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In This Edition

On the Cover:

Travis Epperson and Adam Mummey respectively participate in the Montana Rep Theatre impromptu exercise to strengthen their acting skills. Fellow members of the MHS Speech and Drama team, as well as actors from the Malta High School Spring and Fall plays participated in the workshop.

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And Much More!

Contact Us:

Want to share your thoughts or ideas? Send us a message.

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Montana Rep Theatre

Evie McCorkle
MG Staff

Twice a year the Montana Repertory Theatre comes to our school and performs a play with only a few select actors. This group is based out of the University of Montana, Missoula. They also conduct an acting workshop after the performance. Anybody who is in our school plays, speech and drama, or journalism is welcome to watch the play and attend the workshop. This year's play was *Raised in the Saddle* and the main actor in the play, name conducts the workshop.

The play was about a small town country girl who was following her dreams of rodeoing professionally.

In the workshop they did acting games and activities like bus stop. Bus stop is a game where one person is sitting at a bus stop, and your job is to sit next to them and give them a reason to leave, usually by making them uncomfortable without touching them. Senior Adam Mummey has

participated in this event all throughout high school and says that even though he is not pursuing a career in acting, that the Montana Repertory Theatre and workshop has thoroughly improved his acting skills and prepared him for a career in this field. Perhaps a back-up plan. His inspiration for his high school acting career is "my speech and drama coach, play director, and art teacher Mrs. Labrie."

Montana Repertory Theatre was

founded as a touring company in 1967. With the help of the Montana Arts Council, the Montana State Legislature, and the University of Montana, MT rep is able to maintain the most affordable fees for a touring theatre.

The company is completely self-reliant. Everything from lights to stage props are set up by the very few actors in the plays performed. Montana Rep offers the opportunity for anybody to see first-class theatre affordably. Information from <http://montanarep.org/about/>.



Featured above: MHS students participate in the Montana Rep. Theatre's acting exercise. Photo courtesy of Evie McCorkle.

The Newest Addition

Joanie Sjostrom
MG Staff

As Coach Jim Benn is the newest addition to our teaching and coaching staff this year, I decided to interview him and learn some more about him.

Coach Benn grew up in Frenchtown, Montana where he first discovered his love for Spanish and football. He played football all throughout high school and his coach was a big influence on his life and a positive role model that made him love the game even more. Coach Benn also took Spanish classes every year in high school, and he vacationed to Mexico during his high school years which really pushed him toward his passion for Spanish. He attended a few different colleges; minored in history and studied abroad in Spain for his Spanish major. His first teaching job was in Corvallis, but has since taught in Manhattan, Huntley Project, and Ronan.

After coaching high school students for so long, Coach Benn says his favorite part about it is getting to interact with the kids, building relationships with them, and it's a fun and exciting overall experience. I then asked him what pushed him toward the opening teaching/coaching position here in Malta, and he replied with, "There's a lot of tradition in the football program here, it had a combination of all the things I like; I got to teach Spanish, I got to teach history, I got to be a football coach, help out Mr. Schye with track, and I knew it would be a good situation



Featured above: Coach and teacher Jim Benn. Photo Courtesy of Jane Knudsen.

for my family." When I asked him about his honest thoughts about Malta, he told me that everyone has been very welcoming, his son, Cormac, immediately made friends, and that Malta is, "a jewel on the Hi-Line." Coach Benn is also housing our two foreign exchange students this year. He has worked with the company that is in charge of sending students abroad and it worked out perfectly for Magnus and Shozaburo to come stay temporarily with him and his family. Coach Benn likes having foreign exchange students because it opens up the world to them and to the places they visit.

The most interesting thing about him, he says, is that most people work for a living but he gets to have fun for a living because he enjoys teaching and coaching. He gets to do what he loves everyday and most people never get the chance to do that.

The Run Down on ReAct

Leslie Young
MG Staff

ReAct is a group that allows kids to be themselves and it's a place where nobody judges you. It's just there so kids aren't doing activities that aren't safe for them or their environment, instead they can be having fun. The activities we do are FNA (Friday Night Alive) and that's where we go to Trafton park and play capture the flag in the dark. The flag is a bandana with a glow stick on it.

If you want to know how to play the game or what happens come to the ReAct meetings or ask a friend if they know anything about it. Another fun thing we do is we have lock-ins after snowball and prom. What we do there is we either watch a movie or we play hide and go seeking in the dark. The doors will close at like 10:30 or 11. So if you aren't there in time make sure to contact someone you know is there so they can let you in. After the doors are locked then nobody can leave until the morning or if your parents tell the adviser that it's ok for you to leave. The adviser for ReAct is Sonia Young. She has been working with kids for many years. She likes working with the youth, and she likes to hear what the kids have in mind and what they think we should do next for our lock-ins or what game we should play. Sonia is the adviser because she likes working with kids and she works with the Montana Tobacco use prevention program and it's part of her job to be a youth adviser and to get teens involved in youth advocacy.

The president for ReAct is Dawn Jenkins. She choose to run for president because she

thought it was the best way to make sure she got involved in decisions. She has been in ReAct for 3-4 years. Her favorite part about ReAct is the lock-ins. "I like the food and staying up until 6 AM, and playing video games. It's a lot of fun." She encourages others to join because we don't have to do much and there is almost always food, and why not? When the Friday Night Alives are going on we want more people to join. The vice president is Brita Giblette and what she does is when Dawn can't be at the meetings or isn't available, then that's where Brita would step in and take over. The secretary is Chloe Hunter she writes down what size of t-shirt people will need or what different events we want to plan, and things like that. If you plan on running for one of these positions in the future and you need ideas then go and talk to one of these three or even talk to Sonia.

ReAct doesn't require money to join and you can bring anyone in high school to the late night activities. If you're interested in joining ReAct then when Tara announces the meeting during study hall then come and see what we do and see if you're interested.

HUGE REMINDER!!! There is a lock-in after snowball and the theme is glow in the dark so bring a white t-shirt so we can draw on it with special markers. We plan on staying inside but just in case bring something warm to wear. And if you have any ideas for the glow in the dark/ black light lock-in then contact someone to tell them your idea. You can also contact the group by adding 81010@2react and you will get reminders when the meetings are or when Friday Night Alives are and at what time. So come join ReAct!!!!!!

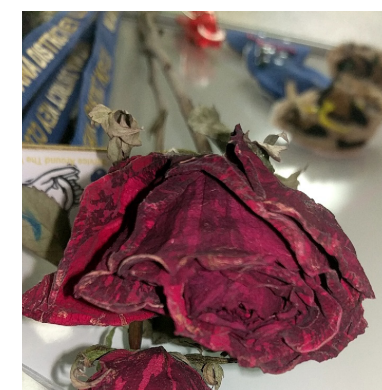
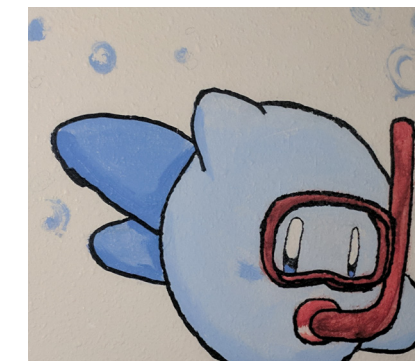


Above: Jouniors Rania Mortenson and Janessa Malmend pose for the picture at the ReAct meeting. Photo Creds: Evie McCorke

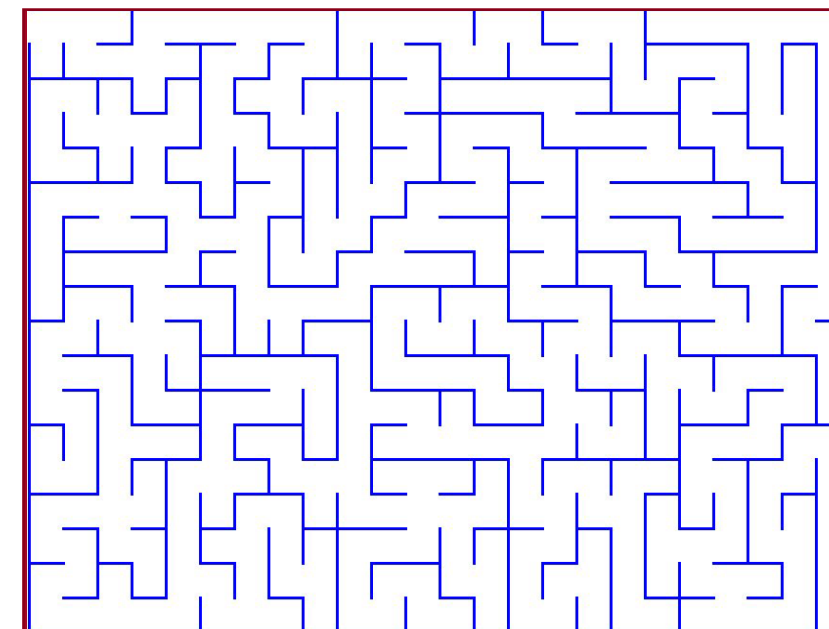
PHOTO HUNT

Photos By Evie McCorkle

Directions: Examine all photos & determine the MHS room where it is located. Prizes will be given to the top two students that turn in answers to Mrs. Pankratz.



Are You A-MAZ-ing?



Club Meetings

FFA: Monday's during lunch

Key Club: Board meeting's-Monday's

Regular Meeting's-Tuesday's during lunch

Re-ACT: Wednesday's during study hall

FCCLA: Wednesday's during lunch

BPA: Thursday's during lunch - ITV Lab

Student Council: Thursday's during lunch

REMINDER

Big Sky State Games of Montana

Annabelle Giblette
MG Staff

The Big Sky State Games is an Olympic style sports festival for people of all ages and abilities that reside in the great state of Montana (and surrounding states). The games reoccur annually during the Spring and Summer seasons, in Billings, Montana. The Games are a member of the National Congress of State Games and recognized by the United States Olympic Committee. The Big Sky State Games has grown since the inaugural year in 1986 when 3,376 athletes participated in 12 sports, to 10,000 athletes competing in 35 sports last year. During the past thirty one years over 300,000 athletes from over 250 Montana communities have participated in the Games. The Big Sky State Games rank number one in the nation in per capita participation. The State Games concept was developed in New York in 1978 with the Empire State Games. Last year, over 400,000 athletes competed in State Games in 30 states across the nation. State Games feature the sports of the Olympic and Pan-American Games, as well as emerging sports and local favorites. They attract athletes of a wide variety of ages, backgrounds, and skill levels, bringing out future and former Olympians as well as athletes for whom State Games are a real career highlight. I chose to interview a variety of local citizens who previously attended the BSSG. One of which had coached me during my very first year. Another one of my interviewees was Kayla Judd, a freshman here at Malta High School, and volleyball player. I asked her a variety of questions all pertaining to her time participating with me in the youth volleyball competition, in years both 2015, and 2016, during the summer games. "To those new to the Big Sky State Games, just make sure you're having a blast and have outstanding sportsmanship." She relayed to me a few



teams she remembered us playing, all from Montana.

When I asked her if she was going in the future, she replied "Maybe, if there was an opportunity, I would go, because the Games are super fun. I gained a stronger bond with my team and learned more about the game of volleyball." She continued, " I know that it's going to be fun every year, plus I love travelling to Billings and going to all of the yummy food places in the meantime."

The events played during the Spring version of the BSSG are: curling, dancesport ballroom, dancesport stage, figure skating, and ice hockey. The events played during the Summer version of the BSSG are: archery, arm wrestling, adult basketball, scholastic basketball, biathlon, billiards, bowling, cycling, disc golf, equestrian horse shows, fencing, flag football, golf, handball, judo, karate, lacrosse, pickleball, racquetball, road racing, roller skating, rugby, shooting, the soaked run, adult soccer, scholastic soccer, youth soccer, softball, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, track and field, triathlon (both single and team), ultimate frisbee (team and individual), volleyball (adult, doubles, scholastic, and youth), weight lifting (Olympic and power lifting), and wrestling.

The game's major sponsors are as follows: KOA, First Interstate Bank, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana. For opening ceremonies: Wendy's. Other community sponsors include: Billings Clinic, Underriner Motors, Billings Public Schools, Cabela's, United Properties Inc., Kenco, Scheels, and Bobcat of Big Sky Inc. The board of directors include: Mike Frank (President), Mark Beckman (Vice President), Harlan Krogh (Treasurer), and Alex Tyson (Secretary). The directors are: Paige Spalding, Jerry Hanson, Lonn Sauders, Judy Martz, and Dan Walker as Emeritus Director. Residents in bordering states are invited to participate.

Our Running Adventure

JOANIE SJOSTROM
MG STAFF

As this year's cross country season has come to an end, here is a little overall review of how the team did. The team this year consisted of two coaches and eleven runners. Thea Solberg was the head coach and Fallon Handley was the assistant coach. The seniors were TaChante Cole, Monicha Williamson, and Joanie Sjostrom; the juniors were Chloe Hunter, Reese Sjostrom, Taylor Gilkerson, and Taylor Eggebrecht; the sophomores were Jillian O'Brien and Kaycee Bond; and the freshman were Leslie Young and Danie Rhodes. The team ran a total of eight meets this season including

the state meet. At the beginning of the season, the team took second place in Poplar on August 26th and took first place in Wolf Point on September 1st. In their home meet at the Marion Hills Golf Course on September 9th, they took third place. In Shelby on the 25th of September, the team took first place, and on the 30th of September, they took third at the Glasgow meet which was held at Fort Peck. On October 13th, they ran at Harlem and managed to win second place. At the state meet, which was held in Helena, the team placed tenth overall. After a long season, in general, the team did very well and can't wait for next season to come again.



L. to R.: Reese Sjostrom (Junior), Kaycee Bond (Sophomore), TaChante Cole (Senior), Joanie Sjostrom (Senior), Jillian O'Brien (Sophomore), Danie Rhodes (Freshman), Leslie Young (Freshman), and Thea Solberg (Coach). Not pictured: Monicha Williamson (Senior), Chloe Hunter (Junior), and Taylor Eggebrecht (Junior). Photo: Mr. King

Snowball 2017

Date: Friday ~ December 29th

Time: 9:00 pm - 12:00 am

9:00 pm Father/Daughter Dance

Place: Malta High School Cafeteria

Tickets Cost: \$25.00 per couple

\$15.00 for each single

School Song Mad Lib

ANNABELLE GIBLETTE
MG STAFF

Join in the _____(noun) for the Blue and White,
Uphold its standards with all your _____(noun)
_____ (verb) 'em on the floor how to make a score,
Everybody _____(verb),
For we're going to start to
_____ (verb) MALTA HIGH SCHOOL, _____(verb), _____
(verb), _____(verb),
Fight Malta High, with all your Might,
It is up to _____(proper noun) to _____(verb) the White
and Blue,
Fight on to Victory,
M-U-S-T-A-N-G-S

FAKE IT TILL YOU MAKE IT

EVIE McCORKLE
MG STAFF

On August 31st our small Mustang Gazette Staff went on a short and sweet field trip to the Phillips County News Office to get some tips and tricks on writing leads and articles. A tip I found very helpful was "fake it till you make it". Mark Hebert emphasized this greatly and I agree. He gave us all a paper and we interviewed each other about how our summers were. From our interviews we had to write a compelling lead with the information we found out. Another tip he gave us was "don't fall in love with your words as you typed them because there is a good possibility that someone is going to copy, edit, and change them." This is very prevalent information to us journalists. I think sometimes we forget that our words aren't just ours and that other people are going to edit and see

them. In previous years we have also interviewed our peers and written leads. The PCN is where our staff goes for any questions we may have about editing, pictures, printing, anything really. We also print our paper from the same company that the PCN does, and if time allows, the PCN and the Mustang Gazette are brought back to Malta from the printer together. Compared to previous years our staff has dramatically changed, from a staff of 12 to a staff of four (plus Mrs. Pankratz). Over these few years that we have visited Mark and his staff, we have both become way more prepared. In the beginning we did not know what to expect, we had no idea what Mark had in store for us, and vice versa. This year we got to meet a new member of the PCN Staff. His name is Langston and he's an adorable blue heeler that's curious about everyone and everything.

ACT Test
2017 Test date: December 9
Registration Deadline: November 3
Late Registration: November 4-17
Photo Upload: December 1

Becoming a Page

Story by Joanie Sjostrom
Photo Courtesy of Joanie Sjostrom

Earlier this year I was invited by our local senator and representative to participate as a page in both the Senate and house side in this years Legislative session at the State Capitol in Helena.

Being a page for a week in both the senate and house side of the legislature, taught me a lot about our state government. A page is someone in high school who helps out at the capitol for a week running errands, meeting government officials, and learning about the different jobs the capitol has to offer. In being a page, I learned how the capitol works, who does what, what is voted on and how that is decided, and how people communicate with their local senators and representatives. Getting involved in government at a young age can be difficult, because there are limited options to how you can learn and people won't take you as seriously. As someone who is interested in politics and our government, being a page was the perfect opportunity for me to learn up close about how the government really works.

Becoming a page is not so easy and it's not something that everyone can do. First of all, being interested in government is important because it will not be as interesting or as enjoyable for you if you aren't. Second, you must be invited by any senator or representative from around the state and be either a junior or a senior in high school to be their page for a week during the legislative session. I was invited by Senator Mike Lang to page in the Senate side, and by Representative Casey Knudsen to page in the House side. When I decided on doing this, I talked to Mr. King and told him about this opportunity, and he gave me a blue slip so I could make up my work for the week that I would be gone and it would be a school excused absence. Most students only get the chance to page once for either the house or the senate side. I was lucky enough to have the privilege of paging on both sides during this year's legislative session.

Because both sides generally function the same, it was quite similar paging for both sides. The dress code is the same, which states that everyone working in the capitol must be dressed in government official attire, and everyday for five days a week, I had



Featured above: L. to R. Senator Mike Lang, Lorna Lang, Joanie Sjostrom, and Deb Sjostrom. Photo Credits: Joanie Sjostrom

to be at the capitol at eight in the morning and I did not leave until about five at night. On the morning of the first day I got to meet the other pages and our advisor. We were then given the grand tour of the capitol and shown where the messages were kept for us to deliver and where the floor sessions happened. Every morning we started out by checking and delivering the senators and representatives messages to their desk on the floor or their office. Most of these messages were printed out and put into a box on the first floor that we checked every few hours to deliver. These messages consisted of people from around the state either calling or emailing their senator or representative to let them know their concerns on a bill

and/or which way they should vote. After we were finished delivering the messages, we met up with the pages from the other side and went on a tour of some sort. Every day we toured something different. We toured the Law Library, the Montana Historical Society Museum, the Supreme Court Chambers, made a trip up to the top of the capitol dome, and we even got an hour to meet with Governor Bullock. When we met with Bullock, we were allowed the chance to ask him different questions about him and his government experience. When we got back from our tour, it was time for lunch. For lunch we either ate in the cafeteria or we left the capitol for lunch. We had from noon until the floor session started for our

lunch hour. The floor sessions always started at one o'clock in the afternoon to vote on and discuss the bills at hand. Senators/Representatives from the democratic and republican sides took their turns debating and expressing their thoughts on whatever bill was at hand. While this was going on, the pages sat up front in front of the speaker of the house and waited to be needed. If a senator or representative needed something, they would call for us by hitting their call button. The different types of errands we would run for them varied from running a message to someone across the capitol or going down to the cafeteria and getting them something to eat. Most of the time after running our errand for someone, we were given a tip from that person whether they were a senator, representative, or anyone else. On top of getting tips, pages are also paid minimum wage to do their job. Besides getting paid while paging, I still had to take care of getting myself to Helena, finding a place to stay, and paying for my own meals.

Besides all of the similarities, there are many differences too. While I paged on the senate side, there were only three pages including me, and I had more time to get to know the senators on a personal level and ask more questions because there aren't as many of them (there are 50 senators and 100 representatives). And because there are half as many senators as there are representatives, there were less messages to deliver so us pages had more time to explore the Capitol and sit in on different committee meetings. There are many different hearings and committee meetings that range from judiciary to agriculture.

I also got the chance to sit in on the judiciary committee meetings while paging on the Senate side. These committees are made up of either a group of senators or a group of representatives that listen to people of the public explain their pros and cons of the bills that are introduced. While I was paging on the House side, there were eight pages including me and we had twice as many messages to deliver so we did not have the time to get to know and talk to as many representatives or sit in on the committee meetings they were a part of.

Aside from working all day, there were many fun parts to being a page. You got to meet many different senators and representatives from around the state, learn about every part of the capitol, and meet other kids interested in government. I had many chances to speak to any of the senators or representatives, and ask them questions. There were even a few nights when I got invited to a dinner for a committee or a special occasion by a senator or representative. My favorite part, was getting to sit in on the floor sessions. I loved listening to the debate on why everyone should vote a certain way on all the bills, seeing which way everyone decided to vote, and seeing whether or not the bill passed.

After getting to know Representative Knudsen and Senator Lang better, I decided to ask them some government related questions. First, I decided to ask them the obvious, what inspired them to get involved in government work. Representative Knudsen responded by telling me that he thought he would be the better representative for the people in our district than the other candidates. Senator Lang explained that he was tired of the apathy of people and wanted to re-establish the bar to get more people to want to be involved in their government. Becoming involved in local government is very important and easy, so I asked them both where the best place is to do that. They both replied in saying that city council meetings, school board meetings, and talking to the mayor and county commissioners are some of the best ways to get involved locally. Then, I proceeded to ask why it is important to get young people involved in local government. "Young people are literally the next generation of leaders. Also, young people haven't had their crazy ideas shot down by the world as much yet, and I think that extra little bit of fearlessness is a good thing," says Representative Knudsen. Senator Lang replied with, "Young people should listen to their elders and then make decisions. It is important to learn the issues that do and will affect our state and nation. Being an accountable person is a must today." For my last question, I asked Senator Lang and Representative Knudsen what they would like to see the pages do to get more involved in the work done around the capitol. Their answers were similar when they said that they would like to see the pages get more involved in going to the hearings and committee meetings that revolve around their interests.

Being a page was such an eye opening experience for me and has helped me to further decide my future career plans. I highly recommend looking into being a page if you are at all interested in government. If I had the chance, I would do it all over again.

The Latest on the Snack Cart

Annabelle Giblette & Leslie Young
MG Staff

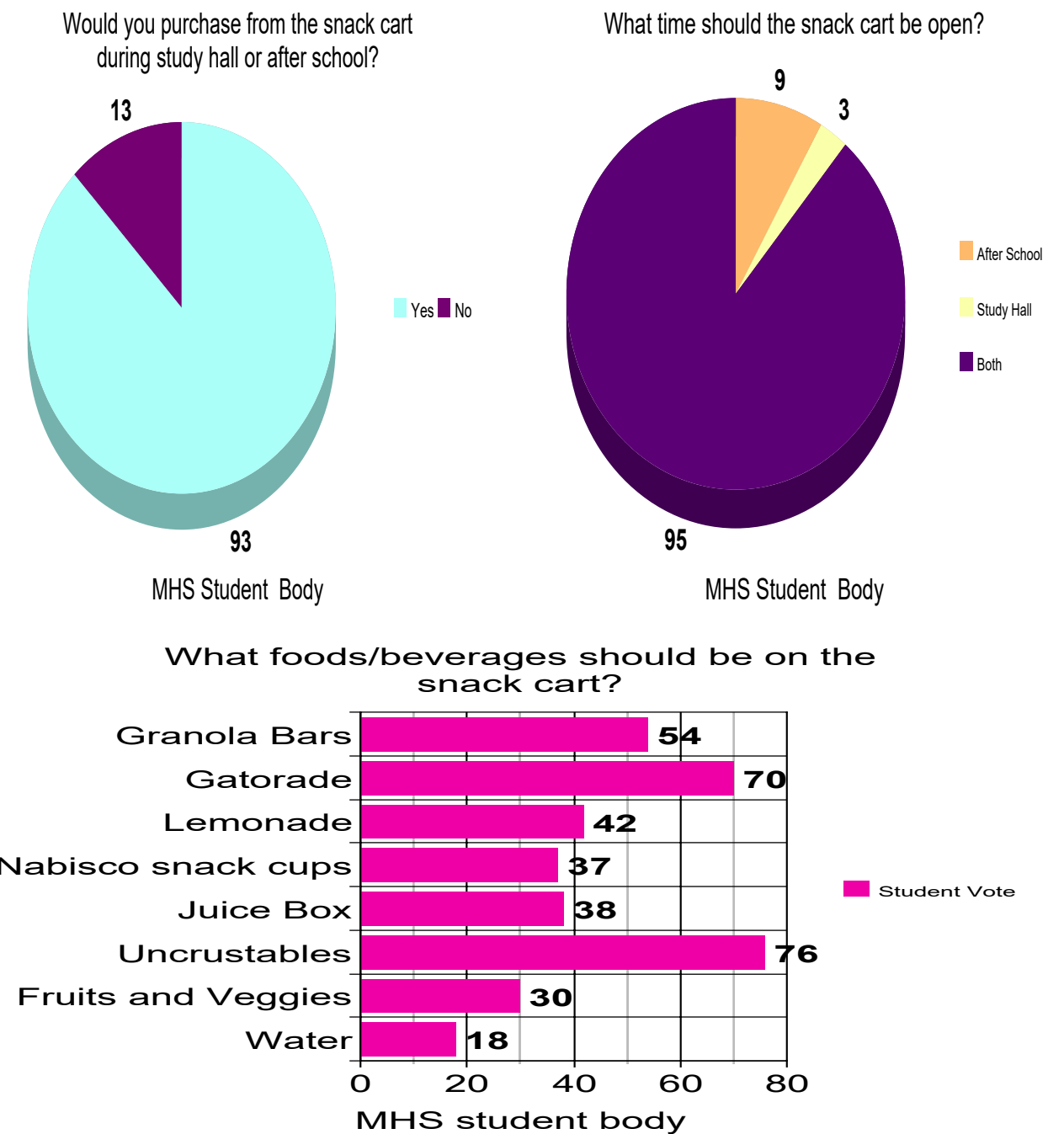
The famous student-known school snack cart is looking to be extended to be open during study hall as well as the original after-school time. We decided to interview Mrs. Coleen Costin about her thoughts and to gain better insight on this Business Professionals of America (BPA) fundraiser. She began to describe the reasons for the group's efforts toward the cart, describing that it provides money to attend regional, state, and national conventions for the students. "Jerky, Uncrustables, Propel, Granola Bars, and Rice Krispy Treats are some of the items our cart contains at this point in time." Mrs. Costin

said as we asked her a few more questions on the contents.

When we questioned her about the how the business was going, she said happily "Business has been really good this fall. Middle school kids have been coming as well as high school students."

She answered our final question with the final thought of " We want students to know that they can come to buy healthy snacks after school, and we are looking to bring back the study hall snack cart."

For the finale, we decided to conduct a student body survey, consisting of three questions:



Addiction and Our Community

Evie McCorkle
MG Staff

Why do people think drug addiction should be treated as a disease instead of a criminal offense? Well, let's start with the definition of both. According to dictionary.com Addiction is the state of being enslaved to a habit or practice or to something that is psychologically or physically habit-forming, such as narcotics, to such an extent that its cessation causes severe trauma; Disease is any harmful, depraved, or morbid condition, as of the mind or society. Addiction is seen as a disease because it is a harmful condition that alters certain organs of the body, like the brain. To treat addiction we have things like rehab centers, self help classes, and substance abuse counselors. Just like disease, we have treatments and centers to help with their ailment.

According to the United Nations office on drugs and crime, the percent of prisoners whose main offense is the sale/possession of drugs and is treated for drug abuse is only 7 thousand people per 1 million residents that are incarcerated. Compared to other countries this number is very small. Our country is the highest in usage of prescription/non-prescription opioids, and the second highest for marijuana.

Should drug addiction be treated as disease or a criminal offense? To get some perspective on this topic I interviewed our Phillips County Undersheriff, Burt Peigneux. On this question, he brilliantly stated that addiction is not a disease at first, but it can and does turn into one. He has seen this firsthand, people that physically depend on a certain drug. For the younger people who are using it once in awhile, it's not a disease. People have to hit rock bottom before they're going to realize that they cannot continue living the way they are. According to Peigneux, they are doing all they can do to help these people. There is drug rehab programs in the prisons that these people have to complete, and after they're released it's up to them to stay clean. "You can only help a person so much, they have to want to help themselves first", Peigneux stated. He also believes that there

should be more resources to help people with problems like these. The nearest places for classes are Fort Belknap and Glasgow.

"I've been here 18 years and the drugs are worse now than they've ever been" Peigneux said when asked about the drug problem in our community. The availability of drugs in Malta is at an all time high and our law enforcement is trying their hardest to get this under control. These drugs used to be more common on our surrounding reservations, but it has now found it's way here. It's so much harder to find and incarcerate the people supplying it than it is the people using. Just because they get a tip on who is doing it, dosen't mean they can just bust in and arrest them, and that is why this is getting out of hand. There is an anonymous number you can call and leave an anonymous tip(654-1234, the call is not recorded), or you can call the dispatch. You can also talk

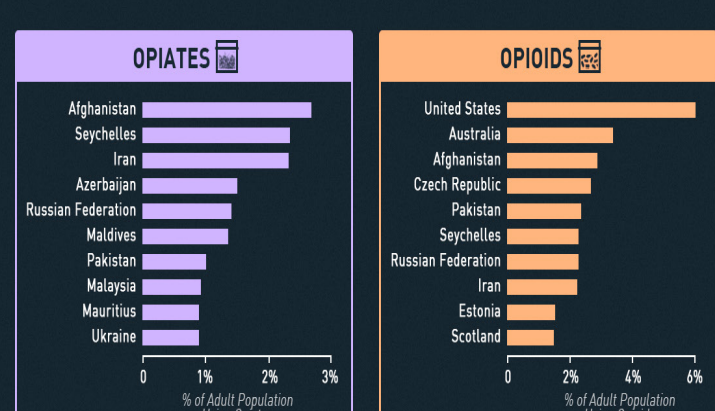
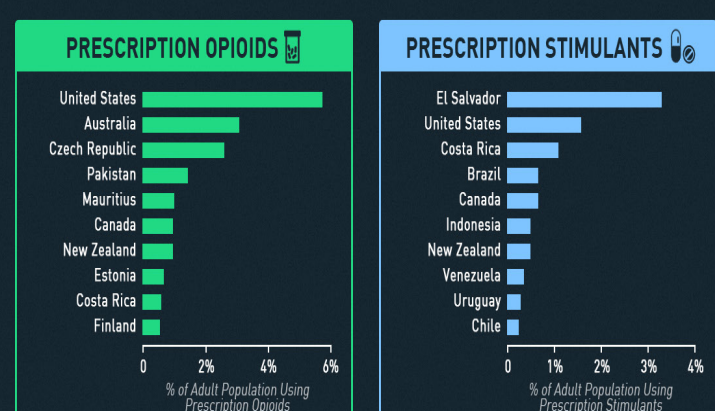
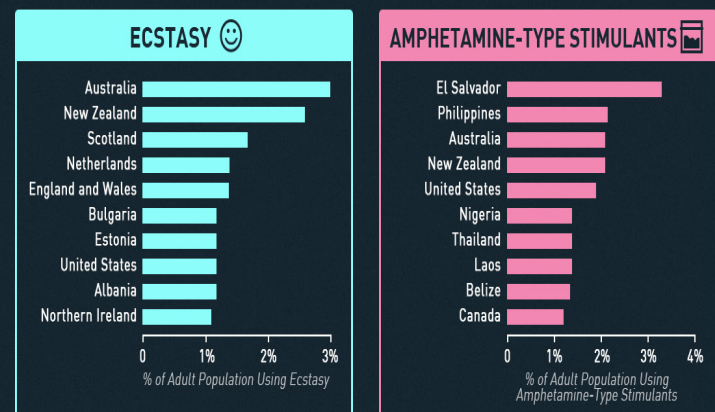
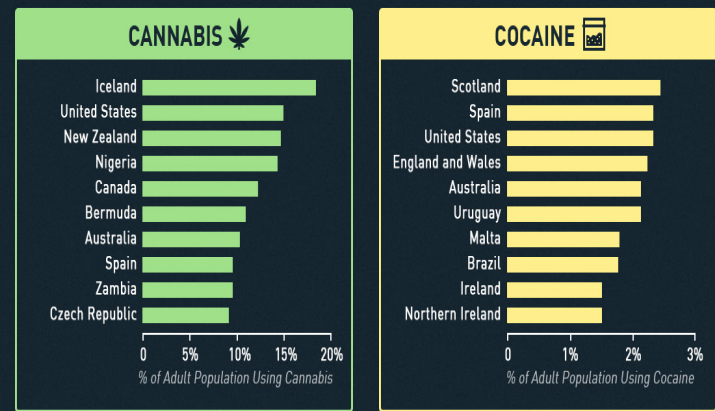
to any member of the sheriff's department and they will keep your identity a secret.

While incarceration does help to combat this seemingly never-ending problem, it's not the only answer. The problem with incarcerating people right now is money. There is not enough room and funds to incarcerate all offenders. Different methods used by our sheriff's department to help individuals stay clean while they're on probation include: the drug patch, ankle monitor, or scheduled Breathalyzer appointments. The drug patch has had significant success in keeping people clean. These are successful because the people on it know that if they screw up, there is a consequence. The problem however is that right when these people get off the drug patch, they're right back at it and using again.

Although we may not have the best system for treating these cases we are still trying our hardest to combat this increasing problem, not just in our community but worldwide. I think that this problem, especially in our community is not going to slow down until we have better resources to help treat the people who need and want this help. The best thing we can do to help is raise awareness. I firmly believe that drug using and becoming addicted is not a disease at first, but it does and can develop into one.



THE TOP DRUG-USING COUNTRIES, BY DRUG



Source: <https://data.unodc.org> RecoveryBrands.com

Urban Legends - Not for the Faint of Heart

Annabelle Giblette
MG Staff

Six weeks ago, Mrs. Anna LaBrie started to gather different plays together and decide which one was worthy enough to be performed for the citizens of Malta and surrounding areas as an audience. One week later, LaBrie decided on "Urban Legends" and had held play auditions to see which student suited the part of each character. On Monday, October 23 and Tuesday, October 24, the play was unveiled.

"Urban Legends" is a play based on a group of horror tales that some may relate to reality. The legends include many examples of dark humor. Some of the tales may be familiar to the average audience, and others may not. They may be told as a basic horror story that you may have heard as a child. The audience may have gotten a few spooks, or cold shivers as they became intrigued with the tales of which the actors portrayed. The students involved in the play did a wonderful job of keeping the audience members involved in the stories. The students involved in "Urban Legends" ranged from middle school to high school students. The cast included: Adam Mummy, Travis Epperson, Dawn Jenkins, Erika Nagy, Keith Epperson, Camryn Messerly, Bonnie Jones, Turk Salsbery, Michael Pugh, Emma Harms, Jacob Czereda, Kaycee Bond, Ryder Anderson, Celine Crasco, Izzie Hallenburg, Ben Costin, and a last minute fill-in, Blake Watts. The stage crew consisted of Jordan Markuson (lights), Reese Brown (sound), and lastly Clay Hallenburg and Madyson Warburton (stage hands).

When interviewing Mrs. Anna LaBrie, high school art teacher and play director, further insight was gained. LaBrie said that the actors held regular practices in the auditorium, usually from 6 o'clock to 8 o'clock p.m.. LaBrie shared "I only changed a little bit about the original play, that being the gangster scene, with the originally written male parts being played by Celine Crasco, Bonnie Jones, and Camryn Messerly, which I edited to female."

"I'm very glad I picked this play. It really made the kids test their acting jobs. The play in the past were mostly comedies, and this play pushed their limits and expanded horizons," LaBrie stated.

The other play during this school year will be held in the spring on March 26th and 27th.

EDITOR'S NOTE: MG Staff's Annabelle Giblette's article above was featured in the Phillips County Newspaper.



Featured above: Clockwise from top left - Kolter Schipman, Taylor Matthews, David Skiff, and Sidney Meeks. Photo Credits: MG Staff.

Why Not Weight?

Joanie Sjostrom
MG Staff

As the weights class is a favorite among many students in our high school, here is a little insight on the class from a few individuals taking weights this semester.

After spending some time with the weights class, I was able to interview a few of the kids on their thoughts on the class. I interviewed Kolter Schipman, a junior, Sidney Meeks, a freshman, and Taylor Matthews, a senior. Schipman has been apart of the class for two or three years, Meeks is on her first semester of weights, and Matthews has been in it for two years. I asked them why they signed up for the class, Matthews and Schipman said they joined to get stronger and enhance

their athletic ability, and Meeks said she joined because her brother told her to. I then proceeded to ask them what they liked and disliked about weights class. Schipman likes arm and leg day, and he dislikes the snatch workouts. Matthews likes chest and shoulder day, and dislikes sprint days. Meeks likes getting to see Mr. Sargent everyday and she dislikes the smell of the other guys in her weights class. They also had their own advice to give kids who are not in weights but should be. Meeks says that you shouldn't be embarrassed to do the workouts, Schipman says that the class is fun, and you get to better yourself, and Matthews says that you should work hard everyday in class.

For anyone interested in joining or learning more about weights, you should talk to Mr. Sargent or any of the kids in the class.

National Anthem Protests

Civil Disobedience or Blatant Disrespect

Story by Taylor Eggebrecht
PHOTO FROM ABC NEWS, HUFFINGTON POST, USFLAG.ORG



Former NFL quarterback, Colin Kaepernick, starts a worldwide debate after choosing to take a knee as the national anthem is played at the beginning of every game. Kaepernick told NFL Media last August that he will not stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color. He argues that he has the right to his actions under his entitlement of freedom of speech. As this may be true, I believe that it is wrong for him or anyone to disrespect the flag and all those who fought for our freedom.

Kaepernick describes his reasoning for his actions as an awareness towards racism and black oppression. Many other NFL teams and players following in Kaepernick's footsteps label their reasoning due to black individuals getting shot by white policemen. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 47% of hate crimes are racially motivated. The Washington Post reports that unarmed black men are seven times more likely than whites to die by police gunfire. Most policemen are never charged for shooting black victims, and many believe this is due to the fact that prosecutors work with the police every day so they don't want to charge the officers they work with. In the last 10 years, more than 99% of cops that caused the death of a civilian were never charged with a crime. The high rate of fatalities amongst black men is believed to be because white people find black men scary and in return are more likely to believe the "feared-for-my-life defense." This observation can be proven by a 2017 study in the American Psychological Association's Journal of Personality and Social Psychology that concluded white people perceived black men as more muscular, heavier, taller, stronger, and more dangerous than white men of the same size and weight. A poll conducted in 2015 by the Associated Press-University of Chicago, discovered that a majority of white people believed that the criminal-justice system treated cops too harshly but treated blacks fairly. These people are the one who make up juries, and work as judges and prosecutors. The ones that see black people as scary and think cops are unbiased and don't care about the color of your skin.

That being said, police violence against black men is very rare and data proves that. In reality, a randomly chosen black man is highly unlikely to be a victim of police violence. Although it is true that white men deal with violence less often, this is consistent with the racial gap in violent crime that suggests the role of racial bias is small. Available data suggests that only 0.08% of black men are injured by the police each year, which is

almost the exact same for white men. People link racial disparities with bias, this comparison is false, as can be proven with an analogy involving gender: men are immensely more likely to undergo police violence than women are, while bias may play a part in that, it's not unreasonable to conclude that on average men are far more violent than women are. So, if black men commit violent crimes at higher rates than white men, that might be due to the disparity in the use of force from the police. The 2015 NCVS data show that black men are three times more likely to commit violent crimes than white men. The fact that cops are more likely to use force against people who commit violent crimes can explain the observed differences in the rates at which the police use force. This is not to say that bias and racism plays no role, as in some cases it definitely does, but it is an unlikely explanation for a large part of the discrepancy. People's beliefs are influenced by much more than just their personal experience, including the media. Racism throughout America is definitely alive and it's not something that should be ignored, but it is not a main cause of black deaths in police shootings. Therefore, it doesn't stand as a significant reason to disdain the flag and an anthem that gives honor to our blessed free country.

Other players and individuals have chosen not to partake in the national anthem due to comments made by President Trump on the matter. Trump tweets that, "If a player wants the privilege of making millions of dollars in the NFL or other leagues, he or she should not be allowed to disrespect our Great American Flag (or country) and should stand for the National Anthem. If not, YOU'RE FIRED. Find something else to do!" I agree with the message he's trying to get across, but the tone that he says it in and the name calling in other tweets he authored is not a mature or appropriate response. His comments on this issue have enraged many players in the league and caused the continuation of these non-violent protests. Teams have even chosen to remain in the locker rooms

and have no involvement at all in the national anthem. Which brings up the question as to whether or not NFL players are required to be on the field and traditionally participate in the national anthem as well as the legal actions to be taken if they refuse. The specific NFL rule pertaining to the national anthem can be found on pages A62-63 of the league rule book. It states: "The National Anthem must be played prior to every NFL game and all players must be on the sideline for the National Anthem. During the National Anthem, players on the field and bench area should stand at attention, face the flag, hold helmets in their left hand, and refrain from talking. Failure to be on the field by the start of the National Anthem result in discipline, such as fines, suspensions, and/or

the forfeiture of draft choice(s) for violations of the above, including first offense." In summation, players are only required to be on the sidelines and it is suggested, but not required that they stand at attention towards the flag. Therefore, players are not breaking league rules by kneeling, but their actions may still result in consequences decided on by their coach. Those choosing actions other than standing do have the constitutional right of freedom of speech. However, the Constitution only limits what the government can do. The NFL is not the government, so the Constitution cannot limit the NFL's actions. Individual player contracts give the owners the power to discipline or fire players for a variety of reasons, so it is legally possible for players to lose their job if they fail to stand for the national anthem.

It's no argument that Trump's comments were inappropriate for any man in such a high position of power and honor. New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees said it perfectly "I disagree with what the president said and how he said it. I think it's very unbecoming of the office of the President of the United States to talk like that to the great people like that. And obviously he's disappointed a lot of people. But as it pertains to the national anthem, I will always feel that if you are an

American that the national anthem is the opportunity for us all to stand up together, to be unified and to show respect for our country." He couldn't have been more right, this isn't about Trump. The flag doesn't represent Trump and standing up during the anthem isn't showing support for his comments, it's showing pride in a nation that deserves this action of respect.

Some teams have opted to stand with their arms locked to show that they are united and support each other. According to President Trump, players that choose to lock arms are showing support of the anthem and not protesting his remarks.

Steve King, a Republican congressman from Iowa agrees with Trump and states "Pro-Players have the right to freedom of speech. Owners do too and should exercise it by firing offending players."

I interviewed two people with different beliefs on the topic. The first, Thomas Olsen is a school teacher at Wolf Point High School. When asked if he believed that Kaepernick and other sports players actions in kneeling/not taking part in the national anthem is right, he said "Yes, them kneeling is right. I am a huge believer in our constitution and our constitutional right to express ourselves in a peaceful manner. There is a lot of racial injustice happening today and until this changes, it may damper the national anthem and the flag." I responded by saying "I agree that racial injustice is a problem, but why does it have to reflect badly on the flag-a symbol of pride for our country and the national anthem-a song of love and honor for those that keep us free?" His answer was "The NFL players have been clear it has nothing to do with our military or veterans, our country's flag is symbolized in a lot of places. The flag is on the same uniform of the policemen who killed innocent black men, the flag is also in every courtroom that has blatantly let a person walk out of courtrooms free of murder." My other interview includes answers from Angela Brotzman, a past U.S. soldier. When she was asked if she thought players taking a knee during the national was right, she answered by saying "No, wrong time and wrong place. They should have been at a police station or at the protest. All it did was cause more problems. When the two were questioned on their feelings in regards to President Trump's comments on the matter Olsen said, "President Trump should have never involved himself in the issue. He has had a personal vendetta against the NFL since they voted him not to be an owner...He has instilled a type of patriotism to his voters that has come with a hateful tone and as the commander and chief that is not his job." However, Brotzman says that she does agree with him by saying that it's not acceptable, but that he could have had some class about it.

Kaepernick defends himself saying this is all about unfair treatment of blacks, but he and the media have spun this in a way that people are no longer talking about the racial problems in America, discussion revolves around the NFL players actions, Trump's comments, whether or not players should suffer consequences for not standing, and individuals opinions on the subject. Because of her past occupation as a soldier I asked Brotzman if she felt that failure to properly participate in the National Anthem is disrespectful to soldiers and police officers that give their lives to keep us safe and free? She said "Yes, I do because I was a soldier and worked hard and am proud of what I did for our country, and fellow soldiers, who lost

their lives. So many police officers and firefighters have lost their lives for the safety of our country. So high paid football players trying to make a statement at a football game is not the place. Especially in front of thousands of soldiers, police officers, and firefighters, who gave so much to this country. So play football, that's what people want to see when watching tv or at a game. Not a black lives matter statement or what it is now a stand against Trump. Not the place for political topics."

Kaepernick himself spent part of his day retweeting messages about the protest and photos of players warming up for their games wearing #IMWITHKAP T-shirts. This has no longer became a protest for racial awareness, it's a political debate between the Kaepernick and Trump. Mike Huckabee was right on when he stated on Fox News "I wish that some of these players who get on one knee would get on both knees and thank God they live in the United States." I don't think anyone would argue the fact that America isn't perfect, we have social and racial injustices that need to be worked on, but people forget that we have life pretty good over here. Millions of soldiers and police officers go to work everyday, risking their lives to keep this country safe and free. The National Anthem has and always will be a sign of respect and pride of our freedom, a privilege that many of these millionaire athletes are disrespecting every time they refuse to stand.

These actions taken upon by pro-players have gone as far as to affect the worldwide population. A high school in Louisiana orders their athletes to stand during the National Anthem. The principal of Parkway High School says their school requires student athletes to stand in a respectful manner throughout the national anthem and failure to comply will result in loss of playing time and continued failure will result in removal from the team. This drew immediate response from the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana, putting this school on notice, warning them that forcing students to stand during the national anthem or punishing those who take a knee in protest is violating students' First Amendment rights. According to that statement, if students are entitled to their right of not standing than the school or sports head coach also has a right to punish players for their actions. If people want to follow the Constitution, than you have to follow it on both ends of things, it's not one-sided. Kids should have learned from the beginning of their childhood, actions have consequences. So yes, the school cannot force players to stand during the National Anthem, but they are also allowed to receive consequences from coaches due to their actions.

Media has made it's way to influence not only high schoolers and adults, but it has gone as far as to interfere with elementary sports teams. This influence is named, the Kaepernick Effect, a man who is amongst the most elite of us all in terms of income, but

presumes to lecture the rest of America about oppression. The Kaepernick Effect has spread to other sports players who are searching for some media attention and now it has made it's way to a team of 8 year old football players. The Cahokia Quarterback Football team from Belleville, Illinois consisting of 25 kids, 8 and under asked their coach if they too could kneel during the National Anthem played before their game. One of the players asked their coach if he had seen people protesting in St. Louis, when he responded with a yes, the player asked him if

he knew why they were doing it. Coach Orlando Gooden told his team it was because black people are getting killed and nobody's going to jail. After an explanation from their coach about that and other similar situations that have happened, one of the kids asked if they could do it. Coach Gooden told them "as long as we know why we're doing it, I don't have a problem with

any of it." But the problem with that is, did they actually know why they were taking a knee? Coach Gooden says he teaches his kids love, integrity, honesty, fairness, respect and boundaries, but these are not things Colin Kaepernick stands, or kneels for. He is an overly wealthy man using the media for his own attention seeking purposes, a action he has been allowed to do thanks to the many opportunities America has provided him with. The problem with Coach Gooden's statement of "as long as we know why we're doing it" isn't true for a team of third graders. They don't have the maturity to take on this issue. After a five minute conversation from their coach as to why he personally supports it does not give these children a full understanding as to what they're doing and why they're doing it. When asked his opinion on the issue Thomas said that students should have the same rights that anyone else does and as a coach, he would not take his players playing time away. He adds that a student should have the same rights as a pro athlete it all stems from our first amendment rights in the Constitution.

The National Anthem has always been a sign of respect and pride for our very honorable country. While it's no doubt that racism is a problem, kneeling in front of the flag and refusing to properly participate during the procession of the National Anthem is rude and disrespectful to our country and those that give their lives to keep us safe and free. There are better ways of raising awareness about racial injustice that these multi-millionaire players should begin exercising. Doing so in a way that doesn't disregard the privilege of freedom that we as Americans are fortunate enough to receive.





HOMECOMING 2017

Photos by
Evie McCorkle



Spirit Week Winners

Annabelle Giblette
MG Staff

This year's Malta High School Homecoming week was one to remember. Our homecoming royalty candidates were Ella Schye, Tel Jensen, Travis Epperson, Samantha Mitchell, Billie Orahoad, Konner Kuehn, Landon VanWichen, and Tachante' Cole. This year's homecoming royalty was Tachante' Cole and Travis Epperson. The class dress-up results resulted in the Juniors leading at 57%, Seniors with 52%, Freshmen with 51%, and the Sophomores with 40%.

For Monday (Favorite Team Day), our girl winners were Tachante' Cole and Monicha Williamson, with the boys being Cole Boardman and Thomas Jaynes. For Tuesday (Crazy Grandparents Day), our girl winners were Shelby Ferrell and Ella Schye, with the boys being Payton Clausen and Dayton Hicks. For Wednesday (Nerd Day), our girl winners were Kayla Judd and Camryn Messerly, with the boys being Tel Jensen and Travis Epperson. For Thursday (Throwback Day), our girl winners were Sidney Meeks and Taylor Gilkerson, with the boys being RC Skiff and Landon VanWichen. For Friday (Blue/White Day), our girl winners were Wylee Young and Lily Maxie, with the boys being Tyler Arnold and David Skiff. The overall winners were Janessa Malmend, Kyleigh Schipman, Konner Kuehn, and Ben Costin.

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