

THE MUSTANG MONTHLY



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Hoop There it is!

The boys basketball team started the season off playing West Yellowstone on December 1, and sadly took a loss (35-58). They then headed to the Choteau tournament On December 8-9 and took two big wins against Choteau (53-40) and Conrad (58-37). They are ready to keep improving on their season.

Brandon Foss is the only freshman on varsity this year. He is feeling very good about that. He is also very excited for his first season of high school basketball. Foss believes that everything in the season will end up going well.

I Interviewed Mr. Malby and he says that the season is going very well so far. The team is finally starting to grasp the culture and play together. He says that the first game was a disappointment to everyone, but they learned a lot, made adjustments, and are enjoying practices and games more. Malby says that the team will continue to compete for the rest of the season, share the ball, and support one another. He believes all of the Class B teams are all there together in terms of ability, and that the Mustangs should be able to compete against any of the other schools. Malby is looking forward to being Class B for the challenge and because he grew up in Class B. He knows the team is ready to play every game.

Before heading into Christmas Break, the boys will face off against Whitehall at home on Friday, December 15, followed by an away game at Three Forks the following day. Their last December game will take place Tuesday, December 19 at Manhattan.



Hoop There it is (Girls Edition)

By Elizabeth Olson

The Lady Mustangs have begun their 2023-24 basketball season, already two games deep. They headed to West Yellowstone for their first game of the season, fighting hard but taking a loss (50-56), then turned it around at Manhattan Christian, walking away with their first win of the season (46-33). They also attended a tournament in Choteau in which they won against both Choteau (63-25) and Conrad (59-23). Other games in December include their first home game against Whitehall on the 15th, an away game at Three Forks on the 16th, and another away game at Manhattan on the 19th. The coaches and one of the players were interviewed regarding the start of their season.

First, Assistant Coach Kelley Knack gave some insight on her JV team. Knack commented on the start of the season, saying “I think it's great; we’ve got a lot of hard-working girls that come to practice with hard-working attitudes, and they’re willing to get better every day, and that makes it easy.” When looking at the other teams in the conference, Knack thinks Boulder and Manhattan will be the toughest conference games this year. In terms of goals she has for her JV girls, Knack said, “My goals for my JV team, as always, is everybody getting better on defense, give everybody confidence in their shot, and just to improve from the beginning to the end of the season in a way they can definitely measure.” Knack said that their strengths include their effort on the floor and the aggressiveness factor at every practice and game, but one thing they need to work on is being more physical. When motivating her team after a loss, Knack says it's important to “not dwell on the negatives. I do three takeaways after every game and I make sure they’re always positive.” If Knack could choose one thing she likes most about basketball, it would be “the kids.”

Next, Head Coach Jordan Overstreet commented on the varsity team. Overstreet said he’s really enjoyed this season so far. “The girls have had great attitudes and come every day ready to work and have been a joy to coach.” Overstreet also commented on moving up to class B, saying he thinks Boulder, Manhattan, and Three Forks all have very solid teams and will probably be their biggest competition in the district this year. Some goals Overstreet has for his team this season include “getting better every day, having great attitudes and being great teammates, being district champions, and making the state tournament.” In terms of strengths and weaknesses, Overstreet said that the team is good at working hard every day and having great attitudes but could improve on boxing out and doing the little things right. To keep his team motivated after a loss, he says, “The easiest way after a loss is to show them the things we need to improve on; the team is very self-driven, and they respond well to constructive criticism.” Finally, Overstreet's favorite thing about the game of basketball is “being a part of a team and everybody coming together to accomplish a team goal.”

Lastly, starting point guard Marisa Snider shared her point of view on her team this season. Overall, she thinks the team has been doing well so far this season, saying, “It's good. We’ve kind of started off a little slow, but I think we’ll get better and get more team chemistry throughout the season.” Regarding her thoughts on the team’s toughest competition this season, Snider said “For me, probably Boulder because I don’t like them and they don’t like me.” Snider also mentioned the goals she has for her team this season. Those goals were “To go out and compete our first year in class B, and to keep the team drama-free. Don’t be a big drama llama, because nobody likes drama llamas. Fire up.” Snider also mentioned the team's strengths and weaknesses from a player’s perspective. “We don’t have a lot of height on our team, but we have a pretty good bond, so there probably won’t be a lot of drama.” Snider thinks that if her team were to describe her, they would say she is “Loud, energetic, small, and short.” Lastly, Snider shared what she likes most about basketball, saying “I like the competitiveness and how distracting it can be in a good way. I really just enjoy playing the game.” Snider has had a standout season so far, scoring 26, 17, 29, and 32 points in the team’s first four games.

Speech and Drama

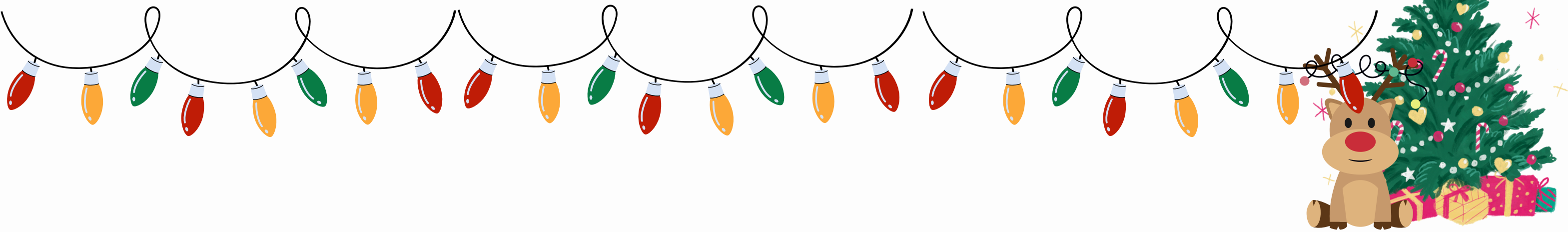
On December 1-2, the Speech and Drama team attended a large AA meet in Helena. The speech events had hundreds of competitors, and none of our students participating in speech events made it to semi-finals. However, the team's drama competitors did very well, with Levi Whitehurst taking 1st place in Humorous Solo, and Liz Olson and Ruby Blazer placing 4th in Humorous Duo.



On December 9, The team ventured to Three Forks, where they had a wonderful meet. Out of the team's 11 competitors, 9 made it to finals. Levi Whitehurst (Humorous Solo), Izzy Haas (Original Oratory), and Liz Olson and Ruby Blazer (Humorous Duo) all placed 1st; Olivia Benson (Original Oratory) placed 2nd; Kloey Noack (Humorous Oral Interpretation) and Hayden Rosdahl (Informative) got 3rd, Aalyia Howard (Original Oratory) got 4th, Sam Benson (Informative) placed 5th, and Zane Morrison (Impromptu) got 6th. Great job guys!



Christmas Concert



The Elementry Christmas Concert took place on December 13. The K-4 students performed first, and they all sang their little hearts out. The fourth graders even played the “Here comes Santa Clause” on recorders! The kindergarteners all dressed as snowmen, the first graders were candy canes, the second graders were reindeer, the third graders were Santas, and finally, the fourth grades were holiday themed. All of the songs were themed to each class. At the end, all of the classes sang “We Wish You A Merry Christmas” together.

Grades 5-12 performed after the elementary. The performance consisted of mainly band performances of each grade, ending with a high school choir performance of our school’s two choir students: seniors Grace Stecker and Levi Whitehurst. Everyone did a fabulous job!



Shakespeare in the Schools

On December 14, our school had the privilege of watching a performance by the organization Shakespeare in the Parks—or, in our case, Shakespeare in the Gym. A talented team of actors performed the play *As You Like It*, a comedy originally published in 1623. The play is a romantic tale set in a world where the rules of reality are a little more “fluid and fantastical than this one,” according to actor Joshua Williams during an acting workshop for the senior class. Williams is only one member of the skilled crew that brought us *As You Like It*.

Shakespeare in the Schools, a smaller organization within Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, is a group that travels throughout Montana and Northern Wyoming. They specifically prefer smaller schools and communities with the mission of reaching people through Shakespearian dramas. After the performance, students were given the opportunity to ask the cast questions about acting, and for the juniors and seniors, fifth and sixth periods were reserved for the actors to give acting workshops. The cast played games and gave activities to the students, fun warm-ups that also stretched their acting muscles.

Ennis was the second-to-last stop on the map for Shakespeare in the Schools after a long, arduous ten-week journey across Montana and Wyoming. Let’s give it up for this incredible and talented crew, who took the time and the planning to come all the way out to Ennis High School!



The Man, the Myth, the Legend: Barbecue John

After watching *As You Like It*, the EHS student body would most likely recognize Ian Maryfield for his roles as Oliver and Jacques in the Shakespearian performance. He is most notable for his superb acting skills, his stellar singing voice, his guitar-playing prowess, and his distinct Southern drawl. Some of us, however, know him by a different name: Barbecue John.

Maryfield has lived in a variety of different places, and when asked where he was from by the students during the Q-&-A section of the performance, he simply said, “The South.” He holds a BFA from Oklahoma City University and reported that he has lived in mostly Louisiana and Texas. He has even appeared in an Avocados from Mexico commercial and an episode of *Chicago Fire*.

Some people may be curious about the “Barbecue John” moniker. It is a title that several members of the Mustang Monthly came up with when we did not remember his name—only the fact that he identifies as a Southern person. When we approached him during a workshop and informed him that he had been dubbed Barbecue John, he laughed and said he’s been given much worse nicknames before. Barbecue John, for your talents and abilities, you will be memorialized forever in a newspaper published by a high school in Ennis, Montana. We wish you nothing but the best.



2023 SECRETARY OF STATE'S CONSTITUTION CONTEST

Essay Prompt: “What Promises of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution Mean the Most to Me and Why?”.

The US Constitution Contest promotes civic engagement. It provides a time where students can explore the U.S. Constitution and the Preamble and express why this foundational document is so important to us as United States citizens.

Students from all over the state entered in the contest, and three Ennis High students finished in the top 6:

Seeley Driskill: 1st place

Bailey Fouraker: 2nd Place

Elizabeth Olson: 6th Place

From Mr. Boling: “I think it is incredible that these three individuals took a more rigorous writing assignment for Government class when given the opportunity. They had the bravery to put themselves and their work out there to be judged. I think it is amazing that three students from our high school finished in the top 6 in a statewide contest. It is awesome that they won prizes and represented our school in such a great way. I am very proud of their work, their writing abilities, their understanding, and pride in our country. I think their performances say a lot about them as students and citizens. I think this also shows how amazing our English teachers are at this school. If students are willing to put in the work, they can earn a great education at our school. I am very proud to be their teacher.



Senior Spotlight!!

Justin Kloote is feeling excited for his future and is ready to see what is to come. His future plan is to attend college.

Kloote's favorite memories from his school years are the bus rides and staying in hotel rooms with his team. He is most proud of himself for making it through high school and graduating. If Kloote could turn into any food he would choose sushi. If he could live on any other planet he would choose Jupiter because it has a cool ring and it would be cool to live alone on. If Kloote could choose to be any climate he would choose to be rainy.



Chaz Veland is feeling very stoked that high school is almost done. He will attend a trade school after high school. Veland's favorite memories from high school are football, and he is most proud of accomplishing so much in football. If he could live alone in either a beach town or the mountains, he would choose the mountains. Veland would choose to be on the show *Trailer Park Boys*. If he could be any season, he would choose to fall.

Jeremy Mauch can't wait to leave high school. His future plans are to attend college. Mauch's favorite school memory was the tape ball Ms. Steffen took. He is most proud of himself for getting All-State for football. If he could vacation anywhere in the world, he would choose Greece.

Mauch's biggest fear is the dark; if he could choose to win the lottery or work his dream job, he would choose to win the lottery, because of free money.



STUDENT ART SPOTLIGHT

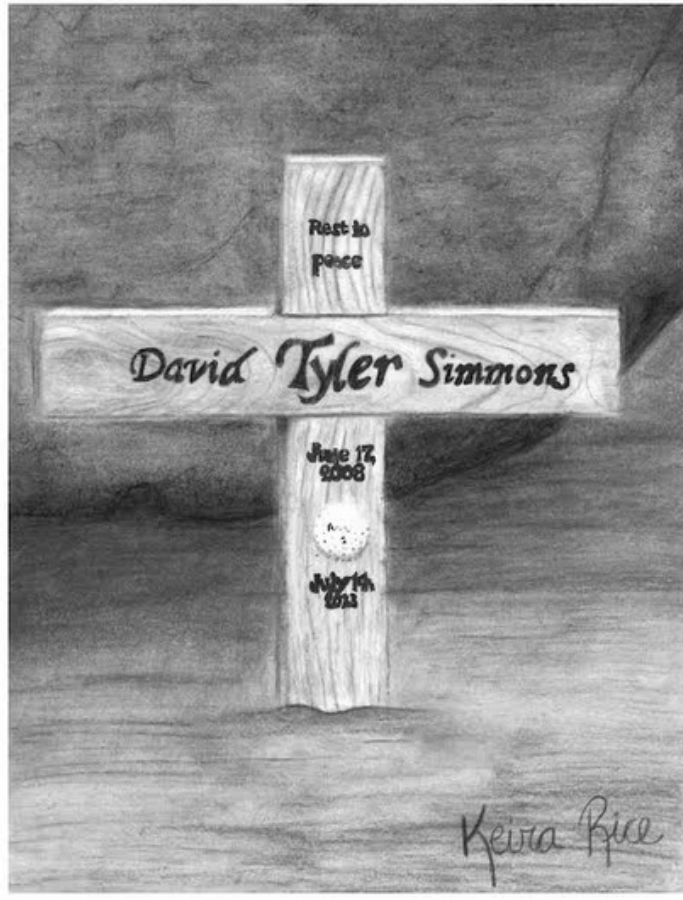
Check out some great projects our art students have completed!



Jaden Hutchins



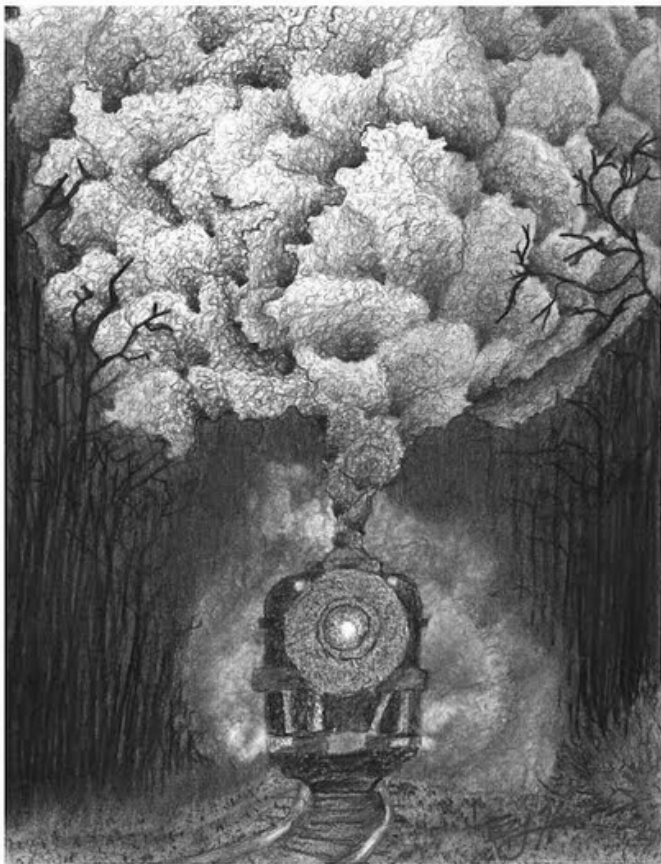
Zachary Foss



Keira Rice



Madi Nelson



Izzy Haas



Hannah Stecker



Barrett Garland



Easton Moses

ETHS New Year's Resolutions

SEELEY DRISKILL WANTS TO HIT 200
SUBSCRIBERS ON YOUTUBE

MS. STEFFEN SETS A YEARLY
READING GOAL, AND IN 2024 SHE
WANTS TO READ 32 BOOKS

KAYZLI OSTLER WANTS TO GROW
TALLER

MADISON NELSON WANTS TO BE
BETTER AT LIFE

KATIE BARNEY WANTS TO EAT
HEALTHY

ELLA ROLFE WANTS TO READ MORE

HUNTLY HARVEY WANTS TO GET
BETTER AT SAVING MONEY

SARAH FOURAKER WANTS TO GET
BETTER AT BASKETBALL

ADDI ROWE WANTS TO BE LESS
SALTY

MRS. NELSON WANTS TO CONTINUE TO
DO HER BEST EVERYDAY

Christmas Stroll

By Addi Rowe



The Christmas Stroll took place in downtown Ennis on December 8. Lights all over Ennis were lit up and beautiful, and all the shops were open, serving yummy treats and hot cocoa. At Yesterday's Fountain, Santa was visiting with children and taking photos with them. At the end of the stroll, there was a light parade, filled with tons of Christmas lights and cheerful music. I asked some students and staff what they enjoyed about the Christmas Stroll this year:

Brooke Barnosky: Black Butte Coffee

Elizabeth Olson: Finding a new Christmas sweater at the Nearly New

Mr. Gossack: S'mores on the fire

Officer Moore: Arresting the grinch.

Madi Nelson: Doty almost slipped on the ice.

Brummie Boggus: Taking a picture with Frosty the Snowman.

Isabelle Hawkinson: Having a snowball fight with little kids.

Jack Melugin: Hot chocolate

Gia Fanelli: Hot chocolate bar at The Pharmacy.

Noah Daems: Pictures with Santa.

Sage Canterbury: Jacket I found at Treasures and Trinkets.



Overall, the Christmas Stroll was a success! many people enjoyed their time at it drinking hot chocolate, shopping, taking pictures with Frosty or Santa, and spending time with their family and friends! A new store, Briar + Sphinx had their first opening during the Christmas Stroll as well. Have a great break! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Liz, Laugh, Love

What are you looking forward to in the new year?

Brandon Foss: Sports

Mrs. Rolfe: Winter Sports

Zach Foss: College

Mikendra Ledgerwood: Snow

Megan Knack: Graduation

Mikayla Ledgerwood: Summer

Grace Stecker: Completing college applications

Kaleb Rice: Four day week

Caden Lovett: Football

Jeremy Mauch: Four day week

Cole Kramer: Football

Wylie Connor: Graduation

Creed Allen: Fresh start on tardies

Clinton Buyan: Plentiful spud harvest

Wyatt Doty: Four day week

Isaac Doty: Four day week

John Hostetler: Skiing

Ryker Swanson: The rest of basketball season

Ally Hilton: Snow

Vance Wingard: School being over

By Elizabeth Olson

Byte-ing the Bullet: Navigating the TikTok Ban Controversy

Whether you have the infamous app or not, the social media platform TikTok has been a hot topic around the globe, including Ennis High School, for years. For equally as long, there has been talk of banning the app for a number of reasons, whether it's shielding young users from inappropriate content or even for data privacy reasons. Recently, Montana legislation was passed to ban the app from the state entirely—until a judge blocked the decision on December 1, 2023. To some, the TikTok ban may be a breach of First-Amendment rights; others see it as a way to protect vulnerable citizens from harm. Opinions on this debate are as varied and multifaceted as the people they belong to, but now, we all have one question: what now?

A lot of fear stems from the Chinese technology company ByteDance's techniques used to steal people's information through sites like TikTok. Real legislation related to the ban dates back all the way to the beginning of last year. The House Foreign Affairs committee voted on a bill to ban TikTok in March, and it was approved. If you've paid any attention in Mr. Boling's Government class, though, you'd understand that this is nowhere near the end of the line for a bill. It went to the Senate, where it was also passed, which now means that it is in the hands of the president. The New York Times had this to say:

"TikTok said recently that the Biden administration wants its Chinese ownership to sell the app or face a possible ban. The administration has been largely quiet, though the White House recently pointed to an ongoing review, in response to questions about TikTok. TikTok has been in yearslong confidential talks with the administration's review panel, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, to address questions about TikTok and ByteDance's relationship with the Chinese government and the handling of user data" (Holpuch, 2023).

A block in Montana, though, was put on the ban. The platform was initially intended to be prohibited statewide beginning January 1. This halt on the ban was put in place by U.S. District Judge Donald Malloy, claiming that this prohibition most likely compromises First-Amendment rights. According to CBS News, "...the text of the original bill stated that anyone in violation of the law would have been liable to pay \$10,000 per violation, and also liable for an additional \$10,000 each day the violation continued" (Mandler, 2023).

After speaking with students around the high school, much to my surprise, lots of students reported not having TikTok at all. A select few checked their cellphones and only had a daily average of fifteen or twenty minutes. There were several who had racked up absurd hours on their TikTok screen times, such as junior Creed Allen, who had a daily average of over six hours on the site—but we don't judge. Another recent trend has surfaced, though, an entertainment platform that may have an even more sinister edge than TikTok: Instagram Reels.

“I’ll go from watching an NFL clip to watching an old man die by breaking his neck or something.”

On Instagram, a Reel is a feature that allows users to post a video clip that's up to sixty seconds long. This isn't all that different from TikTok, and regarding the TikTok ban, some students have reported that they don't care too much about it; they'll simply turn to Reels. There most notably seems to be a dark edge to Reels, where much of the content consumed by teenagers is graphic, violent, and even explicit material. Senior Seeley Driskill reported watching mostly humorous videos, but many are dark and contain depictions of people getting hurt or even dying. Fellow senior Camden Virden made a similar comment when asked about the content that appears on his feed: “I’ll go from watching an NFL clip to watching an old man die by breaking his neck or something.”

This isn't a phenomenon happening solely at Ennis High; it's a problem that's garnering the attention of news outlets. Allegations have been made against Instagram for directing adult content at minors, and for not policing the age of its users. According to Instagram, users must be thirteen years old in order to create an account. The Wall Street Journal even created fake accounts of preteen girls to go undercover and see where the content would be circulated—and the results were disheartening. “Jarring doses of salacious content” were then recommended to those accounts, according to the Journal (Horwitz & Blunt, 2023).

All of this is a grim, bleak message that seemingly doesn't have a solution. Kids aren't going to delete their social media apps simply because we tell them that they're bad. Besides, not everything that shows up on social media is violent and mature; plenty of people use TikTok and Instagram Reels to watch positive content, things like useful tutorials and cute animal videos. The best we can do is moderate our social media intake and try to monitor the content that shows up on our feeds—because watching a video of two ducks eating a bowl of peas never hurt anyone.

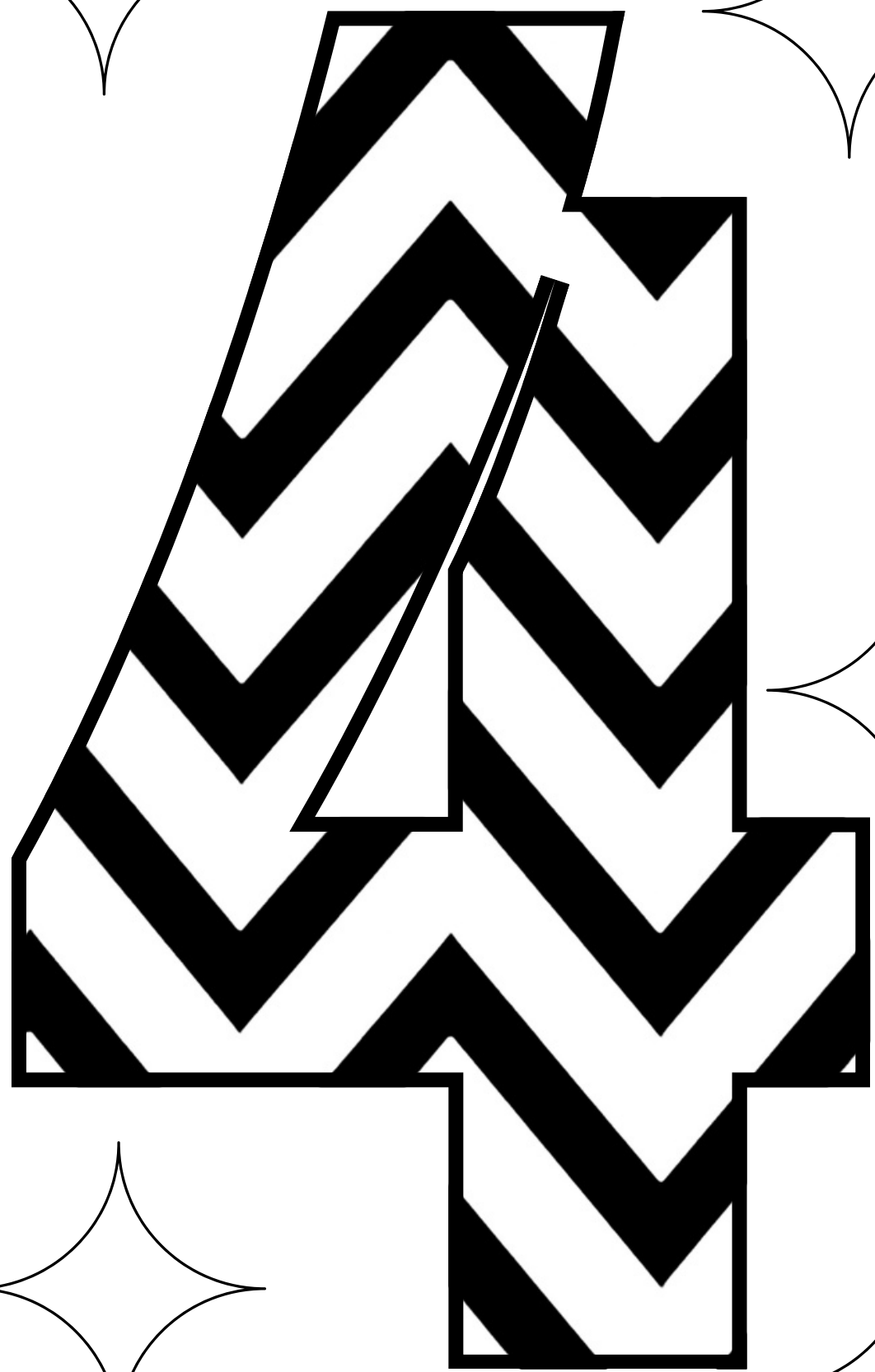
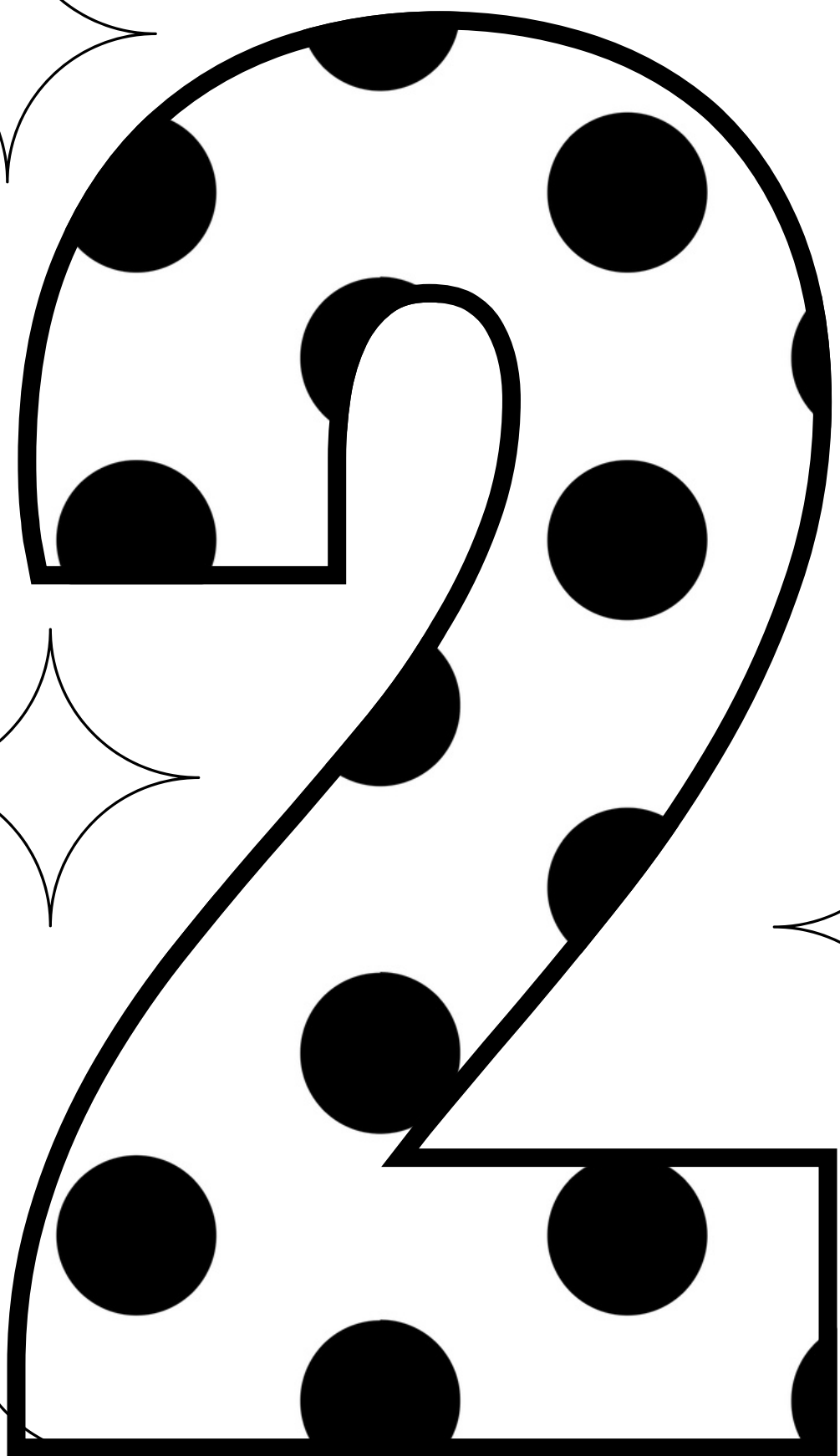
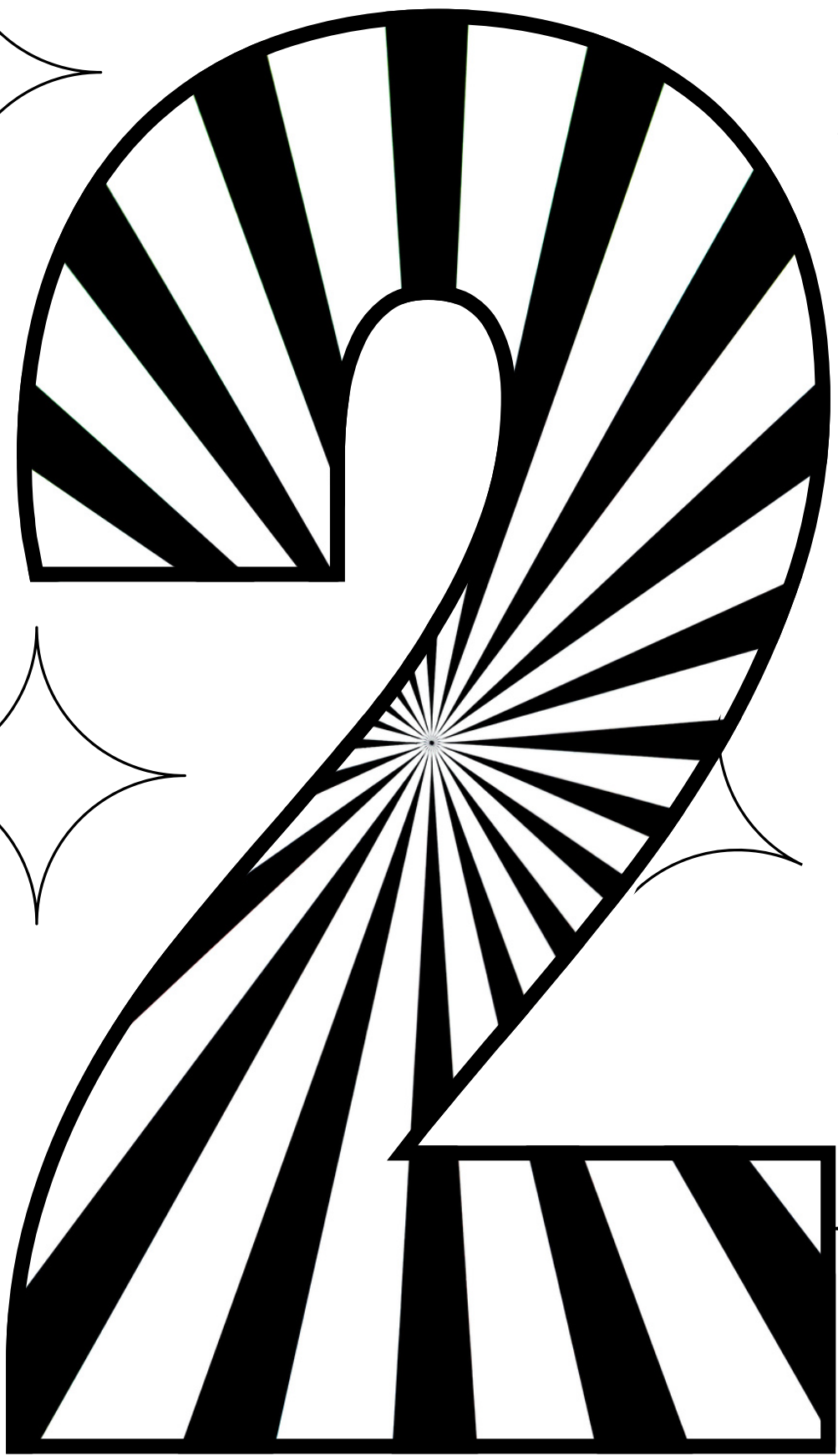
Written by Bailey Fouraker



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New Year's Coloring Page



*This Issue's Edition of Seeley Driskill's Seemingly Random
but Informative Series on the Topic of her Choosing:*

Heinz

Today I am here to talk to you about ketchup. Henry John Heinz actually started off making horseradish, but after going bankrupt in 1876 decided to make ketchup instead. During the Industrial Revolution, since more people were moving to densely populated areas, people were forced to buy food from markets and street vendors rather than farm it themselves. The meat was often spoiled because there were few regulations regarding food sanitation and safety. People would use fish sauce called “cat sup” to make their meals taste better, and Heinz saw an opportunity. He decided to make a sauce that would go well with anything, so he created ketchup. He also decided to be the first person to put his product in clear bottles so his customers could trust and see his product rather than having to guess what the product looked like through brown and green glass.

Heinz decided to make an assembly-line structured system for his company, which Ford took inspiration from. Heinz also used electricity to illuminate his factory so his employees could work all night. Mr. Heinz is responsible for helping pass the Pure Food and Drink Law in 1906 because there were so many competitors who were using horrible ingredients to make ketchup at cheap prices, so Heinz decided to put a stop to it. He then gathered all the glass bottles in his area and sunk them in a ship so people could not use them. He is revolutionary, and I love Heinz.





EVENTS

JAN 2024

Sports:

1/5: BB v Lone Peak

1/6: BB @ Boulder

1/8: BB v MCHS (Girls)

1/12: BB v Townsend

1/13: BB @ Lima

1/19: BB @Whitehall

1/20: BB v Three Forks

1/25: BB v West

Yellowstone

1/26: BB v Manhattan

Other:

**1/5-6: Speech & Drama @
Huntley**

**1/13: Speech & Drama @
Townsend**

**1/19-20: Speech & Drama
Divisionals @ Columbus**

1/24: Spelling Bee

**1/26-27: Speech & Drama
State @ Choteau**