Saying Farwell to Our State Officers
By: Amelia Laubauch

The time has come for the 2017-2018 Officer Team to resign and say goodbye to their jackets. Seth Rekdal recalls on his experience and how he feels about saying goodbye to being an FFA member, “It’s bittersweet because it’s my last year as a member. In this past year, we have all achieved our goals; mine being that it has been my dream forever.” Kelsey Kraft has the same feeling, “I had so much fun this year and I’m sad that I won’t be able to interact with members as much anymore.” Sheridan Johnson states that, “This year has been absolutely incredible” and “While it is bittersweet to retire tomorrow it’s coming at a good time” Abbey Dunn says how much she’s enjoyed her past year, It’s super sad to be taking off this jacket for the last time. I’m going to miss it” And “I’m excited to see what the future holds.” Jessica Horan recalls her amazing experience, “I have had a fantastic year and of course I don’t want it to be done yet, but I’m excited to be ending on a high point. It’s such a blessing.” Shelby Morris shares her experience of saying goodbye, “As of right now, it’s kind of a weird feeling. It hasn’t happened, but I’m definitely anticipating it.” John Power also shares his feelings on retiring. “I’m definitely going to miss a lot of things about FFA.” Although we will be sad to say goodbye to the 2017-2018 officer team, we all wish them the best of luck in their futures ahead of them.

Footloose
By: Taylor Potts

One of State Convention’s most popular workshop has finally arrived. Mr. Whitney came prepared to teach everyone from first time dancers to those with plenty of experience. He started with basic step to jitterbugging and then moved on to more complex moves such as the crossover, tabletop, and the window. The jitterbug lesson soon turned into a polka lesson. All the members had fun learning the new dance, even with a few collisions between pairs. The freshmen enjoyed learning to dance for the first time and the seniors had fun warming up for the dance tonight. We thank Mr. Whitney for teaching us all he knows in our limited space and we thank the members of Carter County for demonstrating how to jitterbug and polka with their advisor.
A Lesson in Concentration
By: Taylor Potts

Today at convention I had the great opportunity to attend Breanna Hobert’s workshop on responsibilities and prioritization. We started out with a quick game of Concentration. The game emphasized thinking on your feet and listening to what the other players have said before you. There was also a slight emphasis on learning to toss the ball lightly. Next, we quite literally juggled our responsibilities. All of the participants stood in a circle and tossed one large responsibility, a foam soccer ball, and eleven other small responsibilities, tennis balls. The object of this game was to pass each ball thirty times and pass all our “responsibilities” back to one member. The first attempt was absolute chaos, but with a little strategizing the second attempt went far better. Our national FFA president emphasized the importance of keeping track of your responsibilities and prioritizing what is important to you. It was overall a great workshop, and I felt lucky to be able to attend it.

Second Delegate Session
By: Katrina Roberts

This is my second time as a delegate for my chapter. Even though this session was less entertaining than last year’s it was much easier to complete the business in the allotted amount of time. The delegate session was very informative and we passed all of the motions with only one receiving an amendment I got the opportunity to make. We also got to watch the Extemporaneous Speaking Finals, Native American Presentations, Creed Finals, and Parliamentary Procedures Finals. It was fun getting to watch the competitions and I am so excited for those with the ability to help change the Montana FFA for the better in the future.

Commerce and Pancakes
By: Mary Brown

When hundreds of people come together for a convention, it is not unreasonable to believe that lots of food is required to keep those people happy. Thanks to the Ag Chamber of Commerce, many members, advisors, and volunteers were all given lots of delicious pancakes, sausage links, and cups of juice to drink. This helped many of these members and guests to have a productive and fun day! The supporters of the FFA are never one’s to mistreat their members and their generosity today was but one of the many opportunities where they have proven this point.
Bulls, Heifers, and Hogs Oh My!
By: Anna Dragseth

At the Livestock Evaluation CDE had a total of 80 registered teams with approximately 300 members participating. Competitors judged nine classes of angus bulls, heifers, crossbred gilts, breeding does, wether dams, feedlot cattle, market hogs, and a class of keep and cull lambs. Participants gave oral reasons on the angus bulls, market hogs, and wether dams. They also completed a written livestock general knowledge test at the event. Lexie Selting, president of the Fairview FFA said, “I enjoyed taking part in the state livestock judging contest! It was super cold in the pavilion so I had to bundle up with my winter apparel. The classes were pretty challenging but overall it was a fun experience!”

Student Success Workshop
By: Silas Andrews

Today I went to the student success workshop presented by members of the MSU Agriculture Education Club, Katie Koterba and Sierra Osborne. We participated in a communication activity that used cards to show important life lessons and skills that we could use later in life. We faced negotiations, teamwork, and stunted communication to learn how to face problems and adjust to life’s obstacles to become successful. Being in the workshop was a blast. Not only were there games and activities, but it was the perfect chance to meet new people. The funniest part of the workshop was when teams got the chance to band together to bid on prize baskets with their poker chips. The previously uncompetitive workshop became more interesting and ultimately was a blast. I would highly recommend this workshop or others like it for future members. It’ll get you out of your shells, give you new life skills, and be super fun while you’re there.

Creed Speaking Finals
By: Cassie Lucas

“The one thing people fear worse than death and we do it for fun.” This quote is one of the quotes that my speech and drama team uses to explain what speech and drama is. This quote is a perfect one to explain what the contestants in Creed Speaking do. How many of you could talk in front of a bunch of people that you don’t know as a freshman or a sophomore. I can tell you this I could not. I applaud them for being able to do this. As a freshman and to be able to do something like Creed Speaking. This is something that they can use throughout their lives. Congratulations to all of the people who made it to state and to those who made it to finals at state. Keep up the good work.