

Kim Jong-un disappears

Some speculate North Korean leader is dead

By Aia Andonovska
Arts & Life Editor

Since April 15, many questions have been swirling around about where in the world Kim Jong-un could be. The notorious North Korean leader's last public appearance was on April 11, about two weeks ago. He has even missed the country's largest annual celebration, which is the birthday of his grandfather, Kim Il-sung, who has so graciously passed down his militarial state through the generations. If Kim Jong-un is indeed dead, then the power would change from his hands to those of his sister, Kim Joy Young.

This is not the first time Kim Jong-un has receded from the public eye, but for some reason this time, the rumours about his whereabouts are running rampant. One report in the American

news media speculated he was in grave danger after heart surgery, and presumably, dead. Another source said that he might have been injured during his beloved missile tests.

Spy satellites in the past couple of days have spotted a train that probably belongs to Mr. Kim in Wonsan, an eastern coastal town where Mr. Kim's family has a seaside home. A South Korean news report said this past Saturday that the United States had detected preparations for a missile test in Sondeok, farther up the east coast, where North Korea has launched missiles in the leader's presence before.

This past Sunday, South Korean officials told CNN that North Korea's leader is very much alive and doing just fine. "Our government position is firm," Moon Chung-in, South Korean President Moon Jae-in's top foreign policy advisor, told CNN. "Kim Jong Un is alive and well." North Korean state newspaper Rodong Sinmun also reported on this past Sunday that Kim sent thanks to workers who helped remodel the country's city of Samjiyon, but CNN also said it was unable to independently confirm this report. Reuters reported this past Friday that an unnamed South Korean source said intelligence pointed to Kim being alive, and is more than likely to make a public appearance soon.

It is not necessarily unusual that Kim Jong-un has gone MIA these past few weeks, considering that he and North Korean officials occasionally disappear. For example, in 2014 Kim went four days without being seen by anyone. When he re-emerged, he did so with a limp and a cane and North Korea's state media reported that he had an uncomfortable medical condition. Even more recently, Kim wasn't seen in public for about three weeks in February.

It is thought that Kim might be a heavy smoker. He also has gained a lot of weight since he took power in 2011 following the death of his father, Kim Jong II. It is also believed that North Korea's ruling family has a history of heart problems. Reportedly, Kim Jong II and Kim II Sung died from heart attacks, but it is looking like Kim Jong-un might be around for a little while longer.



Courtesy of Mikhail Svetlov

Kim Jong-Un

Response to feedback about the Clarion's 'biased' opinion section

By Zach Dickerson
Editor in Chief

Feedback question:

"Do you try to keep your political articles non-biased? If so, please put more energy into providing facts and data, rather than opinions and emotions. Telling people which candidate they should vote for, like that last article about Biden is very inappropriate for a campus newspaper. Let us read the facts, then make our own decisions based on those. Thank you."

Some background: this question we received is specifically in reference to an article published in the April 15 issue titled "With Sanders out of the race, Democrats must stick together." In the article, it asks for former Sanders supporters to stick with the Democratic Party and vote for Biden in the upcoming presidential election in November.

The first thing that I would like to point out is how the person who asked this question stated the writer of the article shouldn't have put so much energy into "opinions and emotions," but it is important to point out (and anyone can see this) that the article in question is an opinion article.

While opinion articles can, and at times should, have "facts and data," they are pretty much supposed to mostly rely on "opinions and emotions." That's what makes them opinion articles and not news articles. It is very important for one to not make this mistake.

Now, for the comment stating that this type of article is "inappropriate for a campus newspaper." I want to say that I very much disagree with this statement, as it is the responsibility of all newspapers to cover even political news.

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Response to feedback

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It doesn't matter that we are a college newspaper, because we are all adults on this campus who are able to vote. It is our responsibility to increase and maintain political knowledge. It is just as important, if not more, for a college newspaper to cover political news just as large news media organizations would and do.

Also, the comment that we are "telling people which candidate they should vote for" is just not true at all. In the article, it is merely just asking and urging Sanders supporters to stick with the Democratic vote and vote for Biden, unlike what happened in 2016. It was not demanding people vote for a specific person.

We on the Clarion staff, and even as a whole nation, should hope that everyone is able to educate themselves to the fullest extent that they can, and make an educated vote on whoever they want, and feel best, to vote for themselves.

Finally, in response to the statement about us trying to keep our "political articles non-biased," the answer is that we work to do what we can.

Most of the people on the Clarion staff typically lean the same way politically, and, even with that, it is hard for any newspaper and news organization to remain unbiased with many article topics, especially political ones.

Looking back, one can see on the same page as the article in question that there is a cartoon criticizing Sanders. Looking back at last week's issue, one can also see that there is a letter to the editor titled "'Vote blue no matter who,' you say? Not us" in which both Trump and Biden are criticized and talk about and advocate for voting on a third party candidate. Therefore, the political content that we publish is not all completely biased.

Looking even further back, all the way back to the Jan. 30, 2019 issue, there was an opinion article published that is titled "Why the context of the Sandmann-Phillips confrontation matters." This article talks about the incident that occurred between Nick Sandmann, a Covington Catholic High School student and Nathan Phillips, a Native American elder, back on Jan. 18 of that year.

The views expressed in this article were left leaning on the political spectrum, and we received two letters to the editor about that article that were right leaning on the spectrum that we gladly and proudly published in the next issue.

The Clarion staff welcomes views and opinions on all parts and sides of the political spectrum, whether it's on our own staff, an article contribution and/or a letter to the editor. As stated last week in another response I wrote, it's what the First Amendment is for. The United States is truly a marketplace of ideas.

Our letters policy is clearly advertised and stated in the staff box and says: "The Clarion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit letters for length or content. We do not publish letters whose authorship cannot be verified." We will gladly publish any letters to the editor as long as they are not libelous, greatly inaccurate factually, aggressive, meant for harm, and/or etc.

Letters to the editor and contributions can be sent to the Clarion email or to me personally.

Anyone can also join the staff and write for themselves, send in article contributions and/or fill out the pandemic survey/form if there is something they would like us to write about or answer.

If anyone has any questions or story ideas that you want us to answer or write about, please send us your feedback by filling out the survey that can be found using the link address: <http://bit.ly/clarion-feedback-2020>.

Poland's largest national park is on fire

By Lande Simpson
Staff Writer

Nearly 10 percent of Biebrza National Park is burning down which also happens to be occurring during the worst drought Poland has seen in decades (BBC News). Many park rangers and tour guides say that this fire did not just happen randomly. The fire did not ignite from dry heat and there are a few underlying factors here and they will be fighting the fire for months (BBC News). The Environment Ministry says that the fire occurred due to farmers illegally burning grass (BBC News) and the dry weather worsening the outbreak of it.

Biebrza National Park is the largest national park in Poland. It is in the northeastern part of the country and is roughly 228 miles. It is known for its infamous peat-bogs, numerous wetlands and marshes, which is home to elk, beavers and many different species of birds. This fire will not only affect the habitats for the wildlife at the national park, this could also affect the number of unique and rare species of birds that live at this park. Reports from Notes from Poland stated that animals are being burned alive within the forest and the wetlands trying to protect their nests.

The World Wildlife Fund of Polska stated, "We regulate rivers, straighten their banks, conduct harmful maintenance works, which accelerate the outflow of water, we build dams and hydrotechnical barriers, dry marshes. We forget that it is natural rivers and their valleys that counteract drought, and wetlands are the best areas for natural retention, agriculture is a major sector affected by losses from extreme weather phenomena, drought is one of the most common threats." This basically says there was nothing anyone could really do to prevent this wildfire or the rapid spread of it. Farmers illegally burned grass during a drought and it backfired in the worst way possible. Poland's government has yet to announce any major steps to help out the national park but the president has asked Poles to use water more responsibly in this dire time.

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Trump's medical inaccuracies

By Eleanor Flannery
Sports Editor

Last week, Donald Trump added to his list of inaccurate medical claims as an effort to suggest COVID-19 treatments. On Thursday, during a White House press briefing, Trump fabricated a bizarre idea he thought could potentially help COVID-19 victims. Trump suggested trying to inject a type of disinfectant “inside” to “clean” out the illness.

“And then I see the disinfectant, where it knocks it out in a minute. One minute. And is there a way we can do something like that, by injection inside or almost a cleaning? Because you see it gets in the lungs and it does a tremendous number on the lungs. So it would be interesting to check that. So, that, you’re going to have to use medical doctors with. But it sounds -- it sounds interesting to me.”

On Friday, Trump tried to clear up his dubious comments made just the day before, by claiming his assertions were not to be taken literally. When asked about his comments, Trump said during a bill signing “I was asking a question sarcastically to reporters like you just to see what would happen.”

He continued, suggesting he was talking about trying out using disinfectants on the hands, and kept claiming his earlier comments were simply out of sarcasm. “...a very sarcastic question to the reporters in the room about disinfectant on the inside.”

A journalist clarified that Trump had asked his medical experts to look into his idea, to which Trump responded, “No, no, no, no -- to look into whether or not sun and disinfectant on the hands, but whether or not sun can help us.” Trump also claimed on the previous day that a “rumor” he heard explained how sunlight could be used as a treatment to help fight coronavirus. “Sun has a tremendous impact on it,” he said, and explained how “very powerful light” could be used to “hit the body” or be brought “inside the body...either through the skin or in some other way.”

“There’s been a rumor that -- you know, a very nice rumor -- that you go outside in the sun or you have heat and it does have an effect on other viruses,” Trump said. He then asked the coronavirus task force coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx “to speak to the medical doctors to see if there’s any way that you can apply light and heat to cure, you know, if you could.”

Trump also asked Birx if she “ever heard of the heat and the light” having an effect on other types of viruses. Birx responded, “Not as a treatment.”

Later, Trump directed Birx, again, to investigate using the power of the sun as a potential cure. “I would like you to speak to the medical doctors to see if there’s any way that you can apply light and heat to cure, you know, if you could. And maybe you can, maybe you can’t.”

Medical professionals have since urged Americans across the nation to not ingest or inject any sort of disinfectant. “We don’t want to inject disinfectants in our body. That’s a bad idea,” Dr. Colleen Kraft, an associate professor of infectious diseases at the Emory University School of Medicine, said on CNN. “We don’t want to use things in a way that is harmful to us...it could definitely kill you.”

FDA Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn, a

member of the White House task force, also said on CNN’s town hall on Thursday, “I certainly wouldn’t recommend the internal ingestion of a disinfectant.”

As Trump put it on Thursday, “I’m not a doctor, but I’m, like, a person that has a good you-know-what.” It is important to stay updated on coronavirus and the efforts made by professionals to combat it, but only medical professionals and doctors are qualified to make serious claims regarding treatment for the illness.

If you, a friend or a loved one has ingested any sort of disinfectant or dangerous chemical, please immediately contact the poison control center hotline: American Association of Poison Control Centers, (800) 222-1222.



Trump speaks at White House press briefing regarding Covid-19.

Photo from Politico.com

Senior Profile

Mary Lewe aspires to help others

By Carmen Boone
Copy Editor

Mary Lewe is a senior at Brevard College. Her major is psychology and her minor is health science.

Throughout her life she has moved around quite a bit. She was born in Louisville, Kentucky but spent half of her childhood growing up in North Carolina. She went to high school in Kentucky but ended up moving back to North Carolina in 2017.

Lewe's family is important to her. She has two nephews and one niece and two brothers. She is very close with her mom, whom she has been living with for the past year. She loves when she gets to go to Kentucky and visit her dad. She is also very close to her paternal grandparents as well.

Brevard College is not Lewe's first college. She went to two colleges in Kentucky but transferred in because she wanted to have a real college experience, both on campus and in a new town. She knew psychology was what she wanted to do. Lewe loves the proximity to the mountains that she gets at Brevard and is thankful for the natural beauties it has to offer. "I definitely got what I was looking for," said Lewe.

She has been involved in several things on campus. In the fall of 2019, she was editor in chief of the Clarion, she has been secretary of the Psychology Club and participated in Voice of the Rivers (VOR) in 2018.

Some of Lewe's other hobbies include cooking, writing and journaling and music. She plays the guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, saxophone and the clarinet. Last summer she recorded a released song under the name Snakebrain. "In my freetime I like to record songs I write," Lewe said.

There are many experiences Lewe has had that she is thankful for. She loved being a part of IWIL, enjoyed playing in the snowstorm in fall of 2018 and had a good time living in Green Hall. However, her interactions with faculty were what stood at as truly inspiring. She most of all enjoyed getting to know herself. "I really felt like part of the campus community," said Lewe. "I was able to set goals to strive for and chase the future I want as a therapist."

Because of her psychology major, Lewe has had a multitude of experience and opportunity in that field of study. Two years ago, she was able to go to a conference in Charleston, South

Carolina called SEPA to present research on "attitudes toward suicide" with 2019 graduate Haley Putnam and current senior Grace Kelley.

Lewe's senior thesis was on self compassion and coping among college students. She made a handout with a 30 minute lesson on self compassion. Then, she established a control group. She compared scores for coping and compassion among an experimental group to scores among the control group. The goal was to see if she could increase self compassion and coping among college students with a lesson compared to no lesson at all.

The intervention was ultimately unsuccessful. However, she did have some fun testing her thesis and completing her research. "Even though the results of the study were not what was planned, working with Dr. O'Leary was a good experience," said Lewe.

Lewe has had several important mentors over the years. Dr. Allison O'Leary was a great help with Lewe's thesis and has greatly helped her with graduate school applications. "She's been really supportive and helpful," said Lewe. "I'm really grateful for all of her help."

Dr. Sarah Maveety has also been a great mentor for Lewe. She went on VOR the same year as Lewe did. She was Lewe's biology advisor too when adding a minor in health science. Maveety also wrote Lewe a letter of recommendation for graduate school.

Lewe is thankful for Dr. John Padgett as

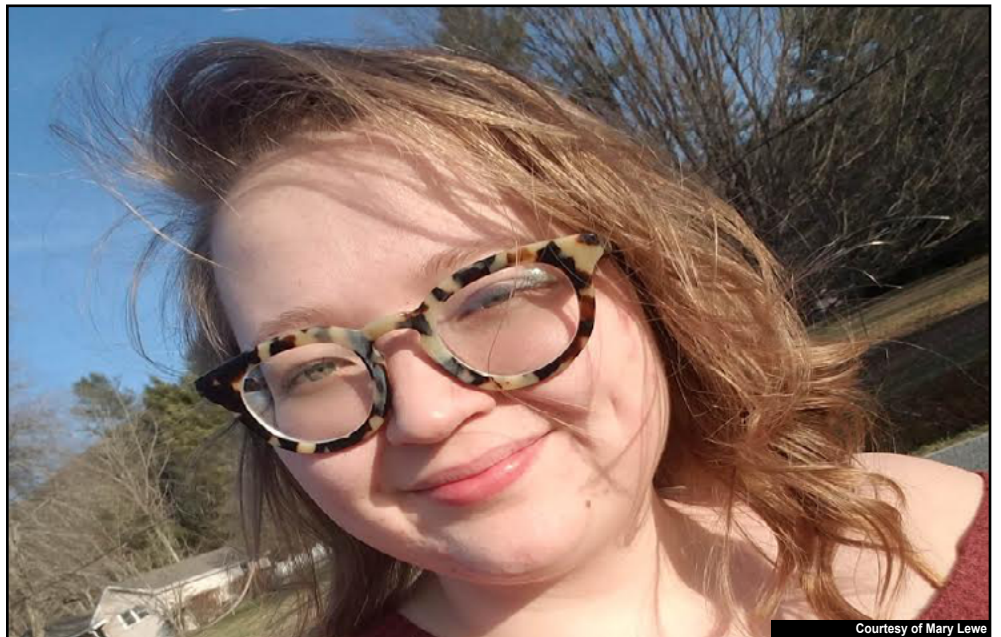
well. He was a great help in newspaper (COM 308). "He has been a really good mentor," said Lewe. "He always has good stories to tell and good advice."

After her time at Brevard, Lewe has learned one thing that stands out above the rest. She knows there is a lot of pressure on young students right out of high school to go to college. They are forced to make big decisions at a time when they may not be ready. She learned that it's okay not to make those decisions right away.

Lewe took a little break before going to college. Advice she would give to younger students is, "Don't rush yourself. It's okay to change your mind [when getting to college] but don't get too ahead of yourself."

Lewe has big plans after graduating from Brevard. She has been accepted into Western Carolina University's program for clinical mental health counseling. She will start this summer, June 1, with online classes. It is a two to three year program that includes supervised hours within it. Since it is based in Asheville, she will not have to move very far. Her goal after that is to be a licensed clinical health counselor and to stay in North Carolina.

No matter what Lewe does, the impact she has had at Brevard College and the relationships and connections she has made will carry her far. There is no doubt she will go on to do great things and touch many lives in her professional career.



Courtesy of Mary Lewe

Mary Lewe

Germain's Peacock-Pheasant

By Solomon Turner
Staff Writer

Polyplectron germaini is a spectacular endemic species native to Indo-China where it persists in very small regions in Vietnam and Cambodia. In this area the largest sub-populations can be found in the scattered forested wildlife preserves.

The habitat for these birds includes mountainous regions covered in secondary and disturbed forests as well as dipterocarp, a large dominant tree species in Asia, evergreen and semi-evergreen and bamboo forests.

Their coloration is largely what you expect when thinking of peacocks and peacocks. The majority of their feathers are light grey with white speckling. On their tails and wings, peacock-like eyes provide elegant and elaborate ornamentation. These eyes are dark but iridescent greenish blue, often times purple.

Males, standing around 56 to 60 centimeters tall, have a dark head with small pale white bars on the upper part of the neck. They lack a feather crest on their head but on their face striking blood-red skin is visible. The eyes on their feathers are larger than the females.

Females, standing around 48 centimeters tall, are more uniform in coloration with small and slightly pointed eyes on their feathers. They too have the red facial skin but have more distinct barring and speckling on the feathers.

According to Red Data Book: Threatened Birds of Asia, the diet and breeding patterns of these birds in the wild are largely unknown, and research is still needed. The lack of specific

information may be due to the diverse range of species of *Polyplectron* genus and the lack of funding for research. It is known however that the breeding season does encamp the February and April months.

In captivity, the breeding pattern of these birds is year-round. The female will lay a new clutch of eggs, usually one to two eggs, once the previous young is able to fend for itself.

Polyplectron germaini is classified by the IUCN Red List as "Near Threatened" due to its small and declining population and range. According to Bird Life International the

estimated total population of these pheasants is around 10,000. The rapid decline of these birds is hypothesized by researcher Nick Brickle and Johnathan Eames to be due to the local high hunting pressure and steady habitat loss.

The threats to these birds historically have come from major deforestation and forest fragmentation. The coffee and cashew industries have also caused swaths of forests to be cleared for agricultural purposes. Illegal hunting, logging and trapping still pose a substantial threat to their populations, even within preserves.



Photo by Jeroen Kransen

Polyplectron germaini sitting at a water bowl.

Good news: Quarantine puppies

By Caroline Hoy
Staff Writer

Recently something very nice has happened at the animal shelters. The shelters have not had enough dogs and cats. People have been adopting what has become known as quarantine puppies and kittens.

With everyone sheltering in place at home with nothing to do, they have a lot of time to spend with a new friend. If this quarantine keeps up who knows, all pets could end up being adopted out of shelters. The adoptions have gotten so high that some shelters don't have any more animals to adopt.

On Instagram the #quarantinepuppy has over 5,000 results and even more results on TikTok. It has become a trend on TikTok to post

getting new toys, food and then the new puppy. Adopting a puppy has been very popular.

The truth of this story is that even when the world seems to be falling apart there is still some good in it. But of course there is some negative

to this story. To go out and adopt the animals people risk contracting or spreading COVID-19.

Adopting can lift spirits and give animals homes but think about yours and others' safety before making the decision.

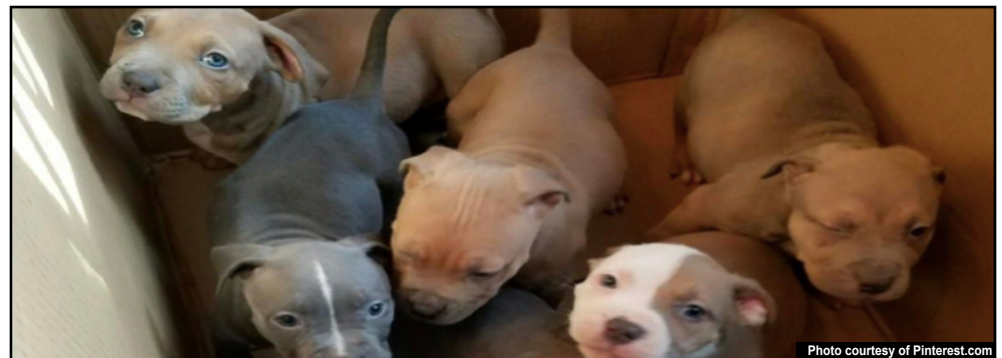


Photo courtesy of Pinterest.com

Weekly Horoscopes

By Mickayla Smith
Staff Writer

Aries: You can still be close to people in these times, but virtually. It's important to keep communicating because we find comfort in connecting or reconnecting. You also can educate yourself on anything you want, thanks to the internet. Utilize your resources.

Taurus: You may have a longing to belong this week. It's easy to give in to peer pressure, even as an adult. Don't do things you wouldn't normally do to be accepted or appreciated.

Gemini: You can be impulsive sometimes. You are known to make decisions on the spur of the moment because you suffer from FOMO. This may not always turn out as you plan. Trust your instincts, but think first.

Cancer: Don't let someone overpower your own ideas on your happiness or well-being. You are a strong individual, but you hate conflict. It's important to stand up for yourself, even

when it's difficult to do so. Start advocating for yourself.

Leo: You like control; this isn't necessarily a bad thing, but it can make you inflexible. You may be feeling some insecurity this week that dampens your mood. Try shaking things up and get organized. This is a good time to weigh out the pros and cons.

Virgo: The finish line is just around the corner. This week may feel longer than the rest. Don't get too ahead of yourself and don't get too lazy. Find a good balance between work and self-care.

Libra: You need to take some time this week to meditate and begin focusing on future plans. You have an ideal life in your mind, and as you approach closer and closer to your desired situation, you will truly find happiness within yourself.

Scorpio: Use your intuition this week. When things get difficult to figure out, use your senses. Someone's emotions can be enough communication.

Sagittarius: You are impatient and this may lead to an issue this week. Sometimes people are better talkers than listeners, so practice listening and maybe things will be more clear.

Capricorn: You may be feeling less inhibited this week. You have more energy to express yourself and be vulnerable. Anything that you're hoping to achieve this week will most likely get finished.

Aquarius: You are a very detail-oriented person and that can get the best of you sometimes. Focusing on small details can distract you from a bigger picture. Start looking from an outside point of view and then look inward.

Pisces: Hate is a strong word. You normally are very kind and thoughtful, but something or someone may get under your skin this week. You don't have to make excuses for anyone. Working out these feelings can bring you to a better understanding of the relationship as a whole.

'Donny and Kim'

— Sam Hipp

