



The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



17 September 2021

Volume 12 Issue #2

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This year marks the 20th anniversary since the tragedy of September 11th, often referred to as 9/11. The United States Twin Towers were demolished by terrorists who hijacked two planes. These extremists attempted to control four planes and crash them into the Twin Towers, Pentagon, and White House or Capitol Building. Three of the four hit their targets.

There was a total of 19 Al Qaeda terrorists; they split into 4 groups and each was equipped with at least one person who had their flight license. The first aircraft crashed into the North Tower at 8:46 a.m. Just a mere 17 minutes later another hit the South tower, at a lower location causing it to ultimately fall faster. By 9:37 a.m. the last to hit the target struck the Pentagon. The final flight crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania just an hour after the second one; it was in the field due to amazing civilians attempting to regain control.

This horrific day will forever

be remembered for those who lost their lives and the family of each person. Those who have survived often have severe trauma and remember each moment of that day. Almost 3,000 people lost their lives, emergency personnel and citizens, and tons of others were impacted. This remains the deadliest terrorist attack in human history, and the infrastructure and property damage amounted to at least \$10 billion.

Suspicion quickly fell upon the terrorist group Al-Qaeda and troops deployed to the Middle East, preventing attacks like this from ever happening again. Detective Shawn Baker, who conducts street law classes at high schools in Cascade County, including Belt, remembers it well. Baker was 21 when this occurred and eventually was deployed in Iraq. He was stationed in Fort Richardson, AR, with B Company 1/501st PIR; later changing jobs and became an (Cont. pg. 3)

1971 Football Reunion

Entering Homecoming Week the Husky football teams record is unblemished. The same was true fifty years ago when the Belt boys of yore went on to post an undefeated season and capture the Northern C football crown. Back then there were no statewide playoffs.

The perfect 1971 season was not just an easy however. The Huskies had an 8-0 win streak for the season fighting down to the last play on some of the games. When the Maroon and Gold played their second game against the Dutton team at Remington Field ending the half at 14-12 Dutton.

In the fourth quarter, the Huskies made the last play effort and scored a touchdown ending the game with an 18-14 Huskies. Their third game was against Geraldine ending in a nail-biting win for Belt at 14-12. The Northern Division game that year was played at Remington Field on a snow-covered frozen day, against the Joplin Bulldogs. Huskies competing their best left the half with a 28-8 lead against the Bulldogs, then going into the win with 36-14 Huskies for the win.

That year Dale Thompson, Steve Bloch, Jim Basta, (Cont. pg. 3)

Dawgs 4-0

The past two weeks the Huskies remained undefeated with a win over Choteau, a forfeit from Great Falls Central Catholic, and a decisive win over CJI in a hastily scheduled game to replace the GFCC contest. With three weeks in the books, the Huskies face their biggest test of the season tonight in a game that has everyone's attention.

On Thursday September 2nd, the Belt Huskies rolled the Choteau Bull-Dogs for a 46 to 18 win for the Maroon and Gold. In the first half of the game Garrett Metrione made the first touchdown of the game, punching the ball into the endzone for one yard. Later the Huskies forced a safety in the Bulldogs own endzone. Jeremy Nebel caught a glorious pass from Metrione sprinting into the endzone for another touchdown with a successful 2 point conversion. Jumping into the 2nd quarter the Belt Huskies scored another 16 points in the 1st half with one touchdown run and pass from Bridger Vogl and Metrione, both touchdowns having decisive 2 point conversions ending the half with a 32-0 lead for the Maroon and Gold boys.

In the 3rd quarter Hayden Urick caught a pass from Vogl, dashing for the touchdown, leaving the 3rd quarter at 38-6 on the scoreboard and invoking the mercy rule, starting the clock running. Commencing into the 4th quarter Reese

Paulson darted the ball into the endzone, terminating the touchdown parade for the Huskies, as the JV was put on the field Choteau scored 18 points ending the game at a 46-18 win for the Maroon and Gold.

Belt	16	16	6	8	46
Choteau	-	-	6	12	18

Originally on Thursday September 9th, the Belt Huskies were scheduled to play Great Falls Central Catholic, but due to GFCC having too many injuries they had to forfeit the game, allowing the Huskies to win with a max of 19 points earned.

The Belt Boys played a game against CJI on Friday September 10th, as a replacement for the GFCC game that was canceled. The Hawks were undefeated for their season and wanted to test the visitors on CJI's Homecoming night. The Maroon and Gold kicked off the game with 22 points in the first quarter, hindering the Hawks from scoring. In the second quarter Belt continued to roll over CJI like in past years only allowing the Hawks to score once leaving the half at 36-6 on the board.

The third quarter kicked off with the Hawks making some gain on the Huskies getting the crowd hyped up for the change in momentum, but eventually halting CJI with their 14 point gain and putting another 18 up on the board for the

Huskies. In the fourth quarter the Maroon and Gold kept putting points up on the board with the JV squad in play for most of the stanza,

Belt	28	14	14	12	68
CJI	-	12	8	8	28

putting a cap on the game at 68-28 Huskies for the win.

Coach Graham's crew boasts an impressive record of 4-0 with a 2-0 conference streak. The Huskies will play the Fort Benton Longhorns tonight; kickoff is at 7:00 p.m. Both teams are unbeaten and the game might well decide the Northern C title. It will certainly determine who is in charge in Sub-division A. The game will be broadcast on 560 KMON & kmon.com, with Chris Kelly and Karl Koontz providing play-by-play coverage.

By: Gabriel Triplett



Football Reunion *(cont.)*

Jim McCafferty, and George Wood were all voted to compete in the 5C All-Star Game. Steve Bloch was also selected to be in the East-West Shrine Game. The Roster for the 1971 team included: Coach Dennis Davis, Assistant Coach Wayne Durrocher (Deceased), Mgr. Wayne Francom, Pat Adams, Jim Basta, Martin Basta, Rich Bergman, Steve Bloch (Deceased), Lon Bowman, Scott Carlson (Deceased), Russ Crowell, Tracy Donovan (Deceased), Joe Elam (Deceased), Gary Enderson, Steve Esch, Marc Gies, Steve Griffin, Van Haagen-son, Jerry LaPlaunt, Nick Lertiz (Deceased), Andy Lindeman, Tim Marn, Gary McBride, Jim McCafferty, Bruce Neill, Mark Neill, Terry Noble, Mike O'Connell, Jack Rogers, Jim Sider, Dale Thompson (Deceased), Dave Urick, Jeff Vaskey, Dave Vigen, John Wood, and George Wood. In 2011 the team had a reunion at the Belt Homecoming and rode in the parade and participated in Homecoming.

Also, that same year the 1971 basketball team placed 1st in the 8C Conference, and 3rd in the

District 8C tournament, 2nd in the Northern Division, and 3rd at the State C tournament, finishing their season at 26 wins and 6 losses. The 1972 basketball team tied for 1st in 8c Conference play, 1st in the District 8C tournament, 1st in the Northern Division, and 3rd at the State C tournament wrapping up the season with 26 wins and 4 losses. The boys track team finished 3rd in the 8C track meet as well.

George Wood, a player on the 1971 football team says He was able to watch Belt's 1962 undefeated Northern Division Championship team as well as the 1994 undefeated State Champion team. He also says "The 1962 Belt Huskies football team was by far the best team to ever suit up for Belt." George said "The 1994 team was loaded with talent and they would have given the 1971 Huskies all they could handle".

In conjunction with the football reunion, the Class of '72 will also have a get together next week. Congratulations and thanks for the memories!

By: Gabriel Triplett

Labor Day

With the summer coming to an end Belt Schools recently had a holiday to celebrate workers known as Labor Day. To most people it is just a day off of work or school, but it has a much more important meaning behind it. Labor Day celebrates workers themselves and their achievements, and is celebrated on the first Monday of September.

Labor day was created due to the union movement in the late 19th century when people would work long and difficult days, and even children worked in mills and factories all day just to make a living.

The workers' recognition event was considered a federal holiday beginning in 1894. Labor Day weekend is also known as the end of summer and the time to start back to school.

The founder of Labor day was Matthew Maguire. He was an early union organizers in the machinists' union in New Jersey around the turn of the Century and a politician as well.

By: Brooke Holum

9/11 *(Cont.)*

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Tech, which essentially means he located and set off bombs. After EOD School in the Spring of 2003 he was moved to Fort Knox in Kentucky with the 703 EOD Company, similar to a unit. During his time with that unit, he was deployed



twice, fall of 2003 in Fallujah, Iraq and summer of

2005 in Tal'afar.

He states that these experiences were "...life changing in so many ways from the lost friends, to having a first-hand account of what war entails. Some days you felt like you were doing great things for the US and Iraq and other days you felt like you were wasting your time, but overall I would say the mission of the unit was successful both times and that the majority of the Iraqi citizens truly appreciated our assistance with the betterment of life."

Recently across the news multiple things have been happening, such as the United States leav-

ing Afghanistan and the Taliban taking back over.

Many people have different opinions on this controversial subject, but it is very disheartening for many soldiers who have died or watched their friends and family die across the ocean. In light of everything that's happening it is imperative that everyone looks back and remembers the fallen, then move forward accordingly.

A big Thank You goes out to each and every soldier who has been deployed. Condolences go out to each person and family member of the those lost one in the horrific attacks. **By: Kyndal Schraner**

Middle School Sports

Once again, the middle school has taken multiple wins against their opponents. All of the little Husky teams are ecstatic to play during homecoming and represent Belt another year. Volleyball, football, and cross-country team have done an exceptional job so far and expect continued great results.

The girls' volleyball team played in a showcase in Simms. They won the championship game and took home the win against Highwood/ Centerville, in a total of two sets. The girls then played

Simms in a single match, winning once again in the third set. They defended their title, at home, and pulled away from Augusta in the final set. The girls set off to Dutton yesterday, with a report to follow.

The young football team played twice more since the last issue. First up was a convincing win against Choteau on the road. The next game was home, against Great Falls Central Catholic, and they won by much more than they did last time, 54-20. Their record now stands at 3-0. The next game

will kick off later today in Fort Benton, at 4:30 p.m.

The cross-country team has run twice, out of seven, since the last issue. The team is very excited for the next meet, which will take place on September 20th in Lions Park at 4:15 p.m. Each runner is hoping to beat their personal best with every run.

The *Valley Voice* would like to wish each of the little Husky teams a good season, and hopefully more wins in the future.

By: Kyndal Schraner

Cyber-Safety

The high schoolers at Belt travelled to Fort Benton yesterday for digital safety presentation. They departed at 8:30 a.m. and returned about 11:30 a.m. Mr. Paulson, Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Gliko, and Mr. Hoyer accompanied the students.

The person who gave the presentation is a national award-winning speaker, Richard Guerry. He speaks for IROC2-Institute for

Responsible Online Cellphone Communication. He talks to people around the nation and shares the knowledge he has with many people.

After introductions, he explained digital consciousness and what cyber cruelty and bullying mean. He shared information to help avoid exploitation, and how to be safe with communication in

gaming. Lastly, he spoke about responsible status updates, and how oversharing is risky. It was a valuable lesson.

To learn more about this topic to keep all people safe visit: www.dailylocal.com. It doesn't matter how old a person is, make sure they are safe when using technology of any kind.

By: Gracie Watson

Little Kids Dance

The performing arts in Belt MT, is slowly but surely on the rise. Two fifth graders, Collyns Yurek and Adiana LaPlaunt are involved in dance. The Soul Dance Studio is for all people big and small from 2 years old to 18 and there is even an option to even compete as adults.

The cost to enroll in dance \$130 a month, and competition entry fees are additional. For example if a dancer was in a big group they would pay \$45, a trio costs \$75, and a solo performance costs \$100. Medals are awarded to winners in competitions. This is a big commitment, so there is obviously going to be a lot of practice, and last year there were five competitions that the Soul Dance Studio was involved in.

The studio is in Great Falls,

and these two fifth grade girls from Belt travel there three nights a week. They normally practice Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings, 1-3 hours depending on if there are special choreographers, or a coming up competition.

Collyns Yurek, a dancer for The Soul Dance Academy has been dancing for six years. She has won the Vickie Sheer International Award along with the 2020 Sheer Ambassador Award. Adiana LaPlaunt, a dancer for the Soul Academy has been dancing for two years. She recently won a gold medal at a competition in Bozeman, but she has only been competing for one year so some would say she has come a long way. These two young girls have actually danced together in a competition and placed. Both

young ladies claim that dancing is fun and relieves stress. It is also joyful for them when a special choreographer comes and helps.

For each type of dance there are different clothing styles. The types of dance are contemporary, lyrical, jazz, jazz funk, ballet, and hip hop. Adianna has chosen jazz and contemporary, while Collyns is sticking to hip hop, ballet, lyrical, and contemporary. These girls are planning on doing dance for life, till they graduate and even planning to make it professional. "Not only are you training, taking classes and working on technique, you are also coming in on the weekends. Dancing is such a huge commitment but what comes out of that is what is really amazing." - Jessica Yurek

By: Gracie Watson

New Course Offerings

Schedules change a little bit every year, but usually they don't change drastically. This year, there are three major changes to the class setups. The first change is the fact that there is no longer a Spanish class. The other changes both have to do with the shop program. The first one is the fact that shop classes are an all day thing. The other is that the focus on shop has changed from vocational work to an agricultural focus, which is more close to home.

With the departure of Senorita Kerri Hiatt, the Spanish class

followed her out the door as well. This opens up many possibilities for the students to learn new languages, not just Spanish. One of the more popular languages the students are drawn to is French. The foreign language program is now strictly online.

Shop class has experienced two changes, for the better. The first of which is the class being available for the whole day. It used to be that shop class was only available from periods 1-5. Now, the class is available for periods 1-8. Having a full-time shop teacher is

very important for availability when not in school, because they won't have to worry about different jobs, along with the school.

The other primary change in the shop class was the focus of it. It used to be mainly focused on woodwork and vocational work. Nowadays, it is more focused on agriculture. That is important because here in Belt, agriculture is more of a focus rather than woodworking. There still is woodworking and welding classes, but they are not the main focus of the class anymore.

By: Rylan Davison

Covid-19

Covid-19 cases are on the surge in the United States and it is getting close to home. There are approximately 133,000 active cases in the state of Montana and 1,047 new cases on September 8th. Cascade County had 824 positive cases throughout the weeks of August 29th and September 11th. There has been a 6% increase in the number of Covid cases in the week of 9/5/21-9/11/21.

In Cascade County, there have been 11,647 total cases and a total of 198 deaths. The average number of positive Covid-19 tests is on the rise at 14%. On September 4th, there were 1,170,826 tests taken in the United States, and 163,916 cases came back positive. There were 97,056 people hospitalized in the US and 25,873 people in the ICU. Approximately half of the population in Montana have gotten

either the first shot or both shots for the vaccine.

The Delta Variant is twice as infectious and 60% more transmissible than the original alpha form of Covid-19. It first spread into the United States in March 2021, and the alternate has mutated into different sub adaptations called Delta Plus. The symptoms of the alteration are the same as Covid-19, however people are getting sicker quicker and it is affecting younger people especially people who haven't been vaccinated. This new development can cause more severe illness; however, the Covid-19 vaccines are effective in fighting the Delta Variant.

This previous Monday, Great Falls High modified to remote learning. There are many additional locations surrounding Belt that are having schedule and learn-

ing issues concerning Covid-19 and contact tracing.

Contact tracing procedures have changed; parents can now decide if they will keep their child home or allow them to stay in school. Belt is staying with in-person learning, yet they have experienced Covid-19 and contact tracing incidents within the school. Belt School's policy stands in line with CDC and Cascade County Health Department parameters.

Covid-19 is on the rise in the United States and even in Cascade County. There is a current derived form that is more contagious and dangerous than the first, and there is talk that there will be more modifications to come. Belt School will attempt to continue in person learning because it is a unanimous decision that it is better for academic achievement.

Homecoming Spaghetti Dinner

Don't Cook Dinner! Come to the Annual Spaghetti Dinner to support the Class of 2022! Enjoy a large plate of spaghetti, salad, drink, and brownies before or after the homecoming parade and enjoy the football game following the dinner!

4:00– 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Sept 24th

Belt School Cafeteria

\$7 for one plate \$25 for a family of 4 or more

Take-Out Option Available

JV Sports

After a varsity football win at Choteau a couple weeks ago, the Choteau Bulldogs JV came to play the Dawgs JV last Tuesday in Belt. The Huskies took to the field at 4:30 p.m. and put the pedal to the metal until the conclusion of the game at about 6:30 p.m. The Huskies flew to the ball all and posted a 50-0 victory on their home turf.

The Huskies offense was mainly centered around the pass for the first half, but changed focus to the run during the second half. The Huskies offense could not be stopped, but the defense certainly held up its end. Belt only allowed the Bulldogs offense within 10 yards of the end zone once throughout the contest. The Huskies were crowned victorious at the end of the game, but there was no time to celebrate. They had only two days to join the varsity in practice to prepare for their varsity game against the CJI Hawks.

This past Monday, the Huskies travelled north to play a JV game against the Longhorns of Fort Benton as a prelude to the much hyped varsity matchup on Friday. The Huskies came out firing on all cylinders. The Longhorns fumbled on the first two kickoffs, losing one of them. The Huskies offense could not be stopped, with sophomore JD Shepard catching 5 touchdowns, and Freshman Rylan Davison catching one for himself, his first of his high school career.

The Huskies finished the first half with a score of 36-8. The game finished with a final score of 58-14. The visitors ability to force turnovers, four of them to be exact, was what put them on top over the Longhorns. The Huskies plan to take this momentum all the way to Friday for the much anticipated varsity game tonight.

The Lady Husky JV volleyball team had one matchup on Friday against the Simms Tigers at Simms. The Huskies expect to bounce back from their loss against Fairfield. The Huskies are led by team captain, Junior Hailey Gliko.

The matchup was close, but in the end, the Tigers stood victorious over the Lady Huskies in the full 5 sets. The Huskies used good serving and energy to their advantage, but in the end, the Tigers defense was too much for the girls. The Huskies had to fill a hole, with freshman libero Gracie Watson being gone. Fortunately, sophomore Addi Urick stepped in and did very well.

The JV football team's next game is against the Fort Benton Longhorns' JV at Remington Field in Belt at 4:30 p.m. The Lady Huskies next JV volleyball game is scheduled for September 20th in Belt against the GFCC Mustangs at 6:00 p.m.

By: Rylan Davison

Senior Spotlight

Five weeks into their senior campaign, the Class of 2022 is getting used to finally being the "Big Dogs" on campus. Many are already starting to sense how quickly that last year goes by, including this weeks selection for the Senior Spotlight.

Young Hepfner shared with the *Valley Voice* some of the highlights regarding his life in Belt and what he has planned for his journey outside his hometown. Hepfner has lived in Belt all of his life and achieved many accomplishments throughout his high school career.



Hepfner's most significant memory that took place in high school consists of the many athletic trip bus rides with his fellow players and friends. The nod for his favorite teacher and class go to Mrs. Graham and math. Furthermore, Mrs. Graham coaches the cross-country team which Hepfner participates in.

There have been many awards that he has received along the trip. He is a 4-sport athlete, been on the honors program for two years, earned multiple sports awards, and academic all-state recognition. Additionally, he has participated in many extracurricular activities involving CCD, Youth Leadership, football, basketball, cross country, track, and Science Olympiad.

Following graduation, Hepfner has decided that he is going to pursue a professional engineering degree. When he makes his transition, he will miss friends and the people that have helped him through high school the most.

Cole Hepfner has achieved many accomplishments for himself and for Belt High School. He has been a valued member of many a team and a contributor in all of his classes as well. The *Valley Voice* and everyone in the valley wishes him the best for the last stretch of high school and for his college experience.

Next issue the "Senior Spotlight" will shine on Molly Tingey, another proud member of the Mighty Class of 2022.

By: Walker Maki

Grade Clean Up

Youth Leadership is a group of students that help and serve around the Belt Community. This year's Youth Leadership's president is Asa Jassen. Jassen will be the voice of the group, but he will also be helped by the other seniors in the organization, such as Ahmia Lords, Brady Drummond, Molly Tingey, and the other upperclassmen.

Since 2008, the Belt Youth Leadership program has spruced up the grade. Mrs. Gliko was the supervisor in this tradition. Usually Mr. Hoyer is the overseer, but he was unable to attend so Mrs. Gliko took charge. Mrs. Gliko noted, "Cleaning the grade is not only an opportunity for members to gain community service hours, but to help keep our community clean and show our pride in our community."

Out of the 31 kids signed up for the Youth Leadership program, 15 came to help with cleaning the grade. Those 15 students helped clean up the grade, and together 10 bags of trash were collected.

The Youth Leadership strives to help the community, by cleaning up after home games, or cleaning up the grade. On Wednesday September 15, 2021, the students will paint the Husky Paws on the school road. This program always takes place at the beginning of



the year, near homecoming. Repainting the paws will make the school have a fresh new look.

The next community service will be on October 3rd, 2021, where the Youth Leadership students will march up to the Sluice Boxes. Every year, the students serve their community by cleaning up the trails. Colin Maas scoped out the trail before the participants come up to clean up. This is a great opportunity for the Youth Leadership participants, it teaches them to appreciate nature and to put in a little more work to keep the park clean.

Youth Leadership is an amazing program that teaches students how to help and serve the community. The time spent helping the Belt community shows the pride that the students have in their community. The *Valley Voice* will keep the reader up to date with any new activities that the Youth Leadership will be achieving.

By: Eliza Tingey

Fashion

Many styles are coming back to the fashion world like bell bottom jeans and boiler suits. These trends are even hitting Belt High School.

The pantsuit is a great way to dress for picture day or even for leisure. High waisted wide jeans or better known as mom jeans are super cute and good to wear any day, with a sweatshirt, crop top, or even an oversized baggy shirt. People can still rock that look.

Nike Air Force shoes are a really cute look with any type of pants, and come in many different styles. People are even starting to rock the tie-dye and miss matched prints again. Those patterns are a cute stylish clothing article people could wear everyday to school.

A couple Belt kids weighed in with their opinions on the new look. Juniors Aubrey Johnson, Hattie Bumgarner, and Haley Horner all agreed that the high waisted jeans are the "most comfortable EVER". They also hope that bell-bottoms will always be a fashion statement. Hailey Gliko noted that in places like California, "denim, leather, and snake skin are the rage."

Perhaps they'll show up in Belt soon....or much later.

By: Addee Hoffmann

This issue we target the young adults in the readership. It's Homecoming Week, which means that lots of recent grads will be returning from their first few weeks of college to get together with old friends.

Have a great time, but be smart! Plan ahead...if you're going to drink, arrange for a ride. We want you to be build even more memories that you'll be around to share at Homecoming again next year.

Don't Drink and Drive!



DECA

The students here at Belt High School have a great opportunity to join the DECA organizations. All students from 9th-12th grade, who are academically eligible are able to participate. DECA stands for Distributive Education Clubs of America. The overall objectives are preparing emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. This organization focuses mostly on the business professions. During the meetings the club discusses what projects to par-

ticipate in, and there are over 100 options either individually, or as a team. To help with the finances, they also have fundraisers which are also addressed during meetings. They are held monthly with additional meetings in January to finalize and practice for state.

Mrs. Tillman is the advisor for DECA, all meetings will be held in her room. Usually there are about 25 people involved. There will also be an election for chapter officers. Once all of that is settled and figured out, there will be a State Ca-

reer Development Conference on January 30th through February 1st, at Fairmont Hot Springs. The International Career Development Conference will be in Atlanta Georgia, from April 23-26th. This program boosts resume appeal for college and employment. Nationally, DECA offers hundreds of thousands of dollars of scholarship money.

Be on the look-out for DECA fundraisers and help support this dynamic program that builds future leaders.

By: Gracie Watson

Beltstock Rocks

On Saturday, September fourth, the town of Belt kicked off Labor Day weekend with a concert, Beltstock, held in Castner park. Beltstock opened with the performance of *Blackberry Jam*, playing cover songs from the 70's and 80's. The featured band was *Here Comes the Sun* who performed songs from The Beatles.

Around 300 people attended the concert from the surrounding areas of Great Falls, Dutton, Lewistown, and Havre. Organizers are focusing on making Beltstock an annual concert and have hopes of community-gathering activities focusing around the event.

Beltstock sponsors consist

of 18 businesses, 10 of which are locally owned. Beltstock is a non-profit community fundraiser. There were over 40 volunteers within the community in attendance, 8 of which were Belt High School students from Youth Leadership. The four main partnering organizations were the Belt Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Belt Performing Arts Center, VFW Post 4198, and the Little Belt Cowboys Association. The Belt Valley Chamber of Commerce promoted the event by gaining local vendors to sell crafts and food. The Belt Performing Arts Center provided the music, while the VFW held its 7th annual car show and offered food. The Little

Belt Cowboys managed the rodeo grounds and also quenched thirst with beverage sales. The proceeds from each organization's activities went back into their programs. The Belt Valley Chamber of Commerce plans to put their profit towards improving downtown, the Little Belt Cowboys eye a facelift for the rodeo grounds, and the Belt Performing Arts Center will boost their entertainment programs.

Beltstock's organizers would like to thank their sponsors, volunteers, and attendees. Beltstock is also grateful to the Belt Senior Center for hosting a jumbotron in front of their building for a week.

By: Madisen Feldman

Shop Classes in Need!

Mrs. Simons, Belt's new shop teacher, is faced with the hard challenge of the high prices of lumber and any other materials that are needed for classroom projects

Due to the pandemic supply issues prices for materials are extremely high, and this limits the shop classes selection of projects because of budgetary considerations. For example, the price of most lumber has tripled. Mrs. Simons and her students are already

scavenging for lumber, which is sometimes rotten.

Some of the things that are needed are plywood, 2x4 and 2x6 boards, screws, metal, and welding rods. But any donation would be very much appreciated since the class is mainly short on everything possible. If someone wants to make a donation contact Mrs. Simons' email at lsimons@beltschool.com or call the school and ask to talk to Mrs. Simons directly about what is

wanting to be donated to the shop, and Mrs. Simons will organize a drop off time for the materials.

The kids in shop are already producing a wide array of items for teachers, like new podiums, book shelves and even chess boards, but materials are scarce.

The Belt shop class would really appreciate the donations as they will be used by the students for a variety of very cool projects.

By: Gabriel Triplett

Lady Husky Volleyball

Over the past fortnight, the Lady Huskies continued their great play in a series of showcase games along with conference season matches against the likes of Simms and Augusta.

The Lady Huskies, after their great game at Fairfield, were invited to play at a showcase in Cascade on the 3rd and the 4th, where they went undefeated.

The Belt Huskies turned up at Simms on the 10th of September to play them during their homecoming game. The Huskies lost the first set but then made a huge comeback and won the game in four sets. The main thing that helped them was

their defensive players and hitters. Belt Lady Huskies put Simms away on their homecoming day. A senior, Raily Gliko, had 1 ace, 12 kills, 1 block, and 13 digs. Lindsey Paulson, another senior, had 6 aces, 5 kills, 3 blocks, and 6 digs. Aaliyah Gaylord and Ella Pethel had a total of 25 assists.

The Lady Husky Volleyball players also held a game at their den last Saturday. They went up against Augusta. The Huskies offense was great, and they got 27 kills that helped them to grab the victory. Raily Gliko got 5 aces, 10 kills, and 4 digs. Kylee Permann got 5 aces too, 11 kills, and 2 digs.

There was a total of 25 assists between Ella Pethel and Aaliyah Gaylord. They won the game in three sets. Set one was 25-8 Belt. The second one was 25-12 Belt, and the third set was 25-19. The games got closer and closer as they played but Belt still gained the victory.

The record for Belt is 4-0 in singles matches coverall, and 2 -0 in 7-C District play. During the showcase in Belt the Huskies went 5-1, and the showcase at Cascade they went 9-0. Last night Belt played at Dutton and tomorrow the girls head all the way to Sunburst. Details to follow in the next *Voice*.

By: Addee Hoffmann

Where There's Smoke...

This past summer it has been very dry and smoky, even blocking the view of the Highlands from Belt. Air quality was improving, but recently it has started to decline again as the end of last week brought in smoke.

Since January, there have been around 2,160 wildfires that have burnt an estimated 827,000 acres. An estimated \$48.5 million has been spent fighting fires this year. The total "Fire Suppression

Fund" is \$105 million.

The largest fire in Montana is the Woods Creek Fire near Boulder Lake and the Big Belt Mountains. This fire had burned around 55,000 acres, and is 90% contained.

With the cooler weather coming in, the fire issues are easing in Montana. Cooler weather made it easier to contain the Thorne Creek fire, near Thompson Falls, which is now 80% contained and has opened up most of the road blockages.

Today, the air quality is improving once again and is staying mostly in the green which is good, or yellow which is moderate. However, on September 9th and 10th the air quality was in the red and was considered unhealthy due to the smoke from fires in Oregon and California. At this point, only people with respiratory issues need to take extra care but everyone needs to be careful about fires..

By: Brooke Holum

Suicide Prevention

All across the country, the month of September is known as Suicide Prevention Month. Mental Health Advocates, Organizations, and even survivors raise awareness for the whole month to everyone, not just kids or teens.

#BeThe1To is the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's message for the month and all year round. They use it to spread actions that people can do to prevent anyone from suicide. The organization is trying to change the focus from actual suicides and preventions, to actions that "promote healing, help,

and give hope."

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is advocating "Together for Mental Health," which encourages people to come together and make their voices heard for prevention. They want any person struggling with mental health to have a place to feel comfortable talking about their problems. If you want to contact NAMI, text NAMI to 741-741 to talk to a professional.

The statistics of suicides are scary as well, especially in Montana. Suicide is the 10th leading

cause of death in the United States. Montana unfortunately ranks towards the top of the list in suicide rates. Montana has a suicide death rate of 14.5 per every 100,000 people. The leading causes of suicides in Montana are mainly drinking and drug activity.

Help is available. For self-help, contact the Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255. Notify a professional. If someone is in need of help, say something. Speak up and make your voice be heard. The worst thing to say is to say nothing at all.

By: Rylan Davison

Where are they Now?

Returning once again is the “Where are They Now?” segment in the *Valley Voice*. This will be an article that is featured every other issue; the topic will be about Belt School’s graduates who have taken a hold on their lives and done something impactful with it.

Walt Disney once said “All your dreams can come true, if you have the courage to pursue them.” Zak Anderson is a 2016 Belt High School graduate who had the “courage to pursue his dreams.”



Anderson was an outstanding student athlete and is currently stationed in El Paso, Texas. After obtaining an academic scholarship, he earned a bachelor degree at Montana State University in Nursing. He intends to continue being an officer in the Army for a while and eventually get the masters in nursing at the same time.

While living out of the valley, he likes to reminisce

about his days here in Belt; just a short few of his memories are of the small-town community and how each person comes together in a personal sort of way. He comes back to his home town at least once a year.

Most recently he made it back to Belt for his sister Jessica’s wedding in July. It was a nice time to catch up with friends and family, but he was excited to get back to his career. He really enjoys life in El Paso and has actually been to Rosa’s Cantina. While many in Belt miss Zak, they are still proud of his accomplishments, even though he has just begun his life’s work.

By: Kyndal Schraner

Homecoming Week

Homecoming is a proud tradition that every school participates in every year. This year’s homecoming week takes place on September 20th-24th, and the seniors have chosen a movie theme for the dress up days. Monday the dress up day will be Pajama Day, and the movie theme that kids are given to dress up as is *The Breakfast Club*. On Tuesday look out for Pirate day, when everyone will try to dress up as a pirate or 1980s attire. Wednesday will feature Dodgeball/Sport Gear Day. All the students will try to impress the judges with their outfit that represents your favorite sport/sport team or sport gear. Throwback Day/Back to the Future will take place on Thursday. Attire can be anything from 1950s poodle skirts, 1960s tie-dye, 1990s grunge, or vintage Husky Uniforms. Finally, Friday participants can dress up as Belt Husky Gear! Students can get their outfits inspired by Friday Night Lights as long as its Husky Colors.

Another activity that the high school students participate in

is Class Olympics. This event, schedule on Tuesday evening, is run by Mr. Koontz, Mrs. Tillman, and the Student Senate. The classes will divide into their class teams and compete in competitions such as dodgeball, a relay race, and tug-of-war, among many others. The class Olympics is a great and fun experience for all the students that attend.

Building floats have always been a part of Homecoming week. Every year all the classes divide up and create a float that can be judged in the Homecoming Parade.

There are so many other Homecoming events that take place during the week. On Friday, at 9:00 a.m. The high school will do a Big Husky/Little Husky activity with the elementary students.

Another project that is a homecoming tradition is the Homecoming Royalty. The seniors will be elected from the Seniors down to the Freshman. The couples will ride in a car at the parade, and during the Friday night football game at halftime, the King and Queen will be announced.

The high school classes will be judged by their participation as part of the competition to win the Spirit Stick. Every day the high school classes will get points for how well they participate in the dress up days. Some of the points will be given for the winners of the Homecoming Olympics. All the activities will contribute points to the chart. At the end of the week the class with the most points will win the spirit stick. Good luck to all the high school classes.

Homecoming athletics are a big part of the tradition. The Belt volleyball players will compete against the Simms Tigers on Thursday September 23rd, 2021. The Belt Football Players will wrap up Homecoming week with their game against Cascade on Friday September 24th, 2021.

Belt High School is so excited to have another great Homecoming Week. All the students are looking forward to the super fun activities that come with Homecoming Week.

By: Eliza Tingey

Officials Needed

Central Montana is experiencing a serious dearth of officials for the football games and this is causing the Friday night football games to be scheduled to Thursday night. MOA member Randy Bogden shared information about how they are coping with the shortage in the North Central Montana pool.

Bogden has worn the stripes of an official for 11 years and stated, "In any sporting event, it takes 3 teams to make a contest legitimate. The home team, the visiting team and the team of officials to keep the game fair. The purpose of the official (s) is to administer the rules and make sure both teams have a fair opportunity to participate in the respective sport.

Around the state of MT, the shortage of officials has altered the ability for schools to coordinate sporting events around times and days that are coveted by the athletes and family/ fans. All football players want to play 'Friday Night

Lights,' but are forced to Thursday and Saturday games, partially due to the shortage of officials."

The local pool needs 60 officials in his pool to cover North Central MT, yet they only have 35. The North Central MT pool serves towns from Browning to Stanford and occasionally the officials have to trek outside of their territory. When officiating games, Bogden encounters big time wins, heartbreaking losses, being part of the game, watching kids grow up, listening to both offense and defense, and seeing the community of towns come together. Officials receive \$65 per varsity game and \$48 per sub varsity game and a mileage stipend.

People can join the Montana Official Association by going to the MHSA website and clicking on MOA. From there people can register and be led through the process of becoming an official. Anyone who might be interested can also

call Bogden at (406) 788-3003.

Bogden added, "The shortage in officials is in all of the sports and it is nationwide. I recently talked to Volleyball, Hockey and Baseball officials that are struggling to keep their respective pools full.

Officiating is an activity that is very rewarding and I have truly enjoyed my time wearing the stripes! We offer training meetings every week to continue to help us get better as an official. We can train anyone that wants to learn to be an official."

Mr. Bogden also has a hand in extracurricular high school activities in his role as the sports director at the Central Montana Radio Network and announcer. All of the other officials deserve thanks for their willingness to officiate the games in Central Montana. The games could not go on without them. When a rabid fan feels the need to bark at an official... Think twice.

By: Walker Maki

New Students

Chloe Lehnerz, Olivia King, and Cohen King are the stars of this issues new students article. Chloe Lehnerz is in 10th grade, Olivia King is in 8th grade, and Kohen King is in 7th grade. All three students previously were enrolled in Belt; however, they are on their returning trip to Belt.

Chloe Lehnerz went to Great Falls High for a couple years.



Currently, she is back in Belt and the largest variation is class sizes. She is a cheerleader and enjoys Mr. Koontz the most about being

back in Belt. Each day at lunch break, Chloe can be seen up at Mr. Koontz's room.

Olivia King and her brother Cohen previously attended Highwood School and the greatest difference is a bigger school. She appreciates a better music class and doesn't participate in any extracurricular activities.

Cohen King is Olivia's younger brother. The biggest difference between Highwood and Belt was that Belt is a little less crazy. He participates in rock climbing and at lunch he goes up to Mr. Koontz's and plays other classmates in chess. Mr. Koontz commented on Sep-

tember 9th," He's good. He is bound to beat me soon." Cohen beat him the next day. He likes seeing his friends again.

Belt Public Schools is welcoming the new students into the great academic and extracurricular activities program. Three new students will be featured in the next issue of the *Valley Voice*.

By: Walker Maki



Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event
9/17	4:30 p.m.	M.S. Football Belt @ Fort Benton
	7:00 p.m.	Varsity FB Belt @ Fort Benton
9/20	4:30 p.m.	JV Football Fort Benton @ Belt
		VB GFCC @ Belt
9/22	1:00 p.m.	College Fair
9/23		Volleyball-Simms @ Belt
9/24	2:00 p.m.	M.S. Football Cascade @ Belt
	7:00 p.m.	Varsity FB Cascade @ Belt
9/25		VB Choteau Showcase
9/27	4:30 p.m.	JV Football Belt @ Cascade
9/28	4:30 p.m.	6 th & 7 th Football Ft. Benton @ Belt
9/29		Flu & Immunization Clinic
9/30		VB Belt @ Power
10/1	4:30 p.m.	M.S. Football...Belt @ Rocky Boy
	7:00 p.m.	Varsity FB Belt @ Rocky Boy

The Band Played On

Throughout the years, the Belt Music Program has participated in many events such as pep band during sports games, music concerts, and now pop concerts. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic last year, there were many limitations when it came to the music program. The pep band had a big issue last year because the middle school and high school had to be separated. This made it hard to play the songs because the same instruments had to be divided. In addition, the pep band was encouraged to wear masks in between songs. The Belt Pep Band hopes that they can play all year long supporting different sports such as volleyball, football, and basketball.

Mr. Wilson is ready for his second year of being in charge of the music department. In addition to the changes last year for band and choir, Mr. Wilson has also altered the choir and band situation with the middle schoolers. The middle school choir will be separated into two different classes. The 7th and 8th graders alternate every other day for their choir and band classes. This will affect the 7th graders because now they don't have a more experienced student showing them tips and tricks.

Every year, the Belt Husky Music Program participates in the District 6 High School Music Festival. This year the festival will be held from April 7th-9th in Great Falls. Thursday, April 7th, all of the high school music performers are required to attend the band portion of the Festival. On the 8th and 9th of April, the solos and ensembles will showcase their talents and hope to receive an exemplary score from the judges.

Pep Band hopes that they can travel to state tournaments this year, but until then they have a lot of work to do. Pep Band is playing at all home football games this fall, as well as volleyball on Sept. 11th, 23rd, Oct. 2nd, and 16th. The Husky Band plans to play District Volleyball in Simms, and Divisional here in Belt. Pep Band will also include middle school students this fall.

The Music Department is a great class to take and to participate in. Belt School has a very wide variety of instruments from flutes to trumpets to tubas. The Music Program also has choir as an option. The Belt Music Department has a wide variety of choices that any student can participate in, from choir to the band and now strings.

There will also be a series of concerts performed by the various groups of young musicians under Mr. Wilson's direction.

By: Eliza Tingey



<u>Date</u>	<u>Husky</u>	<u>Grade</u>
9/21	Kreighton Heberly	Pre
9/21	James Larson	3
9/21	Victoria Gama	4
9/20	Camree Puppe	6
9/19	Cash Smith	8
9/24	Paxton Belakjon	8
9/24	McKenzie Pogany	8
9/20	Rylan Davison	9