

SEPTEMBER 2021 | VOL. 47 | ISSUE 1

THE REFINER

The Official Publication of North Toole County High School since 1954



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Thanks to a New Journalism Class, *The Refiner* Returns after a Several-Year Hiatus

by Trevon McKinley

We have a new journalism class this year. This class will be responsible for writing the school newspaper. The class only has three students: Curtis Bouttier, Jayden Almon, and Trevon Mckinley, and of course our high school English teacher Mrs. Taylor. Together we will publish a school newspaper every month. Here you will find news about things going on in the school, upcoming events, and interviews with staff and students. We might also include games such as crossword puzzles and word searches. We look forward to bringing you the information in a fun and orderly way!

"Journalism is merely history's first draft" -Geoffrey C. Ward



The USS New York at Sea

9/11 Remembrance

by Trevon Mckinley

Saturday, Sep 11th was the 20th anniversary of the tragic collapse of the twin towers. President Joe Biden made a speech on this day to commemorate the people killed and the sorrow felt by their families. He called for unity and for all Americans to remember the events and to "Never forget".

There is another tribute to the events of 9/11 that should be acknowledged. The *USS New York*, A San Antonio class transport dock, is a US battleship commissioned in 2007. It is a living, moving representation of America's ability to bounce back. The *USS New York* is crafted with the steel remnants of the world trade center. Every day, the ship's chaplain chooses the name of someone lost in the tragedy of 9/11 and honors them, sharing details about their life. Lastly, the ship has a beautiful motto of the American spirit: "Strength forged through sacrifice. Never Forget"

Sunburst schools (K-12) had a 9/11 recognition assembly to spread awareness of the events of 9/11 to young students. There was a short presentation explaining what happened that day and the rebuilding of the world trade center. With all of this in mind, we celebrated unity. Dan Nau, the principal at the elementary school, talked to us about how united the United States was throughout our hardships. He said, "Just look at what we can do when we all work together."



New York City's Twin Towers



Sunburst schools' 9/11 collage

"The attacks of September 11th were intended to break our spirit. Instead we have emerged stronger and more unified.... We are more determined than ever to live our lives in freedom."

--Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani

Joe Biden Pulls Troops Out of Afghanistan

by Trevon McKinley

President Joe Biden made a promise to have all militant forces out of the middle east by Sep 11 of 2021. This was good news for troops and their families. Peace after 20 years of war with terrorist forces, such as ISIS, was in sight. President Joe Biden remarked, "a Taliban takeover would be highly unlikely." However, nobody can predict the future. The Taliban swept across Afghanistan taking it back city by city. Although the president might be able to hold his promise of evacuating all of our troops by September, that promise will have consequences. People are desperately trying to flee the Middle East for fear of the Taliban. Desperate escapes have led to many deaths. People, both Afghan natives and US citizens alike, are trying to flee from Afghanistan. Twenty four Sacramento students are stranded there. Attempts have been made to get them back but none have been successful.



Afghan citizens crowded onto a plane to get away

Sunburst Schools Back To Normal!

by Trevon McKinley



The year 2019/20 was a chaotic and confusing time. Nobody really knew what was happening or when it was going to end. In March of 2020, it was initially just a two-week quarantine to flatten the curve. Two weeks became a month. One month became three months, and three months turned into the remainder of the school year. Perhaps the worst part of it all was the mandate for masks. Students and teachers alike had to wear masks and socially distance themselves while in school. Luckily, we had it better than most. The majority of the schools across the US were exclusively doing online learning. Now, we are pretty much back to normal. Staff and students are welcome to wear a mask if they choose, but nobody is required to. Things are returning back to normal, fast. Sunburst schools are making a great recovery.

Senior Spotlight:

Cade Hanson

by Trevon Mckinley

Cade Hanson is graduating from Sunburst High School in 2022. He enjoys hunting, dirt biking, archery, and fishing. He plans to attend college for four years and may possibly become a helicopter pilot. Cade has made many great achievements at Sunburst High School. He has never failed a class and he started varsity sports as a freshman. He also participated in football, basketball, golf, National Honor Society, and pep band. He says he has benefited from the school by making good, long-lasting friendships. When asked about the downsides of the school, Cade mentioned the lack of class opportunities and the short lunch break. His favorite memory from his high school years was the Divisional Basketball Tournaments of his sophomore year.



Senior Cade Hanson

New year, New App!

by Trevon Mckinley



Sunburst School District has improved the school website. They have also made a new app available for your devices. This app is much more mobile-friendly and has constant updates on the news of the school. In the app, you can check out the feed which will update you on anything important such as upcoming events or COVID alerts. You can check out the events page to get a calendar of all upcoming events. Under athletics, you can get more details on sports and their schedules. Under the staff section, you will find a page of all staff and teachers working at Sunburst School and how to contact them. This app is easy to use and completely free.

Don't worry though, the journalism team will continue to write the school newspaper.

Sports Schedule

***KEEP IN MIND THAT TIMES MAY CHANGE. WE WILL TRY OUR BEST TO KEEP THINGS UP TO DATE. IF TIMES CHANGE, THE SUNBURST SCHOOL APP WILL INFORM YOU.**

**OCT 1
JH VB 4P/5P @ GFCC**

**OCT 1
CROSS COUNTRY GREAT FALLS
INVITE**

**OCT 2
JH/HS FB @ NORTH STAR
10:00/1:00**

**OCT 4 TO OCT 9
HOMECOMING WEEK**

**OCT 7
CROSS COUNTRY 7 VS 7 HELENA
PREVIEW**

**OCT 7
PICTURE DAY (INDIVIDUAL,
CLASS, AND SPORTS PICS)**

**OCT 8
HS VB VS AUGUSTA
(HOMECOMING) 5 PM**

**OCT 8 TO OCT 9
JH VB DISTRICT TOURNAMENT @
BELT**

**OCT 9
CROSS COUNTRY CASCADE INVITE**

**OCT 9
JH/HS FB VS VALIER - 3:00/6:00**

**OCT 13
PSAT/NMSQT**

**OCT 16
CROSS COUNTRY TOWNSEND**

**OCT 16
HS FB @ HEART BUTTE 1:00 PM**

**OCT 20 TO OCT 22
MEA DAYS (NO SCHOOL)**

**OCT 21
HS FB VS BOX ELDER 6:00 PM
(SENIOR NIGHT)**

**OCT 23
STATE CROSS COUNTRY @
MISSOULA**

**OCT 29
END OF THE FIRST QUARTER**

**THE NEWS ABOUT NOVEMBER'S
EVENTS WILL BE HERE IN NEXT
MONTH'S NEWSPAPER.**



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

FOOTBALL BY CURTIS BOUTTIER



During the first game of the season, the Refiners played furiously right out of the gate and ended with a final score of 33-52, nearly doubling Centerville's score.

When asked about the highlight of the football season so far, senior Moroni Smith said "Beating Centerville."

Photo by Lindsay Sandon Photos + Design

CROSS COUNTRY BY CURTIS BOUTTIER

For the first cross country meet, held in Cut Bank, the runners were nervous and excited at the same time. Cross country team members felt as if they had ample time to prepare for the meet. Said runner Gabby Cosme, "During the meet, I questioned why I joined cross country in the first place, but after it was over I was ready to do it again."

On Saturday, 9/25 Sunburst held a cross country invitational. Teams at the meet included Shelby, Heart Butte, Browning, and Cascade.

Photo by Lindsay Sandon Photos + Design



Classroom Connection

A Colossal Collection of Cool Characters in the Classroom



Sophomores work diligently in 2nd period English.



Students study studiously in 3rd period study hall.



Young scholars are eager to engage in 1st period Chemistry.



In the FCS room. Junior Paige Head demonstrates the proper folding of an apron.



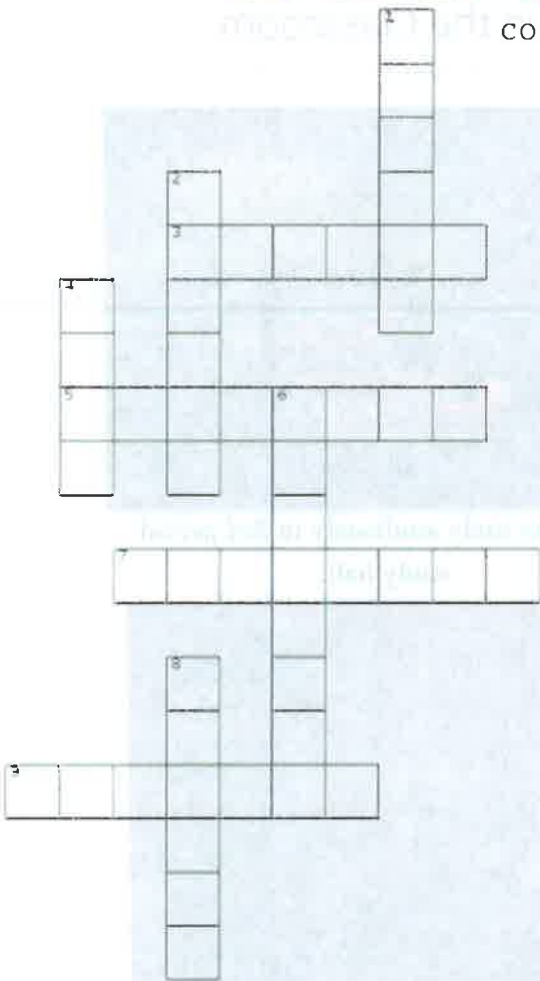
The Freshmen show off their fierce broomball skills in P.E.



Sabrina Martel fearlessly defends the goal..

Just for Fun

COMPILED BY CURTIS BOUTTIER



Jokes and Riddles

ACROSS

3. THIS SCHOOL SUPPLY HELPS WITH MISTAKES.
5. DON'T RUN WITH THIS SCHOOL SUPPLY IN YOUR HANDS.
7. YOU CAN DOODLE IN THIS IN YOUR FREE TIME.
9. HELPS WITH ORGANIZATION AND DUE DATES.

DOWN

1. HOLDS YOUR ASSIGNMENTS AND OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF.
2. NO 2 IS COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH THIS SCHOOL SUPPLY.
4. LEAST LIKED FASHION TREND OF 2020.
6. YOU WILL BE LOST IF YOU FORGET THIS PAPER.
8. HOLDS ALL OF YOUR NEW PAPERS.

Joke: What do dentists call their X-rays?

Riddle: What question can you never answer yes to?

Riddle: What can't talk but will reply when spoken to?

Answer 1: tooth pics
Answer 2: Are you asleep yet?
Answer 3: an echo

The Game Review

A Monthly Feature of *The Refiner*

Skyrim: The Elder Scrolls V: A Great Game

by Jayden Almon



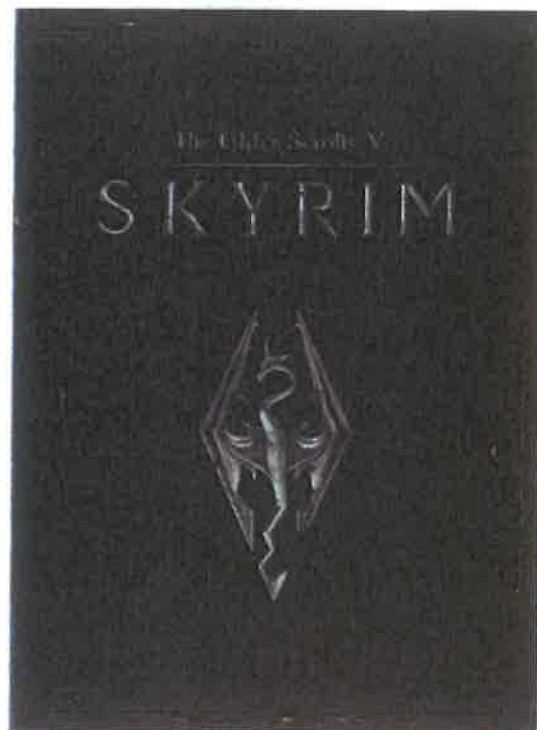
Skyrim is a single-player fantasy first-person RPG developed by Bethesda Softworks in 2011. I was first introduced to the game after finding it on the shelf which contained all of the video games that my father had, who likely got it when it was first released.

The game takes place within the fictional world of Nirn, on the massive continent of Tamriel during the 4th major era. Along with magic and many perils, Tamriel is a large and diverse continent with 10 different civilized races. There is nothing modern in the game...well, except for the many dwarven ruins dotted around Tamriel, but the dwarves have long since disappeared without a trace. *Skyrim*, the northernmost province of Tamriel, and the fifth entry in the series take place about 200 years into the fourth era. However, the game begins rather suddenly. You wake up on a shoddy wooden horse-drawn wagon, seeing others clothed in rags and their hands bound, (yours are bound as well). One speaks up "Hey, you! You're finally awake," he says, as you realize you are on a prisoner cart. As you ponder your destination, the rest of the prisoners bicker at each other, until the guard riding the wagon tells everyone to shut up. Everyone goes quiet as you all arrive at your destination, the chopping block at the town of Helgen.

The wagon stops and everyone is loaded off. Names are called on a list, and then, you are called. As you walk up, the man reading the list notices that you aren't on the list, however, the general calls for you to be punished anyway. So the man asks for your name and the character creator pops up. Now, I won't say anything past that, for you to find out yourself if you wish to play the game. Although this game may not be up your alley, that is fine.

The remainder of the game is spent exploring the continent of *Skyrim* and surviving the many perils therein.

I would recommend this game to anyone who enjoys fantasy-style RPGs. The game has some complex but good customization although it is a bit flawed. The game's graphics have aged poorly over time *and* it also has a limited number of voice actors--many of the voices you hear, mostly just the men, are the same, though this *is* one of the game's many charms. There is also a decent number of weapon archetypes, that number being 11, but there are 13 different metals the weapons can be made of, you know iron, steel, silver, glass, and ebony, just to name a few. There is also alchemy and enchanting as well, and boy it can get wild here. Even then, *Skyrim* is a great game with a pretty good story, an immense amount of sidequests, *but* there are some flaws here and there. The game does have its charms, and I would rate it a 7.5 out of 10. I have also heard news that a 10th-anniversary edition is coming out soon this year, for the newer consoles that came out.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MOMENTS

CONTRIBUTED BY THE 7TH AND 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

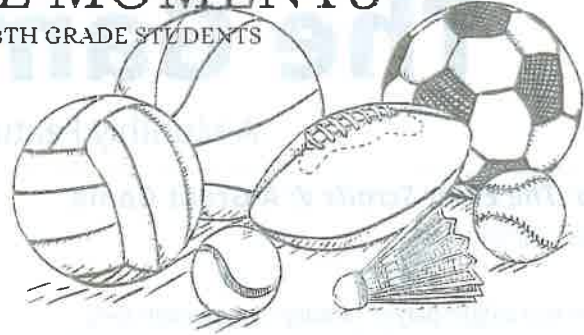
BY 7TH GRADER PARKER BERTHELOTE

The Sunburst Wildcats football team are 0-3. The 3 losses have come from Centerville, Power-Dutton-Brady, and Big Sandy. The Centerville game's score was 6-25 and the first drive of the season was a touchdown by fullback Ethan Samsal. In the Power-Dutton-Brady game, the Wildcats lost 0-26, but all of the points came in the 1st half. The only injuries for the year were in the first 3 plays of the Power-Dutton-Brady game when tailback Wyatt Rogers injured his foot when he was tackled by a PDB player whose name is Jenner. A quote from the injured player himself: "Stupid Jenner!"

On September 18, the Wildcats played the Big Sandy Pioneers, to no avail. The final score for that game was 13-38. The two touchdowns came from tailback/quarterback Devon Hutton. The next time you will see the Wildcats play will be against the North Star Knights in Sunburst on September 21st. The Wildcats will also play the Knights again the next week in North Star on October 2nd, and the Valier Panthers on October 9th (Homecoming Week).

The Wildcats volleyball have, as of 9/18, a 3-2 record. In the first game, the Wildcats lost to Simms 0-2, on September 9th, with the scores being 12-25 and 17-25. On September 11, the Wildcats beat the Valier Panthers 2-1. The scores were 25-23 Sunburst, 23-25 Valier, and 15-10 Sunburst. They have also beat the Heart Butte Warriors in 3 games. The first game was 25-19 Sunburst, then 25-19 Heart Butte, and then Sunburst came and won it all in the third match 15-5. On September 18, the Wildcats played the Cascade Badgers, beating them in 2 matches. The scores were 25-18 and 25-19. They then lost to the Belt Huskies in 2 matches, with scores of 25-7 and 25-9.

The upcoming schedule is for the Wildcats to take on the Power Pirates on Sept. 23 in Power and then the day after face the Dutton-Brady Diamondbacks on Sept. 24. On October 1, They then play the GFCC Mustangs in Great Falls. The Wildcats play in the North Star Invite on October 2 in North Star. For the Homecoming game, they play the Augusta Knights on October 8. Later that day, they compete in the JH District tournament @ Belt on October 8-9. For the last few games, they play Valier on October 15 in Sunburst, and Simms on October 16 in Sunburst.



SPORTS: VOLLEYBALL IS OUR PASSION

BY 8TH GRADERS ALI NAU & ELLA SAMSAL

Do you have a sport that you feel a passion for? Well, ours is Volleyball.

During the first part of our junior high volleyball season, about two weeks into practice, 8 out of the 12 girls on our team got quarantined. This left us with only 4 girls and unable to compete in our first games. This was a disappointment to all of us, but we used the opportunity for the four of us to grow closer. Although we had this setback, after the 8 girls returned from quarantine, we played our first match two days later versus Simms.

All of us were super excited to play and for most of our team, it was their first volleyball match ever! So far we have played 5 games against Cascade, Belt, Simms, Valier, and Heart Butte, leaving us with a record of 3-2.

On October 7th and 8th, we will travel to Great Falls to play in our tournament. We have lots of other games including two this week on Thursday against Power and Friday against Dutton/Brady. After that, we travel to Great Falls Central, and then to our tournament.

All of us are super excited, as we have a larger volleyball team this year letting us have an A squad and B squad. We have seven fifth-graders, three sixth graders, and two eighth-graders.

We are super excited to play this year. Everyone on the team is doing so well and we are seeing so many improvements. We can't wait to play more games!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MOMENTS

CONTRIBUTED BY THE 7TH AND 8TH GRADE STUDENTS



OPINION: THE TRANSITION FROM 7TH TO 8TH GRADE

BY 8TH GRADER JASPER MANTHEY

Alright, what do you think about change? I think that it's good. Many people think that it is bad because they can't figure out how to operate said change. So, today we're talking about the transition from seventh grade to eighth grade.

The transition felt like nothing. Summer felt like a very hot four-day weekend, but over that weekend I became a better student...well, a matched student at least. I can also recognize distractions. Notice I said *recognize* them, I still just follow the distraction rather than avoiding it.

I said the school feels like it didn't change. Well, I was kind of wrong. The order of the classes changed: the same teachers, just in a different order. My class is used to going from science to shop or cooking then to P.E., but now it is science to reading to shop, or cooking to P.E.. But since my class has all the same teachers we can know what to expect.

The school year isn't really that different, so it's harder to see the change, though a lot of us are taller or smarter, (but less mature).

The transition has its benefits, like teachers give us more leeway for everything. However they are also more strict because they know what to expect from us.

Change isn't as bad as some people think it's just harder.

"Change isn't
as hard
as some people think."

-Jasper Manthey

8th Grade



5th Graders Quarantine after 1st day of Class

BY JAYDEN ALMON

One day the fifth graders arrived at school only to find out that someone had been unknowingly infected with COVID. Consequently, they would spend the next 10 days in quarantine, enduring boredom and the extra difficulty of digital homework.

To the right of this column, you'll find the top ten things to do while quarantined, (after you have done your homework,) created by the 5th graders themselves:



Top 10 Things to do while in Quarantine

by Mrs. Chilton's 5th Grade Class

1. Play with family animals like dogs, cats, sheep, pigs rabbits, or ferrets
2. Play board games or card games with family, like Battleship, Sorry, Uno, Monopoly, or Life
3. Play video games or watch TV
4. Go on Google Meets with friends
5. Bake cookies or cake
6. Help in the garden or with plants
7. Work on drawing skills
8. Practice sports outside
9. Play sports in the yard with a sibling
10. Exercise inside by doing jumping jacks, sit-ups, push-ups, and running in place

Compiled by 5th-grade class

Typed by Emily B.



COFFEE WITH THE COUNSELOR

A MONTHLY REFINER FEATURE



Kerfoot Returns to NTCHS

by Jayden Almon

You may have noticed a new face in the halls of the high school, to some, an old friend. Mrs. Natalie Kerfoot has returned as the North Toole County School District's new counselor.

For those who don't know, Mrs. Kerfoot had been the counselor for the high school and elementary for 5 years before taking time away from NTCHS to teach at Hillside Colony. Prior to that, she was a kindergarten teacher in Sunburst for nearly 10 years. Upperclassmen remember her as their kindergarten teacher and later as the school counselor who replaced Mr. Hilstrom when he retired.

In order to become a school counselor, in Mrs. Kerfoot's case, she had to spend three years at MSU Northern to gain a Master's degree as she already had a Bachelor's.

After so long, it's good to have Mrs. Kerfoot back as the school counselor. Be sure to say "hi" to such a great person.

A NOTE FROM THE COUNSELOR:

BY NATALIE KERFOOT

Welcome back to a new school year! I'm thrilled to be back as your school counselor. For those of you that I didn't have the opportunity to work with and get to know, I look forward to it.

What is a school counselor? For me, it is a person that genuinely cares about kids and their well-being. You will find that I am one of your biggest fans and cheerleaders. I am here to encourage you to live your best life.

If you find you are struggling with academic, relationship, or future career issues, I am here to help. Listening is one of my strongest attributes.

One of the best things you can do to live your best life is positive self-talk. Train your tongue to say nice things about yourself. Did you know that it only takes 21 days to make something a habit? Make it a daily practice to be positive! Here is a great place to start:



THIS	NOT THAT
✓ Whoops I made a mistake	✗ I'm so dumb.
✓ I like me.	✗ No one likes me.
✓ I did something bad	✗ I'm a bad person.
✓ This is really hard but I'm going to keep trying.	✗ I give up. I'll never be able to do this.
✓ I haven't figured it out yet.	✗ I never get anything right.
✓ I am enough. And worthy too.	✗ I'm not good enough.

MEET OUR STAFF

The talented team behind *The Refiner*

TREVON MCKINLEY



Age: 16

Height: 6ft 1 in

Net worth: about 500 bucks

Trevon is a student at Sunburst High School. He enjoys tinkering on things and he loves cars.

Curtis Bouttier is a sophomore at NTCHS. He rides freestyle BMX and spends most of his free time at the Hofland shop.

CURTIS BOUTTIER



Jayden Almon is a sophomore at NTCHS. He enjoys playing video games, board games, tabletop games, and card games.

*Jayden excels at reading and is currently reading the *Wheel of Time* series by Robert Jordan.*

JAYDEN ALMON



Mrs. Taylor teaches English 9, 10, 11, & 12. Creative Writing, and Journalism at NTCHS. She enjoys reading, being outdoors, and spending time with family.

MRS. TAYLOR

