



# NEWS & VIEWS

## 2005 Award Recipients Selected

Each year, members of the *Billings Education Association* nominate deserving educators, support staff, administrators, parents, and community members. A committee reviews the nominations and determines the recipients of the *BEA Awards*.

The *BEA Award* recipients are nominated by those who work with them, side by side, and witness first-hand the caliber of work, commitment, and care they demonstrate every day.



### 2005 BEA Award Winners

- Teacher of the Year - John Haughey**, West High
- Friend of Education - Jeff & Mimi Arbizzani**, Sandstone
- Exemplary Associate Nancy Morris**, Senior High

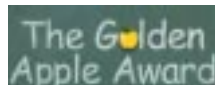
The *Golden Apple* recognizes five teachers each year: two elementary, one middle school, one high school and a specialist, for excellence in education. The Billings community-at-large nominates certified teachers to be considered for this prestigious award.

Haughey holds the distinction of being selected by two separate awards programs at the same time, *2005 BEA Teacher of the Year* and *2005 Golden Apple Award!*

These award winners, as well as School District 2 retirees and 25-year service employees, and recipients of grants and scholarships from the *Education Foundation*, were honored at the *Educator Appreciation Awards Banquet* on April 26, 2005.

### 2005 Golden Apple Winners

- Vicki Hayes**  
1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Elder Grove School
- Pam Meier**  
4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade combo class teacher at Boulder Elementary
- Sue Solomon**  
8<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher at Riverside Middle School
- Vanessa Browning**  
*Independent Living Class* Instructor at Highland Elementary
- John Haughey**  
Chorale Music Director at West High



### IMPORTANT DATES

- May 3** School Board Election **VOTE!**
- May 27** Last Day of School!
- May 31-June 2** ER&D Managing Anti-Social Behavior
- June 11** 2nd Annual MPTF Golf Scramble

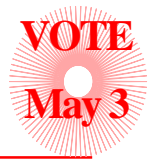
## Committee Endorses Candidates

For years, the *BEA* (Billings Education Association) has endorsed candidates and worked diligently to elect their candidates. When you consider 1200 teachers, 350 *BCEA* (*Billings Classified Education Association*) members, a significant percentage of the voting public is connected to education. Add their families and the percentage increases even more.

With the single-member trustee districts, voter turnout is sometimes low. Only 3 out of every 7 single member trustee districts will elect school board members so educators have an even greater chance to influence election results.

The *BEA Political Action Committee* interviewed all the candidates for these races and, with the *Billings Gazette* has endorsed the following candidates.

- |                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Trustee District #1</b>    | <b>Dawn Achten</b>     |
| <b>Trustee District #2</b>    | <b>Sandra Mossman</b>  |
| <b>High School District B</b> | <b>Joel E. Guthals</b> |



## BEA Awards

### Karen Cox Scholarship Recipients

The Scholarship Committee met earlier this month and selected three Billings seniors to receive the *BEA Karen Cox Scholarship*. These scholarship recipients will be honored at the May 17th *Representative Council* meeting. The scholarships will be awarded in January 2006.

- ✓ **Kevin Klaboe**, West High:  
son of *BEA* members Maureen and Paul Klaboe
- ✓ **Cara Auch**, Senior High:  
daughter of *BEA* member Linda Auch and Robert Auch
- ✓ **Nathan Wahl**, Skyview High:  
son of *BEA* member Mark Wahl and Lorenda Wahl



Congratulations to these three remarkable students! The *BEA* wishes each of them much success in their future academic endeavors.

### BEA Annual Election Announces Results

The *BEA* held its annual election for Board of Directors positions and delegates to MEA-MFT Representative Assembly on April 19, 2005. The election results are as follows:

- |                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Elementary Director</b>    | <b>JULINE KOSMICKI</b> |
| <b>Middle School Director</b> | <b>MARK SCHMALTZ</b>   |
| <b>Director-at-Large</b>      | <b>EILEEN SHEEHY</b>   |

The ten elected *BEA* Delegates to MEA-MFT Representative Assembly include:

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Kas Ioane</b>       | <b>Doug Robison</b>   |
| <b>Kathy Rumph</b>     | <b>Carolyn Thayer</b> |
| <b>Juline Kosmicki</b> | <b>Pat Lowthian</b>   |
| <b>Curt Prchal</b>     | <b>Terra Jochems</b>  |
| <b>Eileen Sheehy</b>   | <b>Joan Sleeth</b>    |





# Legislature & School Funding



**The President**

*Allan Audet*  
**BEA President**

We entered this legislative session with high hopes of what could be. With a directive from the Supreme Court ordering the legislature to define quality education and then fund it most educators were optimistic that it would occur. The process to define quality education took a lot of work from the Select Committee on Education, but we are still missing the key component which is the funding.

The legislature did provide a short term funding solution in House Bill 63. It doesn't take very long

to discover there are losers and winners in how the funding provided in HB 63 will impact school budgets across the state. Unfortunately for Billings, even though we did see an increase, the funding is not sufficient to cover the financial obligations before our district. Our district will be able to balance their budget, but it will require reallocating money that is presently earmarked for specific items or programs that are needed to meet student needs. The budget is also being balanced on the backs of some of our members with 9 positions being eliminated at the high school level. These nine positions will cause a ripple effect throughout K-12 as tenure teachers bump the non-tenured staff. To say the funding is insufficient is an understatement in my mind.



## **What House Bill 63 does..... and does not do.**

**HB 63 does provide an increase in funding of \$250 per ANB in the Elementary and \$100 per ANB in the High School.** Even with the increased level of funding our budgets are stretched to capacity. The elementary budget is \$52,548 in the black and the high school is \$188,574 in the lack. These figures are with out factoring the insurance increases and the MPEA contract negotiation, but do include the reduction of 9 FTE at the high school. The combination of the insurance and MPEA contract are estimated at \$35,000 which creates the need to find more funding.

**Three key amendments of HB 63 were removed in committee prior to its approval.** If any of the three had been left in the bill, they would have directly benefited Billings and helped balance the District's budget.

**The amendments removed included a provision to allow federally funded employees mandated payroll benefits to be paid out of the county retirement levy as they had been prior to the 2003 legislative session.** (This is a loss to the District—\$1.2 million dollars.)

**The committee also removed language which would have allowed a non-voted levy to pay for increases in health care for FY06 and FY07.** (Loss to the District is \$400,000 to \$960,000 dollars)

**The final amendment that was removed would have allowed our district to transfer ending fund balances from the transportation fund and the retirement fund to the flex fund.** (Loss to the District—the ability to access funds to address shortfalls in other budgetary line items)

As we are all aware, insurance is a major concern for district employees. When we look back, we can only conclude the greatest failure of the Legislature and the Governor was their inability to pass a statewide health insurance plan for the school employees of the state. *HB 124* or *K-SHIP* was the one funding bill which provided funding for schools without raising local taxes.

Let's hope the committee assigned to develop a new funding formula can do better and provide funding that is adequate to meet the requirements of their new definition of quality education. If they can't get it done, then possibly, the Supreme Court will!



Continuing Education Units.

## Know Your Master Agreement

With summer fast approaching, many professional development opportunities are offered during the summer. With the new language of the *BEA* contract, teachers can receive credit for classes they take.

For every ten hours of class instruction, teachers may receive one (1) quarter hour of college credit. Credits earned can be used for movement on the pay matrix. However, educators are urged to keep good records. They should get approval from their principal or director and make certain they receive paperwork from the sponsoring agency. The teacher must list the name of the course, number of hours of instruction, and dates when the class was taken.

See the *Master Agreement Article VII Section 6. Continuing Education Units and Non-College Technical Course Work Criteria* for complete contract language.



## Who's Your Building Rep?

*BEA* Building Representatives ... those wonderful people who know what's going on within the District, know who to talk to about a problem or situation, attend meetings throughout the year at the *BEA* office and relay valuable information to the members at the schools. It's a huge job, but not entirely thankless! Building Representatives, who attend eight of the nine monthly meetings and carry out Association business, receive a rebate of their local dues at the end of the school year.

Representative Council is an important governing body of the Association. Each school location is entitled to one Building Representative for every 15 members—with a guaranteed minimum of one representative.

Now, before school is over, is the time for each school to elect their Building Representative(s) for next year. The one-year term ends June 15. As soon as Building Representatives are elected for next year, notify the *BEA*. If you have any questions, call Shauna at 248-9812.



## 2nd Annual MPTF Golf Scramble

On Saturday, June 11, 2005, *MPTF (Montana Professional Teaching Foundation)* will host its second annual golf tournament to benefit the organization's activities and programs. The full turnout would include 36 teams with four players on each team. Prizes and a barbecue will close the scramble. Everyone should have a heck of a lot of fun golfing under the Montana sun. Take a minute and call to register!

Cathy Warner: 800-398-0826—<http://www.mea-mft.org/mptf.html>

### 2nd Annual MPTF Golf Scramble Eagle Rock Golf Course

5624 Larimer Lane  
Billings, MT



NOON Check in and on-site registration  
12:45 p.m. Golf carts leave Eagle Rock Clubhouse  
1:00 p.m. Shotgun start, golf 18 holes, contests, refresh with a beverage, win prizes.  
Awards, BBQ and tournament prizes—upon completion of play.

## New ER&D Classes begin this Summer

New Educational Research and Dissemination (*ER&D*) classes will be offered this summer at the Billings Education Association building. Check out these classes for practical, applicable, and effective research-based instructional techniques. The classes are taught by *BEA* members who have completed training in *AFT's ER&D* Institutes. All of these classes can be taken for *OPI* units or Step-up credit.



*Managing Anti-Social Behavior* and *Foundations of Effective Teaching I* can also be taken for College/Graduate Credit. For more information on the courses contact the class instructors. To register for these classes call the Lincoln Center at 247-3700 after May 1.

### ER&D Managing Anti-Social Behavior

Session 1 May 31 – June 2 at 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues. & Wed., 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Thurs.  
OR Session 2 August 1-3 at 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues. & Wed., 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Thurs.  
Instructors: Kathy Rumph (247-3834) & Julie Seedhouse (247-2403)

### \*ER&D Thinking Math I for Grades K-8

August 4, 5, 11, 12 at 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. AND  
September 12, 27 at 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Instructors: Terri Porisch (255-3882) & Linda Auch (655-3131)

### \*ER&D Foundations of Effective Teaching I

August 8, 9, 10 at 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. AND  
August 29 - October 17, Mondays at 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Instructors: Juline Kosmicki (255-3882) & Tania Klein (255-3882)

### \*ER&D Reading Comprehension for Grades K-8

August 8, 9, 10 at 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. AND  
October 4, 11, 25 at 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. AND  
November 1, 8, 22 (or 29) at 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. AND  
January 24 at 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Instructors: Barb Fettig (247-2450) & Linda Bayne (655-3115)

\*completion of course includes all dates

## Rimrock Mall offers discounts

On May 1, in conjunction with *National Teacher Appreciation Week*, Rimrock Mall (and 60 shopping centers across the country) will launch the *Teachers Supply Closet*, a year-long program to help teacher with out-of-pocket expenses for supplies.

Beginning May 1, anyone employed by a public or private school, from teachers to administrators, is eligible for *The Card*, good for educators' discounts of 30 - 40% off purchases at Rimrock Mall stores.

A *Teachers Supply Closet* gift card will also be available beginning May 1. Anyone may purchase this card as a gift for a teacher to be used toward the purchase of classroom supplies. For each gift card sold, Rimrock Mall will donate \$1 (up to a maximum \$1000) to purchase additional *Teachers Supply Closet* gift cards for local teachers.

Educators are invited to a special celebration at the Rimrock Mall in Center Court on May 4, 2005, at 5 p.m. to launch this new program. Refreshments will be provided and prizes awarded. *RSVP* Rimrock Mall Management Office at 656-3398 by April 27, 2005.



# Summer Opportunities for Teachers



## Girl Scout Counselors Wanted

**Resident Camp Counselors** needed for all-girls camp in Red Lodge from June 17 to July 25.

- ✓ Must possess maturity, good judgment and common sense.
- ✓ Be in good physical condition. Experience working with youth preferred.
- ✓ Knowledge of outdoor living skills a plus.
- ✓ Paid position: \$1100—plus room and board.

Please send resume to: **Camp Director, P.O. Box 30595, Billings, MT 59107** or call **252-0488** and ask for Paige.

## Leave NO Teacher Behind

### Educators' Escape

Cruise the Caribbean

August, 2006

For details go to:

[www.freewebs.com/educatorsescape](http://www.freewebs.com/educatorsescape)



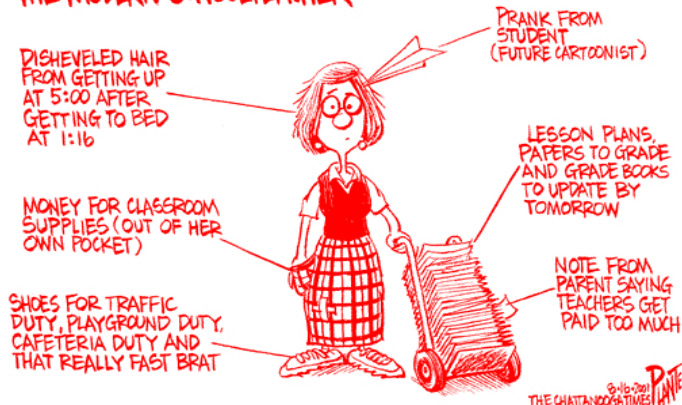
## Want a Pest-free Summer Job?



Don't look here! The Montana Department of Agriculture is looking for a *Pest Survey Technician*. Duties include conducting agricultural pest survey activities; assisting with insect trap placement, inspecting airplanes for beetles, collecting cereal leaf beetle larvae in fields, managing insectary in Kalispell; using *GPS* to locate trap and insect sites, and more! This

temporary/part-time job pays \$9.60 - \$11.53 per hour *DOE* and is based in Billings. If you are interested in bugs and this job, ask for the information available at the *BEA* office, 248-9812.

## THE MODERN SCHOOLTEACHER



# May / June CALENDAR

- May 1-7 National Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 3 School Board Election **VOTE!**
- May 6 Spring Day, School Vacation
- May 11 BEA Board of Directors
- May 17 Representative Council
- May 27 Last Day of School!
- May 30 Memorial Day
- May 31-June 2 ER&D's Managing Anti Social Behavior



## Classifieds

### Whitmer's Masonry Service

Brick & Natural Stone home repairs and new planters, mailboxes, veneers, and small retaining walls. Sorry, I do not do flat work. Call **JERRY @ 256-6066** for a free estimate.



### 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.



### For Sale: 1985 Ford F 150 4x4

123,000 Miles: One owner, excellent shape, runs great: \$2800. Call 652-7858



## Retirement Notification Deadlines

Teachers planning to retire this year should keep in mind the following *Severance Notification* deadlines. Staff must submit a notification by the following dates to receive the listed percentage of benefits.

After April 1 - 95%

After Last day of School - 90%

## News & Views

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