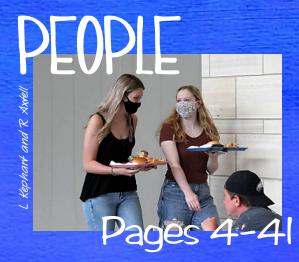


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Job 17975 Year 2021 Page 942 (1030112747) 08/10/2021 11:01 AM

THE WIND OF CHANGE



STUDENTLIFE



Pages 4-41
ACADEMICS

Pages 64-83

SPORTS.

A CITY III. Wendoza W. Liferina and T. Mendoza W

Endsheets by Lillie Hawker

THE WIND OF CHANGE

Many times throughout the year, it felt as if we were all blown by "The Wind of Change." So much changed. The landscape around us was changed by the IOO-mph winds from the derecho that took down 65 percent of the trees in the area on Aug. IO, leaving our community without electricity and convenience stores drained of gas and ice. The derecho blew back the start of school by a week to Aug. 31, yet we hadn't seen the inside of the school since March I3 due to the COVID-I9 pandemic.

The coronavirus changed most normal school functions. Masks were worn all school year, until the last week of school when lowa passed a law that schools could no longer mandate masks.

Until May, people in classrooms and at school events were socially distanced, and activities were livestreamed in order to cut down on the spread. We went to school every other day in a hybrid schedule first semester. But with

more of us attending school, we were able to pick an assigned parking spot to use every day second semester. In February, we had our first virtual learning snow day with half-hour classes being held over Zoom.

The 2020 election brought about a change in power and governmental policies, as well as the first female Vice President.

Jan. 6, the Capitol was stormed by those who did not believe or accept the results of the election.

These turbulent times were also reflected in Junteenth being declared a national holiday just days after lowa made it illegal for schools to teach Critical Race Theory.

Much like dandelion seeds in the wind, we all floated along on the wind of change, not knowing where change would land us next.

But no matter what changed, we pushed through and like a dandelion taking root, we adapted to our new circumstances.



JUST AROUND THE BEND I dream of a world, in our future. SECTION When everyone's dreams become true. Where racism regresses and recedes. Making "me" the same as "you".

And from the passing of time. Where be you this world of new and old. The scared become courageous, and the bland now bold.

Although we seem against each other, With all this hate we send. Change just takes one push you see, It's just around the bend.

Justice & change require less help in this now scientific, futuristic day. People work together guite often. Whether it be at their dismay.

Diseases are a thing of history, Some might say a joke. The world's greatest ailments. all stopped with a small poke.

Time is a symphony, Walking fast, and running slow. Even so, we break through the veil, Blow by blow.

> And as time advances, eventually to an end. I think we'll find this future, Just around the bend. - Jackson Thies, '24

Job 17975 Year 2021 Page 042 (1038988703) Master (979947369) 08/10/2021 2:12 PM



Left: Freshman Jackson Hird participates in the shaving cream classic and wears a costume to make the game better.



Left: Freshman Taryn Gerjets works with Play-Doh for an introductory activity on the first day of school in English 1.

Below: Seniors Lillie Hawker and Sophia Andrews are having a great time dancing at prom.









Left: Sophomore
Natalie Clark is excited
about her powderpuff
game, which had a Star
Wars theme this year.
However, the seniorsophomore Jedi lost to
the junior-freshman
Siths.



Left: Sophomores Sara Dierks, Jace Chapman, and Owen Rushford hang out together at the all school picnic May 19.



MOON AND STARS

The world stops spinning
Just for a moment
The stars recess and hold me
So I don't wander

I inhale
The clock stops ticking
I lie there looking up at my moon and stars
For a moment there is peace

But then I exhale
The Earth keeps spinning
I try to keep up
It doesn't wait for me

I stand and watch as the world transforms into an unrecognizable place

Time speeds up

While I stand still
I become lost

But then I go lie under my moon and stars
They point to the sun
"Change is inevitable," they tell me,
"The time has come to follow the light."

