

# NEWS & VIEWS

## Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate Jon Tester

**R**ecently, Senator Jon Tester announced his plan to replace Conrad Burns. A reception to meet U.S. Senate candidate Tester will be hosted on April 18 by Allan Audet, Scott T. McCulloch, and Steve Henry at the *BEA* Office at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. Contributions to Tester's campaign are encouraged.

Jon Tester was born in Havre and raised near the town of Big Sandy where life as a farmer's son instilled in him a deep-rooted conviction to Montana, family, faith and hard work. Tester, a third-generation Montanan, and his wife, Sharla, live in Big Sandy. Tester is a former music teacher in the Big Sandy School District and holds a bachelor's of science degree in music from the University of Great Falls.



Tester also served for five years as Big Sandy School Board chairman, was past master of Treasure Lodge #95 of the Masons in Big Sandy, and served on the Big Sandy Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Committee and the Chouteau County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) Committee.

Tester completed his fourth regular session in the Montana Senate, was elected the minority whip for the 2001 session, and minority leader for the 2003 session. Tester was selected in 2005 to lead as President of the Montana Senate and worked on prescription drugs for the seniors, an energy plan to help cut dependence on foreign oil, a better funding plan for Montana schools, and economic incentives to create jobs in every corner of Montana – all without raising taxes.

In the U.S. Senate Tester will work to make health care more important than drug and insurance company profits and create more jobs in Montana.

*Watch for balloons at your school!*



## 'Best of the Best' Honored

It's just not spring without it! The Educators Appreciation Awards Banquet will take place on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 to honor recipients of the *BEA* Awards, Golden Apple Awards, Education Foundation Grants, School District #2 Retirees and 25-Year Employees.

The Holiday Inn Grand Montana will again host the dinner and back, by popular demand, is the ever-funny Mace Archer and the *Funky Bunch Youth Improv Troupe*.

Tickets will be \$15 and will be available in early April at the *BEA* office or from the *BEA* Building Representatives.

Thank you to all members who took the time to submit nominations in all award categories this year. The *BEA* Awards Committee thanks you for making their job very difficult, trying to decide the best of the best!

## Election Day

## 7 Board positions, 10 Delegates open *BEA Election Scheduled*

It will all be decided on April 18, 2006. That's election day and *BEA* members will elect seven *BEA* Board of Directors seats and 10 Delegates seats for *MEA-MFT* Representative Assembly. The candidates whose names will appear on the ballots for the Board positions are:

**President:**

Allan Audet

**1st Vice President:** Jeff Greenfield

**2nd Vice President:** Kate McAuliffe & Diane Welhaven

**Secretary:** Joan Sleeth

**High School Director:** Kas Ioane

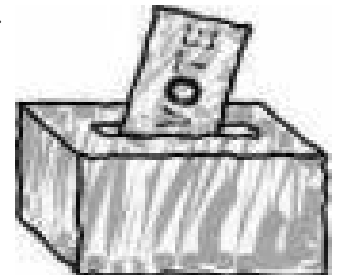
**2 Directors-at-Large:**

Donna Witham & Julie Tschetter Seedhouse



Ten *BEA* delegate seats for *MEA-MFT* Representative Assembly will also be elected. At print time, only Glen Kanvick and Cathy Burton had submitted their names on the ballot to be *MEA-MFT* RA delegates. Elected delegates will serve a three-year term and represent the Association at the *MEA-MFT* RAs in the spring of 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Members must sign the voting roster to receive their ballots from their Building Representatives on Tuesday, April 18. All ballots must be returned to the *BEA* office on April 18 by 5 p.m. to be counted. The Election Committee will announce the winners after the tallying the ballots.



## School Board Trustees Candidates File

Five candidates have filed to run for the three single member trustee district seats to be elected on May 2. No one filed for the Lockwood high school seat.

**District #3**  
**Mary Jo Fox**

**District #4**  
**Rachel C. Stagg**

**District #6**  
**Barbara D. Bryan**  
**Katharin A. Kelker**  
**Jack Leuchtman**



The *BEA* Political Action Committee interviews all candidates and then decides who to endorse. Endorsements will be announced when available.

The school election is on May 2 and the last day to register to vote is April 3.

Applications to vote absentee will be accepted until noon May 1. Absentee ballots will be available April 12. Contact the *BEA* office to assist the endorsed candidates with their campaigns.



# Contract Ratified



Allan Audet  
BEA President

## 727 Yes — 15 No



**A** Big Thanks goes out to our **NEGOTIATION TEAM**: **Jeff Greenfield**, Senior High; **Shannon McAuliffe**, Rose Park; **Curt Prchal**, Will James; and **Scott McCulloch**, Senior High; all deserve to be recognized for their commitment to our Association.



Yes, a tentative agreement was reached in an astounding 12 hours, but the above individuals volunteered many hours prior to negotiations working on school budgets, recording survey information, and preparing proposals. It is committed members such as these that make the *BEA* the leader of educational and contractual issues in the State.



This is the second consecutive contract negotiated using a modified collaborative model. Bargaining of this form is beneficial as it allows both sides free discussion and brainstorming at the bargaining table without the fear of regressive bargaining or Unfair Labor Practices (ULP's) being filed. The School Board should be commended for their willingness to hear and discuss our issues in this manner as it focuses both sides' energy toward coming to an agreement that is in the best interests of both those negotiating and the students of the District. Negotiations of this style develop the working relationship between the Association and the School District, while sending a positive message to the community.



The tentative agreement reached on March with contract language, insurance and a



13 allowed the Association to leave the table compensation package.



There was another very significant area of Agreement (*MOA*) was developed which Committee to address areas of concern meetings. Both sides felt the issues were of concern and needed to be addressed but, with the short time frame, it was felt a *MOA* would be a more productive way to make informed decisions and resolve the issues. When the details of the committee have been determined, the Association will be soliciting volunteers to add to their expertise by serving on the committee.



Thirty Association members will be on their way to Missoula on March 30 through April 1 to participate in the *MEA-MFT* Representative Assembly. Each of the delegates will carry the weight of your vote to the Assembly and vote on issues pertaining to *MEA-MFT* Standing Rules, Constitutional Amendments, Resolutions, New Business Items, Dues and Budgets.



Contested races have been scheduled for executive positions on the *MEA-MFT* Board of Directors at Representative Assembly.

Contested



***MEA-MFT Vice President***: Larry Nielsen, Helena, and Jill Cohenour, East Helena  
***NEA Director***: Sherry McMorris, Sidney, and Patty Muir, Laurel

Other Non-Contested and Contested



***MEA-MFT Secretary Treasurer***:- Jeff Greenfield, Billings  
***Director-at-Large***: Frosty Calf Boss Ribs, Heart Butte, and Gaye Kopczynski, Billings



## Awards, Appointments, Honors



The MSU-Billings Alumni Association honored seven outstanding alumni during the 24th annual Alumni Awards brunch, on Saturday, March 18, at the MSU-Billings Student Union Building Ballroom.

Denise Goodman, local *BEA* Member, joined Brookney Gondara, Kristen Korb, Tony Smith, Jerry Thomas, Jani McCall, and Norma Cleveland as outstanding alumni. She is now a reading teacher at Skyview High School but during her 11 years at

Arrowhead Elementary School, she developed the *Pre-referral Intervention Program* that allowed educators to track struggling learners. It served as a model for other teachers to allow remedial students to become more successful in school. Besides working with counselors, deans, teachers, social workers, and district specialists, Denise is active in her church and many other areas:

- MSU-College of Education Advisory Board.
- Instrumental in developing "Saturday Live"
- Co-chaired *YAC SummerFair* for many years
- Participates in Alberta Bair Theater and Festival of Trees activities
- Original planning committee: MSU-Billings Foundation Wine & Food Festival
- MSU-Billings Alumni Association and the community.

## Highland Special Ed teacher recognized



Vanessa Browning, special education teacher at Highland Elementary, earned the Fellowship Award from Soroptimist International. Browning is earning her master's degree in special education at MSU-Billings and has been recognized with the Golden

Apple Award and as an All-Star Teacher by KULR-8.

## Travel next Summer

*Decline in Applications . . .*

Apply and travel abroad during the summer of 2007!



Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, Japan, India, or Morocco . . . want to go? Teachers have an opportunity to visit these destinations by applying to the Fulbright program this summer. The program provides travel seminars abroad for U.S. educators in the social sciences and humanities. Seven to ten seminars with fourteen to sixteen participants in each seminar are planned annually. The seminars are scheduled for four to six weeks.

The Fulbright award includes a round-trip economy airfare, room and board, tuition and fees, and program-related travel within the host country. The government pays for 90 percent of all expenses. Teachers are not expected to teach or lecture and need not be able to speak the native language.

Gale Holdren, Senior Program Officer for the Fulbright Hays Seminars Abroad, notes that there has been a decline in the number of applications. Details on the program, eligibility requirements and application information are available at [www.ed.gov/programs/iegpssap/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/iegpssap/index.html)

*The world is a book,  
and those who do not travel  
read only one page.*  
—Saint Augustine

## ER&D Classes This Summer

To register call Community Education 247-3700

### Educational Research and Dissemination (ER&D) Program

The American Federation of Teachers (*AFT*) Educational Research and Dissemination (*ER&D*) Program is a union-sponsored, research-based professional development program. It was created by the *AFT* through collaboration between practitioners and researchers to encourage classroom educators to improve their practice and their students' achievement.

### Thinking Math I for Grades K-8

This course gives teachers research-based information, as well as a set of professional development units to help explore the recommended approaches. Mathematical topics and units that will be presented are *Patterns & Relationships, Counting, Problem Classification, Situational Stories, Manipulatives, Recording, Instructional Lessons, Questioning, Planning for Instruction, Estimation, and Management*. Each session requires reading and participation in activities.

**Instructors:**  
**Terri Porisch**  
(porischt@billings.k12.mt.us)  
**Linda Auch**  
(auchl@billings.k12.mt.us)

**Where:** Sandstone School  
**Credits:** 30 hour course/3 Step-up credits or 30 OPI units or 2 college credits.



**Class Dates & Times:**  
June 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 or 3 p.m. (depending on length of lunch break)

**Cost:** \$165 + supplies fee (for college credit: \$250 + supplies fee)

### Reading Comprehension for Grades K-8

This course uses research that helps students acquire strong reading comprehension skills and provides participants with a research base on reading comprehension instruction and vocabulary development. Participants examine the appropriate application of instructional strategies from explicit to implicit teaching of comprehension skills. Strategies stress student comprehension of both narrative and expository texts—including content area textbooks. Approaches will help monitor comprehension and apply strategies when comprehension is not achieved.

**Barb Fettig**  
(fettigb@billings.k12.mt.us)  
**Linda Bayne**  
(baynel@billings.k12.mt.us)

**Class Dates & Times:** This course is offered two times this summer.  
**Session 1:** June 5-8, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Session 2:** August 1-4, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Where:** *BEA* Office  
**Credits:** 20 hour course/2 Step-up credits or 20 OPI units  
**Cost:** \$110 + supplies fee



### Managing Anti-Social Behavior

Anti-social actions of a small percentage of students puts their academic success at risk and threatens the learning environment for the rest of the class. This course presents research on emotional and behavioral problems of students who consistently act out and attempts to provide educators with instructional tools promote student achievement. Participants will learn strategies to reduce the occurrence of disruptive outbreaks and offers offer a non-threatening, non-judgmental learning environment, and provides opportunities for thoughtful discussion about teaching with colleagues and researchers. Meaningful strategies should promote social skills development and academic progress.

**Instructors:**  
**Kathy Rumph**  
(rumphk@billings.k12.mt.us)  
**Julie Seedhouse**  
(seedhousej@billings.k12.mt.us)  
**Class Dates & Times:** This course is offered two times this summer.

**Session 1:** May 30 & 31, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. & June 1, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
**Session 2:** August 14 & 15, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. & August 16, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
**Where:** *BEA* Office  
**Credits:** 20 hour course / 2 Step-up credits, 20 OPI units or 1 college credit.  
**Cost:** \$110 + supplies fee (for college credit: \$125 + supplies fee)





### Know Your Master Agreement

## District will Print Agreement

The Board has approved it. The membership has voted for it. Now what happens?



The BEA Association and the District each review the draft of the newly negotiated document. After both parties are satisfied with the document's accuracy, representatives of the Association and the District will sign the new contract.

The Master Agreement states that the District will print and distribute copies of the Master Agreement to all teachers, usually within 30 days of signing. (Article XII Miscellaneous Provisions, Section 4. Copies of Agreement)

The District will most likely furnish individual teacher contracts at the end of the school year. Montana law states that teachers must sign and return their individual contract within 20 calendar days.



## Member Benefits

Summer is a time to catch up on recreational reading, relaxing in the sunshine with a good book or magazine. Take advantage of these member benefits and have some great reading and save money!

### NEA Magazine Service

Over 800 titles at 85% off newsstand prices with a guarantee to match the lowest prices of any magazine program available. Call the NEA Member-Only toll free number (1-800-YOURMAG) to ask questions and place orders.

- No credit cards needed to [order on-line!](#)

For more info, call 1-800-637-4636 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. (or Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) ET. Or go on-line to <http://www.magazineline.com/NEA/HomePage.htm>

### AFT Member Discount on Books

Browse Powell's Online Bookstore's extensive selection of new and used books right from your computer and receive free shipping on orders of \$50 or more. Go to [www.aftplus.org](http://www.aftplus.org) and go to *discounts and special services*, then click on *books-Powells*. Powell's is a highly acclaimed online bookstore and the largest unionized bookstore in the country.

- Orders totaling \$50 or more receive free standard shipping.

## Identifying Retirement Strengths

Evey LaMont will be offering a 6-hour course "Creating Your Retirement," the non-financial aspects of retirement planning, on Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the MSUB-Outreach downtown campus. Objectives include identifying retirement strengths and retirement concerns, learning what to do NOW to make retirement successful, making the best possible decision as to when to retire, and deciding whether to continue in your present job or switch to another path. The cost is \$69. To register call: 896-5890.



## Severance Notification Deadlines



- Notification after March 1: 100% \*
- Notification after April 1: 95% \*
- Notification after the last day of school: 90% \*
- \* % of Service Credit & Sick Leave Credit to be received

- March 30: MEA-MFT Board of Directors, Missoula
- March 31-April 1: MEA-MFT Representative Assembly, Missoula
- April 6: District #2 Budget Meeting
- April 12: BEA Board of Directors Meeting
- April 14: Good Friday / School Vacation
- April 16: Easter
- April 18: Representative Council/BEA Election
- April 18: Jon Tester Reception
- April 18: Ticket Deadline for Awards Banquet
- April 25: Education Appreciation Awards Banquet



## Contract Ratification Results Announced

BEA members approved the changes to the Master Agreement for the 2006/07 School Year. The vote was 727 for Ratification and 15 against Ratification. The BEA Negotiation Team and Billings Public Schools' team reached the Tentative Agreement on March 13, 2006. On March 24, it was approved by Association members. Ratification elections were held at schools and ballots were tallied at the BEA office by the Election Committee.

### BEA Negotiation Team

- Allan Audet, BEA
- Curt Prchal, Will James
- Jeff Greenfield, Senior High
- Shannon McAuliffe, Rose Park
- Scott C. McCulloch, Senior High

### District #2 Team

- Katharin Kelker, Trustee
- Malcolm Goodrich, Trustee
- Sandra Mossman, Trustee
- Dan Martin, Human Resources
- Thomas Harper, Business Mgr.



## CHRB materials available

Since April is Fair Housing Month, consider joining the fight for equal rights in housing by scheduling a Community Housing Resource Board (CHRB) presentation. The Billings CHRB provides a Speaker's Bureau, education materials, and a short video about Fair Housing, other housing, and independent living questions that may face the student population.

Patterned after Chapter 6 in the Street Law curriculum, the CHRB's award winning materials and program are available for use and appearances with just a few weeks notice. Contact the CHRB at 256-9355 or via email at [chrb@mcn.net](mailto:chrb@mcn.net).



### NEED your house interior repainted?

Call for that exterior job too! Big or Small—Dave Barnett & Mike Cantrell can do the job! Call 656-7767 or 628-7122.



- BEA President, ALLAN AUDET
- 1st Vice President, JEFF GREENFIELD
- 2nd Vice President, DIANE WELHAVEN
- Secretary, JOAN SLEETH

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