Welcome to Great Falls!
By: Taylor Potts and Mary Brown

Hello FFA members and advisors and welcome to Great Falls. We’re happy to host this year’s Montana State Convention and hope you enjoy your stay in our town. Go hike the River’s Edge Trail, explore at the Lewis and Clark interpretive center, and see the Char- lice Russel museum. You will find that there are many ag-related businesses in the area to places and the tours later this week will allow you to explore them. At convention the Hall of Chapters is the back right hand side of the Four Seasons Arena, the Trade Show, the Alumni Store will be in the main lobby, and don’t forget that there is a concessions stand selling a variety of snacks and refreshments. We hope you enjoy this 2016-2017 Montana State Convention!

Agriculture in America
By: Fernando Garcia

Coming for the state convention and seeing all the excitement is a really nice experience for me. As I am an exchange student from Brazil, it is interesting to compare Brazilian agriculture and ranching with America’s. I had the pleasure of accompanying my Venezuelan friend who is competing in prepared speech and I realized how important it is to do well in the contests. Everyone works hard to prepare themselves to compete here at the FFA State Convention.
This year’s Prepared Speaking competition was a very heated one. Many competitors believed they did well while others said that it may not have been their best performance. from the Laurel says “I believe it went really well, i was prepared so it went smoother than expected.” Another competitor, Katie Koterba from Electric City said that “It went really well, I was prepared so it went smoother than expected”. Mickayla Johnson from Hindsdale stated “It went fairly decent, not my best performance but as good as I could hope for”. All of the competitors were excited and hopeful that they would advance to the Final Four, which will be announced tomorrow.

**Prepared Speaking Preliminary Rounds**  
*By: Hayley Nelson*

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**Hall of Chapters**  
*By: Harleigh Johnson*

This year’s hall of chapters displays truly reflect the theme ImAGine. Each had a new twist showcasing the 2016-2017 year in review with plenty of encouragement in lots of different ways. The Bainville FFA’s slogan is “Imagine the places you will go”. Stop signs mark each award on the board signifying the many stops we take before reaching our destination of State Convention. Abby Hanson from Melstone came up with the chapters’ title “Imagine what FFA could do for you when you put it all on the line” with chapter pictures displayed on clothes lines. The Electric City FFA really showcased imagination and wiring skills with the theme “Imagine your chapter”. The display was set up with an electrical board with categories like knowledge and learning. When the button was pushed, an event the chapter partook in lights up on the board with more information. I think it is fair to say that each chapter showcased many ways to imagine, From Roundup FFA’s mini saloon, to Broadwaters’ red barn and bean bag toss, imagination was surely shown. Great job to everyone!

**Trade Show**  
*By: Taylor Potts*

Get ready to run and visit vendors at tomorrow’s trade show, it’s time for a competition. If you get a sticker from each vendor and put it next to their name in your convention booklet, you’ll be entered in a raffle to win a prize. Remembre to turn the booklet into Allie Nelson or Cody Boyce. Once you’ve gotten all the stickers, swing by the Cherry Creek Radio booth where you can record a broadcast audition! The lucky winner could have their farming and ag report featured on 560 KMON-AM. They will also have a photo booth, and the most creative photo of the day will be put in a drawing for a prize. There are lots of new vendors at convention, and don’t be shy about talking to the vendors. Electric City Coffee will be selling cookies, coffee, salads, and sandwiches if you need a boost after going to all the vendors.
Jr. Creed Speaking Preliminary Round
By: Fernando Garcia
Jr. Creed is a competition based around personal experience in FFA in addition to a presentation of the FFA Creed. Competitors are expected to answer judge questions are scored based on responses and their accuracy in reciting the FFA Creed. This year’s junior creed speaking competition there are 15 competitors in all. Taylor Bogden is a competitor from the Electric City chapter. She told about how she practiced with friends and family, as well as asking for help from teachers. She is hoping to place high and is feeling very confident about her knowledge and speaking.

Inside the Agriscience Fair
By: Katie Achilles
Agriscience is all about learning a new topic and exploring in depth about it. It’s been super fun to learn about something you didn’t know before. Initially, choosing just one topic and narrowing it down can be pretty tough because there can be lots of options. When you begin researching, that’s when the fun starts as you start to put the pieces together. The best part is sharing with others the knowledge you gained and all of your hard work.

Alumni Store
By: Taylor Potts
While you’re at convention, the Alumni Store should be on your list of places to go explore. From ties and scarves to coffee mugs and sweatpants, they’ve got everything. The Alumni Store aims to provide members with items they might have forgotten as well as giving them the opportunity to purchase FFA merchandise. The profits from the Alumni Store go back to members as the money raised will help fund leadership development events and the alumni leadership camp.