

**Spring 2021  
Comet News  
Staff**

*Zoe Beall*

*Renee Cross*

*Randall Gowing*

*Hunter Hanig*

*Arena Oian*

*Presley Powell*

*Santos Riggs*

*Cayle Rykhus*

*Samantha  
Turnquist*

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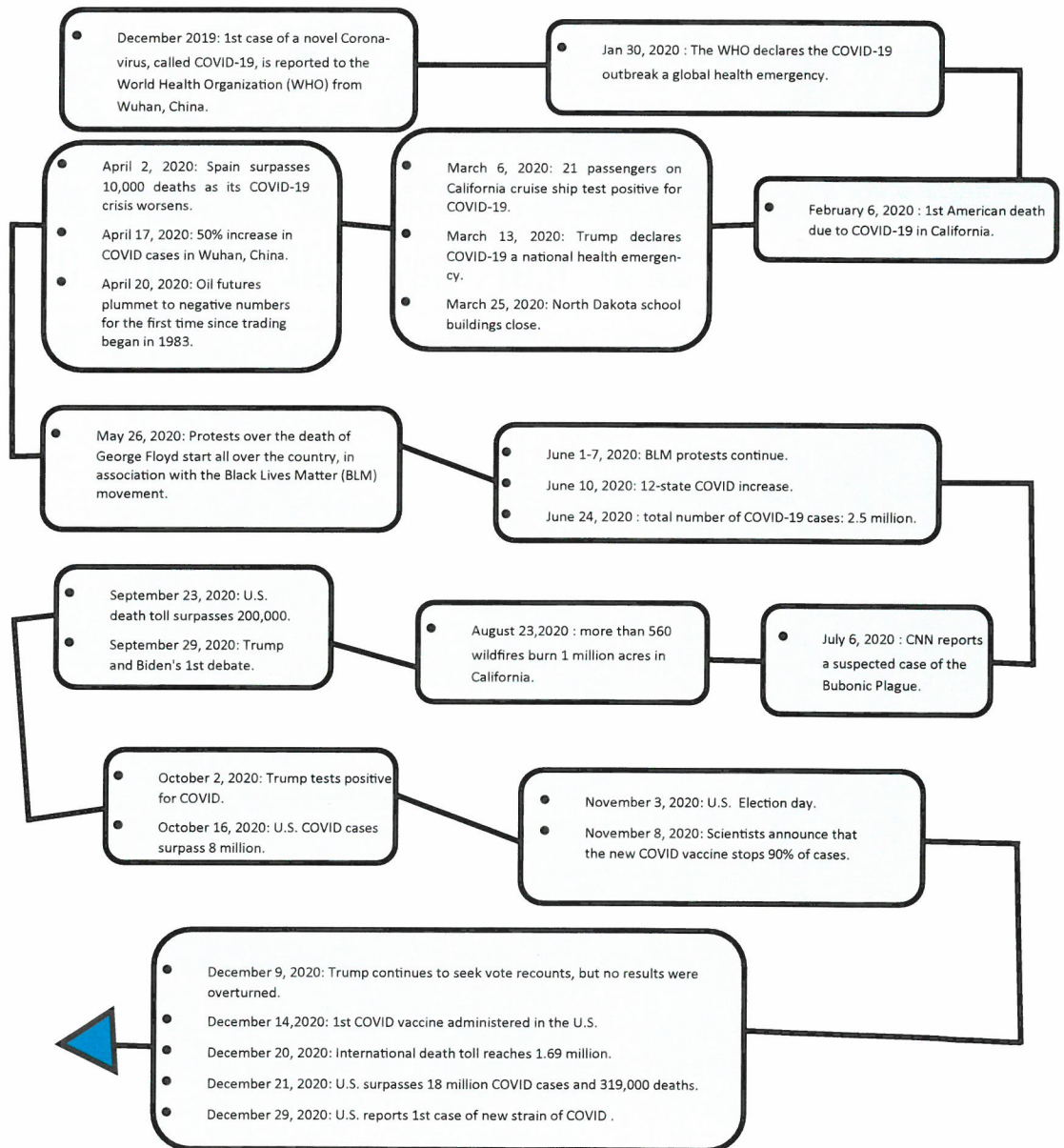
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## 2020 Recap: Our Crazy Year The Comet News Staff

The year 2020 will go down in history as one wild ride. Alexander students and teachers went on Spring Break in March, and never returned to the building until August. Distance learning became the norm across the country, and terms like "Zoom," and "social distancing" became a part of everyone's vocabulary. Here's a rundown of our crazy year. Everything began in December of 2019.





## Staff Spotlight



One person we all love seeing throughout the day is Ms. Becky Elliot. She is originally from Arnegard, ND but has been working in Alexander for 6 years. Before Alexander, Ms. Elliot worked at her mom's restaurant and with Food Services of America. She chose to stick with her family's business in the food industry. A few years ago while Maggie Murphy was still our cook, Ms. Elliot actually cooked with her. So when Becky needed a new job, she knew she would like it here.



Mrs. Thorgramson is an aide who helps teach the 1st grade. Mrs. Thorgramson is originally from Watford City and she has been here her whole life. She moved to Alexander and working in a school is a great opportunity for her. She likes to teach kids because she likes to help them learn. Mrs. Thorgramson worked at the cafe in town before she became a math aide. Mrs. Thorgramson is hoping to help her kids learn both socially and emotionally.

## Artist of the Month Zoe Beall

Jackson Pollock was born on January 28, 1912 in Cody, Wyoming. As a kid, Pollock was considered the artist of the family, and that never seemed to change for him. Once Pollock was older, he studied under Thomas Hart Senton for a while before Pollock's path led him to discover abstract expressionism. The artist took paint and splattered or poured it on to the canvases, which commonly expressed (his) emotions. During the Great Depression era, Pollock found work in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's

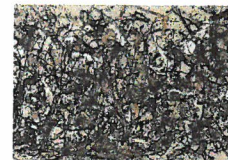
Works of Art Project (PWAP.) Even though Pollock had plenty of work to keep him occupied, he still had an issue with drinking. Despite his problems, he still tried to make time for his art, especially after being inspired by Picasso. Pollock's most famous paintings started to appear around 1947-1950. Yet, by 1956, Pollock gave up art. He passed away on August 11, 1956 due to a car accident.\*

\*[biography.com](http://biography.com)

Blue Poles



Autumn Rhythm



The She Wolf



## Answers from Eeyore Santos Riggs

"If you could get rid of any body part, what would it be?"

*—My brain, so I don't have to think about how sad my life is.*

"What inedible thing would you eat if you could?"

*—Sunshine, so I could finally know what it feels like to be happy on the inside.*

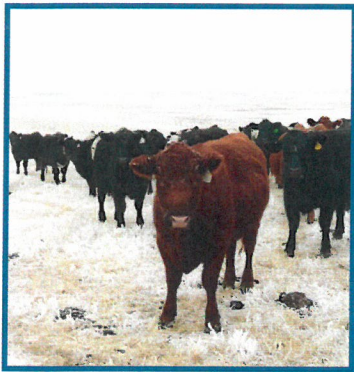
"What celebrity would you like to meet?"

*—I've always looked up to Grumpy Cat, so I would pick him.*





# Life On the Ranch Presley Powell



A day on the ranch could only be described as constantly changing. It's never the same. One day you might fix fence or water drinkers, or you might need to move cows. Unless of course, it happens to be calving and harvest season. Calving season is different for every farmer or rancher. During calving season you'll need to check on the cows constantly to make sure there are no problems and everyone's healthy. Farmers and ranchers have to feed the cows, and put straw down for them to calve on. After calving is brandings. Neighbors come together to help brand and move cows for each other.

Haying is next. Some days you swath, while other days you rake or bale. First you swath, then rake, and finally you bale. After you finish baling, you have to bunch all the hay bales and haul them to the buyers, or move them into the hay yard. Once haying is done, then it is harvest time. Some days you drive the combine or a truck, and empty grain in the grain bins. Then, it's getting everything ready for winter, and, it starts all over again. It may be a busy life, but we wouldn't have it any other way.

## Staff Spotlight



This month we are featuring our own Mrs. Faller. Mrs. Faller started out working for the Great Northwestern Education Consortium in Williston, ND. She chose to move to Alexander because it was near her home and she wanted to get back in a school when Alexander had positions open. She chose her job because she loves to work with kids to help prepare them for the future and to help them become better people. Mrs. Faller was born in Texas but grew up in the Arnegard area. She graduated from Watford City. She has been living here for the past 9 years. Her goals for the future include having good communication with her staff and students and creating great opportunities for kids to learn in multiple ways and with a variety of different platforms and content.



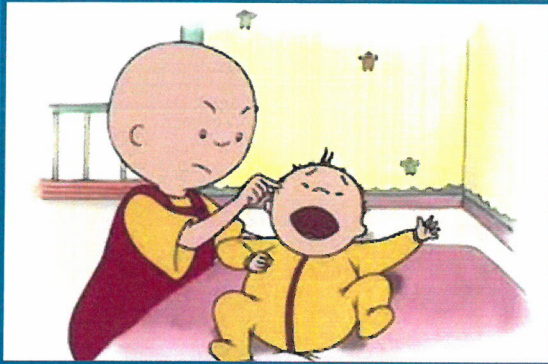
Jami Hudson, one of the front office ladies, has been working here for over 8 years. Before she began working here in Alexander, she worked at TransSystems for 13 years. She is originally from Williston, and lives on her husband's family farm between Williston and Alexander. She chose to come to Alexander because she really likes working with computers, numbers, and people. Her only goals currently are getting some cows and chickens for her farm.



Mrs. Heubner, previously Miss Quale, is the current K-12 Special Education Teacher at Alexander Public School. Before working at Alexander, she was employed at Watford City Elementary School as a 3rd grade teacher. Watford is also where she is originally from. Mrs. Heubner cites 2 reasons for switching to Alexander. She liked the idea of a smaller atmosphere. Alexander is not nearly as big as Watford. She was also given the chance to get her Masters in Special Education if she made the transfer. This is her 5th year with Alexander School. Mrs. Heubner enjoys being around children, and teaching them new things. This year, she plans to set new goals and standards for her students. She is hoping to see continuous improvement in her students academic ability and in their grades.



## Randoms With the Fam: Arena Oian and Santos Riggs



*"When my brothers and I were younger, we volunteered to clean out our old granary. Upon finishing, we realized we had a completely bare cement floor at our disposal, along with a broom and a basketball. The game monkey-broomsケットball was soon invented. The object of the game is similar to "monkey in the middle," except the monkey has a broom to whack the ball out of the air*

*in an attempt to gain possession. The game continues until the broom breaks. You then avoid your mother until she forgets the broom ever existed."*—**Arena Oian**

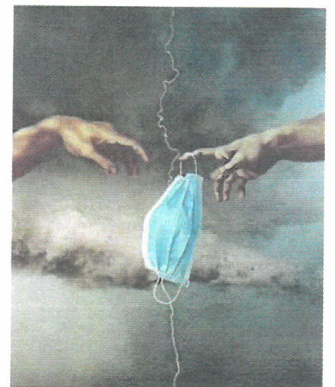
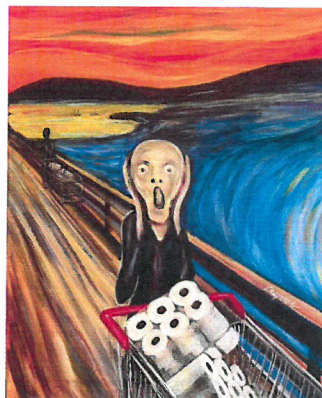
*"I have always had a problem with making noise. Whether I'm tapping repetitively, or humming a song, it has always annoyed my sister. Almost every time she hears me making noise, she will tap, or hum a tune that makes a beat. Eventually, we bust out into a whole acapella performance, performing a full concert for absolutely no one. It actually sounds good, too."*—**Santos Riggs**

## Fun Fact:

**"The first New Year's celebration dates back 4,000 years. Julius Caesar, the emperor of Rome, declared January 1 a national holiday."\***

\*[todayslifeonline.com](http://todayslifeonline.com)

## Art Corner: Corona takes on Classic Art Zoe Beall



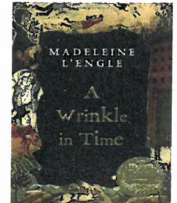
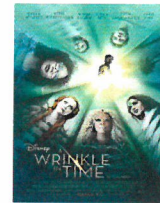


# Book vs. Movie: *A Wrinkle In Time* Zoe Beall

Disney's *A Wrinkle in Time* is... let's just say...bad. Especially if you enjoyed Madeleine L'Engle's novel. I didn't care for this movie adaptation; neither did anyone else, according to the reviews. According to Rotten Tomatoes, this movie had an average of 42% of rotten reviews and 26% audience score. Numerous book lovers noticed the many differences between the movie and book. One of the biggest differences is Mrs. Whatsit's (an important character in the book) transformation scene. Spoiler alert: she is not supposed to be a piece of flying lettuce! Mrs. Whatsit is really supposed to be a Centaur-like creature with wings for arms, according to the story. There are multiple other differences between the two, far too numerous to list, but the movie's tendency to wander from the novel's plot makes it a frustrating experience for true fans.

\*rottentomatoes.com

\*cosmopolitan.com



## SOCKS NEEDED!

The Alexander FCCLA Group would like your donations of fresh, clean, new socks!

### SOCKS ARE THE #1 NEED FOR HOMELESS SHELTERS AND ABUSE CENTERS

Bring in a new pair of sock to the FCCLA Leaders in the commons area from **January 28-February 11** for a sweet reward!

Our goal is to collect **100 pairs of socks** by February 11. We will collect them at the basketball games, as well!



## Recipe Corner Arena Ojan

### CHOCOLATE DROP COOKIES

#### Cookies:

2 cups brown sugar  
1 cup butter  
2 eggs  
8 Tbs. cocoa powder  
1 cup sour milk (1 tablespoon of vinegar or lemon juice and add milk to make 1 cup)  
1 tsp. baking soda  
3 cups flour  
1 tsp. vanilla

#### Frosting:

1/2 cup butter  
3Tbs. cocoa powder  
1/4 cup milk  
3 1/2 cups powdered sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix all cookie ingredients and drop by tablespoons onto a greased baking sheet. Bake 8 minutes.  
Frost the cookies while warm.

#### To make the frosting:

Mix together 1/2 cup of butter, 3 Tbs. cocoa powder and a 1/4 cup of milk. Boil, then remove from heat and add 3 1/2 cups powdered sugar and 1 tsp. vanilla.  
Enjoy.



# Sports Update

Renee Cross

The Comet and Comet-Crusaders basketball seasons are well-underway. As of January 25, the Comet Crusaders overall record is **4-8**. The Comet varsity boys' basketball team is **0-7**.

Going into this week, the girls fell to defeat against the Powers Lake Ranchers on Monday and the boys played against the Trinity Christian Crusaders boy's basketball team. The Comets were unfortunately

not able to pull off the "W." They also played against the Stanley Blue Jays on January 22. That game resulted in another loss. The Comet-Crusaders matched up with the Ranchers again on January 25 and faced the Parshall Braves the following day. Both of those game resulted in a loss. The boys lost to Divide County on January 25 and will have a home game against Par-

shall on the 28 of January.

The girls will be traveling to Williston State College for their district games beginning on February 11-13. The boys will host the district tournament at the Rough Rider Center beginning on February 26. The tournament will run through March 1.

## Comet Count

**Given the option, would you take the COVID-19 vaccine?**

**Yes**

7

Note: made up of only  
juniors and seniors

**No**

44

**WINNER!**

## Favorite Weird Food Combos

*Macaroni and cheese on peanut-buttered bread*

*Hamburger hotdish with M & Ms*

*Ketchup on potato chips*

*Mayonnaise on pancakes*

*Chocolate and avocado*

*Grilled cheese dipped in hot chocolate*





# *SI Honor Roll*

Countryman, Keely Christine 12th 4.0	Rosco, Colbie TR 10th 3.57
Dwyer, Tianna Ruth 12th 4.0	Rykhuis, Cayle Marie 10th 3.29
LeBrun, Drew Robert 12th 4.0	Wasik, Savannah Elyce 10th 3.29
Modine, Bradyn Richard 12th 4.0	Brown, Elijah Starling 9th 3.0
Schooley, Breanna Lee 12th 4.0	Collins, Makayla Rose Lynn 9th 3.14
Turnquist, Corynna Pearl 12th 4.0	Heen, Maxwell Lawrence 9th 3.71
Yancey, Brieanna Mae 12th 4.0	Kline, Isaac Murray 9th 3.57
Cross, Renee Patricia 11th 4.0	Modine, Jaelyn Crystal 9th 3.86
Ybarra, Tayla Domane 11th 4.0	O'Dell, Brycin 9th 3.0
Turnquist, Samantha Lee 10th 4.0	Pingel, Michael Ryan 9th 3.86
Wehrman, Keaton Lee 9th 4.0	Rider, Beau Daniel 9th 3.43
Edmunson, Xavier Nathan 8th 4.0	Beall, Austin Travis 8th 3.14
Torres, Miya Denise 8th 4.0	Cloud, Kirsten Alexis 8th 3.14
Albright, Zechariah Larry 12th 3.6	Countryman, Sarah Elizabeth 8th 3.50
Johnson, Kaileigh Lorraine Lynn 12th 3.0	Cross, Shane Michael 8th 3.29
Murphy, Danielle Rose 12th 3.57	Delaney, Paige Marie 8th 3.86
Riggs, Samantha Arlene 12th 3.20	Hernandez, Jordan Isaac 8th 3.0
Sims, Alex Olivia 12th 3.71	Iverson, Paiten Marie 8th 3.43
White, Julianna Snow 12th 3.57	Suko, McKenzie Marie 8th 3.29
Beall, Zoe Evelyn 11th 3.50	Buford, Andrew Johnathan 7th 3.13
Collins, Austin James 11th 3.57	Countryman, Ariel Rayne 7th 3.0
Cote, Christina Marie 11th 3.29	Hanna, Lohgan L. 7th 3.38
Dybas Meadowlynn Marie 11th 3.17	Heen, William E. 7th 3.50
Dybas MercedesAnn Claire 11th 3.0	Hokenson, Teija Marie 7th 3.50
Oian, Arena Jo 11th 3.86	Johnson, Irelynn Kay Aliece 7th 3.0
Overturf, Thomas Noel 11th 3.71	Kline, Matthew Anton 7th 3.75
Rider, Lane Michael 11th 3.43	McLinden, Kimberly Lynn 7th 3.50
Countryman, Talon Christopher 10th 3.75	Mitchell, Judah N. 7th 3.63
Hanig, Hunter Charles 10 3.14	Powell, Lainey June 7th 3.75
Hollingsworth, Cadence Nicole 10th 3.0	Rider, Garrett William 7th 3.50
Johnson, Payge Alyiah Helene 10th 3.71	Schriner, Christopher James 7th 3.13
LaDue, Hayden Thomas 10th 3.57	Soiseth, Porter Ray 7th 3.13
Mitchell, Ethan D. 10th 3.57	Werkmeister, Christian Avery 7th 3.38
Powell, Presley Jean 10th 3.86	



# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 BBQ RIBLET OR BBQ CHICKEN LEG WEDGES BAKED BEANS BISCUIT	2 STROGANOFF GREEN BEANS DINNER ROLL	3 BUILD YOUR OWN PIZZA	4 BAKED COD OR CHICKEN BREAST RICE PILAF BROCCOLI WITH CHEESE BREADSTICK	5	6
7	8 TACO IN A BAG	9 BURGER BAR	10 MEATBALL SUB OR PHILLY STEAK CRISS CUTS	11 HOT DOG OR BRAT MAC & CHEESE	12	13
14	15 NO SCHOOL	16 FINGER STEAK OR CHICKEN STRIP MASHED & GRAVY CORN BREAD	17 MINI CORNDOG CHIPS & CHEESE	18 SCALLOPED POTATOES & HAM CORN DINNER ROLL	19 SPAGHETTI OR ALFREDO GARLIC TOAST	20
21	22 CRISPITO RICE	23 PULLED PORK ON A BUN WEDGES BAKED BEANS	24 CHICKEN NUGGET OR FISH STICKS CURLY FRIES TEDDY GRAHMS	25 HAM OR TURKEY CROISSANT HOMEMADE SOUP	26	27
28	<b>HIGH FIVE MENU:</b> BREAKFAST: NOTABLE (CEREAL, CRACKERS, JUICE) & MILK LUNCH: SANDWICH, CHIPS, FRUIT, VEGETABLE, MILK				Breakfast is served daily from 7:30-8:00 Hot Breakfast (served Tuesday & Thursday) is as follows: 02/02: Pancake Wrap 02/04: Omelete 02/09: Eggs to Order & Hash Brown 02/11: Dutch Waffle 02/16: Breakfast Burrito 02/18: Breakfast Pizza 02/23: French Toast & Sausage Patty 02/25: Biscuits & Gravy	

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER. MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.  
 WE OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE ENTRÉE CHOICE DAILY, ALONG WITH A COMPLETE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BAR.