

Fort Benton High School

THE CANNON REPORT

FBHS Journalism

September 27, 2021



The Cannon Report is Reborn

Welcome Back, Cannon Report!

by Allison MacDonald

The Cannon Report, Fort Benton High School's newspaper, is back after an extended hiatus! This year's journalism class has decided to brush off the dust, roll up their sleeves, and bring to you the new and updated, Cannon Report.

Though not officially confirmed, from the evidence we have gathered, we believe that the school's paper was published between 1943 to 1995, although not every year.

According to a couple of staff members, they remember it being published before their time and being brought back after they graduated. The first Pioneer (FBHS's annual) to mention the school's newspaper, was the 1944 yearbook. The 1944 Pioneer reads, "The Cannon Report is the bi-monthly paper published by the high school. It is a typical mimeographed high school newspaper—small and amateurish." However, the 1944 Pioneer also mentions that a new editor took over after the previous one had spent a year on the job, so perhaps it began even earlier. The 1995 yearbook—the last place we could find the Cannon Report mentioned—summarizes how the year went for journalism. It reads, "The student body voted to return the name of the school paper to its traditional moniker, the Cannon Report."

This year, following the tradition, we will be publishing The Cannon Report roughly every six to eight weeks. The newspaper will feature different sections including Sports, Student Life, and more! Not only will the Cannon Report cover what's going on in school, it was also decided to fit this year's theme. The paper will now feature a "Good Vibes Only" section.

The Cannon Report has been a longstanding tradition at Fort Benton High School and even current alumni staff member Russ Axtman served as the sports editor on the Cannon Report in the 1970's. This year's Cannon Report staff consists of the advisor, Miranda Woodhouse, along with student editors, Abbe Starr, Francesca Genovese, Maddie Doney, Sorayah Hull, Alli MacDonald, and Ameya Smith. If you were on the Cannon Report staff or have any information on the history that you think should be known, please let us know.

It's a Senior Sunrise!

On the first day of their senior year, the class of 2021 met on the old bridge to watch the sun rise on their senior year. After the sun was up, the group headed back to the school where Mr. Thompson and Mr. Dunham were there to meet them and cook breakfast for their class and the rest of the school. What a way to start a senior year!



Good Vibes Only

2021-2021 Theme "Good Vibes Only" Promotes a Positive Outlook within Fort Benton Schools by Sorayah Hull

Every year the elementary and high school work together to pick a theme that they think will represent the school year to come. The goal with picking a theme is to focus on that theme and promote positivity through it.

This year, Superintendent and now 7-12 principal, Jory Thompson, along with elementary principal, Roxie Benjamin, have chosen the theme, "Good Vibes Only."

According to Mrs. Benjamin, "We picked good vibes only because the past couple years have been hard for everyone!" The school has seen a lot of change but also progress due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Teachers and students alike have been asked to be flexible with curriculum, and there are always unknowns. Despite it all, the students and teachers of the Fort Benton school district have thrived.

Benjamin continued, "However, even though things are hard, great things can come from experiences that force us to grow. Sometimes life is very uncomfortable but if we focus on the good through the bad then we can grow!"

Growth is not always easy, and sometimes it's even ugly, but Fort Benton Schools has chosen to look at this progress in a positive light. "Life is all about progress, not perfection and sometimes you have to focus on the 'good vibes' through the tough situations to stay optimistic!"

The student council president, Tim Lane says, "This year's theme boosts morale even more than themes we've had in the past and gets the students going for the next year."



"Good Vibes Only" The Fort Benton Elementary & High School faculty and staff pose for their annual photo in front of the school.



Good Job, Team! The Lady Horns celebrate winning a game point. The Lady Horns remain undefeated with a 7-0 record.

Sports

Longhorn Volleyball Successfully Adapts After Graduating 5 Seniors

by Maddie Doney

The Longhorn volleyball team has experienced quite the change this year after graduating 5 seniors in 2021. The Lady Horns have had to adjust and fill new roles as a team. With a brand new starting lineup, the team had to come up with almost an entire new starting lineup, along with several other adjustments.

Coach Shana Diekhans said about the adjustments, "We are having to move some girls to play new positions and have our setter play all the way around." With new players and new talent, comes a new team dynamic.

Each year, teams change and so does the interaction among players. After the loss of some key leaders, last year's underclassmen were eager to step up. Losing these players meant that the whole team had to regroup. "Dynamics change every year, and with new girls having to step into leadership roles, it's always fun to see the roles change and girls grow as leaders," Coach Diekhans said.

Coach Diekhans has moved some players out of their comfort zones and into new positions in order to figure out what's best for the team. So far it has worked.

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Student Life

Fort Benton Students Engage in a Television-Themed Homecoming Week

by Abbe Starr

Fort Benton High School participated in an outstanding Television Series themed homecoming week last week. The week was bursting with school spirit and festive activities.

Monday

The Longhorns started the week with the first dress up day, Disney Day. The students were challenged to dress up as any Disney character they wanted. The best dressed was senior exchange student Fabien Fontaine, dressed as Captain Hook.

Monday also was the beginning of stunning performances by all of our athletes. The JV football team took on the Belt Huskies. Meanwhile, the Cross Country team competed in Shelby, where Jacob Giles placed second at the meet.

The bonfire kicked off at 7:00 pm Monday night, where coaches and seniors on the football and volleyball teams gave speeches about the season and their homecoming matchups. The cheerleaders then organized all of the students for a cheer-off. The senior class was awarded the spirit stick for winning the cheer-off. To wrap the night up, all students were treated to a hotdog feast hosted by the Fort Benton school board members.



Sweet Victory: The seniors celebrate their victory over the freshmen by hoisting Kaden Bach, who served the last ace, in the air. Well done, Seniors!



Royalty Court: Sophomores Lina Vaughn and Michael Mosser, Seniors Samantha Vielleux and Colter Ball, and Juniors Rainie Halko and Morgan Axtman were named this year's homecoming royalty.

Tuesday

Tuesday morning started off with Duo Day. Students got together to dress up as a famous duo. Best dressed was awarded to the 5 juniors who were dressed up as the characters from Scooby-Doo. In the afternoon, students began decorating hallways based on the TV series they chose. The day ended in an exhilarating and close Longhorns powderpuff football game, where the Junior/Sophomore team defeated the Senior/Freshman team.

Wednesday

Students were dressed up in their best Western Wednesday attire, and Jacob Giles took home best dressed. Russ Axtman rallied the juniors and seniors and took them up to the hill to repaint the FB, and will replace the year with 2022 later in the school year. As the students finished their hallways, the boys volleyball games were well underway. The junior boys came out on top, beating the seniors in the championship game. The sophomores also defeated the freshmen in the consolation.



What's the Play, Coach? Andrew Ballantyne and Colter Ball draw up a play for the Senior/Freshmen team for the powderpuff football game.

Volleyball Continued from page 2

The Lady Horns are 7-0. Each game has brought its own set of obstacles that have made the team work together and come out stronger. Diekhans said, "It's been awesome to see girls step up and play new positions and put the team in front of themselves."

Even with the change the girls have continued to improve and push themselves and each other through the challenges coming their way. Coach Diekhans ended our conversation by saying, "They are a great bunch of girls that have big goals for the season! Come out and watch them compete!" If you do get a chance to come and support them their next home match is Tuesday, September 28 against Highwood/Geraldine with JV starting at 5:00 pm and varsity to follow.

**Homecoming Action**

Top Left: Kylie Danbrook takes an approach for the kill. **Top Right:** Cloe Kalanick channels her inner Dyke on Dad Day. **Bottom:** The Ag students show off their school spirit on Friday.



Let's Go! Senior Tim Lane helps to pump up his teammates before their homecoming matchup versus the Belt Huskies. His speech must have worked, because the Horns would come out victorious in this one.

Sports**Fort Benton Longhorns Football Advance to 3-0**

by Abbe Starr

The Fort Benton Longhorn football team is 3-0, boasting the best record in the Northern C and a top 5 ranking in the state. The homecoming game against the also undefeated Belt Huskies, was their toughest matchup of the season so far. According to head coach, Mr. Thompson, "They are the best competition for us. Belt has provided us with some great games over the last years. This year, like last, was a nailbiter until the end."

The game took some preparation and dedication on the team's part. The team watched film from this season and last, and some of the Longhorns traveled to Belt to scout the team out a week before their matchup.

Thompson said, "We are just prepared to do our stuff the best that we can do with our actual offense and defense. If we do our stuff really well, we'll be okay." stated Mr. Thompson.

With a tough opponent to face off against, they stayed motivated and excited during the week. The seniors came up with a motto at the beginning of the year, "Different Day. Same Family." Putting the game aside, at the end of the day, they were just happy to be able to play with teammates.

It all comes down to positivity, says Coach Thompson. "If you are flying around and you have positive energy and you believe good things will happen. Then good vibes will happen." The Horns would go on to win the matchup 27-20.

Student Life

FBHS's 5 Foreign Exchange Students Adjust to American Life

by Francesca Genovese

Fort Benton High School has welcomed 5 foreign exchange students from 4 different countries this year. Jasmin is from Germany, Mateo comes from Spain, Fabienne is from Holland, and Zoe and myself (Francesca) are from Italy.

Each student is adjusting really well and enjoying Fort Benton very much. We all agreed that being away from home and the language barrier are the most difficult parts of living in America. At the beginning it was especially difficult but by practicing speaking and thanks to friendships, the students are starting to perfect their English day-by-day. According to Jasmine, "It still takes a long time to understand everything well." However, it gets easier every day, and Fabienne and Zoe agree that they have already seen improvements in their English after only 2 weeks.

The lifestyle in America is completely different from any of the cultures any of us are used to. I know that I miss home quite a bit, but I'm trying to enjoy this experience as much as possible. Zoe and Fabienne are enjoying everyday life here in Fort Benton. If they get homesick, they do their best to distract themselves and become more immersed in American culture.

For Jasmin and Mateo it's a little different. Mateo misses both his lifestyle in Spain and his family and friends. He tries to keep in touch with his family as much as possible. Jasmin misses her home but not entirely. She too, like Mateo, in moments of sadness tries to keep in touch with her friends in Germany or tries to distract herself with friends here.

All of us foreign exchange students are growing more accustomed to the culture, and know that we will be just fine in Montana because everyone here is very kind and wholesome. Everyone has been helpful and seems to understand that it is not easy for us.

Each student is finding ways to adjust, and all 5 exchange students are involved in extracurricular activities this fall, and plan to continue to do so throughout the year. Mateo says playing football and hopefully other sports has helped him make friends and get to know more people. Jasmin is cheerleading and participating in cross country, while myself and Fabienne are playing volleyball.

We are very happy to have come to this city and especially to this school; we are looking forward to new experiences.



Scooby-Doo! Where are You? Francesca Genovese, Taylor Ball, KaseyAnn Croft, Kylie Danbrook, and Zoe de Luca pull off an epic Mystery Machine-Themed entourage.

Middle School Sports

Shorthorn Volleyball Experiences Success

by Ameya Smith

Fort Benton Middle School volleyball is off to a great start. There are 29 6th, 7th, and 8th graders out for middle school volleyball under the direction of coaches Peggy Gannon and Jamie Ball.

The goal of middle school volleyball is to gain knowledge of the fundamentals of the sport and create an interest in the sport. According to Coach Jamie Ball, "We are here to teach the girls all the skills. Fundamentals are incredibly important." If the student athletes can obtain some knowledge of solid fundamentals in volleyball, they can grow those skills later on in high school.

However, middle school student athletes are not capable of as much as high school athletes and need some modifications. According to coach Jamie Ball, "In the past we allowed serving to happen closer to the net. The reason behind this was that we wanted to see the ball go over and the game be played. We also recognize that junior high girls are not full grown and don't have full strength."

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Middle School Sports

Middle School Tennis Opens and Closes the Short Season

by Coach Miranda Woodhouse

The Fort Benton Middle School tennis team had a wonderful, but short, tennis season. We had a total of 12 student athletes participating on the team, and each and every one of them gained incredible experience and demonstrated a great attitude.

The Shorthorns played a total of 7 matches within a 6 week period. The progress from week to week was astounding given how short the season really is.

8th graders, Zoe Donner, Adele Simpson, and Kailyn Rominger, as well as 7th graders Alexis Clark, Flora Dunham, and Paetyn Jaynes, and 6th graders Bridger Ball, Kailee Fuller, and Mia Mondloch are all returning tennis players to the team. All of these girls stepped up as leaders on the team as they helped with rules, scoring, and fundamentals on the court.

We were also lucky to have several newcomers to the team, including 8th graders, Cora Johnston and Destiny Bach and 5th grader, Kara Clark. These girls picked up the fundamentals of the game really quickly, and showed incredible improvement throughout this short season!

At every meet the Shorthorns attended, they stood out as some of the most skilled, fundamentally sound, and most importantly, respectful girls at all of the meets. They received many compliments from coaches from other schools about how respectful and kind they were as competitors.

The Shorthorns rounded out their season with a divisional tournament with teams from Fairfiled, Simms, Choteau, Conrad, and Cut Bank participating.



Middle School Tennis Dominates the Competition: The tennis team put on a show at their tournament and walked away with several wins and a lot of confidence! Go Horns!

Shorthorn Football Stays Undefeated

by Mr. Damon Gilbreth

The 2021 Fort Benton Middle School football season picked up where last year's undefeated season left off. After games against CJI, Cascade, and Belt, the Longhorns have notched three convincing wins and no losses.

Fielding a squad top-heavy with 8th graders, Fort Benton's experience has been key to the Longhorns' success. Among the standouts are Quarterback/Linebacker Truman Giese, Tight End/Defensive End Brett Evans, Guard Gavin Schmele, Running Back/Safety Landon Good, Running Back/Linebacker Eli Arganbright, Tight End/Linebacker David Olson, Guard/Defensive End John Lippert, and Guard/Nose Tackle/One-Man-Wrecking-Crew Layne Wallace. With the help of several 6th and 7th graders in key supporting roles, Fort Benton Middle School hopes to continue its winning ways on the gridiron as they finish off the season with games against Rocky Boy, Choteau, and Simms.



"Got it, Coach!" Coach Gilbreth, Coach Giese, and Coach Schmele talk it out with their players during an injury timeout against Belt.

Middle School Sports

Middle School Volleyball from page 5

Despite the short season, the Shorthorns are demonstrating a lot of improvement in their fundamentals, and also their game strategy. According to coach Jamie Ball, "Seeing them put all the skills together as the season progresses is so much fun. Even the referees recognized how far they have come and commented on their growth."

Ball continued, "I am proud of their hard work and willingness to come together even after difficult moments." The Shorthorns have had a lot of success, but have experienced some tough moments as well. Coach Ball said, "Sometimes we have a tough loss, sometimes they find their performance frustrating, and this year we've had a lot of changes each week due to other sports, sickness, school activities, etc. And they still show up willing and happy to do their best." Even if they don't win every game, the Shorthorns have a winning attitude.



Pump it Up: The middle school volleyball girls get ready for their homecoming game against Centerville. They would come out on top of this nail biter!



Go Band Go! The FBHS Pep band leads the parade line up with the school song during the parade on Friday of Homecoming.

Homecoming from Page 3

Thursday

Thursday brought on Dad Day for the dress up day. Everyone dressed up as their dad, or what they picture a dad to be. Best dressed went to the person who was literally mistaken for his dad on multiple occasions, Dane Byle. Honorable mentions include Sammy Vielleux who handed out Farm Bureau business cards with her dad's face on them, and Cloe who was the embodiment of her dad, Dyke. The day ended with class games. It began with a handless Oreo eating contest that was won by Spencer Molinario for the freshmen, followed by tug-of-war won by the senior class, and ended with ultimate rock-paper-scissors, won by the juniors. It was also announced that in a very close call, the seniors hallway barely came out on top over the juniors. The volleyball girls played Centerville for their homecoming matchup later that day, and although it was a tough fight, the Lady Horns came out victorious over the Lady Miners.

Friday

Friday was the last day of the eventful homecoming week, and it was celebrated with Spirit Day. The parade was held at 3:00 in the afternoon, and the weather was beautiful. There were many participants in the parade, including a heap of elementary students and teachers, middle school football, volleyball, and tennis, high school cross country, football, and volleyball, the pep band, and the cheerleading team. The highly anticipated football game began later that night against Belt. The undefeated Fort Benton Longhorns met the undefeated Belt Huskies, but only one team remained undefeated at the end of four quarters. The Horns dug deep to keep their perfect record and defeat the Huskies 27-20.

During halftime the homecoming candidates advanced onto the field to be crowned. Michael Mosser and Lina Vaughn won sophomore prince and princess, Morgan Axtman and Rainie Halko won junior prince and princess, and the homecoming king and queen were Colter Ball and Samantha Vielleux.



Upperclassmen Spirit: The juniors and seniors show their pride on spirit day during Homecoming.