

Alexander,  
ND

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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# COMET NEWS

VOLUME 10, ISSUE # 8

March, 2021

## Alumnus Ben Novak Clones Endangered Ferret

The Comet News Staff

Ben Novak, a member of the Alexander Class of 2005, has made worldwide headlines as the first scientist to successfully clone an endangered animal.

At the Fish and Wildlife Services Black-Footed Conservation Center in Colorado, lead De-extinction Biologist, Ben Novak and his team of biotechnical scientists from Revive and Restore became the first to clone an endangered North American species, the Black-Footed ferret.

The cloned ferret, named "Elizabeth Ann," was born on December 10, 2020, via C-section, and was the result of seven years of intensive research in genomes and cloning.

Sample cells taken from two Black-Footed ferrets, Willa and Studbook Number 2, were used to generate Elizabeth Ann. The scientists performed an embryo transplant into a domesticated ferret surrogate. The cells implanted were originally frozen back in 1988.

In 2008, a study was done on the population of Black-Footed ferrets which showcased their lack of genetic diversity.



Kurt, the horse, was born at a veterinary clinic located in Texas on August 6, 2020. They made him using the sperm from a deceased stallion and used a domesticated mare as a surrogate.

Congratulations Ben Novak, for your incredible achievements!

Five years later, the cloning project began. It wasn't until November 14, 2020, that Ann's heartbeats were first detected. DNA samples proved that she was indeed a Black-Footed ferret, on her 65th day of living. The team is planning to clone more ferrets to increase the Black-Footed ferret population.

The Fish and Wildlife Service contacted Revive and Restore, to see if their work in biotechnology could improve the diversity of these ferrets. According to his Twitter account, Ben Novak was featured on Jimmy Kimmel Live, and the now famous scientist thanked the late-night talk show host for his interest in their work.

Ben Novak spoke in his hometown, Alexander, in 2019 and discussed his team's work with cloning and the Carrier pigeon.

The biologists at Revive and Restore have also cloned a Przewalski horse.

\*nytimes.com; reviveandrestore.org; twitter.com; phys.org; nationalgeographic.org; smithsonianmag.com

Correction:

In the original issue of the February, 2021 Comet News, Echo Dean was erroneously named as owner of a forthcoming Alexander business. Our apologies for the error and any inconvenience. That paper has since been replaced by a corrected issue.

## Youth Wrestlers Performing Well Cayle Rykhus

This year's wrestling has been going well for the students. The wrestlers have been able to go to 6 tournaments this year, and will be able to go to 2 more. These include Spearfish on March 19-20 and State on March 26-27.

The only challenge they have faced this year is the issue of having so few coaches. The coaches do agree that the wrestlers have been making great improvements, but still have a lot of work to do before state.

## Randoms with the Fam!

### Beall Game Nights

“When my family has a game night, it can get wild. For one, our Uno games can last up to 5 hours!!! Not only that, fights can even break out! One time, while playing Mexican Train, my mom and dad almost disowned my brother.”

—Zoe Beall

### Rafferty/Hanig

#### Graduation Curse

“When Trey Jacobson graduated from Watford City, my brother (Dayden Rafferty, Alexander Class of 2019,) got a golf ball to the eye right before the graduation party began. Instead of going to the party, he had to go to the doctor to have his eye looked at. I have also had this problem. During Dayden’s graduation party, I was playing wiffle ball with the family, and was also hit in the eye. We are thinking about outlawing sports at our graduation parties.”

## Answers with Eeyore Santos Riggs

What would you do if you caught a leprechaun?

*I would keep it, in hopes of it giving me joy.*

Do you know any leprechauns ?

*Yes, but they don't hang out with me. They claim I don't have "a sense of enjoyment"...I don't see it...*

Will you wear green on St. Patrick's Day?

*No, the color green evokes compassion and makes you optimistic. I hate feeling optimistic.*



## You Might Be From ND If... Renee Cross

- You say "pop" instead of "soda."
- You say "Jeet?" instead of "Did you eat?"
- You measure distance in time, not miles.
  - You have seen the Medora Musical.
- You say "hot dish" instead of "casserole."
- Your nostrils freeze together when you walk outside to start your car.

## Alexander Excels at Home Meet

The Speech students did well at the first-ever Alexander High School Speech Meet! We had 10 schools and 75 participants. Here's how our team performed:

**Breanna Schooley**-2nd Dramatic

**Alex Sims**-1st EPR

**Tayla Ybarra**-1st Humorous Duo, 4th Humorous

**Samantha Turnquist**-3rd Extemporaneous, 3rd Impromptu

**Santos Riggs**-2nd Humorous

**Austin Beall**-(1st Meet ever!)

**Zoe Beall**-2nd Radio, 7th Humorous Duo

**Mercedes Dybas**-7th Humorous Duo

**Brianna Yancey**-1st Humorous Duo, 3rd Dramatic



## Spring Sports Update Presley Powell

Practice has already started for Spring Sports this year! Baseball, softball, track, and golf are our Spring Sports. In baseball, we have one player: Max Heen. Softball players this year are Corynna Turnquist, Victoria Albright and Savannah Wasik.

Our runners for track are all in junior high: Lainey Powell, Lohgan Hannah and Jordan Priest.

The list of golfers is not yet finalized.

## March Fun Fact Zoe Beall

“The color associated with St. Patrick’s Day was originally blue.”\*

\*proflowers.com



## “What Do High School Students Do At Prom?” Presley Powell, Arena Oian, and Cayle Rykhus



“Math and Science”

-Lincoln Echevarria



“Talk about stuff”

-Xoe Stoner



“Dance with boys”

-Kayleigh Lancaster

## National ? Day Presley Powell

Multiple days on modern calendars are dedicated to some of the most unusual causes and interests you could imagine. April is no exception:

April 12th Grilled Cheese Day

April 15th Take a Wild Guess Day

April 19th National North Dakota Day

April 26th Help a Horse Day

April 30th Bugs Bunny Day

Our school building  
was dedicated

54 Years ago,

on

March 19, 1967

## Staff Spotlight



Our school counselor, Ms. Hansel, worked at White Shield High School for 5 years before she came to Alexander. She was their gym teacher, their coach and their athletics director. Ms. Hansel is originally from Langdon, ND. Seven years ago, she finished her Masters Degree in School Counseling and needed an internship. Luckily, Alexander had an opening, and she landed a job. Ms. Hansel is a counselor for many reasons. She likes helping and working with kids, she is interested in mental health, she doesn't like to see others struggle, and she wants to give others what she never had by pointing them in the right direction. Ms. Hansel's goal for this year is to help kids with the changes and stress associated with Covid-19.



Alex Bieber is the current Administrative Assistant for Alexander Public School. Before accepting her current position, she worked as a waitress at Sunny's Family Restaurant, located in Sidney, MT. At first, she worked as a full time sub for the P.E. class for about 6 months. The opportunity to work the front desk presented itself in January of 2015. She has been the Administrative Assistant ever since. She originally took the job because of the enjoyable environment, and she got to see and help students everyday. Alex Bieber is originally from Fairview, North Dakota. Sadly, after 6 1/2 years of working at Alexander, she will be leaving us in June, as she is expecting a baby on August 2. Good luck, Alex!



One of Alexander School's student aides is Mr. Scott Roseth. Scott is originally from Firelake, Minnesota, and has only been here for four years. Before Alexander, Mr. Scott worked at Playworks, a daycare center. He decided to transfer here because he was looking for a new place to work, and Alexander just happened to be hiring. Alexander welcomed him through its doors and he became a student aide. Scott says that being a student aide is enjoyable and is almost like second nature to him. Scott hopes to help his students become better citizens of the world. We appreciate you, Mr. Scott!



Mrs. Vigil, a teacher's aide in the school, was a stay at home mom who worked as a travel agent and bus driver. She chose to work at Alexander because it's a small community and she likes the atmosphere of the school. Mrs. Vigil likes seeing the students and their achievements. She is originally from Utah, but has been in North Dakota for 8 years. Her goal this year is to help students achieve their goals.



One teacher you can see around our building everyday is Ms. Gaida. Before coming to Alexander to be our gym teacher, Ms Gaida worked at the SeaBee Goldmine in Canada. She decided to come to Alexander because she visited the town a couple of times and fell in love with the school and the people. She had the opportunity to do her student teaching here and decided to stay. She became a gym teacher because she loves sports, teaching kids to be healthy, and teaching the importance of a healthy lifestyle. She also just really loves her job. Ms. Gaida has lived in Alexander for six years and is originally from Martinsville, Saskatchewan. Her goals for the future are for students to leave her class with a positive attitude towards living active and healthy lifestyles. When asked for any additional comments her response was a simple, but hearty, "Go Comets!"



You can often find Mr. Allard roaming the halls, visiting with students, and even telling a joke or two. A.J. Allard joined Alexander School as the Dean of Students in 2018. Before coming to Alexander, he taught 6th-8th grade at Grenora for three years and 5th grade in Bainville for two years. Mr. Allard came to Alexander in order to get into administration. The thing he loves most about Alexander is it is a small town, with a village feel, where people help each other out. Aside from being the Vice Principal, he is also the varsity basketball and golf coach. When he was in high school he was the 2008 Class C State Golf Champion in Bainville, MT.



# The Ancient Story of the Claddagh

Zoe Beall

The legend of the Claddagh is a tale of the wondrous and beautiful Claddagh Ring. Richard Joyce, a fisherman, was seized by pirates at sea and then sold into slavery in Algeria. This all occurred shortly before his wedding!

A rich Moor goldsmith bought Joyce and began to train him in his craft. Joyce became a master craftsman. After learning this craft, Joyce forged the first ever Claddagh Ring in thoughts of his love. The heart embodied love, the clasped hands expressed

friendship, and crown represented loyalty and fidelity.

A little later, in 1689, King William agreed to free all of his people in slavery. Joyce was once again a free man. Before going home to Galway, his former master tried to convince Joyce to stay. He suggested that Joyce take half of his wealth and marry his daughter, but Joyce declined.

Once in Galway, Joyce discovered that his love awaited his return. Joyce gifted his love the Claddagh Ring and they

were finally and officially married.

The Claddagh Ring design, an example of a Fede ring, kept pride within the family, and was passed down through generations. The outline of the ring enhanced popularity worldwide.

Fede Rings, also known as Faith Rings, date back to Roman times, and were popular during the Middle Ages throughout Europe.\*

\*thecladdagh.com

## Recipe: Stuffed Jalapeños

Santos Riggs

### Ingredients:

- Salt and pepper
- 1 brick cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup of mozzarella
- 1 package of sweet Italian sausage (mild)
- 1 tablespoon of sour cream
- Big Jalapeños

### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees
2. Cut jalapeños in half lengthwise with stem attached, and scrape out the seeds.
3. Remove the sausage from the casing and put on a frying pan on medium-high heat. Break it apart like loose hamburger with a spatula. Once cooked through, drain excess fat and set aside to cool.
4. Mix the softened cream cheese with a tablespoon of sour cream. Add 1/2 cup of mozzarella and the sausage to the cream cheese mixture. Slowly fold in; **DO NOT OVER MIX**
5. Add salt and pepper, a little at a time (the sausage is already salty.)
6. Pack the jalapeño halves with the cream cheese mixture and bake on a foil-lined cookie sheet. Check every 5 minutes until you've reached your desired doneness.

## March Quote of the Month

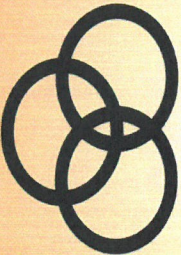
Arena Oian

**“Beware the Ides of March”**

— an ignored soothsayer to Julius Caesar

The irony of Caesar's murder on this day is that the Ides of March, or the fifteenth of March, was known to the Romans as a day to settle their debts. “Ides” refers to the middle of the month in the ancient Roman calendar.

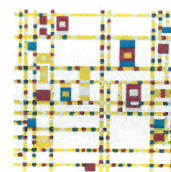
\*History.com



*Join the Campus Life Club!*

- Open to students age 11-19
- Meets weekly on Wednesdays from 4 PM-5PM in the Alexander Trinity Lutheran Church

## Artist of the Month **Zoe Beall**



*Broadway  
Boogie-  
Woogie*

Piet Mondrian was born March 7, 1872 in Amersfoort, Netherlands. Mondrian was a well-known creator, and leader in the modern abstract art movement. He was also an important member of the Dutch abstract art movement, De Stijl ("The Style.") In his later artworks, Mondrian utilized simple mixes of straight lines, right angles, primary colors, and other colors

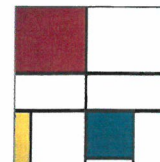
like black, white, and gray.

Around the age of 14, Mondrian was headstrong about becoming a painter. However, his family wanted him to receive a degree in education, so he taught art in secondary schools in 1892. Aside from teaching, Mondrian took lessons from a fellow painter. In 1893, Mondrian's art was showcased for the first time.

Later on, for Mondrian's

50th birthday, some of his friends put together an organization of his projects at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam. Mondrian passed away on February 1, 1944 at the age of 71.\* \*Britannica.com

*Composition C  
(No. III)  
with Red,  
Yellow,  
and Blue*



*Avond (Evening):  
The Red Tree*

## Boys' Basketball Wrap-Up **Hunter Hanig**

This boys' basketball season has been rough, but they still fought hard to the end. The varsity boys started off with difficulty, but then they had some close games that brought up their confidence. The Junior Varsity (JV) was also doing very well at the start of their season, but had struggles at the end.

With the end of the season on its way, the boys wanted to win a game more than ever. Finally the boys came to their last home game against the Burke County Titans; they originally lost the game, but someone from the other team illegally played 7 quarters, so they had to forfeit.

Coming into districts, the Comets were the underdogs and lost their first game, but won their second game against the Newtown Eagles, 68 to 45. The Comet boys won the first district game in 25 years. On March 1, the boys suffered a tough loss that took them out of the tournament.

## Book Recommendation **Samantha Turnquist**

If you are looking for a new book to read, I recommend *No-Where But Here* by Katie McGarry. This book is about a teenage girl who spends her summer away from her mother and step-father, but with her biological father for the first time. Emily spends her summer with a club prospect named Oz. Together, they try to uncover the truth that nearly tore apart the club 15 years before. Read the book to find out if they make it out alive!

# The Legend of April Fools' Day

Arena Oian

April Fools' Day is a classic holiday that can either be well loved or well feared.

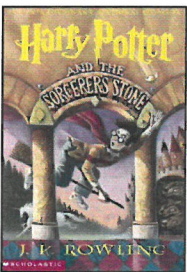
It dates back to as far as 1582! The holiday came to be when France switched from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar. The people that were not informed of the change, and still celebrated the beginning of the year during the spring equinox, were called "April Fools." The confused people were originally named "April Fish" because they were gullible and easily caught.

Some of the most famous April Fools' jokes since then have been The Great Spaghetti Harvest of the 1950's and the classic tape-on-the-bottom-of-a-mouse.

Today, we enjoy pranks on various scales of difficulty, from the whoopee cushion to much more complex psychological warfare. All deliver either terror and joy. Regardless, someone is sure to get a laugh.

## Book vs Movie: Harry Potter

Taylee Hunsaker



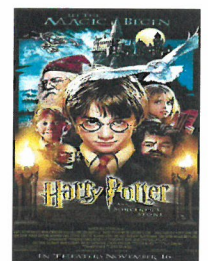
### Book

- Dialogue between professor McGonagall and Dumbledore is about Harry's parents.
- Dudley's hair is supposed to be blonde.
- Harry's aunt and uncle move him to the bedroom.
- Crabbe and Goyle don't have much hair.
- Harry and Hermione take away Norbert.
- Only Harry and Hermione get detention.
- Professor Quirrell gets blisters on his face.

*All Potter-heads alike can pick up on the differences between the books and movies of Harry Potter. Here are some things I picked up on while reading and watching Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.*

### Movie

- Dumbledore and McGonagall just greet each other and drop Harry off at his aunt and uncle's house.
- Dudley's hair is brown.
- Harry stays in the cupboard while at his aunt and uncle's home.
- Crabbe and Goyle have a lot of hair.
- Dumbledore takes away Norbert.
- Harry, Ron, and Hermione get detention.
- Professor Quirrell turns into stone.





# You Had One Job

Alexander High School students were tasked with going online and finding errors in public and private signs. **THIS IS WHY SPELLING AND USAGE COUNTS!**



## FFA Week Activities Arena Oian



Corn Queen: Paige Delaney  
Corn King: Ryan Pingel



Vice-Principal Allard "Kisses a Critter;" Paige Delaney's pony, "Bubbles."



The Alexander FFA Chapter



Nominees for FFA Week Coronation

# Prom Night Renee Cross



## *Under The Northern Lights*

*March 27, 2021*

Grand March begins at 8, and the dance will began right after and ends at 11:30 pm. The After-Prom party will go from 11:30 pm —3:00 am. Grades 9-12 may attend, and 8th grade may attend if escorted by an upper classman.

Terri Ryder will be taking scheduled pictures before the Grand March.

Tickets are available through the office. They are \$12 for a single and \$20 for a couples ticket.

## *Comet Count*

Which season do you  
prefer?

Spring

19

**Winner!**

Fall

18

## Weird Food Combos



Pickles and peanut butter

Pizza Rolls with A1 Sauce

Cheetos with salami

White cheddar popcorn with  
mini-Reese's cups

Hot dog bun with peanut butter  
and Cheetos

# The Annual Alexander Easter Egg Hunt

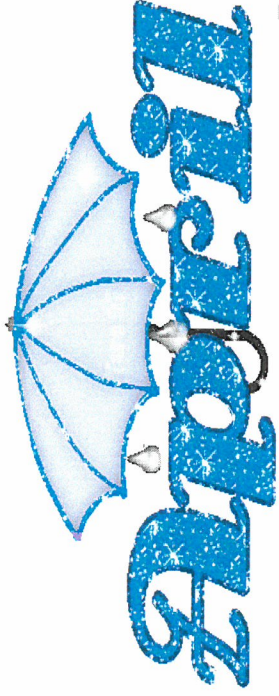


**Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 10am**

**Alexander City Park**

Easter Baskets will be distributed at the Alexander City Park immediately following the Egg Hunt. (First Come, First Serve)

**A Special Thank you to all those who have  
donated in 2020!**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Build your own Burgers Fries	2 <b>NO SCHOOL GOOD FRIDAY</b>	3
4	5 <b>NO SCHOOL EASTER MONDAY</b>	6 BBQ or Breaded Chicken Drumstick Potato Salad Baked Beans Biscuit	7 Super Nacho	8 Baked Chicken Breast or Cod Rice Pilaf Broccoli with Cheese	9 Spaghetti or Alfredo Garlic Toast	10
11	12 Hot Dog or Brat Mac & Cheese	13 Hamburger or Chicken Stroganoff Green Beans Breadstick	14 Breakfast for Lunch	15 Crispito Gravy Rice	16	17
18	19 Teriyaki or Orange Chicken Asian Rice Fortune Cookie	20 Chicken Burger or Fish Burger Fries	21 Corn dog Chips with Cheese	22 Scalloped Potatoes & Ham Carrots Bun	23 Soup & Sandwich	24
25	26 Slushburger Sun Chip	27 Pizza	28 Pulled Pork on a bun Wedges	29 Taco in a Bag	30	<b>HIGH FIVE MENU:</b> <u>BREAKFAST:</u> NOTABLE (CEREAL, CRACKERS, JUICE) & MILK <u>LUNCH:</u> 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.