



# The Beeter Bulletin



=====Issue Number 4; December 20, 2023=====



Dressed as Northern Cousins from Montana and Southern Cousins from Texas, the third, fourth, and fifth graders sang about the differences in winter weather in America during their Christmas program on December 18.

## Meadowlark Holds Christmas Program

On a holiday decorated stage, Meadowlark Elementary School held its Christmas program on December 18 in the Lloyd D. Sweet Auditorium. The south walls of the auditorium also featured a gallery of festive artwork created by students under the instruction of Ms. Shay Waldbillig.

After the sixth graders sang a welcome song for the gathered audience, students in grades K-2 presented “Holiday Parade,” “In the Snow,” “Mousie in the Snow,” “The Penguin Polka,” and “Hip Hop Reindeer.”

Dressed as winter children, mice, penguins, and reindeer, the group shoveled, sledded, squeaked, waddled, and hip-hopped their way through their songs.

Following that group of primary singers, the sixth-grade band took their concert seats to play “Good King Wenceslas,” “Ode to Joy,” and “Jingle Bells.”

Once the instruments had quieted, the third, fourth, and fifth graders—dressed as Northern Cousins from Montana and Southern Cousins from Texas—took the stage. They spoke and sang about the differences in winter weather in America.

**Continued on page 2**

The fourth graders played their recorders while the third and fifth graders sang their opening piece, “Jolly Olde Saint Nicholas.” Three more songs ensued: “I Know About Snow,” “Grandma’s Chicken Soup,” and “Winter in America.” Their set closed with “Jingly,” a song highlighting the fifth graders on ukuleles.

Music Instructor, Mrs. Danelle Gibson gave a “big SHOUT OUT” to the students for their performance, saying: “The students worked extremely hard to pull off this program, which was a smashing success!”

According to Gibson, the students were challenged this year with only having music class once a week instead of two or three times a week. “I held the bar high, and students met every expectation set before them. They memorized all of their songs and lines. The crowd had fun and enjoyed the show with some members of the community stating that this was the best program they have seen in years,” Gibson stated. “Pulling off the concert took the collaboration of many. Teachers and paras assisted students with learning their songs and lines in the classroom, as well as assisting during the concert ensuring smooth transitions onto and off of the stage.”

Gibson also thanked Michelene Edwards, Music Instructor for Harlem School District, “for her pep talks and for sharing her wealth of music knowledge and expertise.”

Although Gibson’s appreciation extended to the Maintenance Crew and to several other assistants who made the program possible, she recognized the parents for their support, “for listening to Christmas music for months” and for encouraging the beginning band students “through the squeaks and challenges of learning to play an instrument.”

Beyond the stage decorations and the student performances, the audience appreciated the artwork on display in the rear of the auditorium. Using cotton balls,

the kindergarten students had decorated Santa hats, while first graders had painted both Christmas mice and penguins along with the second graders. Second graders had also painted reindeer.

Additional seasonal themes showcased in the gallery included snowflakes by fourth graders, guitars by fifth graders, and Christmas tree harvesting scenes painted by third graders. Although some of the artists had chosen to paint their trucks blue, many featured the iconic red truck hauling a tree.

The classic red truck has been a staple in Christmas decorations since American illustrator Peter Helck drew it for a promotion in December 1930. Helck, a car enthusiast and artist in the same league as Norman Rockwell, created an illustration for the Ford Motor Company showing a Model AA flatbed truck hauling Christmas trees.

Since that time, according to Carsforsale.com, the Christmas pickup has most commonly been featured as a 1935 Ford Model 50. However, sometimes it’s a 1939 Chevrolet Half-Ton or a 1948 3100 Advance, and less commonly, it appears as a 1949 Dodge B1-C-116.

Several people also commented on the guitars that the fifth graders had cut from cardboard, painted with various themes, and then strung with yarn or butcher’s string.

All-in-all, the evening represented an art showcase of young talent.





# Honor Band Experience

By Bailey Billmayer

Ivey Lenz and Dentin DePriest, two talented Chinook High School band members, were invited to play in the Honor Band in Havre from November 30 through December 1. Honor Band gives students the opportunity to travel and play their instruments with new instructors.

“To make it into the Honor Band, you must submit an audition to a panel of directors,” stated attendee DePriest. “These directors will decide your chair position based on how well you perform and how capable they think you are. A few weeks later you will get the results. If accepted, you will be sent the music scores to start practicing. After about a month, all of the schools on the Hi-Line will gather at one of the participating schools and practice for about a day and a half. At the end of the second day, there is a concert for showcasing your pieces.”

DePriest has received first chair trombone status for both years that he has auditioned for the Honor Band: “This generally means that I have the hardest part out of the trombone section. Unlike last year, I was joined by two other first-chair trombonists who also had the same parts.”

When asked how his experience with the Honor Band went this year, DePriest replied: “It’s so much fun, and it’s great to meet new people and create beautiful music together.”

Lenz, the second student from Chinook High School that participated in the Honor Band, explains how honor band works in her perspective: “Honor Band, in a way, is like a pro bowl team; kids from all over the Hi-Line audition for a place in the band. A chair is your place among your instrument group; usually the less experienced players receive third chair; whereas, higher level players play in the second or first chairs. Each chair

also has varying music. Third chairs usually receive lower octave and firsts get higher octave. Getting into the honor band is an achievement, no matter what chair you get.”

Lenz received the second chair spot, playing the B-flat clarinet.

When questioned on her experience in the Honor Band, Lenz responded: “My experience was great! The director we had was hilarious but still kept everyone in line. We had good food and everyone who volunteered was very kind and helpful. The band itself sounded great together, considering we only practiced together for two days.”

The songs played by the honor band this year included *National Emblem* by E.E. Bagley, *Nathan Hale Trilogy* by James Curnow, *Havendance* by David Holsinger, and *The Guardians of the Galaxy* by Michael Brown.



Selected for Honor Band, Dentin DePriest and Ivey Lenz were honored for their musical prowess.

Continued on page 4

Describing her favorite part, Lenz mentioned playing the concert and watching the honor choir: “Being on stage in front of a large audience is always a bit nerve racking, but it's even scarier when you perform a piece you've only played all together a couple of times. The satisfaction after we played each song that we poured hours of work into was worth it.”

With a successful performance, the Chinook attendees came home satisfied.

## **Chinook Takes Second at First Speech and Drama Meet**

By Ivey Lenz

Chinook traveled to Hays on November 18 for the season opener of competition, where Hays-Lodge Pole School hosted its first Speech and Drama meet in the program’s history. Despite the presence of only five participating schools, the small group considered the meet a success, a fact revealed in the Beeters’ placings.

Coached by Mrs. Chrissy Downs, Chinook’s team consists of three students. Ivey Lenz, a junior, competes in humorous oral interpretation (HOI). Micah Connor, a sophomore, also competes in HOI, while Kiley Huravitch, a freshman, chose spontaneous oral interpretation (SPOI) as her event.

The meet had seven total participants in HOI, and Chinook placed two in the top four. Connor won second place with his piece titled *Cooking on the Street* by Leon Kaye. Huravitch also captured second with her SPOI performances, one of which was a cutting from Lewis Carroll’s poem “Jabberwocky.” Lenz placed fourth, performing *Wrong Number* written by John G.P. Mackenzie

Out of five teams, Chinook earned second place in team scoring, a meritorious

position given that the Beeters had the fewest number of competitors.

The second meet was held on December 9 in Fort Benton. That meet boasted a whopping twelve teams, a much larger showing than the one in Hays.

Ivey Lenz was the lone member of the S&D team that attended. She placed sixth out of ten participants in HOI, again performing *Wrong Number*.

The Beeters next meet will be held in Shelby on January 6, 2024.

## **Start Your Quit**

On Monday, December 11, Chinook students in grades 5-12 attended a Vaping Prevention presentation in the Lloyd Sweet Auditorium. Kris Minard, the Tobacco Use Prevention Education Specialist with the Office of Public Instruction, was joined by Jay Schuschke, the Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program Prevention Specialist. Together, the duo shared the health risks of vaping with students.

To ensure that the information was developmentally appropriate, Minard and Schuschke spoke to the students in three separate groups: sophomores, juniors, and seniors represented group one; seventh, eighth, and ninth graders comprised group two; and fifth and sixth graders made up the final group.

Lasting approximately forty minutes, each presentation disclosed information about the dangers of vaping. The “Big Three” that students were asked to remember are 1) Nicotine is addictive, especially to a young brain; 2) Vaping does not produce a harmless water vapor; and 3) Safer does not mean safe.

The presenter pair also told students that nicotine, which comes from the tobacco plant, is found in ALL tobacco products, including vape pods and e-cigarettes. They

**Continued on page 5**

further revealed that some vape companies are trying to sell manufactured nicotine so they can claim it's not tobacco. However, no matter what form it's in, nicotine is the substance that gets a person hooked, and vaping products contain addictive nicotine. Because their brains are still developing, teens are more susceptible to nicotine addiction than adults.

"And it's not like you can buy a new brain," one presentation slide suggested.

Additional statistical information shared during Monday's assembly suggested that teens who start their tobacco use by vaping are four times more likely to smoke cigarettes or to use other forms of tobacco. Although vaping companies attempt to convince the youth that their products are safe—that "it's just water vapor"—the truth is that vape liquid is mostly made of oils and flavored chemicals that may not be safe to inhale.

Although e-cigarettes were created by a Chinese Pharmacist seeking to save his dying father from the harmful effects of cigarette smoking, science has since discovered that safer does not mean safe. Minard explained that the heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, and other chemicals in a vape cloud act more like an aerosol and leave a sticky residue in the lungs. The chemicals inhaled during vaping not only damage the lungs and heart but lead to agitation and stress.

"If you vape, quitting is one of the best gifts you'll give yourself," Minard stated. "For a monetary profit, these companies are targeting youth. Don't be a puppet to that industry."

School personnel benefitted from the presentation as well, since Schuschke and Minard shared some of the modern vaping devices, which are designed to be hard to detect. Making it easier for teenagers to vape secretly, vaping devices masquerade as everyday items or personal belongings,

including USB devices, pens, highlighters, and even Smartphone cases.

Additionally, Schuschke and Minard discussed how education can provide a key role in deterring this harmful practice. According to the presenters, if we educate ourselves about these disguised vaping devices and remain vigilant, we can intervene early and prevent young people from falling prey to nicotine addiction. Ultimately, open communication and awareness are crucial tools in addressing this growing concern in our communities.

After students learned a series of resources for help quitting—from the Tobacco Quit Line to the Truth Initiative—the presentation ended with students receiving a journal and a packet of colored pencils. These tools are not only intended for stress relief but to help the youth record their thoughts.



**MONTANA  
TOBACCO USE  
PREVENTION PROGRAM**

## **Wrestlers 'Pin' Some Successes**

By Bailey Billmeyer

The first official wrestling tournament for the Beeters took place on December 1-2 in Havre. On the following weekend, the wrestlers travelled to Glasgow for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Scottie Invitational. The Chinook teams came home with several successes.

On the boys' side of the tournament, a major highlight occurred in the 120-pound bracket; Hayden Berreth, an eighth grader, won first place and went home with some key wins under his belt. Gauge Chapman, a junior, earned first place as well in his 145-pound bracket. Two freshmen, Julian Powell

**Continued on page 6**

and Walter Schoen, both captured third place, while Fletcher Anderson, a sophomore, placed fourth. Earning fifth place finishes in their brackets were Sam Sanders, an eighth grader, and Owen Davies, a sophomore.

With only three wrestlers in the girls' brackets in Havre, success was achieved. Emma Klingaman, a sophomore, and Grace Buck, a junior, both won first place in their brackets. Similarly, Bailey Billmayer, a sophomore, received third place in the 120-pound bracket.



Hayden Berreth (eighth grader) flies and scrambles for the pin.

On December 8-9, the wrestlers travelled to Glasgow where they encountered some challenges. Despite tough opponents in the 160-pound bracket, Walter Schoen found a place on the podium, finishing in fourth.

For the girls, Buck placed the highest out of the team, standing with a third-place medal. Both Klingaman and Billmayer ended the tournament with fourth place winnings.

The team now has a busy schedule ahead with two different tournaments over the December 14-16 weekend: one in Fort Benton and a two-day tournament in organized in Great Falls.

## Junior High Basketball Tournaments Stun the Crowd

By Bailey Billmayer

On Thursday, November 30, the girls' and boys' middle school basketball teams traveled to Gildford to compete in the first rounds of tournament play.

The ladies played against the Box Elder Bears first, beating them with a score of 35 to 36. In their second game on Friday, the girls took a devastating loss against Fort Benton, scoring 41 to the Longhorns' 20 points. On the morning of Saturday, December 2, the Lady Beeters competed against the Big Sandy Pioneers, walking away with a 30-18 win. In the last game of the season, the girls faced off against the North Star Knights, a contest ending in a loss of 30 to 50.

On Thursday, the boys went into tournaments strong, with a win against the Pioneers, scoring 33 to Big Sandy's 28. Following the first competition, the Beeters lost to the Box Elder Bears, 46 to 33 on Friday, December 1.

With both a win and a loss under their belt, the boys came back and beat the North Star Knights, finishing with a score of 25 to 30. In their last tournament game, the boys battled with the CJI Hawks, ending with a score of 36 to 32.

Posting a fairly strong showing, the junior high basketball season concludes, and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders go on to their next chapter: high school.





## Sophomores Recreate a Candyland Oasis

By Ivey Lenz

Filled with activities to take focus from the cold, winter is the start of many traditions. Among these activities is the Snoball. Chinook's equivalent of the winter semi-formal, this dance enables students to temporarily forget about the stress of academics or sports and have some fun. This year's Snoball dance was held on Saturday, December 2, from six until eleven in the evening.

The sophomore class holds the responsibility of planning and organizing the dance. They create a committee to handle all the details, receiving help when needed from their advisors, Mike Jones and Kendall Harwood.

To decorate, the sophomores chose a sweet theme, transforming the dance floor into a Candyland oasis. Among the decorations were hard candies, lollipops, candy canes, and balloons—which were central to the décor. Tayla Richman and Olivia Bartlett wrapped balloons around the cheer mats in a candy cane-like style, used them as the center to lollipops, and scattered them loosely about the dance floor.

Refreshments were both plentiful and fit the theme of the dance. Cupcakes, cotton candy, peppermints, gumdrops, and Dum-dum suckers decorated the tables. Fruit punch was also available. Amyerah Kelly from the freshmen class said, "The cotton candy machine was a fun touch and also very delicious."

Every year a Snoball Prince and Princess are chosen by a vote of the attendees. Candidates were selected from a pool of sophomore students, as they hosted the dance. This year, Griffin Crowley won the title of Prince, and Kirbey Hofeldt was crowned Princess.



## IN THE SPOT LIGHT

## Keeping the Halls Spotless

By RJ Engstrom

Chinook Schools welcomes a new janitor and substitute bus driver, Annette Hickman. With a history of working for school systems, she is fit for the job with a number of years driving bus in Washington at Finley School. Substituting for Ed Harrison's area since November 1, Hickman comments: "I know Ed. He said the school really needed help, and I have my CDL, so I applied, and here I am."



Hickman also added that she enjoys getting out of the house, and that is why she decided to apply for the substitute custodial position. During her free time, she rides horses and four-wheelers or spends time with her seven children, ages three through 25.

One little-known fact about Hickman is that she is intrigued by cars, having vast

amounts of knowledge about models from the 1900s and up. Hickman first gained interest in cars from her ex-husband, who was a car collector, and the passion stayed with her. Her favorite car is the 1934 two-door Ford because of how “exclusive, petite, and cute it is.” She also likes 1965 Mercury convertibles for their speed.



Hickman’s two youngest children, Avalee and Evan, often join her on the job, with three-year-old Avalee riding the broom.

## Introducing Ashton (AJ) Sutherland

By Bailey Billmayer

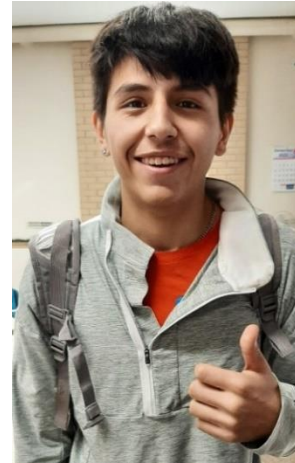
AJ Sutherland is a new student in the junior class. He previously attended school at Rocky Boy but transferred to CHS during the second quarter.

After receiving questions regarding what excited him about moving schools, Sutherland replied, “I was excited to try something new, but I was nervous about making new friends.”

Sutherland mentioned that in his spare time he enjoys playing Xbox games, especially NBA 2K-24.

In talking about his biggest role model, Sutherland readily named, Mike Tyson. “I have participated in three MMA fights, and I

really like the sport. It releases a lot of my aggression. When that first punch connects, I feel joy because I get to use my muscles; the release is awesome, and it rewards me with something I’m good at. I’m going to be the next Connor McGregor.”



## Welcoming Back Molly

By Bailey Billmayer

Molly Yost previously attended Chinook Public Schools as an elementary school



student. As a current freshman, Yost has a much different environment to get used to.

When asked how it feels to be back in action at Chinook Public Schools, Yost replied, “It’s not too great. Everyone

kinda stays in their own little groups, which makes it pretty hard to connect; it’s overwhelming.”

Yost talks about some things that were unnerving at the thought of coming back: “I was nervous to see everyone I knew from when we were all younger.”

After receiving questions on her hobbies, Yost said, “I enjoy baking things like muffins and cookies.”

**Continued on page 9**



Yost was also questioned on her curriculum and about any subjects she would like to add to it if she could. She replied, “I would add bio-med. I used to have access to that subject at my old school, and with my plans for becoming a doctor, I feel like I would like it.”

## From Bengal to Beeter

By Ivey Lenz

Mekayla Brown is a recently transferred junior from Helena, Montana. Chinook is not new territory for this “new” student since she called Chinook home for most of her childhood. She moved to Helena before seventh grade and returned in November.

A house remodel prompted her family’s relocation to Chinook. While discussing the house remodel she said, “It’s pretty cool because we were remodeling, and [the house] looks a lot prettier than before.”

As for her feelings about moving back, Brown stated, “It’s okay; I kind of miss Helena though because I had friends there.”

Mekayla is an accomplished tennis player and earned a spot on the JV team during her freshman year while attending Helena High School. She plans to play for the Sugarbeeters this spring and will likely be an asset to their squad.

In addition to sports, Mekayla participated in Health Occupations-Future Health Professionals (HOSA). The mission statement of HOSA is “Empower HOSA-Future Health Professionals to become leaders in the global health community through education, collaboration, and experience.” As part of the course, students explored different medical fields and jobs. Mekayla also played a part in Mock Trial, a club in which participants practice law while acting out court cases.

After experiencing life elsewhere for four years, Mekayla hopes to rediscover Chinook in a new light.

## Koleman’s Korner: Strengths

By Bailey Billmeyer

Koleman Anderson has a hidden talent; he is very good with animals. Koleman likes to walk dogs, show pigs for 4-H in the summertime, and spend time with his animals at home.

Although Koleman does not have a dog of his own, his family has three puppies: Coca, Pinker, and Hankie. All three are mini Australian Shepherds crossed with a Maltese/Yorkshire Terrier mix. Koleman’s favorite of the trio is Coca, with whom he



shares time as a reward for good behavior.

Koleman also has had a lot of experience with showing animals for 4-H. For at least five years, Koleman has shown a pig at the Blaine County Fair.

In school, Paraprofessional Jamie Berreth has used her recently purchased black lab puppy, Nano, as an incentive for

Koleman. He likes to interact with the dog throughout the day and take her for walks when he goes outside.



## FFA Competes at Montana Ag. Expo

By RJ Engstrom

On November 16-18, the Chinook Chapter of the FFA formed several teams to compete at the Montana Agricultural Exposition, which is one of the state's largest FFA competitions. Thousands of members from across the state took part in a series of competitions that included Range, Poultry, Ag. Mechanics, Meat Evaluations, Livestock Evaluations, Horse Evaluations, and Floriculture. In these categories and others, Chinook fared well, posting some strong finishes.

Chinook competed with twelve teams in eight areas: Senior Floriculture, Poultry, Junior Range, and Senior Sales, as well as both Senior and Junior teams in Horse Evaluation, Livestock Evaluation, Meat Evaluation, and Ag. Mechanics. Although the competitions had no limit on the number of contestants, only the top four placers were counted towards team scores.

The Sr. Floriculture team placed 17<sup>th</sup> out of 47 teams, only seven places from qualifying for state. Competing against 167 competitors, the top four on the team consisted of Gracie Skoyen—who placed first of the four—followed by Aislinn Handy, Ashlyn Hofeldt, and Kirbey Hofeldt.

Placing second on the Floriculture team, Aislinn Handy also placed sixth out of 170 competitors, helping the Sr. Horse Evaluation to come within only three spots from state qualification. Placing 13<sup>th</sup> among a field of 50 teams, the Sr. Horse Evaluation group had four members: Aislinn Handy, Gracie Skoyen, Ashlyn Hofeldt, and Emma Paulsen. Jr. Horse Evaluation had only one

member, Zoe Scofield, so her marks weren't posted with team scores.

Next, the Sr. Livestock Evaluation team consisted of Wylee Simenson, Kirbey Hofeldt, Wacee Simenson, and Wyatt Matteson. In their own words, the team “did not do as well as we would have liked.” However, the junior team placed 17 of 58 with members Rangler Skoyen, Zoe Scofield, Julian Powell, and Evan Davies—who placed first on the team;

Neither the Sr. nor the Jr. team for Meats had full rosters. With the Sr. team, Madilyn Gruszie and Wyatt Matteson made up the group. The Jr. team only saw Kolton DePriest competing.



**Chinook FFA members visit with a guest presenter at the Montana Ag Expo. BACK ROW:** Wylee Simenson, Ben Hofeldt, Kohen Sullivan, Jacob Metcalf, Wyatt Matteson, and Brockton Elliot. **FRONT ROW:** Ashlynn Hofeldt, Aislinn Handy, Madi Gruszie, Emma Paulsen, Kirbey Hofeldt, and Gracie Skoyen.

Ag. Mechanics brought both Sr. and Jr. Teams. The top four placers on the Sr. team were Brockton Elliot, Ben Hofeldt, Kohen Sullivan, and Jacob Metcalf. Overall, the team placed 25<sup>th</sup> out of 66. The Jr. team placed fourth of 47 with members Kolton DePriest, Julian Powell, Eyan Hofeldt, and Rangler Skoyen.

**Continued on page 11**

The Poultry team was not complete, with only Oliver Standiford and Landen Keeling participating.

Another partial team saw Gus Buck and Eyan Hofeldt competing in Jr. Range. About that pair, FFA Advisor Mitzi Cecrle said, “Gus and Eyan both competed well for not having a complete team. In fact, Gus Buck placed fifth overall, and Eyan Hofeldt placed close behind in sixth overall.”

Competing with a full team, the Sr. Sales group was tasked with selling Miller welders and supplies. Those who placed in the top four on the team were Brockton Elliot, Ben Hofeldt, Jacob Metcalf, and Wylee Simenson—who individually placed eighth overall. The team finished 24<sup>th</sup> out of 56 other teams from around the state.

Not only did the Montana Ag. Expo offer many competitions, it also featured several guest speakers, multiple workshops, and a tradeshow. Fanchon Stinger, a former broadcast journalist, was one of the featured guests.

The next competition that Chinook will attend is the Judith Basin Winter Districts in Winifred on December 12.



Freshmen Gus Buck accepts a congratulatory handshake after taking fifth overall in Junior Range.

## Students Attend Annual Field Trip Game

Hosting their Annual Field Trip Game at the Armory Gym, the MSU-Northern Lights and Skylights played before a packed crowd of local school children from around the Hi-Line on Thursday morning and early afternoon on December 7. That group included Meadowlark Elementary School students in grades 3-6, who travelled to Havre to attend the game.

Marking the contest as a Day of Infamy for their opponents, both Northern teams defeated the University of Alberta-Augustana. The final score was 106-52 for the Skylights and 100-64 for the Lights.

According to Head Coach Chris Mouat, the Skylights derived energy from the packed house, with young people “screaming to their hearts’ desires.”

Mouat continued: “We had over 600 kids from all over the Hi-Line. Every year we really look forward to that energy. It gives the young people a chance to watch a college basketball game, and our players feed off that enthusiasm.”

In the first game, the Skylights pulled ahead in a 29-8 lead after one quarter and led by as many as 56 points at times during the contest. Five Skylights ended the game in double-figures, a number which included the achievement of Turner, Montana, athlete, Junior Forward Shyann Krass. Krass scored 14 points.

In similar fashion, the Lights started the game hot, leading 23-4 after the first media timeout. By halftime, the Lights had doubled up on Augustana: 48-24. High scorers for the men were Junior Forward Jake Randall, who tied with a team-high 18 points, and Senior Guard Zack Martinez, who also chipped in 18. At the final buzzer, the score board read: 100-64.

In the words of chaperone, Mrs. Lesa MacLeod: “We had a wonderful time.”



# Thirty-eight Years of Holiday Cheer

By Ivey Lenz

The Parade of Lights, previously known as the Festival of Lights, has been a holiday tradition in Chinook since 1986. The idea was proposed by the Chamber of Commerce to encourage community involvement in the downtown business district. The parade was held on the second Saturday in December for the first three years, but in 1990 the Chamber moved the date to the Saturday immediately following Thanksgiving. The event was subsequently changed to the Friday after Thanksgiving where it remains today.

People originally paid an entry fee of twenty dollars to participate in the parade, which started at two p.m. Prizes of \$250, \$100, and \$50 were awarded for first, second, and third place, respectively.

This year the festivities started at ten a.m. and continued throughout the day, inviting participation from the townspeople. Some activities, such as the silent wreath auction, required contestants to pick up wreaths a few days prior and decorate them for the auction held at First Bank of Montana. The remaining wreaths were sold later in the day.

Craft show vendors set up from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. in the Chinook Senior Center and at the Blaine County Library. Friends of the Pool and Park Foundation held a free will donation supper with a plentiful supply of cheeseburger soup and baked goods at Wallner Hall. Live music was provided during the dinner by Brad Taylor, a self-taught musician who regularly performs at area events.

For the children, a scavenger hunt took place at the Blaine County Museum and allowed children to find elves hidden

throughout the exhibits. Every child who participated in the hunt earned a small prize.

In addition, Santa Claus listened to children's Christmas wishes and sat for pictures at the Senior Citizen's Center.

First Bank of Montana hosted the annual performance of the Bell Choir, and across the street from Finley's Food Farm, freshly cut Christmas trees were sold. Food and hot beverages were also available at many downtown establishments, including the Eagles, Chinook Pharmacy, Bear Paw Saloon, Chinook Lions, Shores Floral, and Prairie Pieces.



The parade started promptly at six and made two passes through town. Winners of the parade contest were announced on November 28. Tied for the title of Funniest Float were Chinook Ace Hardware with their "A Christmas Story" themed float and Chinook Veterinary Clinic with a "Rudolph Rescue" float. The title of Most Christmassy float was given to Finley's Food Farm for their "Sleigh Pulled by Reindeer." Finally, the Surber family won in the Brightest Lights category with their mule drawn float featuring Santa driving a sleigh carting multiple trees with various color schemes.

Laine Jorgenson, Media Liaison for the Chamber, said regarding the parade: "I believe the parade is the best that we've had in a while; it was a great turnout."

In addition to the parade contest, a punch card drawing was held at participating businesses. Cards were distributed to

**Continued on page 13**

festival-goers, punched at each stop, and then put into a drawing which took place at 6:00 p.m. Each winner received a gift certificate to one of five area businesses. According to Jorgenson, the five winners were Farideh Schmidke, Jana Shanday, Megan Gulllickson, Lacey Tollefson, and Dawn Hofeldt.

Because the temperature outside hovered around 20 degrees, fire pits were set up along Indiana Street for the warmth and enjoyment of all. In fact, the annual event provided magic and entertainment where people talked around the fires and spent time getting into the holiday spirit.

## **Student Council Pushes through the Year**

By Bailey Billmayer

Student Council members have been filling up calendars with goals, fundraisers, and exciting events for the students and staff at CHS.

For starters, the club has proposed “Winter Beeter Buddies.” This activity would consist of basketball players, wrestlers, cheerleaders, pep band participants, and speech and drama members partnering with elementary students.

Another widely popular agenda item was Movie Day, which will take place on December 21. Because of the new four-day week schedule, classes will be held in the morning with lunch being served early that day. Following lunch, high school students will board buses and travel to Cottonwood Cinema 4 in Havre. Movies shown include *Wonka*, *The Shift*, *Godzilla*, and *Wish*.

*Wonka* is a movie about the origin story of Willy Wonka, a character from the Roald Dahl novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* written in 1964 about his early days as a chocolatier.

*The Shift*, a PG-13 movie, features Kevin Garner who travels across dimensions and worlds to reunite with the love of his life, while The Benefactor upends his life.

*Godzilla*, another PG-13 movie, presents Kong and Godzilla who come together to fight against an undiscovered threat terrorizing both the surface and Hollow Earth.

The last movie, *Wish* highlights the story of Asha who makes a wish that is answered by a cosmic force called Star. Under the influence of Star’s help, Asha will save her kingdom and prove that with courage and determination, wondrous things may occur.

An ugly sweater contest added an air of festivity and competition to the day’s events. The Council offered chances to win a free drink, free popcorn, or a free movie ticket to those students wearing the ugliest sweater. Judging of high school students will occur in the front foyer starting roughly at 7:40 a.m.



In other business, a proposition made by the Council regards fundraisers. Many members think that fundraisers are crowding customers with too many items being sold around the same time. Members propose that fund-raisers go through the Council so as to spread out the sales that raise money for organizations.

Ski trips, which are in the works for later in the year, received some discussion, as well.

## Boys Basketball Opens Their Season with a 0-4 Record

By RJ Engstrom

Losing 49-60 to the Choteau Bulldogs, Chinook Boys' Basketball was defeated in their season opener. That turned out to be a recurring theme.

About that opening loss, Point Guard Britt Powell said: "It was a hard-fought game; I can't wait to see where we rank with them at the end of this season."

In their second game of the day at the Coyote Classic, Chinook lost 65-74 in a brawl against the Lincoln County Lions from Eureka.

"We definitely improved since the last game, but we have quite a bit more work to do," said sophomore Ayden Alisch.

Despite their optimism, the Sugarbeeter boys took another loss on December 9 to the Shelby Coyotes: 42-68.

Hoping for a chance to gain momentum and break their losing streak, the Beeters took on the Coyotes in a rematch on December 16.

In their first home game of the season, the Beeters had full stands of support with fans from both Chinook and Shelby. Nevertheless, the Beeters lost against the Shelby Coyotes, 70-74. It was a hard-fought game to the end, with the Beeters rounding out the first half of play twelve points ahead. Although the team could not hold their halftime lead, four players scored in double digits: Jackson Nordboe, Gyme Kelly, Ryan Bell, and Landen Beck.

With a zero and four record, a slow starting Beeters team looks towards a December 19 matchup against the Fort Benton Longhorns.

## Girls Basketball Triumphs in Season Opener

By Ivey Lenz

After earning a 25-3 record in the 2022-23 season when the Beeter Girls' Basketball team went undefeated until State, the girls are back for more.

The Beeters traveled to Choteau on December 1 for their first game of the season where they blew the Bulldogs out of the water. Throughout the game, the Beeter defense prevented the Bulldogs from gaining a comfortable lead, ending the contest with a score of 64-22. Similarly, the JV girls won, 23-11.

Next up, the Coyote Classic was held December 8 and 9 in Shelby. On Friday, the Sugarbeeters were not sure what to expect from District 7B Eureka as they play in a different division and are new faces for the Beeters. Despite this uncertainty, the Beeters tamed the Lions and won, 78-28. Senior Hallie Neibauer threw up 27 out of the 78 points, and junior Alexs Seymour earned 19 points and five steals.

On Saturday, the girls played Malta where Seymour obtained seven defensive rebounds and six steals, scoring 17 points to add to the total 65-point pot. Hallie Neibauer held six defensive rebounds and added 26 points. The Beeters stayed on top of the competition and won by more than double their opponent's score with a final tally of 65-32.

Shelby came to Chinook for the first home game of the season on December 16. Pep Club had selected the theme: *Constructing a Win* for the contest, and the Beeters didn't disappoint. Picking up where they left off in Shelby, the Beeters played full steam ahead.

**Continued on page 14**



Hallie Neibauer accumulated the most rebounds of the game with nine total. Close on her heels was Alexis Seymour with eight. The Beeters emerged victorious, beating Shelby 64 to 35.

Girls' Basketball Head Coach Mike Seymour had a lot to say regarding the Sugarbeeters' progress: "First of all, I'm proud of how hard we are working. I think that the girls are being supportive of each other, and they have bought into what we are saying. They have assumed new roles on the new team, and everyone is contributing to the team's success."

Next up for GBB is a contest against Rocky Boy on December 20. The pep club has determined that theme night on Wednesday will be pajamas. They encourage fans to arrive at Floyd Bowen Gymnasium in their "comfiest PJs to put the Stars to sleep. Christmas PJs are welcome!" Games begin at 3:00 p.m.

## Junior High Dances the Night Away

By RJ Engstrom

Decorated in Christmas lights but otherwise unthemed, the Lloyd D. Sweet Auditorium was filled with junior high students dancing and consuming pizza and vending machines drinks on December 7 for the Junior High Dance.

About the event, Rachel Bilger said: "It was a great night, and I had a great time with all my classmates, peers, and friends."

Mrs. Jill Paulsen served as the dance's disc jockey, and between her choice of music and the students' participation, the dance was termed "a great social event" by many students.

The next "big" social event for the junior high is a ski trip to Showdown Ski Area scheduled for Friday, January 12.



## ***The Beeter Bulletin Staff***

**Reporters:** Bailey Billmayer, RJ Engstrom, & Ivey Lenz

**News and Feature Editor:** Bailey Billmayer

**Managing Editor & Advisor:** Dr. Donna Miller



***The Beeter Bulletin***  
**Staff wishes everyone a**  
**Holly Jolly Holiday**  
**Season and a restful**  
**break!**



Across from the high school, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hofman's front yard provides a festive holiday display.

=====

The pieces on the following pages were created by students in Dr. Miller's English classes and submitted by guest writers.

# *If You're Not a Basketball Player*

*By Ryan Bell (English 9)*

If you're not a basketball player, you don't know the stress of having to make a free throw to end conditioning, having to worry about missing a wide-open layup, having to wake up for early practices, or even the stress of hearing your coach say, "On the line!" If you aren't a basketball player, you can't know the feeling of wanting to quit the sport but loving it the next day.

If you're not a basketball player, you don't know the sounds of shoes squeaking or the sounds of basketballs bouncing. You don't know the glare you get from polished hardwood floors under bright lights or the sound of a net swaying after a perfect shot. The competitive spirit, the adrenaline rush, and the energy you feel with your team is unmatched. You wouldn't know these little things that make the game exciting. Unless you're a basketball player.

If you've never jammed a finger to the point where you can't move or shot a shot that looks like it's going in but rattles out, you can't imagine what goes through one's mind when it happens.

If you're not a basketball player, you probably don't have excellent hand-eye coordination or the endurance to run and jump for hours. You couldn't possibly know the soreness experienced every day or the mentality to be better than you were yesterday. You might not even have your dad as the basketball coach.

And, if you don't play this sport, you are missing the thrill of the last second shot, the aftermath satisfaction of a well-executed play, or the way a single play can change the momentum of the game. The sound of the swoosh as the ball sinks into the net, the roar of the crowd after a dunk, and the weird silence when getting ready to shoot a free throw—these are the elements of the game that make it beautiful.

Basketball may seem like a simple sport, but there are always things to learn. Some of these things can turn into life lessons later on. Basketball may not seem fun, but once you try it, it can change your life.

# FEAR

Fear lurks in the dark, silent shadows,  
reminding me of ingesting rough, cold, and over-cooked tongue.  
It gives off the fetid odor of a rotting, maggot-filled corpse,  
piercing my ears with the strain of a battle-worn crow.

To the grasp of a blood-shedding blade,  
fear will always emerge as the ghoul that daunts me every day.

--Ayden Alisch (English 10)

