

First Impressions

A first look at the Alternative Learning Center's new, temporary location

By Eli Sund

Last year, the SMEC ALC announced that it was no longer taking residence in the old Kingsland school in Wykoff, due to the building lease not being renewed. So, instead of renewing the lease, SMEC decided that they would start a hunt for a new building. There were many new locations to choose from, such as the hardware store and the Business Center in Grand Meadow and the old school in Elkton but those were eventually ruled out because they were not a good fit for us.



But, there was one last option as a home for the ALC; The old next step building in Adams. The building, which used to be an old pharmacy, was bought by the bank next door to it. As SMEC had already leased it and had been using from office space to a transitional program, it seemed like a perfect fit for our temporary home. It had two restaurants within a couple blocks, a convenience store across the street, and the Legion right next to us would allow students to use as a place to sit outside and enjoy the weather.

When you first walk into the building, it doesn't exactly seem like a typical school work environment. Aside from all of the desks scattered about the building, there also several recliner and papasan style chairs where students can sit to work a little more comfortably. The ground floor is where all of this takes place, and is not very large, as it seems there are as many people crammed in here as possible, but it seems to work for all of the students and teachers in the building. There is also an upstairs and basement, but those are typically off limits to students unless accompanied by a teacher.

As the location we have chosen may not have been the most practical, it is also temporary and in the short term it seems to be the perfect choice for us. Even if it wasn't a good choice, the new school will be projected to be done around Christmas of next year, making the stay extremely short. But in the meanwhile, we have a nice cozy and warm area to work hard on earning our school diplomas.

Summer Graduates

The ALC had two student graduates this summer!

By Cruz Perez-Solis

Words from Kathy P. *“They both worked at their own pace and put all their effort forth and when they saw success they took every chance to achieve their high school diploma.*

Each of them work hard every day they were there. Both of them had jobs after school so they got their work done during school so they didn’t have much home-work to worry about while at work.”

Bryant had a great sense of humor and would always find a way to make others laugh. He was kind, thoughtful, and he always got his lessons and projects done.

Darielle was quiet and kept to herself most of the time so I won’t have much to say about her but from what I know is, she was funny, sarcastic, and intelligent. Every time I would see her in classroom she was working and getting classes done before most others.



Bryant Bornholdt, Kingsland School District



Darielle Felten, Southland School District

INTERVIEWS

Meet some of the ALC family!

Mrs. (KATHY) PILLER

BY Jake Gossman

What are your favorite hobbies?

Fishing, reading, gardening

Favorite color?

Purple

How many kids do you have?

Two

What is your favorite food?

Spaghetti

Why did you want to teach?

To help kids

When did you start teaching?

1995

Have you ever done a backflip?

Yes

Is bigfoot real?

No

If you could have a super power what would it be?

Healing power

If you could speak one foreign language what would it be?

French

EMILEE JONES

By Montana Hensley

What was your favorite part of summer?

Being up north

What kind of hobbies do you have?

Racing and driving

If you could have any power in the world what would it be?

To be invisible

What's your favorite movie?

The Great Gatsby

If you could time travel where would you go?

Back to foster care

If you could meet anyone in the world dead or alive who would it be?

Lil Peep

What's your favorite kind of music?

Country

If you could do anything in the world right now what would it be?

Go on vacation with friends

What's your favorite childhood memories?

Sleeping

What's your favorite subject in school?

Biology



Drawing by Montana Hensley

s a b r y n a ' s s e p t e m b e r p l a y l i s t

1. Dying in L.A. – Panic! at the Disco
2. Africa – Toto
3. Clear Your Conscience – A Better Hand
4. This Town – Niall Horan
5. Superlit – Gnash
6. All the Small Things – Blink-182
7. No Tears Left to Cry – Ariana Grande
8. Young Blood – 5 Seconds of Summer
9. Open Minded – Makeout
10. Life in Pink – The Ready Set
11. Born for Greatness – Papa Roach

Summertime Sadness?

By Sabryna Hansen

101 Degrees with no clouds in the sky, Daphne was locked outside of her house. Luckily for her she could just call her dad. Daphne pulls out her phone from her back pocket but it slips out of her hand and breaks against the driveway. She waits outside for a bit until her dad gets home and unlocks the door to go inside. She told her dad what happened, but her dad refused to get her a new one, because they are moving and need to save as much money as possible for their move. Of course they aren't just moving down the street of their small town, but they will be traveling all the way across the country to a much bigger city.

She has to leave many things behind, like her tight knit small group of friends. Daphne has recently got into a fight with her long time best friend and doesn't know how to talk to her about the situation on hand. With everything happening all at once she felt like her whole world was falling apart.

A few days later her and her dad begin to load in the car and head out to their new life miles away. As they pull out of the driveway her eyes begin to water, she'll miss this small town she grew up in. They stop at plenty of gas stations and got food a few times during this long drive. Many many hours go by and they arrive at their new home.

This was Daphne's first time seeing her new house in person. There's a great big yard, a beautiful deck and her room on the big one on the second floor, she was super excited now but still upset about everything she left behind. It takes them a few weeks to unpack and get comfortable in their new space.

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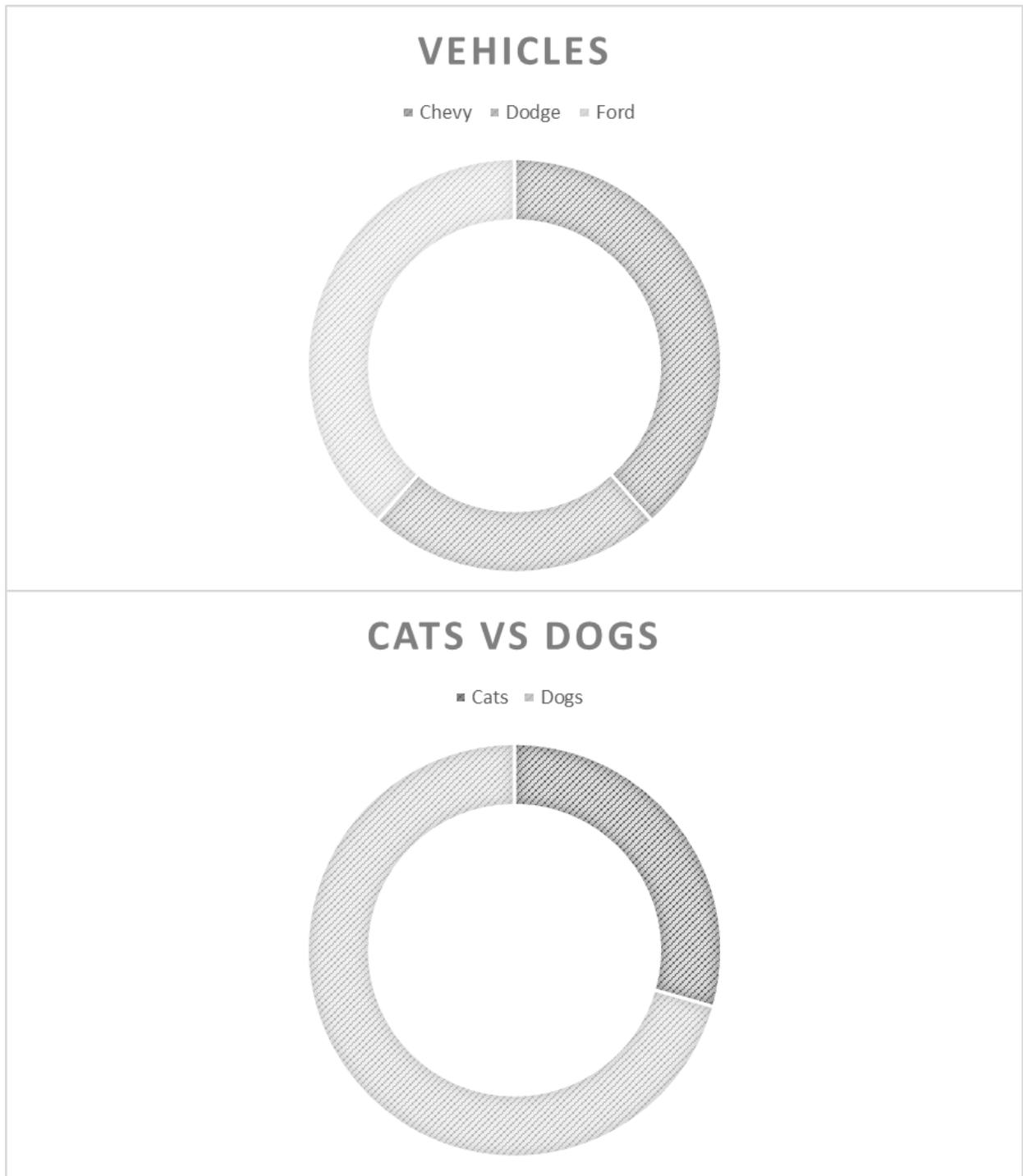
In the meantime, Daphne finds a job and meet some kids her age. It was much easier finding a place to work in the city than her tiny town that she was used too. She easily saved up for a brand new phone, the first thing she did with it was call her best friend to talk out their argument. They made up quickly and continued being great friends.

Daphne was really lonely still because school wasn't for a few weeks yet so her dad got her a puppy! The yard was perfect for an energetic puppy, Daphne named her Tilly and they were so happy together! At the start, the summer was kind of a bummer but now she is really enjoying it. She's made some great new friends, bonded with her dad, had a blast with her dog and even her best friend came all the way to visit!

ALC Polls

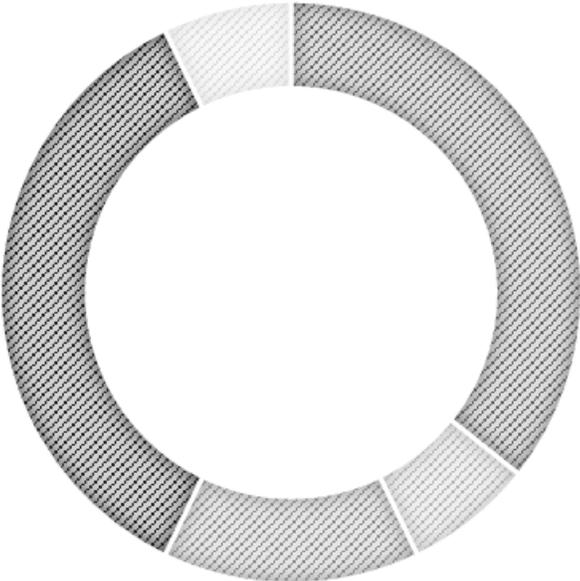
A look at some opinions in the ALC

By Jake Gossman



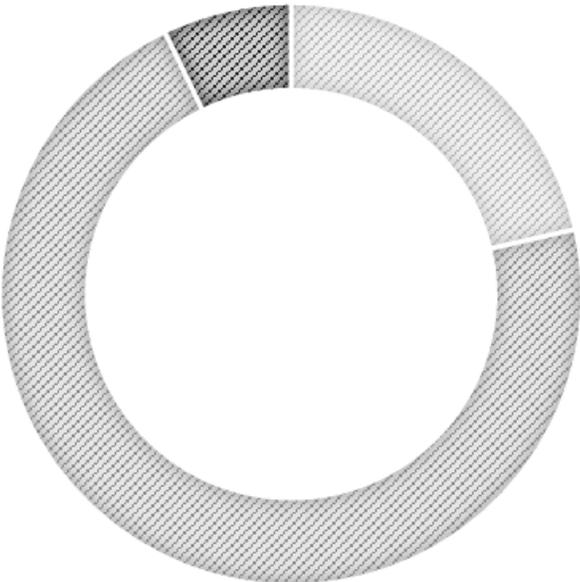
FAVORITE GENRE OF MUSIC

■ Country ■ Pop Punk ■ Rock ■ Rap ■ All



FAVORITE SEASONS

■ Spring ■ Summer ■ Fall ■ Winter



More Interviews

Another look at some members of our ALC

OSCAR RAINVILLE

By Montana Hensley

What is your full name?
Oscar Joseph Rainville III

What is your dream job?
Auto mechanic

Where are you from?
Dexter MN

Do you have any secret talents?
I can trip over air

Do you have any siblings?
4 sisters

When is your birthday?
November 22, 1999

What is your dream car?
Corvette convertible

Is this ALC better than your old school?
It is better because I can work at my own pace.

What don't you like about this ALC?
I would like it to be a cooler temperature.

JAKE GOSSMAN

By Sabryna Hansen



Where are you from?
Rose Creek, Minnesota

What are your hobbies?
Working and fixing motor vehicles

What's your favorite movie?
Smokey and the Bandit

If you could travel anywhere where would you go?
Kentucky

If you ever won, the lottery what would you do with your winnings?

Buy a truck first, get my wife a car, buy a house, then give the rest to my parents.

If you could have lunch with one person dead or alive who would it be?
Jesus

What is something that you are proud of?
My tractor truck I made

What is your favorite holiday?
Halloween

If you were a food what food would you be?
Pizza, because it's the best

After high school plans?
Become a millionaire and get married

Cats or dogs?
Dogs unless it's my old orange cat.

Favorite hair color that Sabryna has had?
Dark blue



Differences:

Schools in the U.S. and in Guatemala

By Liniquer Perez

My name is Liniquer Perez. I'm a new student at the ALC this year. In my life, I've been able to see what school is like in two different countries I was 6 years old when I started school in Guatemala. Then i moved to Wisconsin, and I spent 2 years in school there. We moved to Austin, Minnesota next, and I went to Lyle public school for 2 years before ending up here at the ALC in Adams

In Guatemala, the school gave you an hour for lunch, so that you could go buy something or the school gave you something. In the United States, they only give you a half hour, but it seems like they give you more food. Another difference is that in Guatemala, you have 6 lessons, and you do not have to worry about the other lessons, but in the united states you have 8 lessons. All 8 lessons are very important, and if you fail some lessons your points go down. A big difference is that in the United States you have a computer or you rent one, but in Guatemala the students and teachers do not have computers. There is only one computer in the school there and when you have homework you have to pay to use it.



Where I went to school in Guatemala, the school is very large, and the lessons are very short, because the school day is shorter. In Guatemala they do not give you much homework, but in United States they sometimes give you a lot of homework. They quiz and test in the United States often, but in Guatemala you only take one test a year. The length of the school year in either country is different too. In Guatemala school starts in January and ends in September. School in United States starts in September and ends in May.

When school is finished in Guatemala, the town would give us a party of three days. The first day is for the male students. They play games like soccer and volleyball against a team from another school, and the winning team gets a prize. The next day the women of the school play. On the last day, the students watch adults play, and there are other students games going on at the same time that they can play in or watch.

Looking at schools in Guatemala and schools in the United States, they are almost the same, because the two schools have activities when the school ends, and the two schools that give almost the same lessons. I did not like that school in Guatemala goes 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. because I did not feel like I learned anything. I like to go to school from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. because I learn more, and it gives me more time to do all my school work.

ASK ELI

Back for another year is our monthly advice column with our very own Eli Sund! Each month, Eli will be back with answers to our readers' most pressing questions.

What are some tips for ways students can be successful in the new school year?

One of the most important ways to make school easier is to get your sleep schedule back on its track. Many students like to stay up all night then sleep all day, which is O.K. to do during the summer, you won't be able to get much done during the school year if you stayed up late the night before. Another thing to do is try and eliminate all your distractions while working, so probably turn your phone off or keep it in your backpack.

Who invented water?

Water was created in the year 2004 by a man named Morgan Freeman, who made it just to get another award.

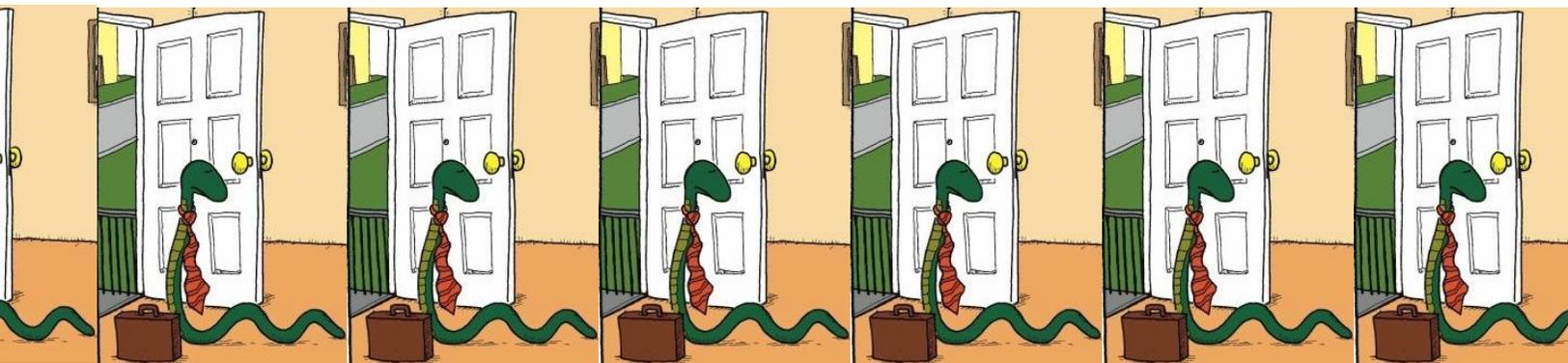
Do dogs go to heaven?

All the online bible sites tend to dance around this question to bring the point around how god loves you, so I'm going to guess probably unless your dog was a jerk or something.

How do snakes work?

They don't and therefore are useless members of society and should be treated as such.

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Aries (March 21–April 20)

This month is going to be a challenge for you, the real challenge is to find the balance. Keep your head above water, don't drown in yourself.

Taurus (April 21–May 20)

Good things take time but really great things can happen in the blink of the eye. Be patient good things are coming

Gemini (May 21–June 20)

You have to be happy alone to be happy together. Focus on yourself this month, reflect, learn, grow. Find yourself before seeking validation from others.

Cancer (June 21–July 22)

If you give someone an inch except them to take a mile, some people can't help but be selfish. Seasons change more often than people do. Let go of the people that don't make you happy and you yourself go make others happy.

Leo (July 23–August 22)

Listen to your hunch, that feeling you have that hasn't failed you. There's always a middle ground, find the gray in the black and white. One day at a time, good luck this month.

Virgo (August 23–September 22)

Time to start over, every day is a new day. There will be situations with unclear outcomes, but that doesn't mean you should fear them.

Libra (September 23–October 22)

Life's not out to get you. It's easy to trip over people's history, forget and forgive. Help yourself before you help others, you need to reflect

Scorpio (October 23–November 22)

Move the mountains that you once had to climb. You are in control of your life don't forget that.

Sagittarius (November 23–December 21)

Be kind to others and yourself. Some of your actions are out of control and induced by others.

Capricorn (December 22–January 19)

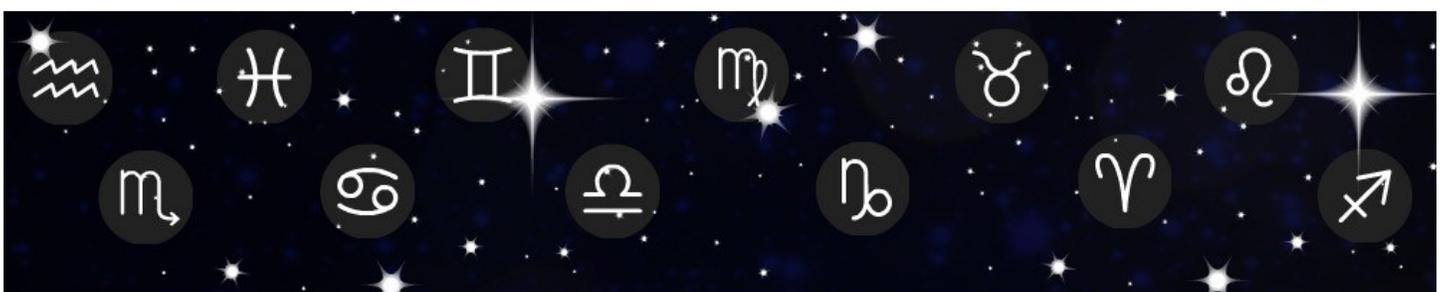
When the hardest part is saying your fine it's time to stop lying to yourself. You have people that love you and will listen to you. Smile and laugh with other, make new friends

Aquarius (January 20–February 19)

Sometimes forgetting hurts more than remembering, reflect on past positive experiences. Make more good memories this month.

Pisces (February 20–March 20)

When you've lost too much to gain with someone just say goodbye, stop falling for fool's gold, don't forget the good times. Grow for yourself.



SPOTLIGHT:

The Humane Society

Want to help out your community? Save an animals life? Or have a new best friend? Well you can do all of that! Just take a quick stop by the nearest Humane Society!

Approximately 7.6 million companion animals enter shelters every year, of those 3.9 million are dogs and 3.4 million are cats. Homeless and sheltered animals is a subject a lot of people don't talk about and it needs to be discussed. There are more than 200 million stray dogs worldwide. YOU could change not only the animal's life but yours too! There is so many cute animals waiting for the love they deserve. Help our local Humane Society.



The Rochester Humane Society is a no kill shelter. They shelter an animal for as long as it takes for him/her to find a loving home. Most Humane Societies are also non-profit organizations. Via email, I interviewed Josie Stoeckel, who works at *Paws and Claws* in Rochester, MN. I asked her lots of question regarding the shelter and some personal ex-

periences she might have had. Here are some of those responses:



Interview on following page...

Q: What are some of the most rewarding things about your job?

A: “There are so many rewarding things, it’s hard to pick just one. I think one of my top things be seeing an animal that was lost get reunited with their owner. Another thing I love is when an animal that came in so shy and shut down finally open up and trust people.”

Q: What does your day look like while working at the shelter?

A: “I am a full time as a kennel attendant as well as the cat adoption staff. In the mornings, I come in, feed the cats, clean their kennels and give any medications needed. There are other part-time kennel staff that does that also. As cat adoption staff- I take people that are interested in adoption into the rooms to meet all the cats. I also process adoption applications and go through adoption paperwork when they come to take the cat home. I (along with the manager, who okays intakes) also am in charge of cat intakes- setting up appointments for people to bring the cats in and getting them set up in a kennel when they arrive. There is a dog adoption staff and dog kennel attendants that provide the same for the dogs in our care.

Along with our daily routine, there are occasional vet visits that are mostly volunteer-run but staff do help as needed also. The dog adoption staff and I also set up appointments for spaying/neutering of the animals at area vets and set up the volunteers to transport them to and from the clinics for the surgeries. Day to day there are also many volunteers that come and spend time with the animals- playing with and grooming the cats or walking the dogs.”

Q: What do you wish more people knew about shelters?

A: “We are almost always full and when we say we are full, it’s not because we don’t want to take the animals- it’s because we legitimately don’t have anywhere to put them. Our goal here is to help as many animals as we can. Another thing to know about shelters- the staff do their best but we are human and frequently we are caring for a large number of animals. We try our best to avoid it but mistakes do happen. If a mistake does happen, we will do our best to correct it.”

Q: What are the most common stigmas faced by shelters today?

A: “Unfortunately I think the biggest stigma faced is that the shelter staff doesn’t care about the animals and we’re only in it for the money. There’s also a common misconception that taking an animal to a shelter is inhumane. The staff and volunteers I work with are some of the most caring people I’ve ever met towards animals. They take great care of them and it definitely isn’t for the money we make- we’re here to help care for unwanted pets until they can find a new home. As for a shelter being inhumane, all of the animals here are extremely well-cared for (and maybe spoiled just a little bit). It’s not exactly about shelters or their staff but stereotypes about animals we see a lot of are regarding pit bulls and the bias against them or black cats/dogs. It is a fact that black cats and dogs typically don’t get adopted as quickly as others.”

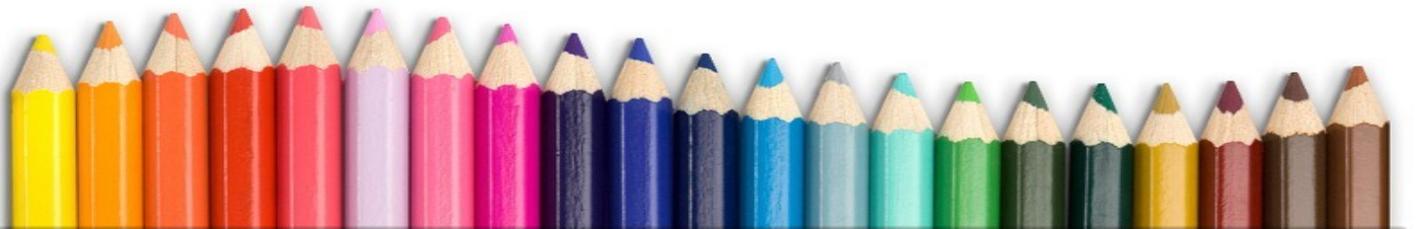
Thank you to Josie Stoeckle for the interview!

SEPTEMBER WORD SEARCH



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deer
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september
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school
football
chocolate
classes
books
apple
sunshine
microwave
soup
sweater
neighborhood
bus
trees
cat
hot
cocoa
gradebook
syllabus
computer
students





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