**Covid-19**

Being a college student during a pandemic is not as glamorous as most people would assume. Yes we don’t have to physically get up and go to school and learn; we didn’t know what we had till it was gone. When I first heard we were going online I was so excited because I wouldn’t have to get up at 6am and go to school. Little did I know it was going to be one of the hardest transitions and I would soon find out that I hated it. Being online didn’t teach me anything but how easy it is to get help from friends. I learn better in a classroom with a professor so being online was very difficult for me. Keeping up with the due dates with 5 different classes and working full time also played a huge toll on my grades.

When covid first hit the United States and they stopped school in march, as a senior in highschool and only taking two classes I was extremely excited to be out of school. My two teachers sent out an email and told us if we were passing when school ended we passed the class and automatically graduated. From march to august I was free of school and stress, but I was locked up in the house unless I went to work. Quarantine was pretty tough at first but then me and my family started to make the best of it. It was like when my brother and I were little again. We were making music and really found the true meaning of life. It may sound cliche but that’s really how it felt, we would take days off with no social media and just enjoy the company of each other and soaking up the sun in our backyard.

Our graduation ceremony was covid safe, with that being said it was a drive by graduation with your family and whoever else you wanted to be there. I brought my parents, brother, and one friend. We drove up to the school, they took my picture through the car window, when we got to the back of the school we were allowed to get out in shifts and walk across the stage and get our diploma. It was a very sweet and intimate moment with just my family and the principle of the school. If i'm going to be honest I liked this way much better than the actual graduation because I could see my family and they could take pictures of me getting my diploma and not be rushed out. After that we went back to my moms house and she surprised me with my friends and family with a drive by graduation party.

The life lessons I have learned during this time would be not to take anything or anyone for granted, because you never know when it could all just go away, and they will just be a distant memory. I have lost multiple relatives during this time and two of my friends to covid or other health factures. It was really hard to cope with all that and being in the house all day was not helping. I was sad and going through a lot of depression to help with all that I would go on walks and just sit in my car alone at night to just try and take my mind off of everything going on around me.

Considering that my senior year was cut short and I couldn’t do all the things I wish I could've done my parents did a great job with making me still feel special. I’m the baby of the family so my parents made sure I still had a great senior year, I didn’t get to have my prom but my dad surprised me and my boyfriend with a at home prom night at his house, his mom even had set up times for us to take pictures in the town I grew up in.

Overall the quarantine experience was not as bad as I thought it was going to be, it taught me so much about myself and my family. If I could do it all over again obviously I would want to have the summer and the rest of my senior year but like my dad always says, “everything happens for a reason, God has a plan for all of us”. That really helped me because without him telling me that I probably wouldn’t have made it through quarantine.