



# THE REFINER

North Toole County High School

Sunburst, MT 59482

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**By VERONICA GILLUND**

At the beginning of this school year, music teacher Mrs. Tami Hauschulz invited some students of NTCHS with instrumental talents to play in the jazz band, a new extracurricular activity. With 15 members, the jazz band practices every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m.

In addition to performing at the FCCLA Theme Dinner and the Christmas Stroll, the band plans on playing at a concert in the spring.

"I think it is exciting and lots of fun," said Mrs. Hauschulz of the band. She began this new tradition to lead students down different avenues and styles of performing, hoping to interest them

in new types of music.

The band has been practicing some jazz Christmas pieces, as well as an arrangement of "Don't Stop

See JAZZ BAND 8

**By MAHKIA CLARK**

Nov. 22-23, the Science Olympiad team, consisting of 25 NTCHS students, traveled to Bozeman to compete in various events in the Montana State Science

Olympiad competition

According to Ms. Amanda Becker, one of the Science Olympiad team coaches, the students who attended were the following: Seniors

Mahkia Clark, Veronica Gillund, Angie Christiaens, Ashlee Simmes, Cole Ratzburg, Zach Johannsen and Travis Robbins; juniors Kress Lamey, Hunter Leichliter, Scott Bye, Cash Ehlers, Josh Friesen, Jayleen McAlpine, Hali Miller and Alex Watterud; freshman-Connor Overcast, Erika Postma, Cameron Richmond, Jacob Al-

See SCIENCE OLYMPIAD 8



Photo by Jayleen McAlpine

Jazz Band members Ronnie Gillund, Satyn Tomsheck, Hunter Leichliter, Connor Overcast, Andy Ryan, Mason Kearns, Amanda Tharp, Hayley Dunk, and Alex Watterud perform.

**By ANGIE CHRISTIAENS**

On Oct. 18, Kim Bloch began her new duties; she answered phones, helped the younger kids with their jackets, and took down messages. That's right. Bloch has become the new Sunburst Elementary secretary.

Bloch came to Sun-

burst after teaching 6th grade at Loy Elementary in Great Falls, MT. She also coached swimming at CMR in Great Falls.

After spending time in Sunburst, the new secretary position opened up when Marigail Sveum resigned to pursue other career options and Bloch grabbed

at the opportunity. She said, "I really like it and it's a good time for me. I plan on being the secretary for a long time."

"I really enjoy interacting with kids and being around them," said Bloch.

Bloch attended college at three different places: Temple University in

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**By ALISON WATSON**

The fifth annual FCCLA theme dinner, held Thursday, Nov. 18, was a great success. This year it earned over 3,000 dollars with the help of the culinary class, parent volunteers, entertainment and the FCCLA students. Mrs. Aschim said

“If it wasn’t for the hosts and hostesses, we would not have made much.” Mrs. Aschim started this tradition five years ago after going to a theme dinner in Conrad. All she needed was an organization to earn the funds for. She decided that it was a great idea for

an FCCLA fund raiser. Aschim said it’s an opportunity to bring out creativity and “very fun for the community.” There was an increase in participants this year and “we made the most money so far.” The money goes to

the FCCLA state and national conference. Originally the dinner was “thrown together” by the parents, noted Aschim. However, now the dinner is prepared by the culinary class. Chrissie Tharp said that the dinner was “very tasty.”



Kris Ryan, Tim Tharp and his wife Chrissie Tharp enjoy the meal prepared by the Culinary Arts class at the theme dinner Nov. 18, while Hali Miller and Amanda Tharp serve them. Photo by Jayleen McAlpine

**By ALISON WATSON**

On Wednesday December 8, Mr. Dunk and seven NTCHS students headed out for Great Falls for the Aim Higher conference. The students participated in workshops and group activities to build their leadership skills. Seniors Ronnie Gillund, Cole Ratzburg, and Zach Johannsen along with juniors Amanda Tharp, Justin Hauschulz and Andrew Stevens traveled to this motivational event.

**By MAHKIA CLARK**

On Nov. 29 and 30, five NTCHS musicians traveled to Cut Bank for the 2010 North Central Honor Festival. Most of the students experienced what many considered to be food poisoning after eating a dinner of tacos provided by the Cut Bank junior class. This even included the group directors. KSEN reported flu symptoms, though many

students believed the dinner to be the source of the symptoms. Tuesday Nov. 30 the Cut Bank band and choir directors provided bottled water and Imodium for those affected. Most students felt better by the time of the performance. Junior Hunter Leichter and Freshman Connor Overcast participated in the Honor Band while seniors Veronica Gillund and Mahkia Clark and

junior Justin Hauschulz sang in the Honor Choir. The Honor Band was directed by Larry Rowton and the Honor Choir was directed by Larry Swingen. The students rehearsed approximately seven hours on Monday, Nov. 29. Tuesday, Nov. 30, the students rehearsed in the morning, performed for the other ensemble in the afternoon, and had the performance that same evening. Gillund said, “It was fun

According to Dunk, the workshops included information on different leadership skills such as mentoring, hazing and bullying, sportsmanship and promoting programs in schools to help people get involved. “The day went really well and the students learned a lot,” he claimed. Stevens said that he “learned a lot about being a better leader and a better sport.” Dunk believes that the “highlight of the day was

See HONOR BAND/CHOIR 8

See AIM 8

## Patrick Buckley

**Residence:** Sweet Grass  
**Birthday:** March 1  
**Interests:** Big trucks, basketball, fun with friends  
**Future Plans:** "I don't know if you want to know."  
**Childhood Toy:** My Tonka truck  
**Quote:** "I love lamp."



## Angie Christiaens

**Residence:** Kevin  
**Birthday:** April 13  
**Interests:** Basketball, volleyball, laughing  
**Future Plans:** Attend Boise State University  
**Childhood Toy:** Radio Flyer Wagon  
**Quote:** "C'est La Vie."  
(Such is life.)



## Lara Clark



**Residence:** Kevin  
**Birthday:** Dec. 9  
**Interests:** Singing, reading, movies, texting  
**Future Plans:** "I don't know yet."  
**Childhood Toy:** Bum Bums, my bunny  
**Quote:** "Life wasn't designed to be fair."

## Mahkia Clark



**Residence:** Sweetgrass Hills  
**Birthday:** Aug. 8  
**Interests:** Music, acting, reading, horseback riding, camping, spending time with family  
**Future Plans:** Attend U of M for music and broadcast journalism  
**Childhood Toy:** Doll named "Squeaky"

**Quote:** "When life gives you lemons...make orange juice and leave the world wondering how."

## Coby Epperson

**Residence:** Sunburst  
**Birthday:** May 2  
**Interests:** Vehicles, hunting, fishing  
**Future Plans:** Being a mechanic  
**Childhood Toy:** Leatherman  
**Quote:** "Get 'er done."



## Nicole Fleisher

**Residence:** Sunburst  
**Birthday:** Sept. 16  
**Interests:** Burning my chin with ham, basketball  
**Future Plans:** Attend Miles Community College  
**Childhood Toy:** Blanket  
**Quote:** "Drink up stream from the herd."



## Veronica Gillund

**Residence:** Sunburst  
**Birthday:** March 7  
**Interests:** Dance, yoga, shopping, music, reading  
**Future Plans:** College at MSU or U of M  
**Childhood Toy:** Barbies, babies, and legos  
**Quote:** "Que sera, sera!"



## OJay Hartzell

**Residence:** Sunburst  
**Birthday:** Sept. 2  
**Interests:** video games, hunting, football  
**Future Plans:** Work a couple of years, then college  
**Childhood Toy:** Transformer, Optimus Prime  
**Quote:** N/A



## Jacoba Hauschulz



**Residence:** Sunburst  
**Birthday:** Jan. 15  
**Interests:** Volleyball, hanging with friends, shopping  
**Future Plans:** Attend Havre and major in elementary education  
**Childhood Toy:** Barney Stuffed Animal  
**Quote:** "Reach high for stars lie hidden in your

soul. Dream deep for every dream precedes the goal."

## Zachary Johannsen



**Residence:** Sunburst  
**Birthday:** June 28  
**Interests:** Golf, basketball, hanging out with friends  
**Future Plans:** Attend a 4-year college  
**Childhood Toy:** Nintendo 64  
**Quote:** "It's not how far you fall, but how high you bounce back."

## Cheyana Leichliter

**Residence:** Sunburst  
**Birthday:** Oct. 16  
**Interests:** Softball, hanging with friends  
**Future Plans:** College  
**Childhood Toy:** Leopard stuffed animal  
**Quote:** "Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die today."



## Myles Mokate

**Residence:** Oilmont  
**Birthday:** May 16  
**Interests:** Football, socializing  
**Future Plans:** College at Flathead and work  
**Childhood Toy:** Tickle-me-Elmo  
**Quote:** "If you're trying to achieve, there will be roadblocks. I've had them; everybody's had them, but obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up; figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."



## Cole Ratzburg



**Residence:** Sweet Grass Hills  
**Birthday:** Sept. 30  
**Interests:** Hunting, football, and work  
**Future Plans:** College at MSU Bozeman  
**Childhood Toy:** Tonka trucks  
**Quote:** "Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself."

## Travis Robbins



**Residence:** Kevin  
**Birthday:** April 29  
**Interests:** Basketball, hunting, fishing  
**Future Plans:** University of Montana  
**Childhood Toy:** Dog named Dusty  
**Quote:** "Just do it."

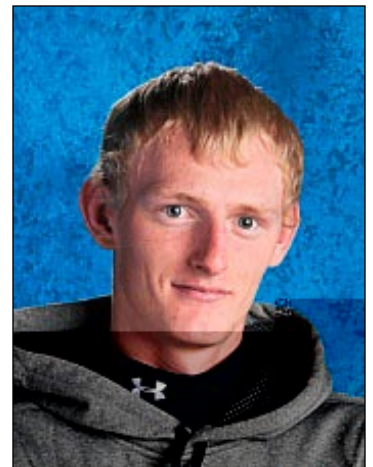
## Ashlee Simmes

**Residence:** Sunburst  
**Birthday:** Feb. 15  
**Interests:** Sports, dance, and hiking  
**Future Plans:** MSU Bozeman for exercise science  
**Childhood Toy:** Big baby  
**Quote:** "It's not how hard you fall, but how high you bounce."



## Cody Thomassen

**Residence:** Sunburst  
**Birthday:** Sept. 5  
**Interests:** Capentry, football  
**Future Plans:** College for carpentry  
**Childhood Toy:** Cars  
**Quote:** "Do things right the first time and you won't have to do it again."



### By LARA CLARK

This is the time of year when seniors begin looking for money for college. This includes applying for scholarships, financial aid, free applications for federal student aid (FAFSA), and student loans.

Scholarships have their own deadlines that vary in due dates throughout the year.

Financial aid like FAFSA requires students to report their family finances in order to qualify for grants

and subsidised loans.

FAFSA applications can be turned in as early as Jan. 1 and are accepted until June 30, but in Mont. it is March first.

Grants are money given to students without the need to pay it back.

Subsidised loans have lower interest rates and won't have to be paid back until six months after the completion of college.

There are a couple of web sites for senior students to look at to get in-

formation. One web site is [www.smartaboutcollege.org](http://www.smartaboutcollege.org) or and [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

The school offers scholarship information that's available in the counselor's office or web sites from Mrs. Barsness.

Students can get letters of recommendation from teachers and transcripts from Mrs. Linnell, both of which are often required for college and scholarship applications.

Mrs. Linnell said that students can learn

about financial aid and eligibility from FAFSA's web site and the link called four casters.

Monday Dec. 13 Sunburst students and their parents were invited to a program in Shelby that provided information to help them get ready for college.

Mrs. Linnell sends monthly financial aid newsletters to seniors which can also be found on the school website.

It is important for seniors to start planning for col-

See FINANCIAL AID 8

**By MAHKIA CLARK**

Nine NTCHS students lended their voices to the annual Christmas Cantata at the Sunburst Lutheran Church on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 5:00 p.m.

The students who participated included the following: seniors Mahkia Clark, Veronica Gillund, Angie Christiaens and Jacoba Hauschulz; juniors Amanda Tharp, Alison Watson, Jesse Tomsheck and Andrew Stevens according to director Chrissie Tharp.

The Christmas Cantata was called "The Wondrous Story." The full choir sang nine songs

and the program lasted approximately one hour.

Clark and Gillund also played flute in several songs as well as sang.

Tharp said, "I am amazed at all of the talent in the community and very impressed at how everyone is willing to put forth the effort and dedication and be part of the group. This is a wonderful group of people and I enjoyed working with them."

"I think it's awesome that even in our small community, we have so much talent and they are willing to put in the time to share their gifts," Mrs. Nancy Linnell said.

**By LARA CLARK**

The General Hunting season started Oct. 23 and went to Nov. 28 this year, according to the Montana State website. The students at NTCHS are very interested in hunting; it's a big part of local culture. Students missed school to go out on daylong trips to shoot and hunt deer, elk and many other animals.

life and Parks said every hunter has to have permission from the landowner, lessee or agent before hunting on private property; it doesn't matter if there is a sign or not. It is illegal in Montana to waste any suitable food from game.

The season started out slowly because of the weather but it picked up as conditions got better.

Animals like the gopher and rabbit can be hunted all year long. When it comes to deer and elk there are rules and regulations. All hunters need to know and understand and follow Montana's access laws. Montana Fish, Wild-

Senior Cheyana Leichliter said she hunts for food. Junior Justin Hauschulz said he "Hunts to live; lives to hunt." Senior Travis Robbins said he hunts "because it's the only legal time you can shoot something."

Below -- In front from left to right, junior Alison Watson and senior Veronica Gillund shape rosettes in the World of Work class with junior Becky Flesch and senior Nicole Fleisher (in back from left to right).



Below -- Kori Miller, juniors Becky Flesch, Hali Miller; sophomore Rachel Ehlers, and senior Angie Christiaens pause for a quick break while working at the taco in a bag booth for FCCLA at the Christmas Stroll Nov. 21.

Photos by Jayleen McAlpine



Photo by Angie Christiaens

New secretary Kim Bloch helps kindergartener Johnny Buckley blow his nose. The job description for an elementary school secretary includes many surprising responsibilities.

Philadelphia, Mercer University in Georgia, and then at the University of Great Falls for some classes. Her future plans include achieving a leadership degree at Montana State Uni-

versity in Bozeman, MT. Bloch also has four kids, one of whom attends NTCHS, and they are Titia Bloch, Jarrett Bloch, Christian Bloch, and Dakota Bloch.

**By ANGIE CHRISTIAENS**

The Sunburst Refiners traded in their cleats for tennis shoes as they changed to the winter sport of basketball. Beginning practice on Nov. 22, the Refiners started to prepare for a busy season.

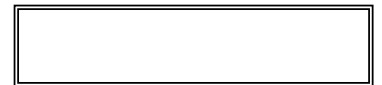
This year's team includes five seniors: Patrick Buckley, Zach Johannsen, Cole Ratzburg, Travis Robbins and Cody Thomassen; five juniors: Arlon Brickel, Scotty Bye, Cash Ehlers, Josh Friesen, and Justin Hauschulz; four sophomores: Kramer Potack and Kamron Ratzburg; and four freshmen: Jose Cole, Finley Jarvis, Mason Kearns and Tylor Tomsheck. Griff Bye returns again as head coach with help from Matt Turner and Don Nagy. Junior Alison Watson and sophomore Kylie Pattison are helping manage the team.

Practices have already

**By ANGIE CHRISTIAENS**

With the first snowfall comes the dribbling of basketballs and squeaking of shoes across floors. The Sunburst Lady Refiners have started their basketball season.

This year's team is a smaller one with only 12 members. They include three seniors: Angie Christiaens, Nic12 35.4sleiTomnior



borano, Mason Kearns and Jose Endrina (alternate).

The freshman students competed on the Division B team, while the rest of the students competed on the Division C team, Becker said.

On Nov. 22, the students departed NTCHS at 10:00 a.m. and arrived in Bozeman at approximately 6:00 p.m. The students enjoyed their choice of restaurants (Applebee's, Famous Dave's, or Santa Fe Red's) before touring the Museum of the Rockies and viewing a Planetarium show, according to Becker.

Nov. 23 was the competition day. "Students all had different competition times and were left to be responsible for themselves and their materials," Becker said.

At approximately 3:30 p.m., the award ceremony began. The Division B team earned two medals. Alborano and Richmond took third place in Battery Buggy. Friesen and Griffin also took third in Meteorology. The Division C team earned one medal: first place in Write It Do It (Angie Christiaens and Alex Watterud). The Division C team walked away with the first Place Small School award.

Becker said, "This was basically a State C Championship for us. We (the Division C team) placed

in the top ten in nine of our 14 events. I am delighted in all of the hard work that the students put into their events."

Due to inclement weather and mechanical problems with the transportation, students did not return from Bozeman until about 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 24, according to Becker.

Chaperones for the trip included Becker and Mr. Stephen Babcock, physics teacher.

to see everyone from last year. I really liked the music and the director was a cool guy." Overcast said, "It was fun, difficult, and in the end, enjoyable."

The Honor Choir performed six pieces, while the Honor Band performed four, according to Mrs. Tami Hauschulz, NTCHS music instructor. Hauschulz said, "The kids worked hard and the concert was fabulous."

the group activity called brown bag." Students from other schools and NTCHS participated in this fun event. The small groups were given a brown bag with assorted items in it. The students had to make a product out of all of their items and persuade people to buy it. Gillund, Johannsen, Ratzburg and Hauschulz won the competition with their "Leadership Survival Backpack."



Believin'" by Journey.

With two percussion players, a pianist, a keyboard player, five trumpets, three saxophones, two trombones and a baritone saxophone, the band is big enough to perform with a loud sound.

Left -- Sophomore Vanessa Legler's first place gingerbread house. Students in the World of Work class made gingerbread houses and cookies to compete in the Marias Museum Christmas Open House in Shelby Tuesday Nov. 7.

Bottom Left -- Mrs. Hauschulz directs the fifth and sixth grade band during the Elementary and Junior High Christmas Concert in the auditorium Tuesday Dec. 14.

lege and funding for college early. Many scholarship funds are awarded by the first of Feb. so now is the time for seniors to turn in their paperwork.

Several grants and scholarships are available to seniors locally, statewide, and nationally.

