PTC no more at high School

By Cami Dougall, Staff Reporter

Parent-teacher conferences are no more. This year, the school district has decided not to have parent-teacher conferences at Blackfoot High School or Mountain View Middle School. The decision was Parent-teacher conference discussed by a calendar committee made up of teachers, parents and administrators. The decision was made to go. This committee included district financial officer Brian Kress as chairman of the committee, principal John Pearce as a member, the administrators, and Layne Gardner as a teacher. The plan was to do with teacher's contract days. The committee reached the decision that it was more important to give teachers enough time to teach the curriculum than to hold a conference with parents. According to Pearce, this change is not negative, as it is a good thing. The administration doesn’t want parents to wait to ask the teachers questions about their students. The hope is that parents will email teachers about their students’ progress. Pearce admits that vital communication between parents and teachers will have to be developed for this plan to work.

“When this decision was made, I believed that it could be effective if the high school was willing to do what’s necessary to inform parents of their student’s progress,” Kress said. Although most students know about the change, there were mixed opinions about the lack of parent-teacher conference.

By Erick Wood, Co-Editor-in-Chief

“Even though I won’t be able to vote in this election, I have a responsibility to know all of the candidates,” Emily Jensen, a senior in Holly Kartchner’s We the People class, said. On Thursday October 31, multiple candidates running on the republican ticket this year stopped by Stinger’s Bar and Grill to meet and greet the voters in Bingham County. Many, if not most notably in attendance were Governor Butch Otter and U.S. Congressman Mike Simpson, an alumni of BHS in 1968.

In Kartchner’s government classes, students have been learning about the framers and founders of the country and have been discussing attack ads between republican candidate Butch Otter and democratic candidate Al Balaikoff. Students were encouraged to go to the event and meet the republican candidates.

“I’m going to be old enough to vote, so I want to meet all of the candidates, also I want to take a picture with Mike Simpson,” Tess Boyd (12) said. Seniors Anthony Stott and Jake Pendlebury explained that they wanted to learn more about the candidates, admitting that they didn’t know who any of them were, but wanted to meet the people who were in charge. Stott will be able to vote this year while Pendlebury will not.

At a breakfast buffet each of the candidates spoke a bit about their party and mentioned topics such as the wolf population, unemployment, school reforms, the government debt, and social security reformations.

Two questions were asked, what was the most pressing issue to the students of Blackfoot?

“I believe it was a good attendance, BHS students have never had attendance like this,”管理条例. “They have been coming to school more than they ever have before. The student handbook states, “In an effort to reward students with good attendance, BHS students with 2 or less absences (97% att- tendance), 2 or fewer tardies, and a B grade in any class are eligible for the “Attendance Incentive.” This eligibility allows the student to be exempt from trimester end-assessments [finals].” Because sickness isn’t an excuse, there are no more absences required of students coming to school with a cold, or something of the like, who usually would have stayed home if the incentive wasn’t in place. “I’ve seen more sick kids at school and people who aren’t regu- larly in class. I came to school the day after I thought I broke things. I didn’t care because I didn’t want to take finals,” Halie Acor (10) said. Some students, like Acor, would rather come to school a little bit more versus taking their finals.

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Campaign season in full swing, candidates visit BHS

In School

Gay marriage legal in Idaho

By Madison Thompson, Staff Reporter

As of October 25th, Idaho and 20 other states in making same- sex marriage legal. “This is an amazing victory for the L.G.B.T community.”

LGBT members and senior Riley Lensen expressed her opinion about same- sex marriage. “I think it should be legal because we’re all created equal and we should be able to love who we want.”

Catholic Church is also addressing this issue. Michelle Boorstein, a reporter with the Washington Post, attended the Vatican panel and reported that Pope Francis affirmed that the church must “turn respectively” to non- traditional marriages and couples who live together unmarried or are of the same- gender and ‘ap- preciate the positive values’ those unions may have.

Other churches are handling the issue differently.

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Numbers show attendance incentive working

By Macie Armstrong, Features Editor

By offering an attendance incentive, students are being encouraged to go to class more than they ever have before. The student handbook states, “In an effort to reward students with good attendance, BHS students with 2 or less absences (97% attendance), 2 or fewer tardies, and a B grade in any class are eligible for the “Attendance Incentive.” This eligibility allows the student to be exempt from trimester end- assessments [finals].” Because sickness isn’t an excuse, there have been noticeably more people coming to school with a cold, or something of the like, who usually would have stayed home if the incentive wasn’t in place. “I’ve seen more sick kids at school and people who aren’t regular in class. I came to school the day after I thought I broke things. I didn’t care because I didn’t want to take finals,” Halie Acor (10) said. Some students, like Acor, would rather come to school a little bit more versus taking their finals. Other students are not affected as much as others by the incentive.

“In school my grades and teachers are wondering what exactly counts against you as you say if you had two absences go. Principal John Pearce explained that the only thing that is counted as “exempt” in the eyes of the incentive are school excused absences. This encompasses sporting events, class trips, and any sort of school sponsored competition that requires missing school.

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