

ALTERNATIVE TIMES

Magazine

Volume 4 Issue 2

**JOEL BUMGAARS
FINDS THE RIGHT
JOB.**

End of the semester
means grading time.

I'm going to make it....

nevaeh cardenas

BIG IDEA NEXT

Ashland's Black Student's Union

**Ms. Webb makes it
happen at Innovation
Academy**



**United Way
of Jackson County**

Parallels of the same experience by Erin White

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Nevaeh

Creating a place for peace.

When school started this September, it was a new opportunity to change how to live and to be free of all the old habits that plagued her in the last two years. Nevaeh is no different than any other high school student that lacks direction or more importantly a system of support. Myself, and many others have tried to be a part of that system, but trust will always be an issue. But this year was going to be different. It started with promise where the focus was a solo one and where joy appeared to be a part of her time at Innovation Academy, but the joy she would experience would be with bouts of confusion. Nevaeh truly wanted to belong even if it meant being around individuals that cause her so much heartache. By now you are probably asking yourself "how would Will know these things," because I asked. Our investment in the graduation responsibility, better known as Big Idea Next, is to support our students in their most challenging capacities. This year "belonging" has been front and center along with finding hobbies, activities, as well as careers after graduation.

But Nevaeh has a piece of my heart, and I have worked with her to create projects for her to champion based on her experiences. The most recent has been a "place for peace." Nevaeh's idea is to establish an area inside of Innovation Academy where students can chill and get away from the drama. With the help of her classmate Faith, they were on a mission to finish but I didn't see her for a few days. By the time I had run into her again she didn't seem like herself. She talked about the drama that had come back and how things were worse than ever (in terms of school), and although she wasn't dropping out, she didn't see the value. I thought about the way I felt and the pain and confusion that she is going through but she's going to make it. I know she is going to make it because she has it in her to make it even though she is experiencing some difficulties. I also reassured her that there is a full building of people that care for her and is cheering for her to win including me.

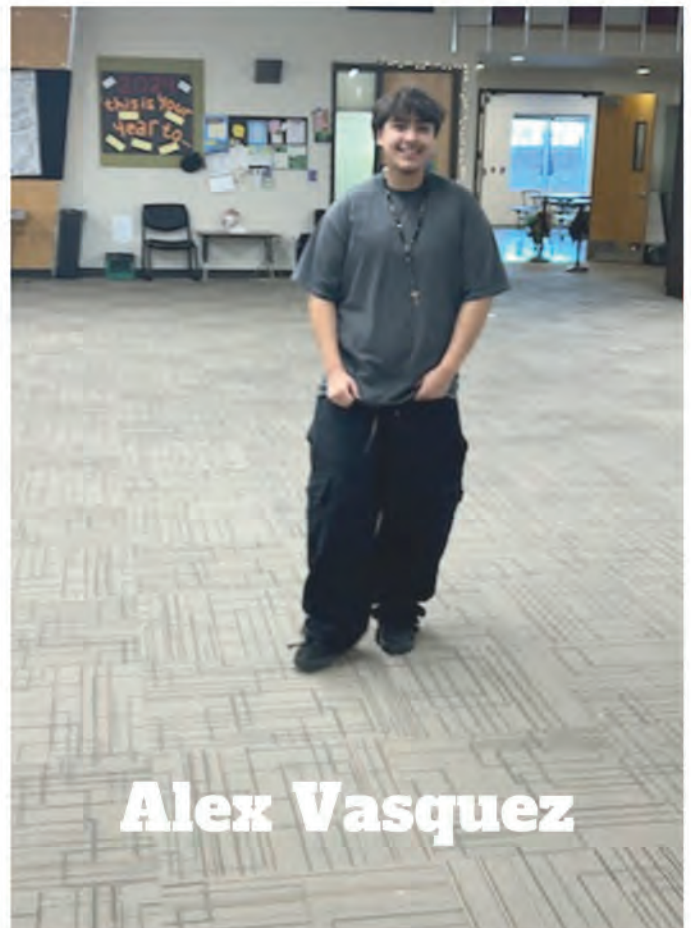
Will



Leadership

Leadership is a great class with great opportunities with real life skills and has helped me when I am unsure in some situations. I also enjoy leadership because it involves me more with my school and lets me set fun events for the students.

Alex



Alex Vasquez



Hope



Jakobi Cole

“THE STRONG.”

FFA Leadership



Prospect.





There really is something about being a student athlete that most people, even student athletes take for granted. Your GPA must be on point. A student athlete must maintain a certain GPA depending on what sport you participate in or who the coach is. Long tenured coaches know that education is your ticket to success and not how many goals you score. Maintaining your GPA as an athlete is different than regular students and that stress goes a long way into what your performance dictates. As a former student athlete, I know that I was a much better student when I could just focus on education.

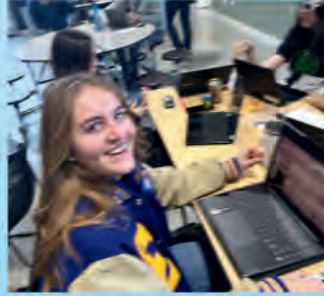
Depending on where you go to school, less than half of the students participate in sports or other activities which is a travesty when you think about how mentally healthy you can be by focusing on something powerful and uplifting. The bigger issue revolves around the things that that we celebrate which either encourages or discourages participation. Losing staff members at the beginning of the school year limits the notoriety for activities like art, music, theater, graphic design, and FFA (Future Farmers of America). The good news is that we have increased our initiatives related to vocational learning. Today, I would like to encourage all students to find a hobby and/or celebrate the things you enjoy.

In our own way!



I wish I could have done this the traditional way, but it didn't happen but I am still on target to graduate thanks to Eagle Point High School and Orlando De La Cruz. There were days that we all wanted to quit but we kept fighting. Thanks for your encouragement!

SELF-REALIZATION



Personal achievements have a certain meaning to you as a person. School or work has a different feel without real meaning attached to it. I try to be fun to those that deserve to be around me. To those people I want to have a good impression on and someone I want to have around. I think it's important for me to know what each person finds funny and not to pander to anyone. Community is important because it takes a community to help a person because everyone needs a community, or a group of people that are there in any way. Community is so different for each person. The object is to help your people no matter what. I always try to improve myself by watching my own actions and breaking down the actions and how others and I feel. I also listen to what others have to say about my behaviors. I hope those that are close to me will always come from a place of honesty. I will plan my future to the best of my ability, but also remembering that my family raised me on something called indigenous time where things happen when they happen. I have goals and needs but the details get filled in on indigenous time. Showing someone, you care for them in small ways is needed or you'll lose them.

Lotus Waddell

I consider a personal achievement to be a milestone in your life or a goal that you are proud of. For example, academic achievement, or learning a new skill. I'm fun to be around because I'm spontaneous, goofy, and have a bubbly attitude. My community is so important to me because it gives me a sense of belonging and we support one another. I would help improve my community by keeping it clean, supporting local and small businesses, and donating food and clothing. I can improve myself by communicating better, my attitude and how I treat myself. My dream future involves being a stay-at-home mom, two kids and many acres to raise animals – with my spouse being able to teach my kids the same life lessons and more. It's important to show people you care because you never know what's going to happen in life or what someone is going through.

Savanna Johnson



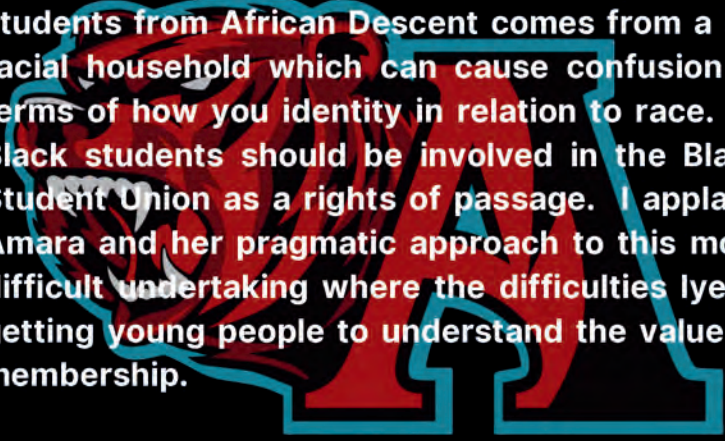
Something that makes me happy with myself, my efforts, is my growth over the time it takes me to achieve my goal and my overall accomplishments. A personal achievement to me is to better my skills in my hobbies and creating/providing a safe place for my community. I'm good at matching others' energy. I try my best to listen and not judge. I advocate for others and let them know I'll go out of my way to help those that are struggling. I can handle high energy and have no issue raising spirits. I would improve my community by providing a safe, comfortable place and tailoring my attitude to individual needs. I am not afraid to put in work to support my community and I love to introduce new people into my family. I would like to get better at communicating my own emotions to others, unlearning procrastination, and managing my time better. My future would include living with friends as roommates or neighbors, being able to have your own farm and garden to be self-sufficient and independent. Not getting married or having kids. As far as showing people you care about you never know how much time you have. Also being honest from the start leaves a more genuine, vulnerable relationship for the future. When I'm down I go to Evs. She's my oldest friend, and we've been together for over four years. We tell each other everything about what we do, what we think, and what we feel. I trust her no matter what.

Ronnie

BSU Ashland every Wednesday



Amara Lowe is the President of the Black Student Union at Ashland High School which by all accounts is a very difficult job. It seems to me like the Jackie Robinson of all clubs true or not. Amara was born to deal with the challenges that this job presents, especially when you consider trying to recruit young people that are trying to understand knowledge of self. If you are an African American in any school system and one that is rural like Southern Oregon, you tend to want to fit in as opposed to belong. Amara, like many of the students from African Descent comes from a Bi-racial household which can cause confusion in terms of how you identify in relation to race. All Black students should be involved in the Black Student Union as a rights of passage. I applaud Amara and her pragmatic approach to this most difficult undertaking where the difficulties lie in getting young people to understand the value of membership.



**7TH ANNUAL
BLACK YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT
2025**

**OWNING OUR PAST,
DEFINING OUR FUTURE:
LIVING THE ANCESTRAL
DREAM.**

**SAVE
THE DATE!**

WHEN: FEB 20, 2025

**WHERE: SOU CAMPUS,
ASHLAND**

PRESENTED BY:

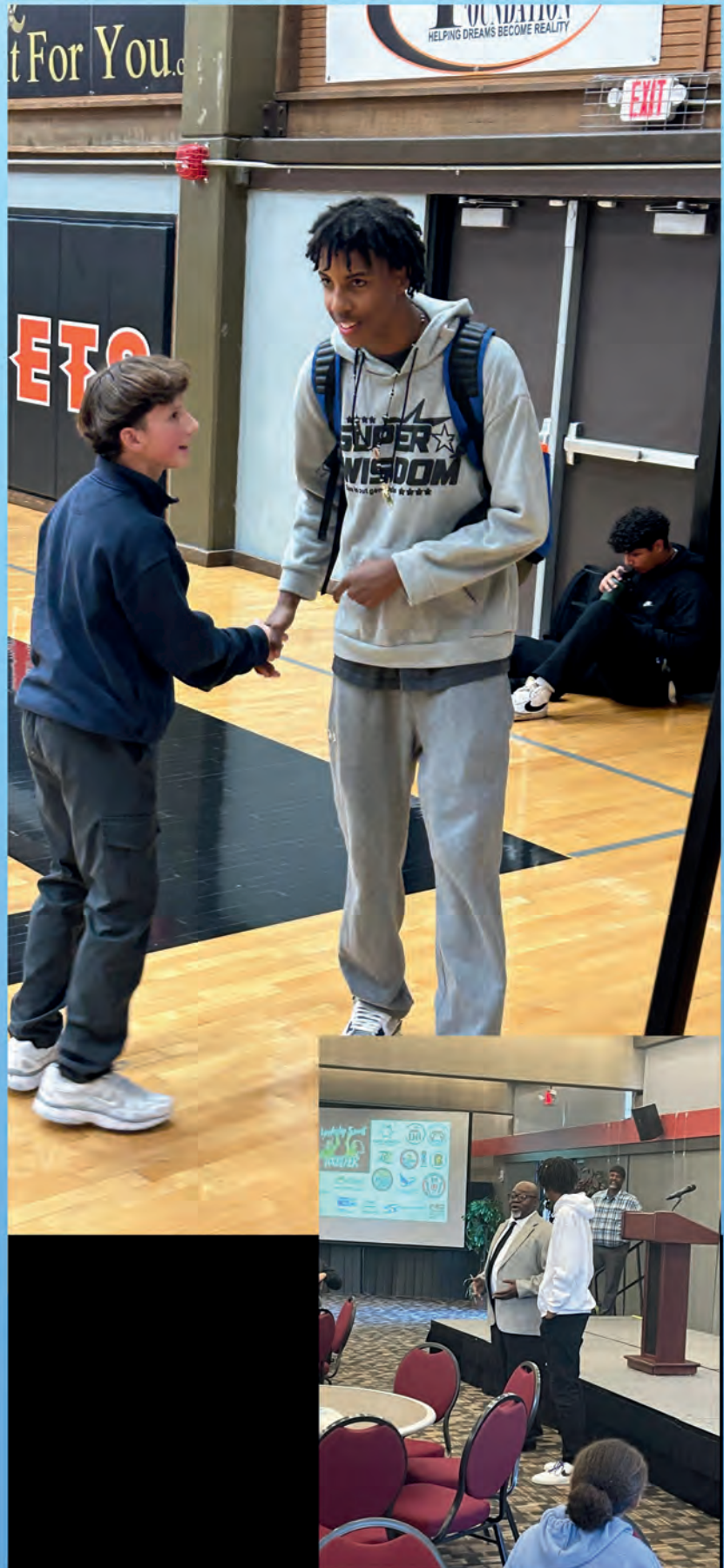
**SO Southern OREGON
UNIVERSITY**

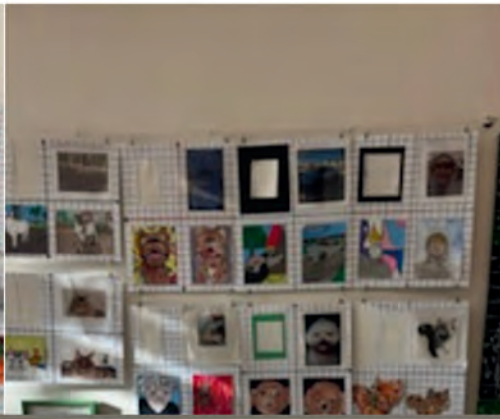
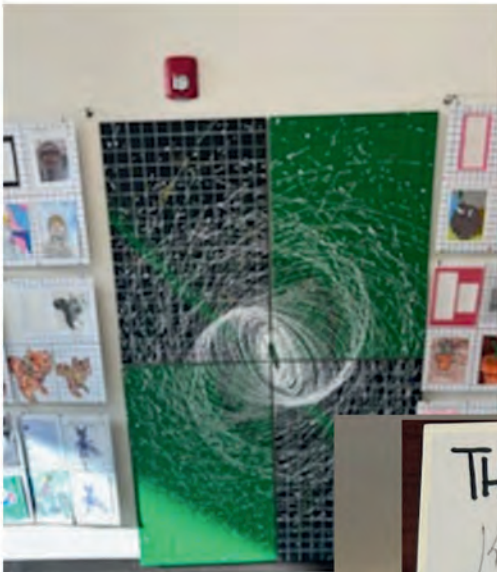
Q

QUINTON WITHERS

FINDS A SUPPORT SYSTEM.

I have known Q most of his life and I would say that I have been pretty close to him when you examine the relationship between a mentor and mentee. Q had early difficulties with his learning styles which also caused some issues with his relationship building. Q was misunderstood by teachers as well coaches and parents. There was so much chatter around Q and how he would he turn out and then I ran into him at the Black Youth Student Summit. I was watching him during the preliminary functions, and I was not happy with him being led by others that were there to enjoy a free day away from their respective schools. So as one of the guest speakers I decided to take him with me to the stage. On this day I didn't use the microphone or the stage. On this day I was up close and personal with the students as to profess my love for them and acknowledge my respect for the growth of Quinton.





THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO! *Marty Willard*

Kolton Vance Philby *Sissy* *Ms. Stone* *Amanda H* *Bekah Shepard*

Johan *Soziah Easter* *Macia B* *Aidan B* *Korcor* *

Ellyn Williams *Bekah Shepard* *Madmit B* *Leaie* *Abigeele* *Kathryn*

Mrs. Bales *Therian* *Shaughitman* *carson* *Jessica Johnson*

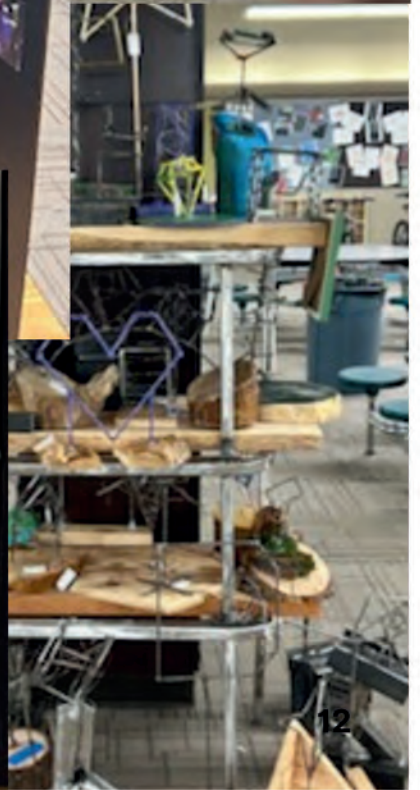
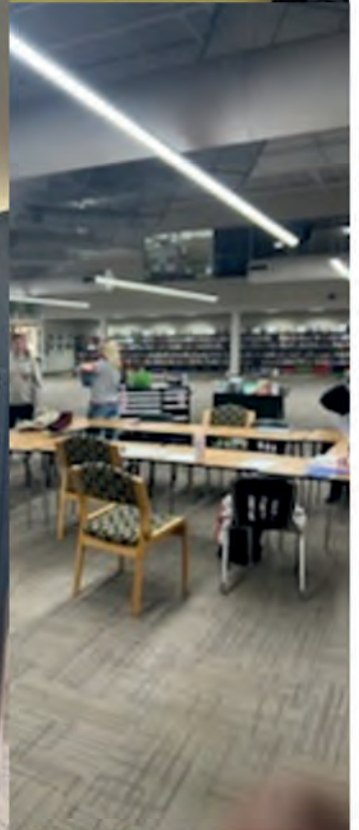
Mrs. Batman *Hit H.F.* *Katie*

Hobdunn *Wishing you all the joys of the holiday season and a happy new year too!*

Mrs. Blackmore **CLA HIGH SCHOOL** *Wynn*

Me. Crone *Mrs. Russell* *Front office* *Riley S* *Miss Trautman* *Jude* *Adrian*

Mrs. Cury *Mrs. Evans* *August*



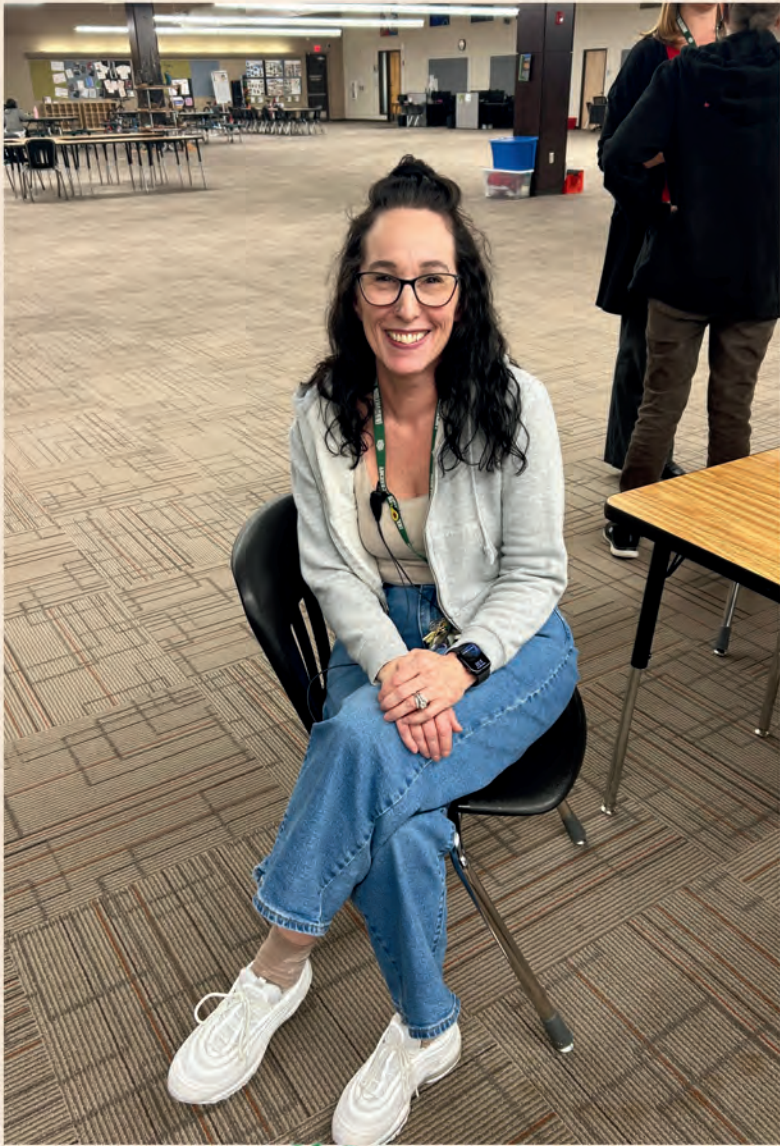
Joel Bumgaars finds a job in the real world, through mock interviews

My name is Joel Bumgaars and I am being interviewed by Will Young of United Way. Innovation Academy are conducting mock interviews to prepare us for the real world. The company that I am interested in is Burris Custom Fabrication and the position is Metal/Plasma Cutting. If I have to describe myself it would be a person that hates to lose, is very polite, loves to problem solve, but has a high level of procrastination. I see this position as a new opportunity with a chance to meet new people and strive for something better. What I know about this company is that there is mass production to little jobs, with art hitting metal (fabrication).

You should hire me because I always want to be better. In my time in high school, I have had 2 1/2 years of welding with all types but most proficient in stick and mig. I have many strengths, but I would say my ability to know what people want puts me above others. My weakness is always going to be procrastination which may mean my biggest accomplishment is making it through the day. In five years, I see myself having an amazing personal conversation about how I did not change my value system, and kept my beliefs in the forefront



Tina Webb School Counselor



If Ms. Webb is your counselor, then she's my counselor too. Our work mirrors one another and the quality of the interaction is palpable. Ms. Webb is tuned in to what's going on with our young on such a pragmatic level that it makes her conversations easy to understand and her instructions are conveyed with grace and kindness. Although she has studied the trends that Covid19 created, she is still hopeful that a comeback is imminent. But this means work for our counselor who understands the struggles of young people in terms of their social aptitude and communication difficulties. Ms. Webb loves young people and loves the journey associated with them on their road to graduation. Innovation Academy is in its second year and dividends are starting to pay off. Ms. Webb says, "academic growth is creating a foundation for lifelong learning." One of the more important faucets includes collaboration. United Way is part of a group of community organizations that lend their time to the efforts of Innovation Academy. Whether it is a Career Fair or Mock Interviews, students are aware of the resources at their disposal. With this understood, Ms. Webb is quick to point out that "students just don't learn, they grow, they connect and inspire."



GOLDFISH

DEFINING MYSELF IS LIKE CONFINING MYSELF
SO I UNDEFINED MYSELF
TO FIND MYSELF

Parallels of the same experience.

WITH SISTER LILY

by Erin White



If you're reading this, you probably assume you and your life are completely unique and you're probably right. I am sure you have experiences in an order no one else has but the experiences themselves and your reactions to them, well that's a different story. Let's say school for example, think about your high school experience. Who were the people you remember whether you knew them or not I'm sure they fit into a few groups like the ones you've seen in movies. It's hard to truly say that humans are unique, but we know a few things like when we experience trauma, we deal with some of the same responses. The same applies to everyday experiences, we possess them and filter them back in our responses. You stub your toe, you curse, what makes you different from the next? It may be whether you tell a friend about the experience or write in a journal or just forget about it. But there are a few ways to express this and someone will share your option. Humans are born with DNA and a brain. We experience, process, reconfigure and repeat. You are the only one till you find your match. Singularity is the pursuit of the mind, free yourself.

Angel Cervantes



I tried calling Angel mainstream and he didn't want any part of that would suggest to him like he was fitting in instead of being his own man. Angel has much to look up to especially when you think of his older brother that has graduated and is now a college student at RCC.

If Angel is not mainstream, he is certainly connected. He is a student/athlete and he really takes pride in the moniker. Angel is graduating next spring after leading Eagle Point Soccer and Basketball teams which to me is quite impressive. He is a great person to be around with a smile that is so infectious.

He and I really clicked from the beginning and it didn't take long for him to understand how important education is to my day to day existence, but it is for him as well. Angel is inspiring a large group of student athlete with an emphasis on student.



Distinguished Gentlemen Gametime @ University of Oregon Men's Basketball

It was a rainy-day meeting with the boys for an exciting event. We had been eagerly waiting for the day we got to go and watch a live basketball game! We all love the game even with a few of us are not playing it. Ethyn, Jojo, and I met to get some snacks and mess around before meeting Will and Gavin to head up to Eugene. I had been up all night excited for the trip and I wasn't the only one. We all had planned on snackin' up to Eugene and having a good time while doing it. I was so ready to get up there and I was eager to just go so we booked it over to the meet-up spot and met some new friends for the trip, Noah and Zo.



Gavin was waiting for us with Will, so we were all just ready to go. With Zo in the front, Ethyn Noah in the middle and Gavin, Jojo, and I all crammed in the back of the van we set off to the time of our lives. The drive was exhausting and Will seemed like he was "re-learning" how to drive. It was such a good time though the laughs, the snores, the screams, I wouldn't change a thing. We ended up arriving a little early and went to a sneaker shop to just "look." Gavin and I both left with a pair of shoes and our wallets a little lighter.



After that, we headed to our seats. We sat behind the rim watching straight on until we got called down damn near the courtside. We sat just behind the seats on the court. It was insane, the view we had was amazing and Ethyn and I commented on the game the whole time trying to call out plays and teaching Gavin how the game works. Watching the game wishing we were on their team it was heart racing. I couldn't stop smiling and thinking about getting out there. Once the game was over, I replayed my favorite plays over and over trying to figure out how to incorporate it into my play. We left excited and hungry! Taking some clean photos to remember the time we spent we then set off to go home grabbing so damn good Popeyes to give it that final meal type of night.



by Ty Millard

Keep those grades up



Please.....

BIG IDEA NEXT



Lisandro Melchor

My journey into taxidermy began many years ago when I was just 11 years old. However, the roots of this interest stretch back to when I was around 8 or 9. During that time, I started going out hunting with my dad. We were not serious hunters; our outings were more about spending time together than bagging trophies. We never considered doing a European mount, which is a popular way to display animal heads. As the years passed, my dad grew curious about the idea of trying a European mount on his own. He took on the task with enthusiasm, but the results were not what he had hoped for. The process turned out to be more challenging and labor-intensive than he expected. After his first attempt, he realized that taxidermy was not for him. Noticing my keen interest, my dad encouraged me to give it a shot. When I first started, the work felt overwhelming, and my initial attempts were far from perfect. Each year brought new challenges and learning opportunities. I made mistakes, but with practice, my skills improved. The process became easier and more fulfilling. Over time, I developed a deeper appreciation for the craft and honed my technique.



While most students are navigating their general education classes as they should, a lot of students are trying to reconcile with the subjects they enjoy the most which are not necessarily on the school's menu. My assignment with Lisandro is simple: help him get to the finish line aka graduation but my investment is how do you make the things that you enjoy into a career. These skulls that you see above are the works of Lisandro. His enthusiasm is amazing, and from the first conversation I knew he was a special kid. I look forward to getting to the finish line with him along with what he enjoys along the way.



Why choose Crater Lake Academy

“Having class on-line and in person.”

Austin Howard



“The Pathways Program.”

Grady



“The relationships between teachers and kids.”

Ajna

“It feels safe because the teachers are always looking out for us.”

Luke



“Because the school is so small.”

Austin Howard



“The freedom to create your schedule”

Savanna Johnson



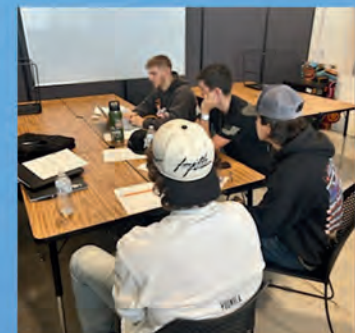
“The freedom this school gives to you.”

Gracie



“The ability to work ahead of everyone or “independently.”

Ronnie



NEW GRADS



Jack Schmahl

Thayden Hereford-Fain

