



# The Valley Voice



Belt Public School

23 March 2018

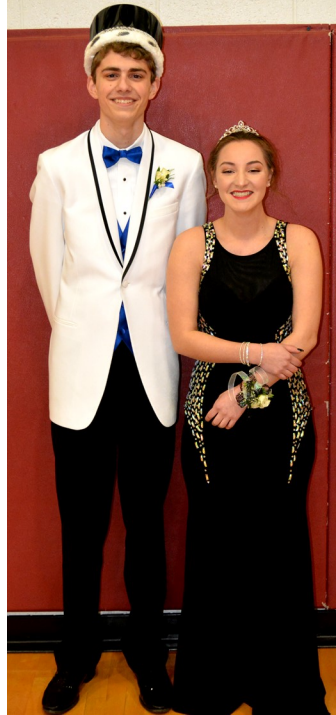
Issue 14

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## A Night to Remember

Last Saturday, many students spent the day doing various tasks such as picking up flowers, getting hair and makeup done, and taking pictures all in preparation for going to prom. "A Night in Neon" this year was hosted by the junior class. Prom is a time where many students have the chance to dress up and spend the night having the time of their life. The dance was chaperoned by Mr. Paulson, Mr. Hoyer, Mrs. Tillman, and Mrs. Prody. Many of the high schoolers went out to dinner in groups before meeting at the school for the night activities to begin. They gathered in front of a back drop while Cora Creek Photography snapped photos that captured the prom-goers' vivid excitement. Everyone then



made their way down to the gymnasium for the Grand March. This is the event where parents, siblings, and other family members get the chance to see the guys and gals all dresses up.

During the Grand March, the new prom king and queen were crowned by last year's royalty, Nolan Myrstol and Shannon Hoskins. Brendan Wing and Sam Vaughan were voted as prom king and queen this year. Vaughan said that her favorite part of prom was taking pictures and being crowned queen.

Sophomore Mika Haagenon noted that prom went smoother this year since she was not a rookie. "My favorite part was getting my hair and makeup done and hanging out with friends all night."

*Cont. Pg. 2*

## Spring Hoops

As middle school basketball continues, there is no doubt that the athletes can perform to the standard of excellence associated with Belt basketball. In the past fortnight, the middle schoolers of Belt went head to head with the Denton/ Geyser/Stanford Bearcats in Geyser and then came back home to showcase their talents, facing off against the Centerville Miners, The Tri-City Titans, and the Roy/ Winifred Outlaws. The "B" teams are dashing off to undefeated seasons, while the "A" teams suffered heartbreaking losses last Saturday.

The girls "B" team is poised for another undefeated season. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, they headed to Geyser for a match-up against the Bearcats. The young Huskies added another tally to their win column when they defeated DGS 24-13. The girls were eager to show their hometown all the skills they've learned and improved this season as they played the Centerville Miners for their first home game of the year. Belt cinched a victory over the Miners 27-25. The team strived to reach their full potential and the effort paid off.

*Cont. Pg. 3*

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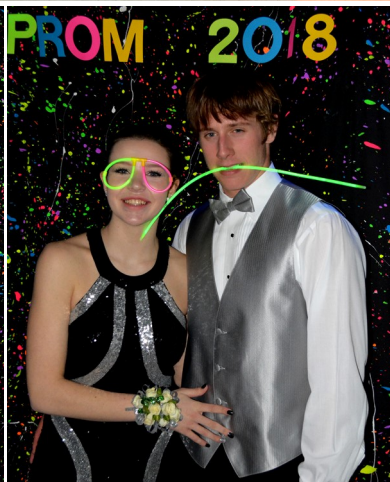
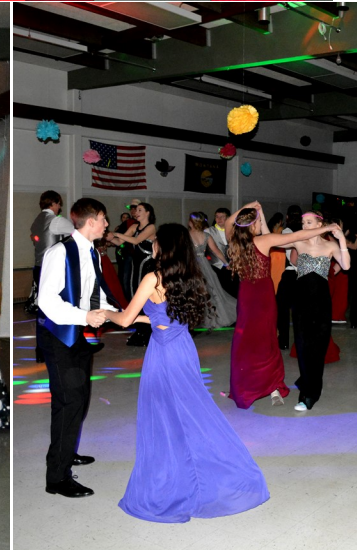
# Valley Voice

## A Night in Neon (Continued)

On the other hand, Livvy Shelton, a freshman, noted that her first prom experience was really fun. "I sort of had an idea what to expect since I have older sisters, but I loved it. My favorite part was getting ready with my friends and taking pictures with everyone," said Shelton

The junior class spent many long hours in preparation to make this year's prom a success. With this being said, many people were still dancing when prom ended at eleven. Prom this year was a huge success do the amount of effort put in by the might class of 2019.

**By: Keely Drummond**



## Middle School Sports *(Continued)*

The girls outscored Tri-Cities 38-13 and then turned around to triumph over the Outlaws 30-18.

The girls "A" team only has one loss to their record this year. The Huskies gained three wins these last two weeks and accumulated their loss to the Roy/Winifred Outlaws. On the 5th, the girls headed to Geyser where they outscored the Bearcats 31-13. The team then came to the dog house for their first home games. Home court advantage seemed to be favoring the Huskies as they triumphed over the Centerville Miners 41-25 and the Tri-City Titans 28-22. Many of the Winifred/Roy Outlaws had the opportunity to play on the high school team last season. The superiority and experience the Outlaw girls gained showed as they defeated the Huskies 16-48. The Huskies were led by Lindsey Paulson who had a stellar performance, scored 14 of the 16 Husky points.

The boys "B" team has also gotten off to the start of an undefeated season. The Huskies the trip out to Geyser for a game against the Bearcats. In a low scoring match, Belt held DGS to 19 points while the Huskies accumulated 23. After

the kicking off the season with two away games, the boys were excited to be playing in the dog house. The eagerness to play in front of the community led the boys to a 3-0 record at home. The Huskies outscored the Centerville Miners in a Thursday night matchup 35-15. The Tri-City Titans made the trip to Belt last Thursday. As the final buzzer sounded, the scoreboard read Belt 28 TCT 20, yet another victory for the young Belt boys. The Huskies wrapped up their weekend on Saturday with a home game against the Roy/Winifred Outlaws. Belt had high hopes for an undefeated season and the boys were happy to keep the streak alive, outscoring the Outlaws 41-25.

The boys "A" team only has one loss to their record this season. The boys grabbed three quick victories these last two weeks while also adding their first loss. To get the week off to a great start, the boys played a Monday night game against the Bearcats on the the 5th. Both teams were held below thirty points, but the Huskies prevailed 28-12. Coming home for a trio of games, the Huskies accumulated two more victories. Centerville

made the short trip to Belt for a Thursday night matchup. The teams went back and forth with the lead, but Belt ran away with it after sixth grader Reese Paulson hit two threes in the last two minutes. Belt gained added a win to their record after defeating the Miners 44-40. Belt held the lead throughout the whole game against the Tri-Cities Titans and when the final buzzer rang it was Belt who was in control of the game 36-19. Along with the girls, some of the Outlaw boys also had the opportunity to play on the high school team. The skills the boys had gained, were superior to that of the Huskies and the Belt boys gained their first loss after losing to Winifred/Roy 33-47.

The young athletes will be back tonight. The fourth and final game in their string of home competitions kicks off at 4:00 this afternoon against the DGS Bearcats. The girls "B" team will begin the games followed by the boys "B" team, the girls "A" team, and to wrap up the night, the boys "A" team. The Huskies will then head to Winnett for a set of contests against the Rams starting at 11:00 a.m.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

*Come dance the afternoon away at the*

### **Vies and Viaras** **Bows and Boutonnieres** *2018 Elementary Ball*



Adults are welcome

Photography packages will be available

Light refreshments will be provided

**Sunday March 25th, 2018**

**2 pm to 4 pm at the Belt School Cafeteria**

**Tickets: \$15 per adult-child group (\$5 for each additional adult or child).**

**All proceeds will go to Belt DECA**

The final fundraiser for the Belt DECA chapter before heading off to the International Career Development Conference is the first ever Elementary Ball. Many of the elementary students attended the Grand March for the high school prom last weekend and witnessed the handsome boys in their tuxedos and the beautiful girls in their dresses. This only amplified the excitement for the day when they have the chance to dress up in dresses and tuxes.

Tickets can be purchased in advance by contacting the school or they will be available at the door. There will be light refreshments and picture packets will be available.

**By: Keely Drummond**

## Adams' Art

Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, Belt Public School's very own art teacher (Troy Adams) and his son (Hunter Adams), who is a freshman that attends Belt High School, participated in an auction to help raise money for a local wildlife conservation by the Great Falls Safari Club International Chapter. The auction took place at the Best Western Heritage Inn in Great Falls, and lasted from around 4 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Adams' were featured as a father/son quick draw, which had previously never been done before at



the banquet. "It is extremely rare to have both a parent and one of their off-spring both participating as featured artists at one event." Mr. Adams stated in an email. They were the only featured artists in the auction.

Both drawings had to be completed around the time that the auction started, so they had approximately three hours to finish them. With an audience of around 500 people, it's quite a shock to find that both of the Adams' drawings were bought by the same person.

Hunter has been requested for the last three years to participate in the auction, a huge honor. So far, he is the youngest artist to be featured at the banquet. "The Great Falls Safari Club International Chapter is the 2nd largest in the entire nation, and can afford pretty much any artist they want. So it is a pretty



big deal that they have requested Hunter's artwork the last 3 years." said the elder Adams.

They both decided to draw the same buck, but in different positions, and with different art mediums. Hunter drew with charcoal and pencil (lower left) and Mr. Adams drew with just pencil (upper right). Between them, they raised over \$1,200, and over the past 3 years Hunter has raised over \$5,000 from his spectacular drawings.

**By: Tori Sherwood**

## St. Patrick's Day

Every year when the month of March rolls around the thoughts of spring and summer are on everyone's mind but often time's people forget about the luckiest holiday of the year St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick's Day takes place on March 17th every year and is holiday traditionally celebrated by the Irish people. Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. He was born in a Roman Britain but was kidnapped and brought to Ireland by the time he was 16. St. Patrick later escaped but did return to Ireland. He is credited with bringing Christianity to the Irish people. After his death on March 17th 461 A.D. his story became ingrained in the Irish culture. A famous myth is that Saint Patrick explained the Ho-

ly Trinity by using the shamrock, a native clover to the Irish and the symbol for St. Patrick's Day.

Due to the United States consisting of immigrants from many different places, when a famine hit the Irish in the 19<sup>th</sup> century many of them immigrated to the United States bringing with them their culture, particularly the belief in St. Patrick's Day. Over the past centuries the Irish have religiously taken a part of the St. Patrick's Day festivities but oddly the first ever parade held on St. Patrick's Day was in the United States. This holiday is widely celebrated throughout the United States by wearing the color green. There have even been common punishments for not wearing the color green, although minor it inspires people to take part in the

St. Patrick's Day tradition.

The St. Patrick Day's festivities will take place on a Saturday this year, meaning the celebrations within the school will be limited. Since 1793, when the first St. Patrick's Day Parade was held in New York City, the Irish holiday has become a part of American culture. Even in places like Butte, Montana, where the Irish population is high, the holiday is celebrated extensively. They have parades and parties all over the town. With St. Patrick's Day ingrained in many American families the town of Belt is surely no different when it comes to celebrating. It's a cool characteristic of America that the nation embraces the traditions of one of its ethnic groups and shares it as a country.

**By: Natalie Larsen**

## Senorita Hiatt's Award

Last week the middle and high school Spanish room was a festive place, as it was discovered that Senorita Hiatt had won the prestigious Montana Association of Language Teachers' (MALT) Foreign Language Teacher of the Year award. Hiatt has been a member of MALT for twenty one years, even serving as vice president and president of the organization for a period of time. MALT is a foundation of language teachers throughout Montana where members enjoy assistance and resources in order for them to become better teachers.

Hiatt states "It's been a great resource for me, since I am the lone Spanish teacher in two different schools." The group meets twice a year and this April Hiatt will be presented her award.

She found out she was up for this award back in December and had to complete several projects in order to be considered. These tasks were getting letters of recommendation from colleagues and administrators, explaining how her curriculum aligns to the national

standards, showing student work examples, updating and submitting a resume, creating a few essays on the value of foreign language learning and a five-page reflective commentary. Hiatt put a lot of hard work into earning this award so when she found out about a week ago that she had won she was definitely honored and felt proud to be recognized for the effort.

Hiatt is certainly humble but proud of the honor, saying in a email, "I truly don't feel I'm the BEST foreign language teacher in Montana, so in some ways I don't feel deserving of this honor. Nonetheless, I am truly committed to this profession, & definitely love it, so it feels great to be recognized for my hard work."

The Belt students are blessed to have such a great language teacher and although Hiatt doesn't regard herself as the best students of the Belt middle and high school know she is definitely one of the best as she has helped many students over the years understand the Spanish language and culture as well. Of course with Hiatt's excite-

ment comes the anxiety because her name will be submitted to the Pacific Northwest Council on Foreign Languages (PNCFL)

for the Pacific Northwest Foreign Language Teacher of the Year. Hiatt will be competing against many other outstanding language teachers from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Wyoming. Hiatt won't find out until next fall whether or not she won this contest. The winner of this competition will then move on the national contest.

Hopefully, Senorita Hiatt will do well in the Pacific Northwest region, especially as the Belt community is wishing her good luck on this next level of competition. Congratulations Mrs. Hiatt and the valley voice hopes for a win on the next level of competition.

**By: Natalie Larsen**



## National Pi (π) Day

On Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, National Pi Day took place. Although nobody really took the time to celebrate it, as it was not a "real" holiday, math classrooms throughout the nation took time to note the importance of the number that is so valuable in math classes around the world.

This year was Pi Day's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, making the day even more special. Although Pi has been around for over two millennia or so, it wasn't until 1988 that Larry Shaw, a physicist, created Pi day. He chose the date the 14<sup>th</sup> of March or 3.14, which are the first three digits of Pi. "Pi represents the ratio

of a circle's circumference to its diameter. It's an important part of the foundation of mathematics, most importantly geometry, where pi is key to equations calculating the area of a circle,  $A = \pi r^2$ , and the volume of a cylinder,  $V = \pi r^2 h$ ," stated Eli Meixler in an article.

Here in Belt, Pi Day was celebrated throughout the entire school day in Mrs. Graham's room (the high school math room). The geometry class was given a worksheet about *The Perfect Bracket* and a women's and men's divisional bracket to fill out. They also watched a video

about Pi and of course, got a piece of pie to eat. The other math classes also had Pi activities and got to enjoy a delicious slice of pie.

National Pi Day is a great opportunity to celebrate mathematical equations and circle's, while getting to eat pie. Throughout the classrooms across the world Pi day is celebrated, it might be by eating pie or just learning about it.

The students appreciated the effort of Mrs. Graham and thanked her for putting a fun spin on the sometimes dry subject of math.

**By: Tori Sherwood**

## Construction

Dick Anderson Construction Company has been working hard to bring the bond levy to life. Classrooms and hallways are starting to take their final forms as the finishing deadline grows closer and closer. The student body is building with anticipation as more noticeable elements of the construction project come together. The most recent progress that has been made is the new entrance into the main school building, which has the student body teeming with excitement for the finalization of the enormous project. The main entrance (by the student parking lot) is now the school's sole point of access and is aimed at creating an even safer learning environment for the students, staff and faculty of the Belt School.

Part of the overall project holds the goal of increased security, most noticeable upon entering the school. The door has an installed secure video access system which

went into full effect the week of March 6<sup>th</sup> 2018. The door will become the single point of access into the facility during the school day, and will be unlocked from 7:30 a.m. until 8:02 a.m., when the instructional day begins. After this time anyone wishing to enter the school will have to utilize the buzzer system and an office administrator will then buzz them into the school. Upon entry, visitors are to check into the office to receive a visitor's badge that must be visible during their stay. Certain school functions and events may result in the deactivation of the door's secure access system, after consultation by the administration. There is potential for the door to be set to an automatic timer.

Inside the soon to be completed elementary wing, the maze of hallways and classrooms has taken shape. The skeleton of the structure is starting to fill out as the final touches to the school are put in

place and the finish line for the greatly awaited project comes into view. The bond levy's bare bones have been draped in white drywall and erected into their permanent standing. Classrooms are now fully equipped with electrical outlets, whiteboards, and an immense amount of natural light, only missing eager young minds. The spacious multi-purpose room, that promises to mitigate a number of early morning and late night practices, also hosts a stage that will provide the theater troupe a place to perform. A new, contemporary weight room is in place on the west side of the gym for all of Belt's communal use, which will be open to the public in June.

The project is on schedule and available for all to see in the near future. It promises to enhance the overall experience of the Belt school system for both the students and their dedicated teachers.

**By: Shelby Paulson**

As the facility upgrades near completion the new wing is taking shape. From upper right clockwise: the elementary hall, the stage, the multi-purpose room, the weight and fitness room, and one of the new classrooms.



## 3rd Grade Iditarod Project

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade class, led by Mrs. Jones, began a project based around the 2018 Iditarod. The 2018 Iditarod began on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the winner of the race, Joar Ulsom, crossed the finish line on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Joar Ulsom finished the race in 9 days and 12 hours exactly, only a day and 9 hours behind the fastest musher time ever, Mitch Seavey in 2017, who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 2018 race. Joar Ulsom started with 16 dogs and finished with 8, completing the race with eight healthy dogs shows responsibility and care for his animals.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade class was recently visited by two Montana mushers who have both competed in the Iditarod and several other races. Rick Larson, from Belt, and Laura Daugereau, from Sand Coulee, are both mushers who have competed in the Iditarod, and were more than happy to share their knowledge with the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. The two mushers brought a sled and one of their lead dogs, and entertained the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders questions.

Rick Larson completed the

Iditarod three times, finishing 47<sup>th</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup>, and 39<sup>th</sup>, winning a total of \$3,147 across the three completions. Larson was completely happy to come out and speak with the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders about the training and care of the sled dogs. Larson begins training his dogs in the fall, beginning in September to allow them enough time to prepare for the many races they will be competing in. Laura Daugereau of Sand Coulee competed in the Iditarod in 2009, unfortunately scratching after the eighth day racing. Daugereau teaches sportsmanship, responsible animal care, and overcoming obstacles in life.

The dogs start training as puppies, learning commands while the mushers determine what type of personality the dog possess. Most sled teams want to have about 6 lead dogs, so that the team is never without one in case of injury. The dogs that compete in the Iditarod itself generally need to eat every three hours and need 20 pounds of dog food and 10 pounds of meat for one dog throughout the race. Both

musher and sled dogs will lose a lot of weight throughout the course of the race. The musher, depending on the type of food they send, can lose as much as or even more than 20 pounds. The dogs generally lose about 5 pounds throughout the 938 miles, averaging at about 8 miles an hour.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders began with researching the Iditarod, sled dogs, and types of sleds before the 2018 Iditarod began. They have done several interactive activities such as making dog sleds out of popsicle sticks, made an Iditarod brochure, and read several books. Kathie Remington, a former 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, visited the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade to speak with them about her experience in Alaska. Remington visited with Dallas Seavey and he received Belt Husky gear signed from the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Remington read *Granite* to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and stayed to eat some trail mix. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders are very enthusiastic about this project and are tracking their mushers' daily progress on Iditarod.com every day.

**By: Aundrea Glick**

As spring break and Easter approach there are plenty of reasons for people to be going out but that doesn't give anyone the excuse to drink and drive. With the spring weather in full effect the roads are slightly less dangerous but that doesn't make drinking and driving any safer. Luckily, drinking and driving is a problem that can be avoided. People can always make a plan that will keep them off the road, even when having only one drink.

No matter the excuse, drinking and driving is never okay and people should never risk anyone else's life due to convenience. By creating a safe way to get home it is protecting those that could have been hurt in the process of careless actions. Make sure to always make a plan and...

## Never Drink and Drive!

This message brought to you by your  
Cascade DUI Task Force



## High School Track

As the 2018 track season descended, the athletes of Belt High traded their high tops for spikes. This year's team will greatly miss last year's seniors: Sara Anderson, Jess Bodner, Harry Green, Jaren Maki, and Kerstyn Pimperton. All the aforementioned seniors were state competitors along with returning tracksters: Morgan Cooper, Robbie Flinn, Adam Langston, Adelle Meissner, Kolby Pimperton, Keagan Stroop, Dani Urick, and Hunter Vogl.

This year the Huskies hope to build on and advance last year's successes. Last year the girls' track team won the 8C District title and captured the bronze at the Ralph Halverson Northern C Divisional Meet. Five of the girls moved on to compete at the MHSA State Class A-C Meet. The Belt boys took home the gold at the 8C meet and

doubled up the next week at divisionals. Six of the boys continued to the state meet.

Thirty-one high schoolers have committed to spend their afternoons jumping, running, and throwing their way to a great track season. This year's seniors are jumper/thrower Antonio Heaton, long distance runner Stroop, mid/long distance runner Flinn, and throwers: Troy Hennes, Jordan Swanson, and Urick. The junior class' track athletes are jumpers, Cooper and Brendan Wing and long distance runners, Matt Dollenger and Robert Gliko. The sophomore section of the team is made up of long distance runner Pimperton, mid-distance runner/thrower Shelby Paulson, sprinter Meissner, sprinter/hurdlers: Adam Langston, Brooke Schraner, and Hunter Vogl sprinter/jumpers, Maggie Andrews and

Brandon Wall, sprinter/thrower Grace Norstedt, and throwers: Wyatt Marshall, Gavin Roberts, and Andrew Stice. The freshmen on the team consists of long distance runners, Faith Marchington and Jason Wall, jumper/thrower Kaimen Evans, mid-distance runner Aidan McDaniel, and throwers: Zach Buskirk, Treyton Hennes, Kenzie Martin, and Anna Pethel.

Due to the foibles of Montana's spring weather, all spring sports schedules are tentative at this point, the track schedule is no exception. The first meet of the year is set to be held on March 27th in Fort Benton which is a mere four days away, but Mother Nature's desire to be unpredictable renders the meet just a possibility. Coach Graham hopes to have a more permanent schedule available in early April.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

### MCTM

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, math teachers Mrs. Graham and Mrs. Vogt took nearly sixty Belt students to the annual MCTM contest. The regional Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics contest was held at Great Falls High School. Students participated in a series of three tests with variations dependent on the students' class. The Belt Husky busses pulled up at Great Falls High at around 3:15 to prepare for the first test which commenced at 3:45. Students took these tests in their designated classrooms for 45 minute intervals with. 8th grade Belt student Asa Jassen finished first among Class C students.

Between the second and third test, all participating students from each school gathered in the old gym for some Little Caesars pizza. In celebration for Pi Day, administrative workers also drew random names in order to win their choice of pie. After this break, students went back to their designated rooms to finish up the series of tests. After another successful experience at the MCTM contest, Belt Husky students and staff are excited to attend the MCTM contest once again next year.

**By: Maggie Andrews**

### “Throwback Cons”

As the snow gradually begins to melt away, students at Belt High are ditching the Muck Boots for Converse, a more practical choice of footwear during the spring season. Converse or “Chuck Taylors”, as they were referred to in the 1900's, are one of the most iconic shoes as most grandparents still have an old pair in the back of their closet. The Converse design has not changed much since the first shoe was released 1917.

In 1923, American basketball player Charles "Chuck" Taylor popularized the shoes when he joined a basketball team sponsored by the Converse Company called The Converse All Stars. Before long, Converse were worn by athletes in the Olympics, and even by soldiers training for World War II. While these shoes dominated footwear from the 1920's to the 1970's, due to lack of funds and competition, Converse's popularity was on the decline and was eventually bought out by Nike in 2003. Since then, the company has been busy making improvements on the shoe design while releasing new versions, and today many Belt students wear their colorful converse ragged.

**By: Maggie Andrews**



## The Wall

One of President Trump's biggest selling points in his presidential campaign was keeping illegal immigrants out of the United States. His plan: build a wall. Walls have been used to keep people out before, but as a Belt resident, one must consider the effects it will have only on our country but lives. Will the wall be efficient in reducing the number of illegal immigrants, and how are we going to pay for it?

Four companies have been selected by the Homeland Security to produce prototypes for the wall. Each of the company's prototypes cost about \$500,000, and were included in the 2017 budget. Additional funding for other expenses are still being debated. President

Trump has proposed that solar panels on the Southern border may be included so that the wall will be making money, eventually paying for itself. The wall would not be built across the whole as almost 130 miles are naturally bordered by mountains and lakes. White House officials are placing the costs at \$8-\$12 billion, while the Department of Homeland Security is placing expenses at \$21 billion.

The wall would help control illegal immigrants entering the country, but how will this affect the people of the United States? More importantly, how would a wall affect Montanans? Due to the fact that Montana will not be one of the states getting the wall, it comes into question whether the wall Trump

proposes is an Montanan business. Here, the risk of jobs being taken by immigrants coming across the Mexican-American border is relatively small. Therefore, a wall will not secure more jobs for Montanans. In the end, Montanan's will probably not see a drop in newcomers to the state, but will instead see a rise in their taxes. On small farms and ranches, an addition to land taxes can end up breaking the bank ending the very heart and soul of Montana.

Whether it be raising existing taxes or passing new taxing laws, the wall will have to be paid for somehow. And this will affect everyone, no matter how far away from the problem people may seem.

**By: Andrea Glick**

## Spring Break

As the end of March approaches, students all over the country clear their calendars. Spring Break is typically a time when students have a week or more off of school, usually to spend time with family, due to the holiday of Easter. However, this break is spent differently between many different age groups. Thrilled children usually spend it with their relatives, waiting excitedly to go hunt for Easter eggs and to eat as much candy as they possibly can. Teenagers tend to spend it with their friends or at home, they're usually just content with the fact that they don't have to attend school. College students busy themselves either studying for final exams, or spending time in Mexico, most likely partying. Adults usually like to spend the holiday with their family members, and are thankful that they get to make more memories with them.

Spring Break started in the United States in the 1930's. It was a

vocational period in spring for students so that they could enjoy time off before the most stressful time of the year took place, final exams. Over time, Spring Break has been displayed in movies to look like a party sensation, and over the years, it has come true. How Spring Break is spent honestly just depends on the school and the person.

Here in Belt, the break is usually spent with family and friends. "I normally spend the break with my family." stated Natalie Larsen, a sophomore at Belt Public School, "My family and I travel to Missoula to spend Easter with my grandparents and other relatives." Sydne Flinn, also a sophomore at Belt Public School, usually spends her break the same way. "My mom, my dad, my brother, and I all go up to my aunt's house, where we meet up with all of our other family and spend time together." Flinn stated. The Belt Public School has a four day break for students, including

the weekend. It will start on March 30<sup>th</sup> and go to April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Spring Break is a great time for students to enjoy a break from school and spend time with their family and overall just enjoy Easter and all it has to offer.

**By: Tori Sherwood**

## Bowling Scores

### High Game Men

Sam Olson (+56) 216  
Mike Christensen (+38) 215  
Kalem Halley (+55) 194

### High Series Men

Mike Christensen 601  
Sam Olson 563  
John Larson 507

### High Game Women

Laura Koffler (+39) 177  
Dena Goodman (+35) 162  
Betty Warehime (+38) 154

### High Series Women

Laura Koffler 452  
Trish Kenney 452  
Patti Sweeney 393

## State Geography Bee

This past fall students in grades fourth through eighth competed in the school-wide Geography Bee. The

winner of the bee, Asa Jassen, then was able to take an online state-wide geography bee test that would qualify him for



the in-person state bee coming up on the 6th of April. Asa Jassen will be the only Belt Middle School student competing at this prestigious competition and as many people know Jassen does not just stand out in the geography field but recently won the school spelling bee and took trip to the county-wide spelling bee.

The online qualifying test can only be taken by one student, the winner of the bee. Students are given no more than one hour to complete the online qualifying test

and had to have taken it by February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:59 p.m. Jassen passed this qualifying test and is quite nervous for the in-person competition but he sincerely hopes to do well. He has prepared for the contest and will represent the student body of Belt Public School well at this geography bee.

The Valley Voice wishes young Jassen good luck and hopes he does very well at the Montana State Geography Bee.

**By: Natalie Larsen**

## National Student Walk-Out

Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, students all over the country walked out of school to protest and demand new gun laws for the safety of American Citizens. Exactly one month after the deadly Florida shooting that killed 17 students and injured many more, students had had enough. For weeks people shared the news over social media and around their communities, encouraging them to join the protest. When the day finally came, thousands of students walked the streets of their cities and towns, and many students were given detentions and even suspended.

Participants chanted and waved signs in front of building, including the White House. The students spoke out saying that they wanted to ban assault weapons, require background checks before gun sells, and disarm anyone who showed signs of violent behavior. "While students marched, the US House of Representatives passed a bill to fund heightened security at schools. The bill had bipartisan support, but many Democrats were frustrated that it didn't include any gun control measures. Meanwhile, in Illinois, the state Senate passed a bill that raises the legal age to buy

assault weapons to 21." CNN wrote in an article, "We're only nine weeks into 2018, and there have already been at least 14 school shootings in the US. That averages out to 1.5 shooting a week."

As part of the overall facility renovation, Belt Public School reconstructed the front door for security and safety purposes. Access to the school during instructional hours is only available through the main entrance (the door facing the student parking lot and Remington Field). A video surveillance and buzzer system requires that visitors are granted entry by a staff member in the office. All visitors are reminded to obtain a visitors pass from the office before proceeding through the school. This is a change for many parents or grandparents, but it reflects the times when security is on people's minds. Although there have not been any direct threats to cause this act, it's better to be safe than sorry.

Many Belt High pupils like the idea of students standing up and becoming politically active, "Honestly, I think that it's awesome that students are protesting for this, it's really inspiring and I would have participated if other people

here did that." Natalie Larsen, a sophomore at Belt Public School stated.

There were no protests among the student population at Belt High, but a couple hundreds kids did stage a "walk-in" at Great Falls High School.

National School Walkout Day is a big movement for students, and some very important authorities figures have brought to the internet how proud they are of the students participating in this. Barack Obama, former U.S. president just recently stated on twitter "Young people have helped lead all our great movements. How inspiring to see it again in so many smart, fearless students standing up for their right to be safe; marching and organizing to remake the world as it should be. We've been waiting for you. And we've got your backs."

Most Belt students expressed the sentiment that they feel safe in the halls of the school, but they also recognize that it is the responsibility of the administration and staff to take whatever precautions they deem necessary to guarantee that safety.

**By: Tori Sherwood**

Featured Staff



This issue of the Valley Voice features business teacher, Keith Hoyer. The Belt graduate went on to earn his teaching degree at U of Western in Dillon, "Princeton on the Prairie".

Mr. Hoyer seems to teach it all, with multiple typing classes, newspaper, media, info processing

and a marketing class, it is safe to say that this Belt teacher has his hands full! In addition to teaching all of these classes, Mr. Hoyer just recently retired his position as the Belt DECA chapter advisor last year. He spent 15 years preparing students for conferences on both the state and national level. Despite not holding the title any more, he continues to voluntarily contribute time to assist students to succeed with their projects.

When he is not busy in the classroom, Mr. Hoyer can be found watching his daughter, Kassie (2017 Belt graduate), play basketball for the Sheridan College in Wyoming.

By: Maggie Andrews

Wrestling

On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, Belt wrestling coach, Tim Lords, took middle school wrestlers to compete at the Montana middle school divisional meet. Eighth grader, Archer Throckmorton, left with a gold medal after placing first at this meet in his weight bracket. Throckmorton is ecstatic to complete his last middle school wrestling season with a bang and looks forward to next year as he plans to take his wrestling skills to the high school level.

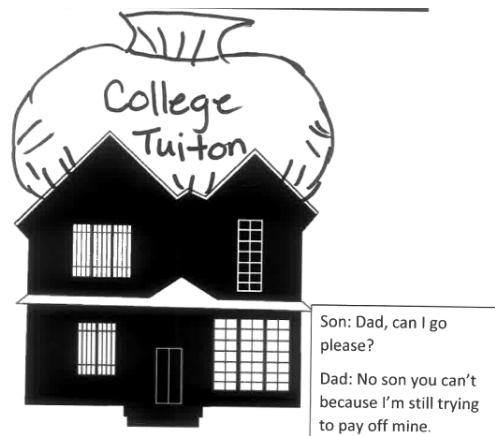
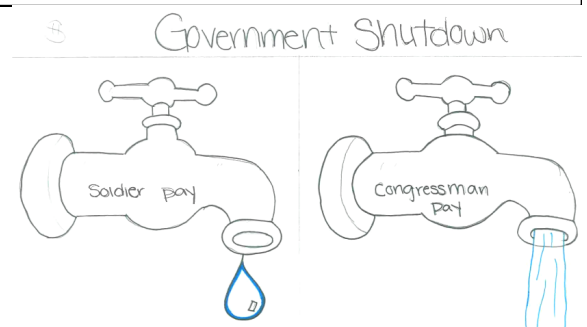
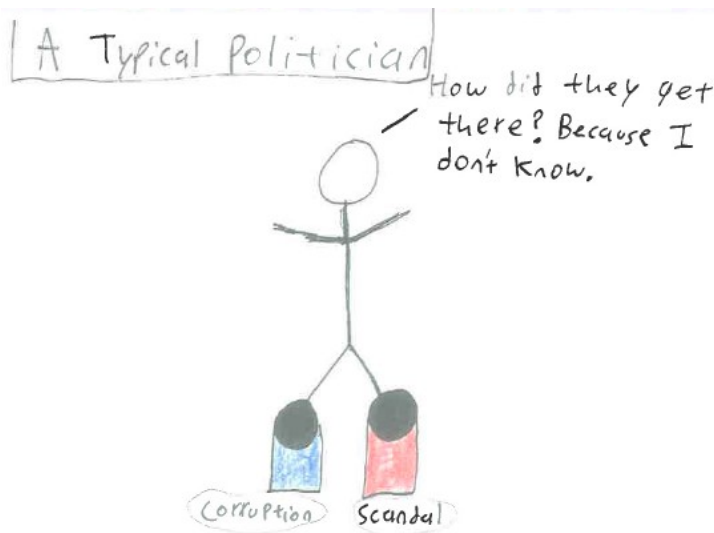
Sixth grader, Kennedie Martin broke the gender stereotypes after placing fourth among a group of boys. Martin stated that she will often overhear people talking about how they will beat her just because she is a girl, so it is rewarding for her when she gets the chance win the match. The Belt community is very proud of what these young wrestlers have accomplished and looks forward to what the future holds in store for the students.



By: Maggie Andrews

Political Cartoons from Belt's Government Class

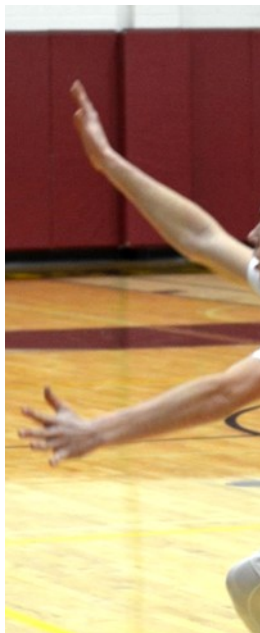
The senior class recently completed a unit of study that required them to analyze and create a series of political cartoons. These samples of student creations come from...(clockwise from upper right) Shannon Hoskins, Jordan Swanson, and Nolan Myrstol.



# Valley Voice

| Puzzle | Calendar of Events |
|--------|--------------------|
|--------|--------------------|

Who's flailing arms are these?



- March 23<sup>rd</sup> - Principal's Cup @ Simms
- March 23<sup>th</sup> - MS Girls Basketball vs. DGS (B - 3:00 p.m. A - 5:00 p.m.)
- March 23<sup>th</sup> - MS Boys Basketball vs. DGS (B - 4:00 p.m. A - 6:00 p.m.)
- March 24<sup>th</sup> - MS Girls Basketball @ **Winnett**/Grass Range (B - 11:00 a.m. A - 1:00 p.m.)
- March 24<sup>th</sup> - MS Boys Basketball @ **Winnett**/Grass Range (B - 12:00 p.m. A - 2:00 p.m.)
- March 25<sup>th</sup> - Elementary Dance - Belt Cafeteria 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- March 26<sup>th</sup> - National Honor Society Banquet - Belt Cafeteria 6:30 p.m.
- March 27<sup>th</sup> - MS Girls Basketball vs. Geraldine/Highwood (B - 4:00 p.m. A - 6:00 p.m.)
- March 27<sup>th</sup> - MS Boys Basketball vs. Geraldine/Highwood (B - 5:00 p.m. A - 7:00 p.m.)
- March 29<sup>th</sup> - HS Track Meet @ Cut Bank
- March 29<sup>th</sup> - EARLY RELEASE @ 12:31 p.m.
- March 29<sup>th</sup> - MS Girls Basketball @ Centerville (B - 4:30 p.m. A - 6:30 p.m.)
- March 29<sup>th</sup> - MS Boys Basketball @ Centerville (B - 5:30 p.m. A - 7:30 p.m.)
- March 30<sup>th</sup> - April 2<sup>nd</sup> - NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- March 30<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> - Oliver Larson Basketball Tournament
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Golf Meet @ Meadowlark County Club
- April 5<sup>th</sup> - MS Girls Basketball @ Hobson (B - 4:00 p.m. A - 6:00 p.m.)
- April 5<sup>th</sup> - MS Boys Basketball @ Hobson (B - 5:00 p.m. A - 7:00 p.m.)
- April 6<sup>th</sup> - Golf Meet @ Chouteau

Last Edition:  
Hunter Vogl's lips.

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