

*The Lewis and Clark*

# JOURNAL



APRIL 2014 • FREE

**TECH ED | THE SWEET LIFE | ART IN LEATHER AND RAWHIDE**

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Photo by Trisha Jones Photography

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Cover Photo:  
 Melissa Pickering, 2001 Three Forks High Graduate and Founder of iCreate to Educate helps a student with an animation project.  
 Photo courtesy iCreate to Educate

# News Room

## EASTER EGG HUNTS

There are several opportunities for little ones to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt this month.

The Willow Creek Wranglers 4-H Club will host the first hunt on Saturday, April 12th at Bertagnoli Park at 1 P.M. This hunt is for children ages 6 and under. There will be two areas, one for children 0 to 3 years and one for children 4 to 6 years.

On Sunday April 13th, the Madison Valley School House is holding an Easter Egg Hunt and Potluck. Located at 11900 Buffalo Jump Road, the egg hunt will be held at 1:30 pm with a potluck lunch to follow. The Women’s Club will be providing the ham, while attendees are asked to bring a dish to share.

The Rebekah Lodge will hold their annual Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th at Stevenson’s Park at 1 P.M. This is for children through 5th grade with different areas broken out for various age groups.

## THREE FORKS LIBRARY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM: CLASSICS & CRAFTS

Three Forks Librarian, Debbie Kramer has been working hard to implement new programs at our local library. Just recently she started a program she has named “Classics and Crafts” which meets Monday’s after school for 45 minutes to an hour. Geared towards children in grades 1st through 4th, they read the book together and finish the day off with a craft. In its 4th week, the children are reading “Bridge to Terabithia” by Katherine Paterson. Their current group is small with about five children participating.

Each week the group begins with a nutritious snack and a discussion as to what has happened in the book so far. This allows for a refresher for the children and it also allows for more children to join the group at anytime.

During the readings, there are always discussions on vocabulary and vernacular language. “Last week the word “grit” was used so we had a discussion on what “grit” meant.

They don’t even realize they are learning,” says Kramer with a laugh. “My hope is that in a relaxed setting like this, it helps them develop a love for reading.”

Kramer would like to start even more programs at the library. One of those is “Read It & Watch It”, geared towards Middle School students. They would meet once a month after reading an assigned book and then watch the movie.

“It’s an eye opener to the kids, they ask ‘why did they leave this part out or why did they change this part’ and they learn about literary license,” said Kramer. She hopes to start this program next fall.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for programs you’d like to see at the library, please contact Debbie at 285-3747.

## GET YOUR RUN ON

Spring is here and its time to move your workouts outside! There are two running/walking events coming up in Three Forks and they are both for a great cause!

The Headwaters Kiwanis is holding the 2nd Annual “Fund Run” on Saturday, April 26th at 10 A.M. There are two courses, a 5k walk/run and 10k run starting and ending at the Lewis and Clark Motel. Proceeds from the race will go towards a scholarship for a Three Forks High School Key Club member. Registration is \$20 in advance or \$25 if you sign up on race day. Kids 12 and under race free. Whether you are there to cheer on a runner or just finished the race, the Lewis and Clark Motel will be serving food and beverages, so stick around and rehydrate. For more information or to get a registration form, contact the Headwaters Kiwanis Club at 406-580-9342 or headwaterskiwanis@gmail.com.

The *Running for the Future 5K* will be held on Saturday, May 3rd at 9 a.m. in front of Three Forks Schools. Sara Lucero, a third grade teacher at Three Forks, came up with the idea to hold an event that promotes health and fitness as well as raise money for your school. Proceeds from this race will be distributed to the school you choose. Registration is available at [www.racemontana.com](http://www.racemontana.com). Be sure to specify which school you would like to support. Training groups are also available for this race. A walking group meets on Tuesdays at 4 pm and a running group on Thursdays at 4pm. To join, just meet

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## Tech in Education: iCreate to Educate Makes Tech Learning Easy and Fun

*Story by Amanda Cram*

Say what you will about lazy, entitled Millennials, but it won't apply to Melissa Pickering who now thrives among the best and brightest young women in business and technology in Austin, Texas. In 1998 fourteen year old Melissa Pickering won a grant to study beetles along the Missouri and her science teacher hailed her as being, "independent, very driven...very ambitious." After a mid-morning phone interview with Pickering about her adventures in the last 13 years it's evident the young beetle scientist has done nothing less than flourish since leaving her small town.

After graduating from Three Forks High School in 2001, Pickering attended Tufts University (Boston,



MA) where she immersed herself in a mechanical engineering degree.

"I definitely stayed on the math and science track, just not with beetles," explained Pickering. In addition to the rigors of college, Pickering got involved right away in a work-study program with LEGO robotics designing and implementing hands-on activities for students in grades 1-5. Pickering's enthusiasm for learning and sharing her passions for math and science allowed her to engage students in activities that enabled self-expression in the classroom.

"If I had more hands-on experiences in school then maybe college would have been easier for me," said a chipper Pickering in a phone interview from her home in Austin. The opportunity to take the designs into Chinatown of Boston sealed her passion for exciting and engaging youth in an environment where they could really take control of their learning.

Pickering began to gain recognition when she and a fellow Tufts classmate entered a Disney design competition and won; which led to an internship and eventually a job as a Disney Imagineer. This coveted "dream job" working in the show ride division of Disney was phenomenal, but quickly showed Pickering that not many young women were yet involved in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) careers and she started thinking back to

her college experiences in the classroom.

In response to the ever-changing educational demands of 21st century learners, Pickering founded iCreate to Educate, a learning company that aims to engage student's inherent creativity. The main concept of iCreate's software and app has evolved out of educational research (originally out of Tufts University, but now owned by iCreate) that calls for home and classroom tools that empower students to create animations to work through their learning and display their knowledge.

iCreate use stop-motion animation to enable students the opportunity to make their projects come to life. Stop-motion animation is a technique that involves taking pictures of objects and slightly moving them in between each new picture in order to create the illusion that the objects are moving on their own when each picture, or frame, is played in sequence.

While there are other stop-motion animation programs available, iCreate is unique because of its hands-on approach, easy user interface and ability to cross curriculums in a K-12 school. Instead of students (and teachers) learning a new application, they begin by creating their storyboard and then easily implement it into the software. The result is a powerful creation that has both engaged the student through the learning process and exemplified their knowledge in something that they can be proud of.

Pickering's take on education is refreshingly positive compared to what is typically seen or heard in the press. She expressed that she is tired of hearing the negativity and based on her time spent in the classroom says, "There are a lot of great things happening."

"Maybe it was having that hands-on approach and seeing positive energy and natural desire to further improve what they [teachers] were already doing in the classroom," said Pickering that led her to genuinely care about her work and choosing an authentic, natural approach to business and connecting with her customers.

What is most incredible about Pickering is that not only is she an entrepreneur and innovative designer and creator, but she also takes time to visit schools and to work with teachers in the classroom. When asked about her thoughts involving technology in the

*Continued on Page 4*

*All Photos Courtesy iCreate to Educate. Top: iCreate to Educate's founder Melissa Pickering at the an animation competition in Singapore. The competition is held each November and around 500 kids use iCreate's software to create short animations. Left: iCreate's and Kaplan Early Learning Group have formed a strategic partnership.*

classroom, especially when schools are faced with budget cuts and the time it takes for teachers to learn new applications, Pickering thoughtfully answered, "While running PD (professional development) we experience a lot of push back on technology and had a teacher start crying with being overwhelmed. Throwing tech at teachers is a valid frustration."

It was at this point that Pickering did something that is unusual for most professional development sessions; after a 20 minute presentation she spent an hour with teachers creating storyboards with craft materials because it is a medium that they are comfortable with in creating "their story."

"By doing this we could focus on the story that they are more emotionally invested in. It's not about technology; it's about a tool that helps me." Again, Pickering showed her classroom savvy attitude and sincerity when she said she asks teachers, "what would you normally do, relate it (iCreate) to the existing method where technology is appropriate."



iCreate software makes creating stop motion animation for young students simple and fun.

Pickering realizes that technology is not always the answer, but for many students it can help them work through the process of learning and understanding. When using iCreate students are excited and engaged, and most importantly they are learning and thriving.

A quick Google search of Pickering will yield countless articles documenting the numerous awards she has won over the last few years and although she is thankful for the recognition of her hard work, being selected for the Kauffman Foundation Venture Program has been among the best.

"There were over 1,000 applicants and of that only 50 of us were sent to this intense, boot camp-like session," said an excited Pickering as she recounted

the experience. Of the 50 who attended the session, 23 were selected as being high-potential entrepreneurs who would be equipped with the needed resources to take their (business) ideas through to implementation.



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Of the experience, Pickering said, "it felt good to be picked because they looked at us as who we are as people and how we presented ourselves and our self-awareness; our strong sense to learn and be successful."

Although Pickering's entrepreneurial dreams have been realized in her company, she doesn't plan on stopping there. "I would love to get to the point where I can be a small investor and guide for young women who want to start their own companies." She admitted that at times it has been hard to find key mentors and thus far many have been males. In addition, "being plagued by self-doubt probably hurt me in a lot of instances and it would be really nice to financially and emotionally help young entrepreneurs; I would love to give back in that way."

It is evident that Pickering is passionate for work and she hopes to be able to encourage young women everywhere, including Three Forks, to follow the path to their goals. She wants youth to feel empowered to experience opportunities beyond Three Forks and to not preemptively take themselves out of opportunities.

"There is nothing wrong with desiring more," said Pickering as she spoke about leaving Montana to attend a college on the east coast ("a different realm").

When asked if there was anything Pickering missed about Montana she was quick to say that although she gets to visit her family in Three Forks often, she misses the quick access to the outdoors. However, right now Austin is where she needs to be to accomplish her goals. Regardless of where Pickering lives, today's students need people like her to champion for their education and give them the power to create. To learn more about Pickering's company and products visit [www.icreatetoeducate.com](http://www.icreatetoeducate.com).



Center Top: Students work on a sea-life animation created using felt. Lower left and right: Teachers try their hand at stop-motion animation during a teacher's workshop.

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# Greet Guests at the Door with Succulents

By Dorothy Meyer

When I was a wee one, I had a fascination with all things “tiny.” I read every “Borrowers” book, searched for fairies, gnomes and leprechauns when playing in the cemetery or woods, and crafted doll furniture out of anything I could find. For a time, I even thought I was Thumbelina. (What? A girl can dream, can’t she?) While I have outgrown my fixation with Thumbelina, I still love “little things” - from antique salesman samples, miniature paintings to the tiny gems that go in the garden. Today, diminutive plants are in fashion with garden designers, making the way for Fairy Gardens and containers filled with succulents and tiny creepers dotted with blooms. You can’t help but smile upon their sight. Weddings with succulents in the bouquets and centerpieces are super popular right now, and garden designers cannot keep up with containers full of them to offer to their customers. Gardeners for ages have used succulents for living roofs and now I have been seeing living wall displays made up of succulents as artwork. Seems like succulents are the darlings of gardeners everywhere.

A living wall seems like quite a daunting feat for the busy folks that I know, so I’d suggest a smaller scale project to start - like a pretty succulent wreath to hang on your door. We have many succulents and small plants that are zoned to grow in our harsh climate like sedums, hens and chicks and creeping thymes; but do check with your plant professionals on some great varieties that you can overwinter indoors. I brought in one of my bowls from this

past season and three of the seven little plants are still thriving, waiting to be put into a different pot, with some new friends to mingle with on my patio. My house is lacking in southern exposure, and with one too many soaks from a jelly jar my survival ratio was well below par. (Hey, it can happen to the best of us). By limiting the plants you use in your pots to only hardy varieties, your containers can be kept outside throughout the seasons. I’m all for this option, as separating the plants and repotting them and moving heavy objects to a less conspicuous space in the yard

is not something I want to do every fall. Succulents survive on little water and most desire the heat of the sun’s rays to look their best, so if you have a front door on the sunny side of your home a succulent wreath will dress it up and last for years.

To make a succulent wreath, find the succulents and plants (about 5 to 7 plants) that you would like to use first, then buy the following: wire wreath form, sphagnum moss, well-draining potting soil, floral pins and floral wire or fishing line. Nurseries and garden centers should have succulents on hand now, as they are also beginning their container projects now, with most being pretty easy-going with the sharing of their early stock. Think about the color palette for where you will eventually hang the wreath, as succulents have many hues - silvery blues, red-tipped greens, deep burgundy and sage greens all look good together, but maybe you want a more monotone look. When you have purchased or dug up chunks of sedums from your garden then you are ready to get to



Succulents come in a variety of textures and colors. You may have some around your home already to take cuttings from, or find them now in garden centers.

work on your wreath. To start, and to maximize your costs, take cuttings from the plants. Cut off leaves, leaving about an inch of stem, and place on a paper towel to dry for a couple hours. The bottoms of the cuttings will become calloused, enabling it to take root more easily. The cuttings can then be dipped into rooting hormone, although with succulents it really isn’t needed - they will root on their own.

Soak the moss in water then drain. Line each section of the wreath with the moss, adding a layer of moistened soil - being sure to get in all the crevices. When both sides are finished, put the wreath together and wrap the fishing line or wire all the way around. Insert a pencil through the moss into the soil to make a hole, adding the cuttings as you go, securing with floral pins to anchor until they take root. I like to group “like with like” as far as the varieties go, to create a living carpet of color. Be sure and rotate the wreath every once in a while to make sure you are keeping the plants evenly spaced, leaving room for the

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plants to grow. After your wreath is finished, lay flat in a sunny spot for a few weeks until the roots begin to be established. I find them pretty displayed on a table - on a platter with some candles or a lantern in the center. Water sparingly, as succulents like to be on the dry side. Submerge the wreath in water and let dry completely before hanging, giving a dose of fertilizer in the water about every 6 weeks.

Your living wreath will begin to fill in and surround the wreath form with very little effort and will grace your door with gorgeous texture and colors for seasons to come. If you add plants that will not overwinter in our area, your wreath can be moved to a sunny spot inside and used like a houseplant. You may lose a few of the plants here and there, but who cares when its so easy to replace them? If the wreath starts to look unruly then take cuttings and make another wreath or add them to other containers about your garden. Working with succulents in the garden only looks hard and after a few years of tackling succulent projects folks will begin to believe the garden fairies came to your yard and worked their magic. Much like the story of the shoemaker and the elves. Another of my favorites. I'm grateful for the garden fairies, yet still wondering when the little sprites that fold clothes and sweep up the dust bunnies will show up. What? A girl can dream.



Dorothy Meyer has been a contributing writer for the Lewis and Clark Journal for over eight years. Her life adventures have taken her to Fort Benton, Montana where she serves as Manager of the Historic Grand Union Hotel. She holds a special place in her heart for Southwest Montana and is glad to maintain a connection here through her writing.

## Speeding Recovery from Surgery

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A sudden fall. A serious diagnosis. Surgery isn't always something you can plan for. Even so, you can take steps to make recovery at home a little faster and safer. You just might need to depend on others for extra help. With the benefit of advance planning, of course, do what you can before the day of surgery.

Simplify. What felt easy before surgery may suddenly feel a little like mountain climbing. Take a few simple steps now to eliminate steps later.

- Stock up on food and other supplies. Buy ready-made meals or prepare and freeze single meals.
- Put items you use often within easy reach—between waist and shoulder level.
- Make sure your bed is firm enough to support you while you recover.
- Stay on the same floor as a nearby bathroom. Or buy a portable commode to put by the bed.
- Put a portable or cell phone within easy reach. Keep handy the numbers you will need to call, like the doctors office, neighbor, relative and pharmacy.
- Place a firm-backed chair in rooms you use most often.
- Use a fanny pack to carry items with you around the house. Place the phone inside in case you fall and need to call for help.

Ask for help. If not now, when? Remind yourself that most people feel good about helping out. So when someone says, "What can I do?" be specific. You might say something like this: "I need help getting the dog walked twice a week." "A home-cooked meal tomorrow would be terrific." "If I give you a list, can you run to the store for me once a week?"

Will you need help with basic things like bathing and transportation, but don't have anyone at home who can help? Ask the doctor, nurse, or social worker how to find trained caregivers.

Safe-proof the bathroom. Unless you make a few changes, this room can be downright dangerous.

- Consider buying an elevated toilet seat and a shower or bath chair.
- Install grab bars vertically or horizontally. Don't ever use towel racks as grab bars.
- Add non-slip suction mats in the tub and a non-skid mat outside the tub.
- Place soap and shampoo where you won't need to reach for it.

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Prevent falls. Do what you can to remove tripping hazards. Remove loose wires, cords, and throw rugs in walkways. Add extra lighting. For example, nightlights to hallways and bathrooms. Keep your hands free when moving from room to room.

Practice using crutches, a walker, or wheelchair. Also, have someone show you the safe way to go up and down stairs and get in and out of the shower.

Follow instructions. After surgery, you'll likely go home with special instructions on incision care. To prevent infections, make sure you understand how to care for your incision. For example, call the doctor if you see pus or the incision becomes really painful.

Also, take medications exactly as prescribed. If you have questions about any of this, remember that I'm here to guide you in the proper use of your medications. Remember that pain control can help you get moving, which can speed your healing and help prevent complications. Let your doctor and me know if pain medication isn't working or is causing side effects.

There's no reason to suffer in silence!

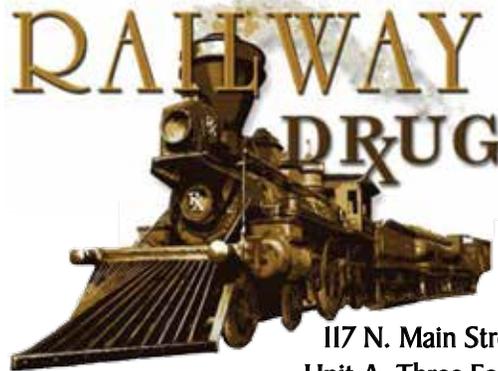
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# One Hurdle at a Time, One Season at a Time: A new Season for Three Forks Track and Field

*Story by Esther Hostler, Three Forks High Student*

You feel the track's rough exterior on your knees, your back is arched, and you breathe, in and out waiting, waiting, waiting. You know what's coming. You know that in five seconds all that stands between you and a medal are roughly 12 competitors, and before you know it...boom, you're off.

That moment is universal whether running a race in middle school, high school, or simply watching the Olympics; we've all felt this feeling. We've all tasted the anticipation and felt it tingle from our heads to our toes. That type of excitement and adrenaline is running rampant on the Three Forks High School Track team. From first-time competitors to those who eat, sleep, and breathe track and all it entails. Track teaches you stamina and how to find your strengths while working on your weaknesses. It's not just a conditioning sport to get you in shape for football, or a sport to help you train for cross country the next year; it's a sport to test the very boundaries of your existence, and how far you will go to win.

"I love it. I know the benefit of competing in track with other sports—I've lived it," comments Track Coach Tracy Welter. "Track compliments any of the sports you choose to do."

Coach Welter, who is headed into her 19th year of coaching, says her only expectations of this year's season would be to "have everybody improve and have fun." This year, with 27 competing athletes, the odds of sending numerous kids to Divisionals and beyond are greater than in previous years. But for some, track isn't merely a sport warm-up; nay to some, it's a way of life. One such individual would be Junior Anna Christman.

Christman, who is returning for her third season, is a stellar athlete and a hard working individual.

Christman's quality of character is reflected by her coaches' dialogue toward her: "Anna has improved a lot over the years. The 300 meter hurdles are her main event and I believe she will have a great amount of success in that area this season," compliments Coach Welter. To Christman, track isn't just a sport, it's *her* sport. For her, it's a time to shine and to show others what she is made of.

"Track is all about competing. I don't have to rely on my teammates. And it's about proving it to me and everyone else that I can do it," she says.

Christman, who was in first place at divisionals last year, had her goal ripped away from her by the last hurdle, stealing away the opportunity of going to the state tournament.

Christman's goal for this year? When asked, she states with confidence, "State. And placing my feet on that podium." Her determination and drive make it easy to envision her there, stretching for that first place state champion medal.

Aside from track training one for other sports or helping to prove to oneself that they really do deserve



Trisha Jones Photography

that medal, it pushes people to be better in every aspect on and off the track.

Christman is a firm believer that track is more than just a sport, "Track taught me to keep pushing myself through everything, even if it was hard. To just do it." This sport isn't just about pushing your sweat soaked body across that finish line; the experience is so much more than just grasping that trophy and seeing your red and ruddy face stare back in the reflection. Track is symbolic to running your life race, and running it well. All throughout life, you will run, into obstacles, around situations, through grief, but, the point in all of this is to never stop. To run, until you've reached that finish line and accept your medal. To never quit.

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at the school playground on these days. For more information on the race and sponsorship opportunities visit <http://selucerothird.weebly.com/running-for-the-future.html>.

## MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE PRODUCTION OF CINDERELLA APRIL 11TH AND APRIL 12TH

The audition for the Missoula Children's Theatre production of *The Secret Garden* will be held on Monday April 7, 2014 from 3:30 to 5:30 in the New Gym. There are roles for those students Kindergarten through 12th grade. Approximately 50-60 local students will be cast to appear in the show with the MCT Tour Actor/Director. There is no guarantee that everyone who auditions will be cast in the play. Students wishing to audition must arrive by the scheduled starting time and stay for the entire two-hour session. The first rehearsal begins approximately 15-30 minutes after the audition.

This is a group audition - no advance preparation is necessary, but a smile never hurts. Students should just be ready to come in and have a good time!

Rehearsals will be conducted every day from 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the Auditorium and High School Band Room. Although not all cast members will be needed at every session, those auditioning must have a clear schedule for the entire week if selected, be able to attend all rehearsals required for their role. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be distributed at the conclusion of the audition. Cast members scheduled for the full 4 1/2 hours of rehearsal will be asked to bring a sack lunch, dinner, or snack.

The performance will be held on Friday April 11th

at 7pm and Saturday, April 12th at 1:00 pm and will be presented in the Auditorium. The students in the cast will be called for dress rehearsal before the performance that day. All those cast must be available for all scheduled performances.

The Missoula Children's Theatre is a non-profit organization based in Missoula, Montana. This coming year more than 65,000 cast members across the globe will take to the stage to the delight and applause of their families, friends, community, neighbors, and teachers! The residency in Three Forks is made possible by Three Forks Public School.

For any questions please contact Three Forks Public School.

## LITTLE GUY WRESTLING WRAPS UP

The Three Forks Little Guy Wrestling wrapped up their short season at the State Little Guy Tournament in Belgrade on March 22nd. Wrestlers qualified by placing at Divisionals the previous weekend.

State Results: Reid Woodward-N/P, Kamden Carr-3rd, Collin Stone-3rd, Austin Allen-N/P, Sophie Meskimen-3rd, Tori Tribble -2nd, Kylie Brownell-3rd, Cheyenne Cavin -1st, Delaney Kameraman-2nd, Tallyn McCauley-4th, William McDonnell-4th, Caleb Van Vleet-N/P, Jack Hayder-1st, Garrett Golding-N/P, Dylan Kamps-2nd, Nathan Todd-N/P, Bruno Ferreyra-3rd, Keath Manley-N/P, Dean Buchholz-N/P, Tanner Sayers-1st, Lauren Stone-1st, Jordan Todd-4th, Arabella McCauley-2nd, Kennedy Rogers-1st, Shelby Tribble-2nd, Harper Carr-N/P, Aislynn Gifford-N/P, Haylee Collins-4th, Bearet Buckley-N/P, Ian McDonnell-2nd, Nolan Kameraman-4th, Jaxson Iddings-3rd

# Community Opinions

*The Lewis and Clark Journal welcomes opinions and Letters to the Editor provided the author can be verified.*

## Letter to the Editor: Gossip Ruining Son's Life

My husband and I have been members of this small community for ten years. This town known as "Montana's Favorite Small Town." Now I am ashamed to say that I am a resident of Three Forks. We brought a 16 year old boy with a history of abuse and neglect into our home. All he wants is to make friends and go to school. Due to untrue ugliness, rumors and gossip, he has been severely ostracized. Only one person even thought to contact us, his parents, to see if there was any truth behind those rumors. Now he is missing out on school, socializing and track, just to name a few things. He is stuck at home while my husband and I miss work. Not because he needs us to be there, but so that we can give this innocent boy an "alibi" against future rumors. My husband and I just wanted to give this boy a better life than he'd had and gossip has managed to take away what he so desperately needed the most.

*Heather Roberts,*  
Three Forks



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## The Sweet Life

Story and Photos by Christina Kamps

With four ton of premium chocolate blocks waiting in their store room, Tony and Tootie Maack start their fall work-days at 6:30 a.m. The process of tempering, dipping, filling molds and wrapping candies continues through the day and often it's after midnight before the couple turns off the lights to quit for the day. For the Maacks, operators of PaPa's Candy in Harrison, this rigorous schedule starts in October and carries through to Christmas. The fall marks the height of their busy season. Once the holiday season has passed, the couple gets a little break in the way of shorter days, but the popularity of their chocolates and caramels for Valentine's Day and Easter keeps them hard at it well into the Spring.

The couple started their business in 2002 when Tony retired from Luzenac's Sappington Mill just down the road. Then, their focus was on caramels. Tony's mother had operated her own candy shop in Hamilton, Montana for a time and he chose to replicate her well-liked caramel recipe. He uses only Karo brand corn syrup and as many locally-sourced ingredients as possible such as Darigold butter and cream.

"I'm kind of redneck," Tony explains.

Within the first year, the pair had found that the space they had allotted to the candy making business was just not big enough. They converted more than half of their oversized garage to the venture. They were also pressed to expand their product



Tootie and Tony Maack operate PaPa's Candy next to their home in Harrison, Montana.

offering beyond caramels and began to delve into the realm of chocolate.

The Maacks were very selective about the type of chocolate used and chose American-based Guittard Chocolate Company as their supplier. Trays slid into racks in the cooler room contain various flavors of truffles--from kahlua coffee to peanut butter and coconut. Each ganache-filled center is smooth and creamy and with the exception of the rum balls, each truffle has it's own unique molded shape.

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PaPa's Candy uses a variety of molds for their truffles, chocolate suckers, solid chocolate mints and more. They've been busy recently creating hollow lambs and bunnies for the Easter season.

Awhile back, Tony found a great deal on more molds and has them stored in a semi-trailer behind the shop. Although he hasn't looked through them all just yet, he estimates that the addition has boosted his mold inventory to somewhere around the 5000 mark.



Their work-roles are well defined. Tootie handles wrapping and packaging of the chocolates

since Tony says his hands are "too hot." Tony is tasked with the tedious work of hand-dipping caramel bites and filling molds. Of course there are also many duties that they share in this true "mom and pop" business.

PaPa's Candy is open to the public, but if you're passing through during the summer months, you're likely to find the Maacks working out back in their garden early in the day until the summer heat brings them into the cool workspace of the candy shop.

Aside from being sold at their Harrison shop, PaPa's Candy can be found at a handful of stores such as Harrison's Wheat and Thistle, Bozeman's Chocolate Moose or even seasonally at the Three Forks Market.

The majority of their business comes from orders. PaPa's Candy has standing orders for molded pillow

mintes at a few upscale lodges and guest ranches and also produces boxes chocolates and caramels for companies who give the sweets as appreciation gifts.

They don't have a website nor do they offer online ordering, but they've had orders from all fifty states. Aside from sponsoring local sporting promotions, the extent of PaPa's advertising is limited to what's over the door and some print ads in the Lewis and Clark Journal.

At 73 years old, Tony says they are as busy as they need to be. Given his work schedule, one can't help laugh when he tells you, "I'm retired!"

Top L to R: The Maacks make their own invert sugar; Don't miss stopping in when their open sign is up. They'll even give a sample to let you try before you buy; Tony gives a hollow bunny some accent color using colored white chocolate. Left: A chocolate moose steals the show from chocolate rabbits ready for the Easter season.

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# Sidewalk Talk

Photos by Trisha Jones

April is National Humor Month. Charlie Chaplin once said, "A day without laughter, is a day wasted". This month, we asked:

**"What is the last thing that made you laugh?"**



**Allison Mickelberry**  
"My own crazy bangs!"



**Barb Hernandez**  
"A video on Facebook where a lady was narrating for her goats."



**Megan Irvin**  
"My mom. We are homeschooled and we can't make it through the day without making each other laugh!"



**Crystal Turner**  
"When my son Samuel was asked at preschool what I do at work he answered, 'she plays with the stapler and writes on papers.'"



**Vicki Johnston**  
"My granddaughter had just watched Frozen and she was singing 'Wet it go, Wet it go!' (she can't say her 'L's yet!)"

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 SC: Senior Citizens Center Three Forks School in Red Willow Creek School in Blue	The Three Forks School lunch menu was not yet available at press time.	April Fools Day! SC Menu : Chicken Tetrazinni TF Fire Dept Business Meeting 7pm		SC Menu: French Dip Track - Livingston Track - Livingston Golf - Missoula Loyola 10 am Red Cross Blood Drive Christian Center 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Golf Missoula Loyola 9 am •District Music Festival @ Bozeman •FCCLA Delaitrre Dodgeball Tournament	District Music Festival @ Bozeman Track - Sheridan @ Dillon 9 am Golf - Big Timber 10 am Track - Sheridan @ Dillon 9am
District Music Festival @ Bozeman		SC Menu: Pepper Steak Track-Bozeman 3 pm Golf (JV) Big Timber 2 pm City Council Meeting 7 pm TF Fire Dept Training		SC Menu: Pork Roast Golf Bill Roberts (Boulder) 10 am	Track Belgrade (JV) 2 pm Track Belgrade (JV) 2 pm	Missoula Children's Theatre Production of Cinderlla 1 pm Auditorium Track Manhattan @ Bozeman 2 pm HS Track Manhattan @ Bozeman 2 pm JH Track Belgrade 2 pm
Rebeka Lodge Pastie Dinner 12pm to 3 pm	Kiwanis Meeting at Sacajawea Hotel 7 p.m.	SC Menu: Tater Tot Casserole Golf -Townsend 9:30 am	Golf - Townsend (JV) 1 pm	SC Menu: Easter Dinner - Ham Early Dismissal 11:10 am	No School - Spring Break No School - Easter Break	
	No School - Spring Break No School - Easter Break	SC Menu: Meatballs Golf Manhattan -Bridger Creek 9 am City Council Meeting 7 pm TF Fire Dept Training	Golf - Three Forks (JV) 1 pm	SC Menu: White Chili JH Track Manhattan Christian 12 pm Pre K & Kindergarten Round Up	Track Laurel 9 am	Kiwanis Fund Run/Walk 10am L&C Motel Track - Gallatin Valley Meet Belgrade 9:30 am HS Track Gallatin Valley Meet Belgrade 9:30am
	Golf- Manhattan Christian - Cottonwood (JV) 9 am Kiwanis Meeting at Sacajawea Hotel 7 p.m.	SC Menu: Chuck Wagon Steak City Council Meeting 7 pm TF Fire Dept Training Golf- Manhattan Christian - Cottonwood 9 am	SC Menu: Ribs & Saurkraut	SC Menu: Baked Ziti		Running for the Future 5k Three Forks School 9am



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## Artistry in Leather and Rawhide

*Story by Christina Kamps*

Just before starting her senior year in college, Kelsey Rose pinched her sciatic nerve while saddling a horse. It was an injury that would lay her up for three weeks. Accustomed to being outdoors, Rose didn't take well to down-time on the couch. Her boyfriend (and would-be husband), Jacob Rose, suggested she do some rawhide braiding to pass the time. He lent her a couple of books, got her some materials and she ran with it.

"I found I enjoyed it enough that I kept at it even after I was able to work again," Rose says. In 2011 the couple worked together, calving for a ranch out of White Sulphur Springs.

"We had just sold Jake's truck, so I was housebound in the 'bungalow' with a TV that had only one channel. That was when I started getting serious about it," she says. "My first sale was a necklace and bracelet set for the boss's wife."

While book-learning got her started, Rose says it has been hands-on experience and tutoring from some well-known braiders that has brought her hobby along. She has studied under known braiding instructor Randy Rieman of Dillon and Toston's well-liked and multi-talented rancher, Brian Kimpton. She also credits Tyler Schwab with Bunkhouse Braiding and professional braider from Manhattan, Hial Steele, with helping her along the way.

"Most recently, I have been learning from Calvin Hochstrat in White Sulphur Springs," she says. She credits Calvin for being the one she has spent the most time learning under and his tutelage has brought her skills to a higher level. "In the past, braiding secrets have been closely guarded, and it is humbling that these great braiders are willing to help me and let me in on their wealth of knowledge," says Rose.

That knowledge goes beyond a plait technique or how to source materials. "Calvin has been teaching me much about the art of making rawhide," she adds.

A handy skill to learn as rawhide lace and string can be a bit pricey. Making rawhide, however, is no easy task. The process involves removing the flesh and hair from an animal hide, stretching and curing the hide and then cutting the dried hide into a long strip. "Braiding is the easy part," she exclaims.

Rose does incorporate other materials such as horsehair, leather and paracord into her braiding and recently made a leather and rawhide cavesson (a piece of horse tack that goes over a horse's nose, also called a mouth-trap) for her husband.



Kelsey Rose, along with her husband Jacob. The couple makes up what is Rose Ranch Life Creations featuring Kelsey's rawhide braiding talents.



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"I have not been brave enough to try any all-rawhide cowboy gear as of yet. Once I have fully learned how to make my own rawhide, I will set to work on those things. For now, I value my rawhide too highly to use so much of it to make something that may not turn out!"

While the focus of many braiders is traditional-style cowboy gear such as horse reins and headstalls, Rose has been pulled toward what she refers to as "fun" things. The most popular items she sells right now are jewelry pieces - both women's and mens. Many of the women's bracelets and necklaces consist of braided leather or horsehair accented with rawhide knots, specialty beads and conchos or pendants. The men's versions are typically leather with rawhide accents and a loop and knot closure.

She has also created scarf ties, keychains and wall decor and her flair for the creative side shows even in her packaging. Many of her bracelets and necklaces come enclosed in their own custom hand-made boxes.

Jacob and Kelsey gave a name to the enterprise just this year, calling it "Rose's Ranch Life Creations" and launched a Facebook page in late January. Just two months later, Rose R.L.C. has topped 500 page likes and word of mouth is spreading. While braiding is the company's main focus, the couple chose a name that would allow them to expand the businesses offerings if need be.

"In the future, we may expand to have more items," says Kelsey. "I have played with cinch-making as well as photography, and Jake has done some small leather work, but for now, braiding is the main of it."

The selection of a business name wasn't easy, but in the end they are satisfied that Rose Ranch Life Creations was the right choice. To them, the 'Ranch Life' part of the name is as much or more important as 'Creations.' Day to day life finds them carrying on the ranch way of life that they both grew up in, whether it be by working at the local auction yards, night calving for other ranches or training horses and working cows on the Rose family ranch.

Kelsey explains, "This lifestyle we love and live not only allows for the creating, but is the inspiration behind it."



Opposite page: Left: eight plait kangaroo leather bracelet with a rawhide button clasp and accents. Center: Decorative cross made from cream/palomino horse hair with rawhide knots. Right: Grey horse hair bracelet with lavender beads and a hardware adjustable clasp in a handmade gift box  
This page: Top: A paracord Macarte (type of lead rope) with horse hair shoofly and leather knot. Bottom: Closeup of rawhide work on a cavesson (horse tack) that Kelsey made for Jacob.

Photos courtesy of Kelsey Rose.



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