

Fort Benton High School THE CANNON REPORT

FBHS Journalism

Tuesday, May 24, 2022



Student Life

FBHS Celebrates Annual Longhorn Day

by Sorayah Hull

On April 5th the Fort Benton high school and middle school students gathered together to participate in community service and games. The student council worked hard to coordinate everything that occurred. Between the games, meal, fund raising, and community service the council had a lot on their plate. Before the day, the students were given a

custom T-Shirt designed by Mr. Truax himself!

In the morning, each class was divided into groups and scattered around the town to complete various service projects for the community. Thanks to Karyn Giles, the community service went off without a hitch. She drove around to each group and passed out water, granola bars, and her homemade banana bread in addition to the tools needed to pull weeds, paint, trim trees, and more.

According to the mentor teachers and businesses around town, the students did great things helping their community. The science teacher and student council advisor, Rob Truax states, "While my group was working at the Visitor Center, an older couple from out of town was amazed at how polite, hardworking, and committed to the community the Fort Benton students were. They couldn't believe the 'entire' school participated in the community service event. They were staying at the Grand Union and had a bird's eye view of a lot of the hard work FBHS students were accomplishing."

In the afternoon all of the students grouped together on the football field and behind the bleacher to eat lunch. After burgers, chips, and Russ Axtman's famous beans, the students watched the Senior vs Staff Baseball game, and then everyone played games of their own. Because it was expected to be so warm, the student council arranged for water games! The classes competed with each other in water dodgeball, slip and slide kickball, and sponge relays. Although after about an hour playing, the juniors decided to take the games into their own hands and just put the tarps together to form one massive slip and slide. Middle and high school students alike took turns sliding two or three at a time. Some of the staff including Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Fultz, Miss Woodhouse, Mrs. Lords, and Mrs. Kotthoff even joined in on the slip and slide fun! By the end of the day most of the custom white shirts were ruined because of rips, mud, and general teenage abuse.

FBHS would like to thank the volunteers and sponsors. We were able to have a very successful Longhorn Day.

LONGHORN DAY 2022



A Whole Lotta Longhorns: The entire Fort Benton Middle/High School posed for a picture ahead of their Longhorn Day activities.

Student Life

Jackson Schmele Enlists in the Montana Army National Guard

by Abbe Starr

On Monday, May 16, 2022, FBHS senior, Jackson Schmele, signed up to join the Montana Army National Guard. Jackson is the second student to enlist in the military, following classmate, Dane Byle who joined the Army previously this spring.

Schmele had been debating on his future path, and he decided to go into the National Guard about a month before his signing. He has just recently gone down to Butte for the Military Entrance Processing Station, also known as MEPS. This was a two day trip where they sought to see if he would be fit enough for the military. They started with a medical history check. Then they proceeded with a blood, drug and physical test. Jackson passed all of his MEPS and was able to complete his final paperwork.

Schmele will join the guard as a 12 November, which means that he will be a Horizontal Construction Engineer. According to the National Guard website, this means that Schmele will “use bulldozers, cranes, graders and other heavy equipment to move tons of earth and material to complete construction projects for the Army National Guard. They are also responsible for operating tractors with dozer attachments, scoop loaders, backhoe loaders, hydraulic excavators, motorized graders and scrapers.”

After completing his basic training, at this point, Schmele plans to attend Montana Tech in order to pursue a civil engineering degree.

We wish Jackson all the best in his future endeavors as a member of the National Guard and in whatever career path he chooses.



"I Got Your Back!" :

The seniors get pumped up during the annual Longhorn Day Senior/Staff Baseball Game. The seniors would fall to the staff 4-11.

Student Life

FBHS Bids Farewell to 6 Exchange Students

by Kasey Croft

Throughout the 2021 - 2022 school year, Fort Benton High Schools had the privilege of hosting six foreign exchange students, Zoe DeLuca and Francesca Genovese from Italy, Mateo Socorro from Spain, Fabienne Fontaine from the Netherlands, and Jasmin Hogele and Elanor Blum from Germany.

They were all welcomed almost immediately as they came to our school. When asked what she would miss most about America when she leaves, Jasmin Hogele said, “I am going to miss how open everyone is and just everything that has built up in the past ten months.” Francesca Genovese added that she liked about America and FBHS in particular that, “no one judges you.”

Obviously though, there are many moments they feel homesick. Hogele went on to say, “I miss my family and friends the most, and the food.” Overall these exchange students have come here and became great friends to those who already were students here.

Despite feeling homesick, the exchange students felt that their small town education was warm and welcoming. Jasmin stated that “The teachers are way nicer here and actually care for their students.” The memories made in Montana will last forever according to Genovese. What Fancesca’s said her most memorable moment while being here was, “I enjoyed every moment here, and I had a lot of different experiences, I loved prom, and winter here.”

The FBHS students also learned a lot from the exchange students, including information about their home countries and languages. We will miss our six exchange students greatly!



Good Vibes Only

Fort Benton Band & Choir Competes at District Music Festival

by Alli MacDonald

The Fort Benton High School band and choir students participated in the 2022 District Music Festival, along with 11 Class C schools as well as the AA Great Falls high schools.

The high school band and choir teacher Mr. Andrew Kilpatrick said, "at district music festivals, both the band and choir prepare two pieces for experts in the field of music from around the state. We perform those two pieces, then the adjudicators will give a clinic on how to improve. It's a pretty great educational experience."

This being the first real district music festival held in about three years, Fort Benton came in to compete with about twenty students and both the band and choir ended up walking away with high ratings.

Starting off with the band, they earned three of the highest ratings: superior ratings. Kilpatrick says that this was technically his first time attending this music festival, so receiving these top ratings felt, "astonishing." Kilpatrick stated, "Most of the older music educators in my life said not to expect any superiors on your first festival outing. I knew we were prepared and would play well, but did not know we would be put into the top category" he says.

As for the choir, Kilpatrick says they exceeded his expectations with their performance at the festival. The choir managed to collect one superior rating and two excellents and notes that the choir members have been singing for less than a year and for one student's case, about a quarter of one. He adds, "District is not all about the numbers and ratings however. Truly our kids came in like pros, took their places and played their guts out."

Kilpatrick says that this year has been a great rebuilding year for both band and choir, and he hopes that these groups continue to grow not only in size and number, but also in musicianship. He says,

"The most important thing is that so many of the young players have stepped up to the roles expected of them and I hope they become the leaders that the even younger musicians will need years from now." When asked about what tweaks he thinks need to be made, he believes that the instrumentation needs to be looked at for more of a balance, adding, "With more balanced instrumentation and more people, we could have access to better literature to play."

It is safe to say that both our band and choir really outdid themselves at the festival this year, and they are a very promising group. So, with that being said, in the words of Mr. Andrew Kilpatrick, "The Great Music Wave is coming. We have the people. We have the desire. I hope and pray the kids we have stick with their success and continue growing musically."

Mr. Kilpatrick will be leaving at the end of this year to pursue his dream of teaching middle school band, and he will be teaching at North Middle School in Great Falls. We would like to wish Mr. Kilpatrick the best of luck and would like to thank him for his time spent at FBHS.



Above: The Fort Benton Band comprised of 8th-12th graders performed their final concert of the year on May 3rd.

Left: Jackson Wright accepts an "Iron Man" award for his dedication to showing up to every pep band event.

FFA

Fort Benton FFA Closes 2021-2022 Season

by Francesca Genovese

The Fort Benton FFA Chapter wrapped up their season with their end of the year banquet on May 2nd.

Advisor Cassady Guinnane commented that overall the year went pretty well for Fort Benton FFA. They had the highest numbers of participation since the program was reestablished in 2017, and they ended up having 6 teams qualify for state.

Over the past month, the team traveled to Miles City to compete in State CDE Day's. Students competed in multiple contests including Veterinary Science, Floriculture, Horse Evaluation, Forestry, and Meat Evaluation. Students did well across the board competing well.

Throughout the year, the chapter competes at three district competitions, and from those contests, scores are taken from five different Career Development Event (CDE) contests to be awarded a sweepstakes winner. The Fort Benton FFA Chapter placed 1st place in Senior Sweepstakes, 1st in Junior Sweepstakes, and 1st in Leadership Development Events (LDE) Sweepstakes.

The team also ventured to Bozeman for the Montana FFA State convention. They took 6 teams that qualified throughout the year, and Cloe Kalanick also received her State Degree. Although the teams did not win any events, Agronomy took 10th out of 50 teams, and they established the team as true competitors in the FFA world.

After the state convention, the chapter hosted their end of the year banquet. New officers were installed, and Jackson Wright was awarded the position of president, Dylan Reeve was elected as vice president, Gavin Schmele will be the treasurer, Ayvah Benhart will be the secretary, Destiny Bach will be the reporter, Addison Reichelt was elected historian, and Mikel O'Hara will the new sentinel. In addition, some students received their Chapter degrees and Discovery Degrees.

The Fort Benton FFA team will now begin the 2022-2023 season with their first contest in Shelby in June, as well as a leadership camp as well.

According to Mss Guinnane, "Next year I'm looking forward to seeing the growth in the program as a whole. We will have a lot of returning students. I'm looking forward to seeing what the new officer team accomplishes and how they push the chapter forward. A good addition to this would be talking to some of my officer team for the coming year and asking them this same question"



Fort Benton FFA Finishes 2021-2022 Season:

Advisor Cassady Guinnane and the Fort Benton FFA Chapter hosted an end of the year banquet this past month where they celebrated the year, fundraised for seasons to come, and elected new officers. Congrats on a great season, FFA!



More Longhorn Day Fun:

The middle and high school students enjoyed a massive slip and slide behind the football field during Longhorn Day.



Student Life

Sports

High School Track Nears the End of Its Season

by Alli MacDonald

With the 2022 track season coming to a close, the Fort Benton High School's track team is proving that they will thrive to the very end. To summarize this season of success, Longhorn Track coach Mr. Kevin Shaw describes it as, "a very fun rewarding year."

With many seniors winning on all sides of the spectrum in terms of events, it seems they had an especially eventful time at districts with the boys team finishing first and the girls scoring second place, with the same outcome for divisionals. When asked about these outstanding seniors, Shaw says, "They have filled some big shoes from our successes as a track team in the past and are forging their own legacy."

With the seniors filling big shoes, it seems the underclassmen will have to have to step up to fill what the graduated seniors will leave behind; he adds, "many underclassmen have been improving weekly and look to carry on the tradition of Longhorn Track the next few weeks and into the spring of 2023."

The Longhorns compete in their final weekend of track at the state meet in Great Falls on May 27th and 28th. The Longhorns are looking forward to their final meet and expect great results with their many qualifying athletes.

It's safe to say that not only are we extremely proud of what the highschool track team has accomplished this year, but Longhorn Track has a promising future as well.

Longhorns in Theater Performs Get Smart

by Maddie Doney

The Longhorns in Theater group put on three successful performances of the play, Get Smart on April 11th and 12th. After months of practicing and a change in schedule due to the East Coast Trip, the group finally got to get on stage and show off their hard work. Despite the scheduling conflict leading up to the show, Amy Hanson, the director, said, "There were no issues after any of the shows, including dress rehearsal." She even said that throughout the shows as the actors/actresses confidence grew, "the more confident they became with their lines and actions."

In total 270 tickets were sold although, according to Hanson, "is a little less than what we expected." However, on Tuesday there was a winter storm that passed through which could have been a major cause as to why numbers were lower than expected. Another reason could be "the fact that we had the shows on a Monday and Tuesday night," said Hanson. Regardless, everyone who attended had nothing but positive remarks for the show.

This year the Longhorns in Theater program will be losing six seniors including Tim Lane, Aidan Hanson, Kaden Bach, Liana Santos, Myth Deck, and Lexi Croft. These seniors have left a great impression on the Longhorns in Theater crew and have been amazing leaders for the middle school members and those who are joining in years to come.

When asked about next year's performance Hanson said, "it is WAY too early to have any plans made for that. Especially since I'm still recovering from this year!" Although there aren't specific plans for next year, Hanson has made a few notes regarding next year's performances. She said, "I don't think I will do anything as intricate as this years was though!" She also made note to keep the performances on Friday and Saturday instead of at the beginning of the week.



Spring Sport Tournament Time:

Top Left: Tennis Wrapped up Divisional Tennis with a 2nd place finish. They would go on to place 5th in class B/C at the state tournament.

Top Middle: Golf wrapped up their divisional with a 2nd place finish in girls. They would go on to place 5th in Class C and Casha Corder was crowned State Champ.

Top Right: The girls track team placed 2nd at district and divisional track. They will compete at state this coming weekend.

Bottom Left: The boys track team placed 1st at district and divisional track. They will compete at state this coming weekend.



Colter & Cade Ball Entertain on Longhorn Day:

Above: Colter Uses an oven mitt for a baseball glove during the senior/staff softball game.

Below: Cade Ball uses a garden tool to attempt to pull a dead plant from the ground. Seconds later, her broke the garden tool and fell on his behind.



NHS Induction Ceremony:

The National Honor Society inducted 5 sophomores. The inductees included, Kylynn Nack, Maddie Doney, Casha Corder, Katie Cline, and Laela Borero



MS Track:

The middle school boys earned 1st place overall, and the girls earned 2nd place overall. Well done, Horns!



Longhorns in Theatre Put on 2nd Successful Showing:

The Cast of *Get Smart* poses for a photo following their performances. This is the programs 2nd production. This year's production was much bigger than last year's and the group pulled it off without a hitch! We can't wait to see what they do next!

FFA Wraps Up at the Annual FFA Banquet:

The Fort Benton FFA Officer Team speaks at the end of the year banquet for FFA. The banquet is meant to celebrate the season, recognize the individuals within FFA, and raise money for years to come.



**Congratulations,
FBHS Class of
2022**

Student Life

FBHS Business Math Gains Inside Look at New Small Businesses

by Abbe Starr

On April 4th, Mr. Nathan Dunham took his 4th and 6th period business math classes to the new restaurant, The Bistro, run by Laura Sieler. Laura is FBHS students' Brooklyn and Kaylyn's mother.

The field trip's goal was to gain an introduction into the class's next project of owning and running a small business. This helped prepare them for their upcoming project and let them be the first to try some delicious food.

Upon their arrival, the students sat down and had a discussion about how to start and operate a business with the new owners. Laura Sieler stated that she started the business because she had always loved cooking while she was a stay at home mom while both of her daughters were growing up. Now that they are older, she wanted to start a business doing what she loves. The business math students were very curious as to how to get the business off the ground and up and running. She said it took her a long time to get it moving and to look for loans and grants, and once she figured the financials out, it was a bit easier to focus on the day-to-day operations.

The FBHS students couldn't help but wonder about the food, and the Sielers brought out some delicious dishes. They started with a caesar salad with a homemade dressing, then it they were treated to a sausage and kale soup. The students described the soup as, "It had a little kick to it but it wasn't overpowering."

The main dish was an alfredo pasta. It was very creamy and rich with the sauce adding flavor into every bite. Lastly they ended with a desert. It was a fruit trifle with a snickerdoodle cookie.

Everything was so delicious and if you haven't tried it before it would be a great place to eat. They are open from Friday to Monday 11:00am-4:30pm.



Longhorns in Theatre Get Smart Entertains Fort

Benton Audience: Amy Hanson and the high school cast put on a wonderful performance of Get Smart in April. They put on 3 performances in total. Great Job Horns!

Student Life

Seniors Sneak Off to Billings for Trip, Complete Prank

by Kasey Croft

On April 26th and 27th, the senior class of 2022 went on their final trip as a class. The class traveled to Billings, Montana on the morning of the 26th and came home the evening of the 27th.

The class originally planned to go to Missoula for white water rafting, but had to change their plans due to cancellations due to weather. The class adapted quickly, and chose a separate trip.

Fun included laser tag, going to a trampoline park, swimming, and delicious food. The seniors enjoyed Olive Garden for one of their meals and stole tons of bread sticks just for fun "because they are the best bread sticks ever."

As a class, no matter how much of a mess it could have been, they bonded more as a class for their final trip together. Class of 2022 president Liana Santos said it was "very chaotic to plan, but was pretty fun for everything being changed last minute."

The following month, the seniors pulled off their prank before their final day of school. Some of the highlights of the prank included switching the band room and the weight room, made a sheep petting zoo out in front of the school, and strung bras along the entrance with the saying, "thanks for the support."

Despite their mischief, we will miss the class of 2022 very much and wish them all the best in their further education and endeavors.

Student Life

Middle School Track Aims to Grow Program

by Francesca Genovese

The Fort Benton middle school track team has 54 6th-8th grade athletes on the team this year. Which is the most we've had in several years!

According to Dawn Dunham, "the greatest highlight so far is the fact they have an absolutely amazing bunch of kids. They all continue to work incredibly hard every single day! They seem to have a huge drive to get stronger and faster. That makes coaching easy!"

The Shorthorns are coached by Dawn Dunham, Sheena Olson, Cassady Guinanne, Damon Gilbreth and Elizabeth Lippert. All coaches are excited to see what this year holds for Fort Benton Middle school track and their main goal is to grow the young athletes of Fort Benton as much as they can.

Dunham stated that because it is the 6th graders first year to try out track and field, they allow them to try whatever they want in the beginning of the season. As the season progresses the coaches will guide them toward what they excel at. With the 7th and 8th grade athletes having a little better idea of the events they want to do or continue to do, coaches focus on developing skills that will allow them to continue to succeed.

"My main goal as a coach," says coach Dunham, "is to create a love for track and field in every athlete who gives it a try, whether it is in actual running events or field events. Of course, that doesn't always happen with all students. A more program oriented goal is to adequately prepare all of them for high school track. To see them continue to grow and succeed is incredibly fulfilling!"

The 6th-7th Boys earned 1st place in their division, as did the 8th grade boys. The 6th/7th grade girls placed 1st place in their division, and the 8th grade girls placed 2nd.

Well done, Longhorns!



Sports

High School Golf Completes the 2021-2022 Season

By Miranda Woodhouse & Marta Ferguson

The Longhorns Golf team completed the season after competing in their first ever divisional tournament in Shelby and then state in Sydney.

The Longhorn golfers qualified two boys for state, Jackson Wright and Andrew Ballantyne, and three girls, Addison Reichelt, Laela Borero, and Cahsa Corder. The girls team took 3rd in the division as well.

According to Coach Ferguson, "the girls played great golf [at divisionals] with Casha leading the way by earning a 2nd place medal for the girls and Laela and Addison scoring high enough to give the girls a 2nd place team trophy and a trip for all three to Sidney with the two boys. Pretty outstanding for two sophomores and one was first year and a freshman that is first year to win 2nd place."

The Longhorns were excited to show off their skills in Sydney, and all golfers played pretty well.

The big news of the tournament, Casha Corder won the girls state title, defeating her opponents by a whopping seven strokes! Ferguson stated, "She shot a round of 174 for two days and came away with the STATE CHAMPIONSHIP Medal!! We are all so very proud of her. But we are also just as proud for Addison who shot well for first time ever at State, and to Laela who played competitively for the first time ever and was in the top 25 at Shelby to go to State on her own. Together the girls earned 5th in the team scores but trust me they have an eye on a team trophy for next year." Casha is an all-state golfer two years in a row, and a state champ in just her sophomore year of high school. Congratulations to all of the Longhorn golfers, coaches, and to the new state champ as well.

Summer Life

Summer In Fort Benton

By Sorayah Hull

Fort Benton is a tourist destination throughout the summer, but there is much to do if you are a local as well. From the baseball fields to the river, there is plenty to stay entertained and safe in and around town. Below you will find a list of activities and events to attend throughout the year.

- **Water Fun:** Fort Benton is famous for its Missouri River and walking trail, so make sure you check these out:
 - Missouri River Attractions: kayaking, canoeing, fishing, boating, floating, and so much more. Like the pool, the river is a perfect place to cool off and soak up the summer sunshine.
 - Canoe Rentals:
 - Missouri River Outfitters 1856 State Hwy 387, Fort Benton, MT 59442
 - ADVENTURE BOUND CANOE 1856 State Highway 387 Fort Benton, MT 59442
 - Fort Benton Swimming Pool: The city pool opens on Saturday, June 18th, and closes sometime in late August. The pool is open 7 days a week from 11 AM to 4 PM. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the pool will host night swim from 7:00-8:30pm.
 - Lakes: Tiber Dam/Lake Elwell is just under 50 miles away. There you can go water skiing, tubing, kayaking, floating, fishing, etc.
- **The River Trail:** Walk along the river trail along the Mighty Mo and learn about the rich history of Fort Benton, Montana.
- **Museums:**
 - Montana Agricultural Center
 - Historic Old Fort Benton
 - Museum of the Upper Missouri
 - Missouri River Breaks Interpretive Center
- **The Charm Trail:** At almost every business around town, you can ask them for a charm. Every business has its own charm. The charms are about \$2, and the bracelet is about \$5.

• Sports:

- Golf: Fort Benton offers its famous Signal Point Golf Course. Great Falls also has 3 public golf courses to enjoy.
- Tennis: Fort Benton has beautiful tennis courts located near the river in Old Fort Park. Just be sure to treat the courts well; tennis only.
- Baseball: Sunset Park offers several baseball fields to enjoy for everyone, but be mindful of little leaguers and t ballers.
- Bowling: B Social Bar and Lanes has plenty of lanes for plenty of fun!
- Restaurants:
 - B Social Bar and Lanes (1314 Front Street, Fort Benton)
 - Union Grille Restaurant (1 Grand Union Square, Fort Benton)
 - The Bistro (1714 Front Street, Fort Benton)
 - Banque Club (1318 Front Street, Fort Benton)
 - Club House (1411 Main Street, Fort Benton)
 - The Freeze (1722 Front Street, Fort Benton)
 - Wake Cup Coffee House/Public House (1500 Front Street, Fort Benton)



State Contenders: Jackson Wright, Andrew Ballantyne, Laela Borero, Casha Corder and Addison Riechelt all qualified for state in Sydney, Montana. Casha Corder won the individual state title for girls. Congrats to all!

Sports

Lady Longhorns Tennis Competes in Divisional and State Tennis Tournaments

by Maddie Doney

The 2022 Longhorn Tennis Season has officially come to an end. The JV team finished their season with a fun overnight trip to Helena for the Dawg Bite tournament hosted by Broadwater High School on April 29th and 30th. All of the JV players gained a lot of new experiences and picked up a life sport that they will carry with them.

The varsity continued for three more weeks and traveled to Missoula for Best of the West where they would meet up with teams they wouldn't face again until state. Every player won at least two matches in the tournament.

On May 13th and 14th the Lady Longhorns traveled to Havre to compete in the Northern B/C Divisional tournament.

Starting with the singles bracket, Taylor Ball won her first match but lost her next two. She ended her season a stronger player and found her strength was playing points at the net. Lina Vaughn put in her all and pushed herself the whole tournament. She lost her first match but redeemed herself and won her next one. She then lost her next match which ended her season but got her excited for more next year. Maddie Doney pushed herself but lost her first two matches. She ended her season playing the best she had all year.

Defending her Divisional Championship from last year, Hailee Wang started her tournament ready to prove herself again. Wang won her first match, but lost her second. She would come back around the backside of the bracket to play in the consolation game, where she would punch her ticket for state and take 4th place in the division.

The double teams fought their way through the bracket as well. Sammy Vielleux and Ashlee Wang started the tournament with a bye. They won their next match and headed to the championship. There they fought hard but lost and took 2nd heading into state the next weekend. Liana and Rainie struggled to get by the tough doubles team in our division, but played their best when it mattered most.

They pushed themselves extremely hard and won 5th place and a spot at the state tournament.

On May 17 the Lady Longhorns traveled to Bozeman to compete in the Northern B/C State tournament. Sammy Vielleux, Liana Santos, Rainie Halko, Ashlee and Hailee Wang all qualified to compete.

Starting off the tournament, Hailee Wang lost her first match but won her next two. She then met up with the same opponent from CJI she played for 3rd and 4th in divisionals. After three long sets, she was defeated and eliminated from the tournament. She was 2 and 2 for the tournament.

Santos and Halko went 3 and 2 at the state tournament and played their best unified and intense tennis of the season. They started off winning their first match but lost their second match. Ready to redeem themselves they won the next two matches. Unfortunately they lost their next match to the Mission Bulldogs who would play Vielleux/Wang in the consolation game.

A. Wang and Vielleux won their first match but lost their second match to the eventual state champs, the Loyola Sacred Heart Breakers. They liked the feeling that came with winning, so they worked hard and won their next matches. Using the momentum they kept going and won their five consecutive matches, including a rematch against the team they lost to in the divisional championship game. They became the State B/C State 3rd place doubles team. They will be named all-state for the second year in a row.

Overall the Lady Longhorns took 5th out of B/C and 3rd out of Class C. They ended the season on a good note and represented the Longhorns well.



We are Longhorn Tennis!