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Belt Public School

The Valley Voice



Issue 12

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Win and Advance

Regular season play concluded for the Belt Lady Huskies on February 10th when they took on the Denton/Geyser/Stanford Bearcats in the dog house. The girls continued to showcase their talents the next weekend, February 15-17, in the Great Falls High gym during the 8C District Tournament. They kicked off the postseason with a game against the Centerville Miners, then moved on to play the Tri-City Titans, and finished the tournament with a title match against the Winnett/Grass Range Rams.

After passing up a bye in the first round (an option for the number one seed), Belt took on the Centerville Miners for their first game in the Bill Swarthout Fieldhouse. The Huskies dominated the

Miners in a 72 point victory, outscoring them 76-4. Centerville was held scoreless in the first half, while Belt accumulated 26 points in the first quarter and 17 in the second. After a ten minute half time, the teams took the floor for their third quarter of play. Belt continued to add to their side of the board, tacking on another 18 points, while the Miners added their first points of the game. With one quarter left to play, the score stood at 61-4. As the final buzzer sounded, Belt was victorious in the first round 76-4. The Huskies were led by Dani Urick, who added 17 points.

In the semifinal game, Belt was pitted against the Tri-City Titans who gave the Huskies their closest game during the regular season. The Husk-

ies were eager to outscore the Titans and with three quarters left to play, Belt was in control of the game 26-6. After a timeout, Belt continued to stop Tri-Cities. As the teams broke for halftime, the score sat at 42-19 in favor of the Huskies. The teams took the floor again after the intermission and the Huskies continued to outscore the Titans. With one quarter of play left, the board read Belt 52 Tri-Cities 23. The Huskies avenged their four point victory earlier this season with a 42 point against the Titans to advance to the district championship. Belt outscored Tri-Cities 70-28. The Huskies were led to triumph by Kolby Pimperton who amassed 22 points, 12 of which came from outside the arc.

Cont. Pg. 2

Boys Districts

Boys basketball tournament play kicked off last weekend, with districts held in the Great Falls High Fieldhouse. The Huskies, ranked second in the 8C Conference, faced off first against the Geraldine-Highwood Rivals, ranked sixth with a 6-12 record. Looking to advance to the semi-finals the Belt team came out with a solid effort in the first half, cruising to

a 32-13 lead. Geraldine-Highwood was unable to make a dent in the second half and Belt won 52-31. The teams leading scorers for the night were Hunter Vogl, with 14 points and Keagan Stroop with 11.

The next challenger was Winnett-Grass Range, who came out kicking. The first quarter was low scoring, with the Rams snatching up a marginal lead of 9-

7 by the end of the first stanza. The two teams remained neck and neck at the end of the first half in a very low scoring contest, and the score rested at 13-11 in favor of the Huskies when the teams adjourned to the locker room at the half. Belt increased their lead to 19-16 after three and prevailed 34-24 to advance to the title game.

Cont. Pg. 3

Girls' Basketball *(Continued)*

The Rams of Winnett/Grass Range stood as the final obstacle in the Huskies path to their ninth straight district title. Hungry for another trophy, Belt scored a quick 18 points in the first quarter and held the Rams to 10. A scoring drought in the second quarter allowed the Huskies only 4 points, while the Rams scored 8 cutting the lead to a mere four points going into the half. A pep talk from Coach Jeff Graham pulled the Huskies out of their lull and they added 15 points in the third quarter while holding the Rams to 5. Victory came for the Huskies as the final buzzer sounded and the scoreboard

read Belt 46 WGR 29. Belt was led by Urick who contributed 17 points for the Huskies ninth consecutive 8C title. The Huskies, along with Winnett/Grass Range and the third place team, Tri-Cities advanced to the divisional tournament at the Four Seasons Arena.

Yesterday, the Huskies kicked off the Northern C Divisional tournament against the Turner Tornadoes. Belt dominated the Tornadoes in a 60-20 victory. Tonight the Lady Huskies battle the Box Elder Bears in a semi-final match at 5:30. The game will be broadcast on KMON 560. With a win later today, Belt will have

an opportunity to play for its 8th consecutive Northern C title. A special tournament edition of the Voice on Wednesday, February 28th will detail divisional action and preview the state tournament set for the second weekend in March in Butte.

By: Adelle Meissner

Centerville	0	0	4	4
Belt	26	43	61	76
TCT	6	19	23	28
Belt	26	42	52	70
WGR	10	18	23	27
Belt	18	22	37	46

Cheer Competition

This past week, a few Belt students traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada to compete in the National Cheer Competition. Avery Newman, Kandice Stice and Andrew Stice have been a part of Montana

Storm Avalanche since the summer of 2017, traveling with all thirty-five of their teammates to Nationals. Kandice is also involved with Lady Ice, another team that went

Montana Storm Avalanche placed 1st in Nationals, competing against 400 other teams. The coach, Becky Acra, chose a mix of various songs and had the team perform a cheer routine involving many stunts and tumbling. The routine lasted around two minutes and thirty seconds and

the competition all together lasted around 13 hours each day, but it was worth it in the end. The team left Montana separately, depending on when they were available and returned on the 19th. The performance dates were the 16th and 17th.

The team was ecstatic with their win. "As soon as they announced our team, we all started crying and completely freaked out. Other people, such as our coach and supporters did the same." Newman stated. The weekend, overall, was a success for these three. Not only are their families and friends proud, but so is all of Belt.

By: Tori Sherwood



MS/HS Science Fair

On Monday and Tuesday the annual Middle and High School science fairs will commence. On the 26th middle school students will inhabit the library in order to present their projects. Then on the 27th the high school students will take their turn. Over the course of the last few months, middle and high school students worked on their science fair projects and are excited to

present their findings to the judges.

High school science teacher, Mrs. Horton believes it will go off without a hitch, and it will be an absolute success. She is thrilled to see the completed projects and can't wait to see students' findings. Mrs. Vogt, the middle school science teacher, also believes that this will be a fantastic experience for students and can't wait either.

All of the students also have the option to take their project to the science fair held at the college in Great Falls. The annual Belt Middle/High School Science fair is a great place to learn, and for some students it is the activity of the year. Parents are invited to come and learn themselves. Contact the school for more details (277-3351).

By: Natalie Larsen

Boys Districts *(Continued)*

The Championship game pitted the conference champion DGS Bearcats and the Belt Huskies. The Bearcats were responsible for the Belt's only two conference losses of the season and the boys were vying to regain victorious status over their long standing rivals.

The Bearcats came out hot right away, leaving the Belt team with only three points on the clock while DGS managed to compile a whopping 14 points in the first period of play. Belt picked up the pace a little in the second quarter, but the teams walked off the Bison floor with a score of 12-30 at the half.

Trailing 45-30 after three, the Huskies made a run, but came up short in the end. The final was 45-56. Brendan Wing donated a total of 16 points for the night in an effort to claw the boys back to victory and Troy Hennes closed out the game with 10 points. The efforts of the pair were no match for the DGS

offense which resulted in another Belt loss at the hands of DGS. Belt left the Great Falls High gymnasium with a very impressive second place finish in the 8C Conference and their ticket to advance to the next level of competition, divisionals. On Wednesday morning the boys crossed the Missouri River to do battle against the Heart Butte Warriors, champions of the 10C Conference.

The first eight minute period of play was one of quick transitions up and down the court, and along the way the Warriors gained the upper hand. It was 14-32 after one, leaving quite a bit of ground for the boys to remake in order to advance to the next level of play. The final score of 32-58, in favor of the Warriors, sent the Huskies off to the opposite end of the bracket in a fight to keep their State Tournament Dreams alive.

Yesterday afternoon Belt

Geraldine-Highwood	6	13	25	31
Belt	14	32	45	52
WGR	9	11	16	24
Belt	7	13	19	34
DGS	14	30	45	56
Belt	3	12	30	45

squared off against Fort Benton in loser out game. The Huskies kept their hopes alive with a 59-51 triumph. Today at 12:30 the Huskies face off against GFCC/MSDB in another win or go home match-up. Belt still has a chance to reach the state tourney if they can win two today and survive a challenge game tomorrow. The boys portion of the divisional tourney ends tonight and the girls wrap things up tomorrow.

Next week special edition of the Voice will provide more detail about the divisional games.

By: Shelby Paulson

State Wrestling

On February 9th, Nolan Myrstol and Brandon Wall represented the Belt Huskies as they competed in the All-Class State Wrestling Tournament which was held in Billings. The two Belt grapplers boys placed in the top three at divisionals, allowing them to advance to the State meet. Matt Dollenger placed 5^h at the Divisional meet, one match away from state qualification. However, he was able to travel with the team and support them at the state level.



Back at the Divisional meet, Myrstol wrestled in five matches, winning four of them, earning 3rd place in the 160 weight class allowing him to advance to the state tournament where he lost 0-2.

Wall also won four out of his five divisional matches, placing 3rd in the 132 weight class, allowing him to advance to state alongside Myrstol. At state, Wall wrestled in two matches but lost out due to the double elimination bracket.

However, he aspires to compete at the State Wrestling Tournament next year and improve on his personal record. Wall and Dollenger look forward to next year and the Belt community wishes them good luck. It was a successful senior campaign for Myrstol, a stalwart on the Husky wrestling team for each of the past four years.

By: Maggie Andrews

Spellink Bee



The annual Belt Spelling Bee took place on February 14th. While each participant did exceptionally well, there could only be one winner. Asa Jassen was the 2018 Spelling Bee champion, Madisen Feldman was the second place winner, and third place went to Zachary Feldman.

The last rounds were intense, as the number of competitors dwindled. Finally, Asa Jassen prevailed, becoming Belt's geography and spelling bee champion. Jassen's victory represents a rare Bee double, as he also won the Geography Bee in the fall.

The winning word came after Madisen Feldman spelled her final word wrong, which was lama

(the religious leader, not the pack animal). Jassen correctly spelled Feldman's word and then answered the championship word: facilitate. The letters came out fluidly, and a confident Jassen knew he had just won the 2018 Spelling Bee. The eighth grade class cheered, and even the attending high schoolers let out a few hollers.

The students love showing off how smart they are in these friendly competitions. The top two finishers (Asa Jassen and Madi Feldman,) will be competing in the county-wide spelling bee. Zach Feldman will be the alternate. The Belt student body and staff send them luck and support as these intelligent students move onto the next competition.

By: Natalie Larsen

President Trump Reducing National Monuments

President Donald Trump recently substantially reduced the size two national monuments in Utah: Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. Bears Ears was reduced by 85%, taking it from 1.3 million acres to two smaller units. Together they now total less than 230,000 acres. Meanwhile, Grand Staircase-Escalante was reduced by about half, going from 1.9 million acres to approximately a million acres.

The decisions made by President Trump and many he has consulted with are already being confronted in court as a violation of the United States Constitution and Antiquities Act of 1906. There is heated debate on both sides, and what unfolds could impact Montana as well.

Bears Ears was established by President Barack Obama in 2016, which was proposed by five Native American tribes. The tribes, Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, and Ute, all had a say in the care of this land, which they all have cultural ties to. Bears Ears has restrictions on mining and drilling, but does allow cattle grazing leases. To be precise, Bears Ears is protected from things that could harm the environment: looting, prospecting, oil and gas drilling.

Grand Staircase-Escalante was made by President Bill Clinton in 1996. At the time some rural residents of Utah were upset about the designation, because many ranchers and farmers depended on the land. Already, wilderness protection groups are protesting against its re-

duction.

Many are against the decisions made by Donald Trump, but how does this affect Montana? Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior, has proposed new monuments in the Treasure State. One is in Lewis and Clark National Forest. A Montana Native, Zinke offered the new 200 sq. mile national monument, claiming its importance to the Blackfoot tribes. While Zinke has supported cutting back some monuments, he supports adding some in his home state.

There is plenty of politicking going on, and the national debate over public will continue to be a part of it. This issue will be explored as news warrants in the upcoming weeks and months.

By: Aundrea Glick

Senior Center



The Belt Senior Center cares for many members of the community, providing meals, pal-

ates classes, and bingo. This February, every Monday and Thursday, palates are offered at 9:00 A.M., lunch at noon, with bingo following. The Senior Center was decorated for the month of love. Every third Wednesday of the month, the Senior Center celebrates all the birthdays of the

month, while every Tuesday, a bus is taken to town for three dollars. The center also provides meal service regularly. Consult the calendar for menu items and times. Mrs. Larocque holds tutoring at the Senior Center, and Darcy Darlington also holds dance lessons for children there.

By: Aundrea Glick

Mental Health

Should the “last best place” be leading the nation in suicide? Should the “last best place” be overtaken by depression? No, the residents of Montana, “the last best place,” have the power to change this stigma and promote health and prosperity across the United States, starting at home.

According to the U.S. Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Montana leads the nation in completed suicides. The rate of suicide in Montana is *twice* the national average, and five percent Montana’s adult population (1 of every 20) has seriously considered suicide. Montana adults, from 45-64 years of age, exhibit the highest suicide completion rate with suicide being more prevalent in the agricultural industry. Almost 50% of Montana adults who seriously consider suicide never access emotional health treatment services. Amongst Montana adolescents (12-17 years) one of every ten have attempted suicide at least one time. Approximately 60% of these adolescents never receive emotional health treatment as well. A study of text messages within the United States revealed that 30% of all text message conversations are about depression and suicide.

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services

reports that approximately one of every ten Montanans are diabetic. Heart disease and cancer are the leading causes of death in Montana and in the United States. There is no disgrace in talking about and/or seeking treatment for diabetes. A person is not disgraced to seek diagnosis and treatment for cardiovascular disease. It is not dishonorable to have cancer and receive treatment. People’s challenges, successes, questions and fears in regards to their experiences with diabetes, heart disease and cancer, physical health disorders, are shamelessly and commonly discussed. Discussion of emotional or mental health disorders, though, if they occur at all, for the most part, take place under a dark and ominous cloud of disgrace and humilia-

tion.

Montana has an abundance of rich culture. A culture of death (by suicide) should not have Montana in its clutches. Mental health disorders are just as important and physically draining as diabetes, heart disease and other medical diagnoses. It is imperative to take action to dissipate the cloud of mental health stigma that has settled over Montana, eliminate the culture of death and create a culture of positive emotional health.

Belt residents have the power and it is our individual and collective responsibility to ensure Montana is “The Last BEST Place” and a mentally healthy, positive environment that promotes the happiness of residents.

By: Adelle Meissner

In order to keep our state and even our country mentally healthy we must:

1. Know the warning signs of suicide risk and act if you see them. You may save a life!
2. Learn how to help a person who is at risk of suicide and, as the Nike slogan reads, “Just Do It”.
3. Download Alliance for Youth’s #LetsTalk app so suicide warning signs and resources to help people at risk of suicide are at your fingertips. You may save the life of someone’s brother, mother, aunt, grandparent or best friend.
4. Save the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-8255) in your phone and share the number with others. The Lifeline provides free, confidential emotional support to people 24/7/365.
5. Save the Montana Crisis Text Line. Text “MT” to “741 741”.
6. Talk openly about emotions
7. Create an accepting and positive environment

Super Bowl LII

Sunday, February 4th, Super Bowl LII took place. Many Montanans tuned in, whether it was at a bar, restaurant, or the comfort of their own homes. Families and friends gathered around with their not so healthy food and drinks, while rooting for whichever team. The national celebration known as the Super Bowl took place between the New England Patriots and the

Philadelphia Eagles.

Most students in Belt favored the Eagles. In a poll of history class students, the final count was 63-20, hopeful of a Philly victory.

Last year’s game, for example, took quite a turn when the Patriots were down 25 points by the 3rd quarter. In the fourth quarter the game went into overtime and the

Patriots eventually won. This year the Patriots fans waited and waited for their comeback to occur, as it did last year, and it never happened.

By half time the score was 22-12 with the Eagles taking the lead. In the end the score was forty-one to thirty-three, giving the Eagles their first Super Bowl victory, making some Montanans happy.

By: Tori Sherwood

Senior Night

Throughout the years Belt residents have seen many talented seniors step onto the gym floor for the last time as they celebrate their final home game of the season. This year is no different as 12 seniors commemorated their high school sports careers with a ceremonial walk across the gym floor. This tradition is a joyous time for the seniors and their parents as they look forward to the future, but remembered the times of the past four years

This year's seniors that have participated in basketball are Ryan Schraner, Briana Wall, Adrian Malek, Dani Urick, Trey Heitzman, Brayden Haugrose, Troy Hennes, Antonio Heaton, and Keagan Stroop. Other seniors that participated in activities are Jordan Swanson and Hannah Schweitzer in cheerleading, and Nolan Urick in wrestling. As for the coaches, Graham said "They are all very dedicated kids who helped lead our teams numerous conference, district, and divisional titles. They have also been involved in many school programs and activities. They are going to be very missed next year.", and Paulson declared "I am going to miss their grit and their

toughness. Their style of play may not have always been considered pretty or flashy, but they have consistently found ways to grind out success and that is a testament to their perseverance." Paulson also added "I want to thank the seniors for allowing me to coach them and for making it a fun and memorable ride." The seniors who stepped on to the home court for the last time were sad but are excited for the upcoming tournaments.

February 9th was bound to be a distraught night, as the seniors warmed-up and played their final game on the home court. The coaches will miss these players dearly as they enter the next phase of their lives, but couldn't be prouder of everything they have achieved in their high school careers.

By: Natalie Larsen



Senior super fans Shannon Hoskins, Ashley Triviso, and Cristina Fernandez

Math Counts

Math Counts is a yearly event that many students in Belt Middle School participate in. Mrs. Meissner is the organizer of this event, and has taken students to Math Counts for nine years. Math Counts took place on Wednesday, February 7th, and 10 students took off to Great Falls to participate. Asa Jassen, Ahmia Lords, Brady Drummond, Molly Tingey, Raily Gliko, Charla Hook, AJ Hook, Lindsey Paulson, Piper Denno and Sarah Dollenger were the eighth grade students selected as they were deemed the best math students in the class of 2022.

This year, sadly, Meissner couldn't take the ten outstanding students due to being sick, but Mrs. Virts,

a well-known substitute at Belt Public School, took the middle school students to compete in this prestigious event. It took place at the Great Falls College all day, and this year Belt brought home a top finisher. Asa Jassen placed in the top four which gives him the right to move on to the state competition in Butte. This is the highest that any Belt student has placed at Math Counts.

Lindsey Paulson stated that "Math Counts was definitely challenging, but worth going to, because it was fun, and I learned a lot." Eighth grade students always enjoy this activity, and do exceptionally well. The community is very proud of the way this year's eighth grade students represented Belt, and how well the students did in the competition.

By: Natalie Larsen



Summer Jobs

As the drudgery of the school year grinds on, sweltering summer gets closer. Although everyone loves running around free as a bird, sometimes it can get boring, especially when there's nothing to do except work on an exceptional tan. Parents and older family members always stress the fact that by a certain age a teenager should have a job. Summer is the perfect opportunity to get a job considering the fact that there is no school or other activities to get in the way, unless the student is participating in summer basketball, volleyball, football, or theater camps.

Although Belt is a very small town, there are many opportunities to do work for money. Teens can apply at the Belt Public swimming pool and become a life-guard, apply for a job at the store, or even do simple chores for the elderly. Not to mention there is a new coffee shop being built where the old café was. *Jack's Beans* has been under construction for a few

weeks now and it will hopefully be opened by the end of the school year, allowing many students to apply there and get the job.

Having a job is considered a great responsibility, and will most likely earn parents trust and a few bucks. Money is always a good thing to have, even if it's just to go shopping with friends, to the movies, out to eat, or just to save.

Great Falls is also a great opportunity to get a job, although most employers do require the applicant to be at least 16 years old. As mentioned before doing chores for family members or even just family friends would be a pretty good job. Chores like cleaning their homes, tending to their yards, or even washing their cars are some options.

When a person applies for a job they will fill out an application and send it in. If the employer is interested sometimes they will call the person in for an interview or maybe just give the job to them

then and there. Depending on what type of job the person is applying for the process might change somewhat. Sometimes the person will need experience and/or references. Mr. Koontz, the history teacher at Belt Public School, often provides letters of reference for Belt students. Remember to notify any person if using them as reference for a job.

As a teen, getting a job can be difficult, as can the transition from being a care-free youngster to having to mature and take care of responsibilities. However, jobs also come with benefits that will be worth it in the long run. For more information on jobs in Great Falls go to www.indeed.com/l-Great-Falls,-MT-jobs.html and for jobs in Belt, visit www.indeed.com/l-Belt,-MT-jobs.html. Also consider just helping parents or family members out during the summer, because there's usually someone needing a hand.

By: Tori Sherwood

Springtime is coming soon, and that means those winter weather roads are turning to slush, which is just as if not more dangerous. This means that drinking and driving is definitely not an option, and can put more than just your life in danger. 10,000 lives are taken due to drunk driving every year, and it is easy for anyone to contribute to this high number. With such large numbers dying every year due to drunk driving it is important, now more than ever to be careful, and never make the wrong choices when alcohol or drugs are involved.

The most important things to think about when going out on the weekends is how to get home. Always make a plan, and never risk getting in the car and driving away. Everyone's actions will affect more than just themselves, it can take anyone's life at any moment. This springtime make a plan, buckle up, and...

Never Drink and Drive!

This message brought to you by your
Cascade DUI Task Force



Student Teacher

There is a new presence in Mr. Ross’s English class. Miranda Woodhouse, a 2014 graduate of Fort Benton, started studying at the University of Montana Western in Dillon to become a teacher. The requirements to become a teacher led Woodhouse to Belt Public School to be a student teacher. She will be at Belt School for seven more weeks, and to complete her work here, she has to prove that she has the skills to become a teacher. As Mr. Ross puts it, he will be ‘fading into the background of the classroom and Ms. Woodhouse will be taking over’.



The whole point of being a student teacher to is to gain experience in a classroom and to see what it is like to be a teacher. Ms. Woodhouse has taken charge in Mr. Ross’s classroom and she will continue to lead the discussions and lessons until her final days. Ms. Woodhouse has to be evaluated by Mr. Ross and by her evaluating teacher, Mr. Miller to complete her student teaching. They will be looking to see if she has adequate teaching skills. “By the end of my time here, I should be able to handle a class and interact with students well, and I should be able to design by own

lessons and units, as well as other demands of teaching.” Woodhouse stated.

Everyone seems to be enjoying Ms. Woodhouse’s company and vice versa. Since she is learning from Mr. Ross, who just last year was recognized for the Excellence Teachers Award in Atlanta, Georgia. Woodhouse plans to pursue teaching in the future, and wishes to do that in this area, due to the fact that she works on her family’s farm.

As Ms. Woodhouse continues on her journey to become an amazing teacher, the Belt Public School and everyone else wishes her luck and will miss her dearly when her time in the valley is done.

By: Tori Sherwood

Snow Recipes

Spring is supposed to come any time soon, but it doesn't look like anything will grow soon. Snow may seem like a brutal, relentless substance that falls from the sky, but it's not. Although this weather has caused many slide-offs and roll overs, here are a few good uses for snow. Just like how you’re supposed to make lemonade when life gives you lemons, when life gives you snow make these delightful pleasures.

By: Sydne Flinn

Maple Syrup Snow Candy

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of maple syrup (100% pure)
- A pot and a pan
- Popsicle sticks
- A candy thermometer
- Freshly fallen snow

1. Collect snow in pan and fully cover and pack it in, keep outside until ready.
2. Pour syrup in pot and turn on high (be careful it will boil fast)
3. Take temperature of maple syrup until it reaches about 235°F
4. Bring pot outside and do it there or bring pan inside
5. Pour boiling syrup onto the pan of snow, in strips

Immediately take a popsicle stick and press and roll around in syrup

Snow Ice Cream

Ingredients:

- 2 medium bowls of fresh snow
- 1 can of sweetened condensed milk
- 2 tbsp. of vanilla or peppermint extract

1. Collect at least two bowls of fresh powder,
2. Take out a can of sweetened condensed milk, a spoon and any extract.

Take one bowl and slowly mix with a spoon in sweetened condensed milk then add a couple of chosen extract until ice cream density. With the two bowls of snow, one can of sweetened condensed milk and a couple drops of vanilla a large quantity of ice cream will be made.

Hot Chocolate Slushy

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp. of cocoa powder/ hot chocolate mix
- 1 ¾ cups of milk
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 2 glasses of snow (may need more to keep consistency)
- Bowl and spoon

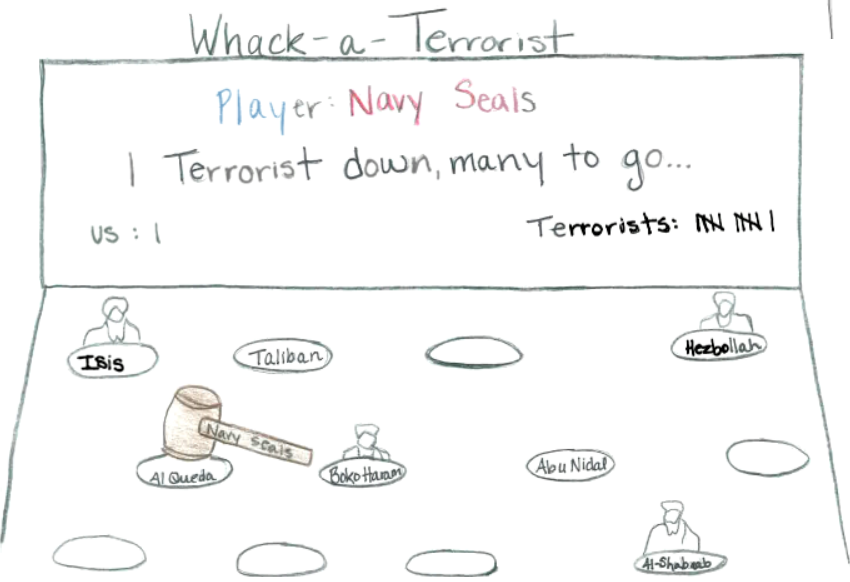
1. Mix together cocoa powder, milk, and vanilla until smooth and no clumps.

Pour mixture in glasses of snow until slushy texture

Political Cartoons

The Government class, taught by Mr. Koontz, recently wrapped up their political cartoon unit. This course is required for all seniors. The main goal is to teach students how the U.S. and Montana governments operate. Students designed their cartoons on local, state, national or international topics, allowing students to express their opinions to full extent, giving the cartoons a wide range of themes.

By: Maggie Andrews



Finally some cooperation

DECA State Conference

The Belt DECA had an outstanding three days at the Montana State DECA conference that was held at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. The toupee had a five girls who qualified in first and second place for the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Atlanta, Georgia in late April. Many of the other members did exceptionally well placing in the top 3 or 4 in their respective event.

The tremendous trio of freshman Livvy Shelton, junior Tori Shelton, and senior Hannah Schweitzer received a second place finish in Hospitality and Tourism Operations Research. They helped E and S Recovery LLC spread the word to their young adult clients that the company became a “safe place”. The company partnered with the #LetsTalk movement and helped promote their causes.

The dynamic duo of sophomores Maggie Andrews and Keely Drummond placed first in their Public Relations Project. The sophomores partnered with Alliance for Youth in order to become the “youth voice” for the app #LetsTalk. They developed their own campaign in Belt to help fight the stigma of exclusion which can

untimely lead to depression and wrote and directed a short film that showcased how a mental illness can affect anyone.

Senior Troy Hennes, T. Shelton, and Schweitzer were finalists in their role play events. In this category, the contestants were given a scenario and then had ten or thirty minutes to prepare and present the case to the judges. Troy Hennes placed 7th in Automotive Service Management and has a change to attend nationals. T. Shelton and Schweitzer also received 7th place in Hospitality and Tourism Team Decision Making.

Many other groups’ received excellent ratings on their projects. Sophomores Natalie Larsen and Avery Newman placed 3rd in Learn and Earn Project, T. Shelton and Schweitzer placed 3rd in Community Service Project, N. Larsen and freshman Riley Larsen placed 4th in Startup Business, senior Trey Heitzman and Hennes placed 6th in Advertising Campaign. Freshman Sierra Reece and sophomore William Franzen placed 8th and 10th in Financial Consulting Event, freshman Treyton Hennes placed 10th in Hospitality and Tourism Professional Selling, sophomore Anthony

Wall and Heitzman placed 10th and 11th in Professional Selling.

While some of the members did not qualify for ICDC in Atlanta, they do have the opportunity to bump up into the positions to attend the international conference. All of the members had to take a General Marketing Exam that was to break any ties if necessary, Troy Hennes had the highest chapter score for the exam.

Many freshmen went to Fairmont with the upperclassman for the state conference and had an exciting time. Riley Larsen and Sierra Reese both agreed that the best part was meeting new friends and the overall experience. The girls also said that they know what to expect for next year and realize how much they need to prepare so their nerves are gone. Anna Pethel, also a freshman, said that she was expecting the conference to be a lot harder and more “formal and uptight” but it was more relaxing and easy going which was better for a first-timer. Overall, the Montana State DECA conference that was held at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort was both an exceptional learning experience and great fun.

By: Keely Drummond

Bucket Drummers

Friday the 9th was full of amazing athletic performances including a half-time performance that blew the crowd away. The Husky Club Bucket Drummers provided a unique half-time show.

The drummers prepared for a quite a bit of time, and practiced in the classroom of Mr. Sutton, the K-12 music teacher in Belt. The performers showed off their skill at the last Husky home basketball

games to the delight of all in attendance. The sequences that they performed were all composed by Sutton, and many of them drew the crowd to its feet.

Mrs. Swanson believed the performance went well, and would really like to thank all of their sponsors: North 40, Ace Hardware, and Home Depot for providing the buckets. They would also like to thank Belt Valley Bank, Montana

Ranch Insurance, Harvest Moon Saloon, Belt Valley Grocery, and Belt Chiropractic for funding the t-shirts. Bucket drumming was an initiative of Ms. Stacy Stimpson, former Belt teacher.

The community was proud of the young Huskies as they blew away the crowd, and showcased their talent for the basketball game for spectators to enjoy.

By: Natalie Larsen

Valentine's Day

From locker to locker, balloons filled the hallways of Belt Public School for Valentine's Day. Students, staff, and parents for the past weeks bought balloons for their loved ones to brighten their day on February 14th. The balloons were sold by the juniors in order to raise money for this year's prom, taking place March 17th. All students also received Valentine's Day themed pencils taped to their locker or cub-

by, courtesy of the school.

Many elementary classes and some middle school, participated in class activities to celebrate the holiday. Boxes were cut with holes to fit tiny valentines. Also on this day, at Husky Time the high schoolers helped the little Huskies make arts and crafts for Big Husky/Little Husky discussed more in the article below.

Most people like the holiday

because he or she hope to receive gifts—including chocolates, flowers, and balloons—whilst giving them too.

Many Belt couples like enjoying a night in Great Falls. Although sales were down a bit from previous years, the juniors had a successful sales campaign and now they can plan for the gala event that is prom.

By: Sydne Flinn

Big Husky/Little Husky

On Valentine's Day, February 14th, the high schoolers of Belt Public School interacted with the youngsters of the elementary. The goal of Big Husky/Little Husky is to secure a bond between the student body. The third quarter session came just before the midterm grading point of the quarter. The half an hour allowed the older students to understand just how much the younger students look up to them. It also allows the young students to get closer to their role models, the high schoolers who help them with their projects.

The senior class visited the kindergarten during this session. The group made friendship necklaces with their "Little Husky." The friendship necklaces were made between the young student and their high school partner. The necklaces are something that seniors and the youngster can keep in their memory box forever. Briana Wall enjoyed the bond that she now has with her little husky because of their necklaces. Ryan Schraner's favorite part was helping the kids pick out a pattern for their beads. The connection between the oldest and youngest of Huskies was a pleasure to witness, and provided a nice break for all the students and teachers involved in the project.

While the most recent session and the agonizing pain of a paper cut of Big Husky/Little Husky was on Maggie Andrews enjoyed seeing all Valentine's Day, the juniors and their the creations and the smiles on the younger partners were more focused kids' faces. on the academic opportunity the program provides. Since it is 'I Love to Read Month', Mrs. Waldner had the juniors not make Valentine's Day themed objects. The juniors instead each picked two buddies from the first grade class, and together the trio read books. Each of the younger students had a book and they took turns reading them to the older huskies. Robbie Gliko very much enjoyed hearing the kids read to him and remembering what it was like when he was that little. Raenita Berlinger had a great time when she read to the kids, enjoying the opportunity to interact with the younger students of Belt.



The sophomore class interacted with the third graders of Belt Elementary. The two classes are about equal in size and each young Husky had a high school partner. The groups each prepared a bag for the class' Valentine's Day party. The bags featured a range of animals from penguins to fox. The construction of the bags proved to be a little challenging when Ms. McNally informed the groups that the animals had to be constructed from hearts only. Shelby Paulson enjoyed remembering how to use scissors again

and the agonizing pain of a paper cut. Maggie Andrews enjoyed seeing all the creations and the smiles on the kids' faces.

The freshmen class is the smallest of the high school. The underclassmen of the high school entertained the second graders for the half an hour allotted to Big Husky/Little Husky. The two classes merged for a Valentine's Day activity. Together, the two cut out hearts and paint over the cutouts on paper. Zach Buskirk enjoyed seeing the kids' creativity and their imagination when the picked out the paint and cut out the hearts. Petra Kelly had fun just being around the younger kids and telling them about high school.

The third session of Big Husky/Little Husky was a success in securing a bond between the older and younger members of the Belt student body. Although the high schoolers only spend their husky-time with the little kids, he thirty minute period allowed the them to see just how much the little ones enjoy spending time with them with the high schoolers being who the kids want to be when they get older. The program also allows the young pups to get to know their role models that much better. Big Husky/Little Husky is a great program that strengthens the student body.

By: Adelle Meissner

Puzzle	Calendar of Events
<p data-bbox="110 178 414 241">Whose eyebrows are on fleek (fly and sleek)?</p>  <p data-bbox="138 856 381 961">The answer to last week's answer was Keely Drummond.</p>	<p data-bbox="435 178 1477 409"> Feb. 21st – 23rd Boys Divisional Basketball Tournament @ 4 Seasons Times TBA Feb. 22st – 24rd Girls Divisional Basketball Tournament @ 4 Seasons Times TBA Feb. 26th Elementary Science Fair Feb. 27th Middle School/High School Science Fair Feb. 28th K-2 Ski Trip @ Showdown March 1st – 3rd Boys State Basketball @ Butte Times TBA March 8th – 10th Girls State Basketball @ Butte Times TBA </p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="836 436 1112 483" style="text-align: center;">Featured Staff</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div data-bbox="435 508 836 976" style="width: 45%;"> <p data-bbox="435 508 836 976">This issue of the <i>Valley Voice</i> features first grade teacher, Lisa Waldner. Mrs. Waldner has been working at Belt School for four years, teaching pre-K for a year and 1st grade for three. The Malta native attended one year at Montana State University in Bozeman and then continued earning her bachelors from Montana State Northern in Havre. She is currently in the process of earning her Master's degree from Lesley University. While</p> </div> <div data-bbox="836 508 1112 871" style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">  </div> <div data-bbox="1112 508 1518 976" style="width: 40%;"> <p data-bbox="1112 508 1518 976">visiting her grandparents at their family ranch near Raynesford, Mrs. Waldner fell in love with the area and chose to teach in Belt. When asked what her favorite part about being a teacher was, she answered "I love watching and helping them learn. I especially love their excitement when they figure out something." When she's not busy in the classroom, Mrs. Waldner likes to read, spend time with family, and watch Netflix.</p> <p data-bbox="1177 940 1461 976" style="text-align: right;">By: Maggie Andrews</p> </div> </div>

Valley Voice
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