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Climate change takes center stage

As the earth warms, local and federal agencies seek solutions



Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland sheds a tear while making a speech during a press conference at Wolf Creek Education Center in Redwood National Park on Wednesday, August 11.

COVID-19 cases spike

COVID-19 cases spike again after brief drop and loosening of restrictions

by Ian Vargas

The recent dip in COVID-19 cases had given many states and businesses the impression that the end of the pandemic is close at hand, but a recent explosion in the number of positive cases has put much of that on hold and raised the specter of another long year of lock downs and mask mandates.

The mass transmission of COVID-19 from one person to another has given rise to a number of variants that are much more infectious, causing not only a lot more unvaccinated people to be infected but also leading to a higher number of breakthrough cases in those who are.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, people who are already vaccinated may have less severe symptoms and get over the illness quicker, but still could spread the virus if not properly masked.

Variants, such as the Delta variant, have already been found in Humboldt county and contribute to our recent spike in hospitalizations.

Christine Messinger, Public Information Officer at the Humboldt Department of Health and Human services, said that not only is the Delta variant here but it has actually been found in a quarter of cases.

“The Delta variant was first identified in Humboldt County in May,” Messinger said. “By June, the variant was identified in 25% of sequenced samples.”

These new spikes put a hold on the planned re-openings in states and has ushered in the returns of full mask mandates around Humboldt county. While many restrictions have been loosened, restaurants are allowing dine-in services, businesses are expanding their hours and raising occupancy limits, and some public events are being approved. They’re starting to tighten back up as the number of hospitalizations rise and infection increases.

While you could still get ill after receiving one of the COVID-19 vaccines that are being distributed, vaccination vastly reduces the risk of an infection or serious illness.

According to HSU Communications specialist Grant Scott-Goforth, the university is monitoring the rise in cases and is requiring all students and staff who plan on using campus facilities to get vaccinated, along with reducing the number of people allowed at large gatherings and requiring masks on campus.

“One big change is that anyone accessing campus facilities is required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The university has also taken several measures to mitigate risk, including reinstating mandatory masking on campus, requiring all events on campus with more than 20 attendees to be virtual, and extending the repopulation of campus,” Scott-Goforth said. “This is in addition to the ongoing measures underway since the pandemic began.”

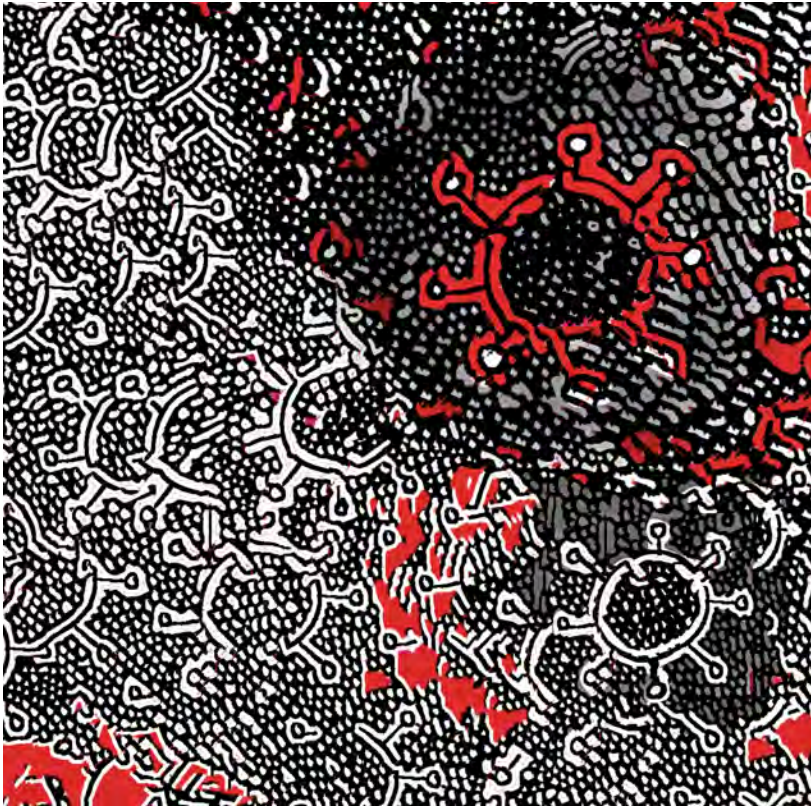
While the spike has caused states to

reevaluate their plans for reopening, the spread of vaccines and news of an upcoming booster shot has come along with a hope for a fall semester without the lock downs and zoom calls of the last year and a half. These hopes may be overly optimistic with the looming possibility of a vaccine resistant variant on the horizon, but for students who have been doing classes over zoom since Spring of 2020, the loosening of restrictions presents the opportunity

for a somewhat normal school year.

For students like second year Psychology student, Raphael Dominguez, the news of new variants is foreboding, but the masks and vaccines are bolstering confidence in an open school year.

“I think it’s pretty scary because I’ve heard {the Delta variant} is more contagious, but I’m vaccinated and I think we’re all vaccinated around here so I think we should be good,” Dominguez said. “So it’s scary, but not too scary.”



Graphic by Sam Papvasiliou

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HSU hosts Lassen Community College students amid ongoing Dixie Fire

Over 11 days, HSU housed more than 100 LCC students

by Poppy Cartledge

In the early hours of Aug. 10, around 30 student athletes and coaches arrived at HSU after being evacuated from Lassen Community College (LCC) in Susanville, CA.

Four days later, the group made their way back to Susanville only to turn around on Aug. 18 and head back to HSU with another 70 students and staff.

Humboldt State University released a statement on Aug. 18 announcing the arrival of the now 100 plus LCC students.

“This is a difficult time for the LCC community and we ask HSU students, staff, and faculty to please keep them, their loved ones, and all the communities that have been affected by wild-fires throughout the region in your thoughts,” the press release said.

HSU made sure to emphasize the precautionary measures that were being taken to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines. The press release said that majority of the students and staff were vaccinated, but they were all tested upon arrival at HSU to be sure there were no positive cases.

Back in Susanville, the LCC campus was being used as an evacuation shelter for those who had to leave their homes in surrounding areas. The college was well seasoned in this department as it

had to act as a shelter on two separate occasions last year.

Trevor Albertson, President of LCC, knew that acting quickly and efficiently was important as conditions drastically started to deteriorate in the days leading up to the relocation of students and faculty to HSU.

“It was awful, we had smoke so thick that you couldn’t see 100 feet in front of you,” Albertson said. “We had ash and debris falling all over campus; it was just horrid.”

They said that you never really expect to deal with a situation like this until you are thrown into it.

Albertson is especially grateful for the help of President Tom Jackson who he called at 2 a.m. asking for help. Jackson instantly told Albertson to send his kids up to HSU and extended a helping hand without hesitation.

“There were people here who didn’t have a home, didn’t have food to eat and HSU gave them that,” Albertson said. “What is more basically human and decent than that.”

Albertson made a quick trip up to Humboldt on Aug. 22 to speak with their students and since then, the LCC students and staff have returned to their campus. Their classes remain online and they intend to begin in-person classes in a week.

One concern that Albertson said they are now facing for their student athletes is the impact the wildfires will have on their sports seasons.

Andray Chitehwe is a freshman on



Photo by Trevor Albertson
The view of the Dixie Fire from Lassen Community College on Aug. 18.

the men’s soccer team at LCC from Zimbabwe. They reflected on finding out the sudden news of relocating from Susanville to HSU and the time spent with their team in Humboldt.

“The first time we found out, I didn’t know what to expect,” Chitehwe said. “I was surprised by the news that we were relocating.”

Chitehwe also said that the time spent in Humboldt was enjoyable and they hope that they get to experience something similar, minus the circum-

stances, again. They said that the services that HSU provided were top notch.

Although the students were able to return to Susanville, LCC continues to house evacuees from surrounding towns that are still under threat. Fire crews have since left the college and moved elsewhere to continue their fight against the ongoing fires.

As of Aug. 24, the Dixie fire has burned 1,137 square miles and is 40% contained.

Fall 2021 COVID-19 policies

A safe start as the pandemic continues

by Becca Laurenson

Fall semester will start Aug. 23 and things have changed since last spring regarding the Delta variant, as well as the availability of a vaccine for COVID-19.

Grant Scott-Goforth, communica-

tions specialist at Humboldt State, gave voice to the answers about the policies this semester.

“All student residents are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or receive a medical or religious exemption,” Scott-Goforth said. “In addition, masking is required everywhere indoors on campus and outdoors whenever you can’t maintain a six-foot distance from others except for in one’s residential space with no one else present.”

This applies to all students including those who live on campus. Although some classes were face-to-face last semester, there were restrictions such as six-foot distancing and masking. This

semester there will be some face-to-face classes, which are scheduled to meet two weeks after the start of the semester.

“All classes are virtual through Sep. 6,” Scott-Goforth said. “Beginning Sep. 7, some classes will be conducted in-person.”

Similar to the spring semester where some classes will be in-person, but depending on the teacher is when they can start.

Freshman, Cole M. Burton, is living in on-campus housing. Since Burton arrived at HSU, he has worried how the guidelines will affect a student’s life on campus and academics.

“Based off of my two days of being

a dorm resident here at Humboldt, it is an unfair assumption as to how well social distancing guidelines will work in order for students and staff to enjoy Humboldt both from a learning and teaching perspective while being free of the COVID-19 pandemic and gaining a good college experience for everyone,” Burton said.

Overall, Burton understands the policies for COVID-19 and how HSU has decided to continue learning for students but it is different regarding the opinion of the entire student population.

“I do agree with HSU’s policy on COVID-19, but to restate, it is difficult to predict an outcome based on what I’ve seen regarding students, residents and my choices in preventing the potential spread,” Burton said.

Julia Rivera is a freshman at HSU who is also living on campus. Online schooling hasn’t been much of an issue for Rivera.

“Just making sure I stay on top of everything and putting all dates in a planner definitely keeps me organized,” Rivera said.

As a freshman coming onto campus during a pandemic, it could be a different experience. Rivera does feel some positivity about the fall semester.

“Make friends with your neighbors, we’re all freshman who need to network more,” Rivera said.

Nevertheless, the fall semester is starting with policies and guidelines put into place and there are freshman outreaches for questions and information.

“It will be important to continue checking their HSU email and campusready.humboldt.edu for updates, as policies can change due to the fluid nature of the pandemic,” Scott Goforth said. “Vaccines and masking are required as we start the semester to ensure everyone’s safety. Please be courteous to your peers as we all adapt to these changes. And welcome to Humboldt State!”



File photo by Elliott Portillo

New dining plans for students and faculty

A look at the switch to meal-swipe-based dining plans from the old point-based plans

by Nancy Garcia

Humboldt State University is replacing the J-point-based meal plans with new meal-swipe-based plans.

HSU’s old plans had been around for over 20 years, but they’ve now switched providers to Chartwells Higher Education Dining Services. There are a total of 15 meal plans, including plans for on-campus residents, commuters, faculty, and staff.

“They are heavily invested in local products, local farmers and sustainable serving as well as sustainable disposable type things, trying to do more to help us on the campus,” Senior Director of Housing Operations and Auxiliary Services, Todd Larson, said.

According to Larson, Chartwells has brought HSU’s dining operation to the industry norm. Larson also said that meal plan costs have gone down by about \$800 to \$100 per person per year.

These new plans are a combination of all-you-can-eat meal swipes, meal exchanges, and flex dollars. Some student plans even include guest meals which some students used for their parents during move-in.

“You can eat all day long, you never run out of points and so it’s entirely solved that food insecurity issue for folks,” Larson said.

With J-points, students would pick out their food and pay for everything at

the end but with this new system, students use a swipe to get in and it’s all you can eat.

Also new this year is the J will have Executive Chef, Lalica Mariano.

“We will be doing a lot more plant-based foods,” Mariano said. “Our projected cycle has a lot of variety featuring as many fresh products that we are able to get in the area.”

Alyson Ashamalla, a sophomore anthropology student at HSU, said that she does a lot of her own cooking at home because there were times in the past when there weren’t many meatless options to choose from at the J.

“I am hopeful that this year they will work to listen to student feedback and make the necessary changes to provide decent meals for all but we will see as time goes on throughout the year,” Ashamalla said.

Allison Hair, a second-year student at HSU, has similar opinions. Although she’s enjoyed dining at the depot, she feels that so far the J doesn’t have many options for vegans and vegetarians.

“We are hoping that they will expand the options since the J is one of the main places we can get food at this semester,” Hair said.

There’s also new technology, you can check your swipes, exchanges, and flex dollars and also add funds through the GET app. You can also pre-order food

and items from several dining locations through the Boost: Mobile Food Ordering app. In addition, there’ll be a launch of a catering system for events and clubs in the future.

In the past, OhSnap would donate

J-points to students if they were running low, Larson said that he is still working with OhSnap to create a swipe collection system to donate swipes to students who need them.



Photo by Elliott Portillo

Bigfoot Burgers is one of the new dining services on campus in the UCC center next to the old bookstore location.

HSU booked a new location for its bookstore

After months of waiting, HSU secures a location downtown for the bookstore

by Raven Linton

The HSU bookstore has moved! It is now located at the former Tri-counties Bank on the corner of 8th and G street in the Arcata Plaza. The store is under renovation, but plans to have a soft opening near the end of the year and a grand opening during the spring semester of 2022. The benefits of the bookstore relocating would be for the student who grew up in urban cities to feel more comfortable and to have a more thriving community, whether financially and socially. Another few great benefits will be job opportunities, local high schools, College of the Redwoods, and other vendors will be selling merchandise/gear at the new

storefront.

“The new bookstore will have a small coffee and tea lounge for customers to enjoy while shopping. It will also provide easy access to parking for shoppers, especially tourists, prospective students, and families visiting from out of the area.” As stated on the Humboldt State Now page.

So what happens to the old location? It will be changed into a “lounge space, activities, and entertainment. [Upon student request] the bookstore will maintain its current warehouse space on campus for receiving and picking up textbooks, along with handling textbook rentals, and the university is exploring delivering textbooks to students in residence halls. The College Creek Marketplace on campus will continue to sell HSU Bookstore items in the store and expand upon the current selection,” according to the Humboldt State Now page.

Amber Herd, a former HSU student, said, “When I was a freshman in college, I remember every time I walked off of campus alone, I instantly was lost

and felt completely out of place. Being from a really urban and diverse community, Humboldt was very foreign to

me, as I would expect the new students from similar backgrounds to feel.”

HSU’s campus within its own, is its own community. As soon as you step off that campus and into the official City of Arcata you will instantly feel like a fish out of water, especially if you are a person of color. As of this year, Arcata’s population is 18,801 people, and 74.95% of that population being white Americans, 4.08% Asian, 2.62% Black or African American, and only 2.16% Native American. So just imagine the culture shock one would feel walking through the streets of Arcata with \$200 dollars worth of books in your hand.

The relocation has a plus side and a negative side. One being all the great benefits listed above. Job opportunities, getting to know the community, and the community itself working together to become financially stable. The downside would be the safety of all students and racial prejudice in the community as well. There is quite sometime before the grand opening so hopefully, more information will be provided soon.

“...I remember every time I walked off of campus alone I instantly was lost and felt completely out of place.”

-Amber Herd, former HSU student



The new location of Humboldt State’s bookstore in downtown Arcata, CA.

Photo by Raven Linton

“The new bookstore will have a small coffee and tea lounge for customers to enjoy while shopping.”

- Humboldt State Now

Wildfires burn through California

The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services provide an update on yet another historic wildfire season

by Poppy Cartledge

At 1 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 23, state officials provided an update on the response and recovery efforts to California’s wildfires via livestream on the twitter page of the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services.

Mark Ghilarducci, the Director of Cal OES, took to the stand to give an update on the current fire situation across the state of California and the coordinated efforts to protect the state.

“As of today, we have more than 13,000 state personnel helping combat these wildfires across the state,” Ghilarducci said.

They also mentioned that as of Monday afternoon, Governor Newsom requested a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration to Aid Wildfire Response and Recovery Efforts for individual assistance, public assistance and hazard mitigation for the following counties: Lassen, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity.

Ghilarducci said that the request for Presidential assistance is in response to the already immense residential and infrastructure damage across the state in addition to what is to come.

Thom Porter, Chief Director of Cal Fire, was up next on the podium to

provide an update on the fire agencies that are currently combatting the wildfires across the state, as well as what resources are looking like among these crews.

“All of these fires have their own specific needs for resources,” Porter said.

They said that we are currently in the middle point of the peak season for resources, so it is essential that they are used wisely. Porter explained that this means prioritizing resources to areas of California that are at a moderate risk level for new big fires.

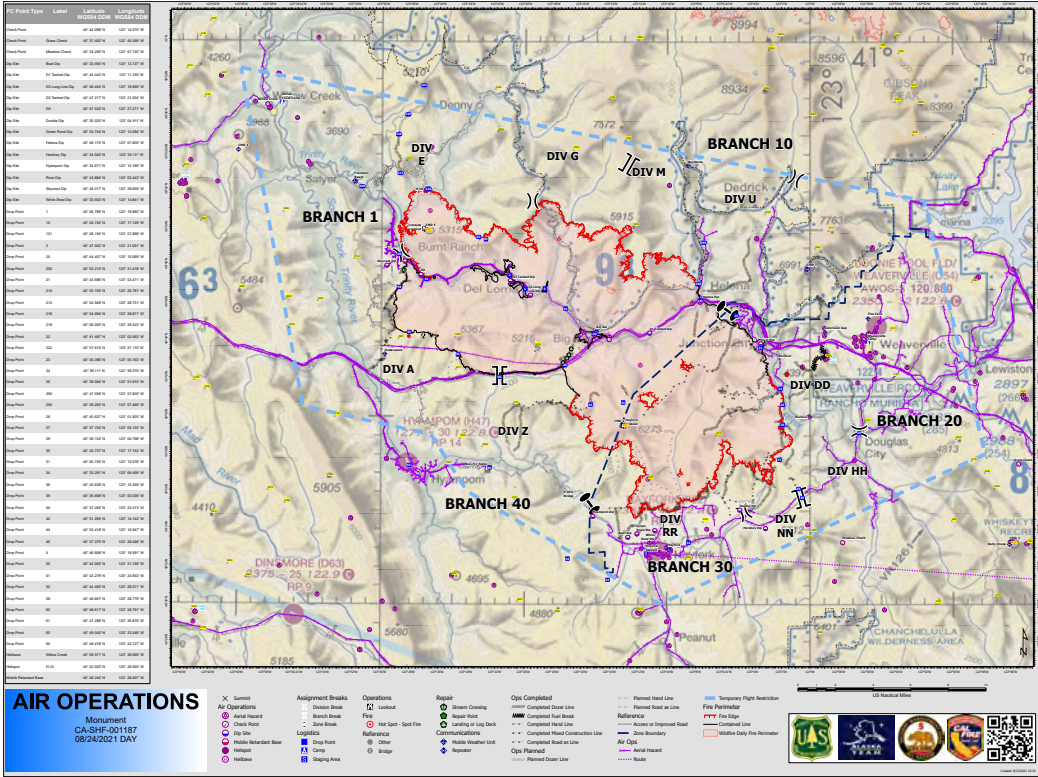
Porter goes on to say that California is ahead of pace this year for the second year running. They said that the state is almost three times over the average acres burned over a five year period with this season alone.

“Fires are burning in ways that nobody has seen before,” Porter said. “Mother nature is in control and we are doing everything we can to save your lives and property.”

Tony Scardina, Deputy Regional Forester, then provided updates on forest and road closures.

“We, in California, are currently at preparedness level five which was triggered on July 14,” Scardina said. “That is the third time in 20 years that that has ever occurred.”

Scardina said that the fires that we



Map courtesy of CalFire
A recent map from Tuesday, Aug. 24 shows the current extent of the Monument Fire.

are seeing are unique and historic. They said that the Dixie Fire is currently the number two priority fire in the state right now and its perimeter is 500 miles. This gives a picture of the size and magnitude of these fires that are being combatted.

There are currently nine large, active fires in the state of California and as of Sunday, Aug. 22, the state decided to close nine national forests to

ensure the safety of citizens.

Porter said multiple times that preparedness is key in keeping people safe.

“You need to be ready to GO,” Porter said. “Every Californian needs to be ready.”

It is important for the citizens of California to put together a bag of important documents and have a set plan of action at all times.

From front page: Climate takes center stage

Local and federal government officials visit Humboldt County to view direct impact of climate change and to highlight solutions by local tribes and organizations

Photos and story by Elliott Portillo

Humboldt County has become the focal point of the climate change crisis recently, as North Coast Congress member Jared Huffman and United States Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, visited the area to highlight the negative implications of climate change as well as the natural solutions the county offers.

Firefighters are currently bat-

tling the Monument Fire, burning east in Trinity County. Huffman, who represents Humboldt County federally as part of California’s 2nd district, visited the base camp in Willow Creek on the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 11. He received a briefing from officials who talked about containment efforts and the struggles firefighters face from lack of resources and personnel.

At the time of publication, the

Monument Fire currently sits at over 130,000 acres, with 10% containment.

In the afternoon, Huffman joined Secretary Haaland at Wolf Creek Education center in Redwood National Park to highlight efforts by national and state park services, local agencies such as Save the Redwoods, and tribal groups in combating climate change via forest restoration practices and carbon sequestration.

The day prior, Secretary Haaland visited Woodley Island on Humboldt Bay to highlight plans for offshore wind energy development.

This visit comes fresh off a recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on Aug. 9, which warns of unprecedented warming patterns if greenhouse gas emissions are not drastically reduced.



Top left: North Coast Congressmember Jared Huffman tours an airbase facility in Willow Creek, CA for firefighters combating the Monument Fire on Wednesday, August 11. Top center: Incident Commander Dustan Mueller briefs Congressmember Huffman on the current status of the Monument Fire during a morning meeting at a command center in Willow Creek, CA. Top right: United States Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland (right) hugs a member of the Yurok Tribe after receiving a gift from the tribe during a press conference at Wolf Creek Education Center in Redwood National Park on Wednesday, August 11. Bottom left/right: Haaland addresses the crowd.

Haaland (left) takes a picture with a member of the Yurok tribe following a press conference at Wolf Creek Education Center in Redwood National Park on Wednesday, August 11.

Fall sports return

Lumberjack athletes look to make their mark on the field, court and course in their first official conference seasons since 2019



Photos courtesy of HSU Athletics | Top left: Devin Hauenstein in a match against San Francisco State at College Creek field on Nov. 2, 2019. Courtesy of HSU Athletics. Middle left: Emily Bath runs a workout during a Humboldt State track practice at Redwood Bowl on Apr. 19. Bottom left: Members of Humboldt State's women's soccer team practice at College Creek Field on Nov. 19, 2020. Top right: Lenox Loving in a match against Chico State at Lumberjack Arena in Arcata on Nov. 1, 2019. Bottom right: Shane Burton leads a back of distance runners during a Humboldt State Track practice at Redwood Bowl on Apr. 19.

by Elliott Portillo

Full disclosure: the author of this piece is a member of the men's cross country team at Humboldt State University.

After almost two years since the last conference-sanctioned competition, Lumberjack athletic teams will finally gain the opportunity to compete for conference championships and national qualifying after the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) announced it would return to play for the first full seasons since 2019.

Below are previews for each fall sport and what to expect when the 'Jacks take the field again this fall.

Volleyball

Head Coach Kelly Wood returns seven women and welcomes 13 newcomers in the squad's first official season since 2019. A new rotation and fresh faces will be crucial to help revitalize a program that has only won a single conference game in the last two seasons.

The team returns its top offensive weapon in junior outside hitter and 2019 all-CCAA honoree Lenox Loving, who led the team and finished fourth in the conference in kills last season. Setter Riley Tishlarich will look to manage the offense as the teams top returning assists leader. On the defensive side, libero Carla Crespo will anchor the team in digs alongside Loving. Malia Coyle returns as the team's lead blocker.

The Lumberjacks begin their 2021 campaign on the road with a scrimmage match against Sonoma State on Friday, August 27 in Rohnert Park, CA. From there, they will play the next eight

matches away, not returning to the friendly confines of Lumberjack Arena until a CCAA match against Stanislaus State on September 24.

Women's Soccer

New coach Grant Landy will have his first crack to help the Lumberjacks climb the CCAA ladder after a short exhibition season in spring of 2021. The team faces no shortage of experience, with 19 returning players this season. Coming into the pre-season rankings tied for eighth in the conference, they will look to qualify for the six-team CCAA tournament in November.

The graduation of key players such as Lindsey Stoner and Sabine Postma, who both finished in the top 10 of the conference in multiple offensive statistical categories, opens up opportunities for multiple players to fill in. Seniors such as Tana Eri, Poppy Cartledge, Claire Bareilles, Mia Castaneda and Kendal Spencer will offer experience and leadership. Defensively, the Lumberjacks will have to fill in for goalkeeper Katie Talbert, who ranked fourth in the conference in shutouts per game and saves per game in 2019. She currently plays professionally in Iceland.

The women began their season with a pair of exhibition matches against National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) schools Southern Oregon and Oregon Tech. They play a final exhibition game against Santa Rosa Community College on Saturday, August 28, before starting their regular season on Friday, September 3 at home versus Dominican.

Men's Soccer

Much like the women, the men's soccer team comes off a successful spring exhibition season in which the team finished 4-1-1. After finishing 10th in the CCAA in 2019, they enter this season ranked ninth in the conference.

Marco Silveira and Devin Hauenstein return as the teams top offensive outputters from a 2019 squad which finished third in the conference in shots and goals.

They will be bolstered by new young talent such as Thomas Augée and Gou Nitta, who both played well in the shortened spring season.

The team began the season with an exhibition match against Southern Oregon on Saturday, August 21. They will begin the regular season on the road against Westminster College in Salt Lake City on Thursday, September 2.

They return for their first home match on Friday, September 17 against visiting Simpson University. This also marks the beginning of the team's 50th anniversary season.

Men's Cross Country

Men's cross country comes off a 2019 campaign that saw its best team finish at the conference and regional levels since head coach Jamey Harris took the reins in 2017. The men finished sixth in the CCAA and 11th in the West Regional Championships.

It also saw senior Daniel Tull qualify as an individual to the national championships, the first Lumberjack male to do so since 2012. With only a few grad-

uates from that team and an impressive recruiting haul, the Lumberjacks will look to improve and crack into the top half of the conference.

The team returns a handful of fifth year seniors, such as Carson Cohn and Michael Gengo, which the team will rely on for leadership and experience. Junior Shane Burton also returns from the 2019 squad as one of its top finishers.

Beyond that, a fresh crop of athletes will also look to make their mark in their first official cross country season since COVID-19. Sophomore Carson Smith had an impressive spring season where he broke the 15 minute 5k barrier as a freshman.

Women's Cross Country

The women's team returns three runners from its 2019 team, as well as a handful more from 2020, when no competition occurred. The team had a few opportunities to compete on the track this past spring, and they hope to carry this momentum into the fall in efforts to improve their 2019 performance, which saw the 'Jacks place seventh in the conference and 13th in the West Region.

Returners from that squad include graduate student Rosa Granados who finished one spot out of all-Conference honors in 2019, and juniors Saedy Williams and Lucy Atkinson.

Both the men and women will host their lone home invitational on Saturday, September 18 at the Humboldt Invitational at Baywood Golf and Country Club in Arcata.

OPINION

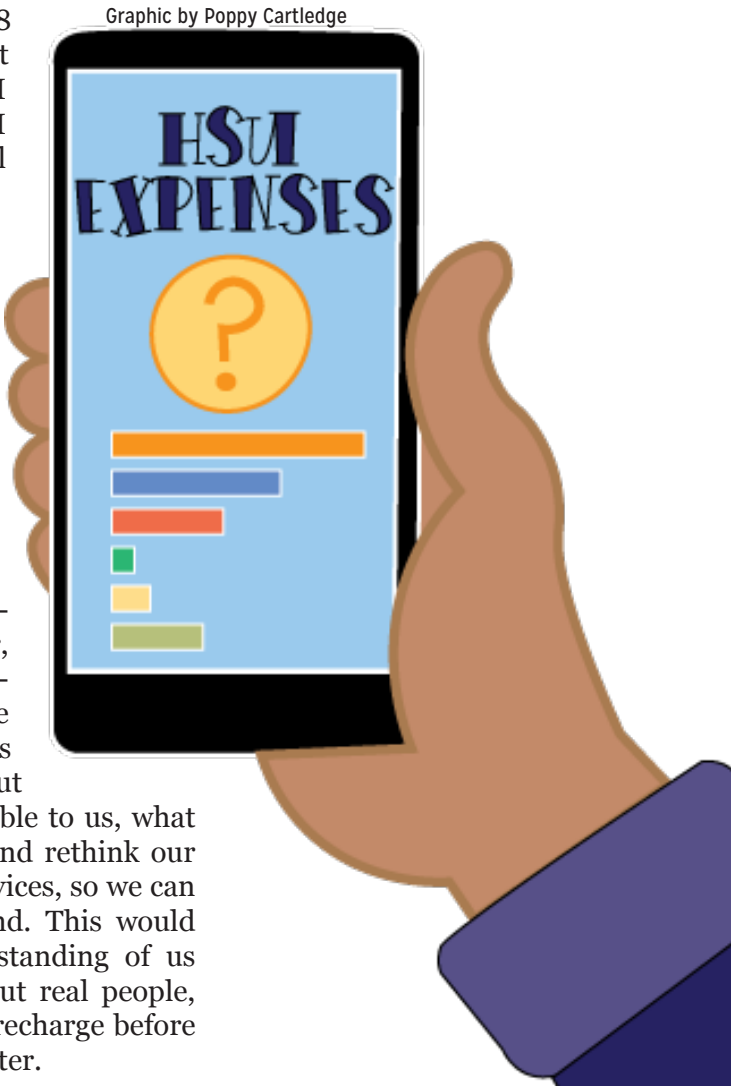
Students need more access to health care on campus

by Sabriyya Ghanizada

A couple weeks before the start of the Fall semester, I incurred an injury during a walk near my house. It was in my best interest that the injury get looked at right away, so I called the Health Center on Campus. Upon dialing the number, I got a message that the facilities were closed but I could leave a message at a different number. I tried out the new number and actually spoke to someone there, Tracy. I let her know of my situation and she said she would see if anyone was on campus who could help me out. Unfortunately, I was told no one was on campus to help me with my wound, but that I could call back when they opened on Monday, August 16. I am a transfer student, that lives about a mile off campus. I lost my job due to covid, and as a result, my insurance. So I've relied on the campus to help me with any health needs when necessary. As I drove to urgent care (having a slight meltdown with a close friend over the phone) I realized how inconvenient and unsafe it is that there is not one nurse practitioner on the Hum-

boldt State University campus to care and treat for any students, faculty or staff should there be a need when we are on break. For the upcoming fall semester my health service fee is \$333 and my health facilities fee is \$33. I have no doubt that this helps cover the cost of services and facilities during summer and winter break. I feel I deserve a bit more transparency as to where this money is going, if I don't have access to care, yet I am helping keep the lights on. As a Humboldt University student, I can use my student ID for perks, discounts and public transportation throughout the year, even during summer breaks. Why is there a disparity in my access to healthcare on campus when we are between semesters? Not everyone leaves Humboldt County between semesters. During off seasons, sports teams utilize the facilities, incoming freshman visit the campus and current students still utilize programs like Oh Snap! This year, early housing check in began on Saturday, August 14, two days before the Health Center would be available to students. When I called the health office on

Wednesday, August 18 to make an appointment for the vaccine clinic, I got sent to voicemail. I am still awaiting a call back. I expect that if I am paying the amount of tuition that I am, It is imperative that I receive the option to care year round. During a global pandemic, when care is harder to come by, it should be made simple for the University's students to receive it. I implore the Health Center, as well as Humboldt Administration, to provide more information to it's students and staff about what options are available to us, what services are provided and rethink our accessibility to said services, so we can be cared for year round. This would provide holistic understanding of us not just as students, but real people, who use our breaks to recharge before entering another semester.



OPINION

The loss of a frog

by Sophia Escudero

Everyone may not understand the value of a pet, especially that of animals other than cats and dogs. Creatures such as fish are often treated as a decoration rather than a living being that deserves care and attention. While the average person may not dare to ask for your dog's collar and bowl within a week of your loss, many would see nothing wrong with requesting a fish tank or terrarium whose occupant is no longer with you. This sort of societal apathy towards the lives of animals is part of what makes the loss of a pet so painful. Not only have you lost something that you loved and that loved you unconditionally, but with so few that understand, your options for support are limited. Even on pet loss forums, discussing the loss of a more unusual animal can and will get you hateful messages about how you should be thankful it wasn't a dog. My pet frog Fitzwilliam passed away recently. He'd become lethargic and started eating less, and before I could bring him in to the only vet in the county that even treated amphibians, he was gone. I



Photo by Sophia Escudero

spent that day unable to move from my couch, barely able to eat or speak. I find it difficult to express my grief in writing. I loved that little guy. He was a baby, my baby, and now he's gone. Of course I blamed myself. That's part of the bargaining phase, right? Maybe if I'd been able to act quicker, I could have found him another vet. Maybe if I'd been more meticulous in cleaning his tank, he would never have gotten sick in the first place. Maybe if I had

been better, I don't know how, but if I'd just been better, he would still be here. He was only about six months old, just a baby. He should have had at least a decade ahead of him. Why couldn't I give him that? I had no one to talk to. Less than a day after losing him, people suggested simply getting a new frog as if he was an object to be replaced. For some people, moving on with a new pet might be best, but I couldn't do it. I broke down

in tears just seeing a stuffed frog in a store. I couldn't handle having something that looked like him, sounded like him, but wasn't him. It would be unfair to expect another animal to live up to him when the pain is still so fresh. The truth is, I have been through a lot this summer, and in his own way, Fitz was there for me through everything. When I was feeling down, he was content to hop onto my hand and sit with me for as long as I needed. When I needed something to do, he had plants to mist and a water dish to refill. When I needed a distraction, he was there, perched on his favorite branch and ready to be admired. Even when I put on sad music, he would croak along to it. His favorite band was The Mountain Goats. I am certain that many readers will see this as the ramblings of an overly emotional person with unhealthy attachments. Maybe they're right, and they can go right back to drafting a letter to the editor about how I don't understand real pain and other people have things so much worse than I do so I should just shut up. I just want you to know, he mattered to me.

OPINION

Starting somewhere

by Cheyenne Wise

As I come into my last year here at HSU, I'm debating what almost every senior in college debates; 'should I get my masters?' Of course, it's not because I actually want to continue my education; it's from the fear of what comes next after college. From the looming shadows of loan collectors waiting for my graduation date to relatives asking me what's next. How should I know what's next? I barely know what I'm doing next week, let alone what I'm going to be doing for the rest of my life. Looking at social media, I'm met with videos of incoming first-year students excited to move in and meet their future classmates and lifelong friends. It gives me a wave of nostalgia for my first day. It almost makes me wish I could go back in time to experience that excitement and fear, sort of when you reach the top of a rollercoaster, and it's about to drop down. I can remember the fear and excitement I had when I transitioned from being a senior in high school to being a freshman in college. I was able to speak with some incoming freshmen this past

week, and it was a wonderful experience to see what it's like to be a freshman again. Markus Orr, an incoming Wildlife major, is one of the few people I had the chance to meet. "I'm excited to experience college and being away from home. I am also looking forward to meeting people and activities on campus. Being new here feels very nerve-racking, but I am still excited. I am worried about how well I will handle the change from high school classes and work to college classes and work, but I think I'll survive just fine." This year, Orr is living in Creekview and is excited to see what the future has in store for them. "I am also excited for more challenging and hands-on experiences I didn't get in high school. Also, there are so many clubs that I am excited to explore." Meeting people has always been a nervous event for me, and I know I'm not alone in that, especially when meeting your future roommate. Jayda Carbajal talks about how it's been being new to HSU and what it's like sharing a room with someone she's

never met before. "I'd say the thing I'm most excited about being a new student here on campus is being able to get to know the wonderful community around me and be outdoors more. It's been so wonderful so far getting to know my roommate. She has been so sweet, kind, and has made me feel very comfortable," Carbajal said. "The transition has been a little hard coming to college just because I miss my family so much. I've just been pretty homesick. However, I'm so excited to get started with classes and learn more about the wildlife and beautiful nature that surrounds us." When I had my first ever tour of HSU, before I was even a college student, I knew I had found my community. Walking around, I realized how different this tour was from all the other campus tours I had taken at other colleges. People were friendly and would walk up to the group to say hello and interact with future HSU students. I had found my people. Emilie Cates told me how excited they were to meet other people with the same interests and ambitions finally.

"It always helps me get motivated with my work when other people are also looking forward to learning. I'm a theatre major and want to see what opportunities for playwriting the school has. It's a passion of mine, and I want to pursue it at the school," Cate excitedly told me. "I'm also excited to explore the vast wilderness boarding the school. I recently made the Humboldt cross country team and have loved being around the other runners. They inspire me to work my hardest and give it all I have. Humboldt so far has been a great experience, including the awesome food at the J. I have high hopes for this year." Being a senior in college is terrifying and exciting because you get to interact with people just starting their college experience and offer advice the same way seniors had told you when you first started. It's a community of people of all ages, races, genders, and identities, and it's a community I will cherish forever. Although the idea of a future without academics fills me with uncertainty, I look forward to seeing what my future holds.



Messages from Mothermoon

Believe what you want to believe. We cannot guarantee the accuracy with this information



Aries



(March 21 - April 19)

The old saying: ‘be patient with yourself when learning something new’ rings true for you, Ram. If you feel frustrated, give yourself a timeout. Allow creativity to flow when it comes to any facing obstacles that arise in the coming days.



Taurus



(April 20 - May 20)

You’ve taken courageous steps to get where you are now. Congratulations are in order and rewards are coming in. Even if it’s just pride in yourself. Continue to commit to your goals and you’ll be successful in your endeavors.



Gemini



(May 21 - June 21)

Feeling a tingle in your throat or a need to speak up? That’s your throat chakra activating. Now is the time to speak your truth boldly. You have a unique perspective that inspires action within those around you. Use your power wisely.



Cancer



(June 21 - July 22)

If things have been feeling heavy lately, remember that you have the power to shed dead weight. You are allowed to be soft with yourself and find time to recover from any past hurts or heartache. Your transformation awaits.



Leo



(July 23 - August 22)

You are still on a high from your birthday season. With another year around the sun comes more experience and wisdom. As you navigate uncharted territory, trust your gut and your intuition, it’s served you well when you listen.



Virgo



(August 23 - September 22)

Things in life may feel stagnant right now but you are not stuck. Consider this a waiting period, where you can exercise your patience as you wait for things to come to fruition. Good things come to those who wait, and in this case, a shift in perspective may just be what is hanging around the corner.



Libra



(September 23 - October 22)

You are gaining momentum and the finish line is near. Your consistency has paid off well. With it, you have a newfound determination to plant roots in the real world. Remember the story of the tortoise and hare: your stamina is important, work wisely.



Scorpio



(October 23 - November 21)

It’s okay to release old people and situations that are no longer serving you. You are learning what is best for you and coming into your own. Be gentle with yourself as you recover from the past so you can enter this next phase of your life with confidence.



Sagittarius



(November 22 - December 21)

You’re on a journey to self-empowerment and have become protective of the person you’re becoming. Usually one to set your sights far, you’ve shifted your perspective inward. It’s perfectly normal to want to focus on yourself, in fact, it’s one of the most selfless things you can do for your loved ones. Keep calm and carry on.



Capricorn



(December 22 - January 19)

There is a sense of peace that you’ve been immersed in and if you haven’t found it yet, it’s right in your fingertips. You have been your own personal safe haven from the chaos of the world. Continue to heal and grow into your own, the world will be ready for you to emerge as the best version of yourself whenever you are ready.



Aquarius



(January 20 - February 18)

Your mind is brimming with ideas, but do you have the discipline to see them through? Give yourself a routine and stick with it. If things don’t seem manageable, set smaller goals for yourself and think of the bigger picture.



Pisces



(February 19 - March 20)

Don’t hesitate to splurge on your comfort Pisces, you deserve it. Whatever time energy, effort or even money that you spend on yourself will lead you to luxury. If you choose to share with others that is your prerogative.

Would you like to contribute to The Lumberjack?

There’s more going on in our community than a small group of student writers could ever hope to cover. If you’re a member of the student body we serve, you have a valuable perspective that we’d like to help you share.



Step 1: What’s your idea?

Do you want to write a story or opinion? We’d also be happy to publish your artwork, photography, comics, or poetry.

Step 2: Contact us.

We can be reached at contactthejack@gmail.com. We can help you write your first story or make sure your art is ready for print.

Step 3: Publish!

When your work is ready we can finally publish. Depending on your idea, it could end up here in this paper, on our website, or both!

