



The Valley Voice



Belt Public School

4 May 2018

Issue 17

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Swinging Bridge

Since the early 1900's the "swinging" bridge has been a staple in Belt's on-foot transportation. Originally built in 1906, the footpath of the "swinging" bridge has been present around the community in a variety of forms and locations. The first suspension bridge was built by the rodeo grounds near the park, but has since been moved to the current location. The "swinging" bridge was originally constructed of two cotton wood trees and a series of large stones. In 1908, a new bridge was constructed for a cost of \$375.00; the bridge was then replaced about thirty years later, but the cost was substantially steeper, totaling \$4,000.00 with the help of volunteers. Seeing the large increase of the construction cost throughout Belt history, it can be concluded that a new bridge today would cost quite a bit more and require fund raising



in order for the community to entertain the idea of a new forging a new path through Belt Creek.

Just after midnight on April 22nd, the cables of Belt's "swinging" bridge snapped under the stress of many people jumping up and down, sending the quaint little bridge to its demise in the bed of

Belt Creek. According to the city's clerk-treasurer Lynn Schilling, "Belt's historic suspension foot bridge was built strongly to accommodate as many people as would fit on it end to end. Over the years various sports teams and groups have been photographed on the bridge in numbers exceeding 25. It was not however built to withstand the destructive and vandalistic force of that number of people singing it from side to side and jumping up and down on it..."
(Cont. Pg. 2)

Buckle Up

Wednesday, May 2nd tears fell from the eyes of many middle and high school students as they listened to Pat Goldhahn preach about the importance of buckling their seat belts. Goldhahn courageously shared the story of his daughter's passing in 2016 after a car accident just outside of Fiarfield, with the message that it didn't have to happen. The disastrous car accident that was absolutely heart shattering to their family and friends began the #buckleupblue4Lauryn campaign that is sweeping the state and the nation.

Goldhahn talked of the person his daughter, Lauryn Goldhahn, was and how

she loved the life she was living. Lauryn excelled at sports, school, and participated in many activities. She touched the hearts of many as she had the gift of making anyone feel like they were her best friend. Then Goldhahn spoke of how suddenly this was all taken away when she chose not to wear her seat belt. He described his daughter's condition once they entered the hospital and how rapidly she was moved to Seattle. He knew that even if it wasn't soon Lauryn would eventually return on the plane back to Montana but sadly, that day never came.

(Cont. Pg. 3)

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Swinging Bridge *(Cont.)*

On response to the scene as April 23rd dawned, were the Cascade County Sherriff's Office and the Belt Rural Fire Department, along with the Belt Volunteer Ambulance Service. Upon arriving at the accident, the first priority of the responders was to make sure that no one was still in the water or trapped under the bridge. A search of the area confirmed that no one was laying in the water or stuck under the wreckage, and it was further reported that there were no serious injuries incurred during the incident. Many facts about the event are unclear at this time and more information will come to light in the coming days and weeks.

Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority (MMIA) is the agency with which the city attains liability insurance for the suspension bridge. Schilling wrote, "This fact alone attests to its strength and safety features when used as a bridge should be..."

Mayor Olson encourages residents not to speculate, and a city council meeting was held on May 2nd with the primary focus of the "swinging bridge." Regarding the replacement of the bridge Schilling added, "... its replacement and/or repair are not covered by the City's property insurance because its value as a historic feature cannot be determined. This community has not only lost a historic treasure, it also has most likely lost the opportunity to ever have a bridge of that specific type again." As the consequences of the event unfold, the Voice will continue to cover the story

By: Adelle Meissner

Featured Staff



Mrs. Dayna VandenBos grew up in Lewistown and has been teaching at Belt School for three years. VandenBos aspired to be a teacher since she loves kids and shaping the young learner's minds. This drove her to MSU Northern for a bachelor's degree in elementary education, in addition, VandenBos is in the process of acquiring a masters in K-3 reading and math through an online course.

Since she loves small schools and her husband works out of Great Falls, Mrs. VandenBos was attracted to Belt. Vandenbos' favorite aspect of working with kids is interacting with them and getting to know their fun personalities, she loves watching them grow and learn throughout the course of the school year.

By: Maggie Andrews

Mrs. Ray Retiring



Mrs. Debra Ray has been the librarian at Belt Schools for over 20 years, and recently announced that she will retire at the end of the school year. Ray was the middle school English teacher at Belt and the Title 1 teacher at two Great Falls elementary schools. She received her undergraduate degree and reading endorsement from the University of Providence, her master's from MSU Northern, and Library endorsement from the U of Montana in Missoula.

Ray grew up and graduated in Glasgow. She came to Belt because she liked the small school setting and the Middle School English position seemed like a fun challenge. When Ray first moved to the library, the collection of books needed to be updated and the atmosphere was not inviting to students. "I think I've succeeded in changing that and it has been a really fun challenge!" said Ray. Ray plans to spend more time with family and attend extracurricular events with her grandchildren. Her husband and her plan on traveling and building a cabin in the Neihart vicinity. Thanks for your service Mrs. Ray, and enjoy your retirement.

By: Keely Drummond

5th Grade Field Trip

Mrs. Metrione's 5th graders recently took another field trip, soon after their snowshoeing trip on March 22 to Silver Crest on King's Hill. They took a trip to the Boone and Crocket Ranch in Dupuyer, north of Choteau. They left the school early in the morning at 7:45 a.m. and returned late at night at 5:00 p.m. They viewed the Rocky Mountain Front, looked for and measured animal tracks, identified birds, and went for a pleasing walk through nature. The 5th Graders are currently learning about the water cycle, the food chain, adaptations of animals, and the environment. This aligns closely with what they learned about on their last field trip; tracking, snow and weather safety, ecology, tree identification, different biomes. These things were covered during their field trip to the Boone and Crocket ranch, as they solidified their knowledge on the topics they have dealt with in class. The whole class of fifteen 5th graders attended the field trip, and Mr. Gillespie, Mr. and Mrs Bergstrom went along as chaperones for the field trip. The 5th Graders will not be taking any more field trips this year, but they have enjoyed and learned from several this year.

By: Aundrea Glick

Buckle Up *(Cont.)*

The decision of gifting his daughter's organs was made and Lauryn made a difference in other people's lives. They have had limited contact with the recipient their daughter's heart, but they don't plan to stay in any continual contact, as it would be too hard.

What was shared next froze the crowd as many couldn't help but shed tears. He played the song that was playing when the doctors removed the organs from his daughter's body. The song was the perfect embodiment of who his daughter was and how she lived her life. The next part of the presentation featured the song that Goldhahn's older daughter sang at Lauryn's celebration of life. The replaying of the horrid days of when he lost his daughter taught the crowd how crucial it is to be responsible when driving a car.

The students that attended the presentation will never view the issue of wearing a seat belt the same again. These actions cost a young girl her life and can easily take away any student that chooses to do the same. While many of the students within the gym knew Lauryn they did not know the complete story. This opened the eyes of many young people on how their actions can affect others. Many students had the chance to pick up wrist bands, ribbons and shirts that support the Goldhahn's campaign. As Goldhahn continues to talk to students about #buckleupblue4Lauryn, the progression won't slow down and hopefully, the message of importance behind it stays in the minds of students forever. For more information go to the Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/BuckleUpBlue4Lauryn/>.

By: Natalie Larsen

Calendar of Events

May 4th – 5th State Music Festival
 May 4th – HS Pre-District Track Meet @ Great Falls
 May 4th – Air Force Honor Guard
 May 4th – 5th Belt Theater Performance – Much Ado About Nothing 6:30 p.m.
 May 5th MS Track Meet @ Choteau
 May 5th – Golf Meet @ Chinook
 May 7th – Elementary Shakespeare in the Schools
 May 8th – MS Track Meet @ Lewistown
 May 8th – Honor Diploma Presentation @ 6:30 p.m.
 May 8th – Board of Trustees @ 7:30 p.m.
 May 9th - Belt Theater Matinee – Much Ado About Nothing 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
 May 9th – Senior Dinner @ Community Church @ 6:30 p.m.
 May 10th – Early Kindergarten Roundup
 May 10th – Spanish Field Trip to Great falls
 May 11th – 4th Grade Ag Days
 May 11th – District Track Meet @ Lewistown
 May 12th – Lewistown Track Meet @ Lewistown
 May 14th – 16th – State Golf @ Fairmont Hot Springs
 May 14th – Academic Awards Assembly @ 8:30 a.m.
 May 14th – Miss Darci Spring Dance Recital @ 3:30
 May 15th – K-4 Spring Concert @ 7 p.m.
 May 15th – 16th – Senior Finals
 May 16th – Sports Physicals
 May 16th – Kindergarten Field Trip
 May 17th – Divisional Track Meet @ Great Falls
 May 18th – Husky Labor Auction @ 5:30 p.m.
 May 18th – 20th – Gym Closed for Graduation

The CMR Chamber Orchestra

The chamber orchestra from CMR visited the Belt School on Thursday, the 26th of April. The entire school was invited and the majority attended. Thirty minutes into first period, students and teachers shuffled to the gymnasium where it then filled with people ready to watch and listen to the pieces. The ensemble is string-based, consisting of first violins, second violins, violas, cellos, and a couple double basses. Although Belt school does not provide those types of string instruments, the performance provided a new learning and listening experience for the students with the different stringed instruments.

A 2006 Belt graduate, Steve Olson was the conductor of the chamber orchestra as well as all the orchestras at CMR High School. Before every piece the chamber orchestra performed, he would tell the crowd the backgrounds of the individual pieces. Olson wanted his top string ensemble to stop by Belt on the

way to their tour in Missoula. Near the end of the performance, Olson, let anyone come up to sit by and in the orchestra. The performance provided a new experience because it's not every day that an orchestra comes to play. Overall the ensemble struck a wonderful time while in the school, and played their instruments beautifully.

By: Sydne Flinn

Program of the Performance:

Handel – Concerto Grosso in a minor, Op. 6, No. 4
 Whitacre – October
 Hermann – Prelude from Psycho
 Schmelzer – Sonata 7 in G Major
 Hassler – Intradas from 'The Pleasure Gardens'
 Warlock – Six Italian Dances

DECA International Conference

Two weekends ago, the Belt DECA Chapter flew to Atlanta, Georgia to compete at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC). The seven girls: Maggie Andrews, Keely Drummond, Natalie Larsen, Riley Larsen, Livvy Shelton, Tori Shelton, and Hannah Schweitzer and advisor Jessica Tillman. The group had a rough start at the Great Falls International Airport when they were delayed for seven and a half hours. Luckily, this gave the girls time to work on homework and take naps before the upcoming days. On the downside, the delay caused the group to miss the opening ceremony of 2018 ICDC. Eventually they made it to their hotel after riding the MARTA train system and crossing multiple streets.

The first full day down south consisted of submitting events and registering for competition. The event briefing and presentation took place in the Georgia World Conference Center. After finishing with the initial preparation, they girls were able to change out of their professional business attire and into something more comfortable. They then headed to the Georgia Aquarium and World of Coke. The two facilities were included in the "DECA Night at Pemberton Place". Along with thousands of other high schoolers, the chapter from Belt was able to walk through the world class exhibits of fish, penguins, and other marine life. The highlight of the aquarium was seeing the dolphin show that showcased bottlenose dolphins and the incredible tricks they have learned. Cross the courtyard, the World of Coke allowed the girls to gain insights on how soda is made and delivered all over the world. In the Coke Tasting Room, there were samples of the most popular Coke beverage from the major countries

around the world.

Monday morning the girls were up and at em' as they were getting ready to present their projects. Each group of girls had a different presentation time scattered between 10:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The rest of the afternoon was spent exploring Downtown Atlanta. The seven girls and Mrs. Tillman gathered at the Hard Rock Cafe for dinner before heading to the Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Monday's evening consisted of seeing pop singer Andy Grammer in concert. The whole state of Montana received field access tickets to the concert, so the girls were able to walk on the same turf that the Atlanta Falcons play on. The excitement started when Jillian Jacqueline, an up and coming country singer took the stage. Soon after that, Andy Grammer burst into the spotlight signing his hit song "Good To Be Alive". The students were seated in foldable chairs for a brief time until everyone began to stand up and flood to the stage. Of course the Belt girls were not going to pass this opportunity up and joined in with ten thousand other high schoolers on the floor. Once the concert ended, the commotion did not stop. Outside it had begun to rain which soon turned into a downpour. Walking back to the hotel drenched everyone, leaving no item of clothing or hair dry.

On Tuesday, the girls attended the Mini Awards Ceremony to find out if they qualified for finals. Sadly, none of the computers from Belt made it do the next round. Tuesday afternoon consisted of swimming, shopping, and sleeping. That night, the girls made the trek back to the Mercedes-Benz Stadium for the ICDC Closing Ceremony. At the final event, the international winners were announced

along with the recipients of scholarships. Mrs. Tillman was awarded a one thousand dollar scholarship from The National Society of High School Scholars.

Andrews was recently elected as a Montana DECA State Officer. Along with competing in her competitive event, she also attended luncheons and meeting and had the opportunity to vote on the 2018-2019 Executive Officer Team.

Wednesday morning came too quick as it was time to head home. To start the day off right, the girls went just down the street to the Waffle House that they had been eyeing all week. The delicious breakfast was a great way to top off the week. After packing and cleaning rooms the girls were back in the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. The flights home went smooth with a layover in Minneapolis giving the girl's time to finish homework and shop.

Next year, the International Career Development Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida with Disneyworld just walking distance away.

By: Keely Drummond

Belt Cleanup Day

- Kicks off at 9:00 a.m. in the Little Park on Castner Street
- Saturday, May 5th
- Community barbeque in the Little Park after—everyone is welcome
- Pick up garbage and clean up the town
- Volunteers are eagerly accepted



Contact Info

City Hall: 277-3621

Spanish Class Activities

With the Festival of Nations, Cinco de Mayo, and a Spanish II fieldtrip, the month of May is an exciting time for all students involved in the Spanish classroom. Senorita Hiatt definitely has her hands full as she plans to teach her students about the Spanish culture in an entertaining fashion.

Held on May 1st in the school gym and cafeteria, the Festival of Nations was an event where students, parents, and faculty joined together to celebrate different cultures from around the world. All students in a Spanish class contributed to this event by creating a project which was presented. Students in Spanish I partnered up, providing a presentation on a South American country. These students put together poster boards as well as Power Points highlighting the country's culture, education system, currency, and government. Spanish II stu-

dents also presented on Spanish speaking countries in groups at this celebration. In addition, they individually completed a presentation on a famous artist with a Spanish background also. This year's Festival of Nations was a huge success and the Belt community cannot wait to attend in the years to come.

Next, the Spanish classes will discuss Cinco de Mayo. As the Spanish students will undoubtedly learn, Cinco de Mayo is a Mexican celebration which is held annually on May 5th. This holiday was developed in order to commemorate the Mexican Army's unlikely victory over the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla, on May 5th, 1862. Not to be confused with Mexico's Independence Day which is held on September 16th.

Finally, on Thursday, May 10th, Senorita Hiatt will be taking all Spanish II students on a field

trip. This excursion will encompass a scavenger hunt at the new Walmart that incorporates Spanish vocabulary which students have polished up on throughout the course of the year, and enjoy lunch at the authentic Mexican restaurant, *Fiesta en Jalisco*. Students are to speak only Spanish from the time the bus leaves Belt High at around 8:15 to its return at approximately noon. Students also need to be aware that they are responsible for catching up on school work as they will miss 1st period through 5th period on that Thursday.

Senorita Hiatt is immensely appreciative of all teachers allowing her to take students out of school to participate in this educational opportunity and looks forward to bringing another class on this annual trip. Overall, Spanish class is muy interesante!

By: Maggie Andrews

Hennes Talks the Talk

The senior class of Belt High honored the long standing tradition of government class debate tournaments. On Wednesday the 25th and Thursday the 26th, the senior class completed the final leg of the debate tournaments during Husky Time. The debate unit in Mr. Koontz's government class lasted for a couple weeks as practice matches were used to seed debate brackets in the two sections of the course.

In the consolation match, Adrian Malik and Dani Urick competed for 3rd and 4th place on Wednesday while in the championship match, Trey Heitzman and Troy Hennes competed for 1st and 2nd place on Thursday. The two government classes each had their own brackets, and the winners of each bracket, Trey Heitzman and Troy Hennes, came together to compete for the overall champion

of the 2018 debate tournaments.

The student chose a statement and separately researched both sides of the argument. The side they argued was decided with a coin toss at the beginning of the match. The debate order is as such: One student provides an opening statement which the other refutes. Then they reverse the process. Finally, each side gives a closing statement (whoever went first gets the last word). Then the class votes for the victor.

Adrian Malik and Dani Urick competed over the topic of legalized prostitution, with Malik arguing in favor and Urick speaking against. Both seniors competed valiantly, but in the end, Dani Urick won the debate, claiming the consolation prize

In the championship, Troy Hennes and Trey Heitzman's topic was "The city of Belt should re-

build the swinging bridge", this topic, closer to home, meant more to the students. Troy Hennes was for rebuilding, while

Trey Heitzman was against. The two exchanged some offhanded comments, all in good fun, that made the onlookers, almost fifty strong, giggle. In the end, Troy Hennes claimed 1st place, and Trey Heitzman took 2nd.

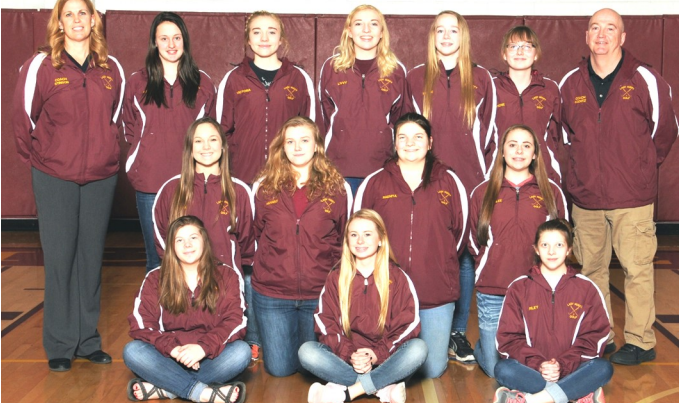
The senior classes of Belt have upheld this tradition for many years, and it will continue to be one of the most enjoyable things seniors get to engage in.

By: Aundrea Glick



Now that spring is in full swing golf season has truly started with the first meet taking place at Meadowlark Country Club on April 16th. Scores of from the meet included: Hannah Schweitzer 126, Tori Shelton 133, Sydne Flinn 133, Karlee Permann 137, and Natalie Larsen with a 144. The next meet took place four days later, Friday the 20th, in Marias Valley south of Shelby. The entire golf team was able to make it to this meet as ten girls packed up early Friday morning to take the trip. The Lady Husky Golfers did very well with three girls qualifying for state. They were Hannah Schweitzer 107, Natalie Larsen 114 and Karlee Permann 115. The other girls received great scores considering it was for many their first time on a golf course and their scores are as follows: Riley Larsen 179, Livvy Shelton 162, Raenita Berlinger 141, Sierra Reese 160, Keely Drummond 137, Candyce Davison 132, Kyelie Marquis 128, and Sydne Flinn 129.

The next meet took place at the beloved Signal Point Course in Fort Benton and seven girls took the quick trip in order to compete on Friday April 27th. Two golfers had a PR, Karlee Permann 106 and Hannah Schweitzer with a 97, while the rest of the golfers



did exceptionally well. Raenita Berlinger had a 154, Sierra Reese 143, Kyelie Marquis 137, Sydne Flinn 130, and Natalie Larsen had a 120. The last meet that took place was in Choteau and the same seven players traveled to Teton County on Saturday April 28th. Again two players had a PR, Sydne Flinn with a 122 and Sierra Reese who had a 141. The other players did their best with great scores; Raenita Berlinger 154, Kyelie Marquis 131, Natalie Larsen 114, Karlee Permann 107 and Hannah Schweitzer with a 99. Schweitzer became just the sixth golfer in the eleven year history of the program to break the century mark.

The golf coaches are extremely proud of the Lady Husky team and are proud of their accomplishments this season. The entire team took 1st on Friday in Fort Benton with a score of 324 and then again on Saturday in Choteau with a combined score of 320. Mrs. Stinson, the head golf coach, is extremely pleased with the results of the season and stated, "With a slow start to our golf season due to weather we were happy to qualify a team for state after our meet at Marias Valley on the 20th of April." As three girls have already qualified for state Stinson and Coach Koontz are hoping to push one more over the line in order to make a complete team of four members. The Husky golfers have had an excellent season and hopefully it continues as the state meet is just around the corner.

Tomorrow morning the girls leave bright and early for the final regular season meet in Chinook. A couple more girls have a chance to qualify for the state meet which will be held at Fairmont the week of May 14th. Last year the girls finished second at state and have placed in the top two four of the last six seasons.

By: Natalie Larsen

Paulson Recognized

Mr. Paulson recently attended the Montana Association of Secondary School Principals meeting, on April 5th and 6th in Anaconda, MT. Principals from across the state attended the conference for a chance to collaborate with their colleagues from around the state. At the conference, big ideas such as "developing philosophical leadership" were the main focuses, as well as swapping ideas with their compatriots.

Mr. Paulson also won the National Conference on Education Incentive Award. Only two of these awards are given out each year, one to a middle school principal, and one to a high school principal. This award is highly sought after, and an application pro-

cess is needed to qualify for it. The award provides travel, lodging, and expenses to attend the National Conference in Chicago which will be held during the month of June. This conference will be just like the one in April, just on a much bigger scale.

Conferences like these are built for the sole purpose of bettering the schools they work for. As a result, principals everywhere are integrating these new ideas and the things they have learned into their schools. Mr. Paulson is planning on accommodating the things he learns at the national conference into the Belt Public School.

By: Aundrea Glick

May the 4th Be With You

The Star Wars movies take place “a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.” The movies begin at a point in the past, when many different alien species could co-exist. In this time, space travel is common and the aliens own droids to assist them in their lives. “The Force” is the spiritual and mystic element of the Star Wars galaxy and is described as “an energy field created by all living things that surrounds us, penetrates us, and binds the galaxy together.”

It is believed that people who are born with deep connections to the Force have better reflexes and that they may achieve supernatural feats through training. “The Force is wielded by two major factions at conflict: the Jedi, who harnesses the light side of the Force, and the Sith, who use the dark side of the force through hate and aggression.”

May 4th has been deemed Star Wars Day by fans of the movie series all over the world. The reason

for the day’s crown comes from the famous quote by Han Solo, “May the force be with you” which ironically sounds like May the fourth be with you. The pun began circling the media and Star Wars conventions when it was originally coined by a Danish public broadcaster in 1979. Since then, the pun has been adopted by the fandom and the day has become known as Star Wars Day.

While the play on words was not originally started as part of the Star Wars fandom, Lucasfilm has eagerly embraced the day and has even helped spread the word and showcase the fan activity of the day. Star Wars shops and partners have progressively begun to offer more exclusives, sales, and giveaways to Star Wars fans, as well as even hosting parties are other activities to celebrate the day.

In addition to celebrating Star Wars on May 4th, some fans even extend the celebration into the 5th. Star Wars: Episode III- Re-

venge of the Sith also ironically sounds like revenge of the fifth. Episode III celebrates the Sith lords and other villainous characters of Star Wars other than the Jedi. Some fans celebrate the day on the sixth rather than the fifth, claiming that revenge of the sixth is a better play on words than revenge of the fifth.

Star Wars also takes center stage across the globe on May 25th, the original release date of the first movie in 1977. Thirty years after the release, in 2007 the Los Angeles City Council officially declared May 25th Star Wars Day.

May has ultimately become Star Wars month, as the movie series is celebrated on various days throughout the month. Fans host movie marathons, make posts on social media using #StarWarsDay, share greetings, and even cook Star Wars recipes. There is no wrong way to celebrate Star Wars. May the fourth be with you in your celebrations.

By: Adelle Meissner

With the end of the school year right around the corner and the thoughts of summer on everyone’s minds it is very important that people realize even with clear, ice-free roads drinking and driving is highly dangerous. By drinking and driving one is putting multiple lives in danger and are risking the lives of others in order to benefit themselves. Summer is definitely the time to have a good time but don’t ruin the fun by jumping in the driver’s seat after having as little as one alcoholic beverage.

Every year over 10,000 people die in DUI related accidents and it is so simple to become part of that statistic by making one mistake. Drunk driving is one of the biggest killers here in Montana. This summertime don’t become part of this statistic and...

Never Drink and Drive!

This message brought to you by your
Cascade DUI Task Force



High School Track

The members of Old Belt high who choose to participate in track, finally got to run at their first meets of the season in the past fortnight. After having a span of a month with no meets at all, the athletes attended four meets: one in Simms, two in Choteau, and one in Lewistown. Some of the participants also attended the Top Ten meet in Choteau last Tuesday.

The tracksters kicked off their season with the Valley Invite in Simms on April 19th. The boys' team accumulated 105 points, good for second place. To kick off the morning meet, Hunter Vogl and Adam Langston took second and fourth in the 110 meter hurdles. Vogl cleared the obstacles in 16.87 seconds, while Langston followed in 18.37 seconds. Vogl then went on to claim second in the 300 meter hurdles with a total time of 45.24 seconds. Kaimen Evans took second place in the 200 meter dash with a time of 24.72 seconds. Evans also took third in the 400 meter dash, running a 56.74, and his teammates Vogl and Robbie Flinn took first and sixth running the dash in 52.21 seconds and 58.15 seconds. Flinn captured a fifth place finish in the 800, totaling the two laps in a quick 2:25.56. Moving into the longer races, Keagan Stroop, Matthew Dollenger, and Robbie Gliko took first, third, and fourth in the 1600 meter run. Stroop ran a 5:08.06, Dollenger clocked in at 5:33.01, and Gliko crossed the line when the clock read 5:34.38. A 4x100 meter relay composed of Vogl, Langston, Stroop, and Brandon Wall tag-teamed for a fifth place finish as the clock read 49.92 seconds, while the 4x400 meter relay team made up of Vogl, Evans, Flinn, and Stroop completed their mile in 3:56.47. Switching over the throwing ring, Gavin Roberts

placed sixth in the shot put, throwing the ball 39-09 feet. Roberts also placed fifth in the discus with a throw of 99-09 while teammate Troy Hennes and Antonio Heaton threw 103-07 and 98-11, good for fourth and sixth.

The girls took first place in their first meet of the season, scoring a collective 87 points. The meet began with the 100 meter hurdles where Brooke Schraner ran a time of 18.93 seconds, good for fourth place. Schraner then continued to claim second in the 300 hurdles, clearing them in 52.95 seconds. Adelle Meissner raced to a first place finish in the 100 meter dash, crossing the line in 13.5 seconds. Meissner continued her success in the 200 meter dash, running a 29.55 good for fourth. Shelby Paulson contributed a fifth place finish in the 400 meter dash, completing her lap in 1:11.68. Moving into the longer events, Kolby Pimperton ran her way to a second place finish in both the mile and the two mile. Pimperton completed her 1600 in 6:54.97 and her 3200 in 14:46.55. The girls' 4x100 meter relay team featuring Maggie Andrews, Grace Norstedt, Paulson, and Schraner clocked in at 59.67 seconds and captured third place, and the 4x400 meter relay team consisting of Meissner, Paulson, Pimperton, and Schraner ran their way to first place, finishing in 5:00.62. Jordan Swanson and Dani Urick were the Huskies star throwers. Swanson threw the shot put 32-04.25 feet good for third while Urick heaved the shot 31-11.75 feet and claimed fifth. In the discus, Urick and Swanson threw 90-02 and 88-08, good for third and fourth.

After a quick rest on Friday, the track teams loaded the bus and made the trek to Choteau for the Choteau Acantha Invitational. The

boys amassed 86 points and claimed second in the teams overall score. Vogl and Langston took second and third in the 110 meter hurdles, crossing the finish line in 17.55 seconds and 17.85 seconds. Vogl then took third place in the 300 meter hurdles, running a time of 45.84 seconds. Vogl also claimed fifth in the 400 meter dash with a time of 56.9; Flinn ran a 56.7 good for fourth and Evans clocked in at 56.96 for a sixth place finish. Stroop took fifth in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:17.26 and went on to get second in the mile with a 4:53.29 alongside Dollenger who captured sixth, completed his 1600 meters in 5:20.28. The 4x100 meter relay team ran a time of 49.72 and took home fifth and the long relay claimed second, crossing the finish line in 3:46.64. Brendan Wing got in on the team's success, triple jumping 37-03.5 feet, gaining a fifth place finish.

The Lady Husky team took home third place with an accumulative score of 52. Schraner finished sixth in the 100 meter hurdles and fourth in the 300 meter hurdles, running times of 18.37 seconds and 55.64 seconds. Pimperton captured fourth place in the mile with a time of 6:36.26 and third in the 3200 meter run, crossing the finish line as the clock read 14:47.66. The 4x100 meter relay team ran a 56.4 second 400, good for a third place finish and the long relay gained a fourth place ribbon with a time of 4:49.35. Jumpers Meissner and Morgan Cooper both had fifth place finishes, Meissner's coming in the long jump with a hop of 14-04 and Cooper's in the triple jump with a leap of 28-02.5. Swanson took second place in the shot with a put of 31-03.75 and Urick took fourth with a throw of 30-02.75.

(Cont. Pg. 9)

High School Track

Last Friday, the Husky teams made the trip to Choteau once again, this time for the Belt Valley Invitational. The boys took second place with a collective score of 116 points. Vogl and Langston took the top two spots in the 110 meter hurdles stopping the clock at 16.95 and 17.51. Vogl also won the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 44.48. Evans dashed to a third place finish in the 200 with a time of 25.34 and a fifth place ribbon in the 400 with a time of 56.38 while Stroop ran a 55.2 good for second. Stroop also captured first place in the 3200 meter run with a time of 10:27.39 which also auto-qualifies him for the state meet. Dollenger and Gliko took third and fourth in the two mile with times of 11:41.41 and 11:48.21. Gliko also captured third in the mile, crossing the finish line at 5:25.63. The 4x400 meter relay team took home third, finished their mile in 3:58.56. Antonio Heaton took fourth place in the high jump clearing 5-04 and fourth in the long jump with 17-3.25. Wing also placed in the long jump, capturing second with a jump of 17-09.5 and fourth in the triple jump with a leap of 36-10. Roberts tied for first place in the shot put with a throw of 40-01 while Hennes captured sixth in the discus with a fling of 104-10.

The girls accumulated 99 points and finished second in the team rankings. Schraner gained third place in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 18.99 and first in the 300 hurdles, clearing them in 51.65 seconds. Meissner claimed second in the 100 meter dash stopping the clock at 13.37 seconds and second in the 200 meter dash completing the race in 29.01 seconds. Paulson ran a 2:49.3 800 meter run and snatched a fourth place finish while Pimperton won the 1600 meter run with a time of 6:17.74. The short

relay team ran a 57.7, good for third and the long relay crossed the finish line in second place with a time of 4:36.18. Meissner long jumped 13-09.5 and gained a fifth place ribbon while Cooper triple jumped 30-01 good for fourth and cleared 4-06 in the high jump for fourth place. Swanson threw the discus 84-00.5 feet and captured sixth place. Swanson also won the shot put with a throw of 32-07.25 while Urick got second with a throw of 31-06.25.

Last Saturday, the Husky bus made the trip to Lewistown for the Fergus High Invitational. The boys' team collectively scored 92.5 points and took home second place. One again, Vogl and Langston put forth stellar performances in the 110 meter hurdles taking second and third. Langston ran a time of 17.64 with Vogl close behind running a 17.8. Vogl then went on to win the 300 meter hurdles with a quick time of 43.36. Flinn and Evans snatched third and fifth in the 400, totaling their laps in 55.04 seconds and 55.38 seconds. Stroop ran a 2:11.18 800 meter run good for third and got second in the mile stopping the clock at 4:45.07. Gliko and Dollenger claimed second and fourth in the two mile finished in 11:32.48 and 11:39.19. The short relay took fourth place with a time of 48.09. Wing long jumped 17-07.5 and took home the sixth place ribbon and Heaton earned his spot on the podium with a high jump of 5-04. Heaton also got second in the discus with a throw of 122-10 while Hennes claimed fourth with a fling of 115-05. Roberts threw the shot 42 feet and gained second place.

The girls totaled 49 points at the Fergus Invitational and took home fourth place. Schraner continued to excel in the hurdles running the 100 meter hurdles in 18.1 seconds and the 300 meter hurdles in

50.98 seconds. Schraner claimed fourth in the 100 hurdles and sixth in the 300s. Meissner captured fourth in the 100 meter dash with a time of 13.87 and Pimperton stopped the clock at 13:56.31 in the 3200 taking home second place. Cooper triple jumped 30-03.5 for third place and cleared 4-04 for a sixth place finish in the high jump. Swanson snatched third in the discus with a throw of 89-01 and fourth in the shot with a put of 32-02. Urick claimed fifth in the shot put with a throw of 31-06.

On Tuesday, the athletes of the highest skill level competed in the Top Ten Meet; the next issue of the Valley Voice will feature the results of that meet. The whole team will head to a pre-district meet in today in Choteau. Jumping and throwing events began at 9:00 and running commences at 10:00. The Valley Voice wishes these athletes the best of luck in their competitions.

By: Adelle Meissner

Cummings Tourney

On April 21st the annual Craig Cummings Tournament commenced with sixteen teams battling in the Belt Gymnasium. Each team consisted of three boys and two girls. Many people showed up making the competition a fun one to watch. This Belt tradition is one that many students and adults around the town look forward to.

Out of all sixteen teams, the winner was the East Side Bar team with an outstanding game. The runner up was the Farm Bureau team who also played very well. This annual event is fun and raises money for the Craig Cummings Memorial, recognizing the contribution of Mr. Cummings to the school and community..

By: Natalie Larsen

Music Festival

The music department shipped off the University of Providence where they displayed all the wonderful and amazing musical talents in front of adjudicators from prestigious universities and backgrounds. It was a wonderful 'team', as Mr. Sutton regularly calls it, experience for the choir, band, and vocal/instrumental soloists that participated in the annual event.

Each music department from the surrounding district gathered to perform and receive adjudications on their selected pieces. A superior rating, division I, is the highest score possible to receive at music festival and is a goal that Belt performers strive for each year.

This year, after having received in prior years excellent, division II, ratings just teetering on the edge of a superior, the Belt band was able to finally lay claim to a superior score in their large group performance for their sight reading and musical pieces: Prelude and Fugue in B flat Major, composed by Johann Sebastian Bach and ar-

ranged by Roland L. Moehlmann and Cumberland Cross by Carl Strommen.

The Choir was rewarded with an excellent rating for all their hard work into their pieces: Stabat Mater Dolorosa by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi and Elijah Rock-Traditional Spiritual adapted and arranged by Roget Emerson. They performed wonderfully in their sight reading also and received another excellent rating for their work.

The following day eleven students returned to Great Falls, to the CMR high school, to perform individually. The students in performing vocal solos were Grace Davison, Sierra Reese, and Andrew Stice, one of the soloists was lucky enough to receive a superior rating, which was Mr. Stice. Instrumental soloists were: Zach Buskirk-Alto Saxophone, Hunter Adams-Trombone, Avery Newman-Flute, Julia Vogt-Flute, William Franzen-Flute, Hunter Vogl-Trombone, Hannah Schweitzer-Trumpet, Adam

Langston-Tuba, and Andrew Stice-Percussion. Julia Vogt stated that, "Music festival was fun and we did well. I also enjoyed watching other people perform during solo and ensemble and really liked the piece I played 'Song Without Words' by Felix Mendelssohn!"

Although the school heard of the band's superior rating and the choir's excellent rating over that Friday's morning announcements, the students who received superior ratings in solo and ensemble were not announced. Those talented few who did receive superior ratings were as follows: Freshman, Hunter Adams and sophomore, William Franzen. They will go to State Music Festival in the upcoming weeks along with sophomore Andrew Stice. The event will be held in Helena, and the group will make an over-night journey to display their musical achievements and endeavors. The *Valley Voice* wishes the best of luck to these phenomenal musicians.

By: Shelby Paulson

Expanding Your Horizons

Expanding Your Horizons, is a one day conference for girls in grades 6-8 to get them involved in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) opportunities, through activities in multiple STEM based careers. The conference this year was held on April 14th, with a thirty dollar registration fee per girl, on the Montana State University of Bozeman campus.

This year twenty middle school girls participated in this enriching experience. The majority of attendees were sixth graders: Brynn-Leigh Dickison, Madison Pogany, Addison Urick, Kennedie Martin, Kyndal Schraner, Madisen Feldman, Keely Dirkson, Christa Holland, Natalee Downard, Ryann Os-

terman, Kandice Stice, Miya Anderson and Kylee Permann. They were accompanied by seventh graders: Tara Hedstrom, Makaila Marchington, and Deanna Davison and eight graders: Piper Denno, Lindsey Paulson, Sarah Dollenger, and Charla Hook.

The group traveled across the Little Belts and the Bridger mountains to attend the annual event. The girls were able to get hands on experiences in the world of STEM, but unfortunately experienced a slight bump in the road on the first leg of their trip. The bus had a flat tire which stalled their arrival by two hours, causing them to miss the opening of the conference. The girls, though, were able

to get into their group colors, (royal blue, green, brown, etc.) filled with girls from surrounding schools and take part in the exciting and hands-on part of STEM that their group color was assigned to.

Belt has been partaking in the event for the past three years, trying to interest the school's female youth in these rapidly expanding and growing careers that currently are male dominated. This is part of a nationwide effort to keep young ladies interested in those fields. This one-day conference helped the middle school students of Belt become aware of new career fields and options, giving them a glance at what might interest them.

By: Shelby Paulson

Theater Update

The Belt Performing Arts Center has been under construction for some time now and the Belt Shakespeare players couldn't be more excited to be the first performance for the new building, which is a huge honor for them. The first performance will be held tonight on the 4th of May at 6:30 p.m. Their second performance will be on the 5th of May at the same time, and then there will be one on the 9th at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. for students only.

Mr. Ross (the director) is planning that the theater will be crowded and possibly even sold-out for every performance and so with that he stresses that the audience members will need to fill out a form online in advance in order to reserve seats for themselves, if they don't there might not be enough

room for them.

Mr. Ross and Ms. Harrison (the assistant director) has been advertising for these performances for a while now. The fact that the theater is finally opening for the first time in years has also gained a lot of publicity, which definitely helped expand the audience number. KRTV recently interviewed some of the performers and got some shots of the theater with the whole group in it for the first time in months. The group got to see the progress of the theater and what the final result was going to look like.

The performers has been working very hard to get where they are, and will continue to surprise the audiences with their wonderful performance. They has been

working on this play (*Much Ado about Nothing*), by Shakespeare, for about eight months. They have been practicing six days a week in the main building of The Golden Valley Homes, located across from the Belt Valley Library.

The troupe has invited many different schools from around the area to attend the performances. The whole town of Belt wishes them luck and are very excited to see what they have prepared.

By: Tori Sherwood



**Come See
*Much Ado
About Nothing!***

Middle School Track

As middle school basketball came to a close in early April, the young athletes traded their high tops for spikes in preparation for the 2018 track season. Competition began almost immediately after the young tracksters started their season. On April 20th, the team loaded the bus for a ride to Simms and then headed to Fort Benton on the 27th.

While the results from the Simms meet have yet to be released, the finishes from the Fort Benton meet are available. To kick things off at the first meet of the season, Gabe Triplett placed fifth in the 200 meter hurdles with a time of 34.8. Asa Jassen then continued Belt's hurdle success, placing fourth in the 110 meter hurdles. A. Jassen cleared the obstacle in 21.3 seconds. In the 400 meter dash Bridger Vogl ran a time of 1:05.06 which was good for a second place finish. Vogl also claimed second in the long jump with a leap of 16-04

and first in the triple jump with a hop of 34-4.5, while Zach Feldman cleared 4-0 in the high jump for a sixth place finish. Four Husky athletes placed in the 1600 meter run capturing first, second, fifth, and sixth. Cole Hepfner ran a 5:20 to take first, followed by A. Jassen with a 5:26 for second, Archer Throckmorton with a 5:47 for fifth, and A. Jassen with a 5:48 good for sixth. Hepfner and C. Jassen also found success in the 800 meter run along with Alex Knutson. Hepfner snatched first with a time of 2:21.8, Knutson finished his run in 2:25.5, and C. Jassen finished in 2:32.5. The short relay team ran a time of 55.13 gaining a third place ribbon and the long relay captured fourth with a time of 3:43.33.

On the girls' side, Lindsey Paulson started the day off with a first place finish in the 200 meter hurdles with a time of 32.66. L. Paulson then continued to win the

400 meter dash, running a 1:04.45 and the 200 meter dash crossing the line in 29.16 second. L. Paulson also placed third in the 100 meter hurdles, stopping the clock at 18.78 seconds. Piper Denno grabbed a fourth place finish in the 800, totaling the two laps in 2:59 seconds. The 4x400 meter relay snatched place on the podium with a time of 4:20.76 good for third place. Out in the throwing ring Raily Gliko and Ahmia Lords found success. Gliko claimed fourth in the shot put with a throw of 25'1.25 and A. Lords earned a first place finish in the javelin with a heave of 68'6.5.

The young athletes were back in action yesterday here in Belt, results of the meet will be posted in the next issue of the Valley Voice. On Saturday, the team heads to Choteau for another meet and the Voice will keep readers apprised of their successes.

By: Adelle Meissner

Puzzle

Whose lovely pearly whites are these?



Last Edition's answer:
Troy Hennes

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Triumphant Return

Belt School has recently welcomed a new paraprofessional into the educational system. Miss Hannah Croff left Belt in 2013 as a high-school graduate. She now returns to her alma mater with a whole new set of credentials under her belt. After graduating with her high-school diploma Miss Croff headed off to University of Montana Western where she attained a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. The course of study, which took her a total of four years to complete, sent her back home to the school which got her educational career started, in an effort to begin her professional odyssey.

Miss Croff's interest in childhood education comes from her enjoyment of working with children and her profession gives her the ability to further the knowledge of young minds. She explains that this job "will give me an opportunity to not only work with children, but help

guide them along life's path." The young teacher will be working full-time in the kindergarten room as an aide. She is most looking forward to "being around the kids all day and learning new strategies for when she begins teaching" while working inside the school.

In the fall, Ms. Croff plans on taking her Praxis test and obtaining her license through the Montana Office of Public Instruction. Croff will then secure all her needed credentials to educate children in elementary grade levels as a teacher.

The Belt School is helping to vault Ms. Croff into her future career of being a full-time elementary teacher and getting her Master's Degree within a few years. Miss Croff will now be able to nurture young minds, influence the knowledge of today's youth, and continue the long-standing educational chain.

By: Shelby Paulson