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The Valley Voice



Issue 10



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City News

The first city council meeting of 2018 was called to order on Wednesday, January 3rd at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by Mayor Olson, Clerk Treasurer Lynn Schilling, Alderman Heikkila, Miller, Roberts, Eggert, and Porter, NCI Engineer Idaho Trenberth, and three citizens.

The meeting began with newly installed Mayor James Olson proposing the development of a Strategic Plan for the Town of Belt, a tool that would set priorities for the town and make a general plan with which to move forward. Alderman Porter questioned whether

this was a replication of what the Planning Board would be doing as they developed a Growth Policy. Mayor Olson explained that a Strategic Plan will help define what ordinances the town wishes to have and which ones need to be amended or repealed and that the Growth Policy would be developed based on the Strategic Plan. The council determined that they would begin development of a Strategic Plan with the assistance of Amy Olson.

Project Engineer, Idaho Trenberth presented a poster showing the general plans for the expansion

of the existing sewer system and the new irrigation discharge plans. As the town pursues refinancing for the Milos land sale and the current Sewer Project financing, the council also hopes to obtain project loans to install windows in the Pavilion in lieu of an air conditioning system.

Clerk-Treasurer Schilling announced that Travis Johnson Enterprises had submitted a bid for the replacement of three fire hydrants within city limits of Belt. The motion passed in favor by a vote of those present.

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Wrestling

The Belt wrestling team is on their way to another successful wrestling season, on January 12th, the Husky trio traveled to Fort Benton to compete in the Spotlight Mixer tournament. Competition was looking good for Sophomore, Brandon Wall, as he recently got his cast removed from his arm, allowing him to compete for the first time all season, "It's great to be back, I didn't realize how much I missed it (wrestling) until I wrestled my first match that



Friday" Wall states in regards to his come back.

On Friday the 19th, the trio competed once again at the Highwood Mixer tournament. On Saturday, the boys hit the road once again for the GFCC Duel held in Great Falls.

On Tuesday January 23rd, Belt School sponsored a meet that was held in the gymnasium during the evening. Teams from Highwood, Conrad, Fort Benton, Cascade, and GFCC gathered to wrestle at this competition.

Cont. Pg. 5

Boys' Basketball

Thursday, January 11th the boy's basketball team headed off to Geyser to compete against the DGS Bearcats. The game was one of excitement as the two top dogs of the Northern 8C conference faced off.

The first buzzer sound the commencement of play for the evening and at the end of the first quarter the Huskies faced a deficit of 6 points. The DGS Bearcats would continue that lead to the end of the half with threes from Kordell Carpenter and Rhet Woodhall.

The Husky team after the half stepped back onto the court with ground they were dead set on making up. Belt scored 15 points in the third led by Troy Hennes and Hunter Vogl. Down by only two in the fourth stanza of play maroon players worked their way back into the game, led by Vogl and Antonio Heaton, but left the court with a tied score of 47 after those last eight minutes. The game quickly went into an overtime that managed to be too much for the Belt basketball team and the Bearcats took their home victory, the final score resting at 49-52.

It was a quick turn around for the boys as they would head off to Geraldine the following evening to battle against another tough competitor, the Geraldine-Highwood Rivals. The Belt team dominated right off the buzzer, snatching up a

quick 16 points and leaving the Rivals with only 5. At the end of the first half the scoreboard would be set at 29-13 in favor of the Huskies, who were led in scoring by Trey Heitzman and Keagan Stroop.

The pattern of scoring would travel over into the second half with six points donated by Brendan Wing and five by Brayden Haugrose. As the last eight minutes ran off the clock the Geraldine-Highwood boys were left with a sum of 29 points and the Belt boys, who would walk away that night victorious, had a grand total of 55 points.

Belt	8	20	35	47	49
DGS	14	27	37	47	52
Belt	16	29	37	55	
Geraldine/Highwood	5	13	22	29	
Belt	23	32	45	54	
WGR	7	14	23	42	
Centerville	7	18	28	50	
Belt	20	28	46	63	

After a solid week of practice the boys trekked eastward to Petroleum County to take on the Winnett Grass Range Rams. It was a swift road victory for the Husky team, outscoring the Ram's basketball team with a halftime score of 32-14, the major scorers for the

evening being Stroop and Haugrose. By the end of the fourth, the Rams had managed to lessen the spread but were unable to pull away that night victorious. The assailing Belt Huskies dropped a total of 54 points for the night and the Rams only 42 points.

An aura of anticipation flitted around the next game as the Belt team was to go head to head with their long time rivals, the Centerville Miners. The Belt boys took off with a jolt, leaving Centerville in the dust with a score of 20-7 after one. Regrouping after the first period of play, both teams stepped back

onto the court chasing a conference win. Belt's leading scorers for the half were, Haugrose, Hennes, and Wing donating at least six points each to the halftime score of 28-18. The Miner team was unable to scratch their way back into the game and the Huskies asserted their dominant status over their rivals once again, led by seniors Heaton and Stroop. The game concluded the boy's weekends with a great home victory, the final score resting at 63-50.

Belt's record stands at 9-3 overall and 5-1 in 8-C play. The boy's travel to Winifred tonight at 7:30 to play the Outlaws. Tomorrow night at 6:30 Class B Fairfield comes to Belt for a non-conference match-up.

By: Shelby Paulson

New Bus

Belt Public School purchased a new Husky Bus for extra-curricular activities. The bus was not purchased entirely by the school itself, being largely funded by the Belt Booster Club.

The new bus features a sleek maroon body and dons the maroon and gold Husky head on the side with Belt Huskies outlined in white.

That same design can be seen as the bus is viewed head on.

The interior of the bus is highlighted by two usb charging ports and two lights along with the switches for each seat. The new bus also adds another safety precaution to the travelling of the teams with seat belts for each seat. The passengers are also treated by TVs that are

dispersed throughout the vehicle.

The new bus will be a great addition to the school as they send students to extracurricular activities. The extra vehicle will prove efficient in the transportation of the students as well as offering more safety as students travel across the state to competitions.

By: Adelle Meissner

Girls' Basketball

As the final buzzer rang in the Geraldine gym after a game versus the Belt Huskies, the first half of regular season play for the district 8C basketball teams came to a close. In the last fortnight, Belt played the Denton/Geyser/Stanford Bearcats, the Highwood/Geraldine Rivals, the Winnett/Grass Range Rams, and the Centerville Miners. After a trio of away games in Geyser, Geraldine, and Winnett, the Huskies came back to the dog house to play Centerville.

On Thursday, January 11th, the Lady Huskies loaded the bus and made the rather short thirty minute trek to Geyser for a 6:00 game against the Lady Bearcats. Right from the get go Belt proved too much for DGS to handle and held control of the game 20-2 after the first quarter. As the second quarter drifted to halftime the game was still in favor of the Huskies, who had outscored the Bearcats 34-9. After a ten minute intermission, play resumed and Belt continued to score. The third quarter ended with Belt ahead 44-16. The girls continued to play the final eight minutes of the game and when the final buzzer sounded, Belt triumphed over DGS 63-22. The Huskies were led by game high scorer, Shelby Paulson, who added 15 points to Belt's side of the board, and Dani Urick who sunk 13 of her own.

The bus ride to Geraldine proved to be longer than that to Geyser, but it didn't slow the Belt girls at all. As first quarter came to a close, Belt was dominating the Rivals 14-1. The Huskies continued to increase their lead and as halftime commenced the score was 30-5. With one quarter left to play the Huskies looked to be on track to yet another victory, with a score of 50-13. As the fourth quarter ended, so did the first half of the Huskies 2017-2018 season and Belt was un-

defeated after a 60-18 win over Geraldine/Highwood. The Huskies were led by Urick and Paulson, once again. Urick offered 17 points and Paulson contributed 13 as the Huskies dashed to an undefeated season.

As the season unfolds and the second half of 8-C conference play unwinds, the Lady Huskies found themselves facing their toughest competition within the district, the Winnett/Grass Range Rams. Though the last encounter between the two 8C powerhouses left Belt victorious, the girls were a little uneasy going into the game; however, a few butterflies have never gotten the best of the Belt Lady Huskies.

Baskets were hard to come by early, but after one period, Belt was leading WGR by two, the score standing at 8-6. As the final seconds of the second quarter wound off the clock and the teams broke for a ten minute intermission, the scoreboard read Belt 17 Winnett/Grass Range 16. The teams took the court for the third quarter and the Rams came out ready to play, and with one quarter left, Belt was down 28-32. It was becoming pretty clear that the winner of the game was going to be the team who wanted it the most. The will to win seemed to be stronger in the hearts of the Huskies and they pulled away in the final minutes of the game to tally another win in the victory column, outscoring the Rams with a final score of 46-41. The Huskies were led by Paulson with 12 and Urick who added an extra 8 to the Husky score.

After the trio of away games, the girls found themselves back in Belt last Saturday night for a game against the Centerville Miners. The Huskies, eager to impress their home crowd, came out and scored a quick 20 points in the first

quarter compared to Centerville who added 4 to the guest side of the board. As the second quarter came to a close, Belt hadn't let up at all. The Huskies had expanded their lead to a dominating score of 33-11. When the teams left the floor after the third quarter, Belt was still in control of the game 48-15. When the final buzzer rang, it was the Huskies who were victorious with a score of 62-20. Belt was led by fame high scorer, Urick who dropped 14 points and Kolby Pimperton who shot for 13 of her own.

The Huskies are back in action tonight with a game against the Winifred/Roy Outlaws in Winifred at 6:00 and a game against the Fairfield Eagles in Belt tomorrow night at 5:00. The reigning state champs are now 12-0 on the season and 6-0 in district play.

By: Adelle Meissner

Belt	20	34	44	63
DGS	2	9	16	22

Belt	14	30	50	60
Geraldine/Highwood	1	5	13	18

Belt	8	17	28	46
WGR	6	16	32	41

Centerville	4	11	15	20
Belt	20	33	48	62

Shake Off the Winter Blues Game Night!!!

February, 11th 7:00 p.m.
Sponsored By VFW Auxiliary



Belt Community invited to enjoy card games, board games, and snacks at this Family Event.

Information available from
Mrs. Anita (406) 868-4325
BYOB

MAPs Testing

Over the course of this week and next week the high school and elementary of the Belt Public School will continue taking MAPs testing. Testing is mandatory for all students except high school upper-classmen. The students underwent these tests earlier on in the year and many dread the process. MAP means Measure of Academic Progress, administrators and teachers

are the only ones who have access to the test scores. Regular meetings are held to analyze test results and find ways to improve performance.

Preparing is always a necessity. Students are encouraged to always get a well-rested night before the test, eat a nice healthy breakfast the morning of, and don't stress. There are two class periods to take the test, and it is best not to rush

through sections, even if they seem easy. Trying honestly will improve the score of any test, if an answer is unknown, make an educated guess.

These tests may cause hair pulling, and stress but fortunately they will be over soon. They are worth the effort, providing both students and teachers with valuable educational tools.

By: Sydne Flinn

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

This past Monday, January 15th, many people around the country commenced in celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Martin Luther King represents change and healing for the United States, so every year to commend his memory most of the country takes the day off. Dr. King is a widely known Civil Rights Activist who fought during the 1960's in order to end the segregated, Jim Crow south. While many students had the day off the students in Belt were in school learning about the stains on America's past.

King was assassinated on April, 4th 1968 by a man named James Earl Ray at a hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. King was widely known as a Baptist Minister who emphasized the values of non-violence in the Civil Rights Movement, in order to gain more rights in the segregated south. With his coherent argument against violence, King quickly became the most recognized spokesperson of the Civil Rights Movement. After the assassination many riots began, and many important U.S. government officials made speeches, recognized King, and mourned with King's supporters.

Mrs. Visocan's class of 4th grade seemed very interested while they participated in many Martin Luther King Day activities, includ-

ing watching videos about Martin Luther King's life, and reading a book called "My Brother, Martin" written his sister. The students didn't have a lot of background knowledge about the Civil Rights Movement, but were genuinely engaged in the conversation. Mrs. Visocan states that "Special holidays such as Martin Luther King Day are a great way for students to learn about not only the past, but also current events. So many of the topics surrounding Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement are still applicable today." With this mindset many students in Belt Public School system students gain an understanding of the Civil Rights Movement, and how it affects them.

The Civil Rights Movement is an important part of American history that all students have to learn about, and understand. The Civil Rights Movement didn't just affect African American Citizens, but many other minorities had movements as well. Throughout the 1950's and 60's many of the laws and etiquette that different minorities had followed for years were beginning to change, and equality of minorities became more common. Students at Belt Public School learned a lot about the Civil Rights Movement over the course of the week, and learned about Martin Lu-

ther King, and his effect on the Civil Rights Movement. On Monday the 15th Martin Luther King Day was celebrated in order to remember a time in American history when equality was only a dream, and to remember an important leader that changed the United States .

By: Natalie Larsen

Featured Staff

This issue of the Valley



Voice features third grade teacher Mrs. Twyla Jones. Jones has 28 years of experience working at Belt School, so many high schoolers have fond memories

of her as their teacher dating back to when they were in Elementary School.

The Dodson, Montana native graduated from the MSU Northern in Havre and went on to pursue a career in teaching which landed Jones in the Belt Valley. Jones loves to watch kids grow and mature throughout the school year, "It's fun to see them 'catch on' to a hard skill and then say this is so easy!". When she's not busy helping students in the classroom, Jones enjoys reading, sewing, and quilting in her spare time.

By: Maggie Andrews

City News *(Continued)*

It was also reported to the council that the Mayor Olson and acting Mayor, Delbert Darko, had made the decision to rent a backhoe on an emergency basis, as the town's loader broke down and was hauled in for repairs prior to the storm that left a pile of branches in the city. The council concluded that it was a good idea to burn the accumulated branches soon and Franzen informed that council that he would request a permit.

The council also reviewed a Notice of Intent to Enforce Ordinances. The notice related to Nuisance and Parked Vehicles. It was decided that the notice would be posted immediately without making any amendments to either ordinance at this time. The notice calls for enforcement to begin on April 1st and allow a two month grace period following that date. The council will explore the possibility of amending the two ordinances at the next meeting. A city resident inquired wheth-

er the ordinances governed the subject of people living in campers. It was reported that Belt does not currently have an ordinance that addresses that subject but the council will discuss and begin drafting an ordinance targeting camper inhabitants.

Regarding the employment of a new city judge, Mayor Olson stated that he would interview each of the four proposed candidates before making a recommendation for appointment to the council. He proposed forming a committee of all interested Aldermen to meet and interview the selected candidates; the council was in agreement.

Mayor Olson also expressed the possibility of installing three student Aldermen, students for Belt School that would have no voting power but would participate in council discussions. The council was receptive to the idea but wondered if there would be students whose schedules weren't already

too full to participate. The superintendent of the school suggested rotating students in and out of the positions on a frequent basis. The idea will continue to be discussed by the council and Belt School.

The next city meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. on February 7th in City Hall on Castner Street. As always, the meeting is open to the public and resident attendance is encouraged.

By: Adelle Meissner

Bowling Scores

Last Week

High Game Men

Mike Ezop (+57) 208
Charlie Lindeman (+47) 198
Robert Williams (+47) 194

High Series Men

Mike Ezop 554
Brian Neill 535
Charlie Lindeman 531

High Game Women

Patti Sweeney (+55) 199
Joanne Voytoski (+63) 184
Linda Lewis 179

High Series Women

Celeste Hoyer 456
Pattie Sweeney 445
Linda Lewis 444

This Week

High Game Men

Brian Neill (+66) 236
John Larson (+67) 235
Mike Christensen 226
Sam Olson (+63) 221

High Series Men

Mike Christensen 627
John Larson 583
Sam Olson 577

High Game Women

Laura Koffler 462
Linda Lewis 449
Celeste Hoyer 433

High Series Women

Laura Koffler 462
Linda Lewis 449
Celeste Hoyer 433

Wrestling *(Continued)*

the Husky team represented Belt School effectively with senior Nolan Myrstol winning his first two matches, establishing his score at 2-1, Wall won all three of his matches, maintaining a score of 3-0, and Junior, Matt Dollenger won two of his matches and finished 2-1.

The middle school grapplers also took their turn on the mats. Results for the younger Huskies will be posted in the next edition of the Voice. The Huskies will head out to Simms to wrestle yet another meet, and the Belt community wishes the boys good luck as they go and represent the Belt Valley.

By: Maggie Andrews



Matt Dollenger with a takedown



Brandon Wall seizing up his opponent

Equine Corner

This issue of the Valley Voice will continue to showcase two more horse-loving students that attend Belt. Both eight graders, Ahmia Lords and Brady Drummond are passionate about their horses and the western lifestyle.

The first student featured is Ahmia Lords. She received her horse last November and is thrilled to have the opportunity to break him. Lords has halter broken Cisco, a blue roan yearling, and is starting to get him comfortable being around people. She has been around horses all her life because she lives on her family ranch.

Lords hopes that in the future she will be able to train colts once she finished her first project because she is loving the task so far. When Cisco gets older, Lords plans on using him as a ranch horse

and do some trail riding. In her free time, Ahmia Lords likes to take pictures and hang out on the ranch.

Drummond is very busy at home with her four horses. Drummond's horse's names are: Sailor, Houston, Reno, and Buttercup. She, too, grew up on the family ranch and used horses to do all the work. Now Drummond participates in a variety of activities with her horses including rodeoing, barrel racing, and showing in 4-H. She claims that barrel racing is her absolute favorite followed by showing in Western Equation at horse shows.

Drummond has received numerous awards and prizes but she claims that her greatest accomplishments were being named the 2016 Montana State 4-H Horseshow Barrel Racing Champi-

on and the 2016 Youth 2D JJK Barrel Racing Series Champion. Drummond says that she would like to try her luck at reining someday soon.

Looking to the future, she plans on spending her whole life with horses and wants to become a professional barrel racer, colt-starter, and a barrel horse breeder. Drummond looks up to her mom JJ, Grandpa Walt, and barrel racer Fallon Taylor for inspiration because they all have succeeded and done very well with their horses.

These two girls are a few of the many horse savvy students in Belt. Stay tuned for the next Equine Corner article to read about other remarkable students and what they like to do with their horses.

By: Keely Drummond

My Voice

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, and exploring 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 takes place annually, and 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 took several days

with the meetings beginning on Tuesday the 9th. 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 with teachers to provide solutions. With the second semester underway, changes could be coming in the next few weeks.

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 change that will benefit the school.

By: Natalie Larsen

Be A Hero... Get Your Valentine a Balloon!



The juniors are selling balloons to raise money for prom! Visit the school cafeteria to see the balloons. These romantic reminders come in a great variety of colors and have many touching messages printed on them.

Contact the school at (406) 277-4466 and order your valentine a balloon today!

ACT Prep

On Thursday, January 18th the junior class met in Mrs. Horton's room for additional ACT preparation. Although the juniors had already taken the PSAT test as practice for taking that kind of exam, Mrs. Gliko expressed the need for students to prepare for the ACT, stressing that any practice significantly improves a student's score that colleges use for admission and scholarships.

The class meeting also brought to the juniors' attention that college applications start in October and they should seriously consider their career path and search for Montana career information. The tools Mrs. Gliko shared with the juniors for ACT preparation are the website/app ACT Online Prep and four ACT prep classes taught by Kelli MacDonald during the months of February and March at the University of Providence for a cost of \$40 per class. Of course, for more information talk to Mrs. Gliko.

The ACT is a test that juniors across the United States are required to take. Students are grad-

ed on their math, science, reading, and writing skills with the test starting around eight in the morning and projected to last until lunch. Like the years before, Belt's juniors will be taking the test in Saint Mark's Church on March 20th. After the juniors take the ACT, they will receive a score between ten and thirty-six. Students have the option to retake the ACT in Great Falls later in the year. If a student does retake the ACT, most colleges will accept the highest score.

It's important to note that Belt students are not required to take the SAT, but do have to take the PSAT in the October of their junior year in order to get a feel for the ACT. Two more benefits of taking the PSAT are the projected ACT scores students receive and the opportunity for high scoring students to receive the National Merit Scholarship. This year Belt actually had a student qualify for the prestigious scholarship.

Taken three times a year by all students from kindergarten to sophomores, MAPS testing is a

large part of the preparation students receive. A computer test designed to replicate questions on the ACT, MAPS testing also helps teachers know if a student is falling behind in a field. The biggest preparation that teachers give to students is their ongoing classroom commitment.

Generally speaking, students with good grades do well on the ACT, which is why a student's choice of classes can affect their ACT score. For example, students in high school should consider taking chemistry, whether it's AP or not, due to its prominence on the ACT. Students should also try their hardest to get good grades in Algebra II, English, and other science classes. Taking honors and AP classes will challenge students as well.

In the end, the ACT is a test that can very well decide a student's choice of college and future career, making the score more than just a number; students will get out what they put into preparing for this test.

By: MaKayla O'Neil

Approximately 10,000 people are killed annually in drunk driving accidents, and this is progressively higher during the dangerous road conditions of the winter months. With ice-covered, snowy roads accidents are already more likely, but the addition of alcohol the accidents are seemingly unavoidable. The actions taken by each individual can affect multiple other people, and by choosing to drink and drive more than just one person's life is at risk. Risking the lives of others is never okay, and not acceptable no matter the argument.

Although people think they have everything under control, as little as one drink can inhibit your driving skills. Taking a risk is never worth the devastating consequences, and by making the wrong choice someone can put multiple lives against danger. Always make a plan, and ...

Don't Drink and Drive!

This message brought to you by your
Cascade DUI Task Force



Government Shutdown

Last week, news was buzzing about the potential Government Shutdown with many wondering when it would go into effect. The lawmakers had until last Friday, the 19th, to pass a new budget resolution for the year 2018, but the parties couldn't agree, causing the government to shutdown on Saturday, January 20th. A government shutdown lasts until government officials can come to an agreement; before then, all non-essential parts of the government are closed until a decision can be made.

The government was aiming to end the shutdown by Sunday night, but failed to come to an agreement, and then with a vote on Monday the 22nd the Government Shutdown was ended, with a short term bill that is projected to last

three weeks. The main argument taking place between the parties are the immigration issues, and how to proceed with the budget for those concerns. Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader, states that the senate is going to be addressing DACA, Deferred Actions for Childhood Arrivals, and border security on Feb. 8th if those issues have not been resolved. Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House, states that the House of Representatives will only support a short term deal.

One concern that a lot of people have is if the military is going to get paid. The troops will still be earning their paychecks, but won't be able to receive them until the government funds are appropriated. The 1.3 million members of the U.S. military will still be on du-

ty, and continuing national security, but their paychecks will be delayed. This concern is focused around the town of Belt, especially because Belt is approximately 20 minutes away from Malmstrom Air Force Base, which provides work for a lot of Belt's residents and boosts the Great Falls economy.

The Government Shutdown has caused a lot of controversy over the past week, and caused many arguments, not just between government officials, but American citizens. Hopefully, the right decisions will eventually be made, and everything will sort itself out. The government is working to make decisions and come to a final decision on the budget for 2018 to keep the nation on track.

By: Natalie Larson

What Do You Like to Learn?

Some students find learning to be pointless and boring. Their time would be better spent playing sports, hunting, etc. Everyone has had those classes that are uninteresting, making them seem meaningless to learn.

A simple fix is to find something interesting to dig into. Look for something interesting or enjoyable for every subject. It will make the day not drag on. For example, some might claim that history doesn't matter. Who's going to quiz anyone on the names of dead American leaders after high school? On the other hand, history has extraordinary stories.

Some people are interested in gory stories of mysterious murderers like H. H. Holmes. Some enjoy stories of great battles like the Battle of Tippecanoe. Others enjoy stories of the WWII Night Witches, soviet women with very poor planes dropping bombs on German lines. Whatever you like, history

has a story for you, and Mr. Koontz would be happy to share.

Math is also an important subject that is valuable to students interested in construction or general home modification. Geometry uses theorems to find perimeters and areas of different shapes. This skill is necessary when building a deck or parts of a home. Math is also used when painting a wall. Math seems a bit pointless at times but is very applicable to everyday life.

Every subject has its pros and cons. Sometimes finding something enjoyable in any subject can be difficult, but is not impossible. High school's main purpose is to prepare students for college, or to prepare a young adult to go directly into the job market. Everyone wants to succeed, and the biggest value in a well rounded education is that it gives people the opportunity to do just that, both in the college and career world.

By: Aundrea Glick

Great Falls Symphony

On February 10th at 7:30 pm Belt's music teacher, Mr. Sutton, will be performing in the Great Falls Symphony. Since the concert is in the month of love, it will be a romantic performance with Mr. Sutton playing the bass trombone. He will play "Ode to Joy" with the symphony and Symphonic Choir on March 24th at 7:30 pm. "This is arguably the most important piece of music ever written and one of my favorites." Sutton stated.

Mr. Sutton encourages anyone who wants to attend the performance to go and have a great time. "If you are looking to celebrate Valentine's Day in a few weeks and/or hear some great music, Great Falls Symphony is performing a romance-themed concert." Concerts do seem to be the best way to celebrate and have an amazing time, so go out, have some fun, and support the Great Falls Symphony as well as Mr. Sutton.

By: Tori Sherwood

JV Basketball

In the past fortnight, both the girls and boys JV basketball teams have put forth stellar performances on the basketball floor. The young pups of Belt High travelled around the district for four games, going as far as Winnett/Grass Range but coming back home on Saturday to put on a show for the hometown crowd. Belt faced the Denton/Geysler/Stanford Bearcats in Geysler, the Geraldine/Highwood Rivals in Rival territory, the Winnett/Grass Range Rams, and the Centerville Miners in the dog house.

The girls and boys loaded the bus headed for Geysler on January 11th. The final score gave the Huskies the win 49-9. The Husky JV was led by Kyelie Marquis who shot for 15 points and Shelby Paulson who added 11 of her own.

Then the boys battle the Bearcats. Belt fell behind early, and trailed by 19 at the half. The Huskies continued to play hard, but as the final buzzer sounded the score would read 43-29, a victory for the Bearcats. The valiant Husky effort was led by Kaimen Evans who sunk 13 points and Robbie Gliko who contributed 6.

Then it was off the Gerald-

ine the next day. Once again, the girls came out strong and scored 16 points in the first quarter compared to Geraldine's 2. The Huskies added another tally in their win column with a victory over the Rivals 52-20. Belt was led by JV/Varsity player trio, Kolby Pimperton, Adelle Meissner, and Paulson, who combined for 36 of the Huskies points.

The Huskies boys hung with Geraldine/Highwood for the first quarter, but scoring was a problem. Belt was shut out in the second period and trailed 14-6 at the break. Belt rallied to tie the game late, forcing overtime, but eventually fell 40-36.

Last weekend the girls continued to roll as they headed east to play Winnett/Grass Range. Belt put the Rams away in the first quarter, outscoring them 18-3 and 24-3 through two quarters. The Lady Huskies prevailed 45-12, led by Meissner, who shot for 13 points and Marquis who tallied 12.

The JV boys stormed the court next and continued to build on the girls' win. Trailing by one after the first, Belt took control to lead 16-9 at the half. The young Huskies built on that lead and ended with a

triumphant score of 31-23. Belt was led by Evans who added 8 and Kaiden Marquis who gave the team a much needed 7 points.

The Huskies finally got to play in front of their home crowd last Saturday against the Centerville Miners. The JV girls were eager to impress old Belt faithful and scored 20 points in the first quarter while holding Centerville to a mere 3. It didn't get any closer than that as Belt worked on specific aspects of their and coasted to a 61-8 win.

Belt's JV boys are super young (five 8th graders) and it showed up again. Centerville dominated the contest and claimed the road win with a 60-23 victory. The leading scorers for the Huskies were Evans who put up 7 and Gliko who added 5.

The Huskies will be back in action tonight against the Winifred/Roy Outlaws in Winifred. The girls' game is set to begin at 3:00 with the boys to follow. The teams will come back home on Saturday for a matchup against the Fairfield Eagles; that game will begin at 2:00 p.m. The Valley Voice wishes these teams the best of luck as they continue their seasons.

By: Adelle Meissner

Ski Trip

On January 18th, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade went on a ski trip to Showdown Montana to have an enjoyable evening skiing with friends and making memories. The students left the school around 8:10 am and returned around 4:45 pm, with only a few bruises. The students last ski trip was December 20th, which meant they had a little more experience than last time. With the weather being around 27 degrees Fahrenheit, students bundled up and layered at much clothing on as they could. The experience between each

student varied between the colors red and yellow. Red being the lowest and black being more experienced.

When the students first arrived to the ski area they gathered their boots and skis and went on their way to their classes. For the first half of their day the students go to a flag that represents the color that they are on. After everyone has gathered around their flag an instructor comes to greet them and teaches them according to their color. After a few hours of classes the

students go back to the lodge to have lunch and then go off with their friends to ski. After a long hard, but fantastic day the students returned to the school and went home. The best news was that no one was on crutches the next day.

The students had a blast and the weather was great. Skiing is a good way to help get students active while they are also having a marvelous time. They get to make amazing memories with friends and even make new friends.

By: Tori Sherwood

5th Grade Field Trip

On January 8th the 5th 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. Mrs. Metrione was happy to take the youngsters for a fun and educational day in Great Falls.

They left the school around 11:30 and returned around 3. They



also got the pleasure in seeing the home and his work space of the famous Montana pioneer artist, near the downtown area of the country seat. The student viewed his artwork and listened to the curator talk about the art pieces and the artist himself.

Charles Marion Russell s born in 1864 and moved to Montana as a young man during the open range days of Treasure State history. He worked as a ranch hand and documented pioneer life in Montana through his paintings. He died in 1926 and his legacy lives on through the

museum and his countless works that portray life as he saw it. Perhaps his most famous painting is the giant piece of art that hangs in the state capitol. It depicts the meeting of Lewis and Clark when they met the Shoshoni tribe in the Bitterroot Range of western Montana.

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

New Mayor

As the votes of the mayoral election were tabulated in early November, the candidates anxiously awaited the results: Jim Olson won in a landslide victory. Mayor Olson took office on January 1st. The Valley Voice recently sat down for an interview with Mayor Olson.

Mayor Olson has lived in Belt for five and a half years. Before he settled here, Mayor Olson was in the Air Force for thirty years. His wife, Amy (Pope) Olson, lived in Belt. Mrs. Olson had two children who attended school in Belt. James Pope was enrolled in Belt from kindergarten to ninth grade when he was pulled out of school due to Amy also being in the Air Force. Mr. and Mrs. Olson also adopted a son, Mike Olson, who graduated from Belt in 2013.

Mayor Olson worked as a career field manager under the secretary for the Air Force. He worked in the Pentagon in the training and

utilization department. Mr. Olson gained experience working for the city as the judge and was elected commissioner and president of the local government board.

When asked why he ran for mayor, Olson answered, "Belt is my home." Since he no longer works for the Air Force, he has the time and experience Belt needs to navigate the growing population that requires an expanded infrastructure.

Mayor Olson has quite the agenda; first and foremost, he would like to get younger citizens involved in city government. He would like to select three students that would become non-voting city council members, one in each ward. Olson would also like to take care of the town, which is something the residents can take pride in. Mr. and Mrs. Olson pick up a bag of garbage on their daily walk and would like to see the community make more of an effort to clean up the

town. Olson would also like to repair sidewalks and roads, providing safer and more efficient transportation for Belt citizens.

If community members want to talk to Mayor Olson, he encourages them to contact City Hall to schedule a meeting. City Hall can also give his email to concerned residents, his phone number is in the phone book, he lives in Belt, and members of the community are encouraged to attend city council meetings. Mayor Olson would like to be a transparent leader for Belt and all concerns/issues expressed to him will appear before the council.

Olson added that "Belt is a neat place, one with a rich history." As the mayor, Olson takes it as his duty to showcase Belt, including its sites and stories. Mr. Olson looks forward to his stint as mayor and want to make a positive difference in the community.

By: Adelle Meissner

Rodeo Queen Pageant

On Saturday January 13th, Belt High student, Keely Drummond was crowned Miss Teen Rodeo Montana 2018. Drummond, a sophomore, competed in a rigorous four day pageant leading up to the coronation. The Miss Rodeo Montana Pageant is held in conjunction with the Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals rodeo, all of which took place in Great Falls.

Drummond states her favorite part of the pageant was the horsemanship competition. Drummond explained that in this portion, each of the contestants drew a horse number out of a jar, designating what horse they would ride. "As contestants, we had no idea what kind of horses we would be getting on. The MRM board provided the horses so they were new and unfamiliar to us." Each of the contestants then performed a reining pattern followed by railwork on a second horse. "I think that the pattern and railwork both showed the judges how great horsewomen we are. I drew a slow, kid's horse and then a

hotter heeling horse which proved that I could handle a variety of horses and their attitudes."

After all the points had been tallied, awards were split between Drummond and another contestant. Drummond snatched the appearance award, Miss Congeniality, and horsemanship, while her competitor won projection and presentation, personality, and speech. So leading up to the crowning of the new title holder was very suspenseful as it could have gone either way. "It was very nerve wracking considering the fact that the categories were split 50/50, but I knew that all the hard work I put into preparing for the pageant would pay off in the long run." Drummond states in regards to the minutes leading up to her crowning.

Maintaining school, work, and carrying the title of MTRM is going to make Drummond's next year very full. "I am only two weeks into my reign and it is already intense. I have made an appearance at the MAGIE and have

done several interviews. Keeping my grades up to my standards is my number one priority, so I am glad that the majority of my traveling will take place in the summer when we don't have school." Drummond will travel throughout the state of Montana attending PRCA rodeos. "I'm very excited that the first rodeo I get to go to will be Belt. It's so cool that my hometown rodeo is also the first rodeo of the summer."

While it's still in the works, Drummond will host a gala party later this spring in order raise money for her upcoming travels. This will be a fun events that will feature a dinner, live and silent auction, and a live band and dancing. Drummond is looking to for year-long sponsorships, live and silent auction items for the gala and for the year. any person or company is interested in sponsoring an item, please email Drummond at keelyjay14@gmail.com. More details will follow once they become planned.

By: Keely Drummond

Lady Husky Basketball Camp

Last weekend brought an annual tradition to the Belt Gymnasium. At 9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, the Belt gym was bursting with activity. It was time for the annual Lady Husky Basketball camp and little girls from grades K-6 were ready to see what new skills Coach Graham and the girls' basketball team had to offer. The camp featured about thirty girls who were eager to learn from the girls they had been watching all year long, the varsity basketball players.

As the camp commenced, the group was split in two, K-3 on one end and 4-6 on the other. The high school players split up and worked with each age group individually. Kindergarteners through

third graders worked on form shooting, layups, dribbling skills, and chaotic five on five. The groups also participated in horse races and shooting competitions. Fourth grade through sixth grade concentrated more on form shooting, jump shots, dribbling moves, and organized five on five. The older group did horse races and shooting games as well.

The camp was split into seven five on five teams at the end of the day. Three teams contained players from grades kindergarten to third and four teams were made of more advanced athletes ranging from fourth to sixth grade. The younger group of girls would showcase their new skills at halftime of the girls' varsity game; the teams

were coached by the junior varsity girls' basketball players. The older teams played during the boy's halftime.

The annual camp provides the aspiring young athletes with a way to learn and interact with their role models. It also provides the high school players with the opportunity to form a bond with the little athletes. The camp is always fun for all the girls, but also for Coach Graham. Graham enjoys seeing the talent of some of the younger girls and being able to teach them more about the game. The Lady Husky Basketball Camp is a great opportunity for the female athletes of Belt School, young and old.

By: Adelle Meissner

Puzzle	Calendar of Events
<p>Who set of pearly whites are these?</p>  <p>Last edition's answer: The Old Generals Mill.</p>	<p>Jan 26th Wrestling @ Simms Jan 26th Girls Basketball @ <u>Winifred</u> /Roy (JVar – 3:00 p.m. Var – 6:00 p.m.) Jan 26th Boys Basketball @ <u>Winifred</u> /Roy (JVar – 4:30 p.m. Var – 7:30 p.m.) Jan 27th Girls Basketball vs. Fairfield (JVar – 2:00 p.m. Var – 5:00 p.m.) Jan 27th Boys Basketball vs. Fairfield (JVar 3:30 p.m. Var – 6:30 p.m.) Jan 29th Dental Screening for 1st, 3rd and 5th Graders Jan 29th First Practice for MS Winter Sports Feb 1st 7th Grade Ice Fishing Trip Feb 2nd Girls Basketball vs. Conrad (JVar – 3:00 p.m. Var – 6:00 p.m.) Feb 2nd Boys Basketball vs. Conrad (JVar – 4:30 p.m. Var – 7:30 p.m.) Feb 3rd Southern B/C Divisional Wrestling @ Columbus Feb 3rd Girls Basketball @ Tri-Cities (JVar – 2:00 p.m. Var – 5:00 p.m.) Feb 3rd Boys Basketball @ Tri-Cities (JVar 3:30 p.m. Var – 6:30 p.m.) Feb 7th Math Counts Contest @ Great Falls Collage MSU – Heritage Hall Feb 8th Girls Basketball vs. Highwood/Geraldine (JVar – 3:00 p.m. Var – 6:00 p.m.) Feb 8th Boys Basketball vs. Highwood/Geraldine (JVar – 4:30 p.m. Var – 7:30 p.m.) Feb 9th State Wrestling @ MetraPark, Billings Feb 9th Girls Basketball vs. DGS (JVar – 2:00 p.m. Var – 5:00 p.m.) Feb 9th Boys Basketball vs. DGS (JVar 3:30 p.m. Var – 6:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>Watch Lil' Huskies Cheer! Belt vs. Fairfield Girls Game-5:00pm Boys Game-6:30pm</p> <p>PreK-2nd Grade performs at half time of girls game on the 27th.</p> <p>3rd-6th Grade performs at half time of boys game on the 27th.</p> 	

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