

# Trojan Tribune



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**News From Ouray High School**  
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## Committee Encourages YES Vote on 3A

by Cliona Pasek

"We need your help," according to the Fund Ouray's Future flyer being handed out this week by the Ouray Vote Yes on the MLO Committee.

Members of the community gathered outside the school September 12 to kick off a campaign to gather votes for 3A, which voters will see on their ballots in November. According to the flyer, the state has stopped funding our schools sufficiently. This means without the MLO, the Ouray School will continue to reduce staff, course offerings, and, in general, educational opportunities for students.

"We just really, really, really need this Mill Levy Override, said school board president Kente Pask. "It was very apparent after doing all the stuff we did with our budget last year that our programs, even the ones we have right now, have been cut to the bare bones."

For these past five years, the state of Colorado has underfunded the school by \$1.5 million. This means that every year the school has had to cut the operating budget by \$300,000. The district has been forced to dip into its reserves to fund educational programs, sparking ongoing discussions of

how to keep the school building open and running.

A YES vote on 3A will restore teaching staff for necessary but eliminated programs, restore college/career and social/emotional counseling, provide school supplies to students that are presently paid out of the teachers' pockets, improve technology around the school, reinstate staff professional development to better instruct 21st-century course offerings, and allow facility maintenance, including ongoing repairs to the gym building (now 50 years old).



photo credit:Markus van Meter

A NO vote will hamstring Ouray School's future, which will affect students, teachers, and the community. "Please consider this situation, and make sure to vote!" said Ouray mayor Pam Larson.

As for the bond received in 2014, said Pasek, the building is now leak-free, code compliant, beautiful, updated for 21st-century learning, and safer for students and teachers to work in. By law, however, none of those funds could be directed towards educational programming or the actual operation of the school.

Superintendent Scott Pankow is optimistic about the passage of the MLO. Mr. Pankow is on the steering committee, which makes sure that the info is flowing correctly during this process. "It'll be nice," he said about the kick-off: "it's a really good start to a series of events." Community members plan to go house to house, he said, handing out MLO flyers to give information to the citizens of Ouray.

Ms. Larson said, "This school is very important to the community, so the stability that this will provide is important."

## Ask Anna

Dear Anna,

People tell me to read books, but I can't seem to find any books that I like. Any advice?

~BookMark

Dear BookMark,

I personally think that it is always good to have a book on hand, and I have experienced times where I haven't been able to find a book that speaks to me. It can be difficult to find one that will resonate with you and become a favorite.

You might try websites like GoodReads.com or BookBub.com. They will give you recommendations based on the type of books you tell the website you have liked in the past. They can send you emails every day, if you choose, and give you books based on your own interest.

If you are looking for a copy of a book you want to read, you can head down to the Ouray Public Library. If you know the author and book name, the lovely librarians will search it up and find it for you.

A cool thing about the Ouray Public Library is that even if they do not have the book, they coordinate with 100 other libraries. That means that they can ask for the book to be sent to Ouray so you can pick it up, check it out, and return it when you are done.

Sometimes I browse the library for a cool book cover that depicts things that I want to read about. People always tell you that you should not judge a book by its cover, but often I find that it is the cover that entices me in the beginning.

Much luck and happy reading!

\*\*\*Do you have a question for Anna? Email Mr. Kissingford: jkissingford@ouray.k12.co.us

## StuCo Takes on New Projects

by Mackenzie Gibbs

How can students make a change? How can their voices be heard? Many students at Ouray High School are taking leadership in these issues by joining the student council, which promises several changes for this new year.

"We are super excited for all the new community programs that will involve our student leaders this year," said superintendent Scott Pankow. "These include Communities That Care and Sources of Strength." The student council started participating in Communities that Care at the end of last school year.

Communities That Care is a program that focuses on building a strong community. They have been recently been concentrating on keeping drugs out of the Ouray/Ridgway area. Student representatives from both schools have attended the meetings.

Sources of Strength was put into place to educate both adults and adolescents on how to deal with mental illness, particularly suicidal thoughts. "Ms Webb and I are going to be doing a training soon involving the program," said high school

science teacher Jen Ballard. "But they are an organization that wants to mostly focus on how peers can help. So now, kids don't always have to go to an adult."

The presidential slot for student council had three candidates this year. A vote for this position had not been necessary in the past couple of years. The contenders were seniors Mariah Crandall and Alessandria King, and junior Alannah Wister.

Mariah won the election and has great hopes for the coming year. "I really want to act as a communicator between the students and the school administration," she said. "What I need from the student body is to be talking to me about the things they want to see change. I am really excited about what we can do this year."

Student council sponsor Ashley Harthan certainly has a goal for the year: "I want to make STUCO in Ouray an important part in both the school and the community. I think that every new year is an opportunity to make this institution more productive."

## Who's New to Ouray?

by Caeley Eddy

Four new students roam the halls of Ouray High School this year: senior Alessandria King, junior Collin Gordon, and freshmen Aidan Valigura and Nicholine Nelson bring new life and new voices to our student body.

Ally King attended Ridgway Secondary School last year, after moving from Valencia High School in Los Lunas, New Mexico. "I really like Ouray," she said. "It has such a great environment." She is enjoying all of her classes, especially "photoshop mostly because of its design aspect," she said. Ally likes turtles, playing video games, and watching Netflix.

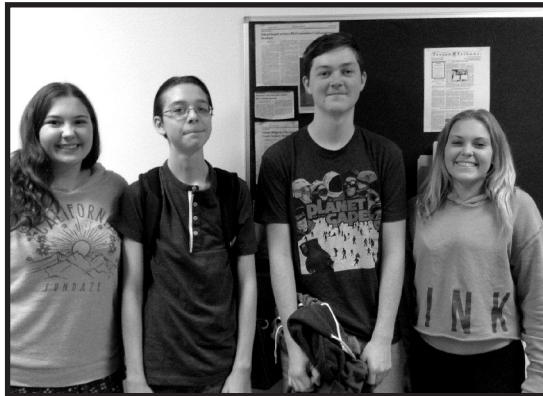
Collin Gordon, from Ridgway, is quite funny. During band, where he plays tenor sax, his favorite pastime is to tell jokes to the other students, making them laugh. Collin did not enjoy going to Ridgway Secondary School. "I like the way Ouray High School does things," he said. "I particularly like Physics." He smiled. "My favorite things to do are skiing, playing video games, reading memes, and of course telling jokes." Ally said, "Collin is a beast at the video games Hearthstone and Heroes of the Storm."

Aidan Valigura, was once in Ouray for 5th grade, now he's back. He is pretty reserved, but every once in awhile, he surprises his classmates with quirky movements or clever jokes. In each

class, he stays quiet but when called on he makes a wild entrance, by either jumping or spinning into action. He returned to Ouray from Fort Worth Texas. Aidan said, "The reason my family and I returned to Ouray was because in Texas things weren't working out so well." He now lives in his grandmother and grandfather's house, with his mom, his little sister, and his older brother, Drew. Aidan said, "I love my family, but it can get a little cramped." He likes playing video games like Mario Kart or just watching TV.

Nicholine "Nic" Nelson lived in a small town in California called Yorba Linda. She came to Ouray, she said, "because I got into some trouble with boys, well with a boy." Right now Nic is living with her Godmother and her step-sister Reysa. She likes Ouray because she has a job at Maggie's and it is beautiful here. Nic said, "Ouray is my new home, and I truly like it." Outdoor Ed is her favorite class because, as she said, "I don't have to do that much." She likes lobster, Reysa, softball, pitbulls, and of course her boyfriend Charlie. Freshman Jackson Leo said, "Nic is pretty cool."

We all want to do our best to make these students feel welcome. "Don't forget about the new kids," special education teacher Mrs. Nelson said. "Talk to them, tell them new things, and of course hang out with them."



## Calendar

### Thursday, September 21

8:00 am - Picture Day

### Friday, September 22

All Day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

11:30 am - HS XC Ramble at the Reservoir

### Saturday, September 23

5:30 am - HS XC in Fruita

10:00 am - HS VB at home vs Mancos

### Tuesday, September 26

5:00 pm - HS VB in Ridgway