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Kingfisher is a project of Alsea High School ninth grade English students who hope to capture the culture and history of the folks who live in the lush river valleys and on the timbered ridges of Oregon's Coast Range.

Cover A photograph by Jordan Terriere of the view from Alsea School.

Adviser Catherine Ellis.

Copy Editor Jordan Terriere

Kingfisher is "The name of a bird that depends on the ocean and river and mountains as we do. It flies up and down the rivers hunting for food, floating above the land and water." (Vol. , *No. 1, Duane Miller*)

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Sue Sapp By Abbie Lowther

Sue Sapp was born in Corvallis at the Good Samaritan Hospital on July 15th,1952, but she grew up in Philomath with her brothers, David and Larry Smith, and her sister, Janet Smith. She had a loving family, a good and stable home and always felt safe and secure. "The 50's and 60's were a good era," she said. Her earliest memory from when she was a toddler was getting her dog, Soco. They had that dog for 13 years. "It was part of our family."

Sue remembered when they had to move out of their little house. The family lived by the Philomath Middle School, so during the week they would just walk to school. It was a little house, and after Sue heard that they were going to move into a bit bigger house she cried and cried. "I just loved our little house." Sometimes she would go back to her little house with Soco and she would sit there on the porch just wishing they didn't have to move.

Once Sue got a little older she started swimming. She would always be at the pool whether it was morning or night. "Swimming was a big part in my life." Her favorite part of school was probably the social aspect, but also the swimming. If you ever needed to find her you probably could. She would always be at the pool starting from 4-5:30 and then 7-9. When Sue was in school there wasn't any basketball for girls so instead she did cheerleading. After school some days Sue and her siblings would build their own baseball or football course and play with other kids around their neighborhood.



When Sue was 14 years old she met a guy named Russ. He had gone to Philomath high school also. They became good friends and when she was 15 they decided to date. Sue and Russ dated throughout the rest of high school. As school came to an end they thought it would be best if they went their own ways. As she was growing up she wanted to be a teacher, so after high school she went to college at Western OCE. She didn't graduate, but went for two years. After 4 years of waiting they ran into each other again and got married on June 8th, 1974. Sue and Russ had three children: Jake, Stacey and Amanda. They are all about three years apart and all went to Alsea High School.

Sue enjoyed watching her kids play sports throughout high school. She would be at all of their games. As always her kids started getting older so it was time to send them off to college. All of her kids are college graduates, with two of them having Master's degrees.

As of today, June 6th, 2016, Sue manages the Clemens Foundation here in the town of Alsea. She is the office manager. The last question I asked Sue was, "What do you plan to do for the rest of your life?" Her response was, "I'm going to enjoy gardening and spending as much time with my grandkids as I possibly can."

Tammy Lindberg By Noah Estes

Tammy Lindberg was born on May 4, 1945, in a house in Forest Grove, Oregon. She said, "I was born a healthy child and had no complications when I was born." When she was young, Tammy had a horse that her dad got her. This horse didn't really get a chance to be there because after it bucked Tammy off they almost immediately got rid of the horse and it never came back. The president that was in office when she was in elementary school was President Eisenhower. She said that "I had a very boring childhood."

Tammy Lindberg dropped out of high school when she was a junior. She got married to her current husband shortly after. Her first vehicle was a 1952 Chevrolet and she got the car when she was eighteen in 1963. She didn't want to go to college when she was in high school. She told me, "I just wanted to have kids." That was expected of women at that time as well.

In 1993 Tammy Lindberg and her husband built their home they are currently in and finished it in 1994. The house "was meant to be a summer home" as she described it, but they actually moved into the house shortly after its completion. Out by their yard they have a fence that it is decorated with lots of state signs that they got after they weren't used anymore. In her spare time she takes care of a garden bed every day and keeps the plants alive and looking good.

I asked her about the future and she said she didn't have anything planned for the future. She said the only way she would want to move was if she found a secluded home where she could go in to town and see other people and then go home and not deal with anyone. She told me that she plans on living as long as possible in a peaceful way.

Michael Morris By Jamison Harper

Michael Morris was born on December 16th, 1994 in Pasadena, California, "Home of the Rose Bowl." When he was born he had an

older sister who was five years older. His favorite childhood memories were the times he spent with his mother Cub Scouting. His mother was a great Cub Scout Den Leader. The first year he was in Cub Scouts his mother decided to put him in a different den



than her own. Everybody in the whole pack, which is all of the dens combined, came to find out that she was the best Cub Scout Den Leader out there. So on his second year as a



Cub Scout, he begged his mom to be in her den. He also enjoyed spending time with his dad doing projects. "I loved wood working. I took a lot of woodshop classes and just LOVED making things out of wood. I would make furniture for my mom and all

sorts of things that I could sell. That got me interested in cabinet making." When he started thinking about what he wanted to be when he grew up, he decided he wanted to be a cabinet maker.

When Michael was in school, he played tennis,



football, and tried basketball. He said, "I don't think that I was coordinated enough to get basketball down though." He enjoyed his graduation party, which was an all night event. "When I went to my all night grad party that was a nice experience. Sonny and Cher appeared at my all night grad party."

Michael met his spouse at social group. He said, "When I saw her I thought I heard a voice in my head that said, 'she's the one.' A couple weeks later I saw her across the room and I heard that voice in my head again so I decided, well, I should probably listen to it so I better go over and



SK Pic age 17

talk to her and see if we have anything in common. It turns out that we did." Michael has ten kids. One of his children was killed by a drunk driver in Southern California when he was fourteen. His eighteenth grandkid was born last November and his kids are all doing very well. If he were to go back in his life and change anything he said he would have moved to Oregon earlier. "I probably would have moved to Oregon sooner. I had a large family. That takes a lot of income to support a large family. I think that's the reason I didn't move here right away because I didn't think that I could make the money I needed. But I think that I could have found a way as a builder up here probably. But I wish I would have moved up here sooner." Michael plans on retiring this year or next year. He and his wife plan on getting a motor-home or a trailer and taking short trips around the United States together.



James Anson By Emily Garcia-Anson

James was born on September 18th, 1961. His mother smoked during her pregnancy with James, so he was born at four pounds and with a collapsed lung. He was a very sickly child and spent a lot time the hospital because he had severe asthma. When James was about to go into high school, his parents moved their family to Eastern Oregon. The high school in Prineville, OR was much smaller



and James liked that. He did not like big schools. One night James was driving home from his work at Grizzly Bear Pizza (he was the bear), and he hit a cow. He had to crawl to a farmhouse that was not nearby. Afterwards he spent four days in the hospital.

Two weeks after he graduated he went into the Navy. He hated boot camp. James told me, "it was the worst thing you could put someone through but it was necessary." His favorite part was graduation. After he went to HTA school to become a hall technician. James spent 10 years in the Navy before becoming a damage control officer. James has been to numerous Asian countries including the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Australia, Japan, and Hong Kong when it was part of Britain.



When they were out at sea for months on the ship they would get very bored so they would tell each other made up stories that would start off as, "One day I was sitting on the curb when..." or "I was walking down the street when...." Then people would just keep adding on.

James's ships were USS Shasta AO 33, USS Samuel Gompers AD 37, USS Whipple FF 1062, USS Curts FFG 38, USS Juneau LPH 10, and USS De Buque LPH8. After James was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy, he went to work for Monico Welding. Not too long afterwards on June 22nd, 2002 his daughter Emily was born. When I was about three, he was living and working in Wilts, CA at Roots Locomotive.

He moved back to Oregon when I was just starting kindergarten, and he went back to school to become a wastewater operator at LBCC. On his graduation day he was offered a job with U.S. forest service. He took the job and moved to the Oregon coast. Now James is still working for the U.S. forest service, and he plans to "die at his job." He says life right now is perfect as it is.





Dennis Walsh By Colten Walsh

Dennis Walsh was born March 26, 1961 in Idaho, and moved to Oregon shortly after. He grew up in Oregon with his mom, sisters, and step dad in Medford. Growing up was largely outside-based being that they didn't have any T.V. or internet. He spent a lot of time outside with his sisters. There were so many black birds that they would go out and shoot them for fun. One time he thought he had the safety on but he didn't and accidently shot his sister in the leg. Then she got mad and hit him.

After my dad got taken by the state he got put in a home in Oklahoma with a couple. But after a bit he went back to the state because those people were uncouth. He stayed with the state until he graduated and went into the army. He got stationed in Germany. He told me one of the training activities was that they had laser tag rifles and vests. They would be out in the forest and have skirmishes for the day. Another one of the things they did was camp in small huts. They would have two to three people in the hut, and one person had to be up at all times to keep a watch to make sure they weren't getting attacked. The superiors would plan attacks on them, like throwing fake grenades in the hut. This was to make sure the squad didn't get killed.

Dennis got stationed as a security guard up on a mountain because they were testing an aircraft that was top secret. The pilot lost control and crashed and died on impact. So he was set up on the perimeter to make sure nobody found the crash. A guy that was hiking and didn't speak English approached and tried getting by but they couldn't let him through. Dennis kept trying to tell him that he couldn't pass but he wouldn't listen so he loaded a bullet into the chamber to scare him and the guy got the hint and left.

Some of his future plans are to move into a house and live the rest of his life in retirement.

Scott Dixon By Jake Dixon

My dad was born in 1969 to Dennis Dixon and Helen Robinson in Corvallis OR and was raised in Alsea. When he was younger, he loved to play in the woods with his friends and build tree forts. He said some of his favorite hobbies were hunting, fishing, and riding dirt bikes. One time he was riding his dirt bike with his buddies on Winny Road and took a corner too fast and went off a cliff. His bike went flying and got stuck in a tree. He got lucky, but when he bailed off the bike, he hit his knee on a bolder and now has no feeling in his leg.

A place my dad loved to go camping as a kid was Grass Mountain. He said that they did that a lot. They would hike down to the creek and go fishing for trout all day, and then his dad would pick him up at the end of the day. When they couldn't go camping, he and his friends would sometimes make forts in the haystack and sleep there. A couple of places that he liked to go fishing and hunting were the mill pond which is in Lobster Valley and along the Alsea river.

When my dad was a sophomore in high school, he got his driver's license. He and Steve Woosley, his best friend, used to drive around at night with spot lights and do deer counts. The most they ever counted was 172 deer, which is significantly more deer than there are today.

My dad was an avid basketball player at Alsea High School. He always wanted to get in the game and do the best he could. One year my dad and his team took Alsea to state and won it. That was a proud moment for him.

When my dad got out of high school, he went to college for forestry management. While he was in college he met my mom, Kaire Cambell. They later on had my sister Breanna Dixon. Later on he didn't want to go to school for forestry, and started working at GP, short for Georgia Pacific. That is where he met Shane Chavarria. One time he and Shane were hunting for elk in Five Rivers, they had called in a five point bull to twenty yards, so my dad drew his bow back and shot! But the elk just ran off. He thought he nailed it, then Shane said, "You didn't hit it," so he looked down at his feet and the arrow was lying there. His adrenaline was rushing so bad that he didn't even know his bow blew up. My dad's current job is driving a train. He said that is his favorite job he has had in his life. All of his hobbies today are hiking, hunting, fishing, and traveling. He has been to almost every state in the U.S. In the future he plans on getting a cabin and a bunch of land in Eastern Oregon for hunting and playing in the summer time.

Mary Ellen Wood By Gracie Lynch

On a cool fall day in Orville, Ohio, on September 13, 1942, Mary Ellen Wood (my grandmother) was born to her parents Simon and Mary Zimmerly. She was one of 12 children with five sisters and seven brothers. Around the house she would have to make fires for the kitchen stove and to heat the house, get the wood and coal for the oven, clean out the stove, pull weeds and harvest produce in the garden, and also do the laundry. She remembers her mother saying to her, "Don't bend the clothes!" Her mother would say this during the winter because the clothes would freeze and if you bent them the fabrics would be ruined. She doesn't have very many memories with her friends. Friends weren't a big part of her life considering she was hard-working. Growing up, Mary looked up to her aunts Gladus and Selma. They always told her how hard-working she was on top of being a good kid. She remembers them telling her that she was the hardest working



out of the twelve of them.

"I was quite fond of school," she said. Mary leaned more in favor of math and geography. She remembers some days in math class that the teacher would have her teach the class,



considering how well she learned it. Her least favorite subject was history.



To get to school she'd ride the school bus, which had its perks at the end of the year. It was a tradition that the bus drivers would drive over to Smith's Dairy to get treats. They would get treats like Popsicles and Drumsticks. Everyone who didn't ride the bus would ride it that day so that they could get a treat. She said "Everyone looked forward to it."

Growing up, Mary aspired to be a truck driver. "I just wanted to drive all around the US. But now that I look back on it, it was such a stupid idea. I was so stupid." She laughed at how she wanted to be a truck driver. Mary didn't graduate high school but did get her GED. "I was very proud to have gotten my GED." After

getting her GED she and her family went out and celebrated.

The bowling alley had a job opening, but it didn't last long. Mary's first job was working at the bowling alley's snack bar. She earned 60-80 cents an hour, which seemed like a



lot at the time. She never had very many hobbies to pursue so she just looked for jobs as she went through life.



Mary found a job at the Republic Steel Factory. She worked as a waitress in the cafeteria. It just so happened that this was where her soon-to-be husband worked. She found interest in him as she had waited on him a few times at the cafe. Mary went on to say, "I remember having to

go to the bathroom so badly when he came in for lunch one day. I refused to go to the bathroom so that I could wait on him." She laughed thinking about that. On March 25, 1967, Mary married Clay in Massillon, Ohio. Their wedding was quite small with only the required two witnesses and the preacher.

On March 4, 1963, her first child was born. "I was proud that I was pregnant. It's such an honor to bring a human being into this world." Mary had four children. One of them is my mother. She was born September 15, 1969. During Mary's years of motherhood she did contemplate moving to a warmer state, but never got around to it. After telling me that, she went on to say, "I'm perfectly happy living in Ohio."

She said raising children was the happiest time of her life. She raised them pretty close to how she was raised so that they'd know how to do simple tasks around the house to help. At the time she'd have them mostly just help with laundry and cooking. Cooking in the Wood household involved a lot of canning and baking. To this day she still cans and bakes for hours on end.

Mary unfortunately was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. It took quite some time before the battle between her and cancer finally came to the end, and she won the battle with cancer victoriously. "The Devil ain't getting me and lord ain't ready for me," she said. Throughout the time she had cancer she said she had found herself saying the same thing over and over again: "Think positive." She recalls going to the doctors and seeing so many other cancer patients who were so down



and depressed. "Yes, cancer is no happy thing but you have to try to stay positive no matter what," she said. I asked Mary what she mentally took out of being diagnosed with cancer. She went on to explaining that she wasn't happy that she had to deal with all the pain and suffering that happened during the battle, but she was happy that the whole experience made her stronger and more thankful of life each and every day. To this day, Mary is 10 years free from cancer and continues to live each day as healthy as can be.

"Living each day to the fullest and doing my best;" Mary lives by this quote, using it as her motto in a way. Mary tries to keep a positive outlook on life. She told me that she's always trying to keep peace with everyone, and always trying to get along with everyone.

Adding onto that statement she said that if people don't want to take my kindness and appreciate it, then so be it. After saying that she laughed. "So glad you picked me to interview."



Anna Moser By Kaleea Bishop

Anna Moser was born to Thelma Philpot and George Philpot on April 19th, 1952 in Eugene, Oregon. The president at the time was Harry Truman. She grew up in Summit, Oregon, but lived in various other little Oregon towns like Harrisburg, Reedsport, Glide, Roseburg, and currently Philomath. She had one sister named Jody and two brothers, Sam and Chris. When she was growing up, she had many chores. She had to do laundry, iron, do dishes, feed the horses, and occasionally drive to get parts for her dad.

When she was in the 6th grade, president Kennedy was assassinated. Anna was with her mom getting clothes for a wedding. When Anna was younger her mom used to wake her and her siblings up to watch the astronauts take off. Her first vehicle was a brown Capri named "Cony." Anna and her friends used to name their cars. Her favorite bands were the Beach Boys and Creedence Clearwater Revival. She was never really into the Beatles like the other girls. Her mottos are "take it one day at a time," and "you can do anything if you work for it." Anna liked school and participated in a lot of extra curricular activities like cheerleading, volleyball, and student council.

On April, 1974, she married Reed Moser in Corvallis, and they have been married for 42 years. She had seen Reed around a few times, and she went to school with his cousin, but they didn't officially meet until later at a junior high wrestling meet. When Anna was 27 she had her first child, Grant. Then when she turned 29, she had her second child, Katie. These were the happiest days of her life. She chose Grant's name from the Grant in the Mary Tyler Moore Show, and



she named Katie after her grandmother's middle name. Her favorite thing about being a mom is going to her children's weddings and being able to have grandkids. She loved watching them all play sports and grow up.

She has traveled to Alaska, Hawaii, Washington D.C, Florida, Pennsylvania, and St. Louis. Her favorite trip was to Hanalei Bay in Hawaii. She worked as a secretary for OSU during the Vietnam War. She later found out her office had been bombed before she worked there. She won employee of the year. Now she is a 5th and 6th grade teacher at Alsea School. She has been teaching for 26 years. She always wanted to be a teacher after she figured she couldn't be a cowboy when she was eight. She did her student teaching at Jefferson Elementary School in Corvallis. When her grandpa and father died, she decided to go back to college. It took her 19 years to finish, but she did it.

Anna doesn't know when she will retire but she wants to be remembered as a hard

worker who loves her family.



James Gay LIttlefield By Katie Littlefield

My grandpa, James Gay Littlefield, is an amazing man and I look up to him so much. Jim is 74 years old and still going strong. He was born in Boise, Idaho in 1942.

"How was elementary school? Do you have any friends that you are still in touch with?" I asked Jim. "I ran for president in sixth grade and lost. Friends? No." He replied. "When did you join swim and did you get any awards?" I asked. "Many awards. I was in the pool in Sunnyside, Washington and the lifeguard



asked me to join the swim team. Awards for many different styles... A large newspaper headlined about me winning the district swim meet." He said.

Jim served in

the Air Force. "Tell me about that time you literally saved Cuba?" I say. He said, "in the Air Force I intercepted Russian Morse code on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska and signals from the ships leaving northern Russia which was the ships going to Cuba." How cool is that? "Okay, but how long did it take you to learn Morse code?" I asked. "In six months of school. I became an instructor and taught it after re-enlisting in the Air Force." He says. "I traveled a lot; I've been to Japan, Taiwan, Korea,



Okinawa, Thailand, Vietnam, and many states in the US," he added.

"How did you meet granny?" I asked. "We were pen-pals and wrote each other while I was in Alaska. On my way to Mississippi to teach I stopped to see her. We were married four months later," he stated. "What was your first job and what is your job now?" I asked. "I sold Buster Brown Shoes in Yakima, Washington. I was 13 years old. Now I'm a director of Sales and Marketing," he said. "What was life like without technology?" I asked. "We did not know any better. Life was simpler and less rushed. There was no road rage that I remember and people were more forgiving about a person's weaknesses and mistakes. People knew each other because there was more 'personal' association. Technology has come between personal relations and has made it more difficult to understand and have patience with others. Technology is not bad. It just has changed things. Some for better, some for worse," he said. He used to have a milkman, and it was a nickel a jar. One day he hopes to retire.

Joyce Hildebrand By Gracie Hildebrand

Joyce Rebecca Hildebrand (maiden name Ritchey) was born after World War Two on June 12, 1945 in Lawrence, Kansas. She was born to John and Ethel Ritchey and had four older siblings; Evelyn, John Ritchey Jr., Joan, and Susie who unfortunately died as a baby. When Joyce was born, her parents were making bullets at the powder plant. Ethel was told not to work there while she was pregnant because of the lead. She continued working there anyway and Joyce was just fine.

Soon after Joyce was born, the family moved back to Missouri, where the family was originally from. They then decided to leave and come to Oregon. Joyce was three months old when they arrived in Oregon. Joyce then said, "We lived in Triangle Lake and had a grocery store." I reply, "How did your family come to Alsea?" Joyce then goes on to tell me, "Well my mom came over driving with someone, I'm not sure who. Mom fell in love with Alsea and told Dad she was moving here and that he could come if he wants, but she was moving to Alsea. So she rented a house. Our whole family moved into the house. We lived there for awhile and then Mom and Dad bought a sheep herder's cabin behind the grange." They moved a couple more times then went to Waldport.

Joyce told me a story about her and her dad in Waldport. "They had just put down blacktop, I was twirling around you know, and my foot slipped and I fell down and my left elbow just shattered, shattered so bad. The bones were sticking out. The doctors didn't know if they

could save my arm. My arm didn't hurt. It was just numb because it messed up a nerve. I had to have surgery and they put a wire in my arm to hold it together. Mom wouldn't let me go outside and play. I had to sit on the couch. I had a cast on for a long time. When they took it off my arm was just bone. They told my mom that I wouldn't have use of my arm again. The elbow wouldn't bend, nothing. So mom would send me to the beach, and I would have a little bit of sand in a bucket and I had to pack it around and we slowly increased the amount of sand. Finally my arm straightened out and I could use it which was crucial since I was left handed." Soon after, the family moved to Mapleton. Joyce was in 5th grade. They left Mapleton about a year later and drove to Alsea. They have been here ever since. The family ran the restaurant in Alsea.

I start talking to Joyce about cheerleading and her experience with it. "I was a cheerleader for two years and was on the dance drill team and took dancing lessons in Corvallis. I loved it so much I had two different cheer outfits. A home outfit and an away outfit. Papa was a football player, and because of him being popular I got to do cheerleading. We had a lot of football games and our players were good! Papa also did basketball and track. But yeah, I love volleyball, cheer, and dance." Her husband, Ed, joined the military and went into the Navy. Joyce had a baby girl the day she turned seventeen. They named her Sandy. It was hard living. Joyce had to collect bottles to pay for baby food and Ed and Joyce got paid \$130 each month and their rent was \$70. They didn't have a car.

Joyce says, "One time Ed left and had to go to Alaska for 6 months and I was left alone. Max was just a tiny baby and Sandy was a toddler. The mailman was the only one that knew Ed wasn't home. I think he tried to break into my house. I heard somebody at the door in the night. I ran to the window and beside me was an apartment building, and somebody was on the deck of the second floor in a apartment yelling at the mailman telling him to leave. Eventually he left but I think that yelling person was the only thing that saved me."

Joyce tells me about how logging was very good money back in the day and that everybody had a job. "You could quit a job and by that afternoon have another one," she says. I ask her what the surrounding towns were like, and she tells me "Philomath has pretty much stayed the same except for the one way streets, and Alsea has stayed the same except that when I was a kid there were big old buildings and large white houses. They aren't here any longer. They burned."

I ask what was the best thing about her childhood and adolescence. She says, "We had a sense of freedom that you kids don't. It was a good time to grow up." Joyce enjoys gardening and would like to have a cow. Maybe one day I can buy her one.

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