



The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



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As the Husky Football program kicked off its season the maroon and gold boys jumped into the year with the seniors, Hayden Urick, Cole Hepfner, and Gabriel Triplett planning and organizing open fields up to the start of the season's first official practice on August 13th. The Belt Huskies lost three seniors to graduation last year: Kamen Evans, Aiden McDaniel, and Treyton Hennes, setting the standard for the new seniors to lead the team this year.

Last Friday the boys made a long voyage down to Absarokee on Friday, August 27th for the first game, which was a non-conference affair against the other Huskies in the state. The game kicked off at 7:30 p.m. The maroon and gold team dominated play over the undermanned Absarokee squad on the way to a 62-12 victory.

Balance was the name of the game with exceptional line play. Memphis Black, Cole Hepfner, Isaac Maki, Keaghn McDaniel, Sawyer

Myrstol, and Gabriel Triplett controlled both sides of the line of scrimmage. The three quarterbacks, Garrett Metrione, Reese Paulson, Bridger Vogl completed 5 out of the 8 passes that were thrown for a total of 167 yards. The same three players that represent the QB's also were leading in rushing along with Keaghn McDaniel. The team ran the ball 16 times for a whopping total of 183 yards.

The local kids came out with a 30-0 lead in the first quarter, setting the stage for the second quarter getting another 16 points on the board and leaving the half with a 46-0 lead for the maroon and gold Huskies and sending the game to a running clock in the second quarter. This big lead allowed Belt to throw in the younger kids to get some playing time starting in the third quarter with Belt scoring another whopping 16 points and blanking Absarokee. In the fourth quarter Absarokee scored 12, leaving the game at a final *(cont. pg. 2)*

Welcome Back

After one successful year post-Covid, Belt school has welcomed back the majority of students to the physical classrooms. With school returning once again, Belt is welcoming back all the friendly faces and new additions. Students who had chosen online schooling last year didn't have that option again. The school asks that the scholars participate in good hygiene and suggest that masks are worn.

The school said goodbye to three teachers, Monte Cobb, Kerri Hiatt, and Tony Copper; as they welcomed Lauren Simons and Cassie

Pimperton. Mrs. Simons has offered more opportunities for the shop class, introducing Agriculture classes to this school with extra emphasis. Mrs. Pimperton joined the P.E. team after coaching and teaching at Fort Benton for several years.

The Belt School Board of Trustees developed a careful reopening plan that follows the recommendations from the Cascade County Health Department. Students with Covid-19 will be quarantined for the given number of days, depending on the CCHD requirements. Documentation will be necessary prior to return. *(Cont. pg. 8)*

The valley
Voice

Belt Town News

Over the summer, the Belt Town Council conducted meetings on July 21st and August 4th. They discussed new members, businesses, and funding for different structures. Alderman Annie Porter in Ward gave up her position and Mrs. Michelle Stinson will complete the term of service.

The council has come up with the project called 2021 BaRSAA funds to, "...grade, fill, and repair the A St. alley or as many alleys as could be completed for roughly \$15,000." They would need \$15,000 dollars in funds and also are considering the dirt road along the dike to be different projects for

the BaRSAA funds.

There are two projects that the council is striving to get funding for is: "to identify and resolve large leaks detected in the system - project cost \$70,000, and one to replace shallow, undersized, and corroded water mains and to upgrade all curb stop deficiencies - project cost \$1,970,000." They have acquired \$72,000 for the funding to the projects of water, sewer, and stormwater maintenance, upgrade, and repair.

The council has encountered branches that are on city property overhanging onto private property near the dike. Trimming the large

branches would cost approximately \$1,800 and the Council decided to acquire at least two more quotes until they moved forward on the plan.

The issues facing the Belt Town Council will be worked on through the seasons of Fall and Winter. With meetings that have commenced throughout August, the next one will be held on September 1st in the Belt City Hall at 7:00 p.m., and anyone can participate in the meetings conducted. The *Valley Voice* will keep the readers updated on every other issue on Belt's news.

By: Walker Maki

Head Rodeo Coaching Staff

Recently the University of Providence named a new duo, Ryan and Darcy Mapston, as the new head rodeo coaches. Ryan and Darcy have been given the opportunity to run the rodeo program after seeing how much experience they have with rodeo.

Darcy has been to the Montana Circuit Finals over ten times for barrel racing.



Ryan has also made it to the Montana Circuit Finals twice, along with being a ten time National Finals Rodeo qualifier in the saddle bronc event.

Now with this responsibility comes requirements. They need to help these students get better every day, fit in practice around their school schedule, resulting in training after school.

The Mapstons currently have six student/athletes included in the program and they are hoping to recruit as many participants as possible in the coming days, weeks, and months. Out of the five students, three are running barrels, and one of them is also involved in goat tying and break away. Then, they have two young men that bull ride.

These coaches claim they are excited about their new opportunity. "We are excited to work

with University of Providence, it is a great college, and it is a great blessing to the kids. We are planning on having great success this year and years to come." - Darcy Mapston.



The Mapston children are also exceptional young talents. Belt 8th grader Raenee competed in barrels nationally and sophomore Ryley is a calf roper as well as a saddle bronc rider.

By: Gracie Watson

Husky Football (cont.)

score of 62 to 12.

This year there are 12 teams divided into 2 subdivisions and this year the Harlem Wildcats also joined the Northern C division. At the end of the regular season four teams from the north will compete in the state wide playoffs.

Last Night the Huskies trav-

eled to Choteau and played their first conference game. Old Belt High triumphed 46-18 after jumping to a 32-0 halftime edge (details in the next issue of the *Voice*). The team record now stands at 1-0 for conference with an overall mark of 2-0. The boys home opener will be

next Thursday night as the Great Falls Central Mustangs invade Remington Field. Kick off is slated for 7:00 p.m.

By: Gabriel Triplett

Belt	30	16	16	-	62
Absarokee	-	-	-	12	12

Community Food Bank

The Belt community has a lot of community service options to help people's well being such as the Belt Valley Food Bank. The Food Bank opens on every 3rd Friday of every month from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Any person in need of food you must be signed up to get a basket. The Food Bank is located in the back alley of the Methodist Church.

It is run by a number of community volunteers in conjunction with local churches to address individuals in need.

The Food Bank receives donations from several organizations in Great Falls, as well as some local donations. If you are interested in donating to the Belt Valley Food Bank, you can contact Nina Hoyer at 277-3574 or 277-3510. They ac-

cept money or non-perishable food items as donations. The Food Bank volunteers will either pick up the donations or it can be brought to the church on the pickup days.

The Belt Valley Food Bank is very proud of their community role and serves a total of 25 families in Belt's community. If in need, please call.

By: Gabriel Triplett

Keep School Open Plan

After dealing with the initial Covid-19 restrictions, Belt Schools have revised their pandemic strategy. A new school year brings new changes, as many staff members and students have had the opportunity to receive the Covid-19 vaccination. Other than the exception of buses, masks will be recommended but not required.

Belt staff members have placed a strong emphasis on respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene, and

three-foot social distancing. Custodians have increased the cleaning of restrooms and frequently touched surfaces such as door handles and handrails. Hand sanitizer will be provided in all classrooms, common areas, and the office.

The school is working hard to continue in-person learning, but there might be instances where students need to work remotely for a period of time. Parents will be responsible for monitoring their fami-

lies' health and keeping students' home if they are sick. A student should remain home unless they have been fever free for a 24-hour period without medication.

As the rules are changing, the complete *keep school open plan* is available on the Belt School website on the front page under the welcome banner. The goal is that everyone works together to keep everyone in school.

By: Madisen Feldman

Student Council

The Belt Student Council has helped the Belt Huskies make improvements and important decisions about the students and the school itself for many years. Mrs. Jessica Tillman is excited to embark upon her 8th year as faculty advisor for the group.

This year's Student Government is proud to obtain Ahmia Lords as President, Haley Hoerner as Vice President, Addee Hoffmann as Secretary, and Eliza Tingey as Treasurer. The student body representative this year has not been elected into office yet. In addition, each class has two representatives that serve on this representative body. The Seniors have chosen Sarah Dollenger and Cole Hepfner as their class representatives. The Juniors will have Ryley Mapston and Sawyer Myrstol representing their class. Kylee Permann and JD Shep-

ard will be the sophomore's pick for representatives this year. These students will be the voice of the Belt students, and they will help make improvements to make the school a better learning environment.

The student council will help assist Mr. Koontz with Homecoming Olympics scheduled for Thursday, September 21st, 2021. In addition to helping with the Homecoming Olympics, the Student Council will help with other activities such as Cole's Pantry (weekend food backpack program), events to foster school pride, addressing issues brought up by the students and hopefully attending the Student Council regional meetings. Hopefully the Student Union this year will attend the fall and spring regional meeting because the meeting has been canceled the last few years.

The first meeting that the Student Council will participate in is on Thursday, September 2nd, 2021. In this meeting, the Student Government will go over what events they will attend and activities that they will host. The Class Representatives will come to this meeting and come with their ideas and concerns about their class.

The Student government hopes to help make important improvements to Belt School. Student Council has been around a long time helping students learn how to practice democracy, and learn how to help middle school and high school students with their concerns.

The *Valley Voice* will update readers on the progress of the Student Government throughout the year.

By: Eliza Tingey

2021 Belt Schools Football Schedule

Varsity

Date	Opponent	Place	Time
August 26	Power	Belt	
August 28	Belt Showcase	Belt	
August 31	Fairfield	Fairfield	2:15
September 3-4	Cascade Showcase	Cascade	
September 10	Simms (non-conference)	Simms	3:45
September 11	Augusta	Belt	
September 16	Dutton-Brady	Dutton	
September 18	Sunburst (non-conference)	Sunburst	
September 20	GFCC (non-conference)	Belt	
September 23	Simms (Homecoming)	Belt	
September 25	Choteau Showcase	Choteau	
October 2	Valier	Belt	
October 7	Cascade (non-conference)	Belt	
October 12	Fairfield	Belt	
October 16	Heart Butte	Belt	
October 18	GFCC	GFCC	2:30
October 19	Cascade	Cascade	2:15
October 28-29	District	Simms	
November 4-6	Divisional	Belt	
November 11-13	State	Bozeman	

Junior Varsity

Date	Opponent	Place	Time
August 26	Power	Belt	
August 28	Belt Showcase	Belt	
August 31	Fairfield	Fairfield	2:00
September 10	Simms	Simms	3:45
September 20	GFCC	Belt	
September 23	Homecoming	Belt	
September 25	Choteau Showcase	Choteau	
October 2	Valier	Belt	
October 7	Cascade	Belt	
October 12	Fairfield	Belt	
October 16	Heart Butte	Belt	
October 18	GFCC	GFCC	2:30
October 19	Cascade	Cascade	2:15

2021 Belt Schools Football Schedule

Varsity

Date	Opponent	Place	Time
Friday August 27	Absarokee	Away	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 2	Choteau	Away	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 9	GFCC	Home	7:00 p.m.
Friday, September 17	Fort Benton	Away	7:00 p.m.
Friday, September 24	Cascade (Homecoming)	Home	7:00 p.m.
Friday, October 1	Rocky Boy	Away	7:00 p.m.
Friday, October 8	Shelby	Home	7:00 p.m.
Fri/Sat, October 15/16	Seeded Playoff Game	TBA	TBA
Fri/Sat, October 22/23	Off		
Saturday, October 30	1 st Round Playoff Game	TBA	TBA
Saturday, November 6	Quarterfinals	TBA	TBA
Saturday, November 13	Semifinals	TBA	TBA
Saturday, November 20	State Championship	TBA	TBA

Junior Varsity

Date	Opponent	Place	Time
Monday, August 30	Simms	Away	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 7	Choteau	Home	4:30 p.m.
Monday, September 13	Fort Benton	Away	4:30 p.m.
Monday, September 20	Fort Benton	Home	4:30 p.m.
Monday, September 27	Fairfield (11 man)	Away	4:00 p.m.

Middle School

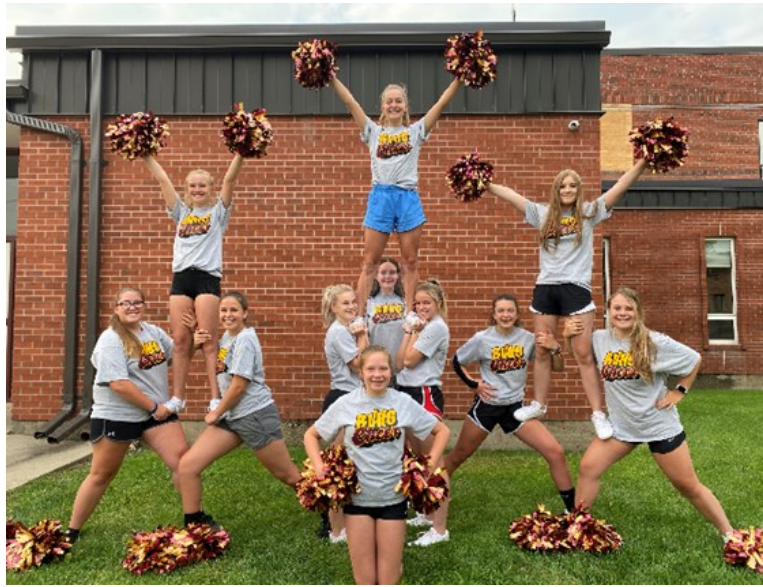
Date	Opponent	Place	Time
Friday August 27	GFCC	Home	4:30 p.m.
Friday, September 3	Choteau	Away	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, September 9	GFCC	Home	4:30 p.m.
Friday, September 17	Fort Benton	Away	2:00 pm
Friday, September 24	Cascade	Home	4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 28	Fort Benton (6 th & 7 th)	Home	4:30 p.m.
Friday, October 1	Rocky Boy	Away	4:30 p.m.
Friday, October 8	Shelby	Home	4:30 p.m.

Game times are potentially subject to change. For updated schedules, check the Belt School web site:
beltschool.com

Menu —→ Belt Athletics —→ Football, or Menu —→ Belt Athletics —→ Volleyball

Team Spirit

This year's cheer-leading team for Belt Highschool has 12 cheerleaders. Currently, the team is very young, as there is only one senior, Sarah Dollenger, and one junior, Aubrey Johnson. The Sophomores include: Brooke Holum, Ryann Osterman, Madison Pogany, Kandice Stice, Miya Anderson and Chloe Lehnerz. New members of the spirit squad consist of: Gracie Watson, Eliza Tingey, Addee Hoffman, and Zoie Anderson.



through signs for all the games, and cheer at home games and tournaments. On September 9th, the cheer team will be celebrating Husky spirit with a luau theme night where they will be selling t-shirts. The person who shows the most Husky spirit will get a grass skirt and everyone who participates will get a lei.

Cheer squads have been a great tradition in American

The squad does many things, including making posters for every student who is participating in sports and the coaches. They also prepare a dance routine for Homecoming Week, set up Spirit Week, make run

sports, and that is no different here in Belt. The team is led by Andrea Visocan, who has been the head cheer coach for four years.

By: Brooke Holum

Memories

The weather has been dominating the news lately, as many have heard about what's left of Hurricane Ida. There were areas that received over three inches of rain in just an hour. The water has been gushing throughout the cities and many subway stations are being filled to the brim. While this is a very detrimental reality, numerous citizens are reminiscing on Old Belt History.

This year marks the 40th anniversary since Belt's last flood. The *Valley Voice* has taken this opportunity to talk to the residents that were a part of the community during that time. The community has since constructed a dyke preventing another from occurring; Darrel O'Connell has even stated that the dyke "saved the town several times". The material for the dyke came from the slag piles that used to be located in the Coke Oven Flats, where the city burn pile is now. It helped clean out the old mine days, while also helping Belt.

Water was everywhere on the whole eastern end of town. The O'Connell's lived on the end of Castner Street and struggled greatly during the flood. The sewage line backed up into their basement and quickly filled. It had even reached the point where water started to gush out the windows. Their entire basement was gutted, including the walls, and anything that was left inside had to be discarded.

Businesses and houses obtained black mold; many respiratory and physical problems had occurred after this incident, due to this mold. There was plenty of damage brought to Belt; the most severe places included East Helena, Red Lodge, and of course Belt.

Just a mere 28 years before this, 1953, there was another flood that had wiped out the town. It took a full two weeks before the roads to Raynesford or Geyser reopened. There was so much water that one couldn't find the bridge or even exit Belt. Alice O'Connell witnessed both of these occurrences and expressed that "a flood is like a fire," because it takes out everything in its path.

Another great account of this flood is from Barbara and Ed Nevala. In this instance the Nevala's basement filled up, but with the help of the Bowmans they were lucky enough to get everything out. They are very appreciative of all that the dyke has done for them and the town of Belt. Marsha Bowman empathized that "friends helping friends" was a big emphasis in this situation.

While the community has the dyke to help protect them from floods, it has always been in Belt's best interest to look back at the old town history. Natural disasters change history, all the way from the Big Apple to little old Belt, Montana.

By: Kyndal Schraner

Valley Voice Staff

The Valley Voice is pleased to welcome a new staff on board for the 2021-22 school year. The new crew will work diligently to bring school and community news to the good people of Belt in each biweekly publication.

This year's crop of fledgling journalists includes (from top left across): Senior Gabriel Triplett, sophomores Madisen Feldman, Brooke Holum, and Kyndal Schraner freshmen Rylan Davison, Addee Hoffmann, Walker Maki, Eliza Tingey, and Gracie Watson.

Sign up for an e-subscription by sending a message to: kkoontz@beltschool.com. It's free! Printed copies of the paper will be available at a variety of local businesses.



Mr. Koontz will serve as managing editor again this year.



With winter approaching very fast many accidents are bound to happen, but those are just because of the harsh weather. Most other accidents happen when you are driving under the influence.

Young adults between the ages of 16-23 have more DUI's than any other age group. Always remember to drive safe, and driving under the influence has many unwanted consequences.



Don't Drink and Drive!

Technology Upgrades

Belt school has had many technology upgrades recently. The school is trying to keep up with all the new advances to keep the education system here up to date.. Currently, the school has a one-to-one ratio of Chrome Books to students, and they also upgrade ten desktop computers every year along with the internet connection so that service keeps up with the times

The school is also working

on a few other technological improvements, including trying to add things like drones so students will be able to learn how they work and the jobs available with them. The school is also looking to add a touch screen tv in the shop to see if students and teachers alike using it to access information more readily.

These technological advances are helping students learn by giving them access to the latest innova-

tions so they can have more opportunities to learn online since teachers can use more websites to improve their students' learning.

Technology coordinator Eldon Burgess is available most of the time when school is in session and around the school a lot when the kids aren't here making sure that all the classes in Belt are on the cutting edge of educational technology.

By: Brooke Holum

Policy Changes

With a new school year comes new expectations. This year, several revisions have been added to the handbook, which will impact the day to day life of the school system. All policy changes were approved by the Belt School Board of Trustees with input from the administration and staff at the school.

Taking an academic turn, a major change that was added to the handbook is MTDA classes, which stands for Montana Digital Academy. The school wanted this change to be added so parents and students knew that MTDA classes now cost money. Any students who want to go to a college with required classes can't, unless they complete the required classes. MTDA is a good choice for those students. In past years, the number of kids who took MTDA classes varied, with this year four students taking advantage. MTDA classes also provide honors credits for students.

Another major change to the

handbook is the dress guidelines. The changes to the dress code is that the school wanted students to know that during spirit week, even though things can get exciting and chaotic, kids must follow the dress code. The reason this rule was put in place was because many issues have occurred in the past. The Belt School hopes to solve this problem with the new changes.

Medications are emphasized in the handbook because all medications must be run through the office before students saunter around with them in their bag. This is important so the office is aware of what kids in their school are taking. The reason this is in the handbook is Belt just wanted it to be known by students and parents alike that medications now need to be run through the office.

The lost and found policy has had a change too. The school wanted parents to know that Belt has a lost and found, and what

times it can be accessed. The staff also wanted parents and students to know that every quarter, and at teacher parent meetings, the lost and found will be put on display. Any clothes, shoes, or accessories that are not claimed will be given to a local charity. The lost and found bins can be found in both locker rooms, by the bus door, and in the elementary hall. The whole point of this change will be to emphasize that Belt has a lost and found. The lost and found has been an ongoing problem at Belt and if the school stresses this revision hopefully will end the habit of kids losing their things.

The school hopes these changes will enhance the academic and social life of the students, and remind parents of the importance of these rules. Each student must keep in mind that he or she signed a sheet that makes them responsible for following the new policies.

By: Addee Hoffman

Welcome Back (Cont.)

Falls sports will be returning once again, with the MHSA provider; the volleyball, football, cheerleading, and cross-country teams already engaged in competition. Along with school sports, there will be other extracurricular activities offered, similar to the previous

years. The school year is off to a tremendous start, with students and staff alike engaged in the business.

When asked about the new school year, 8th grader McKenzie Pogany answered honestly, that "Yes, I got a little bored at the end of summer, but I'm excited to get

back to school and I'm really looking forward to competing in sports as well as enjoying my classes."

School Year 2021-22 is off to a roaring start after just three two and a half weeks. For some, that means 13 day down, 167 to go.

By: Kyndal Schraner

Enrollment Changes

Eastern Montana is encountering a tough time with new students and are having to combine five different schools just to have enough people for a six-man football team. The state of Montana is losing population in small towns and schools are becoming much smaller. On the contrary, Belt is experiencing a great number of new students because of its proximity to Great Falls.

The town of Belt has new

students in Elementary, Middle School, and High School. The previous year there were approximately 289 students and now there are 338 students in the year of 2021-2022. The increase in enrollment has caused some classes to be packed full of students. For example, in Mr. Koontz's 7th period geography class includes all 28 students in one classroom, which is different from being split in their other periods. The 7th period shop

class, taught by Mrs. Simmons, was such a big class that the freshmen were transferred to Mr. Hoyer's marketing class.

Belt is off to a great year with 49 more students than the previous year. The enrollment changes have caused scheduling changes and the ratio of students to present challenges. There will be some adjustments to begin with, but it's a good problem to deal with.

By: Walker Maki

Highway Construction Project

This past summer the Montana Department of Transportation commenced construction on the roundabout at Armington Junction. Construction began in August and can be expected to be completed by the fall of 2022. Drivers should anticipate delays up to 15 minutes, flaggers, pilot cars, and temporary stop lights.

The total cost of this project is \$19.4 million, which includes the costs of construction to improve the intersection, the widening of the roads, bridge and culvert replacements, and the building of the roundabout. This project is funded by the National Highway System Program.

Currently, case studies have shown that the roundabouts in Canyon Ferry and Lake Helena Drive have reduced crashes by 70%. With the addition of the roundabout this

will decrease the number of conflict points down to eight. With their one-directional traffic flow, roundabouts eliminate deadly crashes thus improving safety.

While there are several pros and cons, many civilians have different beliefs about whether the roundabout is beneficial. One opinion voiced by freshman Keely Dirkson indicated disapproval of the project, "I honestly don't think it's a good idea especially in the winter months." Mrs. Mettrione added "I would like to know more information on the number of accidents it prevents."

The one thing everyone can agree on is that they hope the construction at the Armington Junction goes smoothly and is completed soon.

By: Madisen Feldman

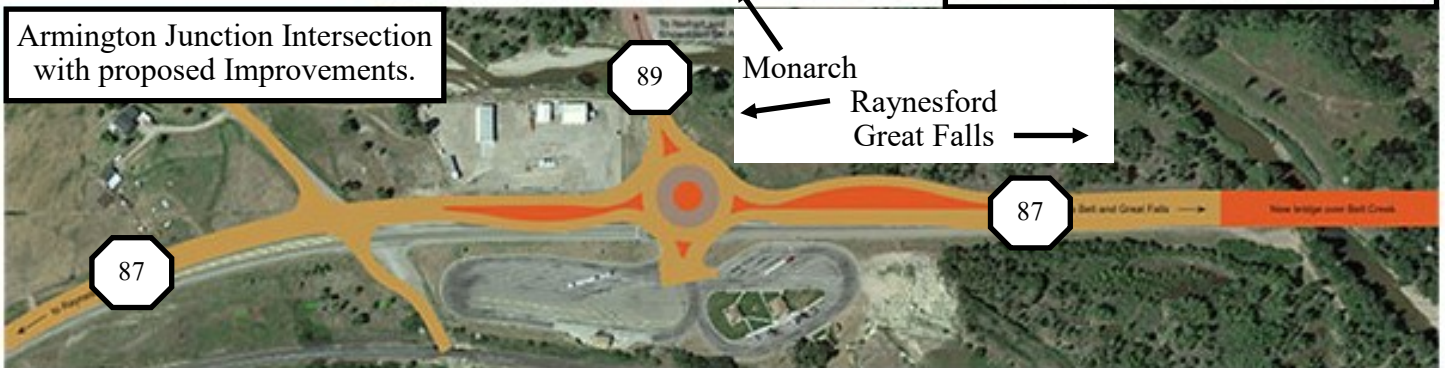
Bus Drivers Needed!

Extracurriculars are an important of the educational experience, but we can't do it without you! This school year many students are participating in extracurricular activities, and need ways of transportation to get home and back. Many students want to get a good education, and you could help them by being a bus driver!

Earn a great wage while giving kids opportunities to expand their horizons Wage information and requirements are available by contacting the school.

Please Call (406)-277-3351 for more information.

Armington Junction Intersection with proposed Improvements.



New Students

With 49 new students in Belt Public Schools, Chloe Lehnerz, Tawny Redding, and Raeli Stafford were interviewed to share their perspectives on being the new kids. There are new students in Pre-K through 10th grade.

Tawny Redding traveled from Flathead to Belt because her dad is currently working near the town of Belt. She was formerly enrolled in the Flathead High School and doesn't know her favorite class or teacher. She is



currently pleased with how Belt is treating her and making her feel welcome.

Raeli Stafford (not pictured) previously participated in school at East Middle School and so far, she is enjoying Belt. She is in 8th and her favorite subject is Math which is taught by Mrs. Stinson. Coincidentally, her favorite teacher is Mrs. Stinson and she is on the Belt Middle School Volleyball A team.

Landin Schraner is in 8th grade and was homeschooled by his mom for the last school year. He went to Belt before he was homeschooled and partakes in the Belt Middle School Football team. He

hasn't chosen a favorite teacher or class yet; however, he is appreciative of the Belt School.

In conclusion, there are many new students enrolled in Belt Public Schools and they are welcome in Belt. The readers of the Belt Valley Times will be introduced to three new students every issue.

By: Walker Maki



Senior Spotlight

The senior class of 2022 is a ferocious class of 18 students, and the first senior to be chosen for the spotlight is Brady Drummond. Brady has been enrolled in Belt since Pre-K and has accomplished many great things for Belt.

Last year Brady participated in Poetry Out Loud and Poetry Ourselves. She has taken part in Poetry Out Loud for the past three years



and is planning on engaging in it for her senior year too. Brady won the state competition and advanced to the next progression, National Poetry Out Loud. Brady won Poetry Ourselves for a poem she had previously written called "Wheatgrass". She has engaged in Rodeo, DECA, and Youth Leadership as extracurricular activities.

Brady is going to miss her friends and teachers the most when she departs from her hometown to proceed to college. She is planning on becoming a Business Major and has yet to decide on the college she will go to. Her favorite teacher is Mr. Ross and Mr. Hoyer with a favorite class of creative writing.

Brady's fondest memory was building homecoming floats with her classmates. Belt School is going to miss Brady Drummond when she progresses to the next step of schooling. Belt wishes her good luck in the next stages of her life. The next senior featured in the *Valley Voice* will be Cole Hepfner.

By: Walker Maki

Youth Rodeo

Eighth grader, Raene Mapston, here at Belt has persevered so much that she made it to the National Rodeo. One time each year the top four people in every event in the high school rodeo are selected. This rodeo is a really special opportunity for people. Raene was one of the four people to make it to this rodeo, based on her barrels.

This event was held in Des Moines, Idaho, and that may seem really far away, and it brought in a giant crowd of equine enthusiasts, as there were around a thousand people there to support and participate. To get to where she is today Raene has put so much effort and commitment toward what she is passionate about. Believe it or not she practices six out of seven nights a week, not Mondays, every week.

The event took place June 20th through the 26th and while Raene didn't win it was a great time, "It was an awesome experience. It was also super fun!" - Raene Mapston.

By: Gracie Watson

Luau Night

On Thursday, September 9th at 7:00 p.m., things are going to get tropical in the valley. Come celebrate Luau Night at the Remington Field! Support the Huskies as they do battle with the GFCC Mustangs. Spectators will have the chance to show their Husky spirit by wearing the best themed outfit to win a prize presented by the Belt Cheer Squad.

Mrs. Visocan is in charge of Luau Night, and her goal is to bring

more Husky spirit to Belt High School, as the entire community rebounds from the Covid-19 restrictions since last year.

Get there early. The first 100 spectators who are wearing Luau attire will receive a Hawaiian Lei to wear during the game.

During half time, the Belt Close Up students will be running an epic limbo competition, and with a small fee of \$2.00, anyone can show off their skills and have a

chance to win Husky gear.

To raise money for the Belt Cheer Squad, the Cheerleaders have been selling luau shirts for the audience to wear during the game. While the time to preorder shirts has passed, there will be some shirts that the Cheer Squad will be selling at the football game.

The Cheerleaders hope to make theme night a new tradition for the Huskies to enhance school spirit. **By: Eliza Tingey**

New Teachers

As the new year kicked off, new faces in the shop and the gym entered the Husky Nation. Mrs. Lauren Simons enters her 1st year in the teaching industry after moving from her job doing veterinarian work in Butte to Belt, and has hopes to change the focus on shop class from more vocational work, to agricultural work. Mrs. Cassie Pimperton takes the role of Coach Tony Cooper in the gym and wants to bring fun and hard work to the kids.

Mrs. Simons claimed that when she came in to do her interview, Belt felt like her hometown back in Oklahoma and felt that Belt made her feel really comfortable. When asked about what she would miss from her previous job, she replied, "I'm going to miss seeing all the cute dogs and puppies all day long."

Mrs. Simons described her teaching style as laid back and relaxed. She wants the kids to have fun, but also get their work done. She claims that she is very calm and chill, which helps the kids focus and have fun.

One thing Mrs. Si-

mons is excited for is to get to know her students and their families. Another thing she is excited for is to get to make fun projects with the kids. With the changing focus from vocational work to agricultural studies the kids are excited for the new world of possibilities on the horizon

First impressions are very key, especially for instances like Mrs. Simons. Coming from Butte to Belt, she didn't know much about the little town, so her first impression would really help her feel more comfortable. Her first impressions of the school were very positive. She was impressed with how professional the staff and students were. She was also amazed at how proud the people in the community were to be Huskies.

With the departure of Coach Tony Cooper, Mrs. Cassie Pimperton had big shoes to fill. Having family in Belt, she had a good understanding of the town. She previously came from being a gym teacher, science teacher, and basketball coach at Fort Benton, so she is familiar with smaller towns and schools. The main thing she is going to miss the most from her job in Fort Benton is the kids. On the other hand, she is excited about meeting new kids here at Belt.

Mrs. Pimperton describes her teaching style as flexible. She claims that she is good as long as the kids are good and respectful. She has been around Belt for awhile, so she had ideas about what the town was like, but she had no idea what to expect from the school. Her first impressions were also positive, like Mrs. Simons. Mrs. Pimperton's first impressions of the school were that it was a good school, and the students were focused.

The departure of Monte Cobb and Coach Tony Cooper was a big hit for the school. It is early in the school year, but Belt believes that they filled the positions with the proper people. The kids also have positive reviews of the new teachers. One of the more favorite changes is the introduction of the "Entrepreneur" class that Mrs. Simons teaches. Belt doesn't know what the future will bring with these new teachers, but the future looks bright.

By: Rylan Davison



Happy Birthday!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Birthday Husky</u>	<u>Grade</u>
9/2	Thorsten Wakeford	Pre
9/6	Trapper Croff	Pre
9/13	Grayden Kerkes	1
9/17	Kase Keller	2
9/5	Grace Brown	3
9/3	Jett Marn	4
9/7	Albert Mason	4
9/5	MacKenzie Adkins	5
9/10	Bryce Backus	6
9/13	Kenneth Smith	6
9/15	Shyahna McLaughlin	6
9/6	Maryann Reis	7
9/10	Tanner Brurud	8
9/4	Brooke Holum	10

Middle School Sports

After all the commotion with last year's sports, the middle school students were anxious to start on a new step since Covid- 19. Fall athletics have started once again, including volleyball, football, and cross country.

There are 25 girls in Belt's middle school volleyball program. The "A" Team is 1-0 after a victory over Power last week, and today they play a showcase in Simms beginning at noon. The "B" Team has the weekend off, but they are unbeaten as well with wins over Power, Centerville, and Highwood.

The first football game kicked off at Remington Field last week. The young Huskies prevailed 35-8 against the Holy Spirit and Lady of Lourdes team. Yesterday they went to Choteau and returned with another victory, 28-6. The young Husky gridiron stars are undefeated with a couple wins under their belt as they eagerly prepare for the time when they represent the school on the bigger stage.

Finally, the cross country kids headed to Cut Bank today to get their season under way as lots of young Huskies are honing their skills, getting in shape, and representing the school and community in fine fashion. **By: Kyndal Schraner**

Lady Husky Volleyball

The Mighty Husky volleyball players have gone through many excruciating practices to prepare for the season ahead. With 11 practices under their belt, the Husky volleyball players hit the court for their first game that was on the 26th of August.

The game was against the Lady Pirates. The first set was a tiring game with the lady pirates only down by two. The Lady Huskies pushed two points to gain the win. In the second set the Belt Huskies lost, 20-25 but they tried their best in the game. During the third set the Huskies tied multiple times, and finally pushed it home with a 28-26 win. With one more set to go and the win or lose resting on their shoulders, the Belt volleyball girls defeated the enemy with a final score of 25-14.

During the game Ella Pethel carried the team with 5 aces, 2 kills, 8 digs, and 20 assists. Raily Gliko, a senior, helped the team to a home victory with 2 aces, 13 kills, and 19 digs. As there was no varsity libero Addi Urick and Deanna Davison dug a total of 26 balls together. Senior Lindsey Paulson, had 1 ace, 7 kills, and 3 digs to help the team to a victory. Another major help to the team was Aaliyah Gaylord with a total of 3 aces, 5 digs, and 10 assists. Also Kylee Permann had 2 aces, 12 kills, and 22 digs. The Belt Huskies Volleyball team defeated the Lady Pirates and won their first game.

On Saturday, the 28th of August Belt hosted a showcase. The JV team won their showcase game. The varsity girls won all of their games leading up to their final battle, in which they were defeated by the Highwood Rivals.

The Belt Huskies show up again at Fairfield Montana. This game was their first game away from the dog house. The first set ended with the Lady Huskies at 25 and the Eagles at 20. The second set was won by the Belt girls and the score was 25-17. The Belt Girls won the game in three sets, with the last set ending with a score of 25-20. Addi Urick, the libero for this game, had a total of one ace and 14 digs. Raily Gliko had 3 aces, 9 kills, 1 block, and 5 digs. Lindsey Paulson helped out the huskies with 2 kills, 5 blocks, and 4 digs. Ella Pethel, one of the setters for the Huskies, had 3 aces, 1 kill, 1 dig, and 13 assists. The team total for the Belt Valley Golden Huskies was 9 aces, 24 kills, 6 blocks, 39 digs, and 24 assists.

The Lady Huskies will be in action at the Cascade Badger Showcase, beginning this afternoon and continuing tomorrow. Coach Christine Gondeiro is happy with the start of the season and expects big things from this year's Lady Husky squad. The district, divisional and state volleyball tournaments are set for the end of October and the first week of November. Belt will host the Northern C Divisional Tournament. **By: Addee Hoffmann**