

“I’m going to go crazy if I can’t get away from you,” said Emilie Holbert.

That sentence was spoken to me 4 days into quarantine. The feeling was mutual, but Emilie and I have a very rare relationship. I would consider my little sister my best friend. I guess being quarantined with your sibling could have gone worse. Of course we have our disputes like all sisters do but thankfully they are brief and normally over something not serious.

Since our parents are both essential workers we only see them on the weekends, and my dad works on our farm, so he stops in once and awhile, but I don’t see them as much as Emilie. Our farm is five miles out of town, so we can’t really go for a walk around town and say hi in passing to strangers (at a social distancing distance of course). So we fill our time by writing crazy songs about what we will do after quarantine. We binge watch our new show and bond by crying when our favorite character dies. We sit on our kitchen counter and listen to music as we talk about conspiracy theories and bake or cook. We started writing books about everything and anything.

There are infinite ways to fill our free time (I guess it’s really just time now since we don’t have anything better to do). At first we did absolutely nothing and rested from the months of school. After recharging we started to become unbearably bored. So we made a list of what we are going to do after quarantine. I will share some of those activities now: go to as many concerts as we can, go to all the football games, get ice cream whenever we want, and most of all never take being able to leave our house for granted again.

–Elianna Holbert, Lamar HS  
First Place



## Learning a new routine

This is Jeffrey, Liam and Ella. Jeffrey is my uncle and Liam and Ella are my cousins. Their mom, Crystal was busy working.

Liam and Ella are in preschool, but now they are faced with a new challenge of learning from home. This week they have Facetimed us and told us they are learning about seasons and how to tell time on a clock. Jeffrey is the Woods teacher at LHS, so he's working on teaching his kids at home and his students online.

It is 11:30 and the kids are still in their pajamas. Quarantine has changed their daily routine immensely. They stay home all day instead of going out, so they are still trying to adjust to a new normal.

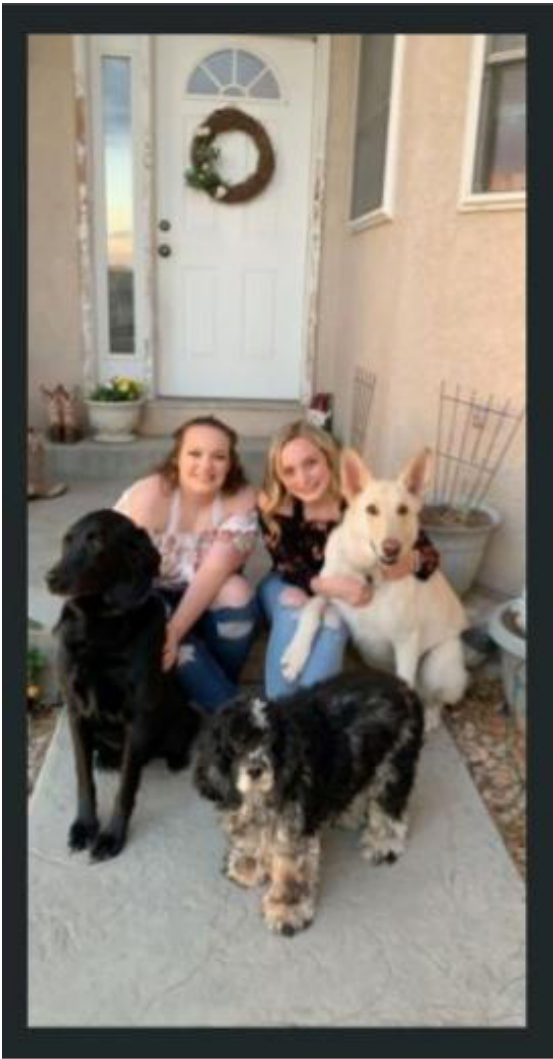
Liam is upset because he can't come outside to see his favorite aunt because we are trying to keep a safe distance. He clings to his dad's leg for comfort. Ella has a big smile on her face. She's showing us a bean that she just found on the floor that fascinates her.

They point out their packages sitting on their front steps. They have been disinfecting their packages and leaving them outside for several days. They are trying to protect their home, just like everyone else during this time. With recommendations from the CDC and WHO are changing constantly, I don't think that taking extra precautions are unnecessary.

"We have to keep them out here because of the germs," Liam explained to us.

Luckily, the Easter Bunny visited their house before they stopped letting people come into their house. This means that they can have a fun and safe Easter. They also had an Easter egg hunt in their backyard. This quarantine won't stop them from having fun. They're just doing it in a different way.

–Brailee Crum, Lamar HS  
Second Place



Everyone is ready for things to go back to normal. Students and teachers want to go back to school and parents want to go back to work. As much as people want to go back to normal life that isn't going to happen soon. "I'm ready to be able to go back to school and hang out with my friends because being stuck at home all the time is making me crazy," Ashley Gilmore said.

People are starting to go stir crazy. "Our mom has always worked from home but between me and my sister always being home and not being allowed to leave the house she's starting to go a little stir crazy," Amber Gilmore said.

There are some things that are keeping them sane. One of those things are their pets, even though their pets are probably ready for things to go back to normal too. "I can tell that the cats are ready for me to go back to school. all I do all day is bother them and they are tired of it," Ashley Gilmore said.

Being stuck in quarantine is really boring. After a while there really is much that you can do around your house to keep yourself entertained. You can only spend so much time on your phone on TikTok or rewatching your favorite show on Netflix, so a lot of people are starting new hobbies or deep cleaning their entire house.

"My mom and I have been really busy in the kitchen, we are always trying new recipes," Amber Gilmore said.

We can only hope that the CDC gets this virus under control soon. "I hope that this gets better by the time that summer comes around so that the pool can open," Ashley Gilmore said.

Most people are expecting for the spread of the virus to be controlled by May or June. "I'm ready for this whole thing to be over because if it keeps going the way that it's going then I won't get a summer swim season," Amber Gilmore said. Even though this whole thing has caused some rough time and the front porch project helps bring that hope to people.

–Amber Gilmore, Lamar HS  
Third Place