The Dog Caller

Volume 24 Issue 3 Spiro High School 600 West Broadway Spiro, Oklahoma 74959 December 2025-2026

Dear Santa

We asked some seniors what they want for Christmas, and this is what they said.

Books and writing journals/ notebooks -Montana

Records and Murder Mystery Books -Aspen

Clothes, Money, and Shoes -Myla

Jordan lows -Katie

A Tattoo -Gracie

I want a million dollars & a new car. -Kiana C

$5k & Shein Cart -Laylah S

I want vinyls for my vinyl collection -Eiana

I would like highland cows for Christmas. -Tatianah

Peace and quiet -Alyssia

I googol dollars -Ashton W



Jesse Eli Barnes

Senior Spotlight
By Mariah Juarez

Jesse Eli Barnes was born on January 8, 2008. During his time in high school, he played baseball for four years, joined the esports team for three years, and played football for one year.. Outside of school, Jesse enjoys playing video games and baseball. His favorite thing he owns is his purple Xbox controller. When Jesse was a kid, he wanted to be a cowboy. He plans on joining the Marines after high school. Jesse would describe himself as “tuff.” His favorite color is black, his favorite show is *JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure*, and he likes listening to N.W.A. His favorite song is *Sweater Weather*, and his favorite movie is *Poetic Justice*. One thing that really annoys him is Siege characters in video games. His advice for underclassmen is “Gain more aura.” Jesse is ready to finish high school and begin the next chapter of his life.

2025-2026 Dog Caller Newspaper Staff

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Hayden Alan Michael Reed

Senior Spotlight
By Rylee Ashley

Hayden Alan Michael Reed was born on June 23, 2007. He has been involved in a few activities involving baseball (4 years), basketball (4 years), and football (4 years). His hobbies and interests include softball, fishing, and hunting. When he was younger, he wanted to be a cop when he grew up. He’s not sure what he wants to do after high school. His most prized possession is his Xbox. His favorite memory of high school is going to state. His favorite color is red. His favorite TV show is *Love Island*. His favorite movie is *Waterboy*. His advice for underclassmen is to show up to school on time.



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Alyssia Nuzzi

Senior Spotlight

By Robyn Gregory

Alyssia Nuzzi was born on January 23, 2008. Her extracurricular activities are choir (4 years), band (1 year), newspaper (3 years), drama (1 year), FCCLA (1 year), Spanish (1 semester), internship (1 and a half years), computers (3 years), and cheercamp (4 years). Her hobbies are baking, cooking, sleeping, and writing. When she was a child, she wanted to be a ballerina. Her plans after high school are moving to New York, going to college, and getting a job Her biggest pet peeve is people. Her most prized possession is her bed. Her favorite memory from high school is going to plays. One word she uses to describe herself is independent. Her favorite color is purple, and her favorite food is spaghetti. Her favorite TV show is *Criminal Minds*. Her favorite movie is *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*. Her favorite musical group is *Mindless Self-Indulgence*, and her favorite song is *This Hurts* by *MSI*. Her favorite quote is “Be yourself; everyone else is taken.” Her advice to the underclassmen is “Don’t do drugs and don’t drink.”

Antarctica

By Alyssia Nuzzi

A23a, known as the "megaberg," once covered an area larger than twice the size of Greater London. It has now moved into the warmer waters of the South Atlantic and is breaking apart quickly. Recent satellite images show large sections of ice breaking off, some covering hundreds of square miles, while smaller pieces of ice, called bergy bits, are spreading around it. These smaller pieces can be dangerous for ships as the big iceberg continues to shrink. A23a's history began in 1986 when it broke off from Antarctica's Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf and then got stuck in the Weddell Sea. It remained fixed to the sea floor for over 30 years. In 2020, it finally moved free and entered "iceberg alley," a path created by the Antarctic Circumpolar Current that carries large icebergs toward the South Atlantic. By early 2025, it appeared near South Georgia, causing concern because it might block the island's penguins and seals from reaching their food. The iceberg briefly got stuck on shallow banks but became free again in late May and started moving north more quickly.







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Chernobyl Disaster

By Robyn Gregory

The Chernobyl disaster, considered the worst nuclear power plant accident in history, occurred on April 26, 1986. The disaster was caused due to a flawed Soviet-era reactor design and many operational errors by inadequately trained personnel during a safety test. The safety test was to determine whether the reactor's turbines could power the emergency water pumps in the event of a power failure until the diesel generators started up. The test was done with crucial safety systems intentionally disabled to prevent them from messing with the test parameters. The emergency core cooling system was one of these systems. The operators also let the reactor run at a very low power level, which made it highly unstable. The reactor being used at the time had a critical flaw known as the "positive void coefficient." When one of the operators started an emergency shutdown, a huge, uncontrolled power surge occurred. The sudden power surge caused a steam explosion that blew the 1,000-ton reactor lid off, followed by a second, more intense explosion, which destroyed the reactor building and exposed the core. A graphite fire followed, burned for ten days, and released massive amounts of radioactive material into the atmosphere, which then spread across large parts of the Soviet Union and Europe. Two workers died in the initial explosions, and another 28 firefighters and emergency workers died within weeks from acute radiation syndrome. Approximately 115,000 people were evacuated and permanently relocated in 1986 from the surrounding area, with more following in later years. Millions of acres of forest and farmland were contaminated with long-lasting radioactive isotopes, which are still present today. Many further deaths were caused by the radiation, and other things, such as cancer, depression, and anxiety, were also caused. While this is a tragedy, it is also a story of how people's negligence can result in disaster.

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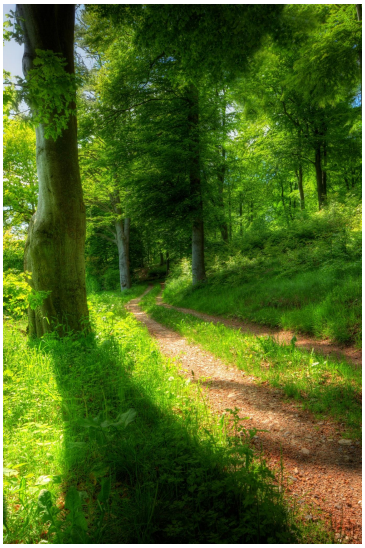
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The Whispers of Wild: Finding Wisdom in Nature's Embrace

By Nakaya Hogan

In our increasingly digital and fast-paced world, it's easy to lose touch with the natural rhythms that have shaped our existence for millennia. We become so engrossed in screens and schedules that we forget to look up, to listen, and to truly connect with the world around us. Yet, within the rustling leaves, the flowing rivers, and the soaring mountains lies a profound source of wisdom, resilience, and inspiration waiting to be discovered. Nature teaches us about cycles. From the changing seasons to the ebb and flow of tides, everything in nature operates in a continuous cycle of birth, growth, decay, and renewal. Observing these cycles helps us understand that change is inevitable and that endings are simply new beginnings. The fallen leaves of autumn nourish the soil, preparing it for the vibrant growth of spring. Similarly, in our own lives, we can learn to embrace change, letting go of what no longer serves us and welcoming the opportunities that arise from new beginnings. Nature embodies resilience. The towering oak tree that withstands fierce storms, the delicate wildflower that pushes through concrete–these are testaments to the power of resilience. Nature adapts, perseveres, and finds ways to thrive even in the face of adversity. We can draw strength from this resilience, learning to navigate our own challenges with courage and determination. By observing how nature overcomes obstacles, we can develop a greater sense of our own inner strength and capacity for growth. The next time you're feeling overwhelmed, take a walk in the woods.



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Human Trafficking: A Global Crisis Hidden in Plain Sight

By Montana Duvall

Human trafficking remains one of the most pressing human rights issues of the modern era. Defined by the United Nations as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons through force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of exploitation, it is often described as a form of modern-day slavery. Despite decades of international agreements and growing awareness, trafficking persists across every region of the world. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), an estimated 27.6 million people were living in situations of forced labor in 2021, with a significant portion linked to human trafficking. Victims are exploited in various ways, including sexual exploitation, forced labor, domestic servitude, and, in some regions, forced marriage. While women and children are disproportionately affected, men are also trafficked, often for agricultural or construction work under abusive conditions. The issue is controversial in part because it intersects with migration, economic inequality, and law enforcement. Critics argue that overly strict border controls can unintentionally push migrants into the hands of traffickers, while others contend that weak enforcement leaves vulnerable populations unprotected. Efforts to combat trafficking are further complicated by corruption, limited resources, and the hidden nature of the crime. Technology has also played a dual role. Online platforms have been misused by traffickers to recruit and exploit victims, but digital tools are also being employed by governments and NGOs to track, prevent, and report trafficking activity. This tension raises important questions about surveillance, privacy, and responsibility in the digital age. International efforts, such as the Palermo Protocol of 2000, have established a framework for cooperation and prevention. Still, enforcement varies widely from country to country. Advocates stress the importance of victim-centered approaches, which prioritize safety, rehabilitation, and reintegration rather than treating trafficked individuals as criminals. Ultimately, addressing human trafficking requires more than criminal prosecution. It demands a coordinated global response that tackles poverty, discrimination, lack of education, and systemic inequality—the root causes that make individuals vulnerable. Until those structural issues are resolved, trafficking will remain a dark undercurrent in the global economy, hidden in plain sight.

Falling in Love



By Rylee Ashley

Falling in love can be one of the best experiences someone can go through. It’s more than just liking someone; it's a deep connection that makes you feel happy, nervous, excited, and sometimes even a little scared. Falling in love means you feel strongly connected to someone. You care about them deeply, enjoy being around them, and want to learn everything about them. It’s not just about how someone looks; it's also about how they make you feel and who they are on the inside. People fall in love for many reasons. Sometimes it’s because someone makes us feel seen and understood. Other times, it’s because we share things in common like the same sense of humor, goals, or values.





Page layout by Alyssia Nuzzi



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Business Professionals of America

By Tatianah Bell

Business Professionals of America aims to develop and empower students with opportunities in learning, professional growth, and community and career services. BPA provides students with the ability to participate in competitive events and gain business experience. Members attend workshops, develop leadership skills, participate in community service, and network with peers and business professionals to develop experience for career areas such as finance, IT, and business administration. Students can compete in contests that fall under six Assessment Areas: finance, business administration, management information systems, digital communication & design, marketing & communication, and health administration. Within these areas are over 90 competitive event categories, which help students build career skills to help them later in life.

Cloning

By Alyssia Nuzzi

Cloning is a very controversial topic in conversations and discussions. Many say that cloning is a good thing when it comes to keeping certain species alive; however, cloning has its backlashes. If a species is on the brink of extinction because of a specific disease/illness, cloning does not help them gain immunity from that disease/illness. Instead, cloning gives the exact same DNA, cells, etc., to whatever it clones. The species would still be at risk because of the disease/illness, and the cells in the clones would not evolve to protect the species from it. There are, however, certain good things about cloning. Such as the ability to see what past generations of the species were like, or how older species used to live before going extinct.

The Spiro Graphic

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When Life Gives You Lemons



By Tatianah Bell

Everyone has heard that phrase before. However, did you know that life actually did not give us lemons? Lemons are actually a cross between a citron and a bitter orange, which humans have consistently bred together to produce lemons. The bitter orange itself is a hybrid of a pomelo and a mandarin. Citrons, bitter oranges, pomelos, and mandarins are all the sources of most modern citrus fruits. Likely bred in Southeast Asia thousands of years ago, humans chose and cultivated these new, sour fruits because they found them useful for their scent, cooking, and high levels of vitamin C, which helped to prevent scurvy. Over time, these traits were maintained through continued cultivation to produce the lemons we know today.

Deep Thoughts

By Jack Handey

"Whenever you read a good book, it's like the author is right there, in the room, talking to you, which is why I don't like to read good books."

Page Layout by Eiana Graham

Nothing Beats After-School Naps

By: Aven Sebren

After-school naps are seriously one of the best parts of the day. School takes up so much energy, waking up early, sitting through hours of classes, trying to pay attention, and then having to deal with homework, sports, or jobs afterward. By the time you get home, it feels like your brain is completely drained. That's when a nap comes in clutch. Lying down for even 30 minutes can make such a huge difference. You wake up feeling more alive, your mood is better, and it's almost like you got a second morning, but without the stress of waking up early. What makes naps so refreshing is that they give your brain a chance to reset. When you're tired, everything feels harder, and even the easiest homework problem can feel like climbing a mountain. After a nap, though, it's like your focus comes back, and things that seemed impossible before suddenly don't feel so bad. It's almost like your body is saying "thank you" for giving it a break. Plus, naps aren't just about energy; they help with attitude too. Everyone knows how cranky you can get when you're tired, but a quick nap can turn your whole day around. Some people think naps are lazy, but the truth is, they can actually make you more productive. Instead of dragging through the evening half-awake, you can get more done in less time because you actually have the energy. It's kind of like charging your phone; if you don't plug it in, it eventually dies. Your body works the same way. After-school naps are that little boost you need to keep going, and honestly, they just feel amazing. There's nothing better than coming home, lying down, and waking up feeling completely refreshed and ready to take on the rest of the day.

Tom Cruise

By Irma Santiago Guerrero



Tom Cruise is a famous American actor known for his action-packed roles in movies. He was born on July 3, 1962, in Syracuse, New York. He started his acting career in the early 1980s and quickly became a big star. Some of his most well-known movies include *Top Gun*, *Mission: Impossible*, and *Jerry Maguire*. In Top Gun, Tom Cruise played a fighter pilot named Maverick, a role that made him a household name. His character in *Mission: Impossible*, Ethan Hunt, is a secret agent who goes on dangerous missions to save the world. These movies are famous for their exciting action scenes and Tom Cruise's ability to do many of his own stunts. Besides acting, Tom Cruise is also a producer. He has been nominated for several Academy Awards and has won many other acting awards. People admire him for his dedication to his roles and his hard work. Despite his fame, Tom Cruise is known for staying private about his personal life. He is also involved in Scientology, a religious movement he strongly supports. Tom Cruise's career has made him one of the most recognizable actors in Hollywood.

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The Neighborhood

By Alyssia Nuzzi

The Neighbourhood is an American alternative rock band that was formed in Newbury Park, California, in 2011. The group includes vocalist Jesse Rutherford, guitarists Jeremy Freedman and Zach Abels, bassist Mikey Margott, and drummer Brandon Fried. They first released two EPs called I'm Sorry... and Thank You. After that, they signed with Columbia Records and released their first full album called I Love You in 2013. The song "Sweater Weather" was the third single from the album and was the only song by the band to appear on the Billboard Hot 100, reaching number 14. It became more popular again almost ten years later through radio and Spotify. Some other well-known songs by the band are "Afraid,", "Reflections," and "The Beach."

Minnie Riperton

By Irma Guerrero Santiago

Minnie Riperton was a singer who was born in Chicago in 1947. She was really good at singing high notes that most people cannot sing. This made her voice sound special. Her most famous song is called “Lovin’ You.” Lots of people liked this song because it had pretty high notes and was easy to listen to. Before Minnie sang alone, she was part of a group called The Gems. After that, she started singing by herself. She sang soul and R&B music. People thought her voice sounded nice and different than other singers. Minnie got sick with a disease called cancer. Cancer is very bad and makes people very sick. She tried to get better, but she died in 1979. She was only 31 years old when she died, which is very young. Even though she died young, many people still like her music today. Her songs are still played on the radio and on the Internet. Many singers say Minnie’s voice helped them want to be better singers. So, Minnie Riperton was a very good singer with a special voice. Her song “Lovin’ You” is still popular and loved by many people all over the world.

Social Media

By Rylee Ashley

Social media is a big part of teen life today. Like Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and other social media, help us stay connected, share our lives, and express ourselves. But while social media has many benefits, it can also affect our mental health, sometimes in ways we don’t even realize. Social media can be a great way to connect and express yourself, but it’s important to be aware of how it affects your mental health. By being mindful of what you see, how long you spend online, and how it makes you feel, you can enjoy the good parts without letting the bad bring you down.



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Hoover Dam

By Tatianah Bell

Hoover Dam was built through a government contract with Six Companies Inc., consisting of Morrison-Knudsen, Utah Construction Co., J.F. Shea Co., Pacific Bridge Co., MacDonald & Kahn Ltd., and a partnership between Henry J. Kaiser and W.A. Bechtel Co. It is a concrete arch-gravity dam that uses both gravity and the arch's curve to hold back the pressure of Lake Mead. Construction of the Hoover Dam began on April 20, 1931, and was completed on March 1, 1936. It was built on the border of Arizona and Nevada, in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River. Hoover Dam produces electricity through turbines, which spin and cause electromagnets to turn inside stationary wire loops, creating a current in those loops. The dam generates more than 4 billion kilowatts per hour of electricity each year on average, enough to serve 1.3 million people. Hoover Dam's construction resulted in 93 official on-site fatalities. However, the total is likely over 100 due to poor record-keeping. In regards to workers, there were around 21,000 who aided in the construction of the Hoover Dam, with an average of 3,500 working per day. They were paid around 62.5¢, which was well above average pay for most workers of that time. The job paid well due to the risks it presented to employees, such as drowning, rock falls, blasting, falls from heights, heavy equipment accidents, and even carbon monoxide poisoning.

24%

Percentage of students who take part in some high school music ensemble (band, choir, or orchestra).

54%

Percentage of people who love pizza



Archery

By Robyn Gregory

Archery is a great sport. The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) is the largest youth archery program. Millions of students nationally in almost 10,000 schools participate in this program. In the NASP program, a Genesis bow is used to shoot. Easton 1820 aluminum arrows are used. A participant shoots at a Youth Field Point Bag Target. In this sport, participants compete in competitions ranging from local and regional to state and national. Competing in this sport can teach people the importance of practice and technique. It can also help boost your confidence. Archery is also fun. Students can make friends and just have fun. Students learn the importance of practice and dedication. Another great thing is that students can continue it throughout life. Students can join other organizations and stick with it through college, even getting scholarships. Archery is spreading throughout the world, and you can be a part of this amazing sport.

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Favorite TV Show

By Rylee Ashley

My favorite TV show as a kid was SpongeBob SquarePants. As I've heard, most parents wouldn't let their kids watch this show, but for me, it was my favorite. Every morning before school and every night before bed, I would watch SpongeBob. I'm not really sure why I loved it so much, but I did. Another one of my favorite shows I watched when I was younger was Peppa Pig. Again, I've heard some kids weren't allowed to watch Peppa Pig, but I definitely watched it, and I still love it to this day.

Wild Kratts

By Ashton Wind

Wild Kratts was a show started in 2011 following two brothers that educate children on different animals that the show focused on also allowing the Kratt brothers to get said powers to save the animals from the bad guys every episode followed a theme where the real life Kratt brothers that the show is based off of Chris and Martin Kratt introduce the audience to the daily episode that would always run on PBS kids educating children about different animals.

Things That Make Ya Go Hmmmm

By Nakaya Hogan

Ever catch yourself in a moment where you pause and just think, “Hmmmmm”? It’s those little things that make you ponder, question, and sometimes even laugh. Like, why do we say “hang up” the phone when we haven’t physically hung up a phone in years? Or how about the fact that the word “swims” when flipped, still reads “swims? Then there are the deeper “hmmm” moments. Like, why do bad things happen to good people? Or how can the universe be infinite? These questions don’t have easy answers, and maybe that’s the point. They encourage us to think critically, to challenge assumptions, and to stay curious about the world around us. So, next time you find yourself saying “hmmm,” embrace it. A funny realization, or fascinating conversation.









Falling In Love

By Rylee Ashley

Falling in love can be one of the best experiences someone can go through. It's more than just liking someone; it's a deep connection that makes you feel happy, nervous, excited, and sometimes even a little scared. Falling in love means you feel strongly connected to someone. You care about them deeply, enjoy being around them, and want to learn everything about them. It's not just about how someone looks; it's also about how they make you feel and who they are on the inside. People fall in love for many reasons. Sometimes it's because someone makes us feel seen and understood. Other times, it's because we share things in common like the same sense of humor, goals, or values.

The Backyardigans

By: Aven Sebren

The Backyardigans is a popular kids' TV show that first aired in 2004 on Nickelodeon. The show is about five animal friends, Uniqua, Pablo, Tyrone, Tasha, and Austin, who use their imaginations to go on exciting adventures right in their own backyard. Every episode starts in a normal backyard, but when the characters start to play, it turns into a whole new world, like a jungle, castle, or even outer space. One of the best parts of The Backyardigans is the music. Each episode features different styles of songs, like hip-hop, reggae, or country. The songs are fun and help tell the story while also teaching kids about different cultures and types of music. The show also teaches teamwork, creativity, and friendship. The characters always work together to solve problems and have fun doing it. Even though it's a show made for little kids, a lot of older people remember it fondly because it was so creative and full of catchy songs. Overall, The Backyardigans is a show that proves imagination can take you anywhere. It encourages kids to dream big, use their creativity, and have fun with their friends, no fancy toys or video games needed, just a backyard and a big imagination.

80%

Percentage of people who like to give gifts (but many say shopping is stressful).

Deep Thoughts

By Jack Handey

"I think if the Vikings were around today, they'd be amazed at all the glow-in-the-dark stuff we have, and how we take it for granted."

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