



# The Valley Voice



Belt Public School

6 April 2018

Issue 15

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## Honor Society Banquet

On Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, the annual National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Banquet took place in the Belt Cafeteria. The banquet was led by NHS President Adrian Malek. In order to be eligible to become a member of NHS, a student must uphold the four pillars of scholarship, leadership, character, and service. Eight sophomores met these requirements to become inducted into NHS and also had a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Mrs. Tracy Lords was the keynote speaker and delivered a speech about how she worked through the struggles in life but kept her goal of becoming an anesthesiologist by pursuing her dreams and never giving up. She expressed to the current and new members of NHS that whatever their intentions or dreams are, they can be

achieved by a hard work ethic and stamina. Mrs. Debra Ray has been the NHS Advisor for the past 12 years. Sadly, this is her last year as she is retiring at the conclusion of the 2017-2018 school year.

*Cont. Pg. 2*



## All Conference

Belt's basketball season came to an untimely close after the girls placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at Divisionals, one spot away from advancing to Butte to play in the state tournament and the boy's lost in the second round of play in the Class C State Tournament in Butte. The season, though completed, still offers recognition and rewards to those who made an influence and impact on the hardwood this year.

All-Conference and All-State teams have been selected for the 2017-2018 basketball season. These commendations recognize the players in Class C that have put in the hours and the work to be successful competitors on the floor. Nominees are selected by coaches and then voted on by district and divisional coaches to determine their placement on all-conference/state teams.

Belt had several athletes that made

the cut for first team, second team, and honorable mention in the district. On the girls' side, the team's all around leading scorer, senior, Dani Urick, made first team all-conference along with an all-state placement. Morgan Cooper, a junior, earned all-state honors along with a placement on second team all-conference. Adrian Malek and fellow senior Ryan Schraner were bestowed with honorable mentions for the year. Urick was also recently named to the very prestigious Montana Super State team, which recognizes the top twelve players in all of Montana regardless of school classification.

Flipping over, the boys' side which experienced quite the successes this year in the Divisional and State Tournaments, received multiple placements in their district.

*Cont. Pg. 3*

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NHS (Continued)

The current members of NHS include seniors: Shannon Hoskins, Adrian Malek, Nolan Myrstol, Hannah Schweitzer, Jordan Swanson and juniors: Elyse Adams, Morgan Cooper, Makayla O’Neil, and Julia Vogt. The newest members of NHS are: Keely Drummond, Abby Gliko, Natalie Larsen, Adelle Meissner, Grace Norstedt, Shelby Paulson, Kolby Pimperton, and Hunter Vogt.



Each year the members take part in service activities such the annual “Can the Cats, Can the Griz” food drive and the Red Cross blood drive as well as complete a personal service project. Congratulations to the new members of Belt’s chapter of NHS and may their coming careers as honor society members better these students and advance the quality of life in Belt through the four tenets.

**By: Keely Drummond**



Farewell Ms. Woodhouse



Ms. Woodhouse has been a student teacher here for about eight weeks, and has become accustomed to the routine in Belt. Alas, she must leave this week. Her last day as a student teacher in Belt is today. She has learned a lot about teaching during her time in Belt, and has said that she has had six very successful units that she really enjoyed teaching.

Her favorite skill to teach is writing, as she likes to see the progression in students as their knowledge of writing grows.

Her favorite project throughout her time here has been the “Humans of Belt” project, which is a project in which her creative writing students each interview three people, and take their picture. The students are also making a book out of their interviews. In the end, the goal is to capture the essence of Belt.

She wishes to teach locally, as her family owns a farm just outside of Fort Benton. Ms. Woodhouse will be missed dearly, and the people of Belt would like to wish her well in her journey to come. Hannah Schweitzer even said, “She was the best we’ve ever had!” and many students agree.

**By: Aundrea Glick**

Featured Staff



This issue of the Valley Voice features second grade teacher, Mrs. Katie Hoffmann. Hoffman was born and raised on her family’s ranch in Belt and attended college as a Bobcat at Montana State University in Bozeman. Prior to this job, Hoffman taught in Great Falls before transferring to Belt where she has been employed for the past five years. Mrs. Hoffman and her husband wanted to live on

the family ranch and raise their four kids (Addee 5th grade, JJ 2nd grade, Mark Early K, and Nora 8 months) in a small town atmosphere to learn about animals and the value of hard work.

Mrs. Hoffman aspired to make a difference in the world as well as in individual lives, which led her to become a teacher where she found a passion watching kids grow and learn.

When Hoffman is not busy in the classroom or performing ranch duties during “calving season”, she loves to snow ski and water ski, along with spending time at the golf course and Flathead Lake with her family. Next edition the Voice will feature another staff member in the Belt school system.

**By: Maggie Andrews**

Keagan Stroop received the distinguished honors of being placed on first team all-conference along with the all-state team after the final season of his high school career. Senior Troy Hennes made second team all-conference as he donned his high school basketball jersey for the final time. Another senior to garner recognition after his last season was Trey Heitzman. He obtained an honorable mention in the 8C District.

The 2017-28 season was a gratifying one for the huskies as they took home a plethora of hardware to adorn the gym halls for year to come. This year's nominations are another representation of the successes Belt basketball has been blessed to experience year after year as players come and go across the husky hardwood. The official list for the 8C all-conference and state teams follows.

**By: Shelby Paulson**

## All Conference

### District 8C girls basketball teams (\* indicates all-state)

First Team:

Dani Urick, sr., Belt\*  
 Piper Johnson, sr., Winnett-Grass Range\*  
 Taylor Stahl, sr., Winnett-Grass Range\*  
 Dyauni Boyce, so., Roy-Winifred\*  
 Brianna Bergum, jr., Hobson-Moore-Judith Gap\*

Second Team:

Sydney Browning, jr., Winnett-Grass Range\*  
 Morgan Cooper, jr., Belt\*  
 Brynn Jolma, jr., Winnett-Grass Range  
 Chloe Derks, jr., Hobson-Moore-Judith Gap  
 Olivia Geer, so., Roy-Winifred  
Honorable Mention:  
 Brietta Boyce, sr., Roy-Winifred  
 Ryan Schraner, sr., Belt  
 Jackie Long, jr., Geraldine-Highwood  
 Adrian Malek, sr., Belt

### District 8C boys basketball teams

First Team:

Rhet Woodhall, sr., Denton-Geysers-Stanford\*  
 Keagan Stroop, sr., Belt\*  
 Kordell Carpenter, sr., Denton-Geysers-Stanford\*  
 Riley Donaldson, sr., Denton-Geysers-Stanford\*  
 Cameron Wollman, sr., Winnett-Grass Range\*

Second Team:

Carson McGinness, so., Centerville  
 Zane Stahl, jr., Winnett-Grass Range  
 Justin Stulc, fr., Roy-Winifred  
 Troy Hennes, sr., Belt  
 Maverick McKinlay, jr., Geraldine-Highwood  
 Honorable mention  
 Caleb Hess, jr., Winnett-Grass Range  
 Brady Duvall, jr., Geraldine-Highwood  
 Trey Heitzman, sr., Belt  
 Tyler Fordyce, so., Roy-Winifred

## Principal's Cup

On the morning of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, ten of Belt High's brightest students boarded the bus and made the trek to Simms. The students were headed to the Principal's Cup, an academic competition featuring students from Great Falls and the surrounding areas. Each school brought two teams comprised of the two highest grade point averages from each class and two at large competitors chosen by the principal. The groups were then split with one member from each class and one at large competitor on each team.

Each team was comprised of two seniors, one junior, one sophomore, and one freshmen. Belt 1 featured: senior Adrian Malek, junior Julia Vogt, sophomore Shelby Paulson, freshman Alivia Shelton, and at large contestant Nolan Myrstol. Belt 2 was made up of senior: Shannon Hoskins, junior

MaKayla O'Neil, sophomore Adelle Meissner, freshman Riley Larsen, and at large competitor Troy Hennes.

Belt 1 took on the Augusta Elks for their first round match in the academic competition. The Huskies outscored the Elks in the 16 regulation questions and moved on to face the Fergus Eagles. The larger student body of Fergus allowed for a bigger pool of possible contestants. The variety of knowledge showed as the Eagles outscored the Huskies and sent them to the loser out bracket. Then came a matchup between Belt 1 and Belt 2. The match between both Husky teams was rather close until Belt 1 pulled away in the last two questions. Belt's hope of a third place trophy was squandered by the Conrad team as they defeated the Huskies in their last match of the

tournament.

Belt 2 kicked off the tournament with a contest against the Chinook Sugarbeeters. The lead went back and forth between both the teams, but at the end of the 16 questions the Sugarbeeters came out with the win and the Huskies were sent to the loser out bracket; however the Huskies rallied and were victorious over the Cut Bank Wolves to keep their chance at the third place trophy alive. Their next competitor was the other Belt team, Belt 1. The dog fight ended Belt 2's chances at the third place trophy while Belt 1 moved on.

Both of the Husky teams did a great job representing Belt Valley High. The Valley Voice also wishes the Husky teams the best of luck in their next endeavor: the 2019 Principal's Cup.

**By: Adelle Meissner**



## ACT Prep Test

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the Belt sophomores took the ACT Prep Test. Although it did not have a writing portion, the test prepared students for the real deal, and the results of the Prep Test give the students an approximation of their score on the ACT. It will also give them insight on what they need to work on in order to enhance their score.

Students' seemed to enjoy the Prep Test, not only because it got them out of their first four class periods but because they also liked being able to see what the test was like. Sophomore, Natalie Larsen stated "I really like the idea of taking an ACT Prep Test, mainly because it gives me the experience I need in order to know what I'm doing and so that I'll be better prepared for the real deal." Sophomore Charity Highfill also stated, "The test was actually not as bad as I was expecting, and I'm glad they have us take it or else I would have no idea what I was doing. Overall it's just a good idea to have students' take it the year before to prepare us."

Students' seemed to appreciate the fact that they got an opportunity to see what the test was like in order to help better their skills for the real ACT.

**By: Tori Sherwood**

## Bus Drivers Wanted!!!

Substitute & Extracurricular Activity bus drivers are greatly needed at Belt School.



Applications available at Belt School's office or website, and the district trains applicants.

Background checks are performed on all applicants; CDL with air break and physical are required.

Base salary-\$18.40 DOE

More information available from Mrs. Prody at (406) 277-3351

## Warmer Days Ahead

It might not seem like it with still more snow piling up this morning, but the warm days of summer are not far off. With that in mind, several students within both Belt High School and Middle School were asked the question, "What are you most looking forward to this summer?" The Valley Voice asked Tori Sherwood from the sophomore class, Lindsey Paulson from the eighth grade class, and Tori Shelton from the junior class.

With the fourth quarter under way, the thoughts of summer days are on everyone's mind with many starting to look forward to their exciting summer plans. Tori Sherwood said "I am looking forward to not having to go to school every day but especially having no homework for a while." This is one thing that many students throughout the school year look forward to and just being able to relax during the long summer months.



The next student to be questioned was Lindsey Paulson, an eighth grade student, "I am looking forward to basketball and not having any homework." Once Lindsey graduates from the eighth grade in seven weeks or so she will officially be a high school student and along with that comes the summer commitments in activities such as summer basketball. Hopefully, she has a fun-filled summer and enjoys her season of summer basketball and her break from school work.

Last on the list was Tori Shelton, who said "I am most looking forward to just not being in school but also not having to worry about schoolwork and assignments." Again, the idea of having

freedom throughout the summer months is amazing and students love it because they know that they don't have to spend their summer doing any certain activity. Many students opt to get a job and others decide to spend their summer going to camps for basketball or volleyball. Summer is a fantastic time because students have the chance to choose what they are participating in and are able to spend their time somewhere other than a classroom, which is refreshing after the long school year.

The Valley Voice enjoys hearing from several students and obtaining their opinions on many different subjects. Thanks to those who happily participated in this edition's "Student Voice" and giving their opinion on this topic. Submit the questions you'd like to hear answered to Natalie Larson at the Voice.

**By: Natalie Larson**

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## National News-March for Our Lives

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, thousands of American citizens gathered together in order to participate in the annual National March for Our Lives walk. All across America, news channels and social media captured the citizens taking charge and standing up for what they believe in. The march was influenced by the National School Walkout Day, which took place because of the deadly school shooting that originated in Florida several weeks ago.

Students and other citizens are protesting in order for the government to ban assault weapons, require background checks before gun sells, and disarm anyone who showed signs of violent behavior. The protesting is not only happening outside of school hours, but it is also affecting students' education. Schools all over the country have canceled school in order for every-

one to participate in the March's and so that they could show how much they supported the movement.

Not only are thousands of citizens (young and old) fighting for this movement, but so is former president Barack Obama. He recently brought to social media, "Michelle and I are so inspired by all the young people who made today's marches happen," Obama said. "Keep at it. You're leading us forward. Nothing can stand in the way of millions of voices calling for change."

Many people are supportive of this movement and participated in this march on Saturday morning. Citizens gathered around public areas chanting and waving signs for many hours. Celebrities even performed songs to show their support, and others praised the march on social media.

Some students at Belt Public School are also supportive of this movement, while others are not so quick to decide. Sophomore, Sydne Flinn stated "This to me is very inspiring. Students are taking matters into their own hands to change their future and make a better life for them and their future children." However, Junior, Keaghan Opheim is not so fond of this protesting, "It's not that I have a problem with the movement in general, it's the fact that it's affecting student's education because the time they're using to protest is getting in the way of school."

Everyone seems to have their own personal opinion on the subject, whether it be they're for or against it, but it seems that students nationwide are coming together to express their views about a matter that impacts the entire nation.

**By: Tori Sherwood**

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## Study Smarter Not Harder

Now that the fourth quarter is in full swing semester finals are on many students minds. High schoolers dread these two days that come twice in a school year because the week leading up to these difficult tests are spent studying, at home, at school, or anywhere that seems fit to pull out a book and stare blankly at the pages. Little do many of these students know that just staring at your textbook isn't going to help them retain any information and in order to truly know what is needed for test, new study techniques must be formed.

Research shows that there are many great ways to study but just sitting and reading the text won't allow one to understand the information they are trying to learn. The brain has to be actively engaged in order to add meaning to the test and to prepare oneself for

the test most likely taking place soon. There are many things someone can do to actively engage their brain while studying such as, creating concept maps, creating a quiz, develop symbols to represent certain concepts, and lastly creating a study guide. There are many other tips that will enhance the time spent studying and prepare each student for big tests and quizzes coming up.

Prioritizing time is an important concept when it comes to how someone is doing within the classroom. In order to get the most out of the day students should use their down-time and control their calendar. Each week time should be budgeted for studying in order to insure that each student is allowing themselves enough time to learn and retain the necessary information. Studying is best done in short periods of time where the

brain is actively engaged and picking several different study locations is a great idea as well. If a student knows when, where, and how they study the best it will give them the chance to take advantage of this and study when it most effective for them. The last important rule when it comes to studying is to avoid multitasking and realize that focusing on one's work will garner the best results.

Throughout Belt middle and high school students spend a lot of their time incorrectly studying and preparing for their classes. In order to have better results, students should try studying in a variety of ways in order to recognize what strategies work for them. With this advice, Belt students can study better increasing their test average and creating their own study approach.

**By: Natalie Larsen**

## Debate: Self-Driving Cars

In Tempe, Arizona on Sunday night, March 18<sup>th</sup>, a pedestrian (Elaine Herzberg) was struck and killed by a self-driving Uber vehicle. After the dash cam video was released to the public, many arguments were made either attacking or defending the Uber Company on whether or not it was their fault or Herzberg's. The argument defending the Uber Company was that Herzberg had emerged from the shadows and just appeared out of nowhere, not giving the car or the safety driver enough time to react.

The dash cam video showed Herzberg appearing from the dark shadows in the road, only giving the car/driver about 1.5 seconds to realize the tragedy that was about to occur. After a day or so, other citizens began to release videos on YouTube of them driving the same route that the accident took place on, showing that the road was actually not that dark, and that it appeared darker on camera. The videos the citizens posted showed the same exact street during the night, but it was not quite as dark as the video released from the Uber's car had shown. The camera also filmed the inside of the car while the accident occurred and just moments be-

fore the casualty, it showed the driver looking at her phone for moments on end, only glancing up occasionally. However, her last glance occurred too late, causing the car to hit Herzberg.

Resources that were linked with Uber said "The cars were having trouble driving through construction zones and next to tall vehicles, like big rigs. And Uber's human drivers had to intervene far more frequently than the drivers of competing autonomous car projects."

Uber was rushing and pushing themselves and their drivers in order to have a pristine Self-Driving car by the end of the year. Although the police department had not yet ruled who was at fault, many people have decided for themselves that it was the Uber Company and the driver who was to blame. The argument for that has been that the Uber Company set their cars out, knowing that they had problems, and the driver who was supposed to ensure that a problem would not occur wasn't even paying attention.

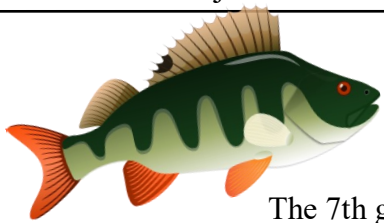
However, the counter argument stated that Herzberg walked out into the middle of the street from the shadows and if she was

paying attention she would have noticed the headlights quickly approaching her. Not to mention, the area that which she crossed wasn't even a crosswalk. Although the citizens of America have their own very strong opinions on the topic, it has yet to be decided by the police.

Some of the students at Belt Public School have decided to touch on the subject stating their personal opinions. Natalie Larsen, sophomore at Belt stated "I believe that the actions of both of them caused this accident, and that they should blame both sides." Junior, Keaghan Opheim said "It is the human companion who was supposed to be the failsafe in case of a possible clashing incidents that could cause this kind of controversy. Remember, everyone in this situation was wrong in what they did, except for the car; the car is a simple piece of machinery with manmade faults exclusively."

New technologies are bound to cause controversy when they impact human lives. Like many modern issues, the debate over self-driving cars is just getting started as engineers push the boundaries of science.

**By: Tori Sherwood**



The 7th graders have been learning about Fish Knowledge through Montana Fish and Wildlife representatives like Ryan Schmaltz, David Hagengruber, and Daryl Hodges. The representatives paid a visit to the 7th Graders throughout a few months, teaching the students about fish sampling, the water cycle, and fish dissection. They did various interactive activities, the most re-

## Gone Fishin'

cently being fish dissection

The first visitor, Ryan Schmaltz, taught them about "Fish Math", in which they used dry beans to simulate how many fish are in a mile of the river. They used the samples from their tests to calculate how many fish are in a river. The second representative, David Hagengruber, taught the 7th graders about how much water the Earth is composed of, and where each of the different types of water falls into which category, consumable, or not consumable. Their third visitor was

Daryl Hodges, who taught them about the different parts of fish, and even had the students dissect their own fish! Hodges taught them how to properly dissect a fish, and told them about how the different parts of the fish varied in their functions and location compared to the human body. The 7th graders will be having many more representatives in the future, and will be learning about a great deal of things throughout the remaining months of the school year.

**By: Aundrea Glick**

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs. The network is made up of three main programs that try different ways to improve lives and foster civic engagement. Members of AmeriCorps give their time to help take care of critical needs of local communities such as increasing academic achievement, mentoring youth, fighting poverty, sustaining national parks, and preparing for disasters.

The most prominent AmeriCorps branch in Montana is the Big Sky Watershed Corps. The Missouri River Breaks Foundation is a part of the Big Sky Watershed Corps but is not directly affiliated with AmeriCorps. The Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument is responsible for protecting and preserving the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument by educating the public, advocating for responsible access and environmentally responsible uses, and supporting groups and agencies that protect and restore the monument.

AmeriCorps presents information about The Missouri River Breaks Monument to a variety of listeners: adults, high schoolers, middle schools, elementary stu-



dents, and wildlife organizations.

The team has a presentation uploaded on their website which allows their information to reach people who weren't able to make it to the presentation or are just interested in the monument. The foundation's staff does around 100 presentations a year with the goal of protecting and preserving the monument. The staff just embarked upon the path to preserving the monument in January as a part of AmeriCorps.

Recently, two members of the Montana AmeriCorps team, Taylor Mudford and Samantha Strable, traveled to Belt from Helena to share information about the foundation and the monument. The presentation to the Belt students included the history of the monument which goes all the way

to Lewis and Clark. Mudford and Strable also emphasized the significance of preserving the monument and how new people can get involved with the foundation. The goal of the presentation is to provide students with a well-rounded image of what the foundation does and stress how important it is for people to volunteer and help AmeriCorps preserve national monuments.

The presentation in Belt is part of an attempt to gather a younger audience and to gain the attention of America's next generation of volunteers. Many high school students are looking for opportunities to volunteer as volunteers hours are important pieces of scholarship and admissions applications. The Missouri River Breaks Foundation provides on opportunity for students to log volunteer hours while also experiencing the great outdoors. More information about the Missouri River Breaks and AmeriCorps mission can be found at <https://missouribreaks.org/the-breaks/> and <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/amicorps>.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

With the slick roads due to spring roads there are dangerous road conditions that can cause crashes but with substance abuse, as in alcohol or drugs, this makes the likeliness of crashing almost guaranteed. This spring make sure to think of how the consequences to one's action when making any major decision and although it may seem simple to hop in your car and drive home quickly it can end up being the most life changing decision of someone's life.

Sixteen percent of the car accidents involve drugs and/or alcohol. This number is amazingly large showing that this fate can happen to anyone. Drink and driving puts more than the driver's life at risk and with roads busy this spring season many lives can be lost in drunk driving incidents. Don't become part of this statistic this spring and...

## Never Drink and Drive!





## Big Husky-Little Husky

Big Husky Little Husky is a mentoring program between the high school and elementary students. The program provides the older student body the opportunity to interact with the younger children and vice versa. Since Belt is such a small community, many of the young children look up to the high schoolers and Big Husky Little Husky allows the kids to actually talk to and interact with their role models. The session last Wednesday was the last one for the year and it was rather apparent on the face of both the big and the little husky that the program was successful in forming a bond within the two.

The seniors of Belt High went down to the kindergarten classroom to help the youngsters make Easter decorations that looked like little chicks. Adrian Malek enjoyed seeing how excited the kids were for spring break and the Easter holiday. Shannon Hoskins had fun just talking with the kids and hearing all the new things that had happened since the last session of Big Husky Little Husky. Jordan Swanson's favorite part wasn't in talking to the kids but rather teaching them how to glue the tissue paper onto the chick's shell. Ashley Triviso laughed and listened to her little Husky make jokes about his other big Husky. All of the seniors were happy the Big Husky Little Husky was resurrected this year and it is something that they will miss next year.

The juniors made their last trip to the first grade classroom last Wednesday. For their last project, the group made sunflowers out of straws, pipe cleaners, and sunflower seeds. Tori Shelton loved seeing all the little buddies that she's made since the program started and Robbie Gliko enjoyed being around and

playing with all the little kids. After the project was done the kids had some extra time left so they built a wrestling ring and had some wrestling matches. Brendan Wing had the most fun helping the little Huskies build the ring. The Class of 2019 greatly enjoyed Big Husky Little Husky and they look forward to next year's sessions.

The third graders, with help from their sophomore buddies, made welcome posters for Donuts for Dads and Muffins for Moms by dipping their hands in paint and leaving prints on the paper. The posters were made even more colorful when the kids started giving high fives and mixing the paint together for more of a tie-dye look. Collin Halley's favorite part of the whole thing was working with Gavin in all the sessions. When asked what they enjoyed the most Beau Dickinson and Graham Halley didn't hesitate at all when they said, "The PAINT!" Vannie Urick couldn't have been less interested in the paint, she just wanted to eat more cookies. The sophomores had a great time helping the third graders with their various projects and as the session commenced it was unknown who was sadder, the third graders or the sophomores.

The freshmen got to work with their second grade buddy for the final time last Wednesday. Together, the duo made Easter eggs out of paper and decorated them with glitter, sticker, markers etc. Livvy Shelton liked seeing how creative the kids were with the designs they used on the eggs; the little Huskies were sure to never repeat the same pattern twice. Kenzie Martin enjoyed talking to the kids about what they had planned for over the break. Zack Buskirk was happy to play the "Santa" of Easter and ask the children what they

hoped the Easter Bunny would bring them that Sunday. The freshmen's first year of high school was made better by their involvement in Big Husky Little Husky and they can't wait for many more sessions as they continue through high school.

Belt School restarted Big Husky Little Husky in order to bring the student body together and needless to say, their goal was achieved. All of the high schools loved having the opportunity to get closer to the little kids and the children were over the hills excited to get to play with the people they've looked up to since they started school. Big Husky Little Husky is a program that has greatly benefitted the entire school system.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

## Ella Gymnastics

Just recently, 6<sup>th</sup> grader Ella Pethel made the trek to Billings to compete in a gymnastics tournament.

Pethel has only been in gymnastics for three years but placed 2<sup>nd</sup> overall at this competition which encompassed athletes from all over the state. Placing 3<sup>rd</sup> on the bars, 2<sup>nd</sup> with the vault, 4<sup>th</sup> on the floor, and 1<sup>st</sup> on the beam allowed Pethel to gain such a high score. This is nothing new to the Belt Husky middle schooler as she typically competes in around nine competitions a year and has placed 1<sup>st</sup> on the beam at every meet. Pethel plans on continuing her gymnastic career throughout the rest of her middle school and high school years as she aspires to reach level 6.

For now the Belt community wishes Pethel good luck as she prepares for her next competition next year.

**By: Maggie Andrews**



## Middle School Basketball

The athletes of Belt Middle School have continued to fill the shoes left behind by their predecessors, winning countless basketball games. In the past two weeks, the young hoopers have gone head to head with the Denton/Geysler/Stanford Bearcats and the Geraldine/Highwood Rivals in the dog house and headed to Centerville for a game against the Miners. The teams also participated in what is called a double header- a sporting event in which games are played in succession at the same venue between the same teams. The Huskies double header against the Winnett/Grass Range Rams featured four games, two for the B teams and two for the A teams. The girls played their games in Grass Range while the boys competed in Winnett.

After beating DGS previously in the season, the girls B team was ready to add another win to their record. With their hometown fans in the bleachers the young Huskies outscored the Bearcats 25-13. After their success on Thursday night, the girls were eager for more victories. During the double header in Grass Range the Huskies beat the Rams 41-5 in the first game and dominated them again 38-6 in the second. Last Tuesday, for their final home game of the season, Belt took on the Geraldine/Highwood Rivals. Utilizing the home court advantage for the last time, the Huskies outscored the Rivals 40-21. The girls B team had been undefeated all season, but last Thursday the girls suffered their first loss to the Centerville Miners 24-20.

With only one loss to their record, the girls A team continues to dominate. For their second match up against the DGS Bearcats, the Huskies were confident that their skills were superior to that of their opponent and it showed in the final score, Belt was victorious 28-14.

The girls then loaded the bus and made the long trek to Grass Range for their first competition against the Rams. The Huskies held control over WGR throughout both games and the final scores read Belt 40 WGR 10 and Belt 33 WGR 12. Playing in the dog house for the last time this season, the girls overpowered the Rivals 37-11. The girls A team kicked off spring break with an eight point victory over the Centerville Miners 30-22.

The boys B team set off for an undefeated season this year and this past fortnight has been no exception. The young boys were able to outscore the DGS Bearcats in one of their closest matchups of the year, only winning by ten points with a score of 28-18. The Huskies solidified their undefeated season by dominating the Winnett/Grass Range Rams in the double header. The Rams were outscored 41-6 in the first game and 42-9 in the second. For their last home matchup against the Geraldine/Highwood Rivals, the boys wanted to make it clear that an undefeated season was on the horizon; they sent the Rivals home with a loss 39-15. The Huskies continued to add to their undefeated season last Thursday defeating the Centerville Miners 46-13.

The boys A team has continued to live up to the charisma that surrounds Belt basketball, playing as a team and giving 110% percent. The hard work and hustle the boys put in showed against the DGS Bearcats. The Huskies were able to outwork and outscore them 48-35. After making the long bus trip to Winnett, the boys were tired and slow during their first game of the double header; Winnett defeated Belt 34-40. However, the boys rallied and came back to win the second game 36-25. The Huskies came back better than ever for their last home game and stomped the Ger-

aldine/Highwood Rivals 30-7. Last Thursday the boys accumulated their third loss of the season to the Centerville Miners. The Huskies were outscored 32-33.

The young athletes were back in action last night against the Tri-City Titans. Results of that game will be posted in the next issue of the Valley Voice. The Huskies will head to Winifred tomorrow for game starting at 11:00 a.m. and next week Belt will participate in the year end tournaments. The Valley Voice wishes the young hoopers the best of luck as their season comes to a close.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

### Bowling Scores

#### High Game Men

Mike Christensen (+47) 227

Robert Williams (+51) 200

Mike Ezop 191

#### High Series Men

Mike Christensen 592

Mike Ezop 529

Robert Williams 511

#### High Game Women

Lisa Urick (+70) 233

Patti Sweeney (+38) 185

Polly Pimperton (+47) 178

#### High Series Women

Lisa Urick 539

Patti Sweeney 461

Polly Pimperton 431

#### High Game Men

Mike Ezop (+87) 241

Brian Neill 224

Mike Christensen 223

Drew Koffler (+72) 223

#### High Series Men

Mike Christensen 597

Sam Olson 553

Drew Koffler 550

#### High Game Women

Laura Koffler (+74) 213

Sanna Skelton (+52) 177

Patti Sweeney 166

#### High Series Women

Laura Koffler 483

Patti Sweeney 468

Denise Puppe 455

## City News

During the month of March, the city council of Belt convened for their two regularly scheduled meetings on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. In attendance at the first meeting were Mayor Jim Olson, Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling, Public Works Personnel Robin Franzen, Aldermen Delbert Darko, Annie Porter, Paul Heikkila, Russell Roberts, Dave Eggert, and Sally Miller, Council Student Participant Gavin Olson, NCI Engineer Idaho Trenberth, and five members of the public. The second meeting was attended by: Mayor Olson, Clerk-Treasurer Schilling, Aldermen Darko, Porter, Heikkila, Roberts, Eggert, and Miller, and three members of the public.

The first item on the council's discussion list was the use of city equipment by private parties. The council initially discussed a "hold harmless" contract which could allow the city to loan or lease equipment to private parties; however the city's attorney did not approve of the contract. Belt will continue the policy of never loaning, giving, or renting city equipment or machinery to private individuals, including private contractors not expressly working for the city.

The council's discussion then shifted to the Milo/Sewer Project land sale. Recently, the city closed on the purchase and expects to receive the site title opinion within the week and begin construction soon after. The council also played with the idea of increasing the rate individuals pay as residents in Belt, but the city will do everything within their power to avoid the increase. Using the extra money in the budget after the purchase of the Milo's land, the city plans to repair or possibly replace Lift Station #2. Trenberth will inspect the lift and give a final opinion later this month.

The council then began discussion about the new ordinance regarding trailer and RV parks. During the first meeting of the month, Mayor Olson approved the ordinance which will be posted and read at the next three scheduled meetings before it officially becomes a law; however, during the second meeting it was brought the council's attention that the language



within the ordinance was somewhat confusing. The city amended the language to read "recreational vehicles that are designed primarily as temporary living quarters" instead of "recreational vehicles." The council also plans to include the state definition of a recreational vehicle.

The aldermen brought it to the attention of the council that the plowing of snow is causing large and long piles of snow that are melting into slush and making the streets virtually impassable. It was suggested that the city plow from east to west and north to south in order to get rid of the excess snow. The aldermen also pointed out that melting snow is causing lakes on the sidewalks of Belt; the city plans to clear and open the storm drains to alleviate the problem. There have also been ongoing complaints that the swinging bridge, stairs by the VFW building, and sidewalk to the pavilion do not get plowed during the winter. Mayor Olson explained that those items are lower on the priority list than the streets which explains the lack of plowing; the city will make more of an effort to keep those areas clear.

Pavilion improvements have been discussed in many of the city meetings. Recently, the city discovered that \$10,000 are left in the donation that was made with the point of improving parks and ball fields. The city plans to install sprinklers at the area around the pool and will discuss further use at the next meeting.

Also regarding the park and pavilion area, the city installed 2 porta potties and two dumpsters last week. The porta potties and dumpsters were placed around the baseball fields where they will remain through the end of May. Following the planned Belt Clean-up Day on May 5<sup>th</sup>, the dumpsters and porta potties will be removed.



Proposed Ordinance #0118 in regards to strip clubs within the city was also reviewed. The council conducted the second of three readings before the ordinance becomes a law. Mayor Olson has been conducting "Coffee and Expectations" to gain insight to what the residents of Belt would like to see happen within the community; the next "Coffee and Expectations" date has not yet been chosen, but Mayor Olson encourage the public to attend. The next city council meeting will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., and as always public attendance is encouraged.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

## Equine Corner

The horse loving bug continued to make its way into two more students of Belt. Sabrina Wing and Clayton Jassen both cherish their horses and the activities that come along with them.

Freshman Sabrina Wing has been involved with horses the majority of her life. She owns two horses, a bay filly named Chase and a grey whose name is Bandit. Wing just purchased Chase at the Breeders Group Sale in Great Falls last September. The freshman has been working with Chase on the ground with her filly because she is not old enough to ride but Wing plans to train Chase on the barrels once she matures. Wing plans on spending the rest of her life with horses and

hopes she can train her own and give riding lessons to kids. She looks up to multiple girls with accounts on Instagram who have dedicated their lives to horses to gain inspiration and to learn techniques. Wing is also involved in sports, DECA, and enjoys spending time with friends and shopping.

Clayton Jassen, sixth grader, has also been around horses almost of his life. Once his family moved from the East Coast back to the family ranch, nestled between Belt and Raynsford, he was immersed into the ranching lifestyle. Currently, Jassen has two horses. He uses Ducky, a thirteen year old paint, primarily in the show ring but sometimes in the rodeo arena. Jas-

sen also purchased a yearling palomino colt, Dally, last fall that he will train through the 4-H Colt to Maturity project. Jassen has a passion for working on the ranch but also loves to compete in sorting and roping events in the arena. Jassen has had tremendous accomplishments in the arena while competing. Jassen plans to continue helping on the ranch, training his colt, and team roping throughout his life. When he is not with his horses, Jassen plays basketball and football.

As the new seasons of spring and summer come rolling around the corner, Wing and Jassen are eager to be out of school and be able to spend time outside.

**By: Keely Drummond**

## Dates to Remember

The snow, which spring has not yet managed to evade, still clings to the streets of Belt. Yet, as the snow stays, the community is preparing to conclude another year of schooling and send off another class of students out into the adult world where they will become high functioning members of society. The school grows busier with an abundance of events growing near as the end of the school year looms closer each day.

Honor diplomas will be handed out to each recipient on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the school library. These students will put together a portfolio of what they deem as their most noteworthy works from their high school careers and display them to members of the Belt School Honor's committee along with any other attendees of the scholarly event. The following day, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 a Bacca laurate will be held at the Belt Community Church, where dinner will be served to guests of the participating graduates.

Academic awards are passed

out annually to the student body to commend them on their successes throughout the educational year. That assembly takes place in the gymnasium at 8:30 a.m. on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Senior finals will be held the following two days as they take their final exams from their soon to be former educators.

This year nineteen graduates plan to receive their diplomas from Belt High School on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. The annual ceremony congratulates these students who have completed their high school education and leaves them with their final farewells from the community, student body, and staff.

This year's graduating class has been preparing for the date since the beginning of the year: gathering senior pictures, sending invitations, writing scholarships, sending in college applications, and readying themselves for the day they move out into the 'adult' world. "I wish there was a way to know you're in the good old days before you've actually left them." –

Andy Bernard "*The Office*" is the quote the senior class has selected to embody their exodus out of the High School. The class has also chosen popular class c sports announcer, Sean Ryan, to be the commencement speaker at this year's graduation. Graduation exercises will also include the traditional valedictory and salutatory addresses, the emotional rose ceremony, presentation of scholarship awards, and the senior slide show.

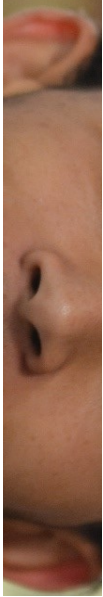
The remaining high-schoolers will take their final celebration of knowledge or second semester finals on May 23<sup>rd</sup> thought the 24<sup>th</sup>. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will make their journey from middle school adolescence to high school maturity on the 24<sup>th</sup> also, at 7 p.m. The eighth-grader's class motto is "What the caterpillar calls the end, the rest of the world calls a butterfly." They chose the colors blue and silver to adorn the gymnasium for their special day and "Life is a Highway" by Rascal Flatts will be the tune that carries them into the ceremony.

**By: Shelby Paulson**

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## Puzzle

This highschooler can be very distinguishable from his ears, who is it?



Last Edition: Keagan  
Stroop's arms.

## Calendar of Events

- April 6<sup>th</sup> – Golf Meet @ Chouteau
- April 7<sup>th</sup> – Golf Meet @ Chouteau
- April 7<sup>th</sup> – HS Track Meet @ Lewistown
- April 7<sup>th</sup> – MS Girls Basketball @ **Winifred**/Roy (B – 11:00 a.m. A – 1:00 p.m.)
- April 7<sup>th</sup> – MS Boys Basketball @ **Winifred**/Roy (B – 12:00 p.m. A – 2:00 p.m.)
- April 10<sup>th</sup> – HS Track Meet @ Great Falls High
- April 10<sup>th</sup> – Camp Out for S'More Reading – 5:00 p.m.
- April 10<sup>th</sup> – Board of Trustees Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- April 12<sup>th</sup> – HS Track Meet @ Great Falls High
- April 13<sup>th</sup> – HS Track Meet @ Centerville
- April 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> – MS Basketball Tournament Boys @ Geysers Girls @ Stanford
- April 13<sup>th</sup> – Golf Meet @ Fort Benton
- April 14<sup>th</sup> – Golf Meet @ Conrad
- April 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – John Larson Valley League Basketball Tournament
- April 18<sup>th</sup> – EARLY RELEASE @ 12:31 p.m.
- April 19<sup>th</sup> – Golf Meet @ Shelby
- April 20<sup>th</sup> – District Music Festival @ Great Falls
- April 20<sup>th</sup> – Golf Meet @ Fairfield
- April 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> – Craig Cummings Memorial Basketball Tournament

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