

A young man with dark skin and short, curly hair is shown in profile, looking down and to the left. He is wearing a dark grey suit jacket over a white shirt and a dark tie. He is holding two wooden mallets with white heads. The background is dark and out of focus.

NATION

MAGAZINE

A SENIOR HIGH STUDENT PUBLICATION

WE ARE

B R O N C
NATION

VOLUME 5

5

JANUARY 2020

STUDENT AND STAFF PROFILES
FROM SENIOR HIGH

FEATURING

KARLI STENIER
HELENA BROWN
LILY WILSON
ELIJAH TIDSWELL
KORAL CONNELLY
MR. BEALS
TANNER JORDEN
AALIYAH MARTINEZ
FOREIGN LANGUAGES

DENNISSE WILLIAMS
LAUREN CUMMINGS
NOAH WOODRING
BERGEN BROTHERS
KENDRA LEIN
JESSE DIMICH-LOUVET
CONNOR TYRRELL
MRS. MORIN
BEARCATS LACROSSE



BRONC

NATION

MAGAZINE

Features from Senior High

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	DENNIS WILLIAMS	by Ilianna Arellano
6	LAUREN CUMMINGS	by Margaret Bieber
8	NOAH WOODRING	by Joslyn Brownson
10	BERGEN BROTHERS	by Surrena Burghardt
12	KENDRA LEIN	by Devin Feeley
14	JESSE DIMICH-LOUVET	by Kamryn Garsjo
16	CONNOR TYRRELL	by Emme Nelson
18	MRS. MORIN	by Trinity Patterson
20	BEA RCATS LACROSSE	by Gavin Ratzlaff
22	SENIOR HIGH CHOIR	by Sean Nichols
24	KARLI STENIER	by Kyra Theil
26	HELENA BROWN	by Alexandra Trevizo
28	LILY WILSON	by Hope Tull
30	ELIJAH TIDSWELL	by Liv Wilson
32	KORAL CONNELLY	by Elizabeth Kamminga
34	INTERPRETING SERVICES	by Emily Tiry
36	BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL	by Emma Qualls
38	AALIYAH MARTINEZ	by Helena Brown
40	FOREIGN LANGUAGES	by Itzu Romero
42	TANNER JORDEN	by Laurin Patterson
44	EVA RICKARD	by Marley Toffton
46	MR. BEALS	by Ronalee Stone
48	OLIVIA JOHNSON	by Saryn Wahl
50	ROLLER DERBY	by Savannah Miller
52	HAYDEN ALLIE	by Sophie Carter
54	ELIANA DAVILA	by Jesse Dimich-Louvet

COVER IMAGE

Senior Josh Crennell plays the timpani during a Philharmonic Orchestra Concert.

Photo by Itzu Romero.

Anya Wolff creates jewelry in Mrs. Goldhammer's art class.

Photo by Tanner Stitchman

The Wonders Beyond The Desk

Denniese Wiliams and The Life Of Being A Secretary.

By Ilianna Arellano

My first day of highschool I was incredibly nervous and scared. When I walked in, I met a woman who was very energetic, funny, kind, and prideful. Her name is Mrs. Denise Williams and she is one of our three school secretaries. So, when a huge group of students walked in the doors of Billings Senior High, she was very exhilarated to see everyone's face whether they were old or new students. She tried her best to make each individual feel welcomed with open arms. The feeling I felt after my first day was welcomed and High School was not as scary as they made it seem in the movies and on T.V.

"I want students to know that this is their education and I want the best for my students," said Deniese Williams Senior Highs Secretary.

Deniese Williams brings pride and inspiration. She is the perfect balance of serious and kind.

Deniese Williams inspires me in many ways, such as with her kindness, boldness, warmness, and independence. She shows her kindness by greeting every student throughout the day she will say "Good Morning hope you have a great day" and "Don't be getting in trouble". Deniese's boldness is well shown around Senior High she is not afraid to speak her mind and does not tolerate disrespect. She will open up and say something to anyone who is being disrespectful towards anyone. Deniese williams is a very approachable person you could open up and speak your mind about anything and she will give you any advice and or feedback. Also, she is very independent she handles her business professionally meaning she does not mix her personal matter with her work she knows when there is a time and place for everything.

"I personally don't care if students think I'm mean. I want them to know that I care and want them to succeed and be something." I have been at my job for 21 years and if I did not like it I would not be here," said Williams

From my personal experience of

knowing her she definitely loves her job. She deals with so many people in one day and different scenarios on a daily basis.

Williams reflects on her first years by saying, "When I first started my job I witnessed a freshman get handcuffed and I cried, because it hurt as a parent to see a baby get taken away." Working in a school no matter what you are weather it is principal, teacher, or counselor, custodian it does not matter over time you build a special relationship with your students it is like a bond. When you see a student get picked up by the cops but also at a young age it breaks your heart because you have seen other students graduate and they are doing productive things in their life and you want every student you meet or know to succeed. That's my personal view of how people who work in schools expect for their students.

What's a normal day in the job of an attendance clerk? Williams said, "Well I wake up at 6:30 for work so I can answer and or check me messages. Then, I prepare everything such as files and slips. Next, I get coffee as I clean up my desk. Then, around 7:00 or 8:00 o'clock students start arriving and getting to class. Then, as the day progresses I get an answer calls and have my runners run slips."

Being a secretary is not an easy job in my opinion. However, our secretaries make their job look easy they make it seem like its just answering phones and writing slips, and sending people to class with late passes. That is what it looks like when your first see them work. Secretaries possible also manage the administrative details of creating a high-level conference or meeting but may also be responsible for arranging the catering for a lunch meeting. Often executives will ask their assistant to take the minutes at meetings and prepare meeting documents for review or second look over.

Mrs. Denise Williams is one our our three amazing secretaries. She bring pride and dedication to her job and us students at Billings Senior High School.



"I want students to know that this is their education and I want the best for my students"
Denniese Williams

A First for Everthing

Freshmen Lauren Cummings brings change to sports with her skills and confidence.

photos by: Margaret Bieber

Freshmen, Cummings stands in front of the score board.



Lauren Cummings poses on her home field.

Freshmen Lauren Cummings takes a change in sports with her talent and confidence.

For many years certain sports have been associated with gender. Although recently Lauren Cummings, a freshman at senior high school, has changed this around her Billings community. Her change starts with the senior high school football team where she plays a defense position on the freshmen team.

Cummings has been playing football since she was seven years old. At this point she was first noticed as a skilled athlete when Cummings attended an NFL pass, punt, and kick competition in Seattle, and has been remembered ever since.

Cummings always loved sports and every aspect of them. With this passion of sports she is planning on continuing football and basketball with senior high school through her high school career.

Being the only girl on her team is not uncommon to her. "Everybody on my team kind of just treats me like everyone else and I never really notice a difference I just

really love my team," she said. She is used to playing with only guys on her team, because not only being

the first girl on the Billings senior football team, she is also the first, and only, girl on the Billings Legion B baseball team.

Having the confidence and bravery to be the first girl in the Billings community to play in these sports is a huge breakthrough.

With these breakthroughs, Cummings hopes that other girls will soon follow her path and choose to play the sports they love no matter the challenge; in fact, her actions are already showing an impact around the area. "I know that there is this one girl at Lewis and Clark [middle school] now and should be coming here [Senior High] next year to play football so that's really cool to see."

Cummings is constantly driven by competition and her independence leads her to be confident and strong in no matter what she does and will be a role model that sparks the fire in girls everywhere to keep dreaming and keep accomplishing.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

THE POWER OF STUDENT COUNCIL

Article and photo by Joslyn Brownson

Imagine a school without any student council to lead it. From planning assemblies and fundraisers to homecoming dress-up days, Senior High's Student Council leads the school in a big way. They also lead the community and make sure every student feels heard. If someone doesn't feel that they're making an impact in their school or community, Student Council is a great way to do that. Joining Student Council is also a great way to get involved in the school and gain some valuable skills.

One of those people who believe that getting involved in Student Council is a great idea is Senior class Vice President Noah Woodring. Woodring explained how he got his start in Student Council stating, "I started in student council my freshman year, just because everyone's telling me to get involved and it seemed like something I could do to get involved with the school. Then, I ended up really liking the service stuff we did and the projects we

did around the school, so I just kept doing it every year." Student Council makes it a priority to make sure students feel heard.

With joining Student Council come many benefits including having your voice heard and feeling involved in your school,

"I ENDED UP REALLY LIKING THE SERVICE STUFF WE DID AND THE PROJECTS WE DID AROUND THE SCHOOL, SO I JUST KEPT DOING IT EVERY YEAR."

knowing you are making a difference. Woodring stated, "I think one of the biggest things is that [students] should join because if they don't think their voice is being heard the only way that is going to change is if they make the decision that they want their voice to be heard."

Woodring goes on saying, "Then, they can advocate for people who they see that their voices aren't being heard, so I

think for people to join student council so they feel like they can represent their class, their friends, and everyone else is great."

The many projects Student Council does include planning home-coming dress-up days and assemblies.

But Student Council makes sure to not keep everything within the council, they also make sure to involve the whole student body in some of their decisions. Woodring stated, "Usually we have a set council who brings up ideas either to their class president and the president will talk to us or at our meetings we'll have a time that people can bring up ideas or projects and what not. And another thing we do is this year we sent out voting for homecoming dress-up days to try to get more people, not just student council, saying their opinion on what should happen at Senior High." Everyone should consider joining Student Council, it will do so much good for them and their school.



Brothers on the field

Junior and Oran Nash Bergen pose for picture.

By Surrena Burghardt

Sibling rivalry creates competitive edges

It's the fourth game in the season. The team is getting ready to play Great Falls, they warm up and stretch, the same as any other game not knowing how great this game would be. Junior starts the game getting two rushing touchdowns. It is the fourth quarter of the game, the score is 14-7, the Broncs have the ball. Oran rushes for a touchdown. The crowd is going crazy as the brothers have a total of 225 yards and three touchdowns winning 21-7. The team is pumped. It is their first win of the season.

For the past 12 years Junior Bergen and Oran Nash-Bergen have been playing sports together. They have grown up individually but have grown together as athletes as well.

Junior and Oran started playing sports in kindergarten. They have always played basketball and football together, though both love football more. These are hard hitting and tough sports, but both are excelling at it.

But back on the sidelines Bronc fans always see them out there trying their hardest and being captain of the football team; they have a lot of responsibility. The Bergens brothers never let their teammates down. This past season the brothers have had a total of 1,092 yards and 113 catches.

**"competitive edges that rubs both of us the wrong way sometimes."
-Junior Bergen**

The Bergen brothers bear a superstition before playing a home game: "eat breakfast, you know, head up here go to school then we go to cryotherapy, eat and then come back here," said Junior. After winning a game, they hug each other and a slap on the butt.

The brothers enjoy going to cryotherapy, it is a pain treatment using freezing temperatures that run from -110 to as low as -150 to help with nerve pain before their games.

The Bergen brothers have always enjoyed the hype of being competitive together. From the beginning they have always pushed each other to work harder and do the best they can do. However, Junior said the most ruthless part is their "competitive edges that rubs both of us the wrong way sometimes."

They have always had fun playing together but soon they won't be able to. Oran is about to go to college; he is going to miss being around the family, all his friends and his team. But Bronc fans can look forward to watching Junior play another season.

Still, brothers and teammates, they have always stuck together and will always have a great bond no matter what happens.



Junior and Oran Nash Bergen, two of the four captains for Billings Senior High football team. Sees which team gets ball first.



Junior Bergen runs the ball against the Belgrate Panthers.



Oran Nash-Bergen runs with the ball from the Panthers.

Photos by Emme Nelson and Kyra Thiel

A Cause for the Community

Freshman **Kendra Lein** explains her experience participating in the Senior High Key Club.

By: Devin Feeley

High School is all about getting involved and meeting new people. Activities and clubs help people come together to share interests and make memories.

A good way to join activities and be more involved at Senior High is participating in Key Club. Freshman Kendra Lien joined Key Club early this year and explains her experience. "Key Club is a community service club where we do things in the school and also the community." Lein and other key club members have raked leaves for families, participated in Festival of Trees, and completed a hat and mitten tree in Senior High. The reason for Key Club is to help members of the school and billings community.

Lein decided to join Key Club this year because her mom participated in it when she was in high school. Lein also says, "Some of my friends

were going to join and community service is a great thing to do and it looks good on resumes and college applications."

Key Club meetings take place on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. Mrs. Stugelmeyer runs the club and has every Key Club member meets in her room. Lein adds, "Mrs. Stugelmeyer is super fun and you get to know lots of awesome people." Anyone is welcome to join Key Club at anytime throughout the year. So far, there are 15-20 people already apart of this activity.

Key Club is a great way to build the Senior High community. The best way to come together is to help out and support Billings. Lein says, "it is a super fun and an easy way to get out in the community and make Billings a better place for everyone."

"It is a super fun and an easy way to get out in the community and make Billings a better place for everyone" says Kendra Lein.

Freshman Kendra Lein poses for a picture in front of Senior High School as she represents for the Senior High Key Club.



Freshman Kendra Lein jumps in front of Senior High for a photo.



A HELPING HAND

Jesse Dimich-Louvet organizes fundraiser to help homeless students.

By Kamryn Garsjo

For most Platinum Project students, their project is just an obligation, but for Jesse Dimich-Louvet, a senior at Senior High School, it was more than that. He felt the need to help after hearing about the homelessness within Billings high schools, so he stepped up and took matters into his own hands.

The Platinum Project is for students who want to challenge themselves by doing something for their community. The point is to expand ones knowledge on a topic of their choice. The project allows students to show off their hard work and skills.

He was inspired when a person in the Bronc Express wrote an article about homelessness at Senior. "I wanted to do more research about it and see what the numbers were and everything," said Dimich-Louvet. He spoke with Sue Runkle, the homeless liaison for schools of district two to learn more. "She told me that there are 164 homeless high school students in the district, 79 at Senior, 44 at West, and 41 at Skyview," he said. After finding out the statistics Dimich-Louvet decided to do something about the problem by organizing a fundraiser and calling it Laps 4 Life.

He set up Laps 4 Life to bring awareness to the shocking number of homeless students. The premise of the event was to bring people to-

gether. Dimich-Louvet had different ways for people to help out. People could donate online or they could show up the day of. If they showed up the day of they paid an admission fee to get in and then walked or ran around the track of Daylis Stadium. All the money Dimich-Louvet raised went to helping make the homeless students lives a little bit easier.

"She told me that there are 164 homeless high school students in the district, 79 at Senior, 44 at West, and 41 at Skyview"

Coming up with the name was a bit of a back and forth process. He wanted something that would inspire people to show up for the event and when Laps 4 Life came to him he knew that was it. "I personally wanted to call it Together As One Run but that was a little long, especially for posters and stuff like that, and then I thought of Laps 4 Love, and then Laps 4 Life just really stuck the best," said Dimich-Louvet.

Getting started was a long process for him. The first step was getting his idea cleared and then getting mentors. After he got that done his idea was off the ground and tak-

ing off. "I worked on it all summer getting sponsors and everything I needed," said Dimich-Louvet. The whole thing took him six to seven months to set up and accomplish.

The steps he took were important to keeping organized. "I needed to communicate with a lot of heads of businesses, athletic directors, Cheer coaches, and coaches, so that was kind of fun to be able to know everyone in the community, and a lot of people stepped up which was really awesome," he said.

He knew he needed help and people who believed in the cause as much as he did. "It's just really important to stay on top of things, and you have to keep people around you because without a good team this wouldn't of been possible," said Dimich-Louvet.

With anything you do there are the hard parts and the enjoyable parts. For Dimich-Louvet the hardest part was the communication it took: "communicating with people was hard because sometimes you're a little shy, and you don't really want to go and talk to heads of businesses so that was kind of challenging at times" The most enjoyable part for him was the turnout. "On the day when I saw everyone come together, that was really cool to see," said Dimich-Louvet.

He was pleased to see the support he had for a cause he believed in.



1. Dimich-Louvet and Carrie Bjorgum Anderson speak to the crowd before the event starts.
2. Kids from West High school and Senior High school get ready to run.
3. Dimich-Louvet poses for a picture.
4. The Senior High cheerleaders cheer on the runners.
5. Senior High's football players show their support for the event by walking.



Photos by Marley Toffton, Sean Nichols, and Kamryn Garsjo

Hit Hard,

Run Fast,

Turn Left

Junior Connor Tyrrell talks about his passion for baseball.

It's 20 degrees outside with no one around, but inside the Sports Plex, it is full of activity. From warm ups and fielding drills to hitting live pitches after 6 months, baseball season has begun.

Junior Connor Tyrrell has had a love of baseball since he was 6 years old and has been playing for 9 years. His father played the game throughout his childhood and Tyrrell wanted to be just like his dad. "I wanted to play baseball because it is fun and something I want to do in the future."

Tyrrell is considered an all around player due to his ability to adapt to new positions. Pitching, Short-Stop, Catching, and Second are the positions Tyrrell can play. However, his favorite position is Catcher. "Instead of scoring runs I can throw people out," says Tyrrell. He has been a catcher for about 4 years. Something that makes Tyrrell stand out from other catchers is that, "I'm not afraid of the ball."

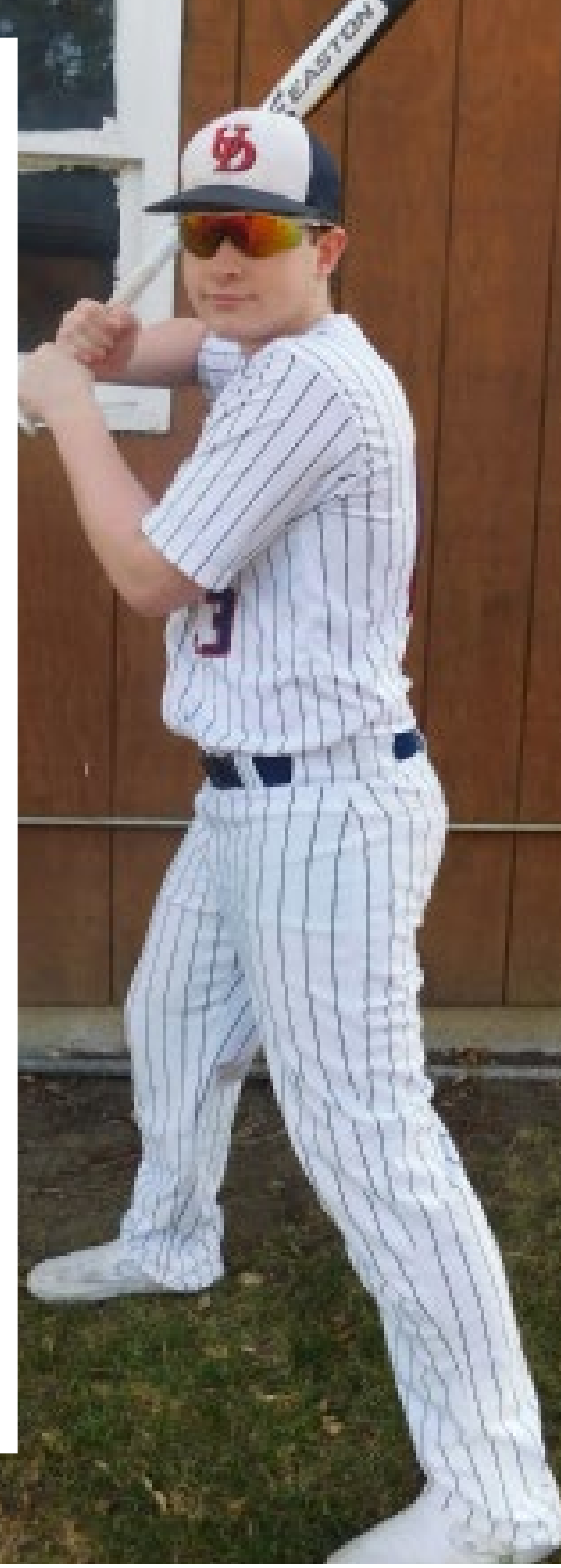
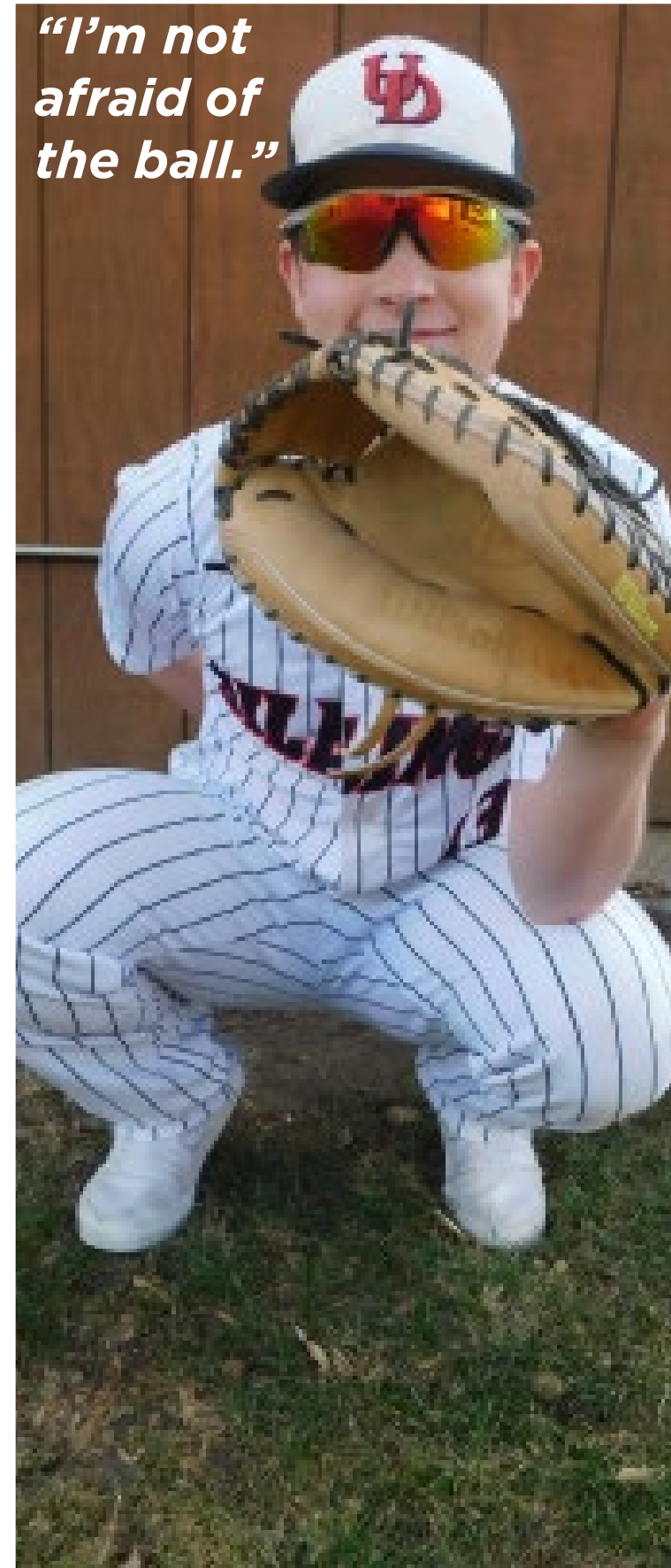
Tyrrell has been on many different teams like T-Ball, Coach Pitch, Minors, Majors, Travel, and last but not least College Prep. Tyrrell is on the Billings Upper Deck Expos, which is a prep team. "Being on this team allows me to connect with college coaches and be recruited."

Commitment is one of the many requirements when on the Expos. "You have to work out on your own, you have to show up to practices and you have to have a good attitude." Due to the level in which Tyrrell is at practices are "3 to 4 times a week" and traveling is "every weekend." The Expos are able to travel around the state, Denver, Washington, and even as far as Nevada.

Tyrrell hopes to receive a scholarship and play in college. "I am all ready for what this season has to bring."

BY: EMME NELSON

"I'm not afraid of the ball."



Trail to Teaching

Mrs. Morin's journey from a Senior High student to a teacher

By Trinity Patterson

“I love being a French teacher,” said Mrs. Morin as she looked back on her job as a teacher at Senior High. “Kids learn so fast.”

Mrs. Morin started learning French as a junior in high school. She was fascinated with French city life, so she moved to France and lived there for 12 years. Now she is a French teacher at Senior High. She first was at Senior High as a student, now she is back as a teacher.

She started learning French as a junior at Senior High. It wasn't her favorite subject, she liked math more. After high school, she wasn't sure if she wanted to go into teaching or into the corporate world. Her first job was as a computer programmer in France but she couldn't sit at a desk all day. She wanted to interact with other people. So

she slowly went into technical documentation, translating French documents into English. She then went into marketing. She sold things that the engineers were making.

After all this, she eventually went into teaching. She was fascinated with France after growing up in Montana with its wide open spaces and rural areas. She found a job in France and lived there. After many moves, she came back to Montana, she wanted to become a French teacher because she “wanted to empower teenagers with the gift of a second language.” She felt that when you learn a language “it will always be there.”

She had to do online classes for her French teaching degree for three years. It was hard but it was worth it because then she would be able to teach. She “absolutely loves working with kids even though it can be wild at times.”

“I wanted to empower teenagers with the gift of a second language”
-Mrs. Morin

Mrs. Morin smiles for the camera



Mrs. Morin teaches her French 2 class in October

Bearcats Brotherhood

The Bearcats Lacrosse team boldly shows what it means to be a team and a family through teamwork and solidarity.

By Gavin Ratzlaff

“It is the underdog of sports and not many people know what it is, but it is growing to be one of the most popular sports played,” says **Kaden Verhasselt**, a senior at Billings Senior High. This is Kaden’s description of his favorite sport: lacrosse.

Lacrosse is a sport where two teams compete to land a ball in the opposing team’s goal, similar to soccer, but instead of feet, you use a stick.

Kaden plays midfielder for the Bearcats lacrosse team. “I love how fast it is growing since it clearly isn’t well known as football or other sports,” he states. “I think my favorite part is getting out there with my team and just have fun on the field!”

Bridger Rust, a junior at Senior, states, “The sport itself is very fun and involves skill you transfer to most other sports. The team is a really fun group of guys and it has an overall a great atmosphere.” Bridger plays attack and is one of the best role models for lacrosse because he gives his all for the sport. He shows up to practice and he even practices more at his own house to build skill level.

“Personally I consider it my favorite sport because I like the teamwork and physicality,” said **Jadon Hilliard**, a senior, “There is a lot of passion for the sport and everyone is always trying their best.” Jadon plays midfielder has a deep passion for lacrosse and he takes the sport seriously, while having fun with it at the same time.

Cannon Krueger, a senior, claims his favorite part about lacrosse is “the brotherhood of the guys.” Cannon plays midfielder and defense for the Bearcats and he shows great spirit and pride in his team and teammates. He states, “The whole group is easy to mess around with and have fun!”

Overall, the Bearcats show great teamwork and pride for the sport they play. Kaden Verhasselt said it best: “The relationship between everyone on my team is much different than most sports I played in the past. Most of the people aren’t more focused on themselves, but they want to improve the sport and the team as much as they can. If someone needs help on our team, they’re going to receive it.” This team is truly is one “brotherhood of guys!”



The Bearcats team members, Jadon, Bridger, Cannon, and Kaden stand proudly holding their lacrosse gear.

There is No Family Stronger Than a Vocal Family

What it means to be part of the Choir Family

1.

When people think of choir, they think the students are just there for the “easy” A in the class, but the choir is so much more than an easy A, it’s a Family, though not by blood, the choir family defends and protects its own.

Ever since Billings Senior High was established, all the

choir students bonded on their time spent together, they all had fun, made memories they will remember and cherish even after they leave their high school lives behind. Some students do go through rough times, suffer losses close to their hearts, lose a job, relationships destroyed, when one member of this vocal family is hurting, the rest of the family comes together to make sure they are doing ok and do everything in their power to help them through the heartache.

The choir students enjoy the moments that are inside the classroom with their peers and the mo-

ments outside the school, weather it be at the Lincoln Center working on AA festival or a gathering at Pizza Hut after a concert. Some choirs get to travel out of the city or even the state to show off their gifts. When

means to be part of a family and learn some life lessons that anyone can incorporate into their lives down the road.

“That’s how choir truly become a family and that’s how the individuals come together”.
-Mr. Holte

the students do leave, they are some students who are on their guard to make sure their fellow classmates are not in any danger when they are away from the school’s safety.

Mr. Holte, Senior High’s Choir Director, throws some challenging songs to all of his students to see the bonds of the students work with each other to make what looks like hard music sound extraordinary. Though some students think choir is a waste of time, there are the few who join choir and learn more than just the notes and measures of a song, they learn what it

4.

2.

3.

1. Billings Senior High Choir Director Mr. Holte sitting next to his electric piano
2. Concert Choir is ready to work on rehearsals with their big smiles.
3. Freshmen Anna Super is talking to her fellow classmates preparing for her first Choir final.
4. Junior Danny Granot looking for a fellow choir classmate to trade paper



TOUGH BREAK

Karli Stenier shows how even with a broken foot she still supports her team from the sidelines.



The Senior High varsity volleyball team huddles before a game.



Karli Steiner gets ready to serve in a game.



Seniors Karli Steiner and Bailey King block a hit.

Every action has consequences. Everything has its risks, and sports are no different. Injuries in sports are very common. From broken bones, torn ligaments, and concussions. They happen all the time and sometimes they're preventable and other times they're not. In any case, they can be heartbreaking to the person and their team or as some may call them, their family.

Karli Steiner. A senior this year at Billings Senior High School is on the varsity volleyball team. She is a very talented attribute to the team only been on junior varsity and varsity since her freshman year.

"It's God's plan and if that's not what I was supposed to do this year than it's okay."
-Karli Steiner

At the beginning of September, she was playing in a scrimmage game at practice and she hit a wide tight set, meaning the setter set the ball closer to the net and she hit it and upon landing back on the ground, landed wrong and broke her ankle. On a positive note she scored!

This already is hard for her but seeing as it's her senior year it makes it a little harder. "It's

God's plan and if that's not what I was supposed to do this year than it's okay." She explains optimistically. Most people would probably not be as positive about this situation but she handles it with grace and positivity. She had to miss out on the entire rest of her senior season including state.

With it being her senior year and college right around the corner it makes things a little more difficult when it comes to college and scholarships. "I've had one team drop me, but another has said they're still interested which is good."

Her team was obviously upset finding out that it was broken. A few days after her surgery her entire team went over to her house and brought her a care basket. "If I can't play with them, they all know I'm going to be the loudest one on the sidelines." Karli may be sidelined for the rest of her very last season but she's not going to let that stop her.



“It opens your eyes and you get to have different experiences that you normally wouldn’t have.”

H



“I like meeting new and different people that I normally wouldn’t get to interact with.”

A Little bit of Everything

Getting involved, meeting new people, and growing our school family.

Great ways to show school spirit is to be involved. Helena Brown is very involved with the school; she is involved in cross country, on the tennis team, and Vice President of the student council, she is president of her choir as well. Brown shows great spirit with the many things she does with and for the school.

Brown says, “I just really like to be involved in my school and I like to be a leader.” It is important that we have people involved with the school to help keep things running because our school is a big family, and the more people starting to do more it makes that family much more stronger.

Brown tells me the student council is in charge

of the prom, homecoming, assemblies and decorations, along with also doing drives to get donations for hygiene products as well as products for the food pantry.

Next Brown talked about the tennis team she told me how she loves it then she says “everyone on the team is so nice,” and that is great to hear because a positive team is important for the new people and the returners to keep our team strong. It is important we keep students involved and returning to sports and clubs to make out school family stronger. Importantly to influence others to join, being involved is what makes our school so strong.

By. Alexandra Trevizo

WORKING FOR THE END GOAL

Sophomore continues on in her platinum program journey as one of Senior High's most excelling sophomore students.

By Hope Tull

Three words you could use to describe sophomore Lily Wilson are hard-working, dedicated and intelligent. Wilson is on her second year of the platinum program and still going hard. In addition to the platinum program Wilson is in her second year of Early morning. Despite all of the challenges that come with the platinum program, Wilson is going through with it incredibly and is one of Senior High's top sophomore students.

The end goal of all of this hard work is what keeps Wilson motivated to continue with all this hard work. "You get a special certificate at graduation and you get to sit on the stage and you know colleges care about all the classes you take and all." With all of the additional perks offered to a student to get with the platinum program it seems almost a no brainer for Wilson to do it.

Another thing that Wilson enjoys about her honors and AP classes is her peers. "The students in these classes you can tell actually care and want to get a good grade. Everyone in my

"The students in these classes you can tell actually care and want to get a good grade. Everyone in my advanced classes are there to actually learn the material and not just to mess around."

advanced classes are there to actually learn the material and not just to mess around." Being surrounded by people with the same goals and ambitions helps anybody grow and thrive in an environment.

Some of the hardest classes Wilson thinks she will take will probably be and AP Biology or STEM class. "My hardest class at the moment is probably just AP History because of the huge workload, but it is still one of my favorites since history has always been something I've been super interested in. Also Mr. Nichols seems to really care about and want to form a bond with every student that walks into his class."

If she will continue with the Platinum Program or not is something Wilson is pretty certain on "At the moment I definitely plan on staying in the platinum program and being the first in my family to complete it." Wilson definitely shines out as one of Senior High's top sophomore students for a clear reason with all of her dedication. With only two more years of the platinum programe Wilson continues to impress all.



Sophomore Lily Wilson poses outside of Billings Senior High School.

Likable

LEADERSHIP

*Student Council secretary **Elijah Tidswell** explains the things stuco does and why he wanted to be apart of the student body.*
By Liv Wilson

Being involved in clubs and activities can help students' high school experience get even better by meeting new friends and helping your community in some way.

Student Council is a volunteer group who works to support and help their community thrive. Our student body does many things around the school and outside. **Tidswell** says, "We do a ton of things that help out the school like planning homecoming and all the signs you see around the school but also things in the community like collecting socks and go and play bingo at retirement homes."

As secretary, many jobs are assigned to be complete. **Tidswell** describes "As secretary, I'm the person who is assigned to organize things and try to keep track of upcoming events for the group but everyone in Student Council sort of does the same things and we don't really pay attention to the labels given. We normally just all work together."

Many friendships, bonds and relationships grew when these kids came together. "Our group has grown so close that I don't really want anything to change." **Tidswell** says. "The bonds with the friends I have made this year are unbelievable. I hope we can all stay friends for the further years to come" says **Tidswell**.

Being a part of any activity or club takes responsibility and desire to volunteer to help people and community. Also, being involved in your highschool experience is important. **Tidswell** states, "I really just want to get more involved when I got into highschool and I thought Student Council would be a great way to do so."

As the future approaches, **Tidswell** plans on staying secretary in hope to help our community thrive. Student Council helps and volunteers to do things around his or her community. Come join, everyone is welcome!

"The bonds with the friends I have made this year are unbelievable. I hope we can all stay friends for the further years to come." says Tidswell.

Freshman Elijah Tidswell poses in front of Senior High as he represents Senior High's Freshman Secretary.



MOUNT, SHOOT...

Koral Connelly hopes to shoot at the national level for archery



Above Koral Connelly begins to mount her bow and arrow during 4H practice. She is shooting Vegas style which has three targets on the board. Photo taken by Elizabeth Kamminga.

To the right Koral Connelly begins to mount her bow and arrow. Connelly prepares herself to shoot her bow. She releases the bow, hitting the bullseye! Photos taken by Elizabeth Kamminga.

BULLSEYE!

Breathe, breathe, breathe,” Koral Connelly thinks to herself “You’re going to hit the bullseye.” Grabbing an arrow, mounting it to her bow, she focuses her eyes on the target. Deep breaths, she draws the arrow back, aiming for the target, she shoots. Bullseyes!

Koral Connelly, a freshman at Billings Senior High, shoots archery every Monday night through 4H club. As the fourth best shooter in Montana, Connelly seeks improvement every time she shoots.

Every round consists of concentration, dedication, and hard work; without these Connelly would be just an average shooter. Her dedication shows every Monday during 4H where she shoots to improve throughout her focus, treatment of bow, and safety precautions she demonstrates. Repeating her exact movements each shot creates a pattern of focus. This focus starts with breathing, grasping the arrow, mounting the bow, “[I see] the site [of the bow] to straighten the bow, then [aim] directly in the middle of the target,” Connelly states. Throughout all ten rounds, calming herself and staying mentally focused lets her become the best shooter she can be. With concentrating on the targets she is able to center her attention to shooting, clearing her mind of everything else.

Being able to clear her mind is stress relieving; however, during competitions stress levels skyrocket. “I compete four to five times in large competitions across the state,” Connelly mentions. Once reaching the age of fourteen, Connelly is able to attend Nationals in Nebraska, she has been asked in the past to attend, however, has been too young.

This year she is hoping to be invited to Nationals again from weekly shooting through 4H and shoots around the state. After watching her shoot, Con-

**“I SEE THE SITE [OF THE BOW] TO STRAIGHTEN THE BOW, THEN AIM DIRECTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TARGET.”
-KORAL CONNELLY**

nelly shows great potential to compete at a national level. Shooting a bullseye almost every shot, does not just help Connelly, but gives her confidence that shows at every competition and practice. Last year at state Connelly shot a 286 out of 300 shooting Vegas style, three targets on the board, with the help of confidence and focus. Every practice since state has been to help improve her score to a 300 out of 300 and attend Nationals.

Depending on the competition, shooters will shoot from five to sixty yards away from the target. “Nor-

mally I shoot ten yards away in 4H, [however], I have shot farther distances,” Connelly says. The varying distances can affect strength and accuracy, with a farther distance Connelly changes pins on her bow. These pins will help the arrow go further and stay accurate to the path it was shot on. As the distance is shortened, the pins are changed to help mainly accuracy and a little power. Having the correct tools for shooting a bow and arrow is vital for every shooter to be successful during a competition. Connelly uses pins for shorter distances that will help shoot bullseyes.

While watching Connelly take care of her bow and arrow with gentle and considerate cautions while cleaning and preparing to shoot. Using safety precautions, shooting methods, and pre-shooting methods, Connelly is able to expand her knowledge for bow and arrow shooting, making her shooting improve greatly. Taking care of her bow with cautious methods of waxing and cleaning creates a safe environment for Connelly. Every pattern on cleaning, focus, and hard work created by Connelly helps her maintain high shooting scores. With these improvements throughout all different types of shooting, Connelly is able to shoot better than before making way to attending Nationals.



BY ELIZABETH KAMMINGA

CULTURE AT WORK

SENIOR HIGH'S INTERPRETING SERVICES WORK TOGETHER FOR DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING STUDENTS.

“The environment of this job is very special because of the people I get to work with.”

How often do we as people get the chance to encounter a different culture at work in our environment? This opportunity doesn't happen very often but when it does, it's very unique. The chance to learn of a culture very unfamiliar with young adults is happening within our own school.

Annie Fischer, one of 4 interpreters at Senior High, says that she did not know there was such a thing as educational interpreting until she was in college. “I decided to become a teacher for the deaf. So when I got to college and took my sign language classes, I discovered interpreting and changed my major.” This is a prime example of not having enough exposure; however Fischer works hard every day bringing everybody, especially students and teachers, a chance to experience something so new and different.

The deaf community is very misunderstood by society, and a lot of misinformation gets out to young adults such as highschoolers and college-aged students. These misunderstandings will cause discomfort in everybody, so having the chance to be exposed and being able to learn a little bit about another culture that is different, is well worth everyone's time.

It isn't very often that people get exposed to what it's like to have something different within the classroom, especially at a young age. The young students sometimes don't get exposed to the actual experience of having an interpreter in the classroom until high school or even college. Some are fortunate to have already experienced this at such a young age that they become used to having them there and it doesn't cause any disruptions.

However, Mrs. Fischer has been doing this profession along with seven others in School District 2 for 35 years. She has watched many people grow in diversity and watched people become better because they are exposed to the opportunity to learn a new way to socialize. For the students and teachers alike, this is an experience they will never forget.

“Before I interpreted again I was an executive assistant for a fortune 500 company. The job was very stressful for me and couldn't handle it anymore. So I went back to school, got a degree in educational interpreting, and finally moved to Montana. The environment of this job is very special because of the people I get to work with.” This means that Fischer is very proud to be an interpreter and she still has many experiences and classes to venture into.



Senior High interpreters meet together every Wednesday to better help themselves to help students.

Bright and Beautiful

BSH works with Billings initiative to beautify city

By Emma Qualls



A garbage can at Senior High School. Photo by Emma Qualls.

Litter.

It affects everyone and the environment more than one would think. Although Billings is not a particularly large city, garbage scattered about the streets remains as a trait shared with metropolises across the nation.

One student at Billings Senior High, however, along with the Billings Bright and Beautiful Initiative, aims to preserve the cleanliness of Billings as a city, a home to so many.

An interesting point is that BSH will be the first school to take part in this. Armstrong comments on this saying, "So, we are the first school in Billings to do this. What we are trying to do is clean up our school and make it more litter-free. The initiative starts in Spring, and we're gonna create more posters around the school to show the ways we influence the environment by litter-

ing."

What does being the first school to do this mean, however? Armstrong says, "I believe it is appropriate, no offense to Senior, we are one of the most litter-filled schools in the city. We are the first school, so I believe it is important to set an example as the initiative spreads."

Armstrong also expanded on the topic of litter, speaking on the ways that the littering issue at BSH spans far beyond the walls of the school. "We are hoping to accomplish a cleaner environment for the school. ... We also want to clean up the neighboring areas. There's always been people who call into the principal and administration complaining that there is always litter

about their homes. We want to clean that up immensely. This reaches beyond just the school grounds."

For students who may be interested in participating in the initiative, Armstrong heavily encourages them to do so, saying, "Students are welcome to just clean up around the school, whenever they want!

This is your school, this is what we want you to do! This is where you can make a difference."

Armstrong also commented on plans in the near future for the initiative, commenting, "We will have more days for clean-ups. We will have one in late May, where people from all around the city will come together to clean up."



Undercut!

Duck!

Swerve!

Jab!

Shuffle!

Aaliyah Martinez boxes for fitness & happiness.

Peace before the punch

Wearing a plain black tank top tucked into baggy red shorts she flings her long, black hair wound into two braids over her shoulders with her protected, gloved hands. She composes herself, steadys her gaze, and plants her two feet. There is calm before the storm. Peace before the punch.

Aaliyah is no stranger to pain. After all, she is a boxer and know how to take a punch or maybe even two. Aaliyah Martinez is a tenth grader at Billing Senior High School. Martinez, who started the sport in the eighth grade, says she started boxing for fitness the aspect of the sport. Although the training is rigorous and often leaves her "very" sore, Martinez has grown to love the sport of boxing. "I love the adrenaline [boxing] gives me," she says

Boxing is the ultimate test of strength, balance and strategy. One must be punctilious and attentive with their form and moves. The training is spartan like and requires full attention. "You can't be all up in your head when your boxing, you have to be

present and focused." Boxing can act as a distraction from the world and assist in a break from society.

Martinez is the only female at her boxing gym, Barrio, so the only option for a competitor in any practice fights she participates in, are boys. "It's tough to fight guys," Martinez said. When there is an official boxing match, Martinez will fight



a girl similar in weight, but not necessarily in height. Mind you, Aaliyah is tiny, only 4 '9! She has a debut fight coming up in the spring and is "nervous, but excited" for the match.

Boxing has not only been enlighten-

Aaliyah Martinez pauses for a picture in Billings Senior High's hallway. Picture by Helena Brown

ing physically to Martinez,

but also eye-opening mentally. "I get much better slWWeep and I am way less stressed," said Martinez in reference to how boxing has been a huge contribution to her overall psychological health. She strongly encourages people to consider taking up boxing, even if it's just for the fitness feature the sport contains and requires.

Is it worth it to drop?

By Itzu Romero

There are plenty of people in high school who say, “I only need two years of a language to get into college,” or, “I’m only going to take two years of a foreign language and take another elective.”

As a person in two languages, I can say I have heard this said more times than I can count, and it saddens me that people don’t seem to understand the beauty and importance of learning a new language. It opens up the world to so many different opportunities and people don’t seem to realize that.

I’ve only been in German for two years and in Spanish for one year, but I have fallen in love with both languages and their cultures.

Before taking German 1, there would be plenty of people asking me, “Why didn’t you just take Spanish? That would have been such an easy A for you.”

While it’s true that I could’ve just picked Spanish as an elective and gone for an easy A, considering I come from a Hispanic culture (being Mexican and all), it would have been so boring. As a person who likes to challenge herself and strive to be better, it was never an option.

Although, I’ll admit, while I was taking German 1, I never really took any of it seriously. It was easy for me, and honestly, kind of boring.

Constantly going back and relearning conjugations and verbs I already knew wasn’t really my cup of tea. And we would only go back to those lessons for the kids who messed around during the entirety of class. German 1 just wasn’t working for me.

Then, the next year rolled around and I decided to stick with German and even decided to take Spanish 2 as an added bonus. Little did my past self know what I was really getting into.

I didn’t exactly know what to expect. I just thought I’d be learning both languages bit by bit and get better at grammar among other things like I did in German 1, but it wasn’t.

I never knew much about Germany and

Germanic culture, and I honestly, never thought about it much, but taking German 2 changed my perspective on Germany. I got to learn about their culture, history, and different holidays that they celebrate.

It not only widened my perspective on Germany, but other countries as well. If there was so much to learn about just Germany, then what about the other countries in the world?

And then there was Spanish. It’s funny really. I thought I knew all there was about Spanish culture since I, myself, come from a Hispanic heritage. But oh, boy, was I wrong.

I was so narrow-minded before taking Spanish 2. Then after taking the class, it expanded my views on Latino and Hispanic culture. There was also Central America, South America, and Spain; Mexican culture wasn’t the only one out there.

By taking both Spanish and German, it expanded my horizons and it expanded my perspective on the world. The United States isn’t the only country in the world, and my own culture isn’t the only one out there.

There are so many different cultures with so many distinct and diverse traditions that make them unique that only ever focusing on your own is just madness and completely insane.

And that’s what’s bothersome for teachers and students, like me, with people who say that they’ll only take two years of a foreign language because that’s all that is required for college.

One of Senior High’s French teachers, Madame Morin explains, “I think it’s ridiculous. Students think that they only need two years of a language, and that’s very unfortunate because it would be better to treat a language like sports or music. You start and you continue as long as you can, so it’s frustrating to see so many students drop after level two.”

Students don’t seem to comprehend the importance of immersing oneself in a different culture other than their own and that’s unfortunate. They don’t see all of the

different Spanish, German, or French culture behind those languages, they only see the words they write down on paper and speak every day.

And that isn’t wrong. If one’s goal is to get into college, then, by all means, go ahead. But as Herr Buckner, one of Senior High’s German teachers asks, “How does getting to see and understand different cultures hurt you? It would only help you. You either learn more about your own culture, or you learn that there are other cultures that you might like to experience as well. So what is the negative outcome of that?”

There’s no harm in staying in a foreign language and learning about a foreign culture. There is no negative outcome from expanding your view on the world.

“It’s neat to be able to share the culture with other kids and watch how it opens up their world to not just the Spanish culture but other cultures as well,” Señora Mountains, one of Senior High’s Spanish teachers explains.

So is it really worth it to drop a foreign language after only two years? Señora Nation, a Spanish teacher at Senior High states, “One year doesn’t give you enough of a foundation to be able to succeed and ever use it anywhere. So, if you’re going to do something, do it right, and spend the time and put the time in to learn it.”

In a perfect world, everyone would be open-minded about different cultures and their customs and traditions, and they’d be happy to expand their views on the world. But it’s not a perfect world.

Foreign languages open the door to different countries other than our own and show how much differently they do things. But it also shows that what they do isn’t wrong, it’s just different and that’s okay.

If there’s anything that I’ve taken away from taking a foreign language, it’s that we need to set aside our narrow-mindedness and celebrate those unique cultural aspects. So, maybe it’s good to take a moment to stop and ask, is it really worth it to drop?



Herr Buckner thinks very intensely while teaching German 1 students. Photo taken by Itzu Romero

“How does getting to see and understand different cultures hurt you? It would only help you. You either learn more about your own culture, or you learn that there are other cultures that you might like to experience as well. So what is the negative outcome of that?”
- Herr Buckner



Sra. Mountains, Sra. Nation, and Frau Schell pose together because they’re great friends. Photo by Itzu Romero



Junior Tanner Jorden plays the piano in the band room to showcase his musical ability. Photo by Emme Nelson.

Maestro

in
our

midst

By: Laurin Patterson

Tanner Jorden
excels in piano
and plans to make
it his career

Music is a beautiful feature of life that almost everyone enjoys. There are thousands of genres and artists for people to discover and enjoy. When making music, one thing is always required: an instrument! Whether it's a trumpet, violin, a voice, or even a harmonica, music isn't music without one of them. One particularly interesting instrument is the piano, something Tanner Jorden is very familiar with.

Tanner Jorden, a junior, has been practicing the art of piano for nine years. In this time, he's managed to win awards for himself such as state for the Music Teachers National Association in 2016. He also regularly plays with the Billings Symphony and plans to join the Glacier Symphony in April.

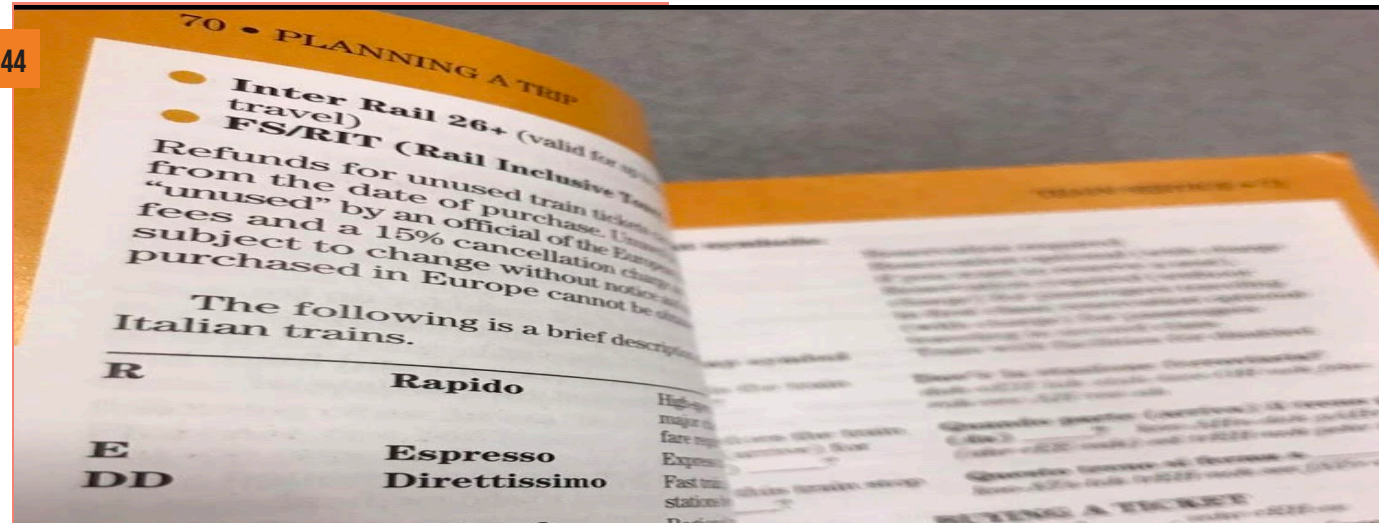
Every day, Jorden is thrilled to leave school after half a day of classes. He eagerly heads to his piano lessons at his teacher's house to practice for two to four hours. All students would love to have this privilege and are probably wondering "how can I do this? I want to leave school too!" Well, it was a lot of hard work for Jorden. He performed and competed in addition to studying music books, and it counted for a very large music credit which allowed him to gain this benefit.

Musicians often have at

least one thing or person who inspires them and motivates them to keep going. For Jorden, the people he looks up to are Danil Trifonov and Krystian Zimerman. "They both really worked hard for their careers, and they don't do it for themselves. They do it to share music," Jorden says. He hopes to take this path as well.

Jorden plays many pieces by various composers, but his favorite is one called Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2. It was composed by Sergei Rachmaninoff, a Russian pianist and conductor for the Romantic Era. It takes about forty minutes to play and has three movements. A movement in piano is a short piece that can be played on its own, but it can also be combined with other movements in a larger performance.

Jorden really enjoys sharing his music with the community and tries to perform as much as he can. He wants to possibly teach piano to other young people who are excited to learn a new skill, and he hopes to inspire the world with his work one day.



Next stop, Italy

BY MARLEY TOFFTON

The morning announcements are rarely listened to by a vast majority of Billings Senior High School. A routine “Good Morning Senior High” ringing throughout the building becomes normal after a while, and the upcoming events or opportunities go in one ear and out another. But some students, including soon-to-graduate Eva Rickard, listen, and one particular announcement caught her interest and opened a window to new adventures.

When hearing about an opportunity to study abroad for high school students through the Rotary club, Rickard knew exactly what she had to do. “I heard about the opportunity from the school, they had been talking about it over the announcements for about a week and I decided I was interested so I went in and got the paperwork,” said Rickard. “It was much more involved and

thorough than I was expecting, so I decided that if I was going to try I had to get right on it.” But things like these aren’t easy, and they have a lot of prerequisite requirements. “In a week I scheduled a doctor’s appointment, a dentist appointment, I had to write an essay and so did my parents. It was quite thorough but looking at it it was to weed out the people who really didn’t want the opportunity,” states Rickard.

After going through many processes of approval and paperwork from early graduation to essays, Rickard discovered she was accepted into the program. “The scholarship is for a year abroad in one of five interviewing countries... When you apply you applied for one of the five countries which were Italy, Thailand, Brazil, Austria, and France. Going into it I really only wanted to get Italy, and I was very lucky and happy when I learned that I had,” explains Rickard.

Although the opportunity of a lifetime is one almost nobody would pass down, traveling and studying abroad in Italy is

quite expensive, which is why Rickard was pleased to accept a great amount of financial coverage from the rotary club. Because of the financial support, Eva has less to worry about, leaving plenty of spare time to spend with friends and family. “Of course, all my family and friends are sad, but they’re so excited that I get to pursue this because they know this is something I’ve been wanting to do for a long time,” explains Rickard.

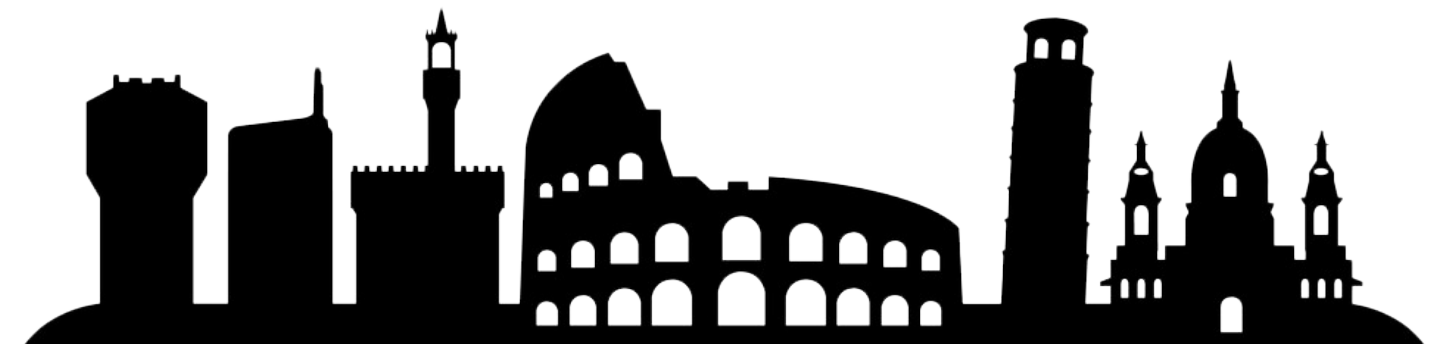
Due to the fact that Senior High does not provide an Italian course, Rickard has taken it upon herself to study on her own time. “You head over in July and are there for an intensive month of language study before school starts in August... Currently I’m just doing basic language study on Duolingo, but I plan on soon getting more intensive when the semester is over.” said Rickard. “Señora Mountains was kind enough to give me a huge verb book but I plan on reviewing tediously until I know all the verbs.”

Despite the struggles in leaving, Rickard embraces the endless positives in her journey, “What I’m looking forward to most is probably the culture and the language. I’m one of those people who thinks that everyone should learn a second language and live in a different country for some part of their life if they can.”

Rickard elaborates, “My reason for wanting to do this was that I wanted to push myself and I don’t want to be afraid of doing something that could change my life for the better I know it’s going to be scary, and tremendously difficult, but at the end of the day I don’t want to be afraid of what life has to offer, and I never wanna look back and think ‘what if.’”

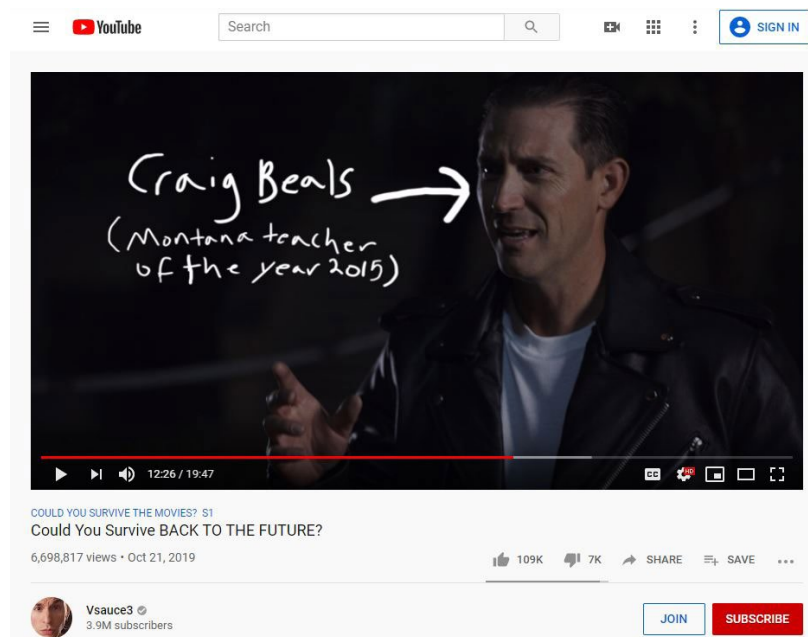


Eva Rickard studies her Italian Language book in preparation for her trip. Photo Taken by Marley Toffton.





represents a cool experiment to some of his chemistry students. Photo provided by craig-beals.com.



Screenshot of Vsauce3's video, *Could You Survive BACK TO THE FUTURE?*, that Craig Beals features in. Craig Beals was the Montana teacher of the year in 2015. Photo provided by youtube.com



Craig Beals helps chemistry student, Parker Kraske, during class. Photo taken by Ronalee Stone

BACK TO THE FUTURE!

Senior High chemistry teacher appears in Youtube original

In the walls of Senior High, Craig Beals can be found teaching many Chemistry classes. Beals teaches Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, and AP Chemistry where Beals won Montana teacher of the year award in 2015.

On October 14, Beals announced on his Instagram, @bealsscience, that he was going to be in a Youtube original. The Youtube original is called *Could You Survive the Movies?*. "The show explores two of Jake Roper's loves, science and the movies," Beals states. Jake Roper is a Youtuber who runs the Youtube channel Vsauce3.

Beals was in-

involved in the episode about *Back To The Future*. "Marty McFly gets stuck in 1955 because there is not enough plutonium to power the Delorian to get him back to 1985," Beals states.

"My role was to be a 1950's greaser who has an interest in meteorology. So, the night of the lightning strike

I happened to be doing experiments at the clock tower with a large cable."

Filming for the show was filmed over a period of weeks during

this past summer and it was filmed in Universal Studios at the original set of *Back to the Future*. "I had my own wardrobe crew, make-up team, and star wagon!" Beals exclaimed.

During the release of the episode of *Could You Survive the Movies*, Beals also uploaded a video to his youtube channel where he got tased. "When Jake Roper asked me to be on his show and told me that I was going to be electrocuted, with movie magic, I realized

that I needed to take the experiment to the next level and actually experience what it would feel like to have electricity flowing through me!" Beals exclaimed, "so, I decided that the safest way to experience it was to use a police taser and get shot with 1,200 volts of electricity, and I can tell you it was terrible!"

The youtube original, *Could You Survive the Movies*, can be found under the Youtube channel Vsauce3, and Beals's video could be found under his channel, Beals Science.

One thing that Beals would like everyone to know is to "Learn from my bad, do not play with electricity!"

**"LEARN FROM MY BAD, DO NOT PLAY WITH ELECTRICITY!"
-CRAIG BEALS**

BY: RONALEE STONE

Sunrise, Phone, Action!

By Saryn Wahl

Senior High freshman, Olivia Johnson, makes movies

Along with a majority of movie enthusiasts, I enjoy going to theaters and watching the Speilbergs and Tarintinos of film bring their stories to the big screen. While these movies have their own notability, some of the lesser known indie gems emanate a unique charm that can't be beaten with a high budget and special effects. I'm always searching for these obscure and underground titles in order to spread creators' names and start a conversation. Little did I know, one of the next directors I would stumble upon goes to the same school as me.

Olivia Johnson stared, mesmerized as her friend presented his homemade movie trailer. "Where the frick did you do that?" she exclaimed in awe at the artistic manifestation of her friend's ideas. After he had told her about the wonders of iMovie, it was only a matter of time before Johnson began bringing her own visions to light.

"I've always had these ideas," Johnson says, and for her, the new found program was the perfect outlet to help those visions come to life.

From a young age, Johnson found the art of cinema mind bending. She always enjoyed watching old cartoons such as The Last Unicorn and The

Road to Eldorado that sparked her passion and inspire her films to this day.

"One thing that I really liked to watch for in film was when two charaters talked and it switched back between them." Olivia states with enthusiasm.

"I just couldn't grasp the concept of how they did that when I was little."

She started producing mov-

"I like watching the footage over again and laughing at myself. It's just a big release of stress."

ies almost immediately, writing and filming back to back. Johnson's cinematic creations frequently echo characteristics of her first and favorite film, "Rabies." Since this film, Johnson likes to pay homage to her beginnings by adding props from the story that started it all.

Although filming and editing serve as a cathartic release for John-

son, the process can be frustrating at times. Little factors that viewers rarely consider, like lighting and weather, make the directors already demanding job more tedious, because "if you film the movie on different days, it's obvious you did that."

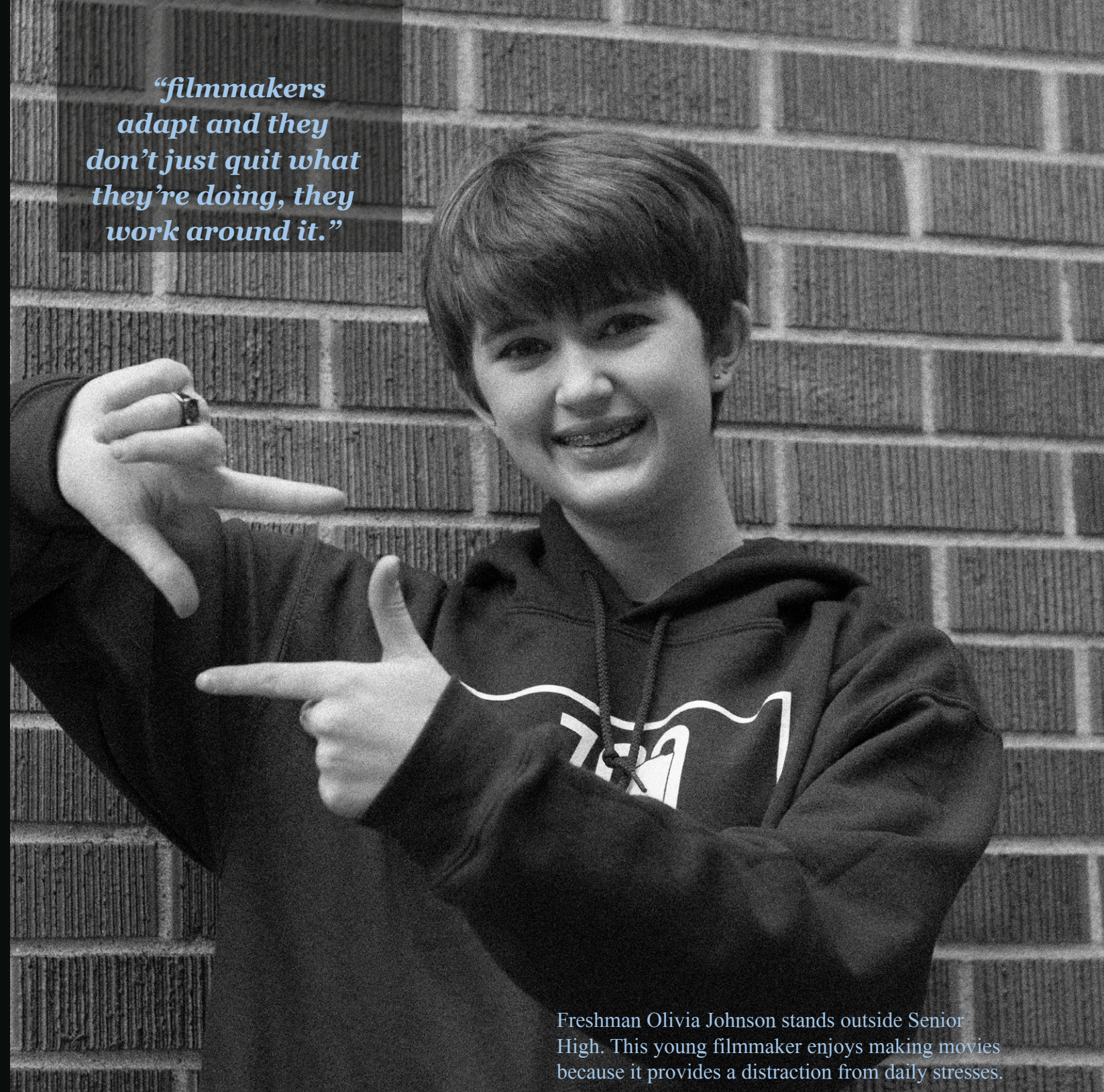
Acquiring proper equipment also adversely affects smooth filming. Possibly speaking from experience, Johnson shares that "when you have to duct tape a selfie stick to a tripod, that's not exactly fun."

Johnson's passion far outweighs the numerous hardships and to her, at the end of a draining day, "I like watching the footage over again and laughing at myself. It's just a big release of stress."

Johnson plans on transforming this hobby into a career because she has "never felt so happy doing something" and from the beginning she thought "I just know that's the thing I want to do."

For any aspiring directors, Johnson advocates persistence and self assurance. She believes "filmmakers adapt and they don't just quit what they're doing, they work around it." Check out Vanilla Rainbow Studios on Youtube to view Johnson's films!

"filmmakers adapt and they don't just quit what they're doing, they work around it."



Freshman Olivia Johnson stands outside Senior High. This young filmmaker enjoys making movies because it provides a distraction from daily stresses.



Sisterhood, subculture, and skating

*How two local roller derby teams merged
together to protect the sport they love*

By Savannah Miller, (Savanarchy #666)

The Back Alley Brats skating in a pace line. Photo taken by Savannah Miller

Not many cities in the northwest region are as lucky as Billings, Montana to have been given the opportunity to host a roller team as creative, charming, and charismatic as the Mustdash Dolls. The Mustdash Dolls, more commonly referred to as “the Dolls,” are a junior roller derby league here in Billings, established in 2015 by skater Jennifer Peters and coach Stacy Heil. The Dolls as a whole are symbolic of everything that derby stands for: that being a need for unabashed self-expression. They support themselves on their locally produced merchandise, created by artistically inclined friends and family of the team. All around, they’re a team that clearly appreciates, and replicates, the eccentric lifestyle attached to derby.

The dolls are a small, intimate team that prides themselves on prioritizing and maintaining the integrity of derby culture, which is no small feat when considering the growing pains that derby is currently experiencing, what with all the blossoming pressures to conform when a once underground spectacle becomes inducted into the mainstream. In the last decade, derby has sustained some serious evolutionary strides as a sport, including, among other things: becoming recognized on a worldwide scale as an Olympic event, becoming a household name, thousands upon thousands of revisions to the rulebook, and a renewed (albeit watered down) punk attitude. Without discrediting the outstanding achievements made in the realm of derby, the true DIY/Riot Girl aesthetic that was once synonymous with the sport has become washed out

and replaced with peak performance, sleek uniforms, and a professionally competitive look.

As smaller, recreational leagues die out, highly funded leagues with better resources and sponsorships are displacing them. Richer leagues just simply have more flexibility when it comes to being competitive; They have the ability to rent out their practice space more frequently, host out-of-state teams at their own home venue, and, most importantly, they have the funding to travel across the country to play teams. The advantages of living in a populated area that can fund a burgeoning sport are obvious, but the innate disadvantages of living in an area where derby isn’t as profitable, i.e. Montana, are subtler.

The increasing demand for competitively driven teams is weeding out poor, and/or recreational leagues in complete silence. The latter criteria is especially pertinent to the dolls, a team that never wished to travel out of state, or be recognized on some national leaderboard. They didn’t see recreationality as a detractor, or a testament against their skating skills. The dolls wanted to, above all else, appreciate the art of roller skating and relish in the culture and community that derby supplies - a fatal flaw in the eyes of derby’s evolution.

The rampant demand to conform to long established sports, to strip the personality out of derby, and to rebrand as a “professional” sport is not only killing the historic culture of derby, but is displacing small leagues. The dolls, having nowhere else to turn to, no funding left to throw towards traveling, no national ranking to defend their true

skill, and a rigid unwillingness to shed their fishnet-and-makeup-clad personas, made the decision to look for a bigger team to adopt their skaters.

Enter The Back Alley Brats: the first league established in Billings, Montana, with a strong leg-up in terms of recruiting, recognition, and overall connections. The Brats, in comparison to the Dolls, have a larger pool of skaters to pick from, and a more competitive spirit. They’ve been keeping up with the unstoppable tide of changes and tests that derby has put them through - but, according to derby veteran and junior at Senior High, Sophia Miller, “the team has really experienced tons of shifts in coaches, places where we practice, and we’ve lost a lot of really skilled skaters. We’ve really had to readjust how our team functions and how we practice because the climate in derby is centered around being strategic and competitive, and not just with loving the sport.”

WMiller further explains the turbulence of the brats during their struggle to keep up with the changing dynamics of modern roller derby by stating that their team “is no longer allowed to wear ‘stage’ makeup, or wear fishnet tights, or do anything that can be seen as unprofessional when we play. I just feel like those things are so important to what derby is and how it’s perceived by the audience, it just sucks that we can’t do that stuff anymore just so teams will be willing to play us.”

The Brats were missing the rebellious heart of

derby, the DIY zines and counterculture of derby, and the audacious nerve of derby - all missing pieces of what makes a truly candid group of roller girls. The Dolls were missing a competitive edge, something to give them a fighting chance at staying afloat during a tumultuous time for small, recreational leagues. Whether by fate or by the convenience of living in the same city (probably the latter), the Dolls and the brats decided to band together as of December 14th, 2019.

Brooklyn Jamieson, a member of the Dolls and a Senior High freshman, explains how her experience on the dolls shaped her as a skater, “While I was on the Dolls, I learned a lot about being a teammate and leader with and for the other skaters... As well as skills I needed in order to deal with the crazy people in the derby community and surrounding it.” And concerning the transition to the Brats, Jamieson says this: “I learned a lot in the short time that the Dolls were a league, but it was time for that to end and we’re all really excited to play with

the Brats... The Brats have been welcoming, and I’m looking forward to the opportunities that playing for the Brats will bring us as well as the amazing new teammates I’ve gained. We’re going to be an amazing team soon enough and we’re gonna go far in rankings.”

Both teams, missing something in their own right, seem to be a complimentary match. The dolls are supplementing the lost sense of derby tradition, and the Brats are enabling the Dolls to continue playing the sport they love.

*“While I was on the Dolls, I learned a lot about being a teammate and leader with and for the other skaters.”
-Brooklyn Jamieson*



Sophomore Hayden Allie waits for wrestling match to resume while participating at meet against West Highschool. Photo by Sophie Carter.

Senior High sophomore Hayden Allie chronicles his wrestling journey

By Sophie Carter

Mats being rolled out. People filling in the bleachers. Adrenaline in the atmosphere. The lights dim and the crowd quiets as two opponents face each other. The air is charged with electricity as they stare each other down. The whistle blows and the match begins.

When Hayden Allie wrestled for the first time in sixth grade, he had no idea that he was stepping into a world of opportunity, hard work, commitment, and mental challenges.

**“It [wrestling] connects you to total strangers.”
-Hayden Allie**

Hayden’s journey began quite differently because he never set out to wrestle in the first place. He just tried for fun. Allie explains, saying, “I did it for the sole purpose of I wanted to do something in the winter because I was tired of sitting out.” Allie ended up liking, and thriving in middle school wrestling. He won and lost matches, but never quit.

When Allie got to highschool, wrestling changed. It got more serious and the stakes

were higher. Even though there are no official wrestling tryouts, the first weeks of practice are the most grueling. “The first two weeks are always about trying to sort out who’s mentally tough enough to be there,” Allie says.

The practices are much different than most people think. They do not consist of constant mock wrestling matches, but involve a large amount of gymmnastics. The practices usually start with a light jog to warm up, and then constant stretching. Wrestlers have to be quite flexible so stretching is non negotiable. The wrestlers then do gymnastics such as sommersaults, cartwheels, and backflips. To conclude practices, the wrestlers do full prints. By the end, everyone is exhausted from the intensity of the sport.

Even though the sport is a tough one to commit to, Allie does it with flying colors. Along with gaining mental and physical stamina, Allie also gained connections. Wrestling opened up new opportunities that Allie had never thought of before. This is evident when Allie comments saying, “... just seeing random kids in public and looking at them. Seeing how they dress and

what they looked like. You could tell that they were wrestlers. It connects you to total strangers.”

Wrestling also offers a key to open the door of opportunities. Wrestling offers scholarships. These scholarships come in a variety of situations. Hayden plans to wrestle for one of these scholarships.

Hayden is currently wrestling this season and intends to continue. He plans on wrestling for the next two years of highschool and he intends to be the state champion. College wrestling is also another goal for Hayden.

Even though he started wrestling around eleven or twelve, Hayden Allie will continue to wrestle long into the future with his goals crystal clear.



Allie wrestles against a participant from West Highschool. Photo by Sophie Carter.



Eliana Davila in the midst of her routine. Photo provided by Eliana Davila.

ELIANA DAVILA: THE LIFE OF A DANCER

BY JESSE DIMICH-LOUVET

High schools across the nation focus on having the greatest sports teams in the State, the highest standardized test scores, or having the most unbelievable pep band that will pump the overcrowded zealously screaming student section. In many high-schools, the school revolves around the sports

teams as the athletes receive the most recognition.

Half-Honduran half-American, Eliana Davila, a senior is a talented ballet, jazz, modern, and contemporary dancer. Davila goes to the School of Classical Ballet and also performs for Motion arts dance company (MADCo), practicing

seven hours a week.

Davila has her hands full with a rigorous AP course load as well as belonging to other clubs like National Honor Society or her choir group called La Diabla.

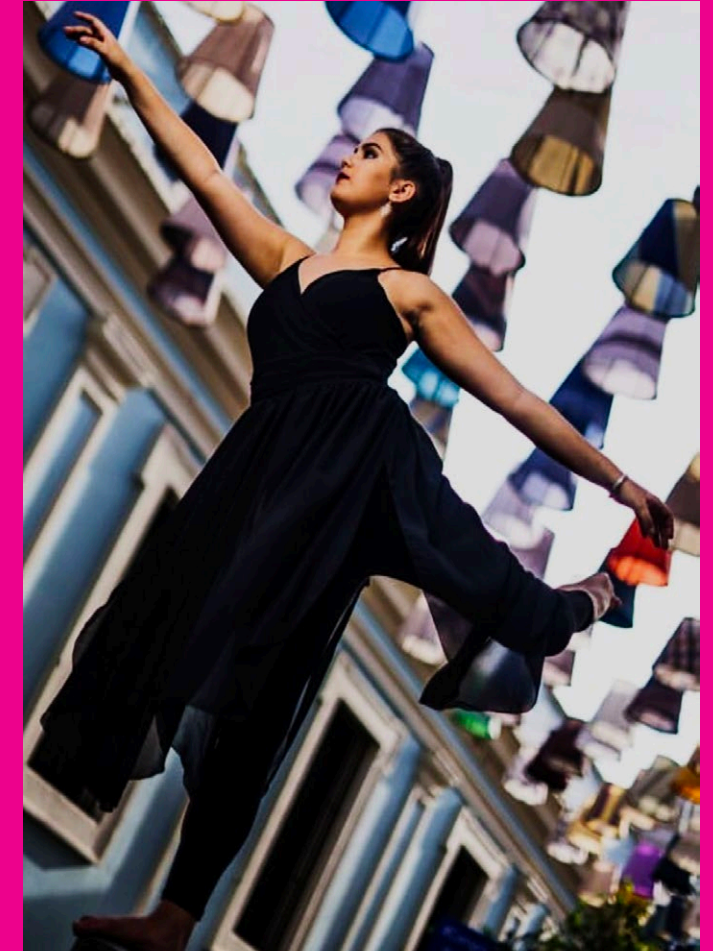
Though Davila is grateful for the life long friends dance has given her and the passion she has cultivated for this activ-

ity, she adds, "I think the arts are focused more on making music and visual arts: painting, photography, band, orchestra, choir." Davila would like to see more opportunities for dance outside of dance studios.

Davila has nine performances throughout the year with three nut-



Davila poses for a picture. Photo by Jesse Dimich Louvet.



Davila during a photoshoot. Photo Provided by Eliana Davila.

cracker shows, three end of the year shows and four community performances, not to mention the pressure that comes with performing in front of crowds at the Alberta Bair or Lincoln Center, where she is always one step from embarrassment and one step from beauty. For Davila however, it doesn't get much better than "The end of every show, when we all dance together like one big family. You can feel all the love."

In addition to her devotion to dance, Davila is also involved in choir,

traveling to Europe this past summer to perform with a group called Northern Ambassadors.

This is quite a selective group that is based on recommendations from choir teachers in Montana and North Dakota.

The group performed in historical places like the castle of Windsor in London or

The Patriarchal Cathedral Basilica of Saint Mark in Venice, with stops in France, Germany,

Austria, and Switzerland along the way.

Choir is another large commitment that Davila embraces with community

performances, like caroling, AA festival, madrigal dinner, and four oth-

er performances. How does Davila do all this? "I have to schedule my homework and be really on top of school work inside class to try and have the least amount of homework as possible," exclaims Davila.

Davila says, "dance can be powerful and amazing and if you love it never stop dancing. There is never a cut off to start or stop dancing." Though Davila has seemed destined for dance from a young age.

**"dance can be powerful and amazing and if you love it never stop dancing. There is never a cut off to start or stop dancing."
- Eliana Davila**



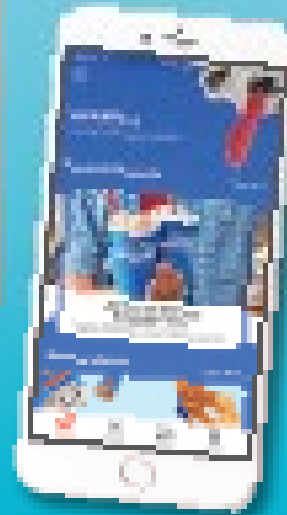


SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR JOURNALISM SPONSORS

STEVE'S
the Pop

CHANGING THE WAY WE
CONSUME MEDIA
100-55-577

**REAL DEAL
CORN DOG \$5**
+ FRIES AND DRINK



EXCLUSIVE WEEKLY
DEALS!



DOWNLOAD
THE OFFICIAL STEVE'S
MOBILE APP



All participating STI locations
are available via the mobile app



participating
STI locations
Allstate
Family Dollar
Walgreens
CVS

Be Fearless

STI testing | Pregnancy testing
Reproductive Health Education
Ultrasounds (limited OB)

Lavie

(406) 652-4868
www.laviebillings.com

