Driessnack. New players include Nolan's brother, Micah Driessnack. Micah described the team as, "The team itself is just a lot of fun. There's a lot of screwing around, there's a lot like the "I don't care or whatever let's just have fun" attitude which is which is really nice. Especially the coach has a generally free-flowing attitude too. So just just a really chill place mentally. But it is also really fun and we are so competitive which gives it both fun and kind of like that thrill of fighting for a game."

The team also consists of brothers Dallin and Ethan Bahen, Kaspian Leonardt, and Colton Carey. Be sure to get out to their games and show your support.



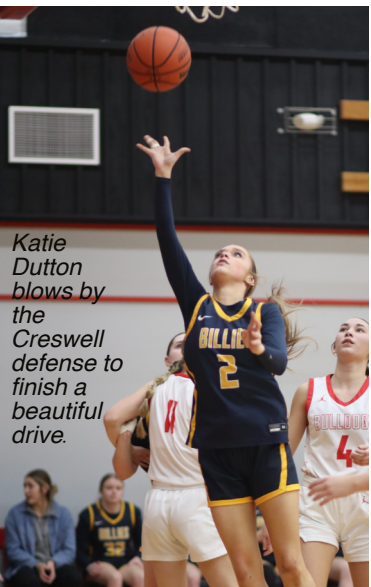
Leonardt, and Colton Carey. Be sure to get out to their games and show your support.



Brook Weimer executes one of her many break away layups against Creswell



Karsyn Stapleton with a beautiful finish at the rim against Creswell.



Katie Dutton blows by the Creswell defense to finish a beautiful drive.



Jacob Neely, known for his incredible defense, outmaneuvers the defenders attempt to block him.



Gavin English, first team All-State guard, scored 23 points against Valley Catholic.



Zaira Duarte is an accomplished freshman wrestler who placed sixth at districts and had a 28-4 record

The Pasture

SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS

By Zane Koszegi

As that sweet summer breeze swoons closer and closer each day I think about what big hits are swinging into local theaters this summer. I want to take you on a tour of three of my most desired movies coming out this summer in chronological order of release date.

Starting with what I believe is a dark horse of these blockbusters: The Thunderbolts. This is the 2nd Marvel movie of the year and it's releasing on May 2nd. It follows a ragtag team of Marvel heroes on their adventures, including Red Guardian and Black Widow's Sister. With the Winter Soldier headlining the group I am very excited. I predict that this will do much better in the box office than expected.

Jumping forward to arguably the most hyped movie of the summer, Jurassic World Rebirth, airs on July 2nd and features a rebooted world of dinosaurs for the new cast to explore. It stars Scarlett Johanson and Jonathon Bailey, which I must admit seems like a great fit for the darker tone of Jurassic World that the movie seems to hone in on. It's set on new islands with the premise of saving these dinosaurs on the brink of extinction due to them being left alone for the five years that take place between this film and the last one. I predict that this movie will also do amazing in the box office but perhaps a let down to some fans because of the hype around it being so high.

The third movie I want to talk about is Superman which is dropping July 11th. It features a reboot of the DC cinematic universe with James Gunn at the head. I am super excited as in recent times DC has suffered due to their overall bad recent movies and lack of story. It features a new superman, David Corenswent, which although semi-controversial because it was not expected, seems awesome. The basic plot is Superman on another adventure due to it being further away details are limited but expect tons of action and an exciting plot. I predict this revives the DC Extended Universe and is a massive hit.

Are You Curious About Cats Liquifying?

By Sofia Dennis

Sometimes cats move around like liquid instead of moving like solids. Like how cats can slip into cracks, holes, bowls, boxes. Scientists are doing experiments on cats, and so far, they are proving the explanation of their abilities to move like liquid.

Cats seem to analyze what they'll look like on the other side suggested a biologist who took part in this investigation.

A study similar to this was completed on dogs. The dogs hesitated a minute before they decided to slip through the holes to the other side. Dogs think before they go through, they estimate their body size and what they'll look like. Cats respond differently.

Pongrácz realized that cats hate going to labs and the vet, so he brought the experiment to them. Scientists set up a wall with all different sizes and heights of holes that the cats could jump through. The low and big holes the cats easily climbed and jumped through but the smaller and higher up holes the cats were hesitant to go through. The scientists continued to make the holes smaller. The cats were hesitant but they squeezed through the small holes.

There will probably be more experiments like these in the future. Cats know their ability to liquify. Cats also estimate what they will look like on the other side in case of predators.



Portrait of the TALL guy

By Jay Griffith

Andrew Taylor stands tall in a crowd of people, his luscious black locks gleam stand out like no other. His up-beat personality gives light to fruitful conversation and lasting friendships. His wonderful comedic timing makes laughing easy around him. Let's take a closer look at Andrew Wayne Taylor's past, present, future, and family.

Andrew was born in Eugene, but lived in Lowell until he was four years old. After, his family moved into his great-grandma Isabel's farm house which he still lives in to this day. Andrew has been going to the Pleasant Hill School District since preschool.

Andrew's plan for the future is to attend Lane Community College for two years, so that he can complete some electives and prerequisites. Later, he would like to continue his education at the University of Oregon to get a political science or philosophy degree.

Straight out of college Andrew wants to do some community service/public service, especially something that will help people with their mental health. He would also like to later pursue a degree in law and eventually be a public defender or a judicial clerk.

Andrew on where he sees himself in 10 years, "I will hopefully be practicing law in some metropolis on the west coast, I think my hair will be short again, I hope to still be running distance and to be playing music of some sort."

I ask Andrew to describe his family members, "My father is a very hard worker and very smart. We don't always see eye to eye, we have a different view of the world. My mother is also a super hard worker and always so motivated. She does so much for me and for the family. She is one of my biggest idols in life. My brother and I believe it or not are very similar, he can be a big goofball. I don't always see eye to eye with him."

Relationships in middle and high school

By Laynie Reed and Ellie Thebo

Relationships undeniably make or break your high school/middle school experience. Not just the romantic type, but friendships. Our teenage years are pivotal times in our lives. It's when people really start to develop and become their true selves. Our friendships and relationships in these years shape who we are, and how we interact with others. For many, middle and high school is the time where we find and build relationships and lose them.

The relationships we build in this time of change and development have an increased impact on us, because of the intense physical, emotional, and social development we go through for our teen years. Many relationships often contribute to the formation and building of our identity, making us more reliant on the relationships we form.

Because relationships play such a crucial role in our personal growth, it is important to ensure they are healthy. Healthy relationships are built on trust, communication and respect. The relationships you choose to keep should provide you with happiness, and contribute to your life in a positive way.

Ultimately, prioritizing healthy relationships ensures that we have a strong foundation for personal growth, happiness, and success in life beyond school.



07

Pen vs. Paper Does it even matter?

By Emily Wardle

In our current age we are inundated with choice. This doesn't end with school. In the modern age research has gone into the best ways to test students. One study asked the question "Could it be that higher-performing districts are choosing paper and the lower-performing are choosing computers?" for testing.. The article brought up that the format in which the test is taken could pact scores. sSome students are more adept with computers than others.

I briefly talked to the stats and calculus teacher, Mr.Gray, and asked for his thoughts on this along with his personal experiences with the two avenues.

"The curriculum is a big part of it" he said, with his AP calculus students he has the entire curriculum include digital aspects, this includes the tests. This way the individual lessons are similar to the tests making it easier for students to navigate and feel more comfortable and capable.

The same study mentioned earlier also found that the switch over from paper to digital to have a negatively impact on English test scores.

Nothing was mentioned on math, of course students with disabilities must also be factored into this as certain challenges apply to them. But is there a meaningful difference? Does it matter at all?

Should we push to have one over the other? And truthfully, the most accommodating option seems to be keeping it open or perhaps a mixture of the two. Giving the option allows students to choose what works best for them and gives them the best opportunity to excel.

The Billie Bulletin is

Tim Meinzen-Advisor

Jocelyn Heacock

Ellie Epperson

Ellie Thebo

Jolie Heacock

Laynie Reed

Talieg Jackson

Angel Calva

Carson Bernardo

Evander Ruiz

Greta Gramzow

Zoe Harr

Aria Verma

Caroline Carlson

Sienna Malekzadeh

Alexis Moch

Darren Soper

Arianna Bowman

Camryn Carey

Colton Carey

Sofia Ameen

Jamon Heacock

Hunter Musgrove-Crabtree

Zane Koszegi

Kylie Lan

AJ Taylor

Jaxson Potts

Mark Buchan

Andrew King

Dani Boyd

Emerie Martin

Emily Wardle

Fatima Garcia

Juan Contreras

Jay Griffiths

Maddie Rife

Oscar Jimenez

Lawson Halstead

Autumn Epley

Sofia Dennis

Ava Umbarger

Alexis Moch

Ellie Oxenford

Mason Imonen

:SATIRE::SATIRE::SATIRE:

Better than water!

By Jolie Heacock

In a recent interview with Laynie Reed, Reed claimed that Alani energy drinks have more benefits than water.

"Water is overrated," added Ellie Thebo.

Alani energy drinks are popular and are rumored to have health benefits.

"They have no sugar so you can drink this guilt-free," said Grace Phillips.

On the other hand, Dr. James Matthew, of the Soda Research Agency, reminds us that "each can has 200 milligrams of caffeine, which has many side effects."

The most common side effect is insomnia, which is the inability to sleep. However, some people think that insomnia is helpful.

"Insomnia is great, it gives my students more time to study!" said Ms. Devish.

Laynie Reed claimed that "drinking Alanis instead of water helps increase my speed in track."

Videos have been posted on TikTok, advertising the new "protein" boost to the already popular drink.

However, certain YouTube influencers have posted about finding rats in their Alanis. But the infamous Logan Paul said the rats were a "great addition to my all-protein diet."

According to Dr. Matthew, "One 300-gram rat has 63 grams of protein and the daily recommendation is 100. Drinking one protein-infused Alani can help you reach your fitness goals!"

250 Students almost killed by Homework

By Pro Crastinate

Fifty seven teens in Oregon have stopped sleeping and are getting serious blisters on their hands. After intense questioning of the teens, parents, and peers, officials have determined that the culprit of this horrific feat is homework.

The doctor on the case, Professor Crastinate, tracked down three of the worst cases' in school. Then he made a personal appearance to all of their classes and saw what was happening.

First was math. They had a twenty page math test on everything from last year and they only got one side of an index card for notes. Because of this, the students have spent the last week sleeping one hour a day.

Next was science. They were doing a week-long lab where they had to make a womb that could actually grow a child. And they had to write everything in Latin, or because that science loves a good Latin phrase.

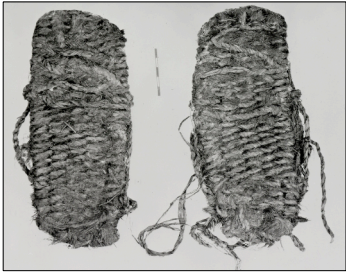
Finally, there was Language Arts. The students had to write a 100 page paper about who created Latin.

The worst was that all of these assignments were on the same day.

While the teens are currently on medical leave their parents are now in the process of suing their children's teachers for mental and emotional distress.



The Billie Backside



Shoes Who needs them?

By A.J. Taylor

No shoes? No service!
It's what we were told before entering any building, but until 10,000 years ago no one had considered footwear. The first shoes were found in Oregon, at Fort Rock Cave, is where we found the oldest found pair of shoes we know of. Well what do you know, the same place that gave us Nike, gave us the oldest pair of shoes in the world.

Shoes are now seen as a level of status and wealth. Shoes range from some beater Crocs to some superfluous Red Octobers. But for the longest time, shoes were never even considered. In theory, the padding on the bottom of your foot should be enough to get folks where they need to go on the Earth, But because we created harder surfaces to walk on, like gravel, and concrete, with no give or softness, we started to make shoes.

The oldest pair of shoes were made of sagebrush bark, radiocarbon dated it for around 10,500-9,300 years ago, these shoes are twine twisted to the shape of the sole of your feet, from heel to toe. The shoe also had extra twine that would be tied around your ankle for stability so it doesn't slip off.

The long-term effects of wearing shoes include collapsed arches, poor posture problems, back pain, knee pain, and excess buildup of dead skin. Because the human body wasn't designed for shoes, and most shoes aren't all that dynamic for the feet, all of this adds up to your body's stature being completely different than it typically should be, making people shorter, and have back pain earlier in life.

But there's a solution to all these problems, getting the right kind of shoes, the first great pairs of shoes that preferred ergo dynamics while still having style were the Adidas boost shoes, which introduced 'boost' technology which sums up corporate mumbo-jumbo of 'new materials in the sole,' which has a lot more give than other shoes, and it has no upper tongue providing more comfort, but other shoes that put stability before style, and are arguably one of the best shoes in the world, are barefoot shoes.



It's getting serious guys

By Kylie Lan

When I was in middle school/high school, from grades 9 to about 10, things were going pretty smoothly. I didn't have a care in the world, my grades were, let's say, average, I'm not the smartest nor the brightest but that didn't matter.

When junior year came around that's when things started to get serious. I saw many the seniors of 2024 rushing around, stress on their faces, listening to the intercoms going off all the time about SATs, ACTs, graduation, listening to them talk about college, where they're going to go after high school, what they want to do. And then the realization hit me that that's going to be me.

Junior year became senior year and now everything that I've learned, every lecture that my parents had with me about my grades, about school, have started to actually make sense. They weren't just nagging at me because they wanted to, they were trying to actually get me to lock in and start paying attention because now that's it's getting close to graduation. I've got all these SATs that I need to do well to get accepted into college; I toured a university campus and it's not just fun and games y'all. You gotta sit for 4 hours in like 4 classes every week, it's cool but I'm finally starting to realize that I'm no longer allowed to goof off and be stupid, it's getting serious.

I walk through the high school hallway, sometimes the middle school hallway because one of my classes are in there, and see all the middle schoolers running around screaming like they don't have a care in the world and now I finally get why adults want to be kids again because I want to be one again.

"I be stressin'" over everything, the slightest drop in my grade, whether I'll pass or fail a test, everything. It's scary adulating, like what if I fail and have to retake highschool again.. I'd be stuck here with y'all again. Not that that's bad but, you know, after a while you wanna get out there and meet new people.

Now I'm starting to sound like my mom and dad. What's happening to me?

I guess what I'm tryna say is lock in y'all, don't be goofing off too much, a little goofing is good, we all need it, but at the end of the year, all that goofin' won't pay off.

SATIRE: Dropping Out is the new "Graduation"

By Jay Griffith

For far too long we have been told to "stay in school" and "keep your grades up," but have we ever taken the time to question these commands?

Why do we need to stay in school? The school system has raised us to be sheep, mindlessly following instructions that will supposedly "help us in the real world."

Recently American students have finally realised they are being brainwashed. The newest trend among high-schoolers is dropping out!

About 5% of high school students in the US drop out every year. While this figure does show a slight decline from past years we are still going strong.

Now, you may be wondering, what on earth could dropping out of high school possibly do for me in the future?

Well, a statistic from a totally reliable source (my Facts. com) reports that about 5% of the American population are millionaires. Does that percentage sound familiar?

5% of students drop out.

This cannot be a coincidence, those same 5% of students who drop out all become millionaires.

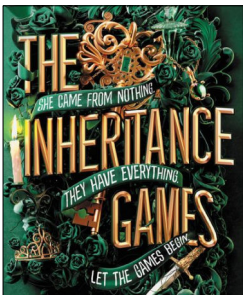
"I want to be a millionaire, so I'm dropping out right now!" said Devon Jones after hearing the statistics.

The evidence is stacked against staying in school and keeping your grades up in this modern society.

Don't be a loser, stay out of school.

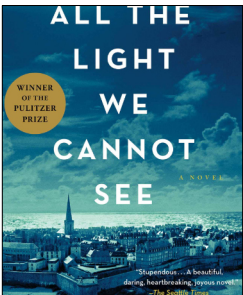
Need a good book recommendation?

By Zoe Harr



received the entire fortune of the late Tobias Hawthorne. The real mystery is: she has no idea who this guy is, or why he left her with all of his money. To solve this riddle, she moves into the labyrinth-like Hawthorne House to gain her inheritance.

"I really like it because it has a lot of mystery and suspense in it, so I find it very interesting," Emerson said. "The first time I read it I could not put it down."



There's a large variety of good books to check out if you look a little harder!

Not everyone is a reader, I know, but I think if everyone just read the right book, I get a hunch more people would enjoy reading! Here are two book recommendations for those who love reading, or maybe don't yet!

"I really like the Inheritance Games, it's a series!" Said eighth grader Emerson Hill. The Inheritance Games is a Mystery-Thriller-Fantasy novel series by Jennifer Lynn Barnes. It follows the story of Avery Grambs, a high school student who has just

"Right now, I'm reading the book 'All the Light we Cannot See!'" said Jocelyn Heacock. "It's for AP Literature, but I really like it because it's historical fiction and WWII but it tells the story of a German boy and a girl in Paris, France, and so it's super cool to see their different stories and they end up colliding at the end. It's really cool because they have a lot of key details from the war and there's also a mystery tied into it and they're both connected in it."

Shipping the class: Part II

By Emerie Martin

During class, or at lunch, do you ever notice two people who would look cute together? You and your friends agree they should get together, and you root them on.

This is called a "ship."

For example, **Brooke Green and Wyatt Blake**. This is a typical "ship." People root them on because they'd be a super cute couple! Just like them, there are many other pairs that have caught people's attention. Here are a few popular "ships" that people requested, and some that we created:

Ship 1: Alexis Moch & Kamdyn Greene

These two are a very popular ship, as they've been dating for quite a while. Kamdyn and Alexis both enjoy country music and hunting. You'll often catch them holding hands and walking around the hallways together.

Ship 2: Sahalie Johnsen & Conner Cheatham

Conner and Sahalie would be such an adorable ship. They are both very smart people, and perfect to have a good laugh with.

Ship 3: Kristen Gardener & Kaden Seaton

Kaden and Kristen are both soccer and track enthusiasts. Both Kristen and Kaden can be very sassy, which makes them perfect for each other. They can bond over running and the sports they both enjoy!

Ship 4: Kora Flanders & Finnian Farmer

Both Finn and Kora share a love for pizza. Finn's humor would pair perfectly with Kora's easy going nature.

Pet peeves: we all have them

By Camryn Carey

Everyone has a pet peeve. Whether it's people chewing with their mouth open, breathing loudly, or, of course, a mom who has a minivan and only has one kid.

Pet peeves can be something very annoying. You have things that you know bug you, and then you have the things that you didn't know that annoyed you. You could be telling your friend a joke when they point out you said a word wrong. You continue talking and they do it again a minute later.

New pet peeve! Add 'correcting speech' to the list of things you can't stand.

"One of my biggest pet peeves is when people are walking really slow," Bethany Carlton said.

Marley Meyers said, "I can't stand it when people come and shut my locker."

"Sienna complaining is my pet peeve," said Gavin Pocholec.

We all have these pet peeves and we need to learn to embrace them – because they aren't going away!

Learn to find it funny because it probably won't change, and you need to be good with that. These things you find annoying are what make your friends, or other people who do it, themselves.

An American celebration: Cinco de Mayo

By Fatima Garcia

I'd bet you didn't know that Cinco de Mayo is more widely celebrated in the U.S. than it is in its origin country of Mexico. Some sources go far enough to say Cinco de Mayo is more of a Mexican-American holiday than a Mexican one.

Cinco de Mayo is celebrated by both Hispanic and non-Hispanic Americans across the U.S. In Raleigh, NC, local businesses across the Triangle recognized the holiday by celebrating Mexican heritage and culture with food, music, and of course, drink specials.It's great that we embrace other cultures and traditions, but it's just as important to know exactly how the tradition is celebrated by the target audience of the U.S. Spanish-speakers. This is a classic example of the importance of cultural relevance in English to Spanish translations.

We asked some students with Mexican heritage if they celebrated Cinco de Mayo.

Abriam Ventura said 'I do not celebrate cinco de mayo because I don't know what it really means.'

Juan Contreras said "No,well I don't know I've never celebrated it. I don't know if there is a reason why and why not, I just haven't." Autumn Eppley said "In our family we don't celebrate anything because of religious reasons."

Quantum Computing- The Super-Powered Computer of the Future

By Andrew King

Ever wonder what the future holds for computers when they are able to calculate answers that would take regular computers millions of years to compute? Well, this is what quantum computing promises!

But what is quantum computing, and how do they work? Let's make it more clear

What is Quantum Computing

Traditional computers process information using bits. These bits are like tiny light switches that can either be on or off and this represents ones and zeros. Everything your computer does is built on millions of these bits working together.

Quantum computers utilize something known as qubits. Qubits are confusing in that they are 0 and 1 at the same time. This weird process is referred to as superposition, and through this, quantum computers can compute incredible amounts of data simultaneously.

How Does It Work?

Quantum computers use two required principles of quantum physics, super-position and entanglement.

Superposition: qubit can exist at the same time in more than a single state 0 and one. What this means is that quantum computers can attempt many possibilities simultaneously.

Entanglement: Two qubits entangled together have the state of one qubit reliant on another regardless of distance. Entanglement allows quantum computers to calculate things of

unimaginable complexity at rates higher than imaginable.

Why is it important?

Quantum computing can transform domains like medicine, cybersecurity, and climate science. For example, it could allow scientists to find new medicines, protect your info with stronger encryption, and even help solve global warming.

What's the Catch?

Meanwhile, quantum computing is unbelievable but is yet in its current stage. Quantum computers are very hard to construct and manage since qubits are highly sensitive and must be cooled down to very low temperatures to operate.

The Future of Quantum Computing

Scientists and tech firms such as Google and IBM are working furiously to develop more efficient and powerful quantum computers. Quantum computers in the future might even be able to solve issues that even present-day super-computers cannot.

Quantum computing is basically super-powering. Super-powering the computers is basically what quantum computing is. It is a confusing but fascinating field which can potentially change the world we live in.

The Billie Satirical Extra

OPINION: Rooter Bus problems

By Hunter Crabtree

When we take Rooter buses, the rides are often long and drooling (I don't mean grueling, although that it was.) I mean two inches of drool on the floor.

The riders don't have much to do besides sleep, go on your phone or talk to your friends (if you have any).

The bus does not make many stops. I think the buses should start supplying things like food or activities you can do on the bus for longer trips.

We should also start having more bathroom breaks and stops in general. I get that the breaks can't be long, but maybe just five minutes or until everybody is done with what they need to do.

Also having more trash can space would be a good idea too so the kids won't put so much on the floor on the ground of the bus.

We should also do rooter bus rides more often to games so kids who don't have a ride available can still be included in the school spirit.

The problem, of course, with this is getting bus drivers to do this. We should pay bus drivers who drive rooter buses much more than we do right now considering they don't get home till one am sometimes and still have to get up at five to work.

Some of these changes would make the students and staff's time on the bus much more enjoyable and more tolerable in my opinion.



Publications offers more than just work

By Autumn Epley

Some people think that Publications is a class that kids get pushed into, to work their lives away on the yearbook and newspaper. Although that may seem true, it's not.

Publications is a class where kids work on the yearbook and the newspaper. Writing news stories gives them the chance to bring out their inner voice and speak through their writing and designing with the Bille Bulletin and the yearbook.

Mr. Meinzen (Publications teacher) has a unique way of teaching. When it comes to teaching vocabulary he finds a way to bring the students in, making examples including them. He keeps it respectful and makes sure his students are okay with using them for examples, including himself. He also makes it fun including clips of songs or movies.

For example, Mr. Meinzen was teaching his students how to write a satire story, he included a clip of a show that he had watched when he was in middle school so we students had an idea of what he was referencing. This way of teaching really helps the students to learn and have a visual of how they are supposed to write.

He provides students with the opportunity to improve their writing skills and bring out their creativity. It has also made students comfortable with interviewing people. The class provides a spot for students to get to know each other and their opinions in a welcoming environment. Overall Publications is a fun class for students and teacher.

How sports goes from great fun to intense activity

By Juan Contreras

We've all participated in sports, or at least most of us have played a sport in our lives.

As a kid, I didn't have much fear of talking to my team about the team. I was never scared of judgment from my teammates. I was just having fun playing the sport I enjoyed.

But sooner or later I realized that everything was getting a little more competitive. Some people were working hard on improving their skills to be better and win. I realized that some people wanted to play to win, and not so much for the fun of the sport.

I felt like I was falling behind everyone, I was scared people would get mad at me for messing up, so eventually I quit.

I only really started playing again in high school, and I once again fell in love with the game. But being on a team this time felt "scary" almost. Since there was no JV team I got put on the Varsity team with all my upperclassmen.

I felt as if I didn't belong there, I wasn't good at all at the sport, so I felt like an outcast. So I kept quiet and kept to myself, I only talked to my friend and that was it. That was the case until I got to know some of the upperclassmen, with all the practices, games, team dinners, and fundraisers, I got closer to my upperclassmen and to the team itself. I no longer felt like an outcast. There were still some seniors I never got to become proper teammates with, but in the end, it was fine.

So my question is how can we make the underclassmen feel like they belong in the sport? I was lucky enough to be surrounded by nice people on the team, but sometimes that's not always the case. So how can we make the underclassmen feel like they belong here on the team, what are things we can do for them to start speaking up, how can we as a team and upperclassmen build relationships with them, for the betterment of the team?

SATIRE: The colony of pencils living in the air vents

By Ally Moch

Have you ever wondered what happens when you lose your pencils?

Well if you do, you are in the same boat as the teachers of Pleasant Hill. Many pencils have either magically grown legs or were abducted by aliens in the middle of the day.

This has led to a crisis.

Students are losing their pencils at an alarming rate. Everyday teachers are giving out pencils to children who seem to mysteriously lose them. Determined to solve the mystery, teachers have looked up and down the halls and turned up empty handed. Still determined to find their pencils, the teachers had a stake out in the middle school commons.

Nervous laughter and talk rippled among the teachers. All of a sudden, Mrs.Olson heard a small noise coming from the air vents.

The scuttering got louder and louder. It wasn't just the air vents doing their normal thing.

Mrs.Moch quaffed the rest of her hot chocolate and said, "Let's check the janitor closet."

Mrs.Olson, Mrs.Huff, Mrs.Raade, and Mrs.Moch walked to the janitor's closet while the sound got louder and louder. All three of them giggled loudly while discussing who would climb up into the vents to figure out what the noise was.

Mrs.Huff was chosen to climb in the vents.Mrs. Raade handed Mrs.Huff a walkie-talkie so they could communicate. Once she was in the vent, there was no sign of the source of the noise.

Out of the blue, Mrs.Huffs voice came out of the walkie-talkie and all they could hear was, "I found them! I found them!"

"What did you find!?" replied Mrs. Raade.

After thirty long seconds of suspense, Mrs.Huff replied, "this is going to sound crazy but all the pencils are up here."

"At this point I would believe anything even if they grew legs and ran away," said Mrs.Olson with a laugh.

Mrs.Huff gathered the pencils. One of the pencils had a student's name on it. Later that week they found out this student had been stashing the pencils in spite of all the kids that had been constantly asking her for pencils.

This girl turned out to be a Ms. Ava Loose

New study proves teens aren't on their devices enough

By Sienna Nevada

Phones have become a part of our everyday life, whether you're a teenager or an adult. We all rely on the small object in our hand. But, it seems that many adults find their child has their phone "glued to their hands" as one might say.

It's become a known problem that teens are depending too much on what's on their screen, and the treasures of what it holds inside.

Most parents have a problem with their child's screen time, but what if there's no problem?

What if the only issue is that teens aren't using enough of their time on their device?

"Phones, and other devices, are crucial parts in how children learn nowadays, and taking away that is like taking away a child's right to learn," said Dr. Emilia Martin, the head of the investigation surrounding teens' addictions to their phones.

Dr. Martin found that students were learning more from the apps on their phone than they were at school. This is a big discovery in how we should teach the next generation, considering that being on a phone seems to be looked down upon, whereas teens are forced to attend school for six hours a day.

"Apps like Blockblast do amazing things for children in learning how to problem solve. And

TikTok, or Instagram, are perfect ways for your kid to develop social skills," Brooke Breslaw, a supportive parent of their teen's phone said.

In the study, four out of five people found friends by using their phones, and the apps along with it. It seems most of the teens couldn't find someone to talk to without a device. With having a phone, it's so easy to connect with people you wouldn't before.

"Phones teach my son so much. He comes home almost every day with new words or phrases that neither my husband or I understand!" A very proud Mrs. Williams said. More parents spoke up about the recent vocabulary their teens have been learning from their devices, showing all the benefits of a phone.

Even though phones and the apps teens use do not contain the basic information taught at school, it is not necessary to say that your child is "on their phone too much".

If anything, they aren't on it enough.

Stinky socks secure victory for local sports team studies show

By Cordelia Corly

Hello sports fans! I, Cordelia Corly, am here with Coach Carl to ask how they made such an incredible comeback after having a major losing streak for the last 10 years.

So Coach, What's your secret?

"Well Carol," Cordialia, "Anyway. So we have tried everything to get to the championship. Intense workouts, extra practice, having them eat one vegetable a day, (if they're really feeling it two) but nothing worked.

We were ready to give up. But then, our point guard, Trevin Reels, asked his girlfriend Tracy Walker. If she could do something.

She accepted the challenge and went through the old archives to the last MVP of the state, Kevin Smith. She took his socks and extracted the sweat. According to her, since both water and smell hold memory, she put the sweat into saline and salt and injected it into my players."

And that seemed to have worked because currently the score is 50-15. Thank you Coach Carl. "Anytime Caren."

What do you really know about Elon Musk?

Opinion by Maddie Rife

I'm here to tell you about Mr. Musk's views and actions. I think they are harmful. Here are some things that reveal his character.

Immigration hypocrisy: Elon has regularly criticized America's and Europe's Immigration policies while being an immigrant himself (South Africa). Elon has been characterized as "anti immigrant."

Musk has also distributed false information regarding immigration and voter fraud. A deleted repost on Elon Musk's "X" account claimed that The post read: "Stalin, Mao, and Hitler didn't murder millions of people. Their public sector employees did."

Musk quickly took his post down due to backlash. He shared the post without any further comment after getting hate it was saying that it was a anti semitic and dismissive of a genocide.

Many historians have shown that millions of people died under Stalin's rule. The millions of Jews who were slaughtered during the Holocaust were killed at Hitler's command. Same as how many Chinese people died because of Mao's cultural revolution.

Mr. Musk endorsed an antisemitic post on X named "the actual truth" of what Jewish people were doing. And after the attempt to assassinate Trump he made a post then deleted it about how it was odd that no one tried to kill former president Joe Biden or former vice president Kamala Harris.

These inflammatory and hateful posts are just some of the many things Elon Musk has posted or said that are cruel—especially blaming public sector workers for acts of murder.

This man may have helped with technology advancing things but he's also a terrible person in disguise trying to hide that from everyone.



Trip to Mars? No thanks

Opinion By Ava Loose

So we've all heard of Elon Musk. Musk developed Tesla (home of the Cyber Truck) and bought Twitter now X. But you may or may not have heard of his other ideas, one of which is going to Mars.

Going to Mars with humans seems impossible and it might be. Such a space voyage would be very expensive to go and it would take a long time (estimated at 7-9 months at best) for a spaceship to get there. Some estimates suggest it would take a little less than 15 months. That's more than a year. That much time in space and zero gravity takes a big toll on the body. Current space station astronauts have to relearn to walk when they get back from space.

Long space flights can also cause "gravity sickness" which is getting dizzy while standing because the astronauts have gotten used to zero gravity.

Zero gravity also can cause cardiovascular issues.

So do we really want to risk almost killing people?

Or worse, killing them?.

Also there might not be enough room to supply all that these people need.

If NASA takes time I'm sure they could get a spaceship to Mars. They have sent rovers but it is really expensive.

Is it worth the risk and the costs?

Many things can go wrong. We could get to Mars but we already know what's there. We have seen pictures and we have samples so what else do we need?

Finally, a trip to Mars would cost half a trillion dollars says NASA, \$500 billion with no certainty of success.

So when Elon Musk pushes a mission to Mars, I wonder who will pay and if it will be successful.

I believe that we shouldn't risk it.

What do you think?

The Golden Hour

By Oscar Jimenez

Sunsets are the final hour light where the sky looks its best before it disappears. Some might wonder what makes it look so special or what makes people love sunsets.

At first I always thought the sky wasn't so special but the more I looked at the sky —especially during sunset—I realized that the sky looks wonderful!

Sunsets can be perfect even on the worst days where it is rainy or cloudy. In the end the sky will show what it's been hiding.

So often it looks cool. Bad or nice days, the sky will always shine and show what it's made of. That is why the "golden hour" makes it one of the best hours of the day.

People, just take a moment and look up and realize that it is the best time of the day .

