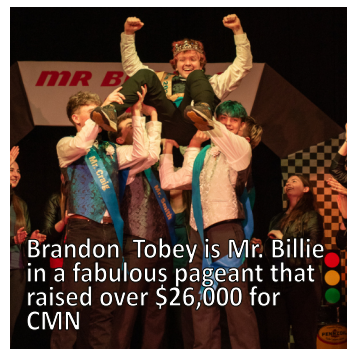
The Billie Bulletin

Pleasant Hill High School
Issue 4, Volume 75
April 10th 2026


Brandon Tobey is Mr. Billie in a fabulous pageant that raised over $26,000 for CMN



Farewell Jay Gray

By Zane Koszegi

Math teacher, Mr. Jay Gray is a friendly face around the high school hallway through his charming personality and passion for teaching math classes. To many, his door is always open and he has his comforting advice at the ready no matter how rough your day. Sophomore, Colton Carey "I like how he's always there, to help me, and make my day better."

A shocking announcement this fall left students sad at the fact that Mr. Gray was leaving during spring break—not out of anything to do with students but to follow his dream of pursuing his band: Stick Buck.

From Junior, Jaxson Potts "Mr. Gray puts his best effort in teaching his students and always goes out of his way to make sure his students fully understand what he's teaching. His kind and relatable personality make him an easy teacher to connect and learn from."

This has caused students and teachers alike to reflect on what fragility is present during the school year.

So, from the students and teachers of PHHS "We will miss you Mr. Gray."

Reiersgaard gets it done

by Aria Verma

Mr Reiersgaard has been a Pleasant Hill Principal for the last two years and now his time as Principal has come to an end. Reiersgaard was "born at a very young age" in Springfield and has lived in Oregon all his life. He went to Thurston High School.



"I was that guy that was kind of involved in everything because back in the day, you know, every kid did everything."

"In my junior and senior year, I was the sports editor of the newspaper and then I was co-editor of the yearbook. So I was on the yearbook and newspaper staff. I was in different clubs around school. "I loved every experience at school."

I have 37 years in education or like I said, I've been in high school for the last 42 years, so it's been something fun for me." He attended Western Oregon University and got a dual degree in biology and health with a minor in education.

"I wanted to be a police officer or a teacher. Didn't know quite which one. I applied for both teaching jobs and police jobs at the same time, and I just happened to accept the 1st job offer at Lincoln Junior High School in Cottage Grove."

"I taught at Thurston high school for 3 years. And then got into an administrative program. In 2001, I became the assistant principal at Springfield High School. And then the next year was the principal.

And so I was there for 11 years. Then I took a job at the district office and was there for 7 years or so. And then I retired."

He "worked back" for 2-3 years as an assistant principal and principal and officially retired for good in 2021. In 2023 PHHS's superintendent Jim Crist gave Reiersgaard a call asking him to be principal for 2 years

After retirement, Reiersgaard plans to take care of his "baby"(his lawn) and travel. "I love my lawn. I cannot travel between spring break and November because that's prime grass time."

"So our plan is sometime mid-January, taking the trailer down to Arizona and staying at some RV parks that have swimming pools for about 6 or 7 weeks. And then come back, be back in time for spring break and grass season."

Lovdokken takes on Talented and Gifted

By Kenzie Oyler and Elliot Henshaw

There are many teachers here at the elementary school but one of the newer teachers caught our attention. Her name is Mrs.Lovdokken, and surprisingly she was more interesting than we ever thought.

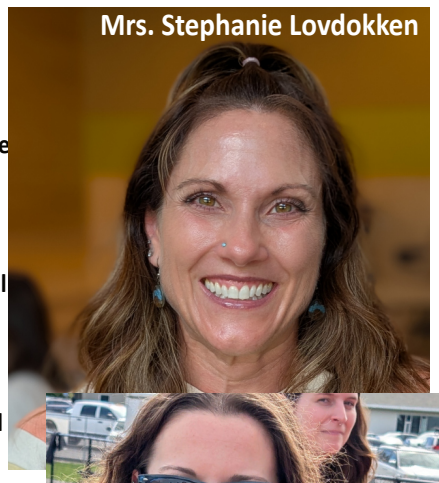
We wanted to know somethings about her so we talked about her childhood, and she is an identical twin to her talkative sister and said that she was always the quiet one. She also likes a lot of Christian music as well as Country music. She graduated from George Fox University. She grew up in the wonderful town of Springfield and then moved over to Pleasant Hill.

Mrs. Lovdokken has 2 kids, both going to college at OSU. But her son has gotten accepted to Berkley so he will transfer there next year. She said they like to joke around with her family by playing funny pranks. She started playing tennis at the age of 41, she is now 48 and loves it now.

Lovdokken found out she had diabetes when she was 21 and got sick, passed out while driving in a backroad to McMinnville, OR, losing about 30 lb. in about a 1 month period.

Lovdokken has a dog named Huey and he is her pal, her service pal. She is a diabetic and she needs a service dog. But as well as Huey she trains service dogs and it is always nice to see a new friend here. Most of her dogs that she trains we miss when they pass their training.

Mrs. Lovdokken started teaching at age 21, the same time as when diagnosed with diabetes. As a kid, she wanted to have a job, like "Police, Nurse, or Teacher." Also, she had a 5th grade teacher that did not have a joy for teaching, "She told us that everyday". So she has always wanted to be a better teacher and make a difference with the students.


Mrs. Stephanie Lovdokken


MS. Sarah Apker

Apker is passionate about her students

By Peyton Horton

Ms. Sarah Apker teaches about almost everything but focuses on her main subject, special education. She teaches in room 21, helping her students with their reading and writing skills, math, social studies, etc. She "absolutely loves" having the time to spend one on one time with each of her students and being able to help with any question or subject they are struggling with.

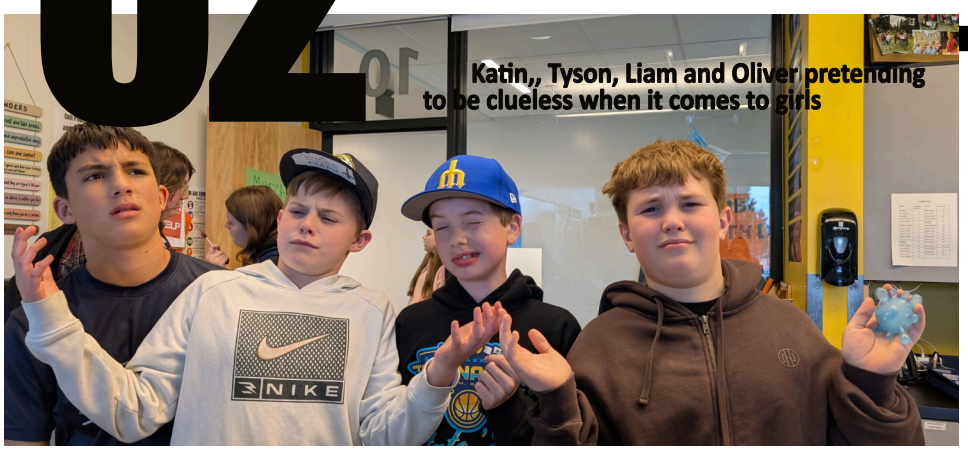
When she went to school here, she didn't necessarily love it. She thought school was hard and difficult, even teachers told her not to study because of how much anxiety she had.

During school she played multiple sports, just about everything the school had at the time that consisted of high school track, softball, volleyball, baseball, and a few other sports. During her time here there was a daycare, and this inspired her to want to help others as well.

"Students here want to be a part of Billie culture because you don't know what someone else's struggles are." It can be tough for her students to feel a part of the school community if they are not welcomed. She wants her students just to fit in,

After work she came home to two loving dogs and a husband. One is a German short haired pointer that is 15 and is named Zoli. The other is a German short haired pointer part poodle and is 2 years old named Tikka. When it's the weekend she loves anything outdoors like hiking, snow shoe, camping, fishing, paddle boarding, mushroom hunting, going to concerts and walking the dogs. She even runs a crew for the Oregon country fair!

During her time here she's been teaching for 21 years, and is currently going to school to get a principal license. She sees a lot of changes that could be done to other schools that could improve teaching and help the students learn. And she wants to encourage the school to include all kids.



Katin,, Tyson, Liam and Oliver pretending to be clueless when it comes to girls

What should boys know about girls

Sound Advice by Tessa Sprague

I wanted to help boys get better at relating to girls. So I talked to some "experts."

I interviewed Joanna Holley and she said girls generally like it "when boys notice the little things about girls. That can be {emotionally affecting}. She also emphasized: "DON'T touch our stuff without permission."

I interviewed Ella Threet and she said, "don't rough house with us like you do with your buddies... Girls are better."

I interviewed Mrs. Williams and she said, "well I'm all about the science base and with us teaching this unit I think that boy should know more about our menstrual cycles. Boys don't know much about female anatomy or what goes on. They know what our body looks like, but they don't know what's normal or how hormones change our bodies. Boys should know those kinds of things."

Another girl, who wants to be anonymous, said "when we want something that doesn't mean we're being bossy. It means we are being assertive."

I interviewed Mrs.D'Agosta and she said girls like to know, "the little things" and girls like being treated the same as boys are treated. Girls also want to be respected so they are able to do the same thing that men can do.

I interviewed Olivia Whitted. She said "Just because we hang out with you doesn't mean we like you and if we sit by you it doesn't mean we're going to give you all the answers."

I also interviewed a mystery guest, who wanted to remain anonymous. She said "boys should not ask if we are on their period, and ask our parents before you ask us to the dance, and don't comment on our makeup."

Boys, it is not hard to treat girls with respect and kindness. And if someday you want to have a girl as a companion, you will be appreciated, while boys who spend all their time on a game or roughhousing or irritating girls will remain alone.

Is Homework a Do or Don't?

By EB Wilberger

Homework has existed for over a century but was banned for kids age 15 and under in California in 1901. Should we have homework? Or should rules like California's exist?

At the Pleasant Hill Middle School and High School, Monday through Thursday, school is in session for a little less than 8 hours. The time spent, on average, doing homework is 3 hours a week. That means that the total time an average student spends doing schoolwork, every week, is about 41 hours. Without homework it would be a little less than 38 hours every week.

Students have opinions on this topic unsurprisingly.

When asked about having homework Avery Siburg said "No, it's not fun."

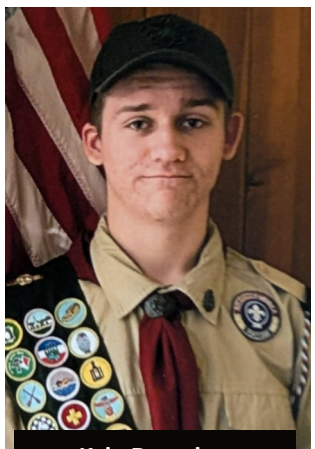
Another student said that, "We should not have homework."

Elli Devenberg said "sometimes, it's like a 50/50." when I asked her if she got her homework done. She also said that the reason that she doesn't get it done is because she is "just a busy person."

Mrs. Huff said that she doesn't consistently assign homework because "The homework policy here at Pleasant Hill Middle School has changed," She added that, "Homework is for students who don't get work done in class."

When I asked her why she didn't assign homework regularly, Huff said, "I work hard to use the 51 instructional minutes to teach students new concepts in math and to practice math."

So what do you think? Should we have homework?



Kyle Dean has earned the rank of Eagle Scout a feat of rare dedication and hard work. Dean's Eagle Project collected 2,600 pounds of supplies for Paws and Whiskers Socitey (PAWS), a local organization that provides food and spay-and-neuter assistance.

What is up in the Medical Club?

By Hattie Bruns

Have you heard of the Med Club? If you haven't, here is all you need to know. The Med Club is hosted by health teacher Christy Vough. They have two meetings a month in room 9 where they discuss food boxes or new opportunities. Ms. Vough works hard to find different opportunities for the students.

Med Club members have the opportunity to go to Med Splash at LCC. There they will get hands-on medical experience and tour a state of the art medical center! Med Club members just went to a cadaver lab at Willamette University where they engaged in hands-on activities and learned about the anatomy of a human body using human cadavers.

Ms. Vough also finds scholarship opportunities for seniors like Slocum Scholarship 2026! "As the Medical Club Advisor and Health Science CTE teacher, one of my favorite parts of this program is seeing students take what they learn in class and apply it in real-life situations, it really builds their confidence.

Our CTSO is a core part of the program, giving students opportunities to build leadership skills, explore health careers, and better understand the medical field.

Even in our first year, students are making an impact through community service, including our Helping the Herd project.

I'm excited to keep building this club and look forward to planning more fun, meaningful experiences with students in the future."-MS. Vough

A Numbers Game

An increase in student choice leads to a lack of participation in athletic activities

By Josie Heacock

What do you do when your sport's season is cut short?

This is what some of our student-athletes at Pleasant Hill are thinking as they consider the outcome of the boys' volleyball season.

This spring, Athletic Director Mr. Stearns has made the difficult decision to end the boys volleyball program for the 2026 season. Students were shocked by this decision. In previous years the boys volleyball team has been a vibrant source of school culture and success. How did we go from a vibrant alternative sport to a program deemed lacking in viability?

Spencer Smith, a senior who has played boys volleyball for three years believes, "It never connected with the people that it was designed for. The generally mainstream demographic of student athletes never latched on to it, which surprised me, because based on participation during Springfest, and the excitement around the girls team which was doing well at the time, I thought more people would be invested."

According to Mr. Stearns, the answer lies in the rise of student choice.

"We're in a unique opportunity of student choice. We are in the mode of trying to add more choice, so sometimes that means that people sign up for X over Y, and that's a pretty difficult thing when there's not enough [students] to go around." Mr. Stearns said. "It's just one of the things that, unfortunately...just wasn't viable. I think most schools are seeing that with JV softball disappearing."

As more activities are added to the selection, some programs naturally pull athletes away. On this, Stearns said, "We want folks to have lots of opportunities, but we just have to have the interest, it has to be safe. We have to be able to properly fill the team to meet the commitment. And people are stretched because we have a lot of really awesome kids that are doing a lot of a lot of things."

When debating the demise of the boys volleyball season, Stearns said he had to make the distinction between student interest, program viability, and student safety.

"Whenever we're looking at a sport, club, or activity, it's [about] the student interest. Can they, whatever the activity is, can they meet the needs of that season, the commitments to other teams, and do it in a safe manner?"

With these concerns, Mr. Stearns met with MacKenzy Borek, the boys'volleyball coach. "From that first practice, the coach reached out to me about concerns if this is a viable solution. How does one practice safely? How do we anticipate folks who are doing multiple programs and or working and what happens when [what] always happens in any sport, like sickness and injury...So when we found out we wouldn't have enough to field the team and we had to cancel the first game, that's when Coach and I came to the conclusion that it seemed like this wouldn't be a successful season."

On the contrary, some of the boys believe they could have continued playing. Nolan Driesnack, who played last season, said, "I don't think it was a necessary decision, because even if we couldn't play the first game, we could still have had a fantastic season. Even if we couldn't make it to the top, we had nine people before the first game, so we could have made all the other games easily."

However, when Stearns and Coach MacKenzy considered the numbers, they came to the conclusion the team didn't have enough players to A) practice safely and B) keep their commitment to other teams. "We have obligations and commitments to other programs," Stearns said. "so if it was a delayed experience where we had to cancel, and 'Oh we couldn't do this week' and this week happened and then we canceled this week. It's unfair to other people in the league."

After meeting with Coach MacKenzy, Stearns worked on finding a way to provide an alternate opportunity. Collaborating with Creswell, Stearns came to an agreement that gave the boys a chance to play on the Creswell team. As unappealing as it sounds, Stearns sees this as an opportunity to build bridges through competitive play. "There is this hope that potentially, if they're playing on the same team, could that build some bridges with the next town rival? Absolutely."

In response to Stearn's decision, Driesnack said, "I think he made the decision he thought was best, he definitely cares about the boys volleyball team. He has been working really hard with Creswell to [have] us play with Creswell. I still think that decision wasn't a necessary one, even if he thought it was." Initially, Driessnack was going to play for Creswell, but ultimately decided not to.

So what happens next? Is this the end of the boys volleyball program at Pleasant Hill for good?

When Spencer heard the news, he said, "I thought about my teammates, especially younger guys like Dallin [Bahen] who have really embraced volleyball [so much] it has become his favorite sport. In that moment, I wondered, 'What does this mean for the future of the program?' I can live with not playing volleyball again, but I hope this doesn't doom the program."

Although this year was unfortunately cut short, there is no reason the program could not continue in the future. According to Stearns, ""For next year, if folks are interested and we have enough people to safely feel the team, we're interested."

Ultimately, it's a game of numbers. Boys volleyball is still a relatively new sport, and across the state of Oregon, many schools are struggling with filling their rosters. Pleasant Hill is no exception. The game of numbers is unpredictable, because at the end of the day, it's up to us.

Energy drinks are a sort of poison

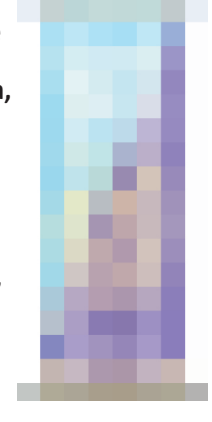
by Caleigh Poore

Energy drinks are bad for you!

They contain a high amount of caffeine and sugar which can cause heart palpitations, increased blood pressure, insomnia, and anxiety. Some of the chemicals in energy are also not good for you like guarana, taurine, and ginseng.

Sugary drinks can cause dental erosion. Energy drinks typically have high acidity combined with sugar to erode tooth enamel and which can lead to cavities.

Energy drinks are so popular due to a combination of aggressive, targeted marketing, and the need for quick, convenient energy boosts, and appealing, sweet flavors. Mr. Meinzen thinks that kids do not get enough sleep at night so energy drinks offer the stimulation to get through the school day.



It's a shame in art

By Nora Yath

I think one of the weirder things about Pleasant Hill Schools is the art classes. Unlike other schools, Pleasant Hill has a very fun and engaging art class, yet so many students end up not finishing their projects.

I think this is a real shame, not only because the art doesn't get finished, but also because many of the resources these students use can be quite pricey and the budget for the art class only goes so far, so many of these pricey items are often bought out of Ms. Jampolsky own pocket.

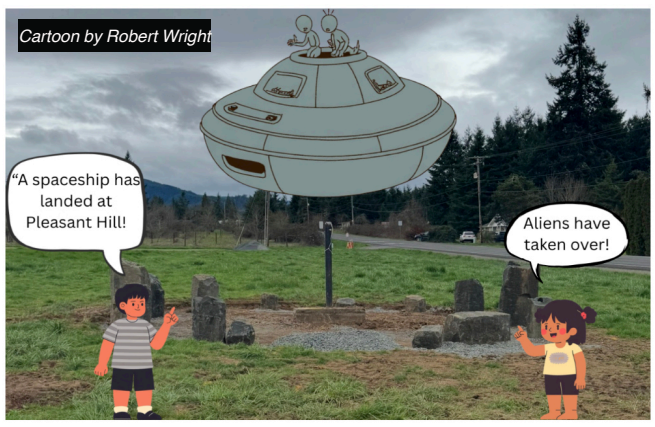
I believe that the main reason this happens is because many of the students who sign up for art think it is just some 'do whatever' class that they can mess around in without consequences. This mentality about the art room leads to many of the students being rather disrespectful to Ms. Jampolsky.

Ultimately this misbehavior demoralizes Ms. Jampolsky, which is greatly unfortunate because Jampolsky is a genius when it comes to art. She can create beautiful sketches on the spot and wants to help everyone, but with kids who don't care and don't respect the art room make life miserable for those kids who care about art and, most importantly, Ms. Jampolsky who pours her heart into helping us make art.

When Ms. Jampolsky was asked about her feelings on the topic she said, "It's frustrating, and sad, especially because I give so much freedom to create in this class."



Some of the creative creatures in progress outside MS. Jampolsky's Art room.



The Billie Bulletin is

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Eden Noe
Annaliegh Epperson
Seth Lebow
Spencer Smith
Locke Apker

AI Company rejected for its refusal to allow surveillance of Americans

By Mark Buchan

The Department of War is cutting ties with the AI company Anthropic. They designated them as a "supply chain risk," which pretty much means that they are not allowed to be used for military projects anymore. DOW attorneys during negotiations said, "Anthropic's behavior more generally caused the Department to question whether Anthropic represented a trusted partner with whom the department was willing to contract in this highly sensitive area."

Anthropic believes that the motive behind this was some of their models' safety limits. Their model, Claude, has a "constitution" listed on their website. It says that Claude should never:

Provide serious uplift to those seeking to create biological, chemical, nuclear, or radiological weapons with the potential for mass casualties.

Provide serious uplift to attacks on critical infrastructure (power grids, water systems, financial systems) or critical safety systems.

Create cyber-weapons or malicious code that could cause significant damage if deployed.

Engage or assist any individual or group with an attempt to seize unprecedented and illegitimate degrees of absolute societal, military, or economic control.

These hard limits would stop the military from creating things like weapons or surveillance networks. They also say that " It's crucial that we continue to be able to oversee model behavior and, if necessary, prevent Claude models from taking action." which eliminates the potential for creating anything fully autonomous (meaning without any human input).

So, if the government is cutting ties with a company because of their values, and those values are that you shouldn't use AI to create fully autonomous weapons networks, doesn't that pretty much confirm that the government is trying to create them?

BRING EM BACK: BANSHEES ARE THE BEST

By Kai Stapleton

The last time anyone bought a Yamaha Banshee in the U.S. was 2006. Banshees got discontinued because they had too much power and Yamaha didn't want to make two-strokes anymore. A two-stroke is a kind of motor that has a bigger pipe that allows the vehicle to go faster.But it pollutes like crazy. And it is loud.

Banshees should not be discontinued because they are one of the most modified quads ever, the fastest quads, and lightweight for more speed.I think Banshees are the most easily modified quad you can ever get. You could modify the motor to a crazy CC and you can chrome everything and polish. Also you can get bigger carbs, different bars, different plastics, and get a whole new frame and new radiator.

This all goes to show that Banshees are the most customizable. A popular user on Reddit wrote, 'The Yamaha Banshee is considered one of the most customizable ATVs ever made, boasting an "endless" aftermarket for performance, handling, and aesthetics.' (reddit). This quad is way more customizable than other quads in this sense.

Banshees are the fastest quad because someone can bore them [increase the width of the piston chamber]and add big carbs and you can add lightweight paddles and wheels. Also they are one of the most light quads you could make. You could probably pick one up with one hand Popular Youtuber That Racing Channel quotes the Banshee as, "UNDEFEATED Yamaha Banshee 0-60MPH IN 1 SECOND". This is faster than most sports cars. Due to its lightweight build, Banshees are incredibly fast.

Some people claim that Banshees are unsafe and that's why they were discontinued; however, Banshees are safe because They have a radiator in the front that keeps the motor cool so you won't burn yourself when you're going up Banshee Hill. The Banshee also has a kill switch so you can shut your quad off at any time.

Overall, Banshees were the most fun you could have on a quad due to their speed and customization potential. Some people think that they should be discontinued because they aren't safe, but they have the potential to be safe if customized properly by the owner. I think Banshees should come back to America!



Billies need drivers education classes here

By Laynie Reed

By the time it's your junior year and you've turned 16 and got your license; you finally get to drive to school. You get to pick a parking spot each morning and come out to lunch to eat or even drive to get something.

You feel so free and cool, but no one talks about how terrible of a driver you are. You can barely park without having to back out and repark. You cut people off and wait at a red light trying to turn right.

You really have no knowledge but just enough to somehow pass your test.

This is why we need to add a driving education class to school! Yes drivers ed is a thing but it takes so much time and money .

So why not take the new driving class in your very own school parking lot? This will prevent crashes and allow you to spend time parking just right so your friends no longer bully you.

You Aren't Sleeping Enough

Damaging our brains

by Kenzie Jensen

Have you ever thought about how much sleep you need?

Eleven and twelve year olds need nine to twelve hours of sleep. These nine to twelve hours of sleep per night helps support rapid physical growth, brain development, and emotional regulation. All these changes that are happening take energy. Energy can be fueled by sleep.

This is a very important time in our lives. We need to make sure we are getting enough sleep every day. But are 6th graders getting the sleep they need?! Let's hear from some 6th graders about their sleep habits!

First I interviewed Kallie Greene:

How many hours do you sleep on a school night?

"I get about 10 hours of sleep each night."

What prevents you from getting sleep?

"If I'm really stressed about something then it's hard to sleep."

Is there something that helps you fall asleep when you're not tired?

"I just pet my cat when I'm just chilling then I fall asleep."

Thinking back to a night when you didn't sleep well, did you have trouble in your classes the next day?

"I was tired in the morning then at the end of the day I just wanted to go home."

Next I interviewed Tucker Anthony:

How many hours do you sleep on a school night?

"I get 9 hours of sleep."

What prevents you from getting sleep?

"When I'm in a car I can't sleep."

Is there something that helps you fall asleep when you're not tired?

"I just close my eyes and lie down."

Thinking back to a night when you didn't sleep well, did you have trouble in your classes the next day?

"No, I was just sleepy, but I could still pay attention."

Then I interviewed Norah Thomas:

How many hours do you sleep on a school night?

"I get 10 hours of sleep on a normal day"

What prevents you from getting sleep?

"I can't sleep when I have a test the next day."

Is there something that helps you fall asleep when you're not tired?

"It helps for me to read or watch a show."

Thinking back to a night when you didn't sleep well, did you have trouble in your classes the next day?

I can zone out more easily and I have trouble paying attention."

Finally I interviewed Fiona Johnson:

How many hours do you sleep on a school night?

"Normally 9-10 hours."

What prevents you from getting sleep?

"When I try to sleep, my guinea pig starts squeaking, then I can't possibly fall asleep."

Is there something that helps you fall asleep when you're not tired?

"I turn on a sound machine that sounds like a cat purring!"

Thinking back to a night when you didn't sleep well, did you have trouble in your classes the next day?

"Not really."

Everyone has different strategies on how to get to sleep. You just need to find the right one and keep with it! Here are some strategies to help you out.

If you have trouble falling asleep, you should try these things: Remove all electronics at least one hour before bed. Instead, you could read, journal, listen to music, or even take a warm shower!

Another important method to help you sleep well is to use similar sleep and wake schedules on both weekdays and weekends to regulate your internal clock. If you do that it should be easier to wake up in the morning!

The Urge to Resist

By Eden Noe

People who resist AI are the dangerous ones.

AI is the newest, best thing for students to improve on their work. And recently, the push against it has been increasingly frightening.

How are students supposed to improve their skills without this century's most defining tool? Parents and teachers have banished AI use on students' essays. They call it “cheating”, but how is it cheating when it grows our learning? More importantly, our grades!

Students who strive to work without AI, whether it is by force or choice, are clearly and visibly struggling with keeping grades up. Homework is a struggle for them. Shouldn't we allow the only thing that is providing the next generation with a higher mark?

If you don't need AIs help, then great! But to those who appreciate its correcting and teaching ability, let them use it. After all, doesn't everyone say that A’s are the goal?

As a matter of fact, AI helps in all areas. Why read a book for example when you can just ask ChatGPT what the moral of the story is? Then you can use AI to write your assignment. Boom. Book report done.

AI can help adults too, if they'll let it. You can use it for taxes and work.

AI is this generation's biggest tool. Even if it decreases a human's thinking ability, at least your work is done.

The Redneck’s Chariot

By Locke Apker

All depictions in this article are merely comical and should not be taken seriously.

Morning at school now starts less with a bell and more with a rumble. A truck rolls in at 7:41am and the student body notices. The engine isn't just loud, it has attitude. Birds leave, people go silent, and Mr. Salmond's music is entirely drowned out. It’s like the truck is announcing its arrival to the entire school, demanding attention like a celebrity walking the red carpet.

When these big trucks roll into the school parking lot, they are so loud that they scare away all the nearby animals. It’s almost like the birds and squirrels know about the drivers’ frequent hunting trips, always ready for action in their full camouflage gear.

Oddly enough the contrast between these massive trucks and the drivers’ camo clothes suggesting the drivers want to blend in is ironic. These huge, grunting vehicles make sure they stand out.

Even with their camouflage, such folks can’t hide the covering of dust and dirt that shows signs of their outdoor adventures. They wear that dirt like a badge of honor, and their trucks carry the same dusty, muddy look as a trophy from their latest conquest.

Those conquests are the daily battles with puddles, potholes, and speed bumps that get ignored. The drivers claim they need their giant all-terrain trucks to handle this “rough terrain,” but it mostly looks like an excuse to tower over everyone else. Lift kits are apparently for looking down on smaller cars. Drivers were clearly taught that height equals respect. The bigger the truck, the more important the driver feels. They park like modern art, lines are merely suggestions. One space becomes an exhibit called "I Parked For Me."

To be fair, trucks can haul stuff. But most school cargo seems to be a backpack, some empty cans and a big ego. It is like showing up to paintball in full armor. Technically impressive, but confusing and unnecessary.

Maybe we compromise with a wider "big vehicle" row in the parking lot, a small noise limit, and a required parking test for all truck drivers so they can learn what lines are for. Big truck drivers, we see you, but please park with care, and maybe keep the volume down just a little.

All Too Well (10 page Essay Version)

By Jolie Heacock

Have you ever heard the song “Blank Space” by Taylor Swift? If so, you’ve heard the lyrics “I’ve got a blank space baby, and I’ll write your name.” A staple for school dances, games, the radio, and probably your Spotify Wrapped, Taylor Swift continues to stay relevant even after 20 years of a career. But, have you ever really thought about her lyrics?

Though haters may dislike her extreme popularity, you can’t argue that she has striking artistic creativity. Taylor’s lyrics to her songs, especially in the albums “The Tortured Poets Department” and “evermore” were claimed as the “Most Poetic Lyrics of the 21st Century,” according to DEF News. Along with this accomplishment, her 13 Grammys may also be a sign to her songwriting and singing talents.

If you’ve ever taken an English class, you may have studied either poetry or prose. Studying Shakespeare’s sonnets, Maya Angelou’s poems, or Edgar Allen Poe’s pieces is common in most high school English classes. In a recent nationwide poll, students say that English class is one of their least favorites. Pleasant Hill Student Eden Noe says “I wish English classes made more connections to the real world. I feel like the novels we read and the essays we write don’t relate to anything we’ll use in the future.”

Ms. Bonaventure, who is one of the English teachers at Pleasant Hill, took this issue to the school board. They realized the issue, and agreed strongly with the poll. In order to fix this problem, Mr. Reiersgaard had the idea of adding a fun and different English class. Lately, a new class has been popping up around the country, especially in the South. It is called “Era Studies” and it discusses the lyrics and formatting in Taylor Swift songs, while analyzing them for meaning.

This will be a one semester class and will count for dual credit at Lane Community College. In order to achieve dual credit, you must pass a test grilling you on her lyrics. Test takers nationwide found the most featured albums were “The Tortured Poets Department” and “Midnights: the 3am Edition”. College Now is attempting to add more artistically creative classes both to their curriculum and ours.

This class can also be taught in an AP format. “AP Era Studies” was rumored to be one of the hardest AP exams. According to CollegeBoard specialist Serena Johnson, “The AP test for AP Era Studies is one of the hardest AP exams we’ve ever offered. So few kids managed to pass. As a team, we are thinking about lowering our standards. Nationwide, we only had 3 kids get a 5 on the exam.” Pleasant Hill, even though we are just adding this class now, are reluctant to add it as an AP class.

Now, a Taylor Swift class may sound laughable and absurd. However, looking at the classes we teach at Pleasant Hill; including many classes based in Agriculture and Wood/Metals, we lack fun and different classes, especially those with real world applications. The addition of a Taylor Swift class will bring in many Swifties and non-Swifties alike.

Spencer Smith, who is a big fan of Taylor Swift, says “Man, I wish I wasn’t graduating so I could take this class. It sounds amazing. Except I hate women.” Another classmate, Kaylee Johnson, who is not a Taylor Swift fan, says “I think it sounds really fun, and I might take it for some dual credit. However, I hope we don’t have to listen to a ton of her songs.”

Whether you hate her or love her, you can’t deny she’s a lyrical mastermind. If you’ve never taken an innovative English class, “Era Studies” may be the one for you!

Study Finds 90% of Group Project Work Done by One Stressed-Out Student

By *Zia Jones*

A study in the prestigious Journal of School Education determined that “90% of group project work is done by one stressed-out student.”

Zia Jones agreed saying "in every group project Mr. Pritikin gives us, I get stressed out. Kids choose me as their partner because I get the job done. The other three lazy louts don’t do any work and still get the grade I earned. I detest that.”

EB Wilburger agreed. “I am the one who cares enough to make sure we follow the rubric. The other kids merely talk and look busy when the teacher is around.”



Written by Josiah Houck

Construction of a megalith to the “all spirit” of the school is the purpose of Meinzen’s new stone circle reported documents.

Over the many years of Pleasant Hill being open we have had a plethora of teachers and staff leave this school for retirement, many of which were beloved by their fellow staff and the students they taught.

But all of them, and I mean all of them, have never had the idea to ever build something so massive in haste of their absence. Lots of them have pictures, framed memorials, or plaques to commemorate them in a sweet way.

But the megolith, this is above that.

Meinzen is not just building a monument to restore the school’s sign and leave something lasting for himself. Instead, in a giant act of egomania, Meinzen wants to honor his legacy at this great school, with a monument to what he calls the great “all spirit" of the school.

This “all spirit” is the reason that Mr. Meinzen is one of the few practitioners of the faith known as *teh onka sona* which is an ancient tradition and has been practiced for many thousands of years.

Mr. Salmond says that he is concerned about this and suspicious of Meinzen. Others speculate that denials aside, he and Meinzen are in cahoots with the alumni of past years to construct a spirit portal underneath the stones. When the portal gets activated there will be a great event in the school’s history when “all spirit” makes their return to earth.

Officially, Meinzen denies this categorically.

Pranking *ranking*

By Clara Price and Addison Woodland

Pranks can be found throughout the centuries. Consider these famous pranks:spaghetti tree, the panda disguise, unicorns on the moon, and so many more. I’m here to rank the pranks, gags, and jokes ranging from the years 1698-2009. Coming in at 5th place is the “pandas in disguise” prank that took place on April first, 2009.

The newspaper “The Taipei Times” reported a panda sent in from China, was “acting strangely.” Then the Times reported that it was only a grizzly bear painted like a panda. This, of course, was a prank, and not real. Even though it was a prank, people didn’t think it was funny, this is why its only ranked at number 5

<u>In 4th place</u> we have the “unicorns on the moon prank.” In 1835, the the New York Sun published a story, that claimed that unicorns, streams, and vegetation, were found on the moon. This article fooled almost everyone who read it. Even With no proof, people still believed the story to be true. That demonstrates that people can believe anything that comes from a “trustworthy” source. This hoax was believed for many weeks, until the newspaper was pressured into revealing it was fake by a rival newspaper.

<u>The 3rd place</u> stop goes to the washing of the lions! This officially started in 1698, that just consisted of the people who lived in London telling tourists to go to the washing of the lions in the Tower of London palace moat. This prank took an elaborate turn when "invitations" got sent to hundreds of people, telling them to enter through the “white gate”. The white gate, unfortunately, is not a real place, confusing a lot of people.

I<u>n 2nd place</u> we have, War of the Worlds.This trick took place on October 30, 1938. The prank was a radio broadcast, based on the book by H.G. Wells, “War of worlds.” This broadcast caused mass panic when a very real program described the attack of Martians. The radio station even hired voice actors to be “witnesses.People across the country heard the broadcast,and thought it was real. A lot of people panicked and called the police, ran out into the streets from their houses, and one woman even ran into a church, and reported that New York had been destroyed.

And finally, in <u>1st place,</u> we have, spaghetti harvesting! On April 1st 1957, there was a news broadcast that showed a swiss family “harvesting” spaghetti from trees and drying it in the sun, and people believed it! The news station got many calls that asked how to get, or grow their own spaghetti tree! The news station kept the prank going, telling the callers to put a sprig of spaghetti in a can of tomato sauce and hope for the best. There weren't many people who knew how spaghetti was made.

Cancel Club Gets Canceled

By Spencer Smith

Eugene's popular national influencer group "The Cancel Club" has been officially canceled by its founder, Lamantha Wakeforest. Following a week-long deliberation period, Wakeforest announced on Instagram that "The Cancel Club has been canceled," lacking any supporting information usually included in the description following a canceling.

"Canceling" refers to the act of publicly denouncing and boycotting figures for their acts, past or present. The Cancel Club was created to serve that purpose in March of 2020. This very exclusive 9-person club met weekly to discuss figures deserving of canceling. Known for their cult-like "cancelation rituals" and strict policies, the Cancel Club acted as the de facto supreme court of the internet. They regularly denounced celebrities and figures for their questionable acts or past mistakes with no mercy.

Following his cancellation, Pleasant Hill rapper Fresh Baby had this to say: "I'm honored... Do you have any idea what this is gonna do for my street cred??"

Seth Lebow, a local student, once was overheard saying "This school would be better without Mexican,"but all he was talking about was disdainful feelings toward nachos and tacos in the school lunchroom.

Locke Apker, fresh off a rampage in New York, stated "We really should stop letting women in here," but all he was talking about was the boy's locker room.

These misunderstandings did not diminish the Cancel Club's issued punishments. All those who have been canceled have been effectively silenced on the internet and ostracized by peers.

Wakeforest has remained silent following her post disbanding the Cancel Club.

Middle on Mars?

By Pepper Gottfried

The Billie Bulletin has learned the federal government and Elon Musk will be building a middle and high school on MARS.

NASA researcher Viola Radishio said "I heard my mom on a call with the head of the school board (Drew Gottfried) that the US and Elon Musk will be building a middle and high school on the planet Mars."

This special school will be for the kids that have all A's and 100% or more in their classes. "We want only the brainiest of kids on the red planet" said Gottfried, a local talent contractor in his spare time.

If you do not get enrolled at our Pleasant Hill Crater Academy do not feel bad. There will be a limit of 100 kids at the middle school and 130 at the high school. Radischio reported that only 100 middle school kids and 130 high school kids will be eligible.

Radischio is very concerned about the matter, which I completely understand because her mom will be moving to the Pleasant Hill Crater Academy. In addition Ms. Moch, Ms. McCool, Mr. Tendick and Mr. Meinzen were chosen for the new school.

Now you know the real reason Mr. Meinzen is leaving our school, and when confronted he denied all of it. As for Moch, McCool, Tendick all expressed a sort of far away look when deflecting the question.

Please know that we all have many concerns about this matter, if you do as well please consult Pepper Gottfried or Violet Raschio and we will take your questions to the head school board.

Punch the Monkey adopted by local woman

By Arianna Bowman

If you have never heard of Punch, let me fill you in: Punch is a motherless baby monkey whom no mother would adopt. He is a Japanese macaque that was put into a huge cage for people to watch with a bunch of other monkeys in a zoo in Japan.

All the other monkeys hated Punch, for no good reason. They would beat and batter him until he just ran away with his stuffy. All he wanted was a little love. So the zoo keepers gave him a stuffed animal that he would snuggle and sleep with.

Punch and this stuffed animal have been together through thick and thin. All the other monkeys have been bullying Punch, so he needed an escape. So this is where we are now.

Punch got adopted out to a local woman and animal caregiver, Angela White. Punch and his baby stuffy are at her ranch right now. So go on and see them. But bring some money, Mrs. White is charging. It's 5 bucks to go meet him so run and get your tickets.



School places gps trackers on students who say they'll "do it later"

By Emerie Martin

Pleasant Hill has come to the conclusion that students are no longer taking accountability for their missing assignments. Students tend to say, "I'll finish it tonight" or "I'll do it at lunch" yet when the time comes, no completed assignment is to be found.

Mr. Reiersgaard announced at a recent School Board meeting that, "We are implementing discipline in these young students. Procrastination is a bad habit, and it needs to be broken."

Reiersgaard then presented a student GPS tracker, which is clipped onto each student before school ends at 3:10. The GPS tracker then alerts administrators when the student is at their house, and hasn't moved for a while.

The administrators then come to a conclusion that the student is being lazy or sleeping, asleep, doomscrolling on Tiktok, or overall just ignoring their assignments.

The GPS trackers have a built-in electrical system, which will administer a shock to the student.

"When we are alerted that the student is using valuable schoolwork time to sleep, we will send an electrical shock through the GPS to students to shock the student."

Principal in waiting, Alan Stearns, declared the new rule during an assembly.

Stearns said that "this method is proven to work, and will shock-train the student to finish their assignments. "

Staff are excited. "We are very excited to bring this to our school, and are hoping to see improved grade results" said Mr. Neill.

"Discipline is key for character development, and this will surely bring discipline," said Mr. Dube.



The lovely people who feed and care for us. Josie Holley, Phyllicia Bagwell, Heather Anderson, Wanda , Jennifer Martin

Doom and Despair in PE

by Darren Soper and Jay Griffith

"For far too long PE has been seen as a "fun" and "enjoyable" class. The intent of PE is to physically educate people," said PE teacher, Caleb Wilson.

Wilson said he has had enough of the coddling of our students and has announced he is creating a new addition to our curriculum which he calls, "The Mile of Doom and Despair." He said that "this is what exercising should be."

We questioned Wilson more about this new prerequisite for passing base physical education. "What even is a Mile of Doom and Despair?" He responded with a grim smile.

The Mile of Doom and Despair pushes students to their limits. The Mile of Doom and Despair has students run one mile around the track. During every lap the students have to drink 1 quart of milk. They can't stop sprintiig, no walking, no jogging, only sprinting."

We wanted to hear the reaction of Wilson's students who would be the first batch to undergo this new PE final. We approached Dominik Hammond-Mendez in the main gym. "I'm scared guys..." He replied, quivering.

On the other side of the room was Tevin Craig, who had beads of sweat on his forehead. He was sitting down with his backpack still firmly stuck to his back. He hadn't moved an inch all class.

"Are you feeling ok Kev? You're not looking so hot!"

"I don't know if I'm going to make it guys." We could hear the fear in his voice.

That morning my partner and I stormed into the main gym commanding Mr. Wilson to reveal himself. Our eyes were met with the monstrous gaze of Mr. Wilson.

"If you think you can stop my plan from coming to fruition, you would be more of a fool than I had taken you for,' said Mr. Wilson.

After returning to school from getting a new pair of undergarments from my house, my partner and I walked into class ready to publish our story about Mr. Wilson's new final and how the school needs to stop this ordeal. As we walked in we were met with an unexpected surprise: Mr. Reiersgaard and Mr. Stearns both sat facing the door as we walked in. "Have a seat" they said.

"You two are expelled." Mr. Reiersgaard said, his facial expression unchanged.

"What did we do?" We yelled with anger and surprise.

"This is not something to be debated." Mr. Stearns boomed, before they both rose from their seats and exited the room.

So, this is officially our last ever Billie Bulletin, but we implore you to survive the changes that will rein over this school and to never question the authority of your PE teacher.

THE PEPPER PROBLEM!

By Violet Raschio

The most controversial person on campus is Pepper Gottfried She's been known to say things that most people would run from and scream at.

For example Paisley gave Pepper a large butter squishy and she responded with "you could do so many inappropriate things with this butter" I asked Pepper why she was so crazy. She responded with "that's what she said." It's too bad. I fear that Pepper will be in trouble when she is older and has kids, because they will inherit her dreaded genes and not be able to hold a conversation without bringing the awful, dreadful, scary "that's what she said" into it.

You may ask why Pepper is so inappropriate and I will answer that. It is because she was in juvie and escaped. She got put in juvie for stealing a bulldozer and rolling over a small flower shop.

During the process, she also sideswiped the owner who was an 89 year old woman in the accident. When she got down and realized what she had done she just started doom scrolling. As soon as the cops got there Pepper started yelling and said no one understood her and the cops soon realized that Pepper needed to be put in solitary confinement!

This is where it truly started. She was there for a month with only her thoughts and a spoon. She used the spoon to dig through the wall and that is how she escaped and ended up here.

So now you know why Pepper is such a problem in our society and be warned.

Sports

page designed by Josie Heacock

March Madness Season is Back

By Colton Carey

Around this time of year, people all across the U.S. have and have enjoyed the action-filled March Madness tournament. Before the tournament began, people had spent a lot of time filling out their brackets and gambling on wagers for what teams would do the best throughout the tournament. The four #1 seeded teams were Duke, Michigan, Arizona, and Florida. The top favorites of winning the tournament were Duke, Michigan, and Arizona. However, Teams such as Florida and Houston have been closely behind the leaders.

Many people also have wondered what "Cinderella teams" could make a deep tournament run. Teams such as Santa Clara, VCU, Northern Iowa, Akron, and California Baptist were the top candidates of having an unprecedented tournament run.

Each year, March Madness would always have several upsets and a couple teams that would make deep playoff runs. This year, teams like Ohio State, Wisconsin, North Carolina, BYU, and Georgia have suffered first round losses to lower ranked seeded teams. As the Final Four draws near, people have been shocked about the early upsets and the unexpected tournament runs by some of the lower ranked teams. Teams like High Point, VCU, Texas, and Saint Louis have all upset their first round opponents and have made great tournament runs as they've all at least made it to the second round.

March Madness has always been full of close games, huge upsets, and unexpected tournament runs by at least a couple teams. Each year, people across America would always watch the bracket reveal, put down what teams would do well, and await themselves for the tournament to start. From the opening tip-off of the first game to the final shot of the championship game, people are always stoked about the intense matchups they get to watch throughout the tournament.

This is what college basketball is all about during the month of March, the intense plays, the excitement from the crowd, and what teams could come out with an amazing tournament run.

Track is at the blocks

by Michelle Hammond-Mendez

In 6th grade I found my love for track. I joined track and began to run the 1500 meters and the 4X100 meter races.The 1500 is a little over 3 laps, and the 4x1 is only 100 meters. I like to run and am pretty good at it, but what are other kids doing?

Josiah Houck, who competes in Field competitions admitted , "it would be fun to play. The events I am going to do are shot put, javelin. and my goal is to be proficient in both events"..

Riley Jordan said, "I am doing track to get faster for basketball. The events I want to do are 100 meter sprint, long jump, 4x1 relay. I am also thinking about doing the 1500 and my goal is to get a PR in the 100 meter and long jump."

Marley Meyers said, " I am fast and I want to stay in shape. The events I am doing are the 100 meter, 100 meter hurdles, and the 200 meter sprint. My goal is to get the dub."

Violet Raschio said she does track "Because it is fun and I did it last year. I am going to do the 800 meter, 100 meter, 200 meter, and the 4x1. My goal is to get a PR in the 800."

OSAA Conference Realignment

By Liam Sprague and Tyson Humphrey

OSAA's realignment of conference's makes no sense! The Pleasant Hill High School sports teams play in the Oregon School Activities Association(OSAA).

The OSAA has 6 different leagues which are 1-6A. The higher the number the more people go to that school. The Billies are 3a and have 302 kids in the school. Now if we went over the limit of 310 then we would have to go up to 4a. This past year OSAA did some conference realignment for next season and there were some major changes. In 3a the Billies play in the Mountain Valley Conference which this year consisted of Pleasant Hill, Creswell, Harrisburg, Elmira, Sisters and La Pine. For this upcoming season Harrisburg and Elmira are no longer in our league. You may be asking yourself why it wasn't Sisters or La Pine? Well Elmira had too many students to stay in 3a so they had to go to 4a while Harrisburg went to a league in 3a that's farther north. Now you may be wondering who joined our league. Well Sweet Home, a former 4a school, came down and Trinity Lutheran, a 2a school from Bend joined our league.

Sweet Home is around an hour away from Pleasant Hill. They most recently played in the Oregon 4a west league and have around 300 people in their school. Joining them is Trinity Lutheran, a private school from Bend, Oregon which takes 3 hours to drive to. Trinity Lutheran could actually still be in 2a but they are the reigning 2a basketball state champions, so they probably want new competition. It should be fun to play some new faces in our Billie athletics! We hope you come to some Billie sporting events next year and know why we play teams so far away.


Wyatt Krauss, a sophomore


Nolan Perkins, sophomore


Gabe VanOrdstrand, junior



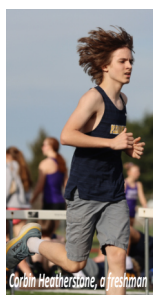

Clara Weyand, a freshman, starting her leg pass to Ryan with a 5:32 for the 1500


Gage Roper, a junior, ran a 4.12 in the 1500 at Oregon Relays


Ryan Thomas, Jolie Heacock, Soleis Jones, and Isabel Hammond-Mendez make up our 400x1 relay team. They set the school record this season with a 50.1 sec time at Oregon Relays!


Knox Meyers celebrates with his teammate at the Willamette opening meet


Kwinn Haley, a freshman


Corbin Heathersone, a freshman




The boys finished in 6th place at the state tournament. They ended their league season 10-0.

World Cup 2026

By Juan Contreras Jeronimo

People sitting around the TV, people in the stadium, and billions of people around the world, cheering for their nation in the greatest sport in the world: Football (not that football, but what Americans call soccer).The World Cup has come to North America.

People are fanatical about their country's team in the World Cup.Every 4 years, the World Cup takes place. Countries around the world compete for spots in the world cup. After that countries national teams compete to win the World Cup. Countries unite, streets filled with fans, families gathering around the tv, all watching with anticipation, ready to cheer for a goal.

This year the world cup will be hosted in the US, Canada, and Mexico, allowing us to have a chance to watch in person! Because of this I got curious and wondered if any of the teachers watched or even knew what the world cup was, this is what I got.

"Ms Messersmith says, it is the best soccer tournament in the world, and it's fun to watch with friends, more fun to watch in Spanish."

"Mr Neill says he's super excited to see the world cup. He had fun, and said that with the Women's World Cup, he and his family had fun by joining in pools and tracking their losses and wins."

With the world cup right around the corner, I'm super excited, who will be able to talk about these matches!

But now with a basic introduction to the World Cup, let me tell you a little more. The top contenders for this world cup are Spain, and France.

With Spain being the top 1 ranked men's national team in the world right now! With the likes of Lamine Yamal, Pedri and Ferran Torres, in their offensive positions. And also having a strong defensive team many people have Spain as their winners already!

And as for France they are a powerhouse from top to bottom, no matter how you assess their squad or talent pool. Every position is filled multiple times over with proven quality and bankable star power. Even with Kylian Mbappe (France's star player) recovering from injury, they were able to win 5 of the required wins to qualify for their spot in the World Cup with ease.

Personally, I will always root for Mexico, even though I know the team isn't the best, every 4 years, I always wish for them to go to the final 4, that's enough to make me happy!

Now talking about so much soccer, and if you're still reading that must mean you're hooked! Let's talk about the schedule of this year's World Cup. The tournament will kick off on Thursday the 11th of June! Mexico v South Africa, which will be a fun match to watch to start this year's tournament!

There will be many games happening almost every single day from countries' national teams from all over the world! From June 11th to July 19th a Sunday, where the World Cup has its final game, determining the world's best Football team!


The girls finished their league season 6-4, and made it to the state tournament

Fun Detected in Other Classes!

By Aubrey Driessnack

Are you tired of the same old routine? It turns out that some of our fellow students are having a blast in some of their classes, like welding, art, woodshop, and others.

Bridget Starr, reports, “Welding.” That’s right, while some of us are struggling to keep our pencils sharp, Bridget wields a torch and loves creating masterpieces out of metal. Sparks are flying (safely, of course) and so are the creative ideas!

But it’s not just about melting metal. Emily says her favorite part is the “hands-on experience.” like in biology, when they get to do labs, or in mrs. Boughs where there is a lot of fun learning about health. Forget about learning from a textbook—students are rolling up their sleeves and diving right in.

And if you think creativity is just for art class, Bryson begs to differ. He loves “the ability to be creative” in his classes. Whether it’s building, designing, or problem-solving some fun, students love the hands on

So next time you’re feeling a little bored, remember: there’s a world of fun happening just down the hall. Maybe it’s time to join in, get your hands dirty, and see what all the excitement is about. Who knows? You might just discover your new favorite class, or new favorite hobby!

Henna makes for great designs

Written by Jazzy Mohamed and Paighton Race



Have you ever wanted those stick-on tattoos to last longer? Well henna is the solution to that problem.

Henna is a type of leaf that you blend to make a mixture that you can eventually use to make a red paste. This tattoo is not permanent, like the ones you imprint onto your body, or the one you stick-on using water.

Henna is a paste that comes in like a thin bag, and then you squeeze it to make a design on your skin. It usually stays on for a week, maybe an extra day. If you want to get rid of it earlier than that you have to keep washing your hands. Then it will eventually fade away.

When you squeeze it onto your hand the color is brownish, and when it dries you have to scratch it off. Then give it a day it will get darker and you will see a red pattern on your hand. Red is like the only color that there is, but I did hear that there's also a gold kind that you can use on your skin and it will appear gold.

I hope you learned something about henna and try it sometime in your life.

School Board Decides We only Need One Door

by Charlotte Carlson

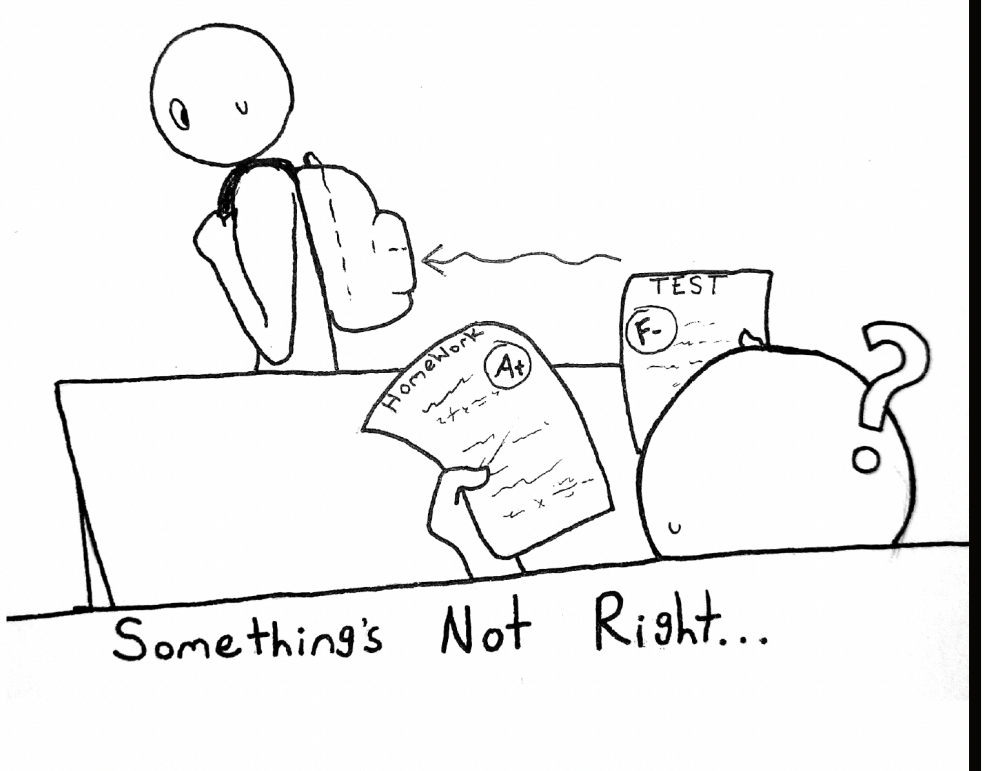
The school board made a decision at the latest board meeting. Here's the tea.

Apparently, the doors cost more than we think. Our funding has been going down, BUT! They have made an executive decision to get rid of one of the school entrance doors! Now, instead of the confusion of what door to enter or exit, there will only be one door and only one way!

I asked two kids how they feel about the doors currently, and here are their answers. Emma Phillip said, “It’s so weird with the two doors, but they help keep the bathroom separated, so.” So it looks like it has its ups and downs! Grace Bradfelt said, “They’re fine, but they need to be open during lunch!” I agree.

Seems like kids think it'll be crowded, but still okay!

Cartoon by Greta Gramzow





Local doctors decide they’ve had enough with explaining to their unhappy patients their 12 year process they took to get here and are relieving them of *their* stress by letting them make their own adult decisions and seeing what happens!

Has autism increased among us?

Analysis by Mark Buchan

No. Or well, kind of yes? The answer is a little nuanced.

Over the past 20 years, the number of autism diagnoses has gone up by around 300%. If you just looked at that statistic, you might think that there is another factor making more people autistic.

You would be wrong. The number of diagnoses doesn’t necessarily correlate to the number of people who fit the criteria for ASD; it’s just the number of people who get diagnosed.

In other words, people are pretty much the same, the difference being more people get diagnosed based on several other factors. One of the biggest factors is the reclassification of several conditions (like Asperger’s and Pervasive Developmental Disorder) to be considered ASD.

Another reason more people get diagnosed is because of increased public awareness and acceptance of autism. More people know about it, and so more people will see the signs in themselves and/or their relatives. It is also more socially acceptable (though maybe not as much as it should be) to be autistic. This naturally means that more people will go and get diagnosed.

So, contrary to what some people would want to tell you, there is no “autism epidemic.” The rise in people who are diagnosed ASD is the natural progression of increased medical and social understanding.

Cats are wayyyyy better than dogs

By Paisley Crawford

People say that dogs are better than cats but I completely disagree.

For starters, dogs can bark incessantly and make you go crazy. Dogs run around and get the ‘zoomies.’ They get in your way to make you trip over them and they shriek when you step on their paws.

But cats are quiet,snuggle buddies which can calm things down. Cats love to sleep, sometimes ALL the time. So you can have chill moments. But I will admit that cats catch many critters like birds, mice, snakes and other small animals if they are outdoor cats.

Dogs are needy. They always want you to pet them. Cats can be more independent. . Another thing with dogs is that they whine all the time for stuff, food, water, going out, and petting them.

But cats mind their own business and love on you till you have no hands!

Some people like both animals. As for me, I choose cats over dogs.

Beagles are the best

By Ember.Lenhart

Let’s talk about beagles.

Specifically my beagle, a fun fact, did you know beagles can smell pregnancy?! A beagle named Elvis was famously trained to detect pregnancy in polar bears at zoos. Let's start with my beagle who’s name is Fitz Fitz is a bit crazy but also a great pet. First Beagle’s have a great sense of smell. They will sniff everything and anything.

Second Beagles LOVE food. You can not hide food from these rascals. You will NEVER eat another meal in peace. These little crazies will try to steal your food at every turn.

Fourth, beagles are super mischievous—especially if there is food involved.

Fifth, they are incredibly stubborn and hard to train.

Fitz is a few years old and loves that any time you sit down to do computer work or watch a show he will get in your face and whine.

Also any time I sit down to eat he will not stop whining. Fitz has what my family and I call his “rocket booster” legs(pretty much his back legs) allow him to jump super high. He will get almost anything off the counter even if it’s in the middle of the counter.

Despite being annoying sometimes he is still amazing and I love him and we are both chaotic and so am I, so we fit together well.

Supernova in April

Your Name: Seth Lebow

It's been four years of knowing, not silence, not guessing, not hidden away. You've heard every truth in my voice and you still chose a different way

I watched you with him, not because I don't understand, but because understanding doesn't stop the ache of an outstretched hand

You're a supernova, not in the way people say it just to impress. I mean it in the way your eyes hold light that makes the whole world less. They burn, they shine, they pull me in, like something I can't outrun. If every light went out at one, you'd still outshine the sun

You walk into rooms and darkness folds. I've seen it happen. I swear it's true. And somehow, without even trying, you lit up the worst parts of me too

That's the part that hurts the most. Not that you don't see me there, but that you do, and still I'm left as something you don't choose to share

The showers of April keep falling from my eyes, quiet, steady, night by night, Not loud enough for the world to hear, but enough to drown the light

Still, they say April turns to May. That rain makes way for something new. Maybe flowers will bloom where this pain has lived, though I can't picture life past you

And maybe when the music plays and the lights hang low and gold, I'll learn how to stand without wishing you were there

But if not, if nothing changes, if I'm still caught in your glow, I'll keep loving you like starlight, because I don't know how to let go.

Back then

by Finn Bascom & Merrick Garrett

Have you ever thought about what it was like to be a kid back in the 1980s ?

Then have you wondered how kids have changed and why?

After listening to stories from my parents and grandparents, I feel like there has been a huge shift.

Mrs. Beth McCool said that "over the years that she has taught, socially kids are way more aware of trends and information because of social media.Technology has also introduced behavior problems in the classroom. In other ways with technology enhanced learning improvement such as listening to music. There has also been a decline of work ethic and work load" over the years."

McCool had more compassion for others and are more able to persevere now. Mrs. Cindy Fitzpatrick said that "discipline has changed and kids are more naughty. The work has changed, back then you had to do it the same day, now you can get it in the same week." She thinks kids are less respectful now.

Bossy Older Siblings

By Emma Phillips and Paisley Moncrief

"Get out of my room." "Stop annoying me!"

Do you think it's annoying to have an older sibling?

Well we do. What do your siblings do to annoy you? This is what a few students said:

Ayvalynn Anderson said "My siblings always rage bait me, but when they want me to do something they act like the sweetest person.....but they're not."

Now we will ask Jordan Johnson. He said "they beat me,turn my lights on and off for no reason, and be super annoying."

This is what Lucy Smith said "they never listen to me, always singing and always use my stuff without asking, very moody."

Now we will talk about what we think. Our siblings always act like they can control us and everything we do. They also love to lie to our parents when they know they are wrong.

That's why we think having older siblings is not fun some of the time.

High School - A daunting task for all of us

By Jace Hightower

I am interviewing my favorite high school student, Jordyn Hightower. She also happens to be my sister. And I am interviewing a friend, Kamryn Greene.

How do you survive high school?

Jordyn Hightower: "I definitely learned new tricks and tips every year so I kind of just take from previous years and over time I build those as habits that help me continue. As I learn new things I kind of break them into habits so it helps me stay focused."

I asked Kamdyn Greene "his tips" and he said "Maintaining a good GPA."

Then I asked them Is high school easy or difficult?

Jordyn Hightower said "I think it depends on the person whether high school is easier or more difficult. I definitely say I've had some rough patches in my high school career, but it's definitely what works for you and how things go."

When I asked Kamdyn Greene the same thing he said "school is pretty easy if you pay attention."

Then I asked them how high school is going?

Jordyn said "As a senior I definitely have a lot on my plate but I've been finding strategies to help keep everything maintained."

Kamdyn said "Going pretty good."

Then I asked them "What advice would you give 8th graders to be successful in high school? "

Jordyn said "With the new phone ban something I've learned that just overall I've been doing for a while is having a to-do list. Whenever I have an assignment or I haven't finished it and I know I need to work on it again. I wrote it in my to-do list. As I completed it I crossed it out and I turned it in."

"So it definitely helps me keep track of the amount of work and assignments. You have to utilize your time as well as inappropriate intervals. That means working on things during lunch. It's worth missing certain things. I also ask for help.I know it feels sometimes like you're a bother when you're asking for help but that's what the teachers here are for and they're happy to help."

Parents everywhere!!

by Jaycee.Holley

Do you have a parent who works at your school? Well I do and I will be talking about my mom. She works in the lunch room at our school and her name is Josie Holley or commonly known as "Jaycee's mom" or Joseph's mom and sometimes Joanna's mom. She works in the kitchen with her friends and other lovely lunch ladies Phyllicia Price and Wanda Wilson

She is the best at her job and makes the food better with her secret ingredients: love and joy. I I asked my brother Joseph Holley, he's a senior and my sister Joanna Holley, she's a sophomore and I'm a 7th grader. Here is what we said.

Joseph said he likes how he can go and talk to her when she does not pick up the phone and he can get extra food at lunch. Joanna said that we can see Mom everyday if we need something. We can just go talk to her and all of our friends like her so they like to go up and talk to her. Everyone likes our mother, which is pretty cool. She makes really good lunches even though we have state regulations. Also she welcomes kids to talk to her if they need anything. Also, we can go to the kitchen to get our food so we don't have to wait in the long line. Then I asked what her favorite lunch was and she said "cheeseburgers."I love having her there because I love seeing her every day. The one downside is that my friends might like her more than me.

I asked a few kids what their favorite school lunch is and the most popular breakfast was sausage and french toast, biscuits and gravy and parfait and favorite lunch is cheese burgers, popcorn chicken and mini corn dogs and mac and cheese and chicken wings.

Sixth Sense? Fashion

by Annaleigh Epperson

Many kids claim to have good fashion sense, but today I will be putting that to the test. Eliza Anderson (10) has agreed to be my subject , and she dresses like a baller so...

I started by asking her a few easy questions.

"What is one word you would use to describe how you dress?"

"The one word I would say is probably, quickly. Most mornings are not very planned out, but there are times when I try to get an outfit set out, or just in my mind have an idea," said Eliza.

It's quite amazing that Eliza can pick an outfit out in a moment's notice and still get dozens of compliments.

"I really like shoes because they add a fun touch, but also I like my glasses even if they are just a tad nerdy...it's interesting how glasses have expanded these years and more people seem to be getting "eye problems,'' responded Anderson when asked what her favorite item of clothing is.

Glasses, particularly blue light glasses, have become hot this year. Though some people don't have a choice whether to wear them, others wear them as a fashion statement even without eye issues.

My last question for Eliza was:

"What is one fashion item you really wish you had?"

"I like a more chill vibe, so maybe more shoes, or beachy/skater clothes," said Eliza.

Fashion is constantly changing, and something that was popular last week may be uncool the next. Just wear what you want and own it!

Dead animals laying all around

By Jolene Pierzina

Dead animals laying all around might be gross to some people, but I don't think it's gross at all. My dad, Josh Pierzina, has done taxidermy my whole life growing up so it is normal for me.

Why does he do taxidermy? To bring trophies "back to life" and to preserve it for life. The steps in taxidermy are as follows:

The first step is to have a customer come in with their animals. Then my dad gets all the information he needs like their name, phone number, hunter ID and what they want done with their animal. From there, my dad will skin and flesh and salt the cape (the hide) then he will tan the cape, take measurements of the cape and order the foam mannequin for the animal. Then he puts it all together and it has to dry for a couple of weeks. After it dries he then air brushes and grooms the fur. My dad's talking takes a long time because he loves to talk and is very careful.

Tips: say you're in a rush and what will get the job done quicker? My dad, every once in a while, will let me help.

Bears, mountain lions and bobcats have to be checked in at the Oregon department of Fish and Wildlife office 'to make sure they are approved'. If approved ODFW will give you a seal with a number on it before my dad can take it in.

He has been doing taxidermy for 11 years. He owns his own business Tines Up Taxidermy Some of the most difficult projects he has worked on was a life-sized mountain lion and a longhorn cow.

The Best of and the worst of SIBLINGS

By Camryn Carey, Pippa Hammond and Riley Jordan

Have you ever wondered how your siblings feel about their place in the family?

Maybe not, but there is always a bit of jealousy about how your sibling is being treated compared to yourself. Whether it's extra chores for one, the other easily getting out of requirements, or the older sibling expected to be more responsible, siblings might sometimes feel like their treatment by their parents is unfair. After interviewing a few people around the school, we've realized that a bunch of siblings, both the youngest and the oldest, view that the other is the favorite.

There are pros and cons to being the youngest siblings. The oldest sibling might have a reputation for being "Lazy, the favorite, having excuses or always stealing clothes." The list goes on.

But what's the truth about youngest siblings?

Michelle Hammond- Mendez said "we get math answers." "My brother has notebooks of his past math classes."

Older siblings might be able to drive. Now that's key. You have to go watch the older sibling go hang out with their friends whenever, quick shopping runs and things you might miss out on. And yes, as a younger sibling, you will be left behind. You might often be called the "baby of the family." Older siblings might have to "baby sit you" or "steal all your food." I feel like the biggest downside to being a younger sibling is when you have to watch your older sibling graduate. Then, you're left alone watching them have fun and growing up.

Older siblings also have advantages and disadvantages. Older siblings get to boss their younger siblings around, and they get to go out and do things.Being the oldest sibling you also have to be accountable, you have to take responsibility. Younger siblings can easily get away with things. Being the oldest also means you have to do more chores. Sometimes the parents have stricter rules for the older siblings. Most times it can feel unfair and hard. You can also be called the "third parent" or "guinea pig" which just means gaining "early maturity." The sad thing about being the oldest is graduating by yourself and leaving your parents and siblings behind.

You may think your siblings are "the favorite" and you may dream of being in their position, but being the oldest or the youngest may not be what you thought it would be. Being the youngest has its advantages, but so does being the oldest. Being treated like an elder or younger may not be like what it seems.

The Billie Extra- April Fools Edition 09

The Aftermath

A story by Kaeleb Hawkins

The story begins on June 23rd,in the year 2040 Pleasant Hill Oregon.

The school has its last day. Normally this would be an exciting day but today is not exciting since the president has now announced that World War three has begun. People don't immediately panic but there is always fear under the surface.

That summer seemed to move slow but luckily teenagers have ignored the worries and have enjoyed their break bringing some light into this dark time. September 24, 2042.

After years of worry the worst thing happens but still some peace. Americans got an alert on their devices Tv's, phones, computers all get a loud alert saying to seek for bunkers, a nuclear war has begun countries all over the world shoot their nuclear weapons at their enemies, Panic begins.

October 3, 2042

The world has entered the inevitable, it is now in a nuclear winter. People are dying either from starvation from the lack of food or from the freezing cold. As people breathe in the cold air they feel their lungs freeze and their fingers numb. Another way people have died is radiation. People near the nuclear attack begin vomiting blood and blood coming out of their noses also burns on their skin as they grab their head hair falls out in locks. People away from the nuclear attacks but still dying slowly dying in confusion.

April 18, 2052

After 10 years the nuclear winter ends, the stability of the human

The population finally begins but the earth is naked of its growth of plants but slowly plants begin to repopulate making people finally have hope for earth and its life.

May 1, 2062

After 5 years the plants have repopulated the earth entirely, people who were kids when the war began came back to see the remains of Pleasant Hill High School as people take in the peace. It seems that nature took over the buildings. Plants eat at the remains of buildings and trees grow where buildings used to be. This new world is beautiful but has a dark past and people hope they don't make the same mistake they did in this disaster.

June 23, 2072

Kids learn about it in school now, the nuclear war in the past but even the teachings of it do not do justice to how bad it was. All humans are glad the earth was able to recover from this monstrosity and to hope for it never to happen again.

Pleasant Hill High School bans lunch

By *Katin Black*

The administration of Pleasant Hill school district has decided that lunch is costing the district too much. And that too many kids are throwing their food away instead of eating it.

Mr. Alan Stearns, our soon to be principal, has decided that lunch is not a necessity in the Pleasant Hill School District. He said "lunch takes away important learning time from our students and eats up too much of the budget.

"We need to allocate that budget elsewhere. It would be like hiring me an assistant or getting a golf cart for the principal."

Stearns kicked me out of his office after I objected, "don't you think that's insane!? What about the people who rely on school lunch and what about the lunch ladies?"

He said, "No. I believe that students can just eat at home. Therefore I'm prohibiting food from the premises and to heck with the lunch ladies. I'm putting them with the best teacher Mrs.Moch. She does so much; she could use the extra help."

Gaga ball is exploding

By Dominic Martinez

If you play gaga ball you need to know these things!

Hit the ball at other players legs, don't double tap and do not just dodge. Do not dive or do a stunt! It's just a game. No need to get hurt. The winner of the last game will serve. Everybody will say Ga Ga ball and the ball will bounce three times then the round will start.

If you are out, go outside the court, but if someone hits the ball up and you catch it you are in and the person who hit it will go out. If you reach for the ball over the wall, you are still out and you do not get to go in.

I have asked a lot of people and they all said people cheat and don't go out. Some people literally quit because of teaming and cheating. Something that can also cause confusion is, sometimes it hits your heel on your shoe or your pant leg, therefore, they do not believe they are out and, most of the time, the claim that you're not out are 100% pure and true.

Scooping can also be annoying too, kids that team sometimes scoop each other. Therefore that can be annoying. If you play gaga ball do not cheat, do not team and have fun!

Pleasant Hill to ban trucks next year

Next year, Mr. Stearns will be the new principal who plans to make big changes. The principal now, Mr. Reiersgaard, said that he trusts Mr. Stearns with the new position. "The principal spot is going to be very challenging, but as long as he keeps most stuff it will be pretty easy," said Mr. Reiersgaard .

The biggest change he is proposing is to ban trucks from the Pleasant Hill parking lot. Mr. Stearns thinks that banning trucks will make the parking look better. Mr. Stearns also said that the truck ban isn't the only change he is going to make such as the lunch ban. Stearns said that" The truck ban is going to make pleasant hill a little school the country to the biggest city school in Oregon."

Stearns suggested that the parking lot is too small for trucks, with the average truck size being 200 inches long. According to Mr. Stearns "The diesel in trucks is getting very smelly in the air." Another reason according to Stearns that "The truck ban is good is because he drives a car and he is perfect to the people in trucks will be perfect." Mr Stearns think that pleasant hill needs a lot to have happen to it to make is good but most people think is is perfect.

"Trucks might seem good to kids but they are not" said Stearns. Stearns was adamant about the rule with no exceptions even for staff. In all fairness, Stearns it is said that if the students can deal with the rule so can the staff.

This new rule is going to take some getting used to and students are expected to react strongly. Mr. Stearns is going to be very strict about the rule, not even letting kids park in the church parking lot for safety reasons.

This rule isn't just for school hours, it is for 24/7. Stearns said the reason is because trucks take up way too much space and they are polluting our air, taking five minutes of our life and pumping more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere which is changing the climate.

Stearns said "cars are better, but the best is a Tesla because it is better for the environment."

What can kids do if they own a big truck? Stearns says "just sell your truck and buy a car." After I pointed out the bad points in his, such as the truck ban and the lunch ban, he kicked me out and said "I'm always right because I'm an adult and you're a kid." The last thing he told me is that "if you bring a truck to school the max grade you can get is a D-.

Screen time too much?

By Everly Marcotte

People always say "I am going to go outside, enjoy the sun, and play in my tree house."

Oh yah sure you are.

In reality,you're going to go out there just because your parents tell you! our probably just going to be out there for two minutes and then guess what? You are just gonna go on your phone, tablet, computer, Xbox or TV.

Like that's crazy! Should go outside when you have the chance and go on a water slide. Or, have a water balloon fight and make sure to throw the balloon extra hard at your siblings but not at your friends. We will let your friends go. but because you say you will go outside just do it, get off that screen, get exercise through water balloons at your sibling.

Put screen time on your kids phone. Trust me I have screen time and I have so much fun without my eyes on a screen.You should live your best life.

The Outbreak Of CCs (Copy Cats)

By Calli Rochelle

Copycats are everywhere around the school.

Many parents have been scared of losing their real children. CCs have the ability of cloning people and faces. These CCs have been very dangerous for the reasons of getting innocent people in trouble and goofing off. Reports have said that high schoolers were going missing and coming back the next day.

CCs have been running around breaking random people's stuff, and more trouble. Please be careful and whenever you see a smiling face look into their nose. If the nose is bright red, it's a CC. If it's normal colored, it's a human. Even though CCs are humans but very annoying, you still should stay safe and be careful.

An Accidental story: Rear Ended!

By Maddie Rife

Getting rear-ended is no fun but have you ever gotten rear ended with a trailer hitch on?

Allison Rife, a student at this school, was rear-ended a month ago in her 1994 Ford F250. Her tank of a truck took no damage but her neck was slightly hurt—not in anything like a fracture or break it just caused her massive pain.

She sat there for a bit before pulling over to check if the other driver was okay and if there was any damage to her truck or the lady's car. She had forgotten that she had a trailer hitch on her car and the lady's bumper came off the car.

Since then, around the school, cars bumpers have been reported missing. No one knows how or why it started to happen but Allison Rife is a prime suspect for the missing bumpers. So make sure your cars are safe and still have their bumpers firmly attached.

If you see anything suspicious relating to this, tell Mr Meinzen or Mrs Moch. About 20 bumpers have gone missing around the school so far none of them being from a truck.

If you see something, say something.

No more 7th period!

by Teagan Siburg & Paisley McBride

At the last school board meeting, the Board determined 7th period would be dropped next year and students would be allowed to go home at 2:15. Students were shocked and delighted.

Students and teachers reported on their thoughts about not having a 7th period class. Ella Blake said "It is nice to have a 7th period because we get to have two electives." Evan Ferguson was in agreement with Avery Siburg said,"I think it is a good idea."

However, Mrs.Williams said, "I don't think it is a good idea because teachers will not have a prep period."

We took these responses to the School Board to see what they would decide to do with this feedback. The Board then decided that "because the majority of the students said they think it is a good idea we are going to officially drop 7th period next year."

Get off your screen

By Everly Marcotte

People always say "I am going to go outside, enjoy the sun, and play in my tree house."

Oh yah sure you are.

In reality, you're going to go out there just because your parents tell you to! You are probably just going to be out there for two minutes and then guess what? You are just gonna go on your phone, tablet, computer, Xbox or TV.

Like that's crazy! You should go outside when you have the chance and go on a water slide. Or, have a water balloon fight and make sure to throw the balloon extra hard at your siblings but not at your friends.

Go outside.

Just do it.

Get off that screen, get exercise by throwing water balloons at your sibling.

Parents, put screen time limits on your kids phone.

Trust me. I have screen time limits and I have so much fun without my eyes on a screen. You should live your best life.

Should April Fools Day be banned?

By Liv Wagner

People are trying to ban April Fools! I maintain that April 1 is a fun and harmless day.

April Fools day can be fun and interactive with its funny pranks. Many people like it and it actually helps people! April Fools day can relieve stress and give laughter. It can also make people more social by encouraging social connection. It can spark the creativity out of anybody, even adults.

April Fools day does not have to be harmful, some people say " It can create distress and erosion of trust." But, almost all April Fools day pranks are harmless and fun. People who choose to do harmful pranks should know their consequences. April Fools day is a no harm tradition.

On April 1 I got the whole class to all raise our hands at exactly 10:40. Whenever someone got called on, we would say, "Double it and give it to the next person." As you can see with all my reasons, nobody should even consider banning April Fools day. Case closed.

Fun Facts:

It originated in France in the 16th century.

Scottish celebrations usually last two days.

Jokes must stop at 12:00 pm in the UK, Australia and New Zealand or else you are considered the " April Fools" themselves.



Andrew King invented a pair of speakers using recycled parts. King is known for his skill in creating interesting constructions.