

## Red Ribbon Week

“I would rather go shopping than do drugs,” stated Mariah Gondeiro, a sophomore at Belt Valley High School, “Shopping is fun, not usually dangerous, and you are able to get pretty clothes. When you smoke and do drugs, it makes you look unhealthy.”

Approximately three hundred and forty ribbons were passed out throughout the Belt School last week, for the annual campaign against drug use in schools. Red Ribbon Week has been celebrated since 1998 nationwide. It started when a Drug Enforcement Agency Agent named Kiki Camarena was murdered by a Mexican drug alliance while on an undercover assignment. His hometown friends and family began wearing red ribbons in his memory, and it soon spread throughout the nation.

This year’s main theme was tobacco prevention. Held in the school there was a poster contest. Winners were chosen in the Kindergarten through second grade, the third through fifth grade, the sixth through eighth grade, and the grades ninth through twelfth. The winners of this year’s poster contest, in order of lowest to highest class grades, are Brian Wharton, a tie was declared between Nick Vogt and Daniel Adams, Josie Stinson, and Brittany Newman. The winners through eighth grade won stringed back sacks and Brittany Newman, the winner of the ninth through twelfth grades, won four complimentary tickets to a Northern Montana State University event of her choice.

Another activity hosted last week was theme days. On Monday,

October 27, the theme was “Drugs Turn You Inside Out” and students were to wear their clothes inside out. On Tuesday, October 28, the theme was “Being Drug FREE is NO Sweat” and students wore sweats or sweatshirts. This continued throughout the week. Wednesday was “Proud to Be Drug FREE”, Thursday “Put a Cap on Drugs”, and Friday “Team Up Against Drugs”.

Amberly Stephens, the school counselor, states “If we take a realistic approach to drugs and tobacco, it does help.” Stephens also added that she would like to thank those who participated in the poster contest and the school staff and students for their support.

**By: Amanda DeNune**

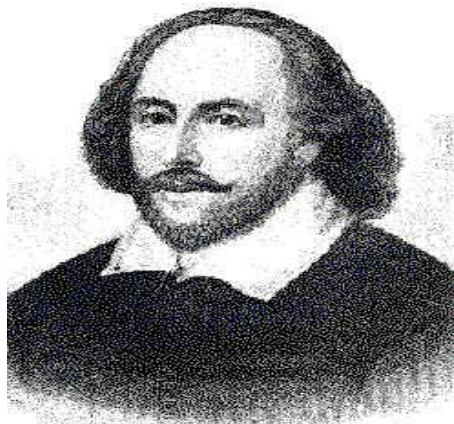
## Culture Comes to the Valley

With the mission of bringing Shakespeare “off the page and onto the stage,” the Montana State University’s Montana Shakespeare in the Schools company beings its 16<sup>th</sup> season of providing Shakespearean plays for the education of many high school and middle school students. This year the company is performing Shakespeare’s comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*. The play was performed for the middle and high school students at Belt Valley High School on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

Montana Shakespeare in the Schools is an educational outreach program from the Montana State University in Bozeman. Seven professional actors travel to fifty different communities for a ten week tour that beings in Livingston in early October and continues through mid-December. The company will administer a live Shakespeare play with a post-

production “talk” session with the actors, and workshops that include stage combat and learning Shakespearean verse.

Once again, the Shakespeare in the Schools has been selected by the National Endowment for the Arts to receive a grant from the *Shakespeare in American Communities: Shakespeare for a New Generation* to



allow the company to travel, to provide the workshops, and be able to purchase sets and costumes. The award is given to certain number of theatre companies all over the country. Further funding is received from the Homer A and Mildred S. Scott Foundation, the Montana Arts Council *Artists in the Schools*, and Target.

Shakespeare’s play *Much Ado About Nothing* is set in the town of Messina. Messina is a seaside town on the island of Sicily. The play features establishing love, the dissolution of love, hatred, jealousy, and, of course, comedy. *Much Ado About Nothing* may seem very confusing as the performers depict the course of love through Shakespeare’s interpretations. After all, in the words of William Shakespeare, “The course of true love never did run smooth.”

**By: Jami Dyson**

## College Financial Aid Information

Important information regarding college financial aid will be disseminated at the Belt school cafeteria on November 18th. The seminar, conducted by a UGF financial aid expert and MANG recruiter Sgt. Brad Hicks, will last from 6:00 p.m.

to 8:00 p.m.

Subjects addressed will include; filling out FAFSA forms, an explanation of the types of loans, grants, and scholarships available, educational opportunities through the Army National Guard, and ROTC.

This information could save thousands of dollars in education expenses. The meeting is open to all high school juniors and seniors and their parents. For more information, contact counselor Amberly Stephens at 277-3351.