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The Valley Voice



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Tourney Time Preview

The Husky basketball teams have been hard at work this season and earned high rankings in the 8-C district basketball tournament that is approaching. Based on how well the athletes have been performing this season, it is very probable that both teams will find success in the district tournament as well as the Northern C Divisional Tournament.

The girls' basketball team will enter next week's district tournament as the number one seed, which gives them an opportunity to take a bye on Thursday afternoon; however, Coach Graham opts for the girls to play the game and gain a feel for the floor and the atmosphere. The competition in the girls' district is fierce. The Tri-City Titans,

the Winifred/Roy Outlaws, the Winnett/Grass Range Rams, and the Belt Huskies all deserve a spot at the Northern C tournament, but MHSAA only allows three teams out of each district. The quest for a trophy and a divisional spot will be one that all four teams will embark upon, which could cause any of the others trouble. Coach Graham and the Huskies anticipate seeing TCT in the semi-finals on Friday, assuming they beat the Miners on Thursday afternoon.

If the Lady Huskies continue to find success, they hope to gain another divisional title. The tough competition in the Northern C division is expected to come from the Box Elder Bears and the Fort Benton Longhorns. The two teams

had strong programs last year and will likely be back a divisionals this year. Belt also expects to see their fellow 8-C team's at the divisional tournament. Graham thinks that the district is tough and all four of the top teams could place at the divisional tournament. Regardless of the turnout, the girls look forward to tournament season, "the best time of the year."

The boys' district is less certain than that of the girls. The boys have just one loss to their conference record; they fell to the DGS Bearcats earlier this season, but the two teams battle tonight in Belt with the conference championship on the line. Senior Night tip-off is slated for 7:30 following the girls' game.

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Boys Basketball

Friday, January 26th the Huskies headed off to face the Roy-Winifred Outlaws at their home court in Roy. Belt managed to grab an early lead of 11 points during the first quarter of play but the Outlaws kept touch with seven of their own. Key contributors for the Husky team were Trey Heitzman and Brendan Wing during the first half of play as the home team rallied, knotting the

halftime score at 18-18. The buzzer signaling the start of the third quarter sent both teams back to the floor, and the Husky boys managed to double their score in a quarter, holding a 36-33 lead. The Outlaws were unable, through the fourth stanza of play, to pull ahead of the Husky team, leaving the Belt boys with another road victory. The final score was 53-52, good for a

Belt win. The last contest between Fairfield and the Belt Huskies left a bitter taste of defeat in the Husky boys. The score at the end of their previous competition in Teton County was 25-65, as the Eagles dominated. That Saturday, the 27th, the Boys stepped back onto the hardwood to redeem themselves and they did just that

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Tourney Time Preview *(Continued)*

The game will determine which team claims the number one seed going into the district tournament. No matter how the game turns out, Belt will not be taking a bye in the first round. Coach Paulson agrees with Graham in making sure the players have a chance to get used to the floor and the atmosphere in order to further their chance of success later in the tournament. While the girls' matchups in the beginning of the tournament could be determined, the boys' bracket really depends on this weekend's contests. In the district, there's a lot of bal-

ance and no team can be ruled out. Paulson wants to convey this to the boys in any way possible, "anything is possible during tournament time." If the boys do as well as anticipated and continue to divisionals, they will face new competition.

The boys lost out last year at the divisional tournament, but with rather new roster they hope to avenge their loss this season. The competition in the Northern division is very widespread. Paulson doesn't see any clear cut favorites this year; however, the 8-C teams should do very well against the oth-

er districts. The division is tough and all the teams are working toward the same goal, a spot at the state tournament.

Districts will begin on Thursday, February 15th and run through February 17th at Great Falls High School. The next week divisionals at the Four Season's Arena start on Wednesday, the 21st for the boys and on Thursday, the 22nd for the girls. The boys' championship will be contested on Friday and the girls will crown a champion on Saturday night.

By: Adelle Meissner

Boys Basketball *(Continued)*

The buzzer to start the game was heard round the Valley, and the crowd held their breath in nervous anticipation. By the end of the first half the

Huskies only faced a deficit of 7 points, quite a step up from the previous battle. The clock would provide 16 more



minutes to change the halftime score of 21-28, and the Husky team managed to claw their way right back into the game, thanks to the some timely three's by Wing, along with Heitzman and Stroop. The end was a nail-bitter and had the crowd up out of their seats, but Fairfield's game winning free throws would leave Belt just out of reach of victory. The Huskies earned a moral victory for the night but would not manage to succeed in obtaining the win. The scoreboard settled at 49-53 in favor of the Eagles.

The second Class B school

to travel down into the Valley for the season was the Conrad Cowboys, who would face off against the Huskies that Friday night. The home team was shorthanded, suffering a couple injuries that changed their player rotation. Brayden Hagrouse and Trey Heitzman were both sidelined for the contest. It would be a game of adjustment for the Huskies, with the starting lineup now featuring the freshman Kaimen Evans. The game started with a Belt deficit of seven points but the boys rallied in the second quarter to snatch a lead at the half with a score of 24-22. The trend traveled to the second half and the Huskies won with a final score of 52-43, led by their main scorers Wing, Hunter Vogl, and Keagan Stroop.

The final game for the weekend would take place on Saturday, February 3rd in Hobson, against the Tri-Cities Titans. The boys enjoyed an early lead in the first half with the score resting at 27-14 thanks to great contributions from Stroop and Wing. Heading into the third the Husky team jealously held their lead and the Titans were unable to rally back in the sec-

ond half of play. The Huskies left the floor victorious that night, the bulk of the scoring resting on the shoulders of Hennes, Stroop, and Wing. The final score was 56-28.

Last night the boys defeated the Rivals with a score of 53-36 at home, and tonight they host the DGS Bearcats, hoping to avenge their only conference loss of the season. The winner tonight claims the 8-C conference title and the number one seed in next week's district tournament. The game is set to start at 7:30. Coach Paulson's boys are now 10-1 in 8-C play and boast an overall record of 13-4 as the regular winds down and everyone gears up for tourney season.

By: Shelby Paulson

Belt	12	27	46	56
TCT	10	14	19	28
Conrad	17	22	30	43
Belt	10	24	35	52
Fairfield	18	28	43	53
Belt	11	21	32	49
Belt	11	18	36	53
Winifred-Roy	7	18	33	52

Girls Basketball

As the final stretch of the 2017-18 season commenced, the Belt Lady Huskies have continued to secure their coveted, undefeated record, currently standing at 17-0. They travelled to Winifred last Friday, they went head-to-head with Fairfield last Saturday, battled Conrad at home, hit the road for a matchup versus Tri-Cities, and dominated the Geraldine/Highwood Rivals in Belt yesterday. The girls have continued to showcase their talent and prove Coach Jeff Graham's mantra, "tradition never graduates."

The girls loaded the bus and made the long trek to Winifred on January 26th for a matchup against the Lady Outlaws. The long trip seemed to leave the girls a little groggy as they took the floor for the first quarter and only added 10 points to the board compared to their normal 15+ average; however, the Husky defense held the Outlaws to just 7 points and left Belt with the lead as the first quarter drifted to the second. After a rough second period it was the Winifred/Roy Outlaws who were leading as the score read Belt 12 Winifred 14 at the break. A pep talk from coach Graham made for a Husky comeback in the third quarter and as the last few seconds of the third quarter ran off the clock Belt was ahead 29-20. Lockdown "D" and patient "O" spelled victory for the Lady Huskies and when the game ended Belt added another tally to their win column with a victory over Winifred/Roy 35-22. The Husky triumph was led by game high scorer Dani Urick who offered 13 and duo Ryan Schraner and Brianna Wall who combined for 16.

On Saturday, January 27th, the girls came back to the Dog



House for a contest against the Fairfield Eagles. Eager to impress Old Belt faithful, the Huskies came out and scored a quick 18 points while holding the Eagles at 12 to take control of the game right from the get go. As the teams headed to the locker room to hear what their coaches had to say, the Huskies were dominating Fairfield 32- 14. The intermission ended and the teams took the floor once again. Belt continued to add points to the home side of the scoreboard and with one quarter left to play the score stood at 43-20. In the fourth quarter, the Huskies called for "Pioneer," a stall offense that held Fairfield to just 7 points in the final quarter while the Huskies marked 12. The game ended with a score of 55-27. Once again Belt was led by Urick who sunk 17 and Pimperton who added 8 points in the Husky conquest.

The girls got another chance to wow the hometown crowd as well as tack on another win during a Friday night contest against the Conrad Cowgirls on February 2nd. The girls kicked things off on offense, getting a quick 13 points on the board. On the defensive end, the Cowgirls were held at 4. As halftime commenced and the court cleared for a quick ten minutes, the score sat at 34-7 in favor of Belt. The final seconds of third quarter ran off the clock and Belt held control of the game with a 33 point lead with just eight minutes left to play. As the final buzzer rang, the score read Belt 59 Conrad 16. The Husky victory was led by Kolby Pimperton who added 14 and Urick and Abby Gliko who combined for 20.

Last Saturday, the Lady Huskies hit the road for their final

away game versus the Tri-Cities Titans. Belt is always quick to get a few points on the board and Saturday was no different with the girls putting up 13 points in the first. As the second quarter commenced, Tri-City was hanging with the Huskies 13-7. Belt experienced a scoring lull in the second quarter and as the girls left for the locker room, the Titans were leading the Huskies 13-16. Baskets were hard to come by for Belt but they added 12 points in the third while TCT got in 16. The Lady Huskies were trouble, but rallied in the fourth, outscoring the Titans 20-9 in the final stanza. As the final buzzer sounded, the game fell in favor of Belt 45-41. Urick led the valiant Husky effort with 14 points while Pimperton added 9

Last night the girls battled the Geraldine/Highwood Rivals and came out victorious with a score of 66-22. Tonight the Huskies go head to head with the DGS Bearcats for the final game of the season. The girls have already secured the conference title and number one seed for next week's tournament.

Next week the girls will be playing in the district tournament at Great Falls High. The Huskies can be seen in action at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday. The girls' record currently stands at 11-0 in the conference and 17-0 overall.

By: Adelle Meissner

Belt	10	12	29	35
Winifred-Roy	7	14	20	22
Fairfield	12	14	20	27
Belt	18	32	43	55
Conrad	4	7	14	16
Belt	13	34	47	59
Belt	13	13	25	45
TCT	7	16	32	41

Valentine's Day History

Valentine's Day is rapidly approaching and Belt is getting into the spirit. Many businesses are stocking up on Valentine's Day themed products such as balloons, flowers, and more importantly chocolate. Couples flock to stores, restaurants, movie theatres and other romantic get together sites to spend time with their partners, but some couples don't know the origins of this holiday.

Valentine's Day has a bit of a gory past. "Valentine's Day" was first celebrated as the "Feast of Lupercalia" from February 13th to the 15th. The feast was celebrated by Romans with the sacrifice of a goat

and dog, whose hides were then used to whip women. The women of the feast encouraged this act, as they believed that this would make them fertile and saw the whipping as a sort of blessing from the gods. Then, women's names were taken from a drawing by men, in a "match-making lottery".

The feast may even be partially responsible for the name of this holiday. Two men, both by the name of Valentine, were executed by Emperor Claudius II in the 3rd Century A.D. on February 14th. In the fifth Century, Pope Gelasius I combined Lupercalia with St. Valentine's Day..

Today, men and women celebrate this holiday with their partners as a day of love. Couples all around the world celebrate this day by buying chocolates, flowers, and expensive reservations to express their fondness to their partners. Belt Grocery has stocked up on lots of chocolate and the Class of 2019 has balloons for sale every lunch period. On Valentine's Day, lockers will be adorned with balloons and fond notes. Business's everywhere profit off the holiday massively with the U.S. spending \$19.7 billion every Valentine's Day, filling businessmen with love.

By: Aundrea Glick

Student Initiative

Newly elected Mayor Jim Olson would like to get the students of the Belt Valley more involved in the decisions the city council is making for the community. Mayor Olson would like to install three students into the city council as non-voting members. He envisions one student in each of the three voting wards taking part in the discussion and expressing a younger viewpoint on issues that impact them as well as the rest of the community.

Mayor Olson's goal in al-

lowing students on the council is to prepare them for the future. Eventually, it will be those same students who are sitting around the table, this time as voting members. Mayor Olson also feels that the insight of the students will be beneficial in helping the council make decisions for the community as a whole.

The goal of the student initiative is to gain perspective on the view of the young population and even gain the help of the teens in making the community a better

place. Currently, Mayor Olson is looking for three students to fill the positions.

Interested students can contact Mrs. Prody at school or City Hall directly. The end goal of the initiative is to create a legacy and get kids excited to be a part of government. Talking and making decisions with the council will help shape the future of Belt, and help young people in the valley engage in the democratic process.

By: Adelle Meissner

Student Life

As the first semester came to a close, the students of Belt High School had the chance to relax and release the stress that the big semester finals brought. Some of the students have taken advantage of Montana's coldest months and braved the chilled temperatures to embark on the sports that come with that weather. Others spent time rooting on their peers at basketball games and wrestling meets. It goes fast-misterms are less than a week away.

By: Keely Drummond



Theater

As most people around the Belt Valley are aware, the Belt Theatre troupe traveled to Scotland last summer to attend the American High School Theatre Festival (AHSTF). For students it was an amazing opportunity to perform in a different environment, and after it was over they were all saddened that they had to leave. Although it seemed as if it was the last and only opportunity, the theatre troupe was nominated and accepted to attend the 2019 Fringe Festival.

Not only is this a huge honor for the citizens of Belt and their theatre group, but it will definitely be a big challenge with additional pressures this last time. The group now has a year and a half to raise the funds (about \$7,500 per person) to travel to Edinburgh, Scotland for



10 days and possibly to London, England for 3 days. The group will traverse London appreciating the beautiful architecture and enjoying exciting activities. After London, the troupe will travel to Scotland. There they will begin to advertise their play and perform four different times as well as admire the charming land of the Scots.

“Not only is it a huge opportunity and honor to go to Scotland, but this will be our second time attending this festival,” stated Charity Highfill, a sophomore actress. “Although it’s a year and a half away, we are all still super ecstatic.”

So far Jeffery Ross, director, and Elizabeth Harrison, assistant director, are thinking of performing *Measure for Measure*, a play by William Shakespeare, in Scotland. Currently, the group is working on *Much Ado About Nothing*, another Shakespeare play, and they’re planning on performing in April.

The troupe is simply elated to be able to perform in the Fringe Festival for a second time and are honored to have another extraordinary opportunity to travel doing what they love.

After the seniors of 2017 graduated, the Belt Valley Theatre

Troupe lost four of its eleven members, including two who returned home to Bozeman. The group was then left with just six members at the start of this school year. After several months of letting students at Belt know they could join at any time, Jeffrey Ross, director, reached out to other schools in the area to see if any students were interested in joining Belt’s troupe. A few weeks later, two girls from Great Falls joined the group. Now eleven members strong, Mr. Ross is hoping for more to join.

Until the theatre’s construction is finished, the troupe still practices at the Golden Valley Homes main building. Expected to be done sometime in the spring, the theatre on Belt’s main drag will hopefully be ready towards the end of this school year after a major league face lift. The group also has planned performances at different venues in Great Falls and in Belt.

Excitement greets the new members, and Belt’s troupe has an amazing opportunity to become acquainted with students from Great Falls and the surrounding area. They encourage Belt citizens to come and support the theater troupe while performing.

By: Tori Sherwood

Groundhog Day

On February 2nd, many Americans tuned in to watch Punxsutaweny Phil, the infamous groundhog, hoping not see his shadow. The 132-year-old tradition says that if a groundhog emerges from its burrow and see his shadow that there will be six more weeks of winter on the way. On the other hand, the Victorian tradition also says if he comes out and his shadow is absent, then the spring season

will come early. This year, Phil did once again see his shadow predicting a longer winter.

Punxsutaweny Phil makes his home in Punxsutaweny, Pennsylvania where his burrow is called “Gobbler’s Knob”. Over 30,000 people have visited Phil’s home since 1886. Phil has also made many numerous appearances for other activities over the nation. Traveling to Washington D.C. to meet President Ronald Regan in

1986, the groundhog also appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show in 1995.

Based on the snowfall the last couple days, Phil got it right, as temperatures plummeted and several inches of snow blanketed the region. Fortunately, the additional six weeks of winter will add to the current snowpack which is higher than last year meaning this summer will be less of a fire hazard.

By: Keely Drummond

DECA

The members of the Belt DECA chapter put the final touches on their projects and presentation materials last week as they prepared for the State DECA conference. This Sunday, eighteen students will board the bus to make the three hour trek to Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, just outside of Anaconda. The collection of students attending the 2018 state conference include seniors: Trey Heitzmen, Troy Hennes, Tucker Johnson, and Hannah Schweitzer, junior Tori Shelton, sophomores: Maggie Andrews, Keely Drummond, William Franzen, Natalie Larsen, Avery Newman and Anthony Wall and freshmen: Kaimen Evans, T.J. Hennes, Riley Larsen, Anna Pethel, Sierra Reese, Livvy Shelton, and Sabrina Wing. Chaperones will include DECA advisor Jessica Tillman and parents Jason and Jackie Newman.

The Belt DECA chapter received the \$1,500 Walmart Com-

munity Giving Grant this spring. They used the money to purchase new official DECA blazers for the purpose of competition. The blazers that the members were using before had the 1990s logo, but now they have jackets that are current.

All of the members will kick off their competition on Sunday by taking the General Marketing Exam followed by preliminary competitions Sunday afternoon and evening. That night, the Opening Session will take place where a keynote speaker will deliver a motivation speech to the five hundred students in attendance.

Monday morning will start off bright and early with a “DECA Fit” fitness completion sponsored by the National Guard. Preliminary competitions will again occur Monday morning and expand into the afternoon. After the last round of prelims, all students will engage in “Chapter Time”. This a few hours

set aside for chapters to relax and talk about how their competitions went.

The Finalist Awards Session on Monday night will reveal the competitors who have advanced past the preliminary competitions into the final rounds. New this year, all of the high schoolers will have the opportunity to attend the “DECA Pool Party” were they will be able to swim in the hot pools and go down the 350 foot waterslide.

Tuesday will bring final competitions for those who make it and then the Grand Awards and Closing Session will take place. Each event has its own regulations for the number of teams that qualify for the International Career Development Conference (ICDC), ranging from 2-4 teams. Those that do qualify, will travel to Atlanta, Georgia in April and present their projects on an international level.

By: Keely Drummond

Downtown Renovations

Not only will there be addition to Belt, there will be two in one. The old Belt Creek Cafe that was located downtown in Belt, was torn down over the course of January to make a new building for the two businesses, Jack’s Beans and the Whisper Creek Real Estate offices.

The new coffee shop will be added to the corporate offices being

built, as both businesses will share the same building. The espresso/coffee shop will sit in the front and will have a drive-thru with seating both outside and indoors. The old cafe was a memory holder and some residents in Belt have commented that they miss the nostalgia that went with the old building.

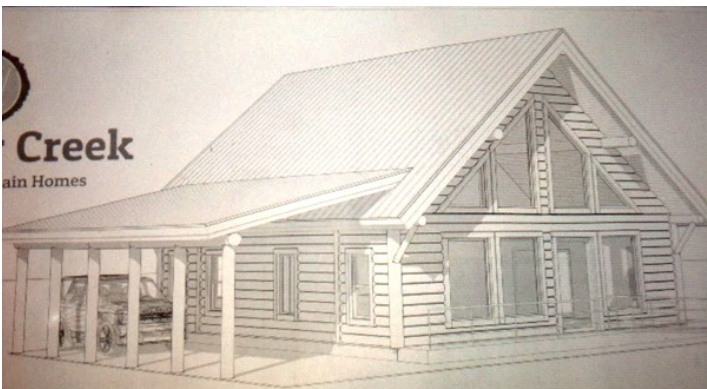
The new coffee house promises to be a place where high

schoolers meet in the morning and adults can get a cup of joe on the way to work. It can also still serve the purpose of providing a place for locals to enjoy a morning visit with old comrades and catch up on

the events of the day.

Construction is already underway, and the crew is making remarkable progress with walls and trusses already casting shadows on the sidewalk below. The building will be open by mid-April.

By: Sydne Flinn



Ice Fishing

As the seventeen members of the Class of 2023 headed to East Fork, near Lewistown, they were overjoyed taking off on Thursday, February 1st at eight in the morning and returning around three. The students look forward to this trip all year, and have been extremely excited to experience ice fishing with their entire class. Mrs. Vogt, the middle school science teacher, was in charge of setting up this ice fishing adventure, and said “The 7th graders have enjoyed learning about fish in Montana this year, and they were really excited to go ice fishing!”

One student from the seventh grade, Tara Hedstrom, said, “The thing I enjoyed the most about ice fishing was the fact that everyone caught more than one fish. Some stu-



dents even caught a fish within seconds. Many students had competitions to see who would catch the most fish by the end of the day. Garrett Metrione was the overall winner.” Also, Memphis Black said “The thing that I enjoyed most about the ice fishing trip was being able to be outside with my dad and classmates and have the chance to fish on a school day.”

Overall the whole 7th grade class really enjoyed going ice fishing and spending time with all of their classmates. The 7th graders had been participating in a program called “Hooked on Fishing” which is put on by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks department. A number of guest speakers have visited the classroom teaching the students various things related to fish. Topics include: fish identification, fish art, water distribution, fish math, fly tying, fish dissection and fish jeopardy. “Hooked on Fishing” has been taught at Belt Middle School for many years, and this year’s crew enjoyed it a great deal.

The 7th graders took it upon themselves to offer some advice for next year’s 7th grade class. Garrett

Metrione, who caught about 93 fish, advised that next year’s students have fun, and fish hard. Another student Zach Feldman stated “Advice that I would give to the future ice fishers is that even with the slightest little tug you have to pull up.”

Hopefully, the 6th graders of this year will heed the advice of Metrione and Feldman. The 6th graders should also be sure to remember that while some students may not catch even one little minnow, the whole point of the “Hooked on Fishing” program is to have fun and learn more about the extraordinary state of Montana.

While ice fishing, many of the students enjoyed getting a day off of school in order to have some fun. The trip was very beneficial for the students as it gave them a hands-on learning experience. Hopefully, this Belt tradition will continue for future classes as it provides a great way of learning about the wonderful wildlife of Montana. In the end, the “Hooked on Fishing” program is a fun way to pull science into entertaining activities.

By: Natalie Larsen

The winter season is sticking around in Belt, Montana for a substantial amount of time, making the road conditions extremely dangerous. While some Montana drivers will be extra cautious others will be completely irresponsible by drinking and driving. Don’t be responsible for ending someone else’s life this winter. Always drive sober, or find a different way to get home. Nothing is worth the risk taken when driving a car under the influence.

Nearly 1.1 million people were arrested for the crime of drunk driving in 2016. This number is enormous, and the amount of people risking others’ lives in order to better their own is extraordinary. This winter don’t put your life in danger or anyone else’s. On winter road conditions always buckle up, and ... **Never Drink and Drive!**



This message brought to you by your
Cascade DUI Task Force

School Security

Based on media reports there have been 14 school shooting so far in 2018. “Researchers and gun control advocates say that since 2013, they have logged school shootings at a rate of about one a week.” States Alan Blinder, a writer for The New York Times. A week ago there was a shooting in a Kentucky School leaving 2 dead (Bailey Holt and Preston Cope) and 18 others injured. The day before that there was a shooting in a Texas School leaving 1 injured. The suspects in almost every school shooting seems to be a student that had previously attended the school.

The 15 year old male student that left the Kentucky School in a herd of chaos was charged (as an adult) with 2 counts of murder and multiple counts of first degree assault. 14 of the 18 injured were shot and 4 others were injured trying to escape the building. “I never imagined that something like this

could happen in such a small town” stated Clyde Lee, a relative to a student attending the school. “Nobody should have to go through something like this.”

Belt, MT with a population of 588, would never expect anything like this to happen in their small town community. Sophomore, Natalie Larsen said that “I would never expect something like this to occur in our small town of Belt, it’s just not something that you would ever think about in such a small community.” Most agree with Larsen. “If something like that had happened in our community I would definitely be shocked. Nothing ever happens in Belt, it’s a quiet, peaceful town and nothing out of the ordinary occurs here.” Sydne Flinn (sophomore) stated.

Belt Public School is a friendly learning environment where everyone knows everyone and people care about each other.

The school just recently started reconstruction on the front door to improve security in the building. The reconstruction is a part of the new building project and the new system will allow the school to identify individuals before entering the building. In addition, the professional staff at the school has received information regarding best practices in case of such an emergency. Hopefully, the precautions are unnecessary, but the school board and administration want to be vigilant.

When asked if they felt safe at Belt School Vaughn, Larsen, and Flinn all replied with a yes. “I think that everyone in this school feels safe, I mean there hasn’t been any threats, or any situations where our school has went into lockdown for a while now. Belt is overall a safe town and I think that most people feel safe here.” Flinn stated.

By: Tori Sherwood

Construction

Since the passing of the bond levy on October 4th of 2016 and the investment of \$4.6 million dollars in the refurbishing of the Belt School, construction of these new additions has hit the ground running. The finish date for this extensive project is still on schedule of June 1st of 2018, even though, a few setbacks occurred causing the workers to have to dig the foundation deeper than originally intended. Since then Dick Anderson Construction has made obvious gains.

Lately a roof has been put in place on the elementary, the gym



frame has been set, and ma-roon siding has started to make an appearance on the new building. Workers are currently working five days a week in an effort to piece together this complicated structure. Currently, there are forty-eight workers on site and this number can vary as other specialty companies come in to work on specific sections of the project. Each group comes in handy in weaving together the fabric it takes to construct a project of this magnitude and are working tirelessly to get the student body into a healthier and safer learning environment.

The school has had to experience some inconveniences, such as cramped quarters for school, delayed bells for the elementary students, power outages, and



plumbing complications that result in water turn-offs. The latest interruption was shutting down of the main entry to the school to install a secure buzz-in system.

The town is anxious to see the final product of this expensive, yet necessary, school investment, which promises to create a more suitable learning environment. In the end it will offer a great welcoming for all of Belt’s pupils and staff, community members, and guests.

By: Shelby Paulson

Featured Staff



This issue of the Valley Voice features third grade teacher, Taylor McNally. In addition to teaching in the elementary, McNally coaches high school track and middle school volleyball. The Ennis native attended Penn State University throwing shot-put on their track and field team for two years before transferring to the University of Montana Western to finish her degree. In regards to the driving force behind why she wanted to teach, McNally stated, “My mom is a teacher and we saw firsthand how a teacher could impact a person’s life. I had many teach-

ers that provided opportunities for me that I hope in turn can provide for my students. We all have dreams and if I can help someone get one step closer or accomplish their dream, I know that I am doing my job!” When she’s not busy teaching or coaching, McNally enjoys spending time with family and friends. In the summer, she likes to be out on water whether it be white water rafting or relaxing on a lake. She is also a huge sports fan and follows all types of sports and teams, but is especially loyal to the Penn State, Nittany Lions.

By: Maggie Andrews

Montana Dogging

Two weeks ago, Troy Adams, Belt’s art teacher, was featured on national television being highlighted on FoxPro’s Furtakers show on the Outdoor Channel. His ‘30 minutes of fame’ showcased his love of the outdoors and coyote hunting. Adams stated that he became one of the featured hunters through a friendship. “FoxPro is a company that designs and makes collars and accessories for hunting. I am on the field staff for FoxPro and I met Al Morris who is one of the stars of the TV show. We became really good friends and have hunted together a few times when he invited me to be on the show.”

Adams said it took a couple days to capture the film needed for the episode. “It was different having a film crew follow me around because there is a lot more pressure and if you choke when you shoot or do something wrong, it’ll end up on national TV I was lucky. My shooting was great those few days.” Adams and the film crew hunted in the area of the Little Belt Mountains and the Highwood Mountains.

Adams has always enjoyed being outdoors along with the sports that come with it. He said that his first successful hunt resulted in a jackrabbit when he was eight years old, getting him hooked

on hunting and he has traveled from Alaska and Canada to Africa on hunting expeditions. Adams has now migrated to spending most of his free time fishing, but he still loves hunting coyotes.

Adams’s episode aired on the Outdoor Channel two weeks ago, but the channel usually will rerun the shows at the end of the season and upload them to YouTube within a year and a half. “I actually haven’t seen my show yet,” Adams said, “I don’t have cable TV so a friend recorded it on DVR and I am planning on going over to watch it soon.”

By: Keely Drummond

Government Class

With the second semester well underway, Belt seniors are highly engaged in Government class. Politics are a very important aspect in modern society, and since the adult world is just mere months away from most of the seniors, this class prepares students on how to succeed in the real world. Government class works a lot different than most classes, it consists more hands-on activities versus those of other classes.

The main goal of the course is to teach students how the process of both the U.S. government and the Montana government works, while providing students with a variety of ways to express their opinions; through mock trials, debate tournaments, political cartoons, and more inventive activities. After completing this course, students will leave with rights and responsibilities, along with knowledge on how to express themselves, their

beliefs, and their opinions.

The class just wrapped up their political cartoon unit. In this area of study, students created cartoons which expressed ideas about politics through art. These cartoons never fail to be a huge hit with the students who choose local, state, national or international political topics, which allows students to have a broad variety of topics to choose from.

By: Maggie Andrews

Community Improvement

The Town of Belt has recently embarked on a plan to improve and beautify the town. An application was made this month for a grant to obtain funds directed towards building a walking path along Belt Creek. This initiative will hopefully provide both an opportunity for exercise and a chance to beautify the community.

If Belt is selected as a recipient of the grant, the path is set to begin in the parking lot of the Belt Public Library and Castner Park, the path will continue around the park and extend beyond the baseball fields. The trail will traverse up the dike and continue to follow the levy providing access points to the water and signage along the way. Phase One of construction is set to terminate at the car bridge. Barring legality or budget issues, the community plans to launch a second phase.

Phase Two will continue the trail along the dike north through the residential surroundings of the creek. If all goes to plan, the path will wind along the creek, bend around the playground of the school, and come through the community to meet the end of the path from Phase One, forming a three to five mile loop.

The path will be a great addition to the town, providing residents a venue for a brisk morning run or a lackadaisical evening stroll. Phase One will construct the path along the east side of Belt and Phase Two will extend the trail to the west side. Belt citizens interested in more information about the grant or finding out how to help the town obtain the grant should visit the website: state-parks.mt.gov and go to the Recreational Trails Program.

By: Adelle Meissner



Two Minutes to Midnight

“Because of the extraordinary danger of the current moment, the Science and Security Board today moves the minute hand of the Doomsday Clock 30 seconds closer to catastrophe, “Rachel Bronson, President of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. The Doomsday Clock has moved thirty seconds closer to midnight, and is now the closest to midnight it has been since 1953 when the first hydrogen bomb was detonated. The Doomsday Clock was created in 1947, by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, and has been changed 23 times starting at 7 minutes to midnight.

The clock has been moved forward due to reasons like the dangers of “nuclear conflagration”. Other reasons are still being explored, but a statement from the Doomsday Clock time setting says; “In 2017, world leaders failed to

respond effectively to the looming threats of nuclear war and climate change, making the world security situation more dangerous than it was a year ago — and as dangerous as it has been since World War II.”

The Doomsday Clock has an effect on the whole world, and hopefully people pay attention to the clock; its purpose is more metaphorical than physical. The Doomsday Clock was created to show how dangerous the world is becoming. The Doomsday Clock does not mark the “end of the world” as some assume. It is just a meter to measure the threats that the world is facing.

“The Doomsday Clock kind of scares me, the fact that we are metaphorically two midnights to the world being destroyed, makes me question the choices of our leaders.” Sydne Flinn gives her state-

ment about the matter of the Doomsday clock. MaKayla O’Neil also had quite a hefty opinion about the matter: “We need to spread awareness about it, because not a lot of people understand the significance of the Doomsday Clock. Therefore, it doesn’t really have an impact on Belt citizens since they don’t understand how close we are to the theoretical end of the world. In essence, people need to know that we are in the same situation as we were at the height of the cold war.”

Belt citizens may not think that they have a big influence on what happens in the world, however, awareness and knowledge is important. Considering the missile silos that surround the valley, locals might want to pay a bit more attention to the bigger picture.

By: Aundrea Glick

Senior Spotlight

The class of 2018 is barreling down the home stretch, this is their final semester of high school. With a mere four months until graduation, the seniors of Belt High look forward to the future and whatever they plan on doing when they finally reach the end of their high school path. Senior Dani Urick looks forward to trading the halls of Belt School for those of a college dormitory.

Dani has lived in Belt for



her whole life, never venturing outside the valley to see what the vast world has to offer. To pass time Dani joined the basketball, volleyball, and track teams as well as participating in youth leadership. The student body of Belt is very small which results in a bond between the students that cannot be compared to those of larger schools. The bond that had formed between

Dani and her classmates is what she will miss the most and also what has created so many memories. The

group has done so much together that Dani can't even pick a favorite. Along with missing her classmates, Dani will also miss Mrs. Gliko and her favorite teachers Mrs. Graham and Mr. Cooper. In the words of Luke Bryan, Dani enjoys "hunting, fishing, and loving every day." While she is still unsure of what she is going to study, Dani plans to attend Montana State University Billings in the fall.

The Valley Voice wishes Dani and all the other seniors the best of luck as they continue their education and make their mark on the world.

By: Adelle Meissner

Wrestling

The Belt wrestling team has been busy in preparation for the state all-class tournament which is being held in Billings both today and tomorrow. In addition to daily practices, the Husky trio were victorious as they competed in numerous meets, traveling all over the state of Montana in search of new competition to further prepare them for the state tournament. Recently, one of these meets was hosted at home by Belt School.

Belt competes in the Southern B-C Division. Wrestlers must finish fourth or better at the divisional competition to qualify for the state meet. Two of the three Husky grapplers reached that milestone,



and will battle over the next two days to see how they stack up against the best the Treasure State has to offer. Coach Tim Lords will lead the boys in their quest to bring home state hardware.

Senior, Nolan Myrstol, wrestled in 5 matches, winning 4 of them, earning 3rd place in the 160 weight class. When asked to describe his favorite wrestling moment Myrstol answers "making it to state last year". As a junior, Myrstol won one match which was the first round of consolation and has high ambitions to improve on his personal record both today and tomorrow at the all-class State tournament and create more memories as he wrestles for the last time during his high school career.

Sophomore, Brandon Wall wrestled in 5 matches, winning 4 of them. The sophomore placed 3rd in the 132 weight class, allowing him to advance to state alongside Myrstol. Wall is looking forward to his second consecutive year qualifying for state. However, he has only been actively wrestling for the past couple weeks due to his hand

injury which landed the sophomore in a cast during the beginning of the wrestling season. "I'm excited to see all of the competition that the state tournament has to offer, it'll definitely be a challenge but I'm ready".

Junior, Matt Dollenger, came up short at the Divisional meet achieving 5th place, winning 4 out of 6 matches. This was his first season wrestling for the Huskies and the Belt community is proud of how much he has improved over the course of the season. Although he won't be wrestling in the state meet this year, he already has plans for next season, "I'm bummed that I didn't qualify for state this year, but it's just going to motivate me more for next year. I'm coming for you State 2019!"

The Montana all-class wrestling meet will be held today and tomorrow in Billings. As the Husky wrestlers make the trek this afternoon, the Belt community wants to wish the boys good luck as they strive to bring home some shiny hardware for Belt's halls.

By: Maggie Andrews

Puzzle	Calendar of Events	Spelling Bee
<p>This crown has been worn by two Belt students. Who is wearing the crown now?</p>  <p>Last week's answer was the set of Abby Gliko's pearly whites.</p>	<p>Feb 9th and 10th State Wrestling @ Metra-Park, 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.) Feb. 11th – Feb 13th State DECA Conference at Fairmont Feb 13th Board of Trustees Meeting @ 7:30 p.m. Feb. 14th K-2 Ski Trip @ Showdown Feb 14th 5th -8th Grade Spelling Bee @ 8:00 a.m. Feb 15th 3rd Quarter Mid-Term Feb 15th – Feb 17th District 8C Basketball Tournament @ Great Falls High Times TBD Feb 16th NO SCHOOL – Tournament Day Feb 21st – Feb 24th Northern C Divisional Basketball Tournament @ Four Seasons Arena Times TBD Feb 22st 5th Grade Snowshoeing Feb 26th Elementary Science Fair Feb 27th MS and HS Science Fair</p>	<p>The yearly spelling bee is coming in the next week, taking place on February 14th. As many students will be taking a chair in front of the school, it would be great if parents came to support their children in the joyous competition. This competition includes students from fourth grade to eighth grade, and hopefully, there is one brilliant student in this bunch that can sweep the contest winning the Belt Public School's Spelling Bee.</p> <p>The top three places in this contest will be taken to the county spelling bee where they will compete against other students their age from Cascade County. February 14th marks the day of a glorious competition of young minds as parents and students have the opportunity to come and enjoy the friendly contest, so don't forget to mark your calendar to come to the gymnasium for spelling fun!</p> <p>By: Natalie Larsen</p>

Valley Voice
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