

12 January  
2018

# The Valley Voice



Issue #9

**We're on the Web**

Check out the Voice in color at:  
[www.beltschool.com](http://www.beltschool.com)

Subscribe for free via email for electronic issues!

Contact us at:  
[valleyvoice@beltschool.com](mailto:valleyvoice@beltschool.com)

## Lady Husky Basketball

In the last fortnight, the Lady Husky Basketball team played five games and as 2017 turned to 2018 the two time defending state champions have yet to taste defeat. The victories ran their unbeaten string to a school record 35 straight games.

The girls faced the Winnett/Grass Range Rams in Belt, the Centerville Miners in Miner territory, the Fairfield Eagles in Fairfield, the Conrad Cowgirls in the Conrad gym, the Tri-City Titans at Belt and DGS on the road.

The season opener on December 15<sup>th</sup> was between district 8C champions, the Belt Huskies, and the third place 8C team, the Winnett/Grass Range Rams. The game seemed as

if it was going to fall in favor of the Rams after the first quarter. The visitors had outscored the Huskies 12-3, and halftime intermission began with a score of 17-18 still in the Rams favor. The Huskies mounted a comeback, and by the end of the third it 37-34 Belt. The Maroon and Gold girls pulled away a bit toward the end en route to a 48-36 win. The Huskies were led by senior Dani Urick with 19 points and junior Morgan Cooper with 11.

The next day the Huskies loaded the bus and Centerville for a game against the Miners. Belt dominated the first quarter, outscoring the Miners 29-2. During the second quarter the Huskies added 15 points while very young

Centerville team added just 1 marker. Belt went on to score 21 points after a ten minute intermission and Centerville was held scoreless in the second half. The Huskies were led by Cooper who shot for 14 points and Kolby Pimpton and Urick who tied with 9 each.

*Cont. Pg. 2*



Inside this Issue

MPRC	2
Ski Trips	3
Boys B-Ball	4
Art Colab.	5
Staff/Celebration	6
Wrestling/Net	7
Let's Talk/Notice	8
N. Korea/Wall	9
Little Husky/CMR	10
Seniors/My Voice	11
Puzzle/Calendar	12

## Wrangler National Finals Rodeo

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the 2017 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo kicked off with round one of the ten night rodeo championship. The "Superbowl of Rodeo" has been held annually in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Thomas & Mack Center each December since 1985. This is the Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association's (PRCA) richest and most prestigious rodeo and many young

cowboys and girls have hope of performing under the bright Vegas lights.

The top 15 athletes in each of the eight PRCA rodeo events qualify for the WNFR based on their year-long money earnings. There were four Montana cowboys and one cowgirl competing at the WNFR. Ty Erickson of Helena, Montana, entered the WNFR as the first place steer wrestler. Team ropers'

header Clay Tryan, from Billings, and header Dustin Bird, from Cut Bank, also entered the rodeo in tenth and eleventh place. Lisa Lockhart currently resides in Oelricks, South Dakota but grew up in Circle, Montana and she entered the WNFR sitting in ninth place in barrel racing.

Erickson held his first place spot throughout the first seven rounds.

*Cont. Pg. 3*

## Lady Husky Basketball *(Cont.)*

Belt continued to play on the road traveling 60 miles to Fairfield. The game began in Belt's favor; the score was 16-4 with three quarters left to play. The Huskies scored 20 more in the second quarter compared to the Eagles' 7, which left the score at 36-11. After a brief halftime break, Belt came out and sank 16 points while Fairfield added 10. The score ended with a Husky victory, 62-30 against the Class power in their gym. Belt was led by Cooper who scored 14 and Shelby Paulson and Urick who both contributed 13.

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, the Husky bus trekked to Conrad. Dominating the Cowgirls in the first quarter, 18-6, the Huskies totaled 17 points during the second quarter with Conrad adding 3 points. At halftime, the score stood at 35-9 and the girls were on their way to another win. Fresh off their break, Belt scored 15 points while Conrad added 4. The score after three quarters of play was 48-13. Finally, after the fourth quarter, the score totaled 55-17. The Huskies gained their fourth straight win. Belt was led by Urick who tallied 14 points and Cooper who had 11.

Last Saturday the Lady Huskies took the floor in Belt for a game against the Tri-City Titans.

Belt	3	17	34	<b>48</b>
WGR	12	18	27	<b>36</b>
Belt	29	44	52	<b>65</b>
Centerville	2	3	3	<b>3</b>
Belt	16	36	52	<b>62</b>
Fairfield	4	11	21	<b>30</b>
Belt	18	35	48	<b>55</b>
Conrad	6	9	13	<b>17</b>
Belt	13	31	37	<b>47</b>
TCT	10	18	22	<b>34</b>
Belt	14	25	36	<b>51</b>
Roy-Winifred	7	14	24	<b>39</b>

The first quarter left the fans from both teams just a little nervous, with the Huskies holding strong at 13 and TCT at 10. Belt began pulling away from the Titans, scoring 18 compared to the Titans 8 in the second period. The score was 31-18 as the teams cleared the floor of the half. Both teams experienced a scoring lull in the third quarter. The Huskies added just 6 points, but held the Titans to 4. The fourth quarter ended the game with a final score of 47-34 in Belt's favor. The Huskies were led by Urick's 14 points and Cooper who offered 10.

A make-up game with the Roy-Winifred Outlaws was played in Belt on Monday night. The Outlaws were outscored by Belt in the first quarter, 14-7. The Huskies continued to work and were ahead when halftime started, 25-14. It was an interesting game that saw the Belt girls pull ahead by 13 or 14 points only to have the Outlaws answer with a bucket or two to narrow the margin to single digits. That pattern continued throughout the second half, but Belt defense, rebounding, and execution spelled the difference in the game. As third quarter ended it seemed as if a Husky victory was on the horizon; the Lady Huskies were still leading the Outlaws 36-24. Another tally in the win column came for Belt as the buzzer sounded and the score read 51-39. Belt was led by Cooper who shot for 18 points and Shelby Paulson who put in 14.

The Huskies captured yet another victory last night against the Denton-Geysers-Stanford Bearcats with a score of 63-22, which improved their record to 10-0 overall and 6-0 in 8-C play. The girls will be back in action tonight in Geraldine for a game against the Geraldine-Highwood Rivals. The varsity game is set to begin at 6:00.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

## Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals

Montana's most weekend in rodeo finals kicks off tonight with the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals at the Pacific Steel Recycling Center Four Seasons Arena in Great Falls. The three night extravaganza showcases the top ninety six spots for Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit athletes.

Unfortunately, there are no Belt natives competing at the rodeo finals this year, but there are multiple big names that will be very interesting to watch. Helena steer

wrestler Ty Erickson, finished second in the world standings at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in December currently sitting in fourth place from earning just over \$11,500 in the Montana Circuit.

Former saddle bronc world champion and Helena resident, Jesse Kruse is back in action after suffering injuries. Kruse has controlled the standings so far, entering the finals in first place with \$6,804.

Hank Hollenbeck, defending his 2016 all around cowboy title is

going into the circuit finals earning over \$20,000. Hollenbeck, a Molt resident, is competing the steer wrestling and tie-down roping events.

The rodeo performances for tonight and tomorrow starts at 7:00 p.m. and starts at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. For a more detailed schedule or to purchase tickets visit the official Montana Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association at [www.montanaprorodeo.com](http://www.montanaprorodeo.com).

**By: Keely Drummond**

## WNFR (Cont.)

Erickson placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the third and sixth rounds, 4<sup>th</sup> in round 10, split 4/5<sup>th</sup> place in fourth round, 5<sup>th</sup> in the fifth round, and received a 5/6<sup>th</sup> place finish in round 8. Erickson ended the 2017 rodeo season in second place in steer wrestling with \$263,267.32. Bird and his partner Russell Cardoza, has a handful of no times, but the team won the second round in team roping with a 3.90. They ended the season in thirteenth place with \$114,518.89

Tryan and his partner Jake Corkill, had a rough first half of this year's WNFR but things began to look bright for the final five rounds. Tryan and Corkill split 1/2<sup>nd</sup> place in the fifth and eighth rounds with a 3.90 and 4.10 and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the sixth round. The team placed fourth in round seven. In the end, the team moved up one spot to tenth place after the final round earning \$153,998.73.

Lockhart and her trusty stead Louie had an excellent ten nights, placing more nights than not. Lockhart placed 6<sup>th</sup> in round

three, four, and ten. Lockhart split first/second place in round five with a 13.59. In rounds 7 and 8, the native Montana cowgirl placed 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Lockhart ended the season in seventh place, earning \$203,904.41.

Like every year, there were many thrilling moments during the WNFR. During the first half of the 10 night extravaganza the biggest highlights came in barrel racing. Kassie Mowery was the first lady out in Round 4 and broke the arena record by one hundredth of a second with a 13.36. Rodeo announcer, Joe Beaver, said "She didn't even have time to call home (to tell she had just set a new record) before it was broken again." Not even a minute later, Hailey Kinsel shattered the newly set arena record with an astonishing 13.11.

In round 9, team ropers Kaleb Driggers and Junior Noguera tied the world record with a 3.3. After this crazy run, celebrating Noguera swiftly fell off his horse. The entire Thomas & Mack Center was filled with so much excitement

that this became just a funny moment and not a wreck.

The new world champions were crowned on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. While there were no Montana champions, each winner definitely gave his or her best and represented the Treasure State extremely well. Tuf Cooper, from Texas, grabbed the All-Around Cowboy title, winning \$341,560.29 in multiple events. Tim O'Connell, Iowa, captured the bareback title earning \$371,415.80. Tyler Pearson from Oklahoma barely won the steer wrestling title with \$265,457.02. Arizona cowboys Erich Rodgers and Cory Petska won the team roping titles with \$265,416.73. Ryder Wright, who was at his first WNFR, won the saddle bronc title with \$284,938.38. Tie-down roper Marcos Costa took home his coveted world title by earning \$317,421.33. Sage Kimzy easily won his fourth consecutive bull riding world title by earning a bewildering \$436,479.19.

**By: Keely Drummond**

## Ski Trips

"Watch Out for That Tree!" is a phrase that many Belt students are hearing lately. Skiers and snowboarders from the third grade to fifth grade traveled up to King's Hill on December 20<sup>th</sup> to spend their day at Showdown Ski Hill. The young Belt students left the school around eight in the morning. The day was part of the physical education curriculum.

The kids then traveled on two buses to the ski slopes. The groups that the kids were divided into were based on their skiing or snowboarding skills. New students were able to choose between a pair of skis or a snowboard. The stu-

dents that stayed behind at the school spent their day working on school work while their peers spent the day having fun on the slopes.

The ski and snowboard lessons began around ten lasting until lunch. When the lesson ended the instructors marked the student's tickets with either a one, two, or three. The three meant that the student had to stay on the bunny hill and couldn't go on a lift to ski down the mountain. The two meant that the skier or snowboarder could go on the Loose Goose Caboose to ride up to the head of the Golden Goose or Lower Quicksilver. A one gave students the ability to ride all

three of the chair-lifts essentially having no. The skiers then ate lunch and enjoyed the rest of the day until four p.m.

Arriving at the school around 5:00, the day left many students exhausted. The kids got a break from classes and escaped injury free and had a great time experiencing a life time sports on a great day on the hill.

The middle school students took to the slopes Wednesday. They will be taking another trip later in the month. The ski trips for the youngsters have some high school kids asking when is their turn.

**By: Sydne Flinn**

## Boy's Basketball

Since the long Christmas break the Husky team has gotten multiple games under their belts. The Huskies first conference game was played against the Winnett-Grass Range Rams, on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The game started out close, with Winnett trailing by 3, as the Huskies built a 14-11 lead after one stanza. Heading into the second, Keagan Stroop, Troy Hennes, and Hunter Vogl were the teams only scorers, each with three points. The Husky team managed to maintain their lead over the Rams, closing out the half up two with a score of 23-21. Stepping back onto the court for the third the Husky team held onto their first half lead, shutting out the Rams with pivotal points from Brayden Haugrose and Keagan Stroop. The boys ended the game with a final score of 47-38 for a Husky victory.

The team then traveled across to the Gulch to play their infamous rivals the Centerville Miners. The game remained close throughout the first half, with the Husky team being led in scoring by Hennes and Stroop. Belt led at the break 29-27. The Miners outscored Belt in the third to take a 1 point lead, but the Huskies rallied in the fourth to capture a 65-56 victory.

With four games under their belt for the season the team traveled over to Fairfield, on December 21<sup>st</sup>, to play an out of conference game with the Class B school. After the first stanza the Eagle boys flew off with the lead, as the scoreboard read 27-5. The Fairfield boys would continue to dominate the remainder of the game and the Husky boys would walk off the hardwood with their second loss of the season, the scoreboard set at 25-65.

Recovering from their devastating loss just before Christmas break, the Huskies made their re-

Belt	14	23	29	<b>47</b>
WGR	11	21	27	<b>38</b>
Belt	13	29	39	<b>65</b>
Centerville	11	27	40	<b>56</b>
Belt	5	16	20	<b>25</b>
Fairfield	27	49	57	<b>65</b>
Belt	15	28	49	<b>61</b>
Conrad	5	15	25	<b>40</b>
Belt	18	33	53	<b>72</b>
TCT	9	15	25	<b>39</b>
Belt	18	31	38	<b>57</b>
Roy-Winifred	10	16	31	<b>37</b>

turn to the court on January 4<sup>th</sup> to face off against the Conrad Cowboys, another non-conference match-up on the road. At the start of the first quarter the Belt team had already taken off with a substantial lead with points donated from Antion Heaton, Hennes, and Brendan Wing. At the end of the half the boys had distanced themselves from their Cowboy opponents, putting up 28 points on the scoreboard to just fifteen for the home team. Hennes and Stroop would be the nights' leading scorers, Hennes at 14 and Stroop at 15, who would help push the team to a victory of 61-40.

Tri-Cities would make their descent into the valley to play in the dog house, last Saturday. The TCT Titans were shut down right from the get-go with quick buckets from Stroop and Wing. The first half left quite a span of ground for the Tri-Cities team to make up, the halftime score resting at 33-15. The maroon and gold team kept control of the game, guided by the leading Husky scorers Hennes and Stroop. The game concluded with a Husky victory with a score of 72-39

The Belt Boys Basketball team final got to play the Roy-Winifred Outlaws in their make-up game last Monday January 8<sup>th</sup>, after the originally scheduled game was cancelled due to weather conditions. The first half results left Belt with a 31-16 lead over the young Outlaws, a great majority being added in the second stanza of play by the two young bucks of the team, Kaimen Evans and Hunter Vogl. The team would soon gain their fifth win of the season the final score set at 57-37, once again led in scoring by Hennes and Stroop.

Last night the boys went to Geysler to face the DGS Bearcats. It was a dandy, but the Huskies ended up on the wrong side of 52-49 final score in overtime. The loss dropped Belt's conference record to 5-1 with an overall mark of 7-3. Tonight the boys venture to Geraldine to grapple with the Rivals of Highwood/Geraldine. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m.

**By: Shelby Paulson**

## DECA Pre-State

Last Saturday, members from the Belt DECA Chapter met to prepare for the state conference next month. Members were able to finalize their written projects, perform mock role play scenarios, or take practice marketing exams. Sophomore, Anthony Wall said "I like having the opportunity to come to the school and have the time to strictly focus on my DECA project." Wall is competing in the professional selling project and food marketing series. Happy with the event's turnout, DECA advisor, Jessica Tillman hopes to have one more day were members can fine tune presentations and projects.

**By: Keely Drummond**



## High-School and Kindergarten Art

Before Christmas break, the kindergarteners and advanced art students collaborated on a Christmas art project. Mr. Adams retrieved the idea when he was fishing with friends in Drummond way back in October. There, their son showed Mr. Adams an art project where the younger students drew a Halloween monster and then the high schoolers developed the projects to a more sophisticated level. This sported the idea in Mr. Adams mind and decided that it would be very cool for the kids at Belt to do the same thing.

In December, Mrs. Vanden Bos's kindergarten class started out the project by drawing any Christmas related picture. The pictures ranged from Santa's sleigh to an elf on a bookshelf and to Santa himself. The next step was that the advanced art students took the kindergartener's pictures and developed them into a higher and more sophisticated piece of artwork. The end final product resulted in designs that were very bright and vibrant colors that make the pictures come alive. Mr. Adams said "I am very proud of all my students for stepping up and exceeding the expatiations". In fact, every student received an A on this project. The art projects lined the halls in December and received many compliments from the students and staff.

**By: Keely Drummond**



During the winter, the roads are already exceedingly more dangerous due to winter road conditions, but adding in the consequences of drinking and driving creates a greater than normal crash rate. Alcohol-related accidents are more likely to occur at night than during the day, and also more likely to occur on the weekends than week days. This means that the community has to be aware of their action, and take precautions, especially in time frames where it is more likely to crash.

It is important this winter season to make a plan in order to stay of the road before going out, on any occasion. 10,625 people are killed annually in car accidents involving alcohol, and approximately 18 percent of auto deaths involve the use of drugs such as marijuana or cocaine; however, many of these cases also involve the use of alcohol in addition to the other drugs. Don't become part of these statistics, and ...

**Never Drink and Drive!**

This message brought to you by your  
Cascade DUI Task Force



## Featured Staff

This issue's featured staff article focuses on history, geography and government, and journalism teacher, Mr. Koontz.



This instructor is known for his amusing

personality which can be seen inside the classroom as well as outside the classroom. Koontz is in his 14<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Belt School, and he states that the nice atmosphere of the town, and his family living so close has kept him teaching in the valley. This Belt native earned a History and Education degree at UGF (now the University of Providence), and an online MA at Western Governor's University.

Koontz's favorite part of his teaching job is working with students since they are "generally better humans than people my age". He's found a passion in teaching since he feels he has valuable knowledge to share with younger generations. When he's not working at the school, he likes to bowl or golf with his long time buddies, or spend time with friends and family.

**By: Maggie Andrews**

## Colony Christmas

On Thursday, December 21, 2017, Students from kindergarten to 4<sup>th</sup> grade traveled over to the Colony for the yearly Colony Christmas Program. The students left the school around 9 AM and it took them 20 minutes to get there. They returned around 10:45, and the performance lasted around 1 hour. The children that performed in the program, that were from the Colony,

were grades k-8. They sang traditional Christmas songs in German and in English. The students all behaved properly and most importantly they enjoyed it. The student's favorite was the Christmas jokes that two students told in-between each set. The teachers also enjoyed it, their favorite part was the Christmas carols.

Attending the Colony

Christmas Program is a very educational and enjoyable experience for the students. They get to learn more about the Colony and how they celebrate Christmas. They also learn more about the German language. Although it is a great learning experience, the students also had a blast, proving that both things can be accomplished at the same time.

**By: Tori Sherwood**

## Mrs. Graham Returns



Mrs. Graham is back at school! She was on maternity leave for the birth of her newest baby boy, James Griffith

Graham. Mrs. Graham has taught math to the high school students at the school for quite some time and took time off to add a fourth young member to the Graham family.

Her substitute, Mr. Mike McLean, a long time teacher in the Great Falls school district, enjoyed his weeks in Belt, but he will relinquish the reigns back to Mrs. Gra-

ham. The school thanks Mr. McLean for his help.

Meanwhile, as the first semester runs out and kids stress over finals coming up on Monday, the familiar face of the high school math teacher is back where she belongs. The voice congratulates the Graham's on their new arrival!

**By: Sydne Flinn**

## Winter Driving

Winter brings frigid weather and harsh driving conditions to the state of Montana. It is important to keep in mind that the highway dangers multiply during these frosty months. Over the last couple years, there have been upwards of 600 crashes per year caused by winter related conditions in the state of Montana. In order to cruise out of

potentially dangerous situations, drivers need to respond with quick, controlled reflexes. Driving on ice as opposed to dry pavement is a whole new world, so it's important that drivers practice stopping and correcting their cars in a safe environment, such as an empty parking lot or long driveway.

It's always a smart idea to add a

"winter emergency kit". A winter emergency kit should include gloves, a hat, blanket, a bottle of water, matches and any type of non-perishable food.

One ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, so buckle up and slow down a bit when behind the wheel this winter.

**By: Maggie Andrews**

## Wrestling

The Belt Husky wrestling team kicked off their 11th consecutive season competing in Cascade, Great Falls, Fort Benton and Cut Bank. This year's roster features: senior, Nolan Myrstol, junior, Matt Dollenger, and sophomore, Brandon Wall.

Myrstol is going on his 11<sup>th</sup> year of wrestling beginning when he was in first grade. He claims the most challenging aspect of wrestling is "The ability to control yourself and an opponent, all while working your absolute hardest." Myrstol won one match of the first round of consolation during state and strives to succeed at the tournament once again this season.

Wall has 8 years of wrestling up his sleeve and experience at

the State tournament. Unfortunately earlier in the season, he injured his right arm during practice, preventing him from competing in the first few meets of the season. However, he hopes to dominate once recovered, "It might be a little tricky, coming back from an injury like this, but I'll work my hardest to get to where I was before".

Dollenger comes from a fairly different background. He has wrestled for 2 years, but not as a Belt Husky. Dollenger has lived seemingly everywhere, both inside the country and out. He even wrestled when he lived in Japan (not Sumo style). This is Dollenger's first time wrestling for a Class C team, but he seems to be adapting just fine. The junior states, "This team

is unlike any team I've ever wrestled for before-there's only three of us. In a way I think that motivates us a bit more, we've gotten pretty close over the season and now we're not just putting in the work for ourselves, but each other".

The trio has been hard at work, practicing every day after school and competed in 5 wrestling tournaments this year. Myrstol and Dollenger were the only Belt participants due to Wall's injury. The Belt Husky Wrestlers are hitting the road to Choteau today and tomorrow. The wrestlers are feeling confident for upcoming meets with the Belt community looking forward to cheering this trio on as they wrestle their way through the season.

**By: Maggie Andrews**

## Net Neutrality

Over the last week one topic that has come up a lot is the repealing of Net Neutrality laws. These internet specific laws protected websites from being blocked or overruled by larger online companies and shielded websites from charging money for higher quality services. These rules made sure all legal internet content was treated equally. Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup> these Net Neutrality rules were discarded, despite the numerous people against these changes. With these changes a new era of the internet had begun, and many people are asking the question: how is this going to affect the way people use and interact with the internet?

The effects will not take place right away. Many of these changes won't be grand, and multiple companies have claimed they will be making no adjustments at all. The nullification of Net Neutrality laws is a controversial topic, and wasn't an easy decision for the

FCC (Federal Communications Commission) to make, with a vote of three to two.

The potential the large companies have to take over the internet is substantial, but that doesn't mean that these associations will take for granted these new laws. Many businesses now have the ability to slow down internet services, charge for more advanced internet quality, and create errors in competitors' products. While these capabilities seem scary it does create a healthy competition that will improve internet usage for everybody. It also creates the possibility of more companies reaching to the internet to sell, promote, and market their products

Over the course of the decision making process many teenagers throughout the country have found themselves contacting government officials for the first time. For example, Anooha Dasari, 16, approached United States representatives, and shared a link with her

friends, family, and peers in order to contact the FCC directly with their concerns. With regards about how the current generation can be affected, Dasari sincerely hopes this conflict can be gone through with no changes made, because the internet is how this generations personality, opinions, and ideology are formed.

Hopefully, seeing examples of students attempting to take control of the world around them will inspire Belt students to do the same. With much controversy still circling the news stations, and internet the talk about Net Neutrality is far from over. This constructs no absolute answer over whether these changes are good or bad, because the outcomes of these modifications haven't been seen, yet. For more about this story go to <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/20/technology/net-neutrality-repeal-teens.html>.

**By: Natalie Larsen**



## #Lets Talk App Launch

Alliance for Youth Incorporated contracted with Speaking Socially Incorporated to develop an app for depressed/suicidal teenagers. Recently, suicide rates in the United States, Montana specifically, have significantly gone up. Teenagers today feel as if they are alone and that seeking help means that there is something wrong with them, but there is nothing wrong with being depressed. Janet Meissner-Thayer, the executive director of AFY recently sat down for an interview with the Valley Voice. Thayer said, "In Montana, the idea is you gotta pull yourself up by your bootstraps and that's a problem. Teenagers that are feeling depressed and suicidal need a confidential resource, a way to get help."

The app was developed as a partnership project of the Alliance for Youth, the Office of Public Instruction, and Speaking Socially and is used as a resource across Montana and nationally for kids and adults who are challenged by depression or who care about someone who is experiencing depression or having suicidal thoughts. "No one should feel alone and without help or hope," Thayer said. The app, which launched in December of 2017, is available for download through the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

The topics of youth depression and suicide were carefully re-

searched in developing the app. Much of the research involved talking with young people who have experienced depression and/or suicidal ideation. Teens talked about barriers to talking about depression and seeking medical care. The goals of #LetsTalk are to make it easy to find information that is trusted and valid, provide confidential information and help teens not be "outed" for asking questions and asking for help. The app is intended to help people experiencing depression know that they are not alone, they are not "weird", are not expected to handle it and they are not alone. Depression is a common illness. Alliance for Youth hopes to normalize discussion and care for depression. Talking about depression is no different than talking about a heart condition or a sprained ankle; it's a health condition and talking about it is the first step in healing. #LetsTalk is funded by the U.S. Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Now is the Time grants.

The app is a resource that appeals to teens. Teenagers can download and use the app when they personally are experiencing a mental health crisis/challenge or when a loved one is experiencing thoughts of feelings of depression/suicide. The app has information and resources for individuals who

are feeling depressed or thinking about suicide and info for people who are concerned about others. While designed for teens, the information and the resources in the app have value for adults/parents, as well.

Montana has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation and Cascade County has distinctly high rates of serious depression, suicidal ideation, and completed suicides. Montana is known for its "pull yourself up by your bootstraps" philosophy. Nationally, and in Montana, a stigma shrouds mental health and it is often not talked about or treated. Mental or emotional health is no different than physical health. The app was designed to help prompt communication about depression and suicide; to help people experiencing depression to access medical care. In our society, people feel like they shouldn't ask for help and often feel alone. If you are experiencing depression or having thoughts about suicide, you are not alone. Remember that you do have loved ones and a future. Help and hope are there.

For more information contact Nicole Zimmerman at Alliance for Youth, Inc. [nicolezimmerman@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:nicolezimmerman@gfps.k12.mt.us). The Valley Voice will also be doing a series on suicide prevention and mental health.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

## Public Notice

The town of Belt is applying for a grant to construct a recreational walking trail. A trailhead will be established at the main entrance to Castner Park, and the trail will lead between the rodeo grounds and the ball field to the dike. The trail will continue along the top of the dike, past the swinging bridge, and ending at Bridge Street, with fishing

access points, and informational signage along the way. The trail will be constructed using recycled asphalt millings, and will comply with all requirements of the *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA).

Letters of Support will be very helpful in the funding being awarded to Belt. The letters will be submitted with the application and

the path will benefit all members of the community. Letters of support should be submitted to the Town of Belt by January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Questions can be answered by City Hall at (406) 277-3621 or [bch@3rivers.net](mailto:bch@3rivers.net). The city has also created a Facebook page Belt Park and Rec.

**By: Adelle Meissner**



## Trouble on the Korean Peninsula

While watching the news every morning it's hard to miss the increasingly alarming news featuring North Korea, and their developing military weaponry. The threats started within the last couple of years, and have progressively become larger as they have expanded their knowledge of devastating military armaments. With new threats coming in periodically many are beginning to ask questions. These questions feature the future of U.S and how the people of America are supposed to react to these intimidating claims made by the North Korean government.

With the idea of nuclear war bouncing around in the minds of most Americans, most people are startled by the claim that Kim Jong Un, leader of North Korea, has access to nuclear weapons all hours of the day due to a button on his desk. While Donald Trump fired back with "North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un just stated that the "Nuclear Button is on his desk at all times." Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works (NY Times, Sang-Hun)" many people

are wondering if battles over social media are really going to solve this complex problem that America is facing.

Now that the power of North Korea is seemingly growing, it has been stated that North Korea is a threat to Japan for the first time since World War II. The growing power, and national recognition of North Korea has a multitude of downsides, but it has created a few benefits. It has led to the cooperation between North Korea, and South Korea. These two countries have shared multiple phone calls throughout the days of Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January through the 4<sup>th</sup>. The North Korean government has even agreed to meet South Korea in a peace meeting, which will be the first time the countries have met in approximately two years. Although this does not mean that countries have thrown aside all past conflict, hopefully, it is the start of regular contact. The motives for these phone calls, and meetings are believed to be the upcoming Winter Olympics, which are being held in South Korea, and North Korea hopes to have its athletes recognized. Even with the good outcomes the threats being made by the North Korean government are

an issue that the America people are going to see play out through the next couple of years.

The thought of war has been thrown around a lot lately, especially with the North Koreans achieving the capability to use nuclear weapons against the United States. These threats are frightening due to the fact it is predicted that thousands, if not millions would die in a conflict with North Korea. It would bring the use of nuclear weapons into war for the first time since World War II. Even if a small conflict were to start it is predicted that this would escalate quickly, and most likely turn into a war. A war between the U.S., and North Korea would also put surrounding allies of the United States at risk, such as Japan, and South Korea.

The daunting outcomes of a war with North Korea is, hopefully, enough to keep the two countries from conflict, but even here in Belt people are worried. The outcomes of this conflict will have impacts all over the country, and Belt is most likely no different than the rest. With severe consequences to result everyone is hoping for a lasting peaceful solution to the issues that divided the two countries

**By: Natalie Larsen**

## The Wall

One of President Trump's biggest selling points in his president campaign was keeping illegal Immigrants out of the United States. His plan: a wall. Walls have been used to keep people out before, but as a Belt resident, one must consider the effects it will have on the country as a whole.

Four companies have been selected by the Homeland Security to produce prototypes for the wall. Each of the company's prototypes cost about \$500,000, and were in-

cluded in the 2017 budget. Additional funding for other expenses are still being debated.

President Trump has proposed that solar panels on the southern border may be included so that the wall will be making money, eventually paying for itself. The wall would not be built across the whole as almost 130 miles are naturally bordered by mountains and lakes. White House officials are placing the costs at \$8-\$12 billion, while the Department of Homeland

Security is placing expenses at \$21 billion. Trump has repeatedly claimed that Mexico will pay for it, but many wonder how that will work.

The wall would help control illegal immigrants entering the country, but how will this affect the people of the United States? There are also many potential unforeseen impacts that may come from the wall.

**By: Aundrea Glick**

## Big Husky Little Husky

Big Husky/Little Husky provides the high schoolers with a way to interact with the youngsters of the Belt Elementary. Each high school class is partnered with an elementary class from grades K-3. The program allows the young kids to get to know their role models and provides the high schoolers with a sense of just how much the younger kids look up to them. For this session, the seniors visited the kindergartners, the juniors helped the first grade, the sophomores went to the third grade, and the freshmen spent time with the second grade.

The seniors read to the kindergartners and helped them make ornaments. Shannon Hoskins favorite memory of the session was when she asked the kindergartener if she was supposed to read to him or if he was supposed to read to her. Even though Shannon was supposed to read, her little husky read instead. Adrian Malek's favorite part was seeing how creative the kids were as they decorated their ornaments. Hannah Schweitzer added how she likes that the kids look up to her, figuratively and literally. Ashley Triviso enjoyed that her kindergartner gave her a hug at the end of

the session. The senior class enjoyed the experience of Big Husky/Little Husky and appreciated the opportunity to interact with the little tykes.

The junior class visited the first grade and made mittens with the kids' handprint in it. The first graders also read to the juniors. Tori Shelton said that her favorite part of the session was that her first graders knew her from the previous session and gave her lots of hugs. Matthew Dollenger's favorite part was doing the activity itself, never mind his first grade assistant. Samantha Vaughn enjoyed how chipper and happy the kids were while the juniors were helping them, and Brenden Wing was happy his kid liked him and gave lots of high fives. Overall, the juniors enjoyed the activity as well as the children they got to do it with.

The sophomore class spent the half an hour allotted to Big Husky/Little Husky frosting cookies with the third graders. Karlee Permann enjoyed seeing the children interact not only with the high schoolers but with each other too. Brooke Schraner liked watching the kids have fun and Abby Gliko had

fun eating all the frosting. Hunter Vogl liked getting to know the younger kids and Andrew Stice liked teaching them how to frost the cookies. William Franzen said he enjoyed telling the kids about high school and all they needed to do in preparation. The sophomores liked Big Husky/Little Husky and anxiously await the next session.

The freshmen helped the third graders make gingerbread men and get in the Christmas spirit. Alivia Shelton very much enjoyed the opportunity to help the kids and seeing the smiles on their faces as they decorated their men. Zach Buskirk enjoyed seeing the children's creative minds at work. The freshmen, like the other high schoolers, had a great time helping and interacting with the younger students.

Big Husky/Little Husky is a great way to get high schoolers involved in the elementary kids' lives allowing the little kids to see what the older kids are like. The goal of Big Husky/Little Husky is for the high schoolers to positively impact the elementary kids' lives at school and that's exactly what it does.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

## CMR Field Trip

On January 8<sup>th</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> graders traveled over to the Charlie M. Russell Museum to have the experience of actually seeing his art work and learning about him from a professional. They left the school around 11:30 and returned around 3. They also got the pleasure in seeing his home and his work space, where he did a lot of his famous paintings. The student viewed his artwork and listened to the curator talk about the art pieces and the artist



himself. The purpose of this field trip was to learn more about Charlie

Russell so that the students could write an essay and answer the question of "Why is Charlie Russell important." The students really enjoyed it and so did Mrs. Metrione.

This field trip was a very educational experience for the students, as well as enjoyable. The students got a great opportunity to learn about Charlie Russell in a way that's that exciting and adventurous.

**By: Tori Sherwood**

## Senior Spotlight

As the Class of 2018, woke up for school on January 3rd they realised this is it, this is the year they graduate. Jordan Swanson and Ashley Triviso have been sluggishly returning to high school every year after a much needed Christmas break, but for the two seniors this is the last year they'll wake up regretting the late night they had the day before. The next time they return to school from break, they'll be going back to college.

Jordan Swanson has never ventured out of the small provincial community of Belt on her own. As she accepts her diploma on graduation day, she will also be accepting that there is a world beyond the mountains and snow. Attending Belt School since Pre-K, Jordan developed a close relationship with the middle school science and language arts teacher, Ms. Welker, for-



merly Mrs. Gerke. The relationship that she formed with Mrs. Gerke, the other teachers, and the tight-knit student body will be the memories

that Jordan treasures. Jordan plans to attend the nursing program at Montana Tech in Butte. While in high school, Jordan participated in many extracurriculars including: Science Olympiad, basketball, cheerleading, track, volleyball, Youth Leadership,

deca, and band. When she's not occupied by her many activities, Jordan enjoys art, reading, sports, and hanging out with friends.

Ashley Triviso and her family moved to Belt eleven years ago from Temecula, California. Entering the Belt School system in second grade, Ashley developed a close bond with the school counselor, Mrs. Gliko. Ashley was also able to form an unbreakable bond with the other members of the Class of 2018. The memories they created

during their high school years will always have a place in Ashley's heart and as she reminisces on "the good ol' days," she will remember

all the good times they had. Ashley participated in Youth Leadership throughout her high school career as well as being on the volleyball team. When she's not at school or "studying" Ashley likes to hunt, shop, and like all high



schoolers hang out with her friends. After graduation, Ashley plans on attending Montana State University to get her medical doctorate.

The Valley Voice wishes these two young women the best of luck as they embark upon the path to a higher education and build a life for themselves outside the seemingly impenetrable walls of the valley. The final senior spotlight will shine on Dani Urick, Keaton Vaughn, and Briana Wall.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

## Focus Groups

Back in December the school administration had the students of Belt High School complete a "My Voice" survey that informed them of how they felt about their school life leading to changes that can be made to improve the overall wellness of the student body, staff, and community.

After taking the survey the school called four boys and girls from each high school class (meaning all the junior boys) to discuss the answers in order to see where advancements can be made. This event, that takes place annually, has proven its worth in the past,

because most of the changes students have seen happening around the school are a direct result of these focus groups.

Hopefully, the students chosen represented the Belt student body well. The process of going over these tests take several days with the meetings beginning on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup>. For now, the survey will have to wait until after finals when the Husky Time meetings will resume. Boys and girls were split up in order to gather more information on what each gender thinks. The participating students spent several days going over

the problems/issues the school has while providing viable solutions.

Belt High School has created a good way of giving students a voice in the decision-making process the school goes through. The students and staff know that there are changes to be made, and getting the students opinion definitely helps pinpoint the exact issues. The changes made cannot be credited to just the school board or even the students in the focus groups, because it takes the entire school to implement the transitions the school has formed.

**By: Natalie Larsen**



Puzzle	Calendar of Events
<p>What old Belt building is featured in this photo?</p>  <p>The answer two weeks ago was the sign of the Belt Creek Brew Pub, downtown.</p>	<p>Jan 12<sup>th</sup> Wrestling @ Choteau  Jan 12<sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball @ <u>Geraldine</u>/Highwood (JVar – 3:00 p.m. Var – 6:00 p.m.)  Jan 12<sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball @ <u>Geraldine</u>/Highwood (JVar – 4:30 p.m. Var – 7:30 p.m.)  Jan 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> High School Finals  Jan 15<sup>th</sup> Great Falls Area Concerned Citizens Presentation in Belt Cafeteria @ 6:30 p.m.  Jan 16<sup>th</sup> End of Quarter 2  Jan 16<sup>th</sup> Wrestling @ Fort Benton  Jan 17<sup>th</sup> PIR EARLY RELEASE @ 12:31 p.m.  Jan 18<sup>th</sup> 3-5 Ski Trip @ Showdown  Jan 19<sup>th</sup> Wrestling @ Highwood  Jan 19<sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball @ <u>Winnett</u>/Grass Range (JVar – 3:00 p.m. Var – 6:00 p.m.)  Jan 19<sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball @ <u>Winnett</u>/Grass Range (JVar – 4:30 p.m. Var – 7:30 p.m.)  Jan 20<sup>th</sup> Wrestling @ GFCC  Jan 20<sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball vs. Centerville (JVar – 2:00 p.m. Var – 5:00 p.m.)  Jan 20<sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball vs. Centerville (JVar – 3:30 p.m. Var – 6:30 p.m.)  Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> Belt Invitational Wrestling Tournament @ 5:30 p.m.  Jan 25<sup>th</sup> Middle School Ski Trip @ Showdown  Jan 26<sup>th</sup> Wrestling @ Simms  Jan 26<sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball @ <u>Winifred</u> /Roy (JVar – 3:00 p.m. Var – 6:00 p.m.)  Jan 26<sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball @ <u>Winifred</u> /Roy (JVar – 4:30 p.m. Var – 7:30 p.m.)</p>

Valley Voice  
P.O. Box 197  
Belt, MT 59412