



NEWS & VIEWS

2006 Golden Apple, BEA Award Winners Honored Awards, Awards, Awards

On April 3, BEA President Allan Audet and BEA Office Manager Shauna Kinerson traveled to five schools to surprise this year's BEA Award winners.

The Golden Apple Committee also announced their recipients.

Senior High's library was the site of a double whammy. Fellow English teacher Steve Gardiner watched as Shirley Knopp was recognized as *BEA Teacher of the Year*, only to be surprised moments later, when he was presented the *Golden Apple Award*.

On April 25, the BEA Award recipients were honored at the Educator Appreciation Awards Banquet at the Billings Holiday Inn Grand Montana. Also recognized at the banquet were the Golden Apple Award recipients, Education Foundation grant and scholarship recipients, Billings Public Schools retirees and 25-year employees.



2006 BEA Award Recipients

- Teacher of the Year:** Shirley Knopp, Senior High
- Teacher in the Community:** Cynthia Jessee, Riverside
- Exemplary Associate:** Lauren Graves, Boulder
- Friend of Education:** Molly Mangold, Ponderosa
- Exemplary Administrator:** Steve Pomroy, Lewis & Clark



2006 Golden Apple Award Recipients

- Pat Lowthian:** 4th Grade Teacher at Arrowhead
- Darla Williams:** 5th Grade Teacher at Highland
- Julie Wilson:** Alkali Creek School Specialist
- Jean Smith:** 8th Grade Teacher at Canyon Creek
- Steve Gardiner:** English Teacher at Senior High



BEA Election Results

BEA Election Committee members Barbara Bergum and Kris Warren announced the results of the annual election held on April 18.

BEA Board of Directors

- President:** Allan Audet
- 1st Vice President:** Jeff Greenfield
- 2nd Vice President:** Kate McAuliffe
- Secretary:** Joan Sleeth
- High School Director:** Kas Ioane
- Director-at-Large:** Donna Witham
- Director-at-Large:** Julie Tschetter Seedhouse



BEA Delegates to MEA-MFT Representative Assembly
Pat Lowthian, Kim Flohr, Steve Eliason, Charlie Bokum, Patti Waddell, Karen Preble, Vivian Beals, Noreen Burris, Becky McGill, Nancy Story

In April, the BEA Representative Council formally endorsed the passage of the \$1.2 million elementary mill levy, the \$2.6 million high school mill levy, and the high school building reserve levy.

Representative Council views the levy funds vital to continue the quality of services provided to students in School District 2.

The school buildings in the District must be maintained to meet the ever-changing needs of the student population. The \$2 million building reserve now in effect expires this year. The 5-year high school building reserve on the ballot is for half that amount—\$1 million. With the passage of the high school building reserve, the net tax effect will be less than the current tax.

2 Mill Levies & Building Reserve Slated



Vote Yes



May 2nd!

Elementary Mill Levy

✓ **Vote YES!**

High School Mill Levy

✓ **Vote YES!**

High School Building Reserve

✓ **Vote YES!**

Voting absentee is easy. Obtain Applications for Absentee Ballots at the BEA Office or at the Yellowstone County Election Office website, www.co.yellowstone.mt.us/ elections. The Election Office will mail you a ballot. Cast your YES! Vote and mail or deliver it to the Election Office.



BEA PAC endorses Trustee Candidates

Tuesday, May 2, is the School Board Trustee/Mill Levies election. The BEA Political Action Committee has endorsed the following school board trustees:

- ✓ **Kathy Kelker**, a proven leader, has served as School Board Chair for eight years. She is running for re-election in Trustee District 6.
- ✓ **Mary Jo Fox**, a valuable asset on the board, was appointed fill the Trustee District 3 vacancy and is now seeking election.
- ✓ **Rachel Stagg**, Highland PTSA President, will bring new perspectives and ideas and is the candidate for Trustee District 4.

Both Fox and Stagg are unopposed in their districts and, though their names will appear on the ballots, they have been elected by acclamation. Since a candidate did not file for the Lockwood High School District, the board will accept applications for the seat after the election.



- Vote May 2nd!**
- ✓ **Kathy Kelker: Trustee District 6**
 - ✓ **BEA PAC Endorsements:**
 - ✓ **Rachel Stagg: Trustee District 4**
 - ✓ **Mary Jo Fox: Trustee District 3**

Elections! Elections! Elections!

A Message from the President Allan Audet



If current elections are any indication of voter turnout, we will see approximately 6500 “no” votes on May 2, 2006. Joining together staff and parents can overcome this by simply getting out and voting YES! The *BEA*, *BCEA*, *MPEA*, and administration make up approximately 2000 voters. Factor in spouses and family and we are at 4000 votes. Certainly, we can find 2000 pro-education voters among our friends and parents.

VOTE YES! Do what is needed for the Students of our District!

Why Support the Mill Levies and Building Reserve?

- YES The Montana Supreme Court has ruled that the funding for K-12 schools is inadequate, even when Districts are at their budgetary caps.
- YES In Billings, we have never been at the cap in the High School budget.
- YES The elementary budget has not been at the cap for several years.
- YES Students deserve the opportunity to benefit from a fully funded budget.



On April 4, the *BEA* Political Action Committee (*PAC*) interviewed and endorsed following School Board candidates for Trustee Districts 3, 4, and 6.

Rachel Stagg, parent and current *PTSA* (Parent Teacher Student Association) President from Highland is running unopposed in District 3 for Karen Moses' seat on the board.

Mary Jo Fox current trustee, who was appointed to the board to fill Stephanie Krueger's seat is running unopposed in District 3 (located in the Heights).

Kathy Kelker, current School Board Chair has two opponents in Trustee District 6. Kelker was endorsed unanimously by the *BEA PAC*. She has a proven record on education and has demonstrated the leadership we need to move our District forward.

Vote YES for Kelker and her accomplishments:

- Aided** healing after the strike.
- Developed** open communication on the School Board and the Association.
- Worked** actively in the successful negotiations of the last 4 years.
- Established** Labor Management Committee to discuss special education issues.
- Guided** a new Budgeting for Results Guidance Team which involves staff, parents, business community, and administration.
- Participates** in community organizations.





Delegates attend MEA-MFT Rep Assembly

The BEA sent 31 delegates to Missoula on March 30 to represent the Association at the 7th annual *MEA-MFT* Representative Assembly. Each year the event is held in a different Montana community and representatives from approximately 290 locals make important decisions to govern *MEA-MFT*. Thank you to all 31 *BEA* delegates who gave up 2^{1/2} days to travel to Missoula and represent all *BEA* members.

BEA Delegates to 2006 MEA-MFT RA

Linda Auch, Arrowhead; Linda Branae, Burlington; Cheri Dale, Rimrock; Debbie Dolezal, North Park; Lon Drollinger, Central Heights; Pat Evans, West; Deb Fischer, West; Barbara Forrester-Frank, Orchard; Marcia Hafner, West Academy; Penny Hanson, Bench; Darryl Helmer, Skyview; Mike Joyce, Adult Ed; Pat Joyce, Pupil Services; Kristeen Keup, Senior; Gaye Kopczynski, West; Jan Kransky, Skyview; Chris Ljunggren, Senior; Pat Lowthian, Arrowhead; Pat McNelly, Senior Academy;

Kathy Munson, Meadowlark; Steve Murphy, West; Curt Prchal, Will James; Kathy Rumph, Pupil Services; Julie Seedhouse, Will James; Sandi Shawhan, Ponderosa; Eileen Sheehy, West; Linda Soft, Skyview; Nancy Story, Senior; Inger Tognetti, Broadwater; Mark Verlanic, West; and Donna Witham, Skyview.
State Delegates: Allan Audet, *BEA*; Jeff Greenfield, Senior; Joan Sleeth, Alkali Creek

During the meetings, the MEA-MFT Representative Assembly accomplished the following:

- ✦ Re-elected by acclamation **Eric Feaver** of Helena *MEA-MFT* president
- ✦ Elected **Larry Nielsen** of Helena new vice president —replacing Jim McGarvey in June.
- ✦ Re-elected **Jeff Greenfield** of Billings, as secretary-treasurer.
- ✦ Re-elected **Sherry McMorris** of Sidney, as *NEA* director.
- ✦ Elected **Gaye Kopczynski** of Billings, as director-at-large on the *MEA-MFT* Board.
- ✦ Elected **Judie Woodhouse** of Polson, as state delegate to the *NEA* Representative Assembly.
- ✦ Awarded **Bonnie Slough** of Billings, posthumously, as *MEA-MFT ESP* of the Year for her contributions to the growth and strength of *MEA-MFT*. Bonnie's family attended *RA* to accept this award.
- ✦ Adopted 4 amendments to the constitution.
- ✦ Adopted 5 amendments to resolutions to underscore their commitment to professional development, Indian Education for All, pre-budget negotiations, and union leave.
- ✦ Passed several new business items:
- ✦ *NBI #1* creates \$200 scholarships for 20 relatively new *MEA-MFT* members to attend the annual Educators' Conference.
- ✦ *NBI #2* waives the Educators' Conference fee for all *MEA-MFT* members in their first three years of work —provided they preregister.
- ✦ *NBI #3* endorses *Raise Montana (I-151)* the ballot issue campaign to raise the Montana minimum wage \$1.
- ✦ *NBI #4* condemns *SOS (CI-97)*, the fraudulent ballot issue campaign to artificially cap state spending.
- ✦ Adopted a new legislative program.
- ✦ Adopted dues and a budget for our next fiscal year.



Cox Scholarships Announced



The *BEA* Scholarship Committee recently selected the recipients of the 2006 *BEA Karen Cox Scholarships*. The scholars will be presented a plaque at the May 16 meeting of Representative Council and may anticipate their scholarship funds in January 2007.



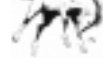
Patrick Tucker, a Skyview High student;
son of *BEA* member Kathleen Tucker



Sarah Wendt, a West High student;
daughter of *BEA* member Bruce Wendt



Michael Stevenson, a West High student;
son of *BEA* member Barbara Stevenson



Alexa Payne, a Senior High student;
daughter of *BEA* member Vikki Payne

Register Now for Summer Classes!

Call Community Education - 247-3700

Thinking Math I for Grades K-8

Instructors:

Terri Porisch (porischt@billings.k12.mt.us)

Linda Auch (auchl@billings.k12.mt.us)

Class Dates & Times:

Course #PDASU06-203, June 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 or 3 p.m.
(depending on length of lunch break)

Where: Sandstone School

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

Cost: \$165 + \$15 supplies fee (for college credit: \$250 + \$15 supplies fee)

Reading Comprehension for Grades K-8

Instructors:

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, Course #PDASU06-204, June 5-8, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Session 2, Course #PDASU06-205, 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 + \$15 supplies fee

Managing Anti-Social Behavior

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, Course #PDASU06-200, May 30 & 31, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. & June 1, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Session 2, Course #PDASU06-201, 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 + \$15 supplies fee (for college credit: \$125 + \$15 supplies fee)



Calling All Presenters!

2006 MEA-MFT Educators Conference



“Applications to Present” are being accepted for the 2006 MEA-MFT Educators’ Conference which will be held in Billings on October 19-20, 2006, at Skyview High School and Castle Rock Junior High.

To submit an application electronically, go to www.mea-mft.org. At the bottom of the webpage, there is

a section called Other Info. The second option is MEA-MFT Educators’ Conference. Login and Enter a New Application to Present.

The deadline is May 8, so submit your application ASAP. If you have any questions concerning the conference please contact Cathy Warner, Business Manager, at 1-800-398-0826 or email cwarner@mea-mft.org.



Montana: 50th in the nation



“Raise Montana” is an effort to increase Montana’s minimum wage by \$1 an hour and needs your support. This ballot measure (I-151) will also provide annual cost of living adjustments. The current minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour has not changed since it was set by Congress in 1997.

A full-time worker paid \$5.15 an hour brings home \$10,000 a year, well under the poverty line. It is time for Montanans to get a raise; 17 other states have already raised their minimum wage rates.

If you have not signed a petition to get this important initiative on the November 2006 ballot call the BEA Office at 248-9812.

Remember, Do Not Sign!

A giant, pink, 16-ft pig promoting *Constitutional Initiative 97* is touring the state to help gather signatures. *CI-97* seeks to cap state government spending in Montana. HOWEVER, *AARP Montana* and *MEA-MFT*, have denounced *CI-97* as a needless attempt to ham-string government spending. The state constitution already requires a balanced budget.

This ballot initiative, also called “Stop Overspending” (*SOS*) could severely restrict public services. The initiative is modeled after

the so-called Taxpayer Bill of Rights (*TABOR*) enacted in Colorado in 1992. *TABOR* strangled economic growth, education, health care, and transportation in Colorado.

MEA-MFT calls *SOS* the “Sink Our State” initiative and is working to defeat it. Refuse to sign the petition that would put this harmful initiative on the ballot.



Wanted: House Painters

NEED your house interior repainted? Call for that exterior job too! Big or small—Dave Barnett & Mike Cantrell can do the job! 656-7767 or 628-7122



April / May Calendar

May 2	School Board / Mill Levy Elections
May 9	2006 is National Teacher Day
May 10	BEA Board of Directors
May 18	Representative Council
May 26	Last Day of School—Students
May 27	Last Day of School—Teachers
August 21	First Day of School—Teachers
August 23	First Day of School—Students



Association & Teacher Rights Know Your Master Agreement...

Recent budget discussions have voiced concerns among the BEA membership about the non-renewal of contracts. To date, the School Board has taken no action concerning this issue but there are specific contractual issues members should consider.

Non-tenure teachers, according to state law, must be notified in writing by June 1, if his or her contract will not be renewed.



A teacher must submit a current address with the District Human Resource office if placed on layoff. As soon as a position becomes available, the teacher will be notified by

Registered or Certified mail, if he or she is qualified for the job. The teacher must then respond to the District within 14 days, if interested. Otherwise, the position will be forfeited. For further clarification of the non-renewal guidelines, see *Article IV, Section 7 and Article XVII, Section 7*.

More Workshops on Retirement Planned

The “baby boom generation” started turning 60 years of age this year, but how many baby boomers think about how they will spend the 25-30 years?

Evey LaMont will offer a six-hour workshop June 6, 7, 8 (two hours each— evenings) or a full day on Saturday, June 17th through *MSUB - Outreach*. Objectives include identifying retirement strengths, retirement concerns, making retirement successful, deciding when to retire, and whether to switch to another path.



The class will survey retirement preparedness, explore careers in retirement, and use a variety of tools to help make the best choices. The course fee is \$69. To register call 896-5890.

— Severance Notification Deadlines —

Notification after April 1: 95% *

Notification after the last day of school: 90% *

* % of Service Credit & Sick Leave Credit to be received



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