



The only hockey player around



Christmas traditions arrive back at Delta High School  
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# Delta Paw Print



1400 Pioneer Rd Delta High School December 2021 [deltapawprint.com](http://deltapawprint.com)

## Aiming high: The DHS Varsity Basketball Team prepares for the season

By Leeyandel Arias

Winter has arrived which means the basketball season is here and Delta High School is ready for tipoff.

Every season starts with tryouts, which are practices for students looking to make a roster spot. The coaches can scout and observe potential players to be on their roster. This year roughly 40 people tried out and out of the 40, only 32 of them earned a roster spot to make a total of teams. The teams vary from Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Freshmen. All teams are determined by grade and skill level.

The beginning of every basketball season is always exciting because hopes are high, new players are put on new teams, and new plays are implemented prior to the start of the season.

Starting the season can be stressful for some players and coaches, but Varsity head coach Robert Ames isn't nervous. He's rather excited. "I am excited about the upcoming season," said Ames. "I think we have a promising group of athletes from the freshmen to the senior class, and they have been working hard to come together for a great year."

If Delta does have a great season, they will then go to the playoffs to face off other teams in the division to compete for the State championship. Every team should strive to make the playoffs, but senior varsity player Diego Gutierrez thinks they should go for a different approach. Gutierrez said "Yes, every team wants to make the playoffs and win State, but those are big goals. It will be easier and less of a strain to just set small, achievable goals."

So far, all three teams have played their first game or are practicing towards their first matchup. Every start of the basketball season is always exciting. Stay tuned for Delta basketball because this season is expected to be a special one.

### Music for the Holidays BAND

The Delta High School band is performing a winter performance on December 15 at 7:30 p.m. It will be held in the common area of the Delta High School. This will be performed by the band, the jazz band, and also the percussion. One of the pieces the band will play is "A Christmas Tale" by Guaraldi/ Mendelson. One of the pieces the percussion will be performing is "Silent Samba" by Chris Brooks. "I think for the amount of time we've had we have made huge amounts of improvement from the start to where we are now," said Hazel Lancaster, the section leader of the flutes. "It's going to be interesting," said Janine Garcia, one of the section leaders.

### CHOIR

Delta High School's group of choir students and choir director Mr. Michael Leoffler will be performing their annual winter concert, lasting approximately an hour. Join the choir students tonight at the Delta Performing Arts Center at 6 p.m. to celebrate the holiday season with your family and friends. Celebrating the holidays, the choirs have prepared music with a vast range of styles, including a Latin song titled "Hodie", composed by John Leavitt. Of course, we can't forget the classics, like "Carol of the Bells" composed by Mykola Leontovych, and "The First Noel" composed by John Gardner. All of these students have put a lot of dedicated time into this, practicing these pieces nearly everyday for over two months. "I am very excited for the upcoming concert. This will give us a chance to show off all the hard work we've put in these past few months as well as give us a chance to connect with the community through Christmas music and holiday cheer," said Kaleigh Zavala, a longtime choir member. "The holidays are one of my favorite seasons, and I always enjoy preparing music for them. I can't wait for the public to hear what we've put together," said Leoffler.



Delta forms a huddle right before playing in their first game of the season. Senior Johnny Gaucin (left) Senior Hunter Goff (right)



Coach Robert Ames looks up at the scoreboard after the opposing team scores a layup. Photo Credit: Lee Arias

## School will start earlier next semester due to bus driver shortage

By Travis Cantonwine, Editor-in-Chief

Students will have to arrive at school 15 minutes earlier next semester to fulfill a new bus route schedule, the administration said. To cope with a long-time struggle to hire bus drivers, Delta Schools compromised the bus route. "We have a massive bus driver shortage [that] we are [struggling] through," Carlson said. "Currently our Delta area runs three loads. [Next semester] it will be condensed to two loads." Other changes to students schedules had to be made. Carlson told the Delta Paw Print that the first warning bell will be at 7:45 a.m. and the class bell will be at 7:50 a.m. The last hour of school will end at 3:00 p.m. after these changes go into effect. Lunch will be reduced back to 40 minutes—going back on the recent change to a 45 minute lunch break. The district made the changes and finalized them at the December school board meeting:

Start	End
Garnet Mesa Elementary	
8:30	3:45
Lincoln Elementary	
8:30	3:45
Delta Middle	
7:45	3:00
Delta High	
7:45	3:00

The buses would have to separate the secondary school students from the elementary school students for a more efficient bus route. "Most school districts do it this way," Carlson said. "High school and middle school students will be dropped off first, then elementary students." The district said the model was based on other school districts as well.



# The only hockey player around

## Landen Payne proves Delta can play hockey too

By Gavin McCurdy

Delta High School doesn't have a hockey team of its own, but if it did, there would be one freshman to be first in line to sign up. Hockey is a popular sport around the world with around two billion followers according to Sylvester Devano, a sports writer for Sports Browser.

Hockey is a sport in where six players try to score by getting the hockey puck in the other team's goal. Hockey has three offensive positions and three defensive positions. The offensive positions are center, left wing, and right wing. The defensive positions are goal keeper or goalie, left defenseman, and right defenseman.

Hockey is played in a skating rink and is a high contact winter sport. Hockey is one of the hardest sports to learn and one of the most physically demanding sports because of the hand-eye coordination needed with the ability to skate, and having the ability to get up after big hits.

Landon Payne is a freshman hockey player at Delta High School. "I've been playing for about four or five years now" and love the "good pressure put on you by your teammates."

He feels this pressure a lot more because he plays goalie. Goalie is a very popular position even among people who don't play hockey. He also plays left wing — one must flank the center which allows the center to pass to either wing player for an easy goal. Because there's



Photo courtesy of Jessi Payne

no hockey teams in Delta, he plays for the Grand Junction Cougars. There is a difference in rules from the league Payne plays for and the NHL.

"The contact for sure — there's a lot less contact in

the younger groups," Payne said. Hockey is a high contact sport where you can check or slide into whoever's handling the puck, commonly leading with the hip or shoulder. Payne's goalie position requires he blocks

attempted goals as often and consistently as possible. As a goalie he's forced to be in awkward positions to block shots which is why goalie's should have a good stance and move around easily.

Goalie is a position that

takes a lot of effort to play. "The hardest part of playing goalie is when it's just you and the shooter" Payne said.

# Trees removed from the sidewalk of DHS



Trees are no longer growing on the now-empty sidewalk of Delta High School.

By Asa StPeter

On a sidewalk, in front of Delta High School, a tree company had to remove two trees from the sidewalk. The removal of these trees upset most students, some however actually weren't concerned at all or didn't even notice.

DHS freshman Tyrrell Garcia said, "I miss the trees because they made the parking lot look a lot more comforting."

Senior Gwen Hearing said, "I hate the trees being removed because people go over to sit and have nice shade." Some students were upset because of the environment the trees gave to the parking lot. It was also a place where most students sat to eat lunch or to wait for car rides. These trees were removed because the trees were dying due to disease.

Some students, however, didn't notice the trees were gone, or it didn't matter to them. Ruby Pruett said, "I don't really care about the trees because I never sat there."

Destiny Huerta said, "I didn't really notice they were gone."

As we continue through the year, we will see new shade structures in place of the trees so that students who sit at these benches will still have the comforting shade the trees gave.



# DHS starts a drama club

By Tyrrell Garcia

Students love to act on stage and make people laugh. Some students want to do that but have stage fright. Well, that is what drama club can help with. Delta High School now has a drama club! But what are the reasons people join? Well getting over stage fright is one, getting to perform and make people laugh, and maybe students just want to go to be with friends and have fun. And there are so many reasons why students at DHS want to be in drama.

Drama is a place where students can act, have fun, and be themselves without anyone judging them. More students can get together to create amazing ideas for the play, like the setting or the personality of a character. They also get to do some fun activities. And with the help of the directors, the drama club doesn't get boring or stressful like other drama classes or clubs may do. "I like that we can all just do weird things without being judged because we're acting," said Anisha Simler.

"I first joined because my friends asked me to, but now it's like a group of friends that have fun," said Simler. "I joined because I wanted to say something new," said Asa st. Peter

There are around 20 high school students in the drama club. Most of them volunteered and some were asked to come and at least try. At first, they read scripts for some plays. After picking a play, actors started to read character parts and we had students read some parts and act them out. Then the students started to audition for roles in the play. Finally, on November 15, the drama club members got word of

the parts that they got. Drama club members got to take the scripts home and read through, and try to get some of their lines memorized.

Drama is a place for more students to get together, make new friends, and get to have fun. And sadly not a lot of schools have drama clubs.

Jason Atchley and Michael Loeffler are the directors of the drama club. But why did they want to start it? Jason Atchley is a teacher at Delta Middle school. He has a passion for drama, and the fact that DHS didn't have any form of a drama club left him heartbroken. "I wanted to start a drama club because I am very passionate about theatre, and I was disheartened that nothing was happening at the high school level," said Atchley. "The drama club will help DHS because it is another avenue for students to get involved. The more students are involved in high school activities, the more amazing their high school experience will be," said Atchley.

Michael Loeffler is the choir director at Delta High School and Delta Middle School. Like Atchley, Loeffler loves theatre. "A lot of us, including Mr. Atchley and myself, love theatre and want to share that love with students," said Loeffler. "The drama club was something that various people at DHS have been trying to start for a long time," said Loeffler. "Drama creates a special community, and it's always exciting to see people come together for any project."

So is the drama club going to stick around for future DHS students? Should students with stage fright who want to get over that fear join drama? "I would recommend drama for students with stage fright because there

are other parts of theatre such as sound/light that don't require being on stage," said Atchley. "Yes, I would like to see a full-fledged program at DHS with a fall and spring play/musical."

"I think that the drama program provides another option for students to explore their interests. A lot of students find value in after-school programs like sports or band, but some students still haven't yet found that thing that helps them thrive," said Loeffler. "I hope drama can provide that special place for students who haven't yet found where they belong to come and enjoy the magic of theater."

So what are Michael Loeffler's future plans for the drama club? Well, it sounds like Loeffler has the same plans as Atchley does. "I would love to see drama become a mainstay at DHS in the way that sports teams and other extracurricular activities are. I don't know what show we will do next, but I'm hoping that we can do at least another next year. Someday I'd even love to work up to doing a big musical," said Loeffler.

"Drama is a perfect place for students who have stage fright. The beauty of drama is that you are never going to be alone on the stage; you will always have your friends as fellow actors to support and encourage you. Drama is also great as you need to have a big part if you struggle with stage fright. You can try it out with a smaller role and gradually work up to something bigger as you overcome your fears," said Loeffler.



Photo courtesy of Leeland Ball

Andraya Simler showing enthusiasm during drama club after school.

## Social media accountability

### OPINION

By Anika Hovel

Accountability: We all experience someone either keeping us accountable, or we hold someone else accountable. So why is it so hard for a social media platform like TikTok to be held accountable and to keep young teens accountable for their actions?

Just this year, students followed a TikTok trend involving illegal acts. The August-September trend, titled "devious licks" involved stealing things from as small as soap dispensers and office supplies to as big as white boards and doors. Not only did this happen in Colorado schools, but occurred nationwide.

The TikTok Community guidelines say "Content may be removed if it relates to activities or goods that are regulated or illegal in the majority of the region or world, even if the activities or goods in question are legal in the jurisdiction of posting."

TikTok eventually ended up banning the trend, but why did it take that long to do it? Whether it is taking down a video or banning a trend, moderators don't catch on fast enough and the trend gets out of control.

This has happened with

many other trends before. TikTok not holding people accountable is not a new thing. It has just finally come to life.

A few years ago there was a TikTok trend that personally injured those who tried it. It was called the "salt-n-ice challenge." This challenge involved putting salt on your wrist then adding ice, which burns your skin.

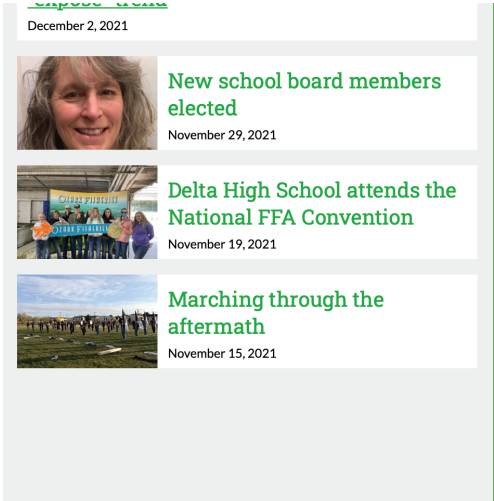
These videos are currently up still, and you can watch them whenever you would like. TikTok was never held accountable for all these people harming themselves for views.

The TikTok guidelines also state, "We do not allow content that depicts, promotes, normalizes, or glorifies such behavior, including amateur stunts or dangerous challenges." Note that in this section they mention dangerous challenges.

All social media platforms struggle with regulation, but they also have ways to filter out the "questionable content." Platforms are able to use algorithms, manual filters and parental controls to limit the content shown.

Whether it's illegal acts or "dangerous challenges," TikTok needs to be held accountable for regulating what is and is not allowed on the site.

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## Eternals: an astounding, jaw-dropping experience

By Joel Martinez

A cinematic universe where heroes and villains are constantly going head to head, Eternals is a phenomenal story starting in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, with many big names as the lead roles. Eternals portrays a group of heroes who were sent to earth to help it's people grow and evolve to a more advanced civilization by defeating the deviants, evil creatures whose sole purpose is to stop the people of earth from advancing.

The Eternals are ancient aliens who have been living on earth for thousands of years. They started out as heros who helped improve the world, working with past civilizations, even to the point where they have major roles in history, but later on became one with society. Living amongst humans, the Eternals await their return to the home planet Olympia.

After the events of Thanos erasing half of all living things in the universe, a new ancient threat rises forcing the Eternals to come out of hiding.

With an amazing cast starring Angelina Jolie as Thena, Richard Madden as Ikaris, Gemma Chan as Sersi, Salma Hayek as Ajak, Berry Keoghan as Druig, Don Lee as Galgamesh, Lia Mchughas as Sprite, Lauren Ridloff as Makkari, Kumail Nanjianas as Kingo, and finally Brian laTyree Henry as Phastos. With a cast like this, it's bound to be a great movie.

Overall we gave the movie a rating of 5 out of 5. Not only does it have a great storyline with a great cast, but it also has a surprise character introduced. Making this movie one of the best.





# Christmas traditons arrive back at Delta High School



By Alexia Sanchez and Rachel Young

As the holiday season is right around the corner, the traditions are rolling in too. Around DHS, staff, and students take part in may holiday-related activities every year. Each of these activities brings in the Christmas spirit to school and helps brighten kids up as finals are approaching.

One very important tradition celebrated at DHS is when student council seniors pick out a tree to display in the cafeteria area. Last year, due to COVID-19, seniors were not able to get the full experience of picking a tree out. “It meant a lot to us to be able to go out and find a tree that we really liked and to kind of spend the day together and then bring it back to put in our cafetorium,” said senior Kurtis Nethington.

Senior Oaklee Hughes said, “Picking out the tree was so much fun and a memory I will have forever.” STUCO also runs something called the Wish Locker, where students are able to write one wish, a realistic wish, and the student council will try their best to grant that wish. A couple of years ago, Kelly Johnson wished for the choir of Delta High School to sing her Happy Birthday and she received her request.

Counselors Shawna Magtutu and Holly Crowder put together a program called “12 days before Christmas” where different Christmas-related activities are set up, and a variety of snacks and goodies are available for teachers. The counselors want to “Boost their mood and bring holiday spirit into the building,” said Crowder.

Another fun tradition, called “You’ve been elfed,” is where the student council starts off by giving someone a gift either small or big, but they have to do it in secret. If you get elfed you pass it on by getting someone else a gift and giving it in secret. “So, I usually don’t get elfed since I’m in STUCO. I have to start it off, but being able to elf someone and seeing their reaction when they realize they’ve been elfed is pretty funny,” junior Evelyn Gutierrez said. Junior Nylene Gutierrez said, “I feel like I’m making somebody’s day so much better by helping them and I feel like being elfed is a great way to get the students involved.”

In addition to Elfing, students and staff have ways to bring out the competitive side in everyone. DHS has a door decorating contest where everyone gets the chance to decorate their doors to match the spirit of Christmas. “There’s always the door decorating contest and some go overboard,” said Crowder.

Along with door decorating, technology teacher Scott Siettmann likes to make fun Christmas videos and even posters to help bring the spirit to DHS. The halls and cafeteria of DHS were all decorated by the Ames family and have been for a couple of years now. They make intricate Christmas crafts and decorate the ceilings of the hallways and walls of the cafeteria. “It’s hard to not smile when you see cute little snowmen and ornaments and paper chains made by kids,” said Crowder.

These traditions are brought to DHS to spread the holiday cheer and bring a little joy to whomever gets elfed or sees the Christmas tree in the hallway, or the Christmas decorations in the halls. Everywhere you look in Delta High School there is a little Christmas cheer everywhere.



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