

Most students to take CTBS tests

Standardized measure of academic progress

All students in grades 1 through 11 will be taking the CTBS tests during the next two weeks. These tests are nationally normed tests administered in the spring of each year.

The purpose of these standardized tests is to provide teachers, parents and the district with one measure of academic progress. There are many types of assessment and evaluation used in education and this is one form that will allow the district to compare itself with others across the nation, said

Deborah Jacobsen, district testing coordinator.

The results also will provide information for program improvement and will help teachers assist individual and small groups of students, she said.

In addition to the academic portion of the test, students in grades 2 through 11 will be taking a 45-minute test called the Test of Cognitive Skills (TCS). This test provides a measure of ability which, in addition to the CTBS, will allow the district to determine if the children are achieving at a level appropriate to their ability, Jacobsen said. This will hopefully enable the district to identify students before they become discouraged

and "slip through the cracks" of the system. The TCS also will be used for Project Promise assessment for second graders.

Parents are encouraged to make sure students attend classes during the testing weeks, as make-up testing can be difficult on the children. In addition, children should have a full night's sleep and a good breakfast, and parents are asked to not make a "big deal" of the testing, as the additional stress can have an adverse effect.

Parents will receive the results of the CTBS tests prior to the end of the school year. For more information, call district training coordinator Deb Jacobsen at 447-8824.

AT THE LIBRARY

Library offers amnesty

Lewis and Clark Library is offering amnesty on overdue fines during National Library Week, April 14-20. Upon request, and in exchange for canned goods donated to Food Share, the circulation staff will waive all overdue fines on a patron's card as long as all overdue materials are returned to the library.

Phone renewals OK

Effective April 14, Lewis and Clark Library is instituting phone renewals for checked-out materials. Both the library card and the item barcode numbers are needed to complete a renewal by phone. Items are renewed one time only for an additional three weeks or three days for videos.

1C

HELENA

LIZZIE'S STORY



Robert Fisk, Herald's first editor.



Lizzie Fisk, a Helena from 1867 to 1902.

Lizzie Fisk's exceptional place in our history

Met Lizzie Fisk. A Helenan from 1867 to 1902, she was the wife of the mining camp's first newspaper editor, Robert Fisk. Strong and positive, independent and decisive, she emulated many women who traveled west in the early 1800s. She earned an exceptional place in our history because of the numerous letters she wrote to her Connecticut home from 1867 to 1893, which reveal a social history of Helena that does not appear in any other source.

Lizzie's story began in February, 1846, at East Haddam, a small community along the Connecticut River. Her father was a farmer and a pastor. Her Methodist and Republican parents reared their daughters, Elizabeth and Fannie, conservatively.

Lizzie completed her education in 1863 and became a teacher. Volunteers in the Civil War effort and members of the Vernon, Connecticut Patriotic Society, the sisters sewed piece-work quilts for the soldiers. Within one of the folded quilts, Lizzie placed a note giving her name and address. Captain Robert Emmett Fisk, a New York Volunteer in the 132nd Infantry, found the note and replied thanking the writer and asking her to write back. Thus began a correspondence between Elizabeth and Robert that lasted until the end of the war in 1865. That same year Robert traveled to Vernon to pay Elizabeth a visit, which culminated in their engagement. Robert, however, did not have the pleasure of remaining near his betrothed, for he had made plans to join his brother in Minnesota for an expedition to the Montana gold fields. The expedition failed in 1865, but in 1866 Robert and James Fisk, reached Helena where they established a newspaper with the help of fellow Republicans. Robert served as the Herald's editor and acquired a business interest in the newspaper.

IN 1867 HE RETURNED to Vernon and married Lizzie. Immediately the couple journeyed west. Their long Missouri River voyage motivated the homesick bride to begin correspondence with her Connecticut family. Describing life on a Missouri River boat, Lizzie wrote the first of 610 letters that comprise the day-by-day account of her sojourn in Montana from 1867 to the Silver Panic of 1893. Countless pioneer women chose diaries and journals to chronicle their experiences. But let-

HARRIETT MELOY



MORE FROM THE QUARRIES OF LAST CHANCE GULCH

ters, different from diary tidbits and meditative journal accounts, appeared to be the more satisfying vehicle for women to tell their stories and express their opinions, hopes, fears, and feelings to loved ones left behind.

Apparently, Lizzie took to Helena life quickly. In a July 31, 1867, letter she wrote, "My first impressions of Helena have been generally confirmed. I like the place very much; it's not like home but there is a wide field of usefulness here, and, entering upon the work earnestly and prayerfully one need never be lonely or disheartened...I like the place."

At a later date Mr. Smith of the newspaper staff asked if she liked this country. She replied, "I do like it. I am perfectly happy and content here, no one comes here to stay longer than until their fortunes are made and the idea of building a comfortable house and making a pleasant home is not for a moment cherished by a majority of our citizens. I tell everyone I expect to stay."

LIZZIE'S PREDELICION toward a "wide field of usefulness" was exercised almost immediately when she began working in the Herald office bookbinding (Helena Business Directories). At this work she "persevered," finding her "reward in looking at the piles of pamphlets and the amount of money they represent to the Helena Herald office." But in her next letter she wondered, "Shall I selfishly address myself to money-getting and ignore the claims of society upon me, or shall my influence be used to bring about a better state of things?"

Before responding to the wider claims of her community though, Lizzie knew that she must establish a home. When a close neighbor decided to leave Helena, Lizzie persuaded her husband to buy the house next door and none too soon. For earlier than expected the Fisks were to become parents. (Even though Lizzie reported to her mother in June, 1868 that she was "the only bride of last year who

had not done her duty shall I say toward increasing the population of Helena... I never did like to be like everyone else.")

WHILE ANTICIPATING THE BIRTH of their first child, the Fisks decided that Lizzie should accompany Robert on one of his frequent trips East to be away for about a year and a half. Robert traveled to the nation's capital for political purposes and to New York to obtain newspaper advertising and supplies. Meanwhile, Lizzie visited her family in Vernon where on May 29, 1869, Grace Chester Fisk was born. Several months after the baby's birth, the threesome returned to Helena.

Lizzie was shocked to note the changes that had taken place during their absence. In April 1868 a fire had destroyed Helena's business district, followed two months later by a more devastating fire.

An earnest woman wields a vast amount of influence in this community as in any other, but it seems here to be so much more needed and widely felt.'

Two years later, in October 1871, the Fisks' worst fears were realized when "we were awakened by the furious ringing of the door bell and the fearful news that the Herald office was on fire. So it proved, and we had to stand calmly by and see the labor and accumulations of five toilsome years swept away in an hour." In 1872, Lizzie reported another terrible fire, but this one spared the Herald office.

THE HERALD PROSPERED, causing Robert to spend more and more time traveling. Lizzie enjoyed her new independent role. She reported to her mother that she liked an existence quite apart from the family. "I did not think it possible when Rob left this time that I could be so happy without him...but I have learned, if I knew it not before that one can be happy independent of externals..."

Despite her husband's rather frequent travels, Robert and Lizzie had six children between 1869 and 1882. Lizzie was a conscientious mother. Heavy demands on Lizzie, not only by her own brood but also from her husband's numerous relatives, took their toll of time and strength. Nevertheless, Lizzie constantly yearned to confirm her usefulness to the community. She wrote to her mother, "An earnest woman wields a vast amount of influence in this community as in any other, but it seems here to be so much more needed and widely felt."

(More on FISK, page 2C)

Toothaker a finalist in Fairbanks

By MARK GOLDSTEIN
IR Staff Writer

Helena School District superintendent Gary Toothaker has been announced as one of five finalists for the superintendent's job in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Toothaker missed Tuesday's monthly school board meeting because he was in Fairbanks for a job interview, according to Helena school board chairman Charlie Hail.

A secretary in the Fairbanks school district office said the district had not set a deadline for hiring a new superintendent, but that it might be done by April 16, which is the board's next meeting date.

Toothaker was listed as a finalist for the superintendent's job in Cheyenne, Wyo., in late February, but withdrew his name from the list of candidates, saying the position was not the one he wanted.

He is in the fifth year of a six-year contract with the Helena school district. He said last month that the decision to seek a job elsewhere has to do with being in the prime of his career and having a desire to explore other options, rather than being a result of a no-confidence vote by the Helena Education Association last summer.

Visual narrative to be presented for Holocaust Day

"The Courage to Remember," a unique visual narrative from the Simon Wiesenthal Center, will be presented in the Capitol beginning this weekend as part of the observance of National Holocaust Day.

The presentation consists of 40 full-color panels complete with more than 200 original photographs and is being presented by Helena resident Steve Dold, who purchased the panel display from the Wiesenthal Center.

"The Courage to Remember" offers compelling new insights into the Holocaust, unfolding through four major themes: Nazi Germany 1933-38; Moving Toward the Final Solution 1939-41; Annihilation in Nazi-Occupied Europe 1941-45; and Liberation — Building New Lives.

The Wiesenthal Center, based in Los Angeles, is the largest institution of its kind in North America dedicated to the study of the Holocaust and the monitoring and combatting of contemporary anti-Semitism throughout the world.

"The Courage to Remember" will be on display in room 312-2 on Sunday from 1-5 p.m., Monday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Tuesday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. For more information or group showings, call Steve Dold at 442-8367.

CITY DIARY

TODAY IN HELENA

- 4 p.m. — City Commission Work Session — Business Improvement District/Helena Parking Commission, Room 326.
- 7 p.m. — Growing Friends of Helena meet in Room 309 of the City/County Building.
- 7:30 p.m. — "Self Defense by Plants" lecture by Dr. Bud Ryan at the Carroll College Lower Commons.
- 8 p.m. — "Violence Against Women" lecture by Bonnie Campbell at the Carroll College Upper Commons.
- 8 p.m. — Camelot, Carroll College Theatre Production at the Performing Arts Center.

ORGANIZATIONS

- Alcoholics Anonymous** Thursday meeting times. Call 443-0438. (C) Closed meetings, (O) Open meetings and (ns) non-smoking.
 - 6:45 a.m. — (c), Jorgenson's Restaurant.
 - 8:30 a.m. — Boulder Hot Springs, Main Lobby (C) (NS).
 - Noon — (ns)(c), St. Peter's Episcopal Church.
 - Noon — 621 N. Main.
 - 5:30 p.m. — (c), 621 N. Main.
 - 6:45 p.m. — 621 N. Main (o).
 - 7 p.m. — Methodist Church, Lincoln, (o) (ns).
 - 7 p.m. — (o) (NS), New Life Lutheran, 5980 N. Montana.
 - 7:30 p.m. — FWP Building, Main Floor, 1420 E. 6th Ave. (NS) (C).
 - 8 p.m. — (ns)(c), St. Paul's Methodist Church.
 - 8 p.m. — (o), 621 N. Main.
- Al-Anon Family Group** meetings for Thursday.
 - 9:30 a.m. — Thursday Morning AFG, St. Paul's Methodist Church, 505 Logan (bride's room).
 - 8 p.m. — Plymouth Congregational Church, 400 S. Oakes
- Narcotics Anonymous** meeting at noon at 621 N. Main; 7 p.m. at the Boulder Town Hall.
- Overeaters Anonymous** meeting at noon at St. Paul's Methodist Church Half Way Up Room, 505 Logan.