

# THE KOOTENAI CHRONICLE

A PUBLICATION OF THE 2022-2023 KOOTENAI JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISM PROGRAM



**Bailey Murdock**, a Sophomore student, received her Varsity Letter for her participation in Choir. She is pictured here with Anna Whipple, Choir Teacher (Photo Credit: Adalyn Moore)

## MOEMS Follow Up

AALIYAH BECKMAN

The Kootenai Junior High School has finished the MOEMS (Math Olympiads for Elementary and Middle School) competitions for the 2022-2023 school year.

During a total of five competitions, the students were given 30 minutes to complete each contest. The contest PICO (Person In Charge Of Olympiads) was Mary Nelson. She is a Jr./Sr. High Math teacher and is responsible for grading and submitting the MOEMS scores.

Some of the students thought that the MOEMS were hard and not fun, but other students thought that it is a great way to exercise your brain. Gabriel Bornitz, 6<sup>th</sup> grader, said “The MOEMS is a learning opportunity.”

After all five MOEMS Competitions, the top mathematicians were Brooklyn Charles, Hazel Stevenson, Juni Stevenson, and Madeline Loucks.



**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students** in Math Lab analyzed the high school daily choices and converted tallies into percentages. (Photo Credit: Anna Whipple).



**Micheal Nyman**, Freshmen wrestler, with the win against Post Falls wrestler at the Timberlake Tournament on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. (Photo Credit: Jerry Brown)

## Voters Say YES to Kootenai Schools

HAZEL STEVENSON & MARY NELSON

On Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 56.94% of voters of Kootenai County supported the passage of a Supplemental Levy.

The Board of Trustees of Joint School District No. 274 sought authorization to levy a Supplemental Levy. The approved levy funds will be divided into six designated purposes.

Athletics funds (\$87,000) include coach salaries, fees for referees and officials, updated equipment (helmets, gear, etc.), field maintenance, weight room improvements, safety gear and equipment, transportation to games, subscriptions and fees, and expansion into coaches’ clinics.

Security/School Resource Officer funds (\$95,000) will be broken down into SRO Contract, Security renewal of equipment and repairs, fencing upgrades, radio communication repairs and upgrades, and safe and altered door locks for the SRO Office.

Building maintenance funds (\$250,000) includes a multitude of projects such as replacement of the middle school boiler, HVAC modernization, electrical upgrades, water leak repairs, parking lot sealant, painting, football field irrigation, walk-in cooler remodel, and more.

CTE programs (\$90,000) will receive increased salaries for instructors, welding supplies, and agriculture supplies.

The Special Education department receives a percentage of their operating costs from Federal Government Funds and Medicaid Match. However, the total cost of \$300,000 can only be met by the levy amount of \$200,000. This amount is broken down into teacher salary/benefits, para-educators, and services for psychiatry, occupational therapy, and speech and language pathology.

The final category for levy funding is the salaries and benefits for teachers and staff (\$651,000). These funds include hiring an additional administrator, FTE increases for certified and classified staff, and guest teacher expenses.

The estimated average annual cost to the taxpayer on the proposed levy is \$93 per 100,000 of taxable assessed value. If you own a home with an assessed value of 300,000, the taxable assessed value is \$175,000, due to a \$125,000 homeowner’s exemption. Based on current conditions, passage of this levy would be expected to cost you, as the homeowner, an additional \$6.42 per month on your property tax bill.

“We are extremely happy that this passed,” says Scott Davis, Kootenai School District Superintendent. “I am humbled by our communities trust and we will make every effort to earn that trust. A big thanks to our school board for their strong support as we navigate the work that we do.”



WORLD

To Mars and Beyond  
Elon Musk Takes the Challenge

AIDEN BRAZ & ISAAH GALLE

Elon Reeve Musk is the founder, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief engineer of SpaceX, a whole organization dedicated to reaching and exploring Mars.

One of Musk’s goals for many years has been to get to Mars. Through his company SpaceX, Musk is using a spaceship called “Starship” and each launch costs about 10 million dollars. The reason Musk is trying to get to Mars is because he wants to ensure that humans can achieve long term survival for the human species

Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun – a dusty, cold, desert world with a thin atmosphere. Mars is also a dynamic planet with seasons, polar ice caps, canyons, extinct volcanoes, and evidence that it was even more active in the past.

At an average distance of 140 million miles, Mars is one of Earth's closest habitable neighbors. Mars is about half as far from the Sun as Earth is, so it still has decent sunlight. It is a little cold, but it can warm it up. Its atmosphere is primarily CO2 with some nitrogen and argon and a few trace elements, which means that we can grow plants on Mars just by compressing the atmosphere. Gravity on Mars is about 38% of that of Earth, so you would be able to lift heavy things and bound them around. Furthermore, the day is remarkably close to that of Earth. For these reasons, Mars has been a desirable destination for Musk and SpaceX.

The current plan is that Starship will enter Mars’ atmosphere at 7.5 kilometers per second and decelerate aerodynamically. The vehicle’s heat shield is designed to withstand multiple entries, but given that the vehicle is coming into Mars’ atmosphere so hot, we still expect to see some ablation of the heat shield (similar to wear and tear on a brake pad).

According to Business Insider, Relativity Space, a competitor with SpaceX, is looking to launch the world’s first 3-D printed rocket—Terran 1. At the time of this publication, the recent launch had been postponed to a later date. Perhaps Musk’s SpaceX, with plans to launch this year, still has a shot.



ELON MUSK speaks during a news conference after a Falcon 9 Space X rocket test flight in 2020. (Photo Credit: Associated Press)



ARTISTIC RENDERING made available by Elon Musk in 2017 shows SpaceX new mega-rocket design on the earth’s moon. (Photo Credit: Associated Press)



Relativity Space shows off the world’s largest 3D metal printer which they are using to print rockets (Photo Credit: Relativity Space)

CALENDAR

Important Dates

MARCH

20	Deadline for Kootenai Trap Team Spring Registration
20	AVID Field Trip to the University of Idaho
22	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
23	Jr. High LOFT
23	Parent-Teacher Conferences (4pm-7pm)
24	Parent-Teacher Conferences (8am-12pm) (No School for Students)
27-31	Spring Break (No School)

APRIL

3	Kootenai Jr. High Track Begins
5	Booster Club Meeting
8	Kootenai Track Meet Invitational
9	Easter Sunday
21	Staff Spring Day (No School)
27	PTO Meeting
28	Jr. High LOFT
29	High School Prom

\*For additional sports schedules, visit <https://www.sd274.com/athletics>

WORLD

Chinese Spy Balloon

GABE BORNITZ

On January 28th, 2023 an unidentified aircraft was spotted flying around the continental U.S for several days. In February being shot down by an American F-22 fighter jet. The balloon was shot down and floated in the Atlantic Ocean for around 3 days. It was picked up on Wednesday, February 6th, by the Navy Explosive Ordnance Group 2 off the coast of Northern Carolina.

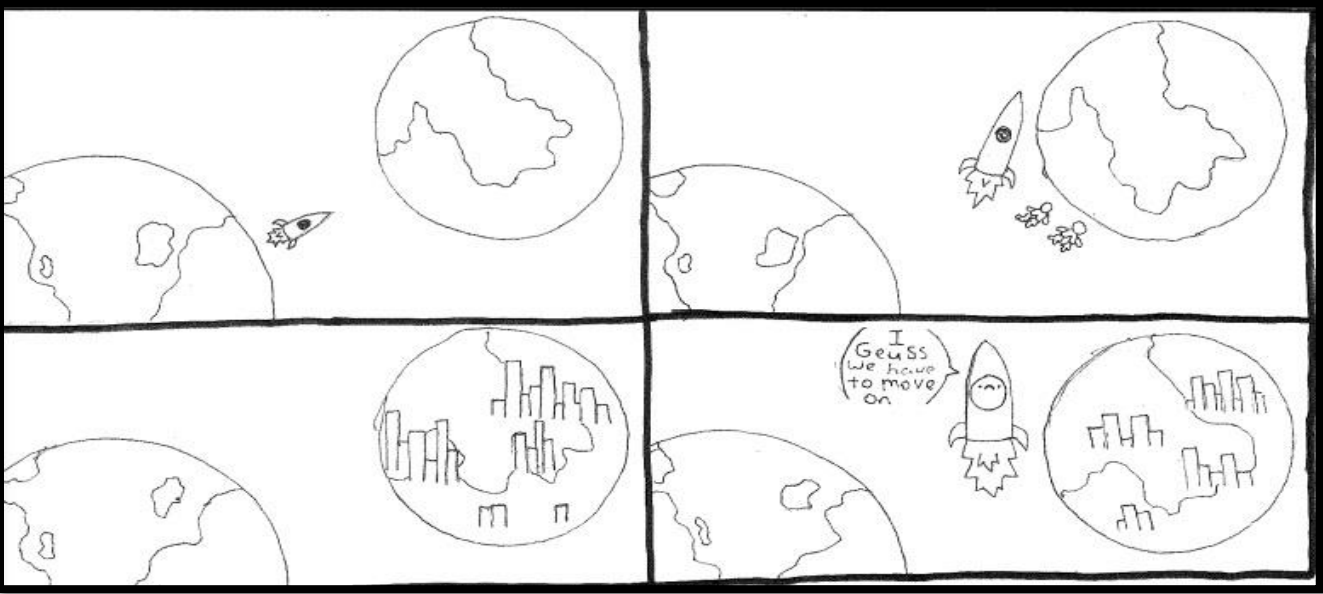
According to the New York Times, “The craft flying about 60,000 ft above didn’t pose a threat”, but to their concern it did pose great danger to the airplanes.

It was suggested by some that the balloon also was trying to get pin points of the communication devices to be able to intercept calls. CBS Sunday morning news, however, says that the balloon rode down from Alaska into Montana where intercontinental ballistic missiles are stored. From this location, it continued to hover over the United States.

The Chinese sent an official to tell the United States government that the balloon was for meteorological research only, and it got blown off course by wind. However, in response, the U.S. Government blacklisted six Chinese entities with possible ties.

AIDEN BRAZ

To Mars and Beyond





SPORTS

“I Just Want to Run”

ALYCE BREDE & IVA HUGO

As the weather warms and Spring approaches, the track season grows near and athletes prepare to represent their teams at Kootenai Jr./Sr. High School.

Both Kootenai track teams, High School and Junior High, are overseen by Nolan Kerby, the school’s principal and Athletic Director. Kerby oversees all of the athletic activities and events at Kootenai Jr/Sr High School.

High School Track started practices on February 24th. The High School Track season is a three-month season ending May 19th after the two day state tournament. Kootenai’s High School Coach in the 2023 season will be Ashley Rauch, with Kristopher Buchanan as the assistant coach. Coach Rauch has many goals for the 2023 season. She hopes to help the team learn and

develop, even if they already have a lot of experience in the event. She would also like to have each athlete try every event, because she feels they may all learn something from it.

Although each of those goals are quite important to Rauch, she says her main goal for all the athletes is to have fun, and be proud of the school they represent. She said, “I just hope people enjoy being with their teammates and representing Kootenai.” Coach Rauch, herself, is excited to be a part of the Kootenai team. It can be difficult at times for her, but she enjoys it and likes the positive atmosphere. She hopes to be an inspiration for her and any future athletes.

Students are already beginning to gear up for the first track meet for highschool. Athlete Micheal Nyman says quote, “ I’m mainly looking forward to the competition, because of the adrenaline, and thrill it provides for me.”

The Jr High track season begins April 3rd, and only lasts 1 month. The season ends May 5, with the Timberlake State Meet. Kootenai’s Jr. High coach for the 2023 season is Vince Wilcox. Coach Wilcox is new to coaching track, but has helped with other sports at Kootenai. He was the previous assistant coach for Kootenai Jr. High football team in the 2022 season.

With new athletes joining and previous ones coming back, the Jr High team has quite the variation of athletes, each wanting to compete in different events. Some prefer running, and others prefer throwing events. Aiden Braz, an 8th grade student and third year returning athlete, said he is excited about running and the high jump. He says, “I just want to run.”



**CHEERLEADERS** Bailey Murdock, Sydney Murdock, and Caylee Wilcox smile for the camera before an away game, just moments before Caylee also played for the Girls Basketball Team. (Photo Credit: Caylee Wilcox)

*“CHEERLEADING IS A DISPLAY OF DISCIPLINE, PRACTICE, DEDICATION, DETERMINATION SKILL AND ATHLETICISM.”*  
~ Said Every Cheer Coach Ever

SPORTS

Let’s Cheer for Warrior Pride

ANNABELLE PARRISH

The 2022-2023 school year at Kootenai Jr./Sr. High School welcomed a high school cheer team for the first time since 2006. This cheer team is an all-girls team consisting of Sydney Murdock, Caylee Wilcox, Jojo Wilson, Bailey Murdock, Adalyn Moore, and Keira Bohannon. The cheer captain is Caylee Wilcox, the co-captain is Sydney Murdock and the coach is Jessie Buchanan.”I felt a strong need to bring a positive school spirit back to Kootenai,” said Coach Buchanan.

The cheer team began the season wearing uniforms from 2006 until halfway through the season when new uniforms were ordered. “We’re very grateful that the school supplied new uniforms,” said Coach Buchanan.

The cheer team was busy this year. All of the cheerleaders participated in cheer and at least one other sport this year. This fall, the cheerleaders cheered at all home football games. During the basketball season, they also cheered at all girls' and boys' basketball home games and performed a halftime routine.They also traveled to numerous away games, including districts on February 21st. During the season, the cheerleaders had 12 different cheers that they performed.

After the basketball season came to an end, the cheerleaders held a fundraiser during Valentine's Day week. They sold “Teddy-Grams”, which were little bears that students could buy for themselves or have a teddy bear delivered to whoever they’d like. Funds raised from the teddy grams are going towards competition costs for next year.

The cheerleading team plans to attend at least one cheer camp over the 2023 summer. Next year, the cheer team plans to attend some competitions. Cheerleaders next year will be able to make the personal choice of participating in side-line cheerleading or participating in competitions as well. The team will also be a co-ed team next year and available to all interested High School students.

Movie Review: *Shazam-The Fury of Gods*

MARIAH GEORGE

Need a recommendation for a good movie? Consider seeing the new release *Shazam–The Fury of Gods*. This movie has new and interesting differences from the first *Shazam* because the first film begins with a child becoming an ancient wizard and in the new film he is already a wizard. In the new *Shazam*, there are six wizards instead of one or two and, like in the first film, they're still keeping the secret from their foster parents. In the new film, Billy and his family are fighting a Greek goddess and a series of powerful people to save the city. The actors are Zachary Levi, Asher Angel, Grace Fulton, Mark Strong, Jack Dylan Grazer, Djimon Hounsou, Micheal Borth and Adom Brody. *Shazam* is a movie created with lots of imagination and a sense of humor. Currently in theaters, *Shazam* will be coming to HBO Max on March 17th, 2023.



The cast of *Shazam*. (Photo Credit: IMDb)



ACTIVITIES

Jr. High Students Get Locked In

IVA HUGO

This year Kootenai had their very first Jr. High Lock-in on February 10th, 2023. This event was held by the 8th grade class, with donations from various teachers and parents. There were also various volunteers from the Kootenai Booster club and District #274 Staff, including Kris and Jessie Buchanan, Jason and Sarah Strobel, Blake and Nicki Charles, and Office Austin Norris.

The Lock-In started at 6pm and lasted 12 hours, until 6am. The Lock-in was for all students who wanted to attend, grades 6-8th. All students that attended the Lock-in had a common goal--to stay up the entire night. For some, this was an easy feat. It posed more of a struggle for others.

Fortunately, there were various events used to keep the students up overnight. The night started out with a basketball tournament, winners would play winners, and it continued until there was a final champion. Then a volleyball match took place, where all of the students that wanted to participate played against the chauffeurs.

The night also included movies in the library, snacks in the cafeteria, and just students hanging out with friends. All profits from the Lock-in were split between the three junior high classes, helping to fund each class and give them the ability to host more fun and new events for Kootenai.



AIDEN BRAZ climbs the hallway wall as part of a challenge while classmates look on. (Photo Credit: Iva Hugo)

ISAIAH GALLE

Locked In



North Idaho Weather Update

BROOKLYNN KAHN

From February 1 to March 10th, Northern Idaho residents have seen the temperatures change from day to day. The fluctuating temperatures are due to the warmer temperatures causing more heat, leading to heavier storms. The heavier storms then bring blasts of cold air to previously unlikely locations throughout the Pacific Northwest. The panhandle region has almost broken the amount of average precipitation levels this year. Throughout the next few weeks Idaho will have temperatures that feel as low as 11 degrees with the weather switching from snowing to being sunny. Recent snowfall, wind, and icy road conditions led to Kootenai School District #274 having a snow day on Wednesday, February 22 and Monday, March 6th. In order to have a snow day, Superintendent Scott Davis, Jr./Sr. High School Principal Nolan Kerby, and the head bus driver Carl Carlson have to check the school routes to make sure that it is safe for students to travel.

RECIPE

Hawaiian Butter Mochi

GABE BORNITZ

Sometimes it’s all about the texture. Are you a fan of soft foods? Learn how to make this warm dessert from one of our local families that once lived in Hawaii.

- Ingredients for Hawaiian Butter Mochi:
- Unsalted butter or vegetable oil,for coating the pan
  - 1 stick (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter
  - 1 pound mochiko flour (also known as sweet or glutinous rice flour)
  - 2 cups granulated sugar
  - 2 teaspoons baking powder
  - ½ teaspoon kosher salt
  - 2 cups milk, any fat percentage
  - 4 large eggs
  - 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
  - 1 can unsweetened coconut milk
  - ½ cup unsweetened shredded coconut
  - A few pinches of flaky salt (optional)

Supplies needed: 9x13-inch baking pan, measuring cups and spoons, mixing bowls, whisk, wooden spoon, plastic knife (optional)

Directions: Arrange a rack in the middle of the oven and heat the oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 9x13-inch baking pan with butter or oil. Melt 1 stick unsalted butter in the microwave or on the stovetop. Place 1-pound mochiko, 2 cups granulated sugar, 2 teaspoons baking powder, and ½ teaspoon kosher salt in a large bowl and whisk to combine. Place 2 cups milk,4 large eggs, and 2 teaspoons vanilla extract in a medium bowl and whisk to combine or an electric whisk. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and, with a wooden spoon, stir until well combined. Add the melted butter and 1 can coconut milk and mix until fully incorporated and smooth. Pour the mixture into the prepared pan and wrap the pan on the counter a couple of times to bring any air bubbles up to the surface. Evenly sprinkle ½ cup shredded coconut on top of the mixture, a handful at a time, being careful not to jiggle the pan too much, as you want the coconut to stay on the top. Then sprinkle on a few pinches of flaky salt, if desired. Bake until the mochi is set and golden brown on top, 60 to 70 minutes. Set the pan on the stovetop or wire rack and let it cool completely, about 1 hour. Slice into rectangles, using a plastic knife to minimize sticking; Cut it into four columns and five rows to make twenty 2 ¼ by 2 ½-inch pieces. If the knife seems to be sticking, rub it with a little unsalted butter or neutral oil. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to three 3 days.



PRINCIPAL KERBY enjoys sledding with Lincoln Castles, Kingston Cameron, and William Greer (Photo Credit: Unknown)



HARRISON ELEMENTARY

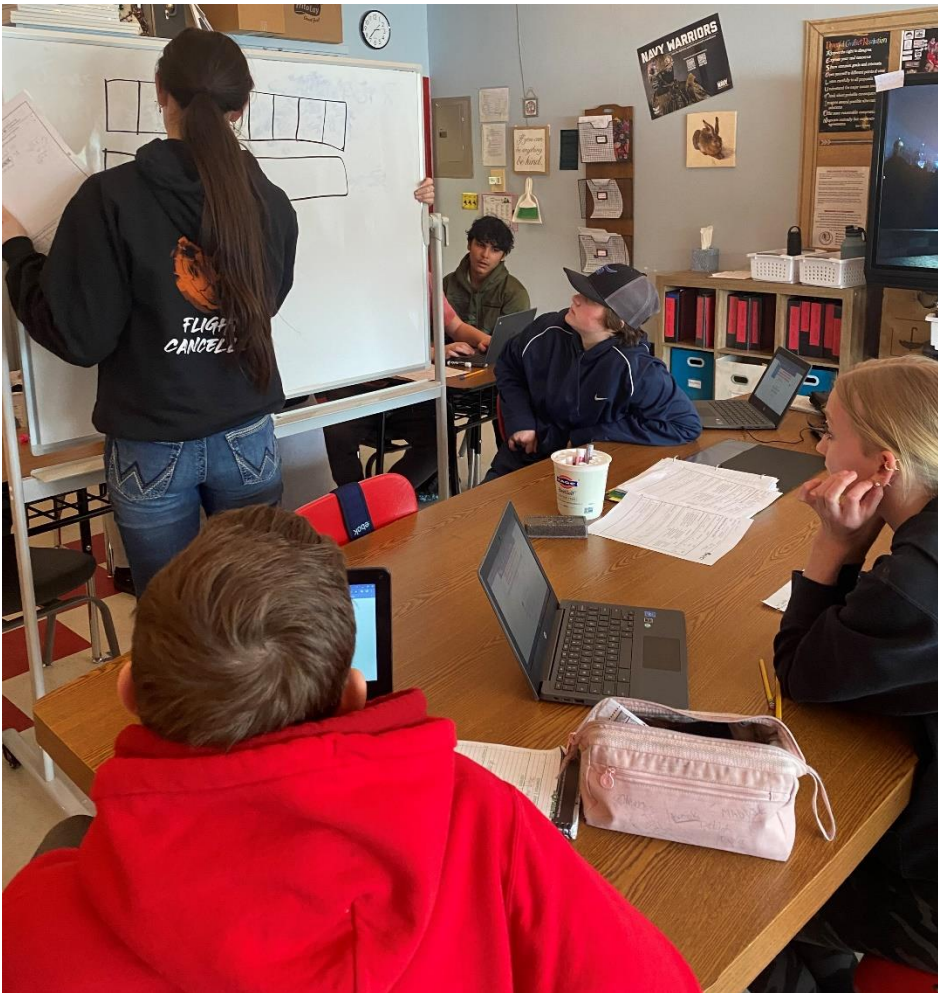
Playground Equipment

RILEY LITTLE & IVA HUGO

The Kootenai School District elementary playground has seen numerous improvements over the years. Children at Harrison Elementary described the previous playground as “worn down” with just a few swing sets, a tire swing, a jungle gym, and two paved basketball courts. With the installation of the new playground, students say they are having way more fun. The playground was remodeled to be a perfect fit for the children.

The district has added four new pieces including a rope jungle gym for extensive climbing and even a zipline. One of the students said the zipline was their favorite part of the new playground, and described it as flying up high, like a bird. These new pieces of playground equipment have an important impact on the children. According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children, play is a healthy and important aspect of learning and early childhood development.

The improvement of playground equipment has also made Kootenai’s recess area a safer place for kids to play in. The updated playground equipment also helps to prevent any of it breaking, and possibly injuring a student. Overall, all of the new playground equipment has made a huge difference at Harrison Elementary. It provides students with a safer environment, and is also much more fun for all of the elementary students.



A MATH TUTOR GROUP is part of the AVID elective and assists a group of 7<sup>th</sup> grade students with their complex and challenging questions on Get More Math curriculum (Photo Credit: Allison Brown)

JR. HIGH SCHOOL

Kootenai becomes AVID School

OLENA GOODMAN

Kootenai Junior High School, introduced a new elective this year—AVID. The Jr. High teachers are all trained in AVID instruction to be incorporated in each subject. To learn more about the AVID program and elective, we interviewed Allison Brown, AVID Elective Teacher.

**Q: What is AVID to you?** Brown: AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. The program in middle school helps students learn the skills and strategies to become successful in high school and beyond.

**Q: What is your main goal?** Brown: Our main goal is to support each other so that we can each be the best person we can be. AVID focuses on organization, note-taking, critical thinking skills, asking quality questions, and working together as a team.

**Q: What do you think about switching to AVID schooling?** Brown: I think AVID is a great way for students to learn the skills they need to be successful in school and in life. It is more than just how to study. AVID helps students learn how to work with others toward something positive for their lives.

**Q: Anything you want to add about AVID?** Brown: In the long run, for each student, AVID is different because they all come to class with different skills and dreams of where they want to go in life. Some know already that they want to go to college. Some want to go to vocational schools to learn career-ready skills, like welding or being a diesel mechanic. And some don’t know yet. It’s all good.

KOOTENAI HIGH SCHOOL

Get your boots on! It’s time for PROM!

JENNICA OGDEN

Kootenai High School will be hosting their annual Prom on April 29, 2023. Prom will be held at the Country Barn Bed and Breakfast in Cataldo, ID. The theme for this year is “rustic” -- think cowboys and pioneers. The dance will be held from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Previous proms have been held at various places including the school gymnasium, Coeur d’Alene Cruises, Camp In-Sen-in, the White House, and the Coeur d’Alene Resort. According to Gavin Tiller, Junior Class president, the Junior Class, which is responsible for putting on the prom, decided to host the

prom at Country Barn this year because Fred Scheffelmaier has been a big supporter of Kootenai. “It also was a good price,” said Tiller, “and the building helps with our theme.” Keira Bohannon, the vice president of the Junior Class, said that “it will be a fun High School experience.” As part of the prom fundraising efforts, the Junior class will have cookies, cupcakes, snacks, Monsters, Red Bulls, Pepsi and other treats and drinks. At the prom, the following royalty awards will be given— For Seniors it will be Prom King and Prom Queen, but since there are no boys in the current Senior class, they may actually have two Prom Queens. This change is still being

decided. For the Junior class, Prom Prince and Princess will be crowned. The Sophomores will crown the Prom Duke and Prom Duchess and the Freshmen class will crown the Prom Lord and Prom Lady. Students can also contribute their favorite songs to a final list for administrative approval. Tiller said each student can have their input. As prom nears, Chloe Dorman, Freshman, stated “I’m excited because this is my first prom ever and I’m looking forward to getting to dance on the dance floor with my friend Taryn.” Tiller also commented, “I am pretty happy [about prom]. I like to see people smile and have a good time.”

PROM 2023  
Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 8:00-11:00 PM  
Country Barn B & B  
\$25 per person, High School Students Only  
Guest Requests & Song Requests submitted by April 24th



EDITORIAL

Chiefs Take Superbowl 57

HAZEL STEVENSON  
STUDENT EDITOR

On Sunday, February 12, the Kansas City Chiefs played the Philadelphia Eagles. The game was exciting, and almost led to overtime. The lead went back and forth between the two teams, although in the end, the Chiefs won the 57th Super Bowl 38 - 35.

The Eagles took an early lead with a touchdown by Jalen Hurts in the first quarter, followed by an 18-yard touchdown pass by Patrick Mahomes. At the start of the second quarter, the Eagles were in the lead with a score of 7 to 14. With the clock at 9:48, Jalen Hurts fumbled the ball and Nick Bolton grabbed the ball to score a touchdown. Beginning halftime, the Chiefs were down by 10 points with the score 14 - 24.

The Apple Music halftime show was performed by Rihanna. After five years, she returned to the stage and performed for a cheering crowd while pregnant. It was a thrilling performance with platforms lifted nearly 60 feet in the air. Rihanna performed for about 15 minutes. She hired 280 dancers, and sang 13 songs.

Following the halftime show, Isaiah Pachego scored a touchdown leaving the score 21 to 24. After the end of the third quarter, the Chiefs had taken the lead, and scored another touchdown, leaving the score thirty-five to twenty-seven. Jalen Hurts left the score tied, with a touchdown, followed by a 2 point conversion. In the last eleven seconds, Harrison Butker scored a field goal, leading to the Chief’s victory.

For Super Bowl LVII, Patrick Mahomes was nominated for the MVP (Most Valuable Player), and received the Pete Rozelle Trophy. He had previously won the award, and received it for the second time this year. Super Bowl 57’s best quarterback was between Jalen Hurts, and Patrick Mahomes. Overall Jalen Hurts scored 22 touchdowns and 3701 total yards, while Patrick Mahomes with 41 touchdowns, and 5250 yards.

The 57th Superbowl was exciting and nerve-racking. The Chiefs and the Eagles played well, had some good plays, and Rihanna’s Halftime show just added to the exciting game.

OPINION

“I’ve Got a Golden Ticket”

GUEST WRITER: KAYCEE DAVIDSON



*“This year’s Super Bowl was an exciting game. I was rooting for Kansas City so I was glad to see them pull it off. My favorite performance was Chris Stapleton’s National Anthem—best I’ve heard in years! I thought the Mexico Avocados commercial was pretty funny.”*  
~Nolan Kerby, KHS Principal

On Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup> I had the opportunity to watch the performance of *Willy Wonka* by Christian Youth Theatre (CYT) at the Midge & Pepper Smock Family Theater at The Kroc in Coeur d’Alene. We got to the theater and paid for our tickets. Then we visited the gift and snack sales where we bought Violet Beauregarde’s gumballs which turn your mouth blue. We found our seats and the world-famous production began. The main character Charlie (played by Henry Jacobson) sang unforgettable songs about being positive, flying, and funnily, about burping. My personal favorite scene was when Veruca Salt, one of the lucky golden ticket winners, sang with passion “I want the world,” before she was tossed in with the other “bad nuts.” The staging of the production was astonishing and told the story perfectly. Surprisingly, they also painted the multitude of Oompa Loompas’ faces a striking orange. At the end I took a picture with Charlie and Grampa Joe, Mrs. Teevee, and Willy Wonka, himself. I would recommend CYT productions for the whole family. CYT has additional upcoming shows of *Beauty and the Beast*, as well as classes for children and youth. You can visit their website for more information. <https://www.cytnorthidaho.org/Shows/>

ANNABELLE PARRISH

The First in History – A Fictional Tale (Part 2)

I walked out to the barn where Missy had laid down and urged her to get up. I put the stool on the hay-covered floor and started to milk her. After the bucket was filled about a quarter of the way, I stopped. I set the stool and bucket aside, and asked Missy, “What should I do? I have been thinking all day, but I can't think of a plan.” Missy let out a small, “Mrrrr” as if she was understanding me. “I know that a girl can’t be a knight, I just thought...” I trailed off as a thought came to my mind. “I know what I’m going to do. Thanks Missy, I can always count on you.” I grabbed the milk bucket, leaving the stool behind in the barn, and ran to our little house lit by candle light.

When I got inside my mother was surprised to see me so excited about something. “What are you so excited about?” My mother asked me as I ran through the door with the bucket of milk still in my hand. “Well first of all, Missy is producing good milk which will be beneficial for the calf. And second of all, I have a plan to become a knight!” I shouted excitedly. My mother almost dropped the freshly baked loaf of bread she was carrying to the table. “Absolutely not!” She said firmly. “But mother, my friends are leaving and I want to go with them!” I said with an edge of plead in my voice.

“Well then, you must have a plan, why would you tell me and not just run away?” My mother asked. “Because I need your help with my plan.” I said without thinking. She thought about it for a second then responded, “How about this, we eat dinner together, forget that this ever happened then do the chores. And then we can talk about this more.” “YES!!” I shouted, excited that I had gotten a positive response from my own mother. So we ate dinner like normal, then I went out to lock up and fed Missy. While I was doing this, my mother was in the house doing the dishes and sweeping.

When I got back to the house my mother was sitting at the table with an emotionless look on her face. So, I took a seat at the table and told my mother my plan, and she said that she would help with it. So, the next morning, I woke up extra early to begin my plan. My mother helped me by doing her part of my plan. I headed outside to go let Missy out and go into town to meet up with my friends, like I always did. When I got there instead of looking sad, they looked surprised and said, “Meredith, why are you wearing boy clothes and why is your hair so short?” Dante asked with a bit of concern in his voice. “Shhhhhh!! Pretend I’m a boy!” I replied.

I explained to them my plan. “And that’s what I’ve come up with to be able to be a knight with you guys!” I told them excitedly, “Also” I added, “Call me Mere from now on, because I really don’t want to get caught, and if I have a feminine name they might get suspicious.” They both agreed and then we headed out to see which knight would take us in. “My mom should have put a paper with Mere Katz on it in the box of names,” I told Lucan. “Best of luck” he replied.

... To Be Continued.

Make sure to pick up a copy of Issue 4 for the last installment of “The First in History” by Annabelle Parrish.

Would you like to see your article, writing, letter, photo, or comic be featured in the Kootenai Chronicle? We are accepting submissions for future print editions. Please send submissions to Mary Nelson at [mnelson@sd274.com](mailto:mnelson@sd274.com)