

OREGON NEWS Real-time news, photos, videos and your comments

THE STUMP: Wrong time, wrong tax hikes: Vote no on Measures 66, 67 8:43 a.m. PT

INSIDE OREGON NEWS with The Oregonian

- Oregon News Oregonian Newspaper Obituaries Portland News Nation | World Photos | Videos Comics Kingdom Puzzles & Games Police Scanner Traffic | Statewide Cams Weather Center Submit News and Photos Contact the News Teams

Browse by month: Select a date GO

OREGON & US POLITICS



- To vote in special election, register by Tuesday 6:00 p.m. PT Payday loan law takes effect in Washington state 7:00 a.m. PT 'Bermuda Triangle' of transit: Will Portland ever cope? 8:38 p.m. PT

MORE OREGON & US POLITICS »

NEWSLETTER

Get Breaking News delivered to your inbox:

Enter email address GO

ALL NEWSLETTERS »

NORTHWEST HEADLINES

- Today's headlines: Angel saves boy from cougar: Homegrown support grows for Amanda Knox 8:05 a.m. PT

McCarthy family sends another son to MIT

Thursday, December 24, 2009 By Susan Gordanier The Hillsboro Argus

The Argus

If Alex and Brian McCarthy weren't related, they would likely still be best friends.

Asked if they believed this true, they replied, almost in harmony, "Definitely."

Advertisement

Bundle AT&T U-VERSE TV with voice and high speed internet. Order online today and get \$400 back. ON SELECT PLANS VIA PROMOTION CARDS FROM AT&T. ADVANCE YOUR TV. DVR INCLUDED ON SELECT PLANS. GEOGRAPHIC RESTRICTIONS APPLY. at&t

So, it's no surprise that Alex will join his brother in fall 2010 as an undergraduate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Cambridge, Mass. Alex, 18, will graduate from Hillsboro's Liberty High School in June; Brian, now 20, was valedictorian of Liberty's class of 2008 and is now a sophomore at the prestigious institute.

The two have too much in common not to enjoy each other's company. They share a love of the sciences and reading. Both have quiet demeanors that might be mistaken for shyness. Spend awhile with them, though, and it becomes clear both McCarthys are close observers, and that means they listen as attentively as they choose their replies - traits valuable to a observant scientist.

At least part of the explanation of their success comes from the values their parents, Karen and Brian McCarthy, incorporated into raising their sons. Brian says, "They read to us a lot, which made us both passionate readers." Neither he nor his brother played video games as children, Alex added. Their parents supported them wherever their interests led, which for both boys turned out to be mathematics and science and led to both choosing MIT as their first choice for college.

Tuition and other costs at MIT currently cost almost \$38,000 for a single academic year, a daunting amount for a family with a single college-bound child, let alone two. Brian received a \$50,000 scholarship from Intel Corp. when as a senior he earned third place in the national Intel Science Search competition. He's quick to point out that the scholarship will cover only about a quarter of his total undergraduate expenses. Other sources, including his parents, must cover the rest.

SEARCH EVENTS LISTINGS

Title City Event Type Next 7 Days Search

Subaru share the love EVENT Now through January 4. All-New 2010 Subaru Outback. SUBARU

POST YOUR COMMENTS

Get in on the discussion and post your comments on Oregon News stories:

- IgnorANTwrlrd -- Marijuana should be legalized ... 5:22 a.m. PT flyers73 -- Well its Lloyd center right t... 5:22 a.m. PT NellyAlgren -- Time to wake up with the rants... 5:22 a.m. PT

MORE COMMENTS » SIGN UP NOW »

EDITORS' PICKS

- The Ducks, their coach and a friend who inspires them all Letter: Stop the shrieking in professional tennis A new argument for the No Fly List: My 3-year-old Oregon Zoo's new elephant New primates at the Oregon Zoo

MORE EDITORS' PICKS »

DAILY PODCAST

By Lynne Terry, The Oregonian Podcast: Ken Burns draws on love of national parks

Subscribe: iTunes

MORE PODCASTS »

VIDEO FORECAST

- [Today's headlines: Mike Bellotti looks to capitalize on Ducks' success; Ski phenom wows hometown crowd](#) 6:03 a.m. PT

[More NW Headlines](#) »

TWITTER

 Headlines delivered to your PC or PDA as soon as they're updated.

- [Breaking news](#)
- [Traffic](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Entertainment](#)

PRINT EDITION

The Oregonian

- [Bend entrepreneur hopes 'Shark Tank' bites on idea](#)
- [Portland Classical Chinese Garden celebrates 10th anniversary with a new name - Lan Su Chinese Garden](#)
- [The Zone shooting one year later: A hero by circumstance](#)

[More Headlines](#) »

The Hillsboro Argus

- [What do they think about Wal-Mart?](#)
- [Hilhi earns bragging and dining rights](#)
- [Just Rewards? DA says administrative costs drain early-release law's savings](#)

[More Headlines](#) »

PHOTO GALLERIES



[Train Accident](#)

- [News Photos](#)
- [Business Photos](#)
- [Entertainment Photos](#)
- [Living Photos](#)
- [Upload your photos](#)

[MORE PHOTOS](#) »

OREGONIAN VIDEOS

News Videos



Michael Harris describes his daughter's experience on TriMet during a snowstorm.

Alex will not learn how much financial aid he will receive until at least April 2010. MIT follows a need-blind policy in accepting students, so the McCarthy family is fairly safe in assuming Alex will receive a package of grant and loan money. But he says, once again, his parents have promised their support, no matter how the aid package turns out.

Alex says his favorite class during this term at Liberty is digital electronics, which covers resistors, capacitors and circuitry design. "I assume this is stuff I'll have to know anyway at some point," he said. He also is studying physics, advanced placement literature and fulfilling his senior project in engineering with a paper about research he did in the summer at Portland State University.

Alex says his high school experience has been very positive. "I have friends who are into the same things as I am.," he said. He also cites the influence of individual teachers, who "make all the difference" - especially Dr. Milt Scholl - rather than the academy structure of the school, as contributing to his success. "I had him every year," he said. "He was really inspiring for science."

Scholl is one of the coaches for the Science Olympiad and also started a robotics team this year at Liberty. Alex said. "He is big on bringing extra outside science activities into the school."

Alex plans to study mechanical engineering at MIT, while Brian continues to focus on chemistry. Of the campus culture that will greet his brother in the fall, Brian says, "Every single person I met was passionate about something." Their private interests can range far afield from science or engineering. "I'm always discovering something new about my friends," he said.

Maybe the new environment will reveal something new about his best friend, Alex, too.

DO NOT Bleach Teeth

1 Simple Trick, Discovered By A Mom, Dentists DON'T Want You To Know.
[www.consumerreviewsweekly.com](#)

Mit

Get your degree and boost your income potential. Financial aid options
[www.AcceleratedDegree.com](#)

Mt. View Cabin Sisters OR

See photos of 3-Sisters Mt view 3-bdr vacation rental on 2 acres
[SistersViewCabin.com](#)

By Dave Sweeney, Special to OregonLive.com

- [Rain likely; mild afternoon temps](#)

[MORE FORECASTS](#) »

[WEATHER CENTER](#) »



SITE TOOLS

- [E-mail This](#)
- [Print This](#)
- [Newsletters](#)

SHARE THIS

- [Oregon Reddit](#)
- [Digg](#)
- [del.icio.us](#)
- [Google](#)
- [Yahoo](#)

- [How It Works](#)

METRO NEWS COLUMNIST



Steve Duin

- [Matt Baker Monday 2:25 a.m. PT](#)
- [\(My\) Book of the Year, 2009 8:03 p.m. PT](#)
- [Ducks Rose Bowl loss still offers a teachable moment 9:00 p.m. PT](#)

[MORE STEVE DUIN](#) »

OPINION

David Sarasohn

- [Calamity, from one end of a decade to the other](#)
- [The new Washington senators, from California](#)

Susan Nielsen

- [Your catch-up headquarters: four good columns](#)
- [DUIs in Oregon: A class you don't ever want to attend](#)

The Stump

- [Wrong time, wrong tax hikes: Vote no on Measures 66, 67](#)
- [Must 2010 be 1994?](#)

[COMMUNITY COMMENTARY](#) »