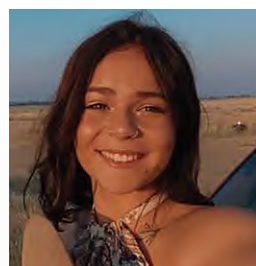
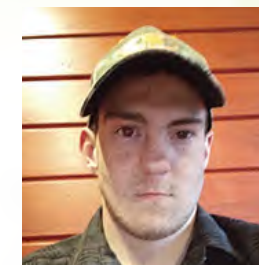
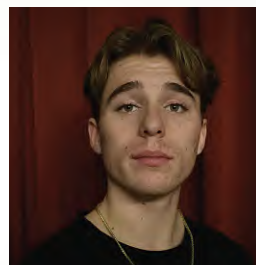
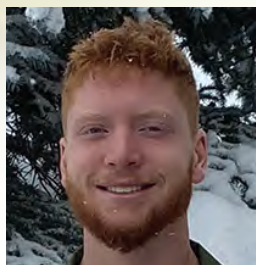
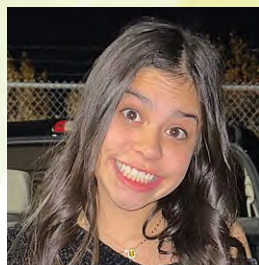


2024 Valleydictorian

SENIOR SEARCH

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



BILLINGS GAZETTE
COMMUNICATIONS



SEE THIS YEAR'S \$5,000 WINNERS

FORGING THEIR OWN FUTURE



ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR IS COMING TO AN END.

For our 2024 seniors, this also marks the beginning of a new chapter of life. While some graduates go on to pursue a degree from a traditional college or university, others decide to continue their education through trade school, Industry certification, or apprenticeship. Post grad success can take many forms. For this reason, Valley Credit Union wanted to help students who are not typically eligible for scholarships and financial aid awarded to those attending a 4-year program.

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, Valley Credit Union and The Billings Gazette have featured 16 seniors chosen from local area high schools. These students, nominated by a teacher, counselor, or principal, have shown a clear career path for their future in the form of an industry certification, technical associate degree, city college, trade school, or apprenticeship. As the school year comes to an end, Valley was looking forward to awarding one \$5,000 grant to a deserving student. However, thanks to a very generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, **Valley has been given the opportunity to award two \$5,000 grants this year.**

Students shared with us their inspirations, their career goals, and their plans following high school. From band instrument repair to cosmetology school to welding, our featured seniors show much potential in their future endeavors across a wide variety of industries. Valley is honored to play a part in helping financially support a driven student in the field of their choice. The future is very bright for our Class of 2024 graduates!

Valley Credit Union is proud to be involved in many community sponsorships, especially ones supporting Billings' youth. Most recently, Valley Credit Union presented The Hive a contest for local high school entrepreneurs to - pitch their business ideas, awarding \$5,000 to 1st place to help get their business going. Valley also continues our commitment to the Billings area kids with a \$15,000 title sponsorship of the Billings All High School graduation celebrations following the graduation ceremonies.

Congratulations to each and every one of our 16 Valleydictorian featured students as you get ready to graduate and embark on your next journey. Thank you to all high school faculty for your nominations and to the graduates for sharing with us your interests, your goals, and your stories.

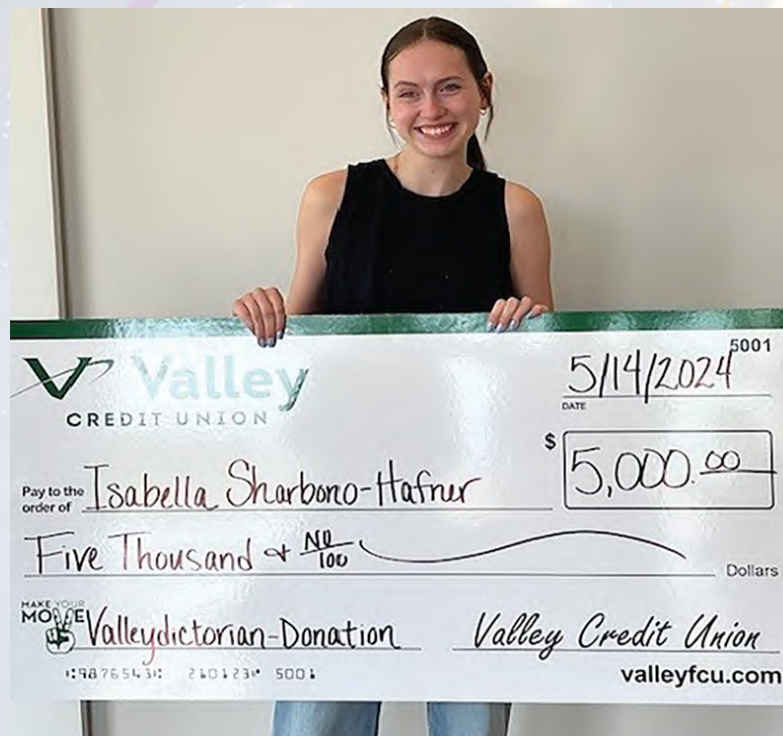
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CONGRATULATIONS ISABELLA SHARBONO-HAFNER

2024 Valleydictorian \$5000 Winner



Isabella Sharbono-Hafner poses for a picture with a check for \$5,000 from Valley Credit Union at her job. Isabella was selected from over 50 nominated students and 16 finalists to be named a class of 2024 Valleydictorian. Along with the title she received a \$5,000 check from Valley Credit Union to further her education. Isabella plans to attend esthetician school in the fall. Also pictured above are Matt Macrow & Joe Olivo from Valley Credit Union and her father Brian Hafner.

CONGRATULATIONS JACK MINTON

2024 Valleydictorian \$5000 Winner



Jack Minton poses for a picture with a check for \$5,000 from Valley Credit Union at his high school. Jack was selected from over 50 nominated students and 16 finalists to be named a class of 2024 Valleydictorian. Along with the title he received a \$5,000 check from Valley Credit Union to further his education. Jack plans to continue his electrician apprenticeship after graduation. Also pictured above are his father, Mike Minton, Brandon Scala & Matt Macrow from Valley Credit Union, and West High Teachers Jenny Randall and Monica Zieske.



Zachary Barton

High School: Cody High School

What are your plans after high school?

After high school, I plan to go to Wyotech and get an education in diesel mechanics.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

My favorite class in school is probably Biology Wildlife Management because I love to hunt and do outdoor activities and learn about animals, the history of hunting, and how they have been affected over time. I love this class because it is involved with one of my favorite fall activities to do outside.

Who inspires you and why?

A person who inspires me is my father because he has been my role model of the type of man I want to be someday. My dad has always inspired me to do the best I can and give everything I do my all

even if I don't want to do it or like to do it. My dad is always in my corner supporting me and helping me achieve my goals. My dad has inspired me to not let anyone get in the way of accomplishing the goals I want to achieve and that if I put my mind to it I can accomplish any goal I can think of. Because of this is why my dad has inspired me throughout my life and still has to this day.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

The things I enjoy doing outside of school are wrestling, playing football, working, weight lifting, hunting, fishing, camping, riding horses, and spending time with my family.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

I would feel successful in my career by furthering my education in the diesel industry and having a job that I love doing every day. Also being able to get to do something I love and am passionate about.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

If I win the \$5,000 grant I would use it to help me pay for my schooling at Wyotech.

Do you have a personal motto or inspirational saying that motivates you that you would like to share?

Anything is possible if you can put your mind to it and don't let anyone stand in your way.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

I would choose hamburgers and I would put mustard, ketchup, mayo, barbeque sauce, onion ring, pepper jack cheese, and brisket.

Any other information about yourself you would like to share?

I am a very hard worker and try my best to set myself up for success even in the hardest times.



Sara Braley

High School: Billings Senior High School

What are your plans after high school?

I plan to attend cosmetology school in September. And I also want to do a course for an aesthetician.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

My favorite class right now would be environmental science. It's the one class that I actually have motivation to learn and the teacher has been my favorite teacher since sophomore year.

Who inspires you and why?

I have a friend named Abby Thompson who always has such a big heart and brings so much positivity to the room. We share a lot of the same views and we are both followers of Jesus. Seeing her faith just inspires me more and more everyday because I know that there are people out there who are struggling but still push through.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

During the summer, I love being outside on the water, especially boating. On the side, I love paddle boarding just because it really tunes into my athletic side, which also ties into my next point about spending a lot of time in the gym. I love being with friends all the time, we don't ever have to be doing anything extreme, but just each other's presence is enough to have a blast.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

Success to me, for my career, looks like me solely being self-sufficient as much as possible.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

I would use the money to buy products and tools, and maybe things for my workspace. But if there are other courses, I would use it as a back up plan for the little things to grow my business.

Do you have a personal motto or inspirational saying that motivates you that you would like to share?

My uncle who is basically my dad always tells my family, "Do what you say and see what you do."

My auntie who again is basically my mom always tells me in the morning before I leave for school, "Remember who you are because of whose you are."

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

I would bring a shovel, a tarp, and a boiler/pot thing. The reason I would bring these things: the shovel I would use to dig a hole for me to cool down in. The tarp for shelter, and the boiler/pot would be to set things, and that might hold moisture that can be hydrating for me.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

I would choose hamburgers because they always fill me faster. As for pizza I feel the need to eat more slices.



Lucas Carpenter

High School: Laurel High School

What are your plans after high school?

I plan to start as a laborer for an electrician company so that I can earn an apprenticeship as an electrician.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

My favorite class in school is band because I've known some of the same people in it since middle school and my teacher is great. It is very satisfying seeing how far you've come and the progress you've made.

Who inspires you and why?

My parents inspire me because they have both worked their way up through the companies

that they work at and have made it to important positions. All at the same time as raising me and my brother well and giving us a great childhood.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

I like to spend my time with friends and family, along with playing video games and building LEGOs.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

I would feel successful just by being able to live comfortably and to be able to pursue my hobbies.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

If I win the grant I would put the money towards trade school.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

I'd bring a knife to cut stuff, a lighter to start a fire, and a satellite phone for when it isn't fun anymore.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

I would choose hamburgers and I'd put American cheese, bacon, and barbecue sauce on it.

Any other information about yourself that you would like to share?

A cool thing about me is that my eyes are two different colors, hazel and green.



Chadon Crnkovich

High School: Laurel High School

What are your plans after high school?

After high school I plan on going to North Dakota to work for my uncle in the welding field, starting as a welder helper getting direct experience from people who do it every day. I will eventually work my way up to a welder and be contracted out to other jobs.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

Welding is probably my favorite class or my Ag class. Welding not only because I enjoy welding but I can sit in a booth or work on projects as well as teach other kids that are struggling to weld and give them knowledge to help them become better welders.

Who inspires you and why?

My mom, she is my biggest supporter all my life from sports to chasing my welding career. She is a EMT, deputy, and dispatcher for Phillips County as well as a helicopter manager for DNRC during the summer. Her being able to do all these jobs year round risking her life inspires me that I can do anything because she does everything.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

I do love to work but as well as spending time with my friends.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

Having the job that I dream of and making a bunch of money doing it.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

I'll put it away and save it so I could use it if I want to go to a welding school or put it towards a pickup or welding machine.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

A knife because it a very useful tool and can do so much with it. Water filter because fresh water is a need. As well as para cord because I can use it to make a shelter and use the insides for fire starter.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

Hamburgers all the way, you have some elk meat with some cheese with lettuce, mayo, fried egg, pickles and a lightly toasted bun.



Tristan Dombrowski

High School: Skyview High School

What are your plans after high school?

I plan to continue my apprenticeship and pursue a career as a commercial electrician.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

My favorite class in school is psychology. Psychology is my favorite because I enjoy learning the reasons people act and do the things they do.

Who inspires you and why?

My greatest inspiration is my godfather. He inspires me because no matter what challenges he has been faced with he always works his hardest. He always looks on the bright side and makes the most out of the situations he gets put in.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

Some things I enjoy outside of school are hunting and fishing. I fish tournaments during the summer for walleye, and when fall comes around I love to archery hunt deer, elk and antelope.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

I would feel successful when I become a knowledgeable and successful journeyman electrician. Being a successful journeyman to me would be making good money to support me and my family and being a knowledgeable electrician that knows the ins and outs of electrical work.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

If I win the \$5,000 I would use it to further invest in tools and education for my electrical classes.

These investments would help me to have the equipment and knowledge to become a better electrician.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

Three things I would bring if I was stranded on a desert island are my bow, jet boil, and machete. I'd bring my bow so I could shoot animals and fish to get food. I'd bring my jetboil so I'd have a stove to cook and boil water with. And I'd bring my machete so I could cut things and protect myself.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

If I had to chose between hamburgers and pizza, I'd pick hamburgers every time. My perfect burger would have an egg, bacon, cheese, and lettuce.



Aedan Hraban

High School: Billings Central Catholic High School

What are your plans after high school?

My plan is to take a gap year working at the Fishtail General Store, just outside of Absarokee. This year will allow me to save up to help pay for schooling. Then I will be going to Minnesota State College Southeast to get my associate's degree in band instrument tech and repair.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

My favorite class in school has always been band. My director, Brandon Martinez, has always been outstanding at his job, and has assisted me many times in becoming not only the musician, but the person that I am today. I have learned to play many instruments and have made all of my friends through the band program. I hope to find a similar community during my higher education.

Who inspires you and why?

The most inspirational person in my life has been my dad. He has always been an optimist. He has encouraged me in many ways, as well as helped me with countless homework assignments. My dad has helped me grow and mature and I could not have survived high school without him.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

Outside of school I spend most of my time

working as a lifeguard at the Billings Y. When I am not working, I really enjoy playing the piano, doing game development, drawing, and creating things with Legos. Most importantly, I spend all the time I can with my three younger siblings, whether that be in the form of card games, Nerf gun fights, or simply watching a movie.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

I would like to graduate with my associate's degree, and manage to get a stable job using that degree while affording to be able to save a portion of my paychecks as well. Despite its below average pay, instrument repair is a very important job, and we must have people willing to fill the positions. Music is an essential part of society, and having people who are able to maintain our tools for making that music is invaluable.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

If I were to get this grant, it would be going toward paying for my courses and tools required for those courses. I want to manage to get out of my tech program with as little debt as possible, especially considering how little those positions typically pay.

Do you have a personal motto or inspirational saying that motivates you that you would like to share?

There is a movie I watched once with this wise old turtle in it, and he said something that I

never really understood as a young child, but as I grew older, I realized how important it really was. He said, "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present." This quote has really stuck with me especially since I realized how fast life is going by. Every day must be treated as important and special, because you never get to have it again. You have to cherish it and enjoy it while you can, because the ability to live this day is the greatest gift you could be given.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

Pot for cooking, water filters and potatoes. I can eat the potatoes raw or cooked, and I can plant them as well. Water filter means I can filter out ocean water, and I can use the pot to get the salt out of it. Food, water, cooking supplies. Boom.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

I would pick pizza, due to the fact that I just enjoy the flavor more, and in my experience it tends to be a little bit less messy than a hamburger. On my pizza my favorite toppings are pepperoni, heavy cheese, and bacon sprinkled on top. I love bacon.

Any other information about yourself that you would like to share?

I am quite skilled at the art of making burritos.



Hannah Hull

High School: Absarokee High School

What are your plans after high school?

After high school I plan to attend cosmetology school, take and pass the state board exam, then I plan to return home and start to work at a local salon to build my client base.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

My favorite class in school is shop class. I am in FFA, this gives me time to work on my competitions. I also love this class because we build many things which allows us to work with our hands. Whether it be welding, wood working, or even working in our local greenhouse, there is always a hands on job that needs done.

Who inspires you and why?

The person that inspires me the most is my family friend Mindy. She is a strong and beautiful woman and we are alike in many ways. She has always been there for me whenever I need her and others as well. She will always have a smile on her face and she never gives up.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

I am in FFA and love what I do in my chapter. We have a large amount of students in FFA and I love to see the younger generation excited to continue in their FFA careers. As I continue to learn new things at every FFA event, I grow outside of my comfort zone and that helps me to make new friends and make me learn more about agriculture and how it works.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

The main thing is that I am happy. I want to be excited to go to work all the time.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

This grant will go towards my tuition for cosmetology school so I can graduate without any student loan debt. This will allow me to begin working on my business and I will be able to open my salon.

Do you have a personal motto or inspirational saying that motivates you that you would like to share?

The inspirational saying that motivates me the

most would be "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me," (Philippians 4:13). When I refer back to this verse it reminds me that God is always with me and I know I can get through anything when I have Him by my side.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

If I was stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things I would have to choose a fishing pole, a lighter, and a large knife. I love to fish as a hobby so I would never be bored. The lighter can provide a warm fire and help me be able to cook my food. The knife will be used to protect myself from anything dangerous on the island but it will also help make a shelter for myself.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

I would for sure pick pizza. My favorite pizza toppings include white Alfredo sauce, grilled chicken, fresh mozzarella balls, basil, chopped garlic, mushrooms, roasted red peppers, spinach, and then I put a pesto drizzle on top after it is cooked.



Kamrey Leiser

High School: Shepherd High School

What are your plans after high school?

My plan after high school is to stay in Billings, and attend MSUB City College to get my general classes done. Then, I will apply to various two-year programs. After completing nursing school, I want to go into travel nursing for a few years. After a couple years, I will hopefully settle down, find a stable job as an RN, and have a family.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

My favorite class in school would have to either be anatomy and physiology or English. Although anatomy is challenging, I enjoy learning about the human body and I find joy in the fact that it will help me be prepared in college. I also love English because I love to read and write stories.

Who inspires you and why?

I have a lot of inspirations in this world, and most of them are family. I have been blessed with the best family: parents, siblings, grandparents, cousins, aunts, and uncles. They support me through anything and everything and are always there for me if I need something.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

I enjoy reading, spending time with family and friends, and working. I like to read romance novels in my free time because it is a good way to distract myself if I have other things going on. I work at The Legacy Assisted Living and I take care of the residents, clean for them, and give them their medicines. I love my work because I love taking care of people.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

After school, my work would be successful if I can provide for my family, help people, and enjoy what I do.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

I would put it towards furthering my education.

This grant would really help me to reach my goals.

Do you have a personal motto or inspirational saying that motivates you that you would like to share?

I tend to overthink a lot, even the little things. When I am overthinking too much, I tell myself that whatever is meant to be will be. Sometimes God

has something better in store for us than what we want at the time.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

First of all, I would bring a water filtration straw.

if I had a filtration straw then I would have an

endless amount of water. Second, I would bring a

fishing pole. I would dig up worms to use as bait

and fish during the day to stock up on food for the

upcoming days. For my third choice, I am having to

choose between sunscreen and a tent. My decision

would land on sunscreen because I am able to

build myself a shelter.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

I would choose a hamburger. The only thing



Sianna Marcial

High School: Billings Senior High School

What are your plans after high school?

After high school I plan on getting a part time job as a sanitary technician, while I continue my schooling and get my degree as a surgical technician.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

My favorite class is the medical career class at the career center. We got to go do job shadowing hours and look at different career paths. I got to see an open heart surgery. It confirmed my passion to become a surgical technician.

Who inspires you and why?

The person that inspires me the most is my sister. She moved for college two years ago. She's had to move 3 times, lost her scholarship, and had to red shirt for soccer. Throughout all of this she has always kept her head up and looked at the bigger picture.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

I love to ride my dirt bike. I spent all summer 2022 working to buy my first bike. I love to go out and ride. It's like no one can stop me.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

I want to be able to like the people I work with and love what I am going to do everyday.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

I would put it to my books and schooling. One of my biggest goals is to not pay a dollar for college. I have about 17 college credits right now.

Do you have a personal motto or inspirational saying that motivates you that you would like to share?

I live my life by "one day at a time" I am figuring out my balance of not getting to stressed that I don't want to do it but also making sure I am completing my goals and being successful.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

I would bring a plane, gas and a pilot so I can get out of there. I would need the plane to get out of there and gas to make sure I can get to where I need and obviously a pilot so I can actually fly the plane without crashing.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

I would chose pizza. I would be able to change the toppings and make different kinds of pizza.

Any other information about yourself that you would like to share?

Last year around April, my junior year I went through a lot I had to move out and restart and figure my life out. I got super depressed I ended up dropping out of school losing my job and really not caring about much. Over the summer I found myself and decided to go back to school to get my diploma, now I am 4 months away from my diploma planning on going to college.



Jack Minton

High School: Billings West High School

What are your plans after high school?

I am excited to continue my path as an electrical apprentice. Mr. MacAskill selected me for an electrical apprenticeship through Montana State University Northern. After I graduate, I plan on staying the path and becoming an electrical journeyman.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

My favorite class at school was Chemistry with Mrs. Zieske. She saw me in a different way than any other teacher ever has before. She showed me the value of a strong leader who inspires others to learn, take chances, and seek growth. She has cheered me on when I find myself in challenging situations and she has encouraged me to and advocate for myself.

Who inspires you and why?

Mr. MacAskill inspires me to take risks and grow everyday. He gave me guidance as to which path I should take in life. He has been an incredible role model not only as a teacher, but as a professional master electrician, and family man. He has stressed the value of taking pride in your work life as well as spending quality time with your family.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

I love the Montana lifestyle that this beautiful state provides us year round. In the warmer months I like hiking, camping, paddle boarding, backpacking, and learning to rock climb. I live for skiing because I find it to be an incredible way to release stress.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

My ultimate ambition is to have my own residential general contracting company that builds high-performance homes. Gratification from completed projects, experiences gained from unique projects I helped build, and satisfaction from a job well done will give me a sense of success.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

I would use the grant money to purchase the additional tools I need to be a self-sufficient electrician. I would save the rest of the money for the unforeseen expenses I know I will have on my journey.

Do you have a personal motto or inspirational saying that motivates you that you would like to share?

The windshield is bigger than the rearview mirror, so look to the future instead of the past. Everyday

is a fresh start to make yourself better and learn from your past.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

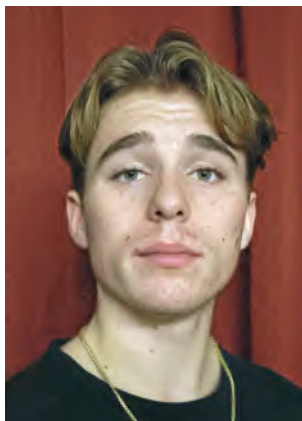
I think I would choose a hatchet, so I can hunt, prepare meals, and make kindling for a fire. I would bring a flint so I could always start a fire which would provide warmth and the ability to cook my meals. Finally, I would bring a boat so I could get off the island.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

Definitely burgers! The best burger I ever had was in Colorado. It was cooked to perfection and smothered in tangy coleslaw, fried eggs, seasoned French fries, spicy mayo, crispy lettuce, juicy tomato, and a thick slab of bacon.

Any other information about yourself you would like to share?

I moved to Billings from Indiana at the beginning of my sophomore year. This move served as the first big challenge in my teenage life. I moved away from the only place I had ever known. It made me feel nervous and apprehensive, but I soon found out that by closing the door on my previous life I was opening a door to a life I would find much more enjoyable, fun, and full of future opportunities.



Braydon Petermann

High School: Billings Central Catholic High School

What are your plans after high school?

To continue my apprenticeship at Midland Mechanical and go to trade school.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

Rambler/yearbook because it allows me to be in a hands on creative environment.

Who inspires you and why?

My father, because he knows how my brain works and always know a how to help me best. He was the person that got me into the trades and always taught me to work hard.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

Tennis is what I do the most out of school but I also enjoy being out in nature, hanging with friends, and working with my dad on projects around the house.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

Finishing school and rising through the ranks of the trades and make enough money to be debt free.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

Pay for schooling and books and helping keep myself debt free.

Do you have a personal motto or inspirational saying that motivates you that you would like to share?

If you are bored go to work and make money.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

A machete for protection, Unlimited music just so I don't get bored, a tool box so I can make what I need.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

Pizza with cheese, pepperoni, bacon, and sausage.

Any other information about yourself you would like to share?

I've worked since I was old enough to and spent all my summers working at least two jobs. I have a photographic memory.



Nicholas Rogers

High School: Cody High School

What are your plans after high school?

After High School, I am planning on going to Northwest College for welding, and/or fire science.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

My favorite class in school is Welding. The reason is because it's more hands-on and helps me hone my skills.

Who inspires you and why?

My mom and my girlfriend inspire me. They've always got my back, and push me past my limits when I think I can't do anymore.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

Outside of school, I enjoy hiking, swimming, going to the gym, hanging out with my girlfriend, and watching YouTube.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

I feel that if I knew what I was doing, and I was confident in it, I would be more than successful.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

If I win the \$5,000 grant, I will put it towards my tuition to Northwest College for welding.

Do you have a personal motto or inspirational saying that motivates you that you would like to share?

My personal Motto would have to be one from the Movie "Cars". It says "I decide when I'm done".

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

I would bring water, food, and a sleeping bag to a desert island.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

I would choose hamburgers, and it would have lettuce, cheese, and pickles.

Any other information about yourself you would like to share?

I love wolves, and the colors red and black.



Seannah Schwend

High School: Bridger High School

What are your plans after high school?

I plan to attend the Aveda Institute in Billings. I will complete the Cosmetology Program as well as take some of the classes that the Esthetician Program offers. I want to establish my clientele and eventually open up my own boutique. I may also need to take business classes to have all the tools to succeed.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

My favorite class in school is English. They teach you many skills that everybody will be able to use in the future, no matter what path they choose to take after high school.

Who inspires you and why?

My grandma inspires me. When I was 10 years old, both my grandma and grandpa were diagnosed with cancer. My grandparents were two peas in a pod; they did everything together. My grandpa died within a year of being diagnosed, and it was very hard for my grandma to figure out this new life without him. Although it was hard, she stayed strong for us.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

Throughout the years, I have participated in AAU volleyball. This year I will be coaching the U12's team! During the summer, my family does a lot of camping and boating/water sports. I'm pretty interested in crafts, so I like to work on my scrapbook and embroidery things.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

After I finish cosmetology school, I really want to focus on building a clientele. If I can build a good clientele, and help them see their true beauty, that would make me feel the most successful.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

I would put the money toward my tuition. I might also need to take online business classes after completing cosmetology school. I could put aside part of the grant for that expense.

Do you have a personal motto or inspirational saying that motivates you that you would like to share?

My personal motto is "Mind over Matter", I truly believe that if your mindset is strong enough, then you are capable of accomplishing anything. You

may not believe physically that you can finish a race, do a drill, or even attend practice; but, if you tell yourself you can and are mentally strong, then you will be able to do it.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

I would bring a net of some sort, matches, and sun protection. I would bring a net so that I could use it to catch something to eat. I would bring matches to build a fire. Cosmetologists work with client's skin, so, of course, I would bring sun protection!

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

I would choose pizza. However, I would have a cheeseburger pizza so I could have a little bit of both!

Any other information about yourself you would like to share?

Once I graduate from cosmetology school and am ready to open up my own boutique, I plan to come back home and open it in Bridger. I have always been involved in the community and know that I would have its support. Bridger is my hometown, and I would love to find ways to give back to the community.



Isabella Sharbono-Hafner

High School: Billings West High School

What are your plans after high school?

Although I graduated in January, I plan to continue working as a receptionist at Ethos Salon until I turn 18 in June. After that I want to work towards becoming an aesthetician. I am currently enrolled at Montana Academy of Salons for the fall.

Who inspires you and why?

I have two people in my life who continue to inspire me every day. My mom, Sonny, is one of them. She had me when she was 19 and has never wavered in showing me her love. She's had a hard life but it's been amazing to watch her fall in love with what her and my step dad have built together. She's been my best friend for a while now. The second is my freshman year English teacher. Mr. Rockeman and I had a bit of a rough start. I strongly disliked him and his class and made sure he knew it. He pushed me further than I'd been used to and it was the first B I'd received in years. Eventually we became friends and now he's someone I go to for everything.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

Outside of school I love being with people. Whether it's my family or close friends I love it all. I also absolutely love my job. I love watching people leave so much happier than when they came in.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

Something that would make me feel successful is getting a good job at a spa in town. After that it's all about building a clientele. I want to brighten peoples lives by giving them the confidence that comes along with clear healthy skin and long lashes. I hope to one day own a salon and help others build a career for themselves.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

I would use the grant to help me pay for schooling and the other things that come along with it.

Do you have a personal motto or inspirational saying that motivates you that you would like to share?

One motto I resonate with is "Persist with Purpose." This motto encourages me to persevere while also making sure there's a purpose to

everything I do.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

I could not stand not having people around me so even though it wouldn't be possible I'd bring a fully fueled helicopter (with a pilot), a map so we know where we're going, and a satellite phone so I can get help as soon as possible.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

I would 100% choose pizza. On my pizza I like a white crust with pesto sauce, fresh and shredded mozzarella, chicken, bacon, jalapeños, red onion, green pepper, and artichoke hearts. I love build your own pizza, otherwise I just want cheese.

Any other information about yourself you would like to share?

I have been looking into and planning my future with my career counselor since freshman year. I've bounced back and forth from one idea to another, but I think I've finally found my passion. I am serious when it comes to planning my future.



Tristan Smotherman

High School: Forsyth Public Schools

What are your plans after high school?

I have no set plans on what I would like to do, only the life I want to work towards living.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

My favorite subject is science. I love learning about how our systems work and what makes up something. Organic Chemistry has so many tiny details that you have to pay attention to, in order to understand it.

Who inspires you and why?

My dad is the most resilient, patient, caring, and hardest working person I know. There is nothing I could ask my dad that he would not do for me. He always has an answer to any questions I ask him. My dad works so hard for our family and none of us would have anything without him.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

I enjoy a lot of activities that involve being outside or enjoying silence. I enjoy spending time with

friends and family and working on projects or going to work. Being outside brings me a sense of peace that is soothing when there is any chaos happening around me.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

I would feel successful by reaching my goals in a set amount of time, and working hard to reach the dream life that I want to live.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

I would use this money to help pursue a biology degree to go to school to help get a job as a veterinary technician.

Do you have a personal motto or inspirational saying that motivates you that you would like to share?

My personal motto is, "Do it once, do it good, then do it better." Whether it be trying to read an entire novel series, trying something new, or even getting through a bad day. Another thing I sometimes tell myself is, It's just a bad day, try to make tomorrow better." Because your day is what you make of it.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

I would bring a large coil of inch thick rope, a tarp, and a machete. I would bring rope because it is so universal. I would bring the tarp as a top for the shelter and slant the top in case there is rain. I would carve out a bowl with the machete, and lay it under where the rain would fall off the tarp to catch the water.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

I would choose pizza and get a Canadian bacon pizza, no pineapple. Pizza as well for the fact that I can share with people.

Any other information about yourself that you would like to share?

I love hanging out with my friends. I don't have a lot of friends but I can count on my hands the ones that are worth their weight in diamonds. Horses, rivers, books, the outside, picnics, walks, friends, and family are all vital to me in life. I love writing.



Luke Spencer

High School: Melstone Public High School

What are your plans after high school?

My goals are to go to college at WyoTech this summer. I would like to work for a local mechanical shop to get experience with different types of vehicles and engines, then eventually own my own shop. I would like to specialize in a full service/tune up shop.

What is your favorite class in school and why?

Shop class because I get to work on engines, build projects and do simple repairs.

Who inspires you and why?

My mom and my old shop teacher inspire me to become a great mechanic. My mom inspires me because she let me work on cars with her and helped me find my passion in fixing cars. My old shop teacher helped me find a college that works for me and even as far as to let me work on his cars with him. From pickups to go-karts.

What are some things you enjoy outside of school?

I enjoy going fishing with my family, working on my car, helping out at my local service shop and playing games with my friends. I also do a bit of drawing and

even some wood carving in my spare time.

What would make you feel successful in your career/work after school?

To own a shop and specialize in full service/tune ups. I like making cars run smooth and fast.

If you win the \$5,000 grant, how will you use the money to help you reach your goals?

I would use the money to help me pay for my tuition at WyoTech.

Do you have a personal motto or inspirational saying that motivates you that you would like to share?

A motto that I like to follow is from the song "Till You Can't." I like the meaning that if you got a dream or someone that means a lot to you, hold them close and chase your dreams until you make it. Then after you make it shoot even further for the best version of yourself.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring three things, what three things would you bring and why?

I would bring a pocket knife, a first aid kit and a loaded flare gun. The pocket knife would be used for cutting small trees and leaves for my house. I could also use the knife as a spear by grabbing some vine and wrapping the knife around the end

of a stick for fishing or fending off animals that are trying to attack me. The first aid kit would be used if I get injured and need medical help. Lastly, the loaded flare gun would be used to signal planes or nearby boats that are passing by.

If you had to choose between hamburgers or pizza, which would you choose and what would be on it?

I would chose a BBQ pizza, it would have grilled chicken, pulled pork, Canadian bacon, hamburger meat, barbecue sauce, summer sausage, olives and parmesan cheese. On deep dish dough cooked in a fire pit oven.

Any other information about yourself that you would like to share?

I work part-time at a service shop called Jake's Garage. I work on tires. I fix any holes they have; I take them apart and put them together by myself. I also do oil changes.

I also was in BPA for two years and, I'm the student council president. For BPA I made it to nationals in my second year and even broke the record for the most product sold. Student council helped me go out of my comfort zone and learn how it feels to be a leader.

I'm also the salutatorian in my class.

