



The Beeter Bulletin



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Girls' Basketball Remains Undefeated

By Falyn Cecrle

In the latter half of the season, the Beeters have consistently beaten their opponents by a 30% margin, making their way to tournaments. The girls have an average score of 55, keeping their rivals at a low 25-point average.

The MTN Sports news casters noticed the Beeters' work and asked to record their practice as well as interview some players. Spokeswomen for the Beeters were Hallie Neibauer, Jenna Liddle, Hannah Schoen and Alexis Seymour.

In reflecting about the interview, one of the captains, Schoen stated: "Since second grade, many of us have played together, and since then we have focused on securing another banner for the gym wall. We knew we would have to put in the work and the time and to do so."

@ Fort Benton 56-20

The Beeters made their way to Fort Benton on December 19, putting their brand on the Longhorns to claim their fifth win of the year. Out of the 56 points procured, Neibauer was the leading scorer with 20. Standing strong defensively, the Beeters obtained 19 steals throughout the game with Seymour robbing six. Rounding out the game, the Beeters ended with a comfortable 36-point lead.

Vs. Rocky Boy 53-13

Shooting down the Northern Stars the next day on December 20, the Beeters took yet another victory. They conjured up 26

steals with Schoen and Seymour both contributing five each. As well as five steals, Seymour also added 20 points, tying with Neibauer's score.

To support the Beeters, fans dressed up in pajamas to promote the Pep Club selected theme: *Put the Stars to Sleep*. The girls lived up to that theme, only giving up thirteen points to Rocky Boy.



Hallie Neibauer (22) drives for a lay-up with Hannah Schoen (50) ready to rebound and Alexis Seymour (5) in position to get back on defense in the game against Conrad.

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@ Fairfield 51-38

On January 5, the Beeters went on to steal their sixth win. Going strong, the Beeters showed up to Fairfield's gym ready to "clip some Eagle wings." With strong defense, Schoen held her own, getting ten defensive rebounds. Brooke Fetter snagged four steals from the 14 obtained by the team. Taking the win, the Beeters went home victorious and left the Eagles flightless.

Vs. Cutbank 78-15

Ready to tame the Wolves the following evening, the girls took off with a lead and stuck with it. Major scorer, Neibauer had 19 points, and Fetter followed close behind, securing 15. Winning by 63 points, the junior varsity received a chance to play and show Chinook what they could do.

Vs. Fort Benton 48-33

Meeting with the Longhorns for a second time, the Beeters were ready to "stick it to 'em" and scrounge up another win. Thursday's game was a close one, with Fort Benton getting within four points. Top scorer Seymour earned 12 points and obtained six steals, proving her defensive aggressiveness. Although it was a challenging game, the girls kept their cool and powered through, clasping the win with 15 points to spare.

@ Shelby 44-33

Saturday the girls made their way to Shelby, taking their ninth win of the season. The Beeters started off ahead with a six-point lead. However, by half time, fans were on the edges of their seats, as the score was all tied up: 24-24. Returning to the floor for the second half, the team was ready to trap the Coyotes and end the game. Scoring 20 more points, the Beeters went home with another win for the books.

Vs. Choteau 63-25

Last Thursday the Beeters kenneled the Bulldogs, winning the game with Schoen setting the tone, making the first basket of the night. The girls' defense had countless

traps, forcing Choteau to turn over the ball many times throughout the game. With the bench cheering them on, the Beeters' offense did not disappoint as they were up by 38 points to end the game.

Vs. Conrad 64-20

The girls went out on Friday night to lasso another win. Securing a victory by a 44-point advantage, the girls' defense and offense impressed the crowd and gave the JV a chance to play. The JV also had something to show the crowd, forcing many turnovers, scoring ten more points, and adding to the final 64, helping the varsity take their twelfth conference win.

@ Rocky Boy 73-37

On Saturday, the Beeters traveled to Rocky Boy looking for their fourteenth win of the season. Once again, the girls met another set goal and won by 36 points, snaring their third win of the week.

All of this success aligns with the motto the girls adopted for the year: to be a fist. This metaphor means all five girls must work as one instead of alone. The five parts of the fist are play hard, play smart, play aggressive, play together, and communicate.

"Those five things make us the team we are. They also make us the team that will reach our goals," Hannah Schoen explained. "We're looking to bring that banner home!"

Chinook Middle School Sees Science Teacher Switch-Up

By RJ Engstrom

Mr. Kendall Harwood, former middle school science teacher, was sworn in as the new Blaine County Superintendent of Schools on January 9. Thus, he left a vacancy at Chinook Junior High, which the administration filled with Ms. Shay Waldbillig.

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Harwood was encouraged to try out the new leadership role after spending fourteen years teaching and wanting to use his degree in a new way.

Anticipating the change, Harwood stated that he looks forward to seeing the education system from a “bird’s eye” view rather than from the “trenches.” With his understanding of the inner workings of schools, he will offer full support to all students and staff. On a day-to-day basis, the newly elected superintendent responds to emails, answers phone calls, gets updates from all the schools, and maintains archival records.

Harwood hopes to keep the school system in Blaine County operating smoothly, not only from his desk in the courthouse but by continuing to coach Chinook High School track and cross country.



The Honorable Yvonne Laird, 17th Judicial District Judge, swears in Kendall Harwood as Blaine County’s Superintendent of Schools. Harwood’s daughters, Sylvi, Beatrice, and Pepper join him in the ceremony.

Two Recognized for Ugly Sweaters

Two junior high students, Trent Malsam and Dane Frey-Haluska were recognized as winners of the ugly sweater contest in December. In other Student Council news, the junior high ski trip scheduled for January

12 had to be cancelled due to frigid temperatures.

Hoping to add an air of festivity and competition to Movie Day on December 21, the Council incentivized students to take the fashion risk by offering chances to win a free drink, free popcorn, or a free movie ticket to those students wearing the ugliest sweater.

Because very few high school students participated in the event, judges looked to the junior high for school spirit and found that in Malsam and Frey-Haluska.

Decked out in a Santa Claus themed necktie, fleece pajama pants printed with polar bears, and a red and green sweater with *Santa’s Best* printed on the front and framing a picture of a sunglasses-wearing



Santa and Rudolph, Malsam took first place.

For his fashionable apparel, he won recognition but no prizes since those were for movie-goers, and the junior high didn’t attend movies in Havre. Instead, they watched *Family Switch* in the Lloyd D. Sweet Auditorium. The film, based on the children’s book *Bedtime for Mommy* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, is about body swapping, involving multiple members of the same family.

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After some deliberation, the Student Council determined that Malsam would receive Beeter Bucks.

Capturing second place, Frey-Haluska wore a red, white, and green sweater featuring various holiday symbols. The sweater's central image was Santa Claus driving a jeep while accompanied by one of his elves.

The two junior high students were hoping to travel with the other

seventh and eighth graders to Neihart, Montana, the location of Showdown ski hill.

However, Showdown faced adverse weather conditions and extreme cold temperatures starting on Friday, leading to the decision to close operations for the day. The ski resort had initially hoped to resume activities on Saturday, January 13, but the persistent wind chill made it necessary to extend the closure another day.

The announcement from Showdown revealed that the Saturday forecasts for the mountain indicated a high of -18, with wind chills reaching as low as -60. Prioritizing the safety of both guests and staff, Showdown made the decision to close both days.

On January 12, Chinook officially recorded -38 mercury readings; Saturday's reading was -42. However, temperatures in outlying areas were reported to be much lower on Saturday, with one Zurich resident presenting a photograph of her thermometer reading of 46 below zero.



MBI Encourages Positive Reinforcement

Chinook School District's Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI) team got together in December and devised some ideas for positive messaging for the upcoming quarter: Postcards Home and Sugarbeeter Shout-Outs.

By implementing Positive Postcards Home, the MBI team encouraged teachers to fill out postcards for deserving students. These might range from a simple note of gratitude to a deeper message.

The second idea initiated by the team is a method for acknowledging students who are consistently doing a good job. Students earning a Sugarbeeter Shout-out, show up to class on time, come prepared, and generally contribute to a positive school environment. These shout-outs began on January 18 with several students recognized over the public address system for performing at their "Beeter Best."

Acting Up at School

By Bailey Billmeyer

On January 20, the Lloyd D. Sweet Auditorium hosted the Missoula Children's Theater and their production of the play *Robin Hood*.

Yasemin Aksel, one of the women helping put this show together, traveled all the way from Istanbul, Turkey. She graduated from the University of Memphis with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in musical theater.

Hannah Bergman, an actor and singer from Indianapolis, Indiana, was the second skilled woman that helped the young actors throughout the week. Employed professionally for five years in theater, she has been working towards her BFA in musical theater from the University of Tampa.

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Auditions for the play were held at the elementary school on January 15. With only days to prepare for the two performances, the children had rehearsals almost every evening after school from 4:00 to 8:15 p.m., depending on their parts.



Robin Hood (Madalyn Billmayer) and Sherwood (Yasemin Aksel) converse with Maid Marion (Teagan Britt) about their escape plan.

As the story unfolds, Robin Hood, played by sixth grader Madalyn Billmayer; Sherwood Forest, played by Director Yasemin Aksel; and some of their forest friends seek to rescue Maid Marion, a character played by fifth grader Teagan Britt. Prince John, a role acted out by fifth grader Pepper Harwood, and his Sheriff, played by eighth grader Chyler Standiford, pursue Robin Hood's arrest. With the assistance of the Merry Band, the Foresters, the Aristocrats, and the mighty Skunks, Robin Hood sneaks around, in hope of staying away from trouble and rescuing Maid Marion.

With only five days on the clock, Billmayer memorized 105 lines for *Robin Hood*. An actor by heart, Billmayer states, "That's all I want to do is be an actor. I really enjoy it, and I love the thrill."

This is not Billmayer's first time under the spotlight, nor is she a stranger to pressure. She has some previous experience with Missoula Children's Theater, acting in

plays reproduced in both Turner and Chinook, as well as with Montana Actors' Theatre (MAT) when she was cast as the Wicked Witch in the play *Snow White*.

In the summer of 2023, Billmayer participated in a workshop also organized by MAT, acting in different plays and showings with other young actors and actresses. The workshop was set up in Chinook's Sweet Memorial Park.

With the elementary and junior high students cast in *Robin Hood*, the play was created to be acted out with "wacky humor" and "an original score," according to the MCT organization. Michael McGill adapted and wrote the scripts while also writing the music and lyrics for the showing.



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IN THE SPOT LIGHT

Kelly Brothers Join CHS

By Ivey Lenz and RJ Engstrom

Brothers Gyme and Isaac Kelly joined CHS near the end of this past November. With their family, the pair moved from Plevna, Montana, which is located just west of the Montana and North Dakota border. The Kellys have lived in many different towns throughout the state, including St. Regis and Box Elder.

An athletic senior, Gyme has participated in several sports at his former school, including basketball, track, and football, where he played as the quarterback.

Gyme's position on the basketball team is small forward, a position he currently plays for the Sugarbeeters.

In track and field, his specialized events were javelin, triple jump, long jump, and the 100m dash. He plans to compete in these events this spring.

Beyond his athleticism with the Cougars, Gyme also participated with the Business Professionals of America. In this organization, members would present on



chosen topics and compete against other schools.

In true Montanan fashion, Gyme enjoys fishing and hunting across the wide expanse of the state. After a long day of outdoor recreation, he comes home to Grace, his loyal Labrador.

When asked if Chinook has been welcoming, Gyme replied: "Chinook has been good so far, and I am enjoying the school year."

A three-sport athlete, sophomore Isaac Kelly plans on playing football in the fall, basketball in the winter, and track in the spring. In

basketball, Isaac plays point guard as well as shooting guard.

This spring, Isaac hopes to run the 100m, 200m, and the mile in track.

Next football season, he would like to play wide receiver and quarterback with the Sugarbeeters' offense during football season.

Outside of school, Isaac enjoys spending his time playing sports, gaming, hunting, and fishing. His experiences at CHS have been good so far, and he hopes for a great rest of his year.



Megan Flanagan, Introduced

By Bailey Billmeyer

Megan, an eighth grader, is a new member in the Chinook High School community. She is a lively participant in activities around the locality, as well.

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After receiving the question ‘What were you most nervous about when you started school at CHS?’ she replied, “I was mostly nervous about not knowing anybody. I lived here in the summers before, but I still didn’t really know my classmates.”

When questioned about potential transfer perks, Megan responded, “I was excited about getting to know more people, even though, at the same time, it was one of my biggest fears.”



A very talented student—self-taught in both the tenor and alto saxophone—Megan also plays the flute. But she admits that she does not play any of the three instruments anymore.

Still, music remains one of Megan’s passions. When asked about something she thinks she could never get tired of, she said music. “I listen to almost anything except Taylor Swift. I don’t even watch TV much or anything, either; I spend most of my time just listening to music.”

As a runner, track and field participant, and (maybe) a future cross-country competitor, she stays active. The races she likes to participate in include the 400-meter run, the 800-meter run, and the four-by-four-meter relay in track and field.

On January 18, Megan Flanagan received recognition for her outstanding work in the high school community. In a shout-out over the public address system, Megan was credited for being her “Beeter Best.”

Up and Into the Class of 2028

By RJ Engstrom

Moving from Great Falls, Malique Logan joins Chinook Middle School’s eighth grade Class of 2028 with his head held high.

Football, basketball, and track keep Malique involved in every season of sports, from running back and wide receiver on



the field to a center and guard on the court.

With future sports aspirations, Malique not only plans to attend college but hopes to play in the NFL or the NBA later in his life.

Off the field, court, or track and into the classroom, Malique says he is liking everything about school in Chinook so far. Stating that his favorite class is physical education, he takes pleasure in running, with up and overs being “the best part.”

In his free time, Malique plays basketball, enjoys video games, and spends time with his family.

FFA Winifred Districts Lead to Chinook State Qualification

By RJ Engstrom

Taking on Winter Districts in Winifred, Montana, Chinook FFA members competed with five teams. Winter Districts is a state qualifying event for all Senior teams. To qualify, teams must place in the top 50

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percent against the 18 towns in the district. Competing in Meat Evaluation, Veterinary Science, Agronomy, as well as both Jr. and Sr. Ag mechanics, all four senior teams qualified for state.

The Meat Evaluation team's top four placers were Bryce Elliot, Oliver Standiford, Madilyn Gruszie, and Wylee Simenson. The Vet team consisted of Aislinn Handy, Ashlyn Hofeldt, Zoe Scofield, and Bella Brown. Agronomy featured members Bryce Elliot, Oliver Standiford, Eyan Hofeldt, and Wacee Simenson. Meanwhile, Sr. Ag. Mechanics saw participation from Ben Hofeldt, Kohen Sullivan, Brockton Elliot, and Jacob Metcalf.

The Jr. Mechanics team had two top ten individual placers, Rangler Skoyen placing seventh and Julian Powell placing eighth. Other members on that team were Eyan Hofeldt and Wacee Simenson.



Two freshmen, Rangler Skoyen and Julian Powell made the Top Ten at Winter Districts in Winifred on December 12. Skoyen placed seventh in Junior Mechanics while Powell place eighth.

On December 19, the FFA membership participated in a leadership workshop with members of the State FFA Officer Team. State FFA Treasurer Lance Rutledge from Big Sandy as well as Second Vice President Shaun Billingsley from Missoula visited Chinook. Focusing on teamwork, the MSU-Bozeman college students led the group in many games and activities.

In Lewistown on January 27, a small group participated in the Fergus Mechanics

Exposition. FFA Advisor Mrs. Mitzi Ceele explained that the Chapter has been grooming a team for Sales competition. "If we qualify in Sales, we will be really busy at State with all of our competitions. The mandatory noon meetings during which we practice have really made a difference in our performance," she stated. "I'm really proud of the students' hard work."

Practices for State competition began after school on January 22, the Hall of Chapter Meeting was held on January 29, and a scrapbook meeting took place on January 30. All of these events are in preparation for State FFA Convention.

Wrestlers 'Shoot' Through the Season

By Bailey Billmayer

On Friday, January 5, the wrestlers traveled to Cut Bank for one of the biggest tournaments of the regular season. The tournament lasted two days, and achievements were reached during the weekend.

Success struck the girls' team, with all three wrestlers on the podium. Emma Klingaman, wrestling in the 126-pound bracket as a sophomore, stood on top, dominating the first place slot. Grace Buck, a junior and wrestling for the 107-pound bracket, took hold of the second place standing. Bailey Billmayer, a sophomore wrestling at the 114-pound weight, captured third place. For the boys' team, Walter Schoen took the spotlight. As a freshman, he came out on top in the 160-pound bracket, placing fourth.

Custer County High School, the location where Buck, Klingaman, Billmayer, Schoen, and Hayden Berreth all competed, was the venue for varsity tournament action.

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In Miles City on Friday, January 12, varsity wrestlers and junior varsity wrestlers split and had two separate tournaments.



Bailey Billmayer sprawls away from a shooting opponent in Cut Bank.

The girls' team saw yet another successful weekend, with first, second, and third place standings. Buck went undefeated for the weekend, placing first. Klingaman had a very strong performance as well, placing second in her bracket, while Billmayer placed third overall.

As an eighth grader, Berreth stood his ground with a strong and executed weekend.



In Cut Bank, Walter Schoen gets his hand raised after his victory

Berreth took seventh place overall in his bracket. Schoen also had another victorious weekend, taking eighth place in the varsity tournament.

In the JV tournament, Julian Powell came home after a successful weekend. As a

freshman, he placed first in his heavyweight bracket. Sophomore Owen Davies also came out with a promising tournament, emerging on top, as well.

Kegan Green, another sophomore, placed third overall in his 126-pound bracket. Both wrestling in the 103-pound bracket, Charlie Buck and Eyan Hofeldt stood side by side as fifth place winners.

Then, on Friday, January 19, the Floyd Bowen Gymnasium hosted a home mixer. With many fans who showed up to cheer the Beeters on, the coaching staff for the team said "that was the best we have ever seen our team perform at a home meet."



ABOVE: Grace Buck gets the take-down in Cut Bank. BELOW: Unwilling to give up escape points, Emma Klingaman, fights against her opponent from Choteau.

That same weekend, on January 20, the girls' team traveled to Lewistown for an all-girls event. Klingaman placed second on the podium in the 126-pound bracket,

Buck took third place overall in the 107-



pound bracket, and Billmayer, wrestling in the 114-pound bracket, placed fifth.

Attending another mixer on January 23 in Big Sandy, the wrestlers received more mat time. Mixers are meets that are intended not only to get participants additional time on the mat but to secure more weigh-ins throughout the season.

With successes to count so far, the young wrestling team will keep shooting through the season, reaching for further triumphs.

Beeter Boys 3-10 at the Season's Halfway Mark

By RJ Engstrom

The Sugarbeeter boys racked up their first season win in a December 19 match-up against the Fort Benton Longhorns. Feeding off the hype from the home crowd, the Beeters wrestled a victory on the Longhorn's turf, leaving Fort Benton with a one and four record.

Next, the Beeters took on the Rocky Boy Northern Stars on December 20 in a home match-up. Heading to the locker room with a 28-20 lead at halftime, the Beeters couldn't keep the game in their pocket. After a hard fight, the Beeters came up short, losing 58-79 and leaving Floyd Bowen Gymnasium with a one and five record. Jackson Nordboe was the leading scorer with 20, followed by Carson Nissen with 13.

Following winter break the Beeter boys went head-to-head with the Fairfield Eagles on January 5, finishing 67-74.

With an enthusiastic home crowd, the Beeters took on the Cut Bank Wolves in a January 6 match-up. Falling short, they lost 60-71 in a close nine-point game.

Securing their second victory, the Sugarbeeters took on the Fort Benton Longhorns on January 18. With a score of 77-62, they stole a victory from the home team. The Beeters left Fort Benton with a two and eight record on the season.

On January 20, the Beeter boys traveled to Shelby to face the Coyotes but took a 44-72 defeat, leaving the team with a two and nine record.

In a home-town matchup, the Chinook boys faced off against the Choteau Bulldogs in a rematch on January 25. Losing 37-57, the game ended in the same fashion as the season opener against the Bulldogs.



Jackson Nordboe goes up for two against a Fort Benton defender.

Student Council Faces Tough News

By Bailey Billmayer

At the Student Council meeting on Thursday, January 18, members received hard news. After setting a steady pace toward their goal of painting school lockers, a wrench was thrown.

Treasurer Brockton Elliot received false money count numbers for about the last year, considering accounts had not been updating. "It's nearly devastating," stated Advisor Fay Friede. "We were almost halfway to our goal."

On a more positive note, the Council has set on a date for the high school ski trip. Confirmed for March 27, the date will make it possible for everyone to participate without activity conflicts.