



THE MUSTANG TIMES

A Publication by and for the students of Raymond Central Elementary School, Valparaiso, Nebraska

Fresh News from 2010-2011

May 2011 Issue

Summer's On the Way

by Frances Holley

Val kids will have lots of fun things to do this summer. There will be ball games, Horse and Pony Club, Summer Reading, Val Days, July 4th firework sales, and the Saunders County Fair.

Ball games start in May. There are teams for boys and teams for girls and the teams are in age groups.

The Horse and Pony Club started in April and goes through early fall. It meets at the arena on North 14th Street near Lincoln. They have play days and show days with walk-trot, barrel racing, bareback riding, and other events.

Summer Reading starts June 1. Special events are on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Each special event will feature a different culture's games and crafts. The games will be outside, in the park across from the library (inside if it rains). The crafts will be in Harry's dining room.

Kids ages 3 to 16 are welcome. The older kids can be volunteers

on Wednesdays and help supervise the games and crafts. They may get school credit for volunteering.

Val Days will be June 3-5. There will be a parade, fire truck ride, Li'l Chugger (train) rides, pony rides, an old time baseball game, water play, races, fireworks, and food.

July 4th has fireworks and picnics. B&J start selling fireworks in June. Watch for their booths.

Lots of kids from around Val go to the **Saunders County Fair** and lots show animals or projects there.

The Fair has 4-H exhibits, animal judging, horse shows, a rodeo, carnival rides, truck and tractor pulls, figure 8 car races, a demolition derby, combine derbies, and lots of food and other exhibits.

The Valparaiso Woman's Club displays a quilt at the Fair. They also sell raffle tickets for it. This raffle raises funds for the library at the Woman's Club's Fall Style Show Luncheon.

Malcolm Music Contest

by Alex Schon

On March 18, the Malcolm music contest took place at Malcolm High School.

Contestants first practiced in the gym. Then they moved from room to room, playing for the judges.

Some contestants played solos, and some played duets. Judges

awarded ribbons for superior, excellent, and good.

The contest ran from about 9:00 a.m. to noon. Contestants were area students from grade school through high school.

Mr. Luke, Mr. Strouf, and Ms. Schiefen attended the contest.

Mustang Times Contest!

The newspaper crew has decided to hold a contest in the paper. You can win if you get the special copy of this issue, with five staples and an autograph from all of us.

Bring the special copy to a newspaper staff member. Then we'll ask you a trivia question that could be about anything at all. You'll win (drum roll please) a \$2.00 gift card to Val Market.

(Newspaper staff members are not eligible to win.)

The Mustang Times Staff

Thanks, Jason Sanchez

Jason Sanchez donated a PIXMA MP190 printer/scanner for the newspaper staff to use at the library. The scanner will help us get the paper out faster than we normally do. Thanks, Jason. We appreciate your gift.

The Mustang Times Staff

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Jan Brett Visits Lincoln

by Alex Schon

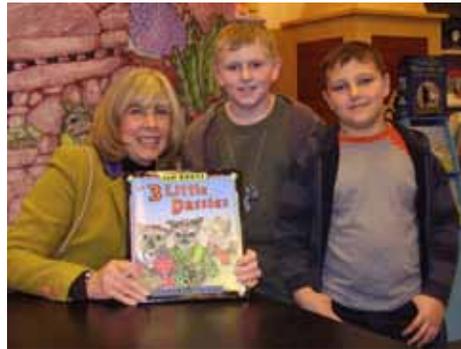
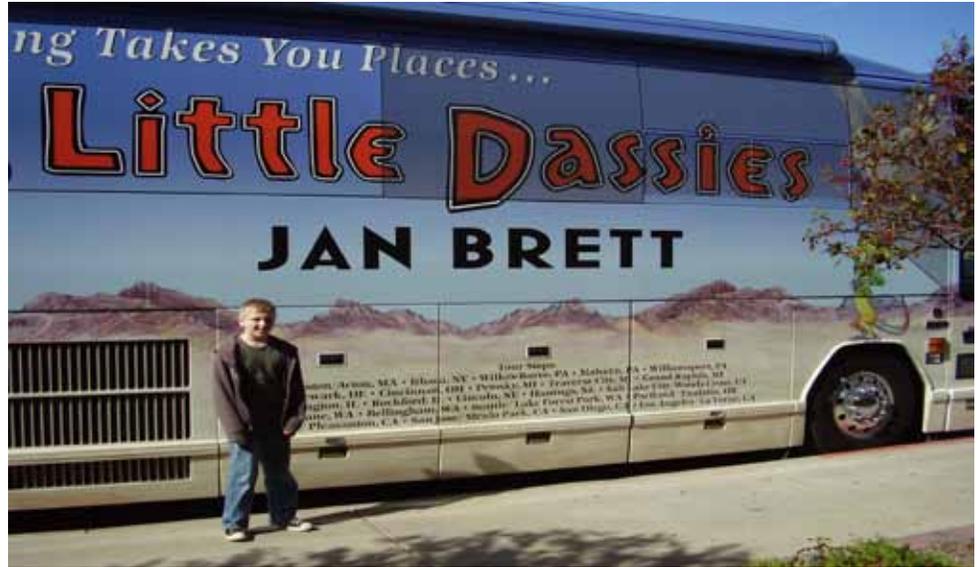
Jan Brett visited Lincoln's Barnes and Noble during a recent book tour. She writes and illustrates children's books.

Ms. Brett was on a tour to introduce her new book, *The Three Dassies*. The Chicago Public Library named it the "Best of the Best Books of 2010." Dassies are African animals which look something like a cross between a chinchilla and a squirrel.

Newsweek, *The New Yorker*, *Parents Magazine*, and *Redbook* all have chosen books by Jan Brett as the "Best Children's Book of the Year." Boston Public Libraries awarded her their 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jan Brett was my favorite artist when I was in first grade. Seeing her was cool.

Ms. Brett drew a picture from the book, *The Three Dassies*. Next, we waited a couple of hours for her to autograph our books.



At top, Alex stands beside Jan Brett's book tour bus which says "Reading Takes You Places." Below the bus, at left, Ms. Brett holds the book she signed for Alex and his brother Weston. At right, listening to Ms. Brett and waiting for autographs at the Barnes and Noble store.

Valentine Parties

by Frances Holley; art by Alex Schon

Our school had a Valentine's Day party on Valentine's Day. Every class did something different.



The 6th graders had a choice. They could stay in the classroom or go to the gym.

Those who went to the gym played dodge ball. Those who stayed in the classroom played different Valentine's games.

We also traded Valentine cards and had treats. Kids in other classes also played games, traded valentines, and had good things to eat.

At right, Ms. Brett's drawing of a Dassie. All photos by Alex's mom, Pam Schon.



Sixth grade field trip

by Jonathon Herroon

The 6th graders often get to take a field trip at the end of the school year. This year, the 6th graders went to the Henry Dorley Zoo in Omaha.

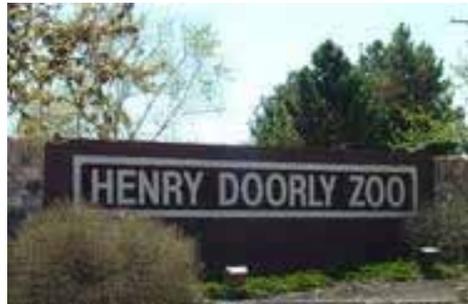
It was an overnight trip. We went on a guided tour of the zoo at night, called the "Night Hike."

The teachers set up a system to control who could go on the field trip. It was a system of strikes for the 6th grade. When you messed up, you got a strike. If you got more than 10 strikes, no field trip for you.

Despite all the restrictions, such as the strict "CAN NOT BRING" list, the trip was really fun.

Some things that we couldn't bring were cell phones, Ipods, make-up, jewelry, CD players, Walkmans (do they still make those?!), food, watches, matches, weapons, magnifying glasses, and laser pointers.

The pictures, which came from pictures posted about the zoo on the Internet, show some of the exhibits we saw.



Above, the zoo entrance.

At right, top, the desert dome; 2nd from top, the jungle exhibit; 3rd from top, sea turtle; 4th from top, lemurs; bottom, tigers.

Below, vampire bats.



Welcome, Cross

by Ian White

We welcome Cross Warren to *The Mustang Times* staff.

Cross is in the 6th grade and is in Mr. Trembly's homeroom.

He likes to play video games and likes football. He also likes to hang out with friends.

Cross wrote an article for this issue about the newspaper staff. It is on page 5.



Health Fair

by Ian White

On March 24, The Raymond Central health fair took place in the Valparaiso gym.

There were booths about tobacco, health, hunter safety, texting while driving, drugs, and drunk driving.

There were games with prizes, popcorn, and video games for you to play.

For one of the video games, you had to put on glasses that make your vision blurry and then drive, and you couldn't see where you were going.

The health fair was set up in PE by Mrs. Hayward's 5th grade class and Mrs. Crouse's 4th grade class.

During PE they had to call people from different places like the hospital and ask them if they could provide things they could use for the health fair.

Miss Lovitt also helped the students get what they needed to use for the booths. The 4th and 5th graders helped manage the booths during the health fair.

During the afternoon, all of the classes got to go to the fair and check out all the booths the 4th and 5th graders had created. The drunk driving booth seemed to be the most popular, because of the video game.

Spotlight on . . . Student Helpers

by Jonathon Herron

The school has some new helpers. But they don't pay them. That's because they're kids.

Yes, students in the school are helping 1st graders. Five 6th graders leave their classroom at 2:45 each day to help other kids.

Sedonah Fryda, Cassie Vasa, Brenton Davis, Jeff Densburger, and Cross Warren all leave at 2:45 (LUCKY!) to help.

They help the entire 1st grade class with things like spelling, grammar, math, or whatever they happen to be working on at the moment. Some interesting things have happened, like Sedonah and Cassie playing a game called "headbands," and they have a hedgehog.

"Working with the kids is interesting on its own," says Sedonah.

The kids doing this all enjoy the task. Cross says he likes helping the kids with math more than spelling.

Mrs. Peterson likes having the extra help. "This is the first year this program has been going, and it's working out really well," she says.

One project the class (and helpers) did was a "sink or float" project. They made a tinfoil boat and experimented to find out how many marbles they could cram in before it sank.



Helpers and kids in the classroom.

Mrs. Peterson says the program is working out well. Photos by Jonathon Herron.

Most boats only held 7 or 8 marbles before going under. But one made it to 99 and another made it to over 150!



Spotlight on . . . Mr. Strouf

by Brooke Williams

Mr. Strouf is the choir and music teacher for Raymond Central Mustangs, for both elementary and high school.

He loves this new school because, he says, it's very similar to the school that he went to when he was a kid.

Mr. Strouf is from Swanton, Nebraska. He's always lived in Nebraska. He has 2 older brothers. He went to school at Tri-County for K-12, and to Doane College.

Mr. Strouf joined choir and fell in love with music. His favorite instru-

ment is voice.

Mr. Strouf also has played the saxophone and the trombone. He likes the classics -- the oldies, barber shop, and classical music -- and he says he teaches a good repertoire.

Mr. Strouf now lives in Lincoln. He is not married. He says that he likes all of the kids he teaches but that he knows the older kids a little bit better because he sees them more.

Mr. Strouf's hobbies are messing with hardware, programs, and websites. He plays computer games.



Mr. Strouf, a native Nebraskan, teaches music and directs the choir for Raymond Central Elementary and High Schools.

Music Stations Explain Choices

by Jonathon Herroon

I've often wondered how radio stations choose their songs. To find out, I called 4 different radio stations and asked -- a Rock station, Country station, Classic Rock station, and Pop station.

Pop (KFRX 106.3)

KFRX keeps track of the top 150 songs but plays the top 40-50 hits.

To mix it up a bit, they play songs from the past 10 years or so, such as "90's at noon."

Now that people can download songs, KFRX plays popular songs less often. They also set some songs to play more often than others.

News Staffers Like Similar Things

by Cross Warren

Some of the things school newspaper staff members have in common are food, games, TV, comics, music, and comedians.

We all like these foods: Laffy Taffy, Peanut Butter Cups, Burger King, chips, pancakes, and ice cream. We also all like sodas and Snickers.

We mostly like video games like Angry Birds, Black Ops, and Guitar Hero. We like them because they are challenging. Some of us like board games, such as Clue, and other games like tag.

Our favorite TV shows are *Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends* and *Sponge Bob*. They are funny and clever.

We like the comics *Calvin and Hobbes* and *Pearls Before Swine*. The art work is good and they have an odd take on the world.

Our favorite music is rock. We all like the groups Green Day, AC/DC, Aerosmith, and Metallica.

Comedians are cool. Jeff Dunham, Adam Sandler, and Jim Carey are funny.

Rock (The Blaze 104-1)

The Blaze looks at national Rock charts to see how listeners feel about a certain song. When a popular band like Ozzy or Nickelback releases a song, they'll play it, unless listeners hate it or it's really bad.

They'll go all the way back to the 90's charts and will play those songs. They see what other stations play and really involve the listeners. They also set songs to repeat.

Country (KX 96.9)

KX asks people what songs they want to hear. They also have a survey on their website. They look at the charts weekly and sometimes at what other Country stations play.

KX also sets songs to repeat. They play songs from the 90's for



and they play older songs for 3 hours on Sundays.

Classic Rock (WOW 105.3)

A standard several hundred songs are considered "Classic Rock." WOW likes to play live concert tracks. They play songs from the late 50's to early 80's.

WOW looks at old charts for popular old songs and, to be competitive, at what other stations play. They've never had to ban a song and don't set songs to repeat. They play songs by some bands more than songs by other bands.

Library News

by Brooke Williams

Lions Donate \$500: Summer Reading Benefits

The Valparaiso Lions Club gave \$500 to the library at the Board meeting on March 1. The money will be used for this year's Summer Reading Program, for craft supplies and books.

The Summer Reading Program starts June 1 and lasts for 10 weeks. The theme is *Explore the World: READ!*

Special Programs are every Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00. There will be games outside and lots of crafts inside, all from different countries or cultures each week.

Some of the crafts are sand paintings, batik, dream catchers, origami, puppets, masks, shell crafts, and gods' eyes.

SIGN UP RIGHT AWAY! Packets are available at school and at the library. They also are online at the library's website:

<http://Libraries.ne.gov/valparaiso>.

Library Website

The library has a new website <http://Libraries.ne.gov/valparaiso>. The Nebraska Library Council sponsors it and library staff keep it up-to-date. The website is in blog style. You can write responses and comments. There are really interesting links to the copies of *The Mustang Times*.



Wrong type of "Chick Magnet," Einstein!

Opinions

Snow Days

Jonathon Herroon

Snow days are amazing. You get to stay home and be lazy, sleep, and have fun.

But there's a down side.

Snow days are fun at the time, but they end up turning around and biting you. Last year, they added about eight days to the end of the year!

I think snow days are awesome when they happen, but they make the year longer, which I think is no fun at all.

Combining Schools

by Frances Holley

Mitchell and Morrill in the Panhandle may be combining school districts. They are about 6 miles apart. Mitchell has over 600 kids in school and Morrill has about 175. Morrill's school superintendent resigned in April so the issue is on hold for a while.

Some people like the idea of combining districts but others worry about it. If state aid keeps going down, combining might help save money.

My cousins like the idea because they could meet new people but some kids don't like it because they don't want to go to a different school.

People also don't know if the combining will mean building another school or if they will quit using one or more school buildings and change where kids go to school.

Testing

By Jonathon Herroon

Tired Children. Quiet demanded. Occupied computer lab. "Do not disturb" signs on every other classroom door. Ah, it's testing season again.

I don't like testing at all. To me it feels boring, redundant, slightly confusing, really boring, and tiring.

Word Find: All About Horses

by Frances Holley

Find these words, which may be written left to right, or right to left, or top to bottom, or bottom to top, or diagonally:

- Appaloosa
- Arab
- Bridle
- Brush
- Lippizan
- Morgan
- Paint
- Palomino
- Pasture
- Pinto
- Quarter
- Saddle
- Stall

a	b	p	m	o	r	g	a	n	s
p	c	a	e	u	t	m	o	r	a
p	b	l	r	l	s	n	g	f	d
a	r	o	u	o	l	t	i	u	d
l	u	m	t	t	n	i	a	p	l
o	s	i	s	u	u	r	f	l	e
o	h	n	a	g	a	w	h	y	l
s	e	o	p	b	r	i	d	l	e
a	s	l	i	p	p	i	z	a	n
t	o	n	r	e	t	r	a	u	q



Above, left to right, Alex, Frances, Ian, Jon, and Cross wonder, Who will staff next year's newspaper?

Sadly, I take weekly finals in reading, so I have to deal with the tests every five days. The reading ones aren't nearly as long and boring as the NeSA tests that have been going on lately.

The NeSA tests seem to last forever but they only have 25 or so questions. They're the kind of tests you just want to finish as soon as possible, even though you may think they are easy.

We used to do the giant, five-day-long, paper-pencil, standardized achievement tests, but those are being replaced by the NeSA tests. I'm

not complaining about this change by any means, but either way, I don't like testing at all.

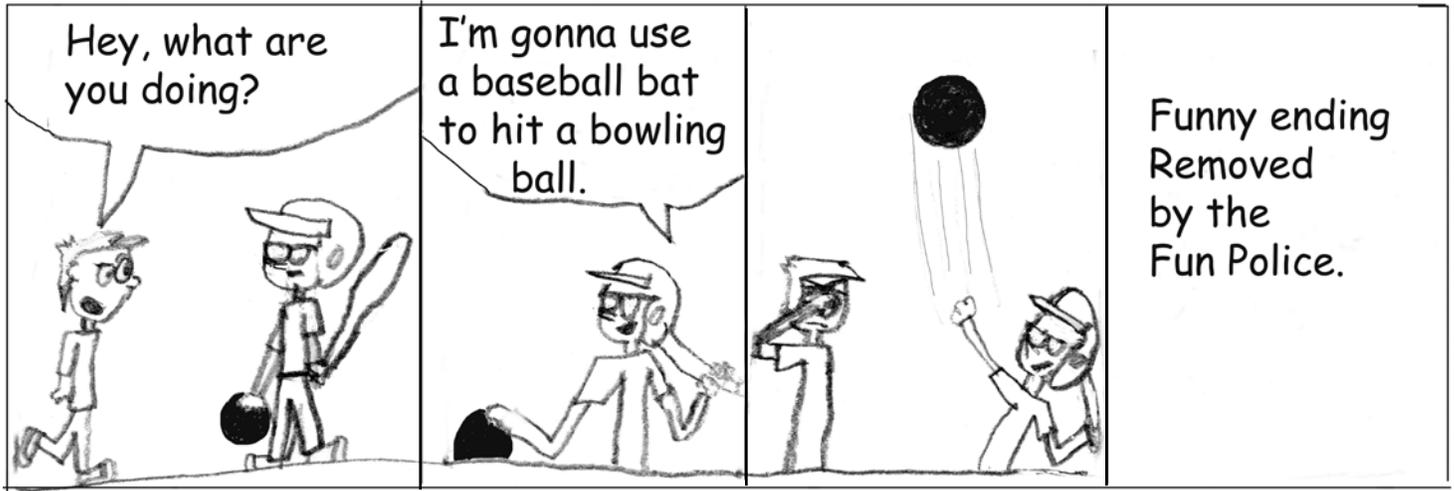


Oboe player, by Alex Schon.

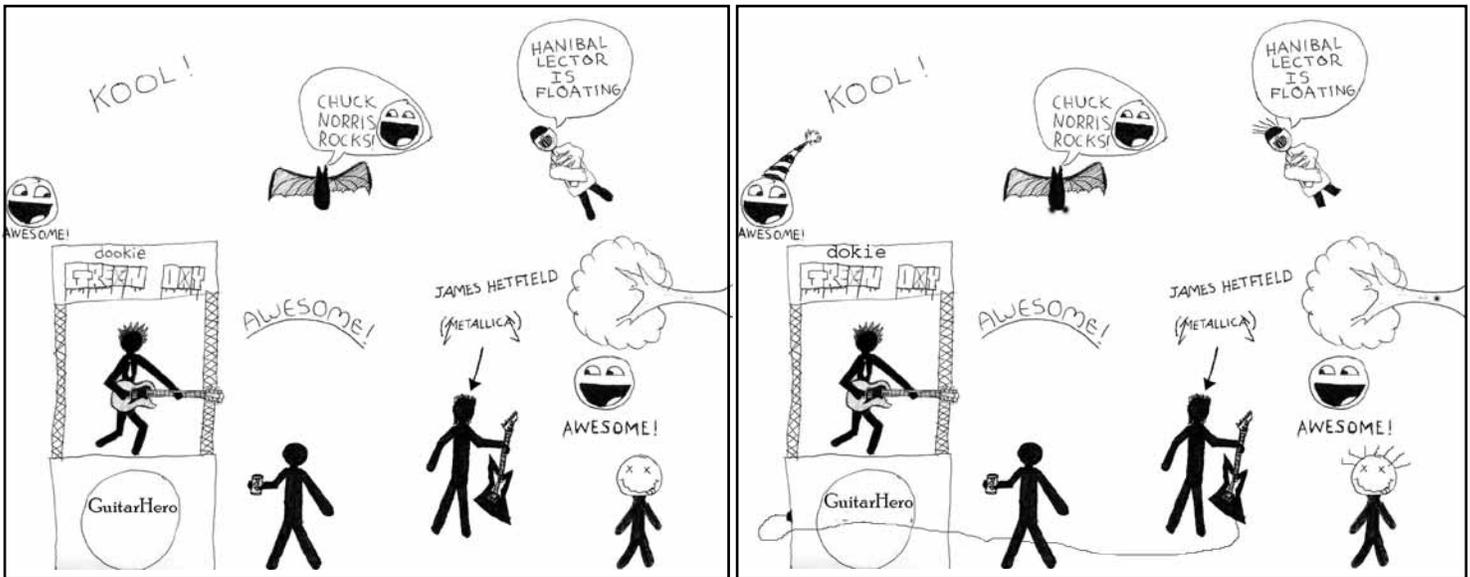
COMIX and other cool stuff

LEMMY

by Jonathon Herroon



Find the Differences
by Alex Schon



Answer: Knot hole, "dokie," Hannibal Lector's hair, hat, Hannibal Lector's hair, "AWESOME!" guy's, "AWESOME!" bat feet, "AWESOME!" guitar cord, Nirvana guy's hair, Metallica, James Hetfield, Awesome!

Be a Mustang Times Reporter Next Year

Will you be in the 5th Grade in September at Raymond Central Elementary School in Valparaiso? Do you like to write stories, draw, or create cartoons? Would you like to see your by-line for stories, art, or cartoons in next year's *Mustang Times*?

If your answer is "Yes" to all these questions, then you should sign up for the Beyond after-school class in Journalism in September. Six kids can participate.

You will come to the Valparaiso Public Library after school on most Thursdays. You will learn how to be a reporter -- how to get the information and photos for news stories, how to write the stories, and how to use the computer to turn your work into a newspaper.

In between classes at the Library, you will work on your stories, too. You will do research, interview people, and take news photos. You also will sell ads for the paper.

Back at the library, you will type your news stories and use the computer to turn your work into a newspaper. The Library has computer programs for editing photos and art, creating drawings, and doing the layout of the newspaper. There is also a newspaper website to keep updated.

The newspaper class also folds and staples the photocopies of the newspaper and delivers papers to stores in Valparaiso.

Advertising Rates

Classified ads, 5 cents per word, minimum \$1.00. To include photo(s), add \$1.00 each. Display ads, \$2.00 per column inch, minimum \$2.00. Deliver copy, photos, or camera-ready display ad material, with payment (cash or check), to The Mustang Times, Main Office, Raymond Central Elementary School, 406 East 3rd Street, Valparaiso, NE 68065, OR to the Valparaiso Public Library. For more information, contact the Publication Advisor, Maria Cadwallader, at 784-0321 (res.) or 784-6141 (library).

Classifieds

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Shear Paradise Salon

312 W. 2nd St., Valparaiso, NE
Tues.-Sat.
Owner/Stylist: Jamie Johnson
784-6022

Tvrdy's One Stop

100 Cedar St., Valparaiso, NE
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by Alex Schon