



# Cougar Kingdom

MAY 22, 2008

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 1

## **\$70,000 Raised to Date!**

### **Fact or Fiction?**

Will it really take 1,500 to 2,000 volunteers to build Cougar Kingdom? Yes it will really take 1,500 to 2,000 volunteers to build the playground.

### **New Sponsors**

#### **Benefactors (\$5,000 and above)**

Missoula County Park Board

**Gold Level (\$1,000-\$4,999)**

Spirit Tae Kwon Do

**Bronze Level (\$100-\$499)**

Karen & Miller Barber

### **Playground Adoptions**

***Water Fountain  
Extravaganza '08***

***Fire Pole***

Clinton Volunteer Firefighters

***Park Bench***

Mendeville Family

### **Jay Barber Concert**

As a result of all the community support we received for this event we were able to raise \$3,498. Jay Barber sang songs with humorous lyrics that also tugged at your heart strings. The favorite song of the night was the last song where his wife Ruthie provided a little extra "sound enhancement." We appreciate his time and effort and wish the acoustics in the gym would have served his music better. That having been said, the PTSA will be looking to see if the sound quality can be improved for future events.

### **We Need a Wood Chip Hauling Semi Tractor Trailer**

If you know of someone who has one and might be willing to donate a couple of trips to Phillipsburg (or give us a great deal), please contact Tara Nystrom at [cougarkingdom@blackfoot.net](mailto:cougarkingdom@blackfoot.net) or call 825-2010.

### **MISSOULA COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION GRANT**

Cougar Kingdom was awarded a total of \$14,000 due in large part to Clinton Elementary principal Eric McBride and student Anna Roske. Eric worked to get the grants submitted and Anna made a presentation to the Park Board that she prepared on her own. It gave a student's perspective on how Cougar Kingdom will benefit our community and the Park Board was so impressed with her presentation they awarded Cougar Kingdom the maximum grant amount.

### **SUMMER PROJECTS FOR THE YOUTH COMMITTEE**

Are your kids looking for something fun and creative to do this summer? Then the Cougar Kingdom Youth Committee is just the ticket. The Youth Committee will be working on many projects this summer some of which include designing and creating posters, painting wood screws, and making thank you cards to be sent to our sponsors. If your child would like to be an active part of Cougar Kingdom this is the way to do it. We have a small group of very dedicated students who are excited and motivated. If your child would like to be a part of this group, please email Shelley Young at [cougarkingdom@blackfoot.net](mailto:cougarkingdom@blackfoot.net) with your child's name, your name, telephone number and times your child would be available to participate.

### **MEET YOUR PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

This month we would like you to meet Nicole Smart, Playground Project Coordinator and Tara Nystrom, Materials Coordinator. Nicole has put in many hours to insure this project will be successful. When I asked her why this is so important to her she said: "My daughter, Gabby has always loved playing at the Northside Park and Dragon Hollow and having worked on Dragon Hollow, I knew how much fun it was to swing a hammer during the build. I really wanted something similar for our community -- not just a great playground for our kids but also a great event to bring everyone in our community together to accomplish something that they would talk and laugh about for decades." I asked Nicole what she hopes to gain by being involved in the playground project and she stated that: "Personally, I want to get to know the folks in our valley better. Although I have lived here for almost 15 years, I still feel that there are tons of great people here that I don't know. I want our community to have a real hometown feel so that wherever you go; you can put the hustle and bustle of the 9-to-5 day on hold and say Hi to someone that you know." I wanted to find out some "dirt" on Nicole and there just wasn't any to be found so I went straight to the source and asked her what is something funny/interesting about herself that most people would not know? "Although there are many things I can do, rrrrrrolling my rrrrrrs is NOT one of them. I have tried ever since I was a kid and after much attempted instruction and ridicule from my husband and 7 year old daughter (who both CAN do it), I have vowed never to try again (at least not in front of them)!" Lastly, Nicole wanted to express what truly drives her to work so hard on this project: "My mother's words of wisdom: 'People are not respected and remembered for what they have but rather for what they give and although money is a wonderful gift to give, your time is the most valuable and precious gift of all.'"

Tara Nystrom our Materials Coordinator has been pretty busy herself these days. She and her husband Eric have lived in Clinton for 9 years and "We don't have any plans to ever leave." Tara

### **ART COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!**

The Art Committee will begin work on the artistic aspects of the playground this summer. Anyone interested in being on the Committee contact Julie

Espinosa at

[juliee@blackfoot.net](mailto:juliee@blackfoot.net) or call her at the school at 825-3113. The

Committee will be responsible for designing a Clark Fork

Valley history mural, the backdrop mural for our climbing wall, the artistic concept for the giant cougar, and the concept for the four-sided structure in the tot land. Both adults and youth are encouraged to join.



## **COUGAR KINGDOM T-SHIRTS**

Cougar Kingdom T-Shirts are in and can be purchased at the Clinton Elementary School  
\$8 for Children Sizes  
\$10 for Adult Sizes  
\$11 for XXL and XXXL

## **Build Captain Update**

A big THANK YOU! to Bruce Hover, Jim Bartmess, and Eric Nystrom who have volunteered to be Build Captains for the week of the build. We still need 7 more Build Captains to head up volunteer teams. This will require a commitment to be on site during the build for all 5 days. Building experience is required for some, but not all, of the slots. Anyone (male or female) interested in volunteering as a Build Captain, please contact Nicole Smart at [cougarkingdom@blackfoot.net](mailto:cougarkingdom@blackfoot.net).

## **Building Material Suppliers**

If you have any contacts with any major building material supplier, please contact Tara Nystrom at [cougarkingdom@blackfoot.net](mailto:cougarkingdom@blackfoot.net).

## **Cougar Kingdom Summer Newsletter**

Be sure to pick up a copy of the Clinton Community News over the summer for monthly newsletters. Or you can email Cheryl Lauridson [cougarkingdom@blackfoot.net](mailto:cougarkingdom@blackfoot.net) and have her put you on the email newsgroup. The summer will be a busy one!

See our Website Created by Clinton Elementary Students : Cody Meixner and Nicole Halverson  
[www.clintoncougars/cougarkingdom.com](http://www.clintoncougars/cougarkingdom.com)

will be responsible for ordering all the materials needed for the playground, no small task for sure. I asked Tara what motivated her to get involved in the playground project and she had this to say: "For years we as a PTSA had looked for something bigger and better to do for our kids but really hadn't had the manpower to undertake such a project and when this idea came about I knew the time had come to actually get going on something wonderful and long-standing for the kids at school." When I asked her what she hoped to see gained from participating in the playground project she said: "I hope that this project will bring our communities from Turah to Bearvertail together not only for the build but maybe this will motivate all community members to become involved in their local neighborhoods and support each other as this area continues to grow." Now for some reason I had the same problem trying to dig up "dirt" on Tara and had to go straight to the source again and here is a little-known fact about Tara she is a "trivial psychic." So if she ever asks you to play a game of Trivial Pursuit -- run in the other direction.

## **"JUST THE FACTS" ABOUT COUGAR KINGDOM**

### **Will the playground be built in September 2008?**

Yes! This is no longer a dream but a reality. We are in the process of purchasing materials and have raised over \$70,000 to date.

### **What will the new playground look like?**

The new playground will be similar to Dragon's Hollow, but it will have a cougar theme. Here is a 3D rendering of what the new playground will look like when completed.



### **How will the playground be maintained?**

The school will take the lead in maintaining the playground. We will still need volunteers to help out for the annual maintenance.

### **What is going to happen to the existing playground structure?**

The school has listed the current playground structure (built with community support over 12 years ago) through the statewide school email network and they have already received inquiries from several small schools who are very interested in purchasing it. The money from this sale will be put back into the Cougar Kingdom playground fund.

### **If I sign up to loan out my tools during the build how will they be taken care of?**

We all know how important tools are to their owners. If you loan your tools for the build, they will be inventoried, kept in a locked tool trailer, checked out and checked in. In addition, they will be inspected after each use to insure they are not broken. If they are broken they will be repaired or replaced at not cost to you.

### **When I volunteer, will I really be given free meals?**

Yes! We have some great meals lined up for the build. Some of the meals will come from local restaurants like Famous Dave's, Poor Henry's, Clinton Market, and local churches in our area. So if you volunteer plan on eating lots of great food!

### **What about my children, will childcare be provided?**

Yes, childcare for potty trained kids will be provided at the Clinton LDS Church on Wednesday through Friday and in the school gym on Saturday and Sunday. Bonner's own kindergarten teacher, Suzy Burns in on our Childcare Committee and we have some great people lined up to help take care of your "precious cargo". There will also be lots of planned activities for all ages.

### **Can I volunteer for one day or do I need to commit to all 4 days?**

You can volunteer for 4 hour shifts, one full day, or as many days as you would like.

### **Do I have to make a commitment right now?**

No, you can wait until we get closer to the build date to decide when you would like to volunteer. Right now we need people to sign up so that we have an idea of how many people we will have. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Shellie Nelson at [swnelson@blackfoot.net](mailto:swnelson@blackfoot.net) right away.

### **Can I put together a volunteer team myself?**

Yes, absolutely you can form a family team, a team from work, church or other organization. You can even issue a challenge to a friend or co-worker to see who can get the most people together. Building the playground is definitely going to take a lot of work, but we want it to be fun and enjoyable too.