



HIGH SCHOOL WINNERS

MORGANSTRONG ESSAY & ART COMPETITION



GRAND PRIZE
EVELYN V.

RUNNERS-UP
ALYSSA H.
NATALIA G.

EVELYN V.



We need to work on making the word community not just mean living near each other. We have Morgan county in the middle of this art piece. It is the focus, the eye grabber yet it is not the only thing drawing attention. By having a background full of color and a

pattern we make sure to create the idea that we all contribute. Having multi-colored sections is representation for different groups. Having blank ones shows that we are an unfinished project. This shows we still have yet to include others and being Morgan country together as a community. Our county is shown to be welcoming and growing, using splatters of paint over the colors and white spaces we symbolize growth.

What I was trying to convey in this art piece is the focus on growing as a community and how we are an unfinished project. By adding to our community we tend to give people a place to grow. When we grow as a community it impacts the upcoming generations. Adding a recreational center would bring the ability for kids to go hang out in a positive way. Kids are the next move, they will be our impact. Opportunity is vital.

ALYSSA H.

In Morgan County, there are not many activities to do for younger kids and young adults. Although there are activities to do for the school, not everybody participates in them. They closed all the city parks down and are only open from 5am-11pm since last June. All of us high school kids don't know what to do now without freedom. I feel as though a rec center would offer so many more activities for all ages. We need a place where everybody would feel included in and an upgrade of the Armory. Things I look for in a rec center are an indoor swimming pool, bigger gyms, and also workout equipment for teenagers to use. It would also offer jobs for many teens looking for somewhere to work. I want to see a change here in Morgan County.

We all know how us teenagers are, we all get anxious to do something outside of school hours and we aren't able to go out late and hang out with friends down at the park anymore. We need a little more. A rec center would offer so much for kids of all ages, not just high schoolers. It will provide an active living, a safe environment. It would create a positive, healthy, and wellness atmosphere. It would reduce spending so much money on gym memberships that we all don't have enough money for. It would let kids be kids and enjoy all their free time that they have not causing trouble, and being taken care of in an area where everybody would be treated equally.

Fort Morgan needs a place for an indoor swim pool that we don't have to pay for a membership for and waste all our money on something we enjoy. During the winter it would be nice to have a place we can trust to go and swim in and make new friends. So many people enjoy swimming, but don't want to pay \$50 a month for a membership were only using the pool for. It gets really costly and would offer so much for all kids of all ages to go and enjoy splashing around in an indoor swim pool at a rec center. A rec center in your home town and not have to drive 45min-60min away and wasting money for gas just to swim during the chilly days would build a more active community.

In Morgan County, there's a lot of basketball, volleyball, soccer, etc. leagues and very little space. A rec center would include more gymnasiums instead of all the schools used during the leagues. A lot of adults participate in leagues and would offer more activities for their kids when going and watching. It would have more space for everybody and create a safe environment to participate in sports. It would leave more room for kids to

practice their loved sports they like to play. The gym should have a row of bleachers for people to go and sit down and watch everybody else.

Morgan County is growing and growing with many people and so many different interests, I feel as though a rec center could fulfill all the people's desires of many activities to choose from. We have plenty of land to build a rec center and many people that would put in money to build one. It would offer jobs, a safe, active, and healthy environment where bullying wouldn't be tolerated. It would save a lot of people money that want to get involved, that doesn't have enough money to do so. I believe Fort Morgan should have a rec center with more activities, an indoor swimming pool, and a bigger gymnasium that can fit more people.

NATALIA G.

Every few days, my friends and I get together to hang out, but the problem of what to do often arises. Drive to Greeley? Sit in our McDonald's for three hours talking? Drive around town blasting music? Or of course, my personal favorite, walk around Walmart until you can't tell if it's still dark outside. Fort Morgan has its share of recreation, but as high school students, we often do not want to pay to have fun and even without money as a factor, the same three or four choices of what to do get boring. I propose that Fort Morgan creates sports teams and clubs that are not affiliated with schools. That will give all students and even people no longer in school the chance to learn new things and participate and invest in something that interests them. It will give people something to do that they can have fun at and commit to.

To start off, the city should make the things that we have to do more well known. A lot of people aren't aware of the options they have to do things, myself included. You can't easily google it because little comes up unless you have something specific to search for. Taekwondo for example. I became aware of that from word of mouth only and scarcely found it. The same goes for anyone interested in learning cultural dances. The town used to have a small group of people that practiced Mexican dances outside and taught people who wanted to learn, but it was never out to the general public. There are many examples of this.

After what already exists is made more well known in the public we should establish more club based things for all ages such as geocaching, karate/taekwondo, photography, music, art, to name a few examples. This will give people something to do after school that they love and let them interact with people of all ages that have similar interests as well as maybe lessen the generation gap. Participants will learn things and have a community to share work with.

Besides sitting at fast food places, people should also have an area to sit down and just talk, similar to the library. A sitting lounge or a community center with an area for that would do it justice. The library isn't the best place for that because you must be quiet and they don't like much laughter and disruption. However, a community center could allow for rooms for the different clubs mentioned earlier and an area to just relax and talk to people. If we add more things to do, less people will drive to Greeley or party after school. It will make this town safer and maybe even attract more people and business, all the while making residents happier.