

Isabella Sade, '17, has committed. Find out where on Page 13.



Motocross and those involved in the dangerous sport on page 5.

Whether one dresses nice or comfortable, they're judged. Read what's wrong with this on page 2.

Some laws are odd and state facts can be strange. Read some weird Iowa facts on Page 6.

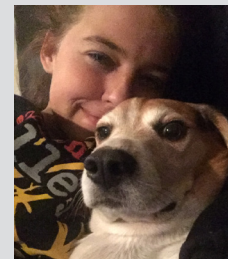


Axel Zumwalt, '17, stands in preparation for the start of the Scarlet Spectrum's final halftime performance of the 2015-2016 season.

Doggin' with Dexter

-Commentary-

My life would be a new kind of awesome if dogs could talk. I honestly don't care about any other animals having this ability, just dogs. And most importantly, my dog, Dexter.



I feel as if I can usually read my dog's mind and know what he is thinking, but this isn't enough for me. I

By: Lexi Morgan
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want to speak to him, well I already do that, so actually, I want him to speak back to me. My vet said my dog isn't capable of human emotions and personality, but that's crap. I can read his facial expressions when he is happy and when he's annoyed or sad. And, I think, he does have a personality.

If I had to guess, I'd say my dog is like the rest of my family, really sarcastic and like my mom, a big baby and over dramatic. My dog is a little attention seeker. Every time, he wants attention, he develops a limp. My parents recently went out of town and the entire five days, he's limping around the house, making me carry him up stairs, and lift him onto the bed. I'm not even kidding, the day my parents got home the limp was gone.

They are my dogs favorite people, especially my mom. When she is home, he cuddles with her on the recliner; follows her around; he greets her first when we walk through the door with a million dog kisses; and cries endlessly when she leaves. My step dad feeds him, walks him, runs around and plays with him like a child, and my dog notices and appreciates him for that. When they were gone, I was his favorite. He followed me everywhere and slept in my bed, but it was half hearted and short lived, because he didn't do any of these things after they got home.

So, I wish I could talk to him and ask why I am not his favorite. Because I sneak him food off my plate, even though, he's really fat; I pet him all day; nap with him; and tell him how awesome and cute he is. I do all the cool things for him, and do you know what happens? I try and sit on the couch with him and he walks away. I try and selfie with him and it takes an hour, because he's such a brat.

The only negative thing if Dexter got a voice, is that I can already tell by his facial expressions that he is rude. I know by the looks he gives me he's saying "shut up, Lexi."

All in all, I feel like dogs being able to talk would be awesome. The downside is basically all the downsides to humans being able to talk. So, if by the time I die, technology hasn't advanced to the point where we can at least, read dog's thoughts, then 50% of my life will have been spent sad at the fact that most of my conversations are one-sided.

Gillaspie's goalball games

Alex Gillaspie explains the sport goalball and why it's different from others.

By: Mia Laube @Mia_Laube21

It is pretty common knowledge that Alex Gillaspie, a junior and blind student, overcomes his disability to be on the wrestling team. However, not many people know that he has played another sport. This sport is unlike other sports athletes play, and it is called goalball.

Gillaspie was born blind, but does not let this hold him back in wrestling or school, although there are difficulties. "In school it's hard getting things. One thing that's really big is making diagrams, like when they do diagrams up on the board, I don't know what it is," he commented. The sport goalball is easier to play for blind players.

The game itself is quite different from common sports, but has some similarities to a few. It involves three players per team passing and rolling a heavy ball with bells, and the objective is to get it past the other team to score. It is comparable to soccer.

Gillaspie was not introduced to the sport through Marion. He began, "I played [goalball] at summer camps, and when I became eligible to go to the

tournaments I went, and it's really fun competition-wise." These summer camps were the only opportunity to play it with others.

Every year there is a big tournament Gillaspie has attended, and he's had to travel to get to it. He described the tournament, saying, "The first year it was in Wisconsin, then St. Louis for two years, then Indianapolis." There is only one tournament per year, and though he will not be attending this year, it takes place November sixth through eighth.

There is not much opportunity for Alex to practice with teammates. "We practice some, but we don't have a braille school since Iowa Braille School shut down, and they don't do a residential program anymore. We only practice when we can get together at summer camps, and the day before the tournament," he elaborated. This year due to conflicting schedules, they will not get to practice or go to the tournament together.

One thing Gillaspie was pleased with is that it is tailored to people like him. "Everybody's blind in goalball because everybody has to wear a blindfold, so it's an even playing field. It's really nice because you can go and play with other people who have your same disability," he said happily. Other sports are harder for Alex, but goalball is the same for everyone.

Alex is not the only one who sees this as a positive. Alex's mom, Ann Gillaspie, stated, "Alex gets to spend time with his blind peers, [it] keeps the kids active, gives kids a chance to be competitive, and [there is] good use of all their other senses." It is an overall good thing to be involved with for him.

Like many other families, Alex's family is supportive of his sports. "[Goalball is a] great and interesting sport overall for blind and visually impaired athletes," Ann said. She thought goalball was a good opportunity for Alex, and she and her husband are involved in Alex's sports actively.

Gillaspie walks through life and the halls with a major disadvantage, but he has found ways to push past it. He has gotten into activities that spark his interest inside and outside of school, and inspires others as he does it.



Alex Gillaspie, '17, plays goalball with his teammates during one of their tournaments. Goalball is a sport where everyone is blindfolded.

Index:

Opinion: 2 & 3
Activities: 4 & 5
Entertainment: 6 & 7
Homecoming: 8 & 9

Senior Interviews: 10 & 11
Community: 12
Features: 13, 14, & 15
Back Page: 16