

ALEXANDER,
ND

COMET NEWS

VOLUME 10, ISSUE #7

FEBRUARY, 2021

Spring 2021 Comet News Staff

Zoe Beall

Renee Cross

Randall Gowing

Hunter Hanig

Arena Oian

Presley Powell

Santos Riggs

Cayle Rykhuis

Samantha
Turnquist

Inside this issue:

- Staff, Recipe, Eeyore 2
- Staff, History, Welcome 3
- Art, Books, Video Games 4
- Randoms, Radar, Weird Food 5
- AOM, Facts, Poll 6
- Speech, Family, Robotics 7
- Bball, Prom, Baskets, Menu 8-11

New Ventures in Alex Santos Riggs

Main street in Alexander is making a comeback. Recently, the Tobacco Depot and Vapor Outlet closed its Alex location and moved to Williston. (The Hemp Plus+ building, however, is still in full operation.) Echo Dean confirmed that a soup and sandwich/convenience store will be opening in the previous establishment. She is hoping it will be open for business sometime in March, however dates could change in the future. The name of the shop is yet to be decided.

Another new arrival, Hometown Hair Salon, is owned by Hanna Mrachek, and is located at 604 Elk Street. Hannah says business has been great, and she has been receiving significant support from the community. Her salon has been staying very busy, as she doesn't have any available openings until Christmas.

The Fire Department is planning an expansion to our existing fire hall. According to Lance Powell, the Fire Chief, they

are planning to expand north. There is no set date for the expansion.

The rebuilt bank is now open and ready for business. See images below.

No one has bought the Shuga Shack, yet, and it is still up for sale. Interested parties should contact Beth Yancey.

New Bank Building Open for Business

Santos Riggs



Staff Spotlight



Trey Jacobson is currently the junior high boys' basketball coach. Before Alexander, Trey Jacobson worked for Lance Powell and his grandfather on their farms. Trey chose Alexander because it is his hometown. Trey became the coach to give Alexander youth the same opportunities he had growing up. He not only works as a coach, but also works as an Alexander bus driver. His sister, mother, and father all work at Alexander, as well.



The teacher we've all seen around the building is Mr. Spildie. Mr. Spildie has been the Title 1 teacher for about 5 years, but has been teaching for 23 years. Before coming to Alexander, he worked at the First International Bank and Trust in and Lodge Grass, Montana. Mr. Spildie originally lived in Bozeman, Montana, but was raised in Billings. He chose to work at Alexander because a little birdie (Mrs. Spildie) told him how great the school was. Mr. Spildie likes his job because seeing the light bulb go off in his students' heads makes him feel accomplished as a teacher. He hopes to students who struggle. He hopes to help students who struggle. Mr. Spildie also said he is thankful and grateful for the Comet family. Go Comets!



After Mrs. Rizzo graduated from college, this was her first job. She said this was a great opportunity; the area really needed teachers when the oil boom hit ND. Mrs. Rizzo enjoys seeing kids accomplish their goals and completing their work. Mrs. Rizzo was born in Clintwood, Montana, and has lived here for 9 years! Mrs. Rizzo loves to teach the kids 21st Century skills and to understand engineering and programming. Mrs. Rizzo was named McKenzie County Teacher of the Year for 2020. Mrs. Rizzo, previously Ms. Brummond, was married to former Alex PE teacher Mike Rizzo last summer.

*Just saved tons of
money on*

*Valentine's day by
switching to single.*

—Pinterest.com



Recipe: *Banana Chocolate Chip Muffins* Samantha Turnquist

Ingredients:

1 cup Butter
1 1/2 cup Sugar
2 tsp. Vanilla
2 tsp. Lemon Juice
4 Eggs
5-8 Bananas
8 oz. Cream Cheese
4 cups Flour
1 tsp. Salt
2 tsp. Baking Soda
2 tsp. Baking Powder
1-1 1/2 cup Chocolate Chips

Directions:

Blend butter and sugar. Add vanilla, lemon juice and eggs. Mix in the rest, bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes or until done.

Answers with Eeyore Santos Riggs



Q: Sweethearts or chocolate covered strawberries?

A: *Chocolate covered strawberries, because the sweet, happy, red inside is hidden by a dark, dull, savory outside.*

Q: Do you like romantic movies? What's your favorite romantic movie?

A; *Sometimes, it depends. I like A Walk to Remember. It actually makes my heart warm. It's a story about a man, Landon, determined to help a girl fill her bucket list before she dies of leukemia.*

Q: Describe your perfect Valentine's date.

A: *To be left alone...*

Staff Spotlight



One teacher we have either had, or went to school with is Mrs. Denowh. She went to school here, but was born and raised in Rawson and Squaw Gap North Dakota. She chose to work here because she graduated here and was hoping for the opportunity to work here after college. Before Alexander, Mrs. Denowh worked at a fencing company during the summers, was an intern for CHS Farmers Elevator, and was an intern at Merchants Bank, as well. She chose to become the Ag teacher because she has spent her life in the business of producing agriculture, she can teach the subject, and the job allows her some extra time to help out on the ranch. She hopes to help kids learn more about an area of agriculture in which they are interested, and to teach others how and why agriculture is important. Mrs. Denowh also declares her job is the best since she gets to wear jeans everyday and has the best field trips.



Alexander's second grade teacher, Ms. Jacobson, is a native to this area. She grew up attending Alexander Public School and has always found enjoyment helping, and being around children. Ms. Jacobson chose to work at Alexander School because it is her home and she enjoys the coziness of small towns. She also likes the opportunities that a K-12 school has to offer. Ms. Jacobson loves to see the faces of her students light up when they get that "lightbulb" moment. She comes from a long line of teachers. Her great-grandma was a teacher, as well as both of her grandmothers, multiple cousins and her mother, who also works at our school. Ms. Jacobson strives to not only teach her students academics, but also life skills so that they can develop into good humans.



Katie Monson is a student aid who works in the elementary end of Alexander Public School. Katie goes around the classrooms seeking those who need help. Not only does she work here, but she also works part-time at the Wild Flour Café and Bakery. She has lived in Alexander for two years now, but was born in Zahl, North Dakota. Before moving to the school, she babysat children in her home. Katie loves being able to see the lightbulb go off in the heads of elementary students and other kids as well. Another perk she has noticed while working here is that the job is close to her home. Katie's set goal is to graduate college this year.

Fun Fact for February Zoe Beall

"In Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*, it is said that they lived in Verona, Italy. Every year, thousands of Valentine's Day cards are sent to Verona, addressed to Juliet."*

*theholidayspot.com

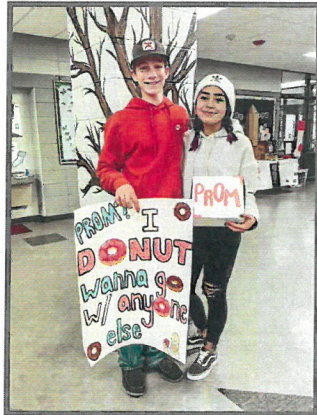


Welcome Mike Falcon Presley Powell

New to the school's staff is Mike Falcon! He is taking over for Barb Fixen, who was the previous Business Manager of the school. He worked at Youngquist Oil and Gas before coming to Alexander. Mike chose to be the new Business Manager because it's a new opportunity away from the oil field. He was born in California, where his dad was stationed at the time, and lived there for some time before moving back to his dad's hometown of Trenton, North Dakota at the age of 10. His favorite part about working in Alexander is his co-workers and the free lunch.



Promposals Zoe Beall



Isaac Kline and Tayla Ybarra



Jaelyn Modine and Beau Rider



Renee Cross and Logan Nelson

Book Recommendations

Arena Oian, Samantha Turnquist and Cayle Rykhus

If you're looking for a good new book to read, let us help you out! This month's book recommendation is *Girl, Stolen* by April Henry. It is about a blind, 16-year-old girl, who was kidnapped in her car while it was being stolen. A criminal's son was trying to hijack a car, but found a sick teenage girl in the back. *Girl, Stolen* is the story of 2 teenagers trying to escape from a mentally disturbed father. Read the book to find out if they make it!

Gamers' Corner: NBA 2K21 Hunter Hanig

Many people wondered if it was worth buying NBA2k21 even if they already had it on the older consoles. The game was developed by Mike Wang, Ronnie2k, and Visual Concepts.

The graphics in Next Gen (developed after the NBA draft) are far

better than they have ever been for a 2k game. This 2k game has a setting called "The Park" where you can play with, and against, real people. The main game mode is called, "My Career," where you work your way through high school and have a choice to play in college or in the G-

League. The G-League is one step under the NBA, and is a new and different route.

With the Next Gen gameplay, you get a more realistic feel of the game, but there will still be some random glitches in the system.

*www.forbes.com

Randoms with the Fam!

“One time, when my sister and I had a friend over, we played tag. My friend and I were in the Ranger while my sister and her friend were in the golf-cart. When we were playing, my sister ran the golf-cart into a ditch with her friend. My friend and I felt bad, and didn't want to get in trouble, so we had to take care of them and do whatever they wanted for the rest of the day.”

- Presley Powell

“My whole family watched my sister and brother wrestle in the living room. The purpose of this match? She would not say “please” for a cookie. This wrestling match ended with her getting the cookie, along with a fist-sized bruise.”

- Samantha Turnquist

New Radar System Keeping Everyone Safe

Arena Oian

Back in 2018 a devastating tornado swept through Watford City. The tornado was not detected by the then-current radar system, and due to this, people were not prepared for this storm. The new system, located at the Williston airport, covers an 80 to 100 mile area, and will help predict severe storms before they occur. The system is a C-Ban Dual Polarization Radar; it is a 60 ft. tower with a 20 ft.

radome at the top. It was paid for by the Williams County 1% Safety Tax and is also maintained by them. The monitoring of the data from the new radar is done by meteorologists who are not on site. Information from the radar is provided to numerous other agencies.

The radar covers an area far closer to the ground; well below the Minot and Glasgow radars that are too high up to detect some

storms. It has been a great help to the airport in detecting winter storms that the larger radars don't notice due to distance and storm height. It also better detects tornadoes that have already reached the ground in our area. The radar was installed between September 19 and April 20. The information gathered by the radar can be found on:

WilliamsND.com

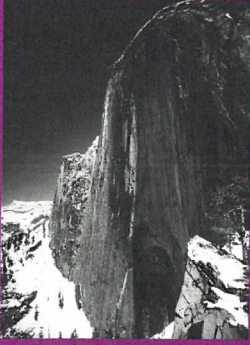
Weird Food Combos

Cayle Rykhus

- Peanut Butter and Tuna Sandwiches
- BBQ Chips and Sour Gummy Worms
- Mac-n-Cheese and BBQ Sauce
- Banana and Mayo Sandwiches
- Sour Cream and Peas



Artist of the Month *Zoe Beall*



Monolith, The Face of Half Dome, Yosemite National Park, California

Ansel Adams, who was a famous photographer, was born February 20, 1902 in San Francisco, California. The artist was best known for his black and white photos of nature scenes. He even used his photos to encourage those around him to preserve wilderness areas. Another thing people tend to notice about Adams was his nose. Around the age of 4, Adams was thrown against a garden wall during the San Francisco earthquake, which resulted in a broken nose that never healed correctly and remained crooked for the rest of life.

Later on in life, Adams taught himself piano and fiddled with photography. He even learned darkroom techniques (which darkens the photo without using tech-

nology.) After learning about photography, Adams sold his early photographs at Best's Studio in Yosemite Valley, California. His best photos, and most common, were of wildlife. His photos were even exhibited in large galleries and museums by the 1960's.

In accordance with this, there was a demand for his beautiful photos during the 70's. However, not long afterward, in 1984, Adams sadly died of a heart attack.*

*Biography.com



Clearing Winter Storm, Yosemite Valley, California



Vernal Fall, Yosemite Valley, California



Rose and Driftwood, San Francisco, California

Lots of Quotes *Arena Oian and Samantha Turnquist*

"Romeo and Juliet is not a love story. It's a 3-day relationship between a 13-year-old and a 17-year-old that caused 6 deaths." - someecards.com

"What's the difference between me and a calendar? A calendar has dates." - reddit.com

"If love is the answer, could you rephrase the question?" - Lily Tomlin

"Don't break someone's heart, they only have one. Break their bones, they have 206 of them." - Pinterest.com

"A guy knows he's in love when he loses interest in his car for a couple of days." - Tim Allen

"My doctor says I'm lacking vitamin U." - epicquotes.com

"Marriage: an endless sleepover with your favorite weirdo." - wallquotes.com

Comet Count

For Valentine's Day, are you

Single as a Pringle?	or	Ready to Mingle?
Winner! 33		14

Speech Season Begins Zoe Beall

It is finally Speech season at Alexander! Here is a list of confirmed dates for our meets and a list of our members!

Meets:

- March 6 @ Burke Central
- March 12 @ home
- Regionals: April 10 @ Bowbells
- State: April 24 @ Mandan

Members:

- Brianna Yancey– Dramatic Interpretation
- Alex Sims– Extemporaneous Programmed Reading

- Breanna Schooley– Dramatic Interpretation
- Santos Riggs– Humorous Duo and Humorous Interpretation
- Zoe Beall– Radio, Dramatic Interpretation, and Humorous Duo
- Mercedes Dybas– Humorous Interpretation and Humorous Duo
- Samantha Turnquist– Extemporaneous Speech and Impromptu Speaking
- Brooke Rykhus– Story Telling, Humorous Duo, and Dramatic

Interpretation

- Austin Beall– Humorous Interpretation

Coach:

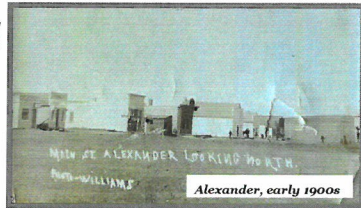
- Sandra Crusch



Alex Family History

“My grandpa, Ray Powell, was a part of the first class to graduate in the new Alexander School building. He previously went to school in the museum before graduating in what is now the current Alexander Public School building.”

— Presley Powell



“My mom once told me a story of my Dad’s aunt Olga and the birth of her sister, Mildred. When my great aunt Mildred was born, Olga was six years old. She was home alone with her mother when her sister decided it was time to be born. Olga walked 2 miles to their neighbors to get help for her mom. The neighbor rode ahead on a horse to help her mother and Olga walked the same two miles back. I always found the story really inspirational because she walked all that way by herself when she was only six.”

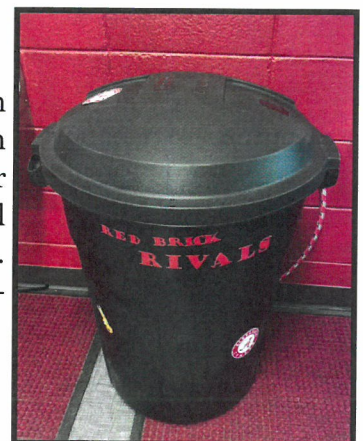
—Arena Oian

Thanks for Equipment! Renee Cross

The Red Brick Rivals team, made up of Austin Beall, Chris O’Kon-ek, Kim McLinden, Ben Honstein, Irelynn Johnson and Lilianna Vanwhy, have lately designed a nifty basket located near the elementary playground

doors. This container holds multiple pieces of sports equipment to play with on the playground. The team sent out a survey to the elementary students to vote on which items they desired. The sports basket was initially a part

of their innovation project. The team then presented their product to the school board and Ms. Bieber, and they enjoyed the idea.



Congratulations, Girls! Renee Cross

For the first time since the co-op began in 2018, the Comet-Crusaders went to compete in the Regional tournament. The Alexander girls basketball team hasn't been to Regionals since 2005. They ended up in third place in the District tournament. They had two wins against North Shore-Plaza and White Shield, which was a real barn burner, as they won by only 2 points with ten seconds left on the clock.

Ellie Haskins received the District 15 All-Tournament Team award; Renee Cross and Ellie Haskins both received the All-District 15 Team.

They took on the Divide County Maroons on Monday, February 22 at the Four Bears Center. They fell to defeat, thus ending their season.

Outside of Regionals, the Comet-Crusaders basketball record was 9-8.



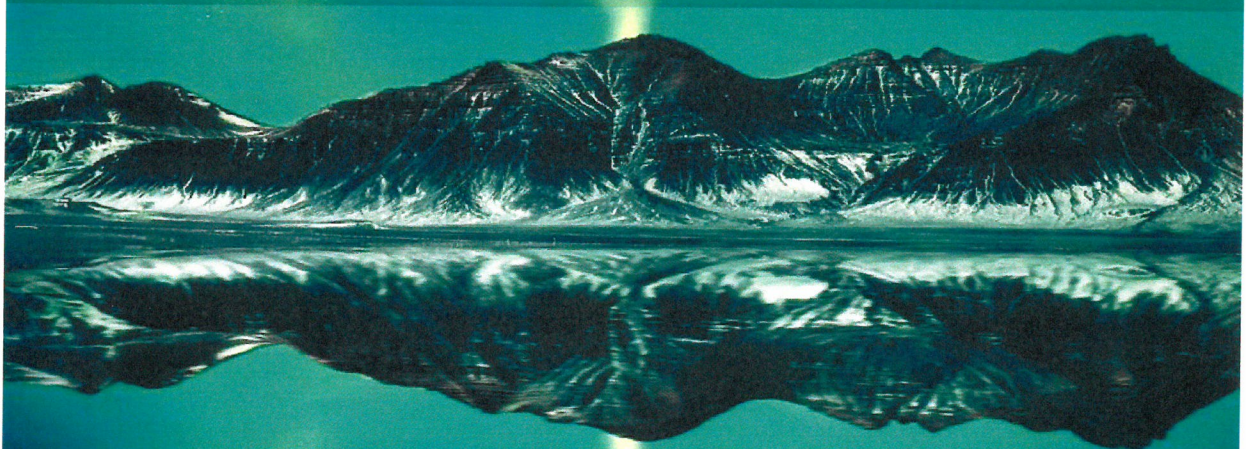
Prom 2021

Under the Northern Lights

March 27, 2021

~Grades 9-12~

(with the exception of 8th graders who are asked by an upper classman)

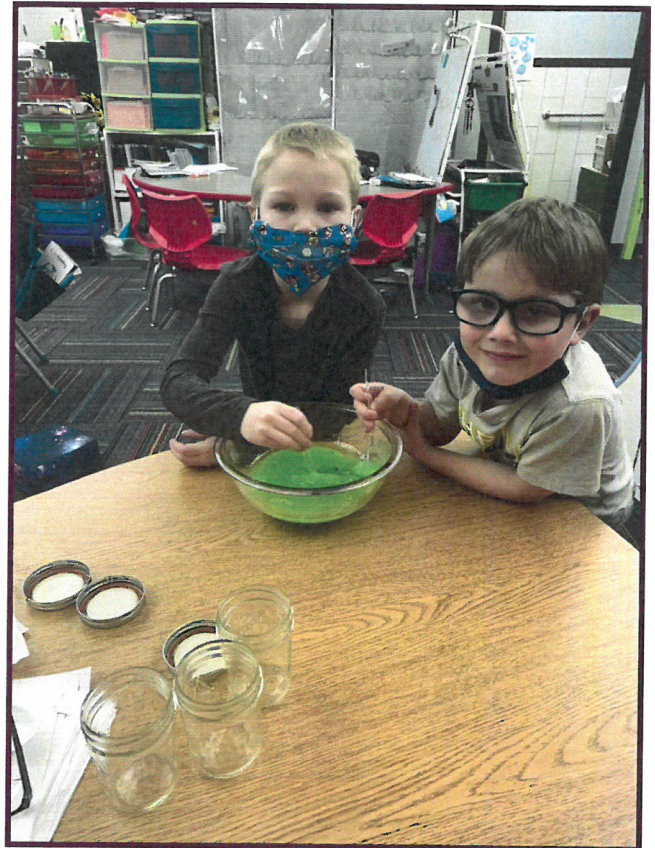


Grand March ~ TBA

Dance ~ 7:30pm - 12:30am

Foundation Basket Time!

APS Kindergarten students and their teachers worked hard to get their Foundation baskets together. The Alexander Foundation's 7th Annual fundraiser will be held in March. Stay tuned to the Alexander website for the latest information!



MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
	1 BREAKFAST FOR LUNCH	2 CAVATINI CORN GARLIC TOAST	3 POPCORN CHICKEN BOWL MASHED & GRAVY CORN	4 BUILD YOUR OWN PIZZA
7	8 SLUSHBURGERS SUNCHIPS	9 MEATBALL SUB	10 ROAST TURKEY OR HAM MASHED & GRAVY GREEN BEANS	11 PORK FRITTER MAC & CHEESE
14	15 TERIYAKI OR ORANGE CHICKEN FRIED RICE EGG ROLL FORTUNE COOKIE	16 LASAGNA ROLLUPS CORN GARLIC TOAST	17	18
21	22 Winter Break Continued..	23 CRISPITO GRAVY RICE	24 MINI CORN DOGS CHIPS & CHEESE	25 TACO IN A BAG
28	29 FINGER STEAKS MASHED & GRAVY CORN	30 CHILI CHEESE BREAD	31 CHICKEN NUGGET OR FISH NUGGET FRIES	26 CHICKEN BURGER FRIES
				27
				19
				20

Breakfast is served daily from 7:30-8:00
 Hot Breakfast (served Tuesday & Thursday) is as follows:
 03/02: Pancake Wrap
 03/04: Eggs to Order & Hash Browns
 03/09: Fritta & Hash Brown
 03/11: Breakfast Pizza
 03/16: Sausage Breakfast Sandwich
 03/18: NO SCHOOL
 03/23: French Toast & Sausage Patty
 03/25: Comet Potatoes (Potatoes with Ham & Cheese) & Scrambled Eggs
 03/30: Fritta & Hash Brown



HIGH FIVE MENU:
BREAKFAST: NOTABLE (CEREAL, CRACKERS, JUICE) & MILK
LUNCH: SANDWICH, CHIPS, FRUIT, VEGETABLE, MILK

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.