

North Dakota Overrides Biden Executive Order

Comet News Staff

North Dakota lawmakers defy President Biden's executive order regarding transgender athletes' participation in high school sports. North Dakota legislators passed a bill banning transgender women from participation in female sports.

North Dakota House Bill No. 1298 states that they will not allow people who identify as the opposite sex to participate in state funded sports. For example, transgender women cannot play on women's teams nor can transgender men play on men's teams.

Part of President Biden's Executive Order No. 13988, passed on his first day in office, states that transgender women must be allowed to par-

ticipate in women's sports. This order is tied to federal funding.

"For the protection of the transgender students and the other students, Alexander will follow the North Dakota High School Athletics Association (NDHSAA) policy," according to the Leslie Bieber, Alexander Public School's Superintendent.

The policies of NDHSAA states that "a trans male (female to male) student who has undergone treatment with testosterone for gender transition may compete in a contest for boys but is no longer eligible to compete in a contest for girls," and "a trans female (male to female) student being treated with testosterone suppression medication for gender

transition may continue to compete in a contest for boys but may not compete in a contest for girls until completing one calendar year of documented testosterone-suppression treatment."

A year ago, the situation was brought to President Biden's attention, when cis-gender (someone who identifies with the gender they were born as) women proclaimed that competing against, and even with, transgender players deprived them from winning and receiving athletic awards.*

*legis.nd.gov, ndhsaa.com, nbcnews.com, usatoday.com, and whitehouse.gov

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Alex Senior Competes on State Team

Congratulations to Alexander's Tianna Dwyer, a member of the Class of 2021.

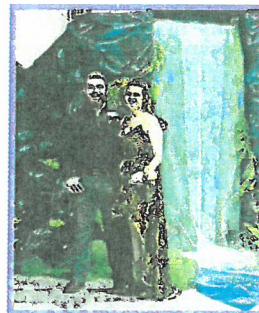
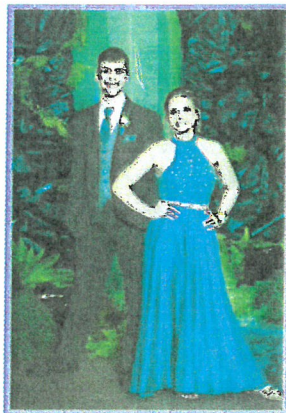
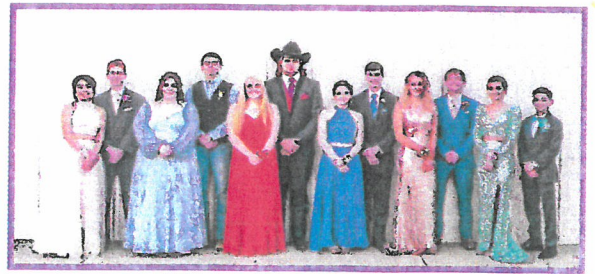
Tianna and Watford City Oilers teammate, Jeanine Miller, were selected as members of Team ND Girls HS Hockey.

The team competed in the USA Hockey Girls HS National Tournament in Omaha, NE April 15-19.

Congratulations Tianna!



Prom 2021!

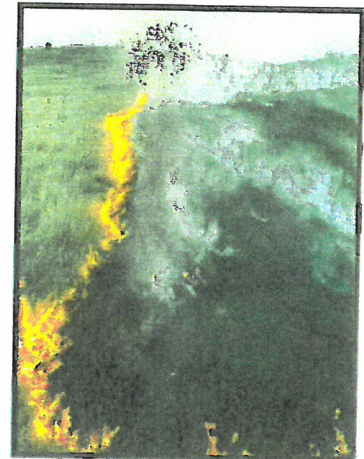
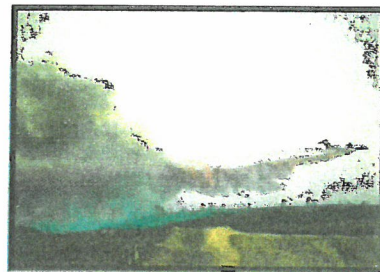


Calving Season Presley Powell

Calving season, which is the happiest and most stressful time of the year for ranchers, has been going on since the middle of March. Here are a few photos of the Comet family calves.



Drought Causes Many Massive Grass Fires Presley Powell



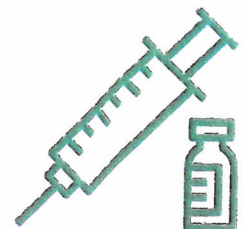
Local fire departments, along with emergency services personal and community residents, worked around the clock to combat numerous grass fires that erupted around the area due to severe drought conditions. Mercifully, snow blanketed the area during the week of April 14, bringing the emergency situation to an end.

Comet Count

Should "Vaccine Passports" become required in America?

Yes - 4

No - 42 WINNER!



Artist of the Month Zoe Beall

Leonardo Da Vinci was born in Anchiano, Italy, on April 15, 1452. Da Vinci is famous around the world, and is mostly known for his paintings. He wasn't just a painter, though; Da Vinci had a wide range of talents. Leonardo Da Vinci was also a sculptor, architect, inventor, military engineer, and draftsman.

Back then, the world had little information to teach, so Da Vinci only learned reading, writing, and math. Later, at the age of 14, Da Vinci started working alongside Andrea del Verrocchio as an apprentice. After learning numerous art techniques, at the age of 20, Leonardo Da Vinci was fit for a membership as a master artist in Florence's Guild of Saint Luke, and built his own workshop. His first ever commission was an altarpiece in Florence's Palazzo Vecchio in 1478.

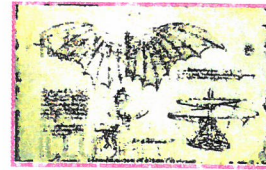
Not only was Leonardo Da Vinci an artist, but he was also a great inventor. He came up with multiple sketches of inventions, including the Flying Machine. Da Vinci also researched anatomy and science. He continued those studies until his death on May 2, 1519 due to a stroke.*

*biography.com



The
Mona Lisa

The Last
Supper



The Flying
Machine

Staff Spotlight



Todd Jacobson is our school's maintenance man. He

worked for Lance Powell for years before coming to work at the school. He chose Alexander because it's close to his home and he likes the environment. He also enjoys being around kids. His wife, daughter and son all work here, as well. Todd is not only the maintenance man, but is also a bus driver here at the school. Todd was born in Hawaii, where his dad was stationed, before moving back to his family's hometown of Alexander at the age of one.



One friendly face seen in our school is Mrs. Iverson. She is originally

from Columbia Falls, MT. There, she met her husband, who went to her school. Later on, they reconnected, via Facebook. She quit working as a CNA in her hometown to move to North Dakota 10 years ago. Mrs. Iverson chose her job because she loves being around kids. Mrs. Iverson also said she loves being in Alexander because the community is nice.



One teacher we've all had by now is Mrs. Nelson. She has lived here her entire life and

has had different jobs around the area. Before she worked here, she worked at the Cafe, Strause Clothes, Bremmar Financial, and Blue Cross Blue Shield. She began working here many years ago, after an accident created an immediate need for a teacher. Mrs. Nelson began teaching because she wanted to spend summers with her children and to be able to see them in their extracurricular activities. She's hoping for her students to understand what she's teaching and to be industrious.

Book Recommendation Samantha Turnquist

“Fake it ‘til you make it,” right? Samantha McAllister is trying her hardest to be who her friends think she is in *Every Last Word* by Tamara Ireland Stone. When she makes a new friend, Caroline, Sam goes to lengths to keep her two lives separate. Caroline helps her join a club full of local high school misfits, where Sam can express her true feelings through poetry. If you’re looking for a good book to read, find *Every Last Word* in your school library.

Answers with Eeyore Santos Riggs

Do you like Easter?

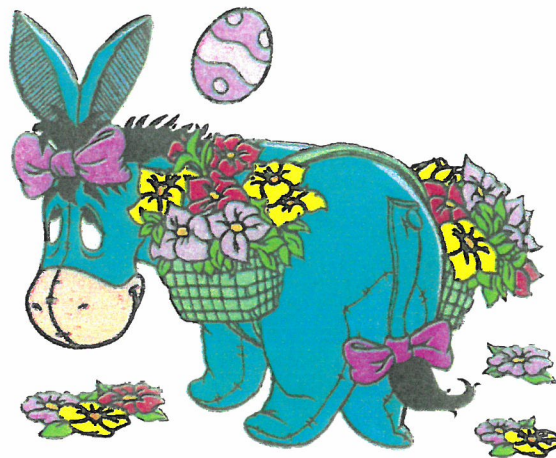
Depends; last year I gorged myself with Easter candy and cried about my tail.

Did you decorate eggs this Easter?

No, when I’m crying, the colors hurt my eyes.

Have you met the Easter Bunny?

No, the Easter Bunny doesn’t believe in me...



You Had One Job



Recipe Samantha Turnquist

Hershey Kiss Cookies

Ingredients:

1 bag (8 oz) Hersey's Kisses
 ½ cup Shortening
 ¾ cup Peanut Butter
 ⅓ cup Granulated Sugar
 ⅓ cup Packed Light Brown Sugar
 1 Egg
 2 Tbsp. Milk
 1 tsp Vanilla Extract
 1-1½ cups All-Purpose Flour
 1 tsp. Baking Soda
 ½ tsp. Salt
 Granulated Sugar

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. Remove wrappers from Kisses.
2. Beat shortening and peanut butter in a large bowl until well blended. Add ⅓ cup granulated sugar and brown sugar; beat until fluffy. Add egg, milk, and vanilla; beat well. Stir together flour, baking soda, and salt in a separate bowl; gradually beat into peanut butter mixture.
3. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll in granulated sugar; place on ungreased cookie sheets.
4. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until lightly browned. Immediately press a Kiss into the center of each cookie; the cookie will crack around the edges. Remove from cookie sheet to wire rack. Cool completely.
6. Enjoy!

Fishing Season Hunter Hanig

Fishing is a popular hobby in North Dakota. The new fishing season started on April 1.

Opening day reminds people to head over to get a new license. License prices may differ depending on how old you are, your marital status, or what type of license you buy.

If you go ice fish-

ing, it's important to take safety precautions to reduce the risk of falling through the ice. The general rule of thumb for ice: 2 inches or less—stay off of the ice; 4 inches of ice is good for a walking individual; 6 inches of ice is good for a snowmobile or ATV; 8-12 inches of ice is good for a car or small pickup; 12-15 inches of

ice is good for a medium pickup truck.

With all of this, the last thing you should know is the fishing season technically ends on March 31 of next year.

Easter Fun Facts! Zoe Beall

Americans eat about 1.5 million Peeps during Easter!*

*goodhousekeeping.com

The act of painting eggs originates from a Ukrainian tradition.*

*sykescottage.co.uk

Eggs were a symbol of life to Ancient Egyptians, Persians, Romans, and Greeks. The custom of giving eggs at Easter originated with them.*

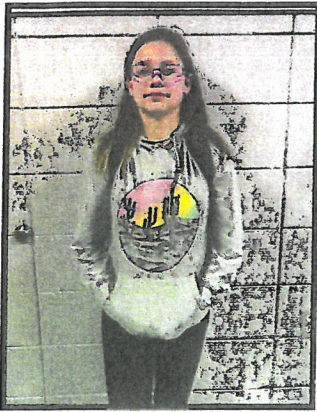
*uselessdaily.com



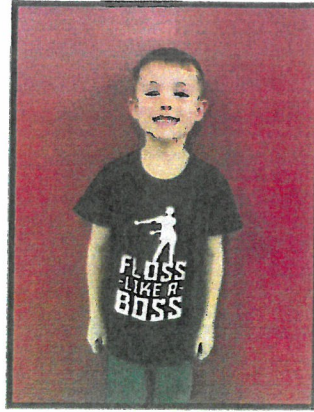
The first story of a rabbit (later named the "Easter Bunny") hiding eggs in a garden was published in 1680.*

*uselessdaily.com

“Where Does the Easter Bunny Live?”



Vivian Lundeen
6th Grade
“The Badlands”



Declan Lenseth
1st Grade
“In a house”



Xoe Stoner
2nd Grade
“Underground”

Weird Food Combos

Jalapeño, Cream Cheese, and Everything Bagel Seasoning

Bubblegum and Cheese

Watermelon and Whipped Cream

Pizza Rolls and Strawberry Yogurt

Lays Chips and Apple Sauce



Randoms with the Fam

Cayle Rykhus

When we were younger, my siblings and I would use chalk to draw out a little town. We would pretend to ride around “town” on our bikes or scooters, and sell things from our “shops”. We would always end up arguing over stupid things, like running into the fake buildings or just going “too fast”. I really enjoyed it, even with all the arguing and physical fighting. I cherish these moments because they are always hilarious to look back on.

Santos Riggs

When my sister and I were little, we would sleep in the same room. Some nights, we would goof off instead of going to sleep. So, my mom would goof off with us to get us to sleep. One of the most iconic things she would do was the robot. She would move like a machine and say, “nIGHTY nIGHT” and “Don’T GooF Off ChidlRen.” It was the funniest and most embarrassing thing we had ever seen.

Senior Trip Renee Cross

The Class of 2021 trip was said to be a great time, filled with many happy memories. They journeyed down to South Dakota and spent some time exploring many interesting activities. Some of their favorite stops included Reptile Gardens, Art Alley, Mount Rushmore, and an Opera house. The seniors said they had a great time while learning about many different topics in history, and spending time with each other as their final year in school comes to an end.



Staff Spotlight



Kristen Hayes is one of the current custodians at Alexander Public School. Before choosing Alexander, she was a bartender/manager at the Highway Lounge. She wanted a change of scenery, so she decided to become a custodian at the school. She was born in Arizona, but grew up in Fargo, North Dakota. She has been in North Dakota most of her life. For the future, Kristen would like to see students become more involved in sports, along with the many student activities provided by the school.



Chad Simonson is one of Alexander's favorite substitutes in addition to being a coach in both the wrestling and football programs. Before coming to work at Alexander, he worked at XTO. He decided to work at the school because he grew up in Alexander, and graduated from here. The reason he works here is because he loves working with the kids. Chad originally comes from Dawsen, ND, but has lived here since 1977. His goals for the future include making sure that all his students learn something, whether in school or out.



Nurse Heen is the person we all go to when we feel ill while in school. Nurse Heen used to be a Dialysis Nurse (they give treatment for people that have kidney failure). Nurse Heen wanted to try something different when she chose the school, and the work schedule was ideal for her family. She likes to help people, and it keeps her humble and grateful. Mrs. Heen is from Williston and has lived in Alexander for 15 years. Mrs. Heen wants to help students and staff be healthy and be in school more often, and to assist staff, students, and parents with mental and physical health issues. Mrs. Heen wants everyone to know she loves her job and her Comet family.

Floriography Arena Oian



Floriography

There is an age-old saying that “April showers bring May flowers.” When most people think about flowers, they think of holidays, birthdays, and sweet messages. Did you know flowers were once used to send coded messages? This is an old practice called **floriography**. The practice started way back in the 17th century when Turkish concubines, who could not read or write, used it as a way to send messages back and forth. It gained popularity in the Victorian era of the 1800s, when women used it to convey messages. The messages may have been deemed inappropriate at the time. While floriography started with somewhat sweet and innocent means, it was also used for nefarious purposes. Not all the flowers' meanings were nice. For example, geraniums mean stupidity and orange lilies mean hatred. While floriography may have lost its popularity through the years, it is still a cool way to send someone a special message. *termcoord.eu

Flowers in Cooking

When people think of a vibrant bouquet, they think of scent, not taste. What most people don't know, however, is that flowers are a common ingredient in cooking and baking. For example, if you are someone who likes watching baking competitions, you may have seen roses as one of the main ingredients. What you may not know is that roses are part of the berry family. You may also have been eating flowers that you didn't even know were flowers, such as cabbages and broccoli. Broccoli is actually part of the cabbage family, and the name derives from the Italian plural, *broccolo*, meaning the flowering crest of the cabbage. Likewise, sunflowers are also part of the cabbage family. Some other unusual edible flowers include dandelions, carnations, and marigolds. These floral delicacies can be used to add flavor to a dish, or simply as fun garnish. Flowers such as hibiscus and rose can also be used in the making of teas and other beverages. The important thing to remember is, whenever cooking flowers, make sure you get them from a reliable source. They must be safe to eat and free of the pesticides and herbicides that are often used in gardens when the plants are grown for display rather than consumption. *whatscookingamerica.net



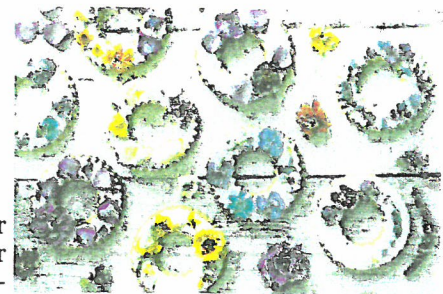
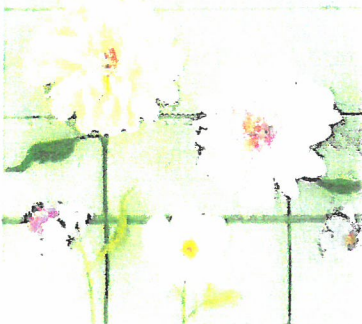
Geraniums-stupidity
Foxglove- insincerity
Meadowsweet- uselessness
Orange lilies- hatred
Yellow Carnations-disappointment

Flowers and Your Emotional Health

It has long been a tradition to give flowers to those who are ill or are just feeling sad, but did you know that flowers can actually help better your mood? Multiple studies have shown that, over periods of time, flowers have been shown to improve overall mental health and help improve depression. They can also help to create social connections.

Many plants can also improve your mood with their medicinal qualities. Lavender helps with sleep and eucalyptus and spearmint can relieve stress. However, these specific flowers are not the only ones to help with stress. One study even showed that something as simple as just walking through a flower shop can reduce stress levels and leave you feeling refreshed.

*liliumflorals.com and safnow.org



CLASS OF 2021 CLASS TITLES AND MOST LIKELY TO...

Most likely to succeed:	Drew LeBrun
Class clown:	Taytim Hake
Biggest flirt:	Breanna Schooley
Best singer:	Sam Riggs
Most likely to have a 5-course meal in their backpack:	Zech Albright
Most likely to couch surf:	Bryce Luck
Most likely to run late for the rest of their lives:	David Brandenburg
Most likely to move out of the country:	Danielle Murphy
Most likely to become famous:	Alex Sims
Most likely to become a crazy cat person:	Keely Countryman
Most likely to protest for a living:	Brianna Yancey
Most likely to maintain strict social distancing even after COVID:	Juli White
Most likely to embarrass themselves in front of their secret crush:	Bradyn Modine
Most likely to participate in sports after high school:	Tianna Dwyer
Most likely to initiate teacher distraction to avoid work:	Corynna Turnquist
Most likely to be required to show ID at the age of 30:	Kaileigh Johnson

<u>CLASS OF 2021:</u>
<i>Zechariah Albright</i>
<i>David Brandenburg</i>
<i>Keely Countryman</i>
<i>Tianna Dwyer</i>
<i>Taytim Hake</i>
<i>Kaileigh Johnson</i>
<i>Drew LeBrun</i>
<i>Bryce Luck</i>
<i>Bradyn Modine</i>
<i>Danielle Murphy</i>
<i>Sam Riggs</i>
<i>Breanna Schooley</i>
<i>Alex Sims</i>
<i>Corynna Turnquist</i>
<i>Juli White</i>
<i>Brianna Yancey</i>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 BREAKFAST FOR LUNCH	4 TURKEY OR BEEF MASHED POTATO CORN	5 TACO IN A BAG	6 WINGS & RINGS	7	8
9	10 ORANGE OR TERIYAKI CHICKEN FRIED RICE	11 BUILD YOUR OWN BURGERS	12 POPCORN CHICKEN BOWL	13 FINGER STEAKS MAC & CHEESE	14 CRISPITO RICE GRAVY	15
16	17 COOKS CHOICE	18 COOKS CHOICE	19 PIZZA	20 END OF THE YEAR BBQ	21 HAVE A TERRIFIC SUMMER!	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Breakfast is served daily from 7:30-8:00 Hot Breakfast (served Tuesday & Thursday) is as follows:
 05/04: Biscuit & Gravy
 05/06: Breakfast Pizza
 05/11: Pancake Wrap
 05/13: Eggs to Order & Hash browns
 05/18: Cooks Choice
 05/20: Breakfast Burritos

