



The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



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Belt Virtuosos

Last October, the Belt Music Program had an amazing record of students that auditioned for the Montana Honor Band and Choir and the Northwestern Honor Choir. Overall, there are just short of a dozen kids that are expected into either the Honor band or Choir or the Northwestern Choir. These kids will broadcast their music capabilities in front of a large audience, and prove to themselves that they can do anything. Both the choirs and band required audition tapes, to help the conductors place the students into their skill category.

This year the Montana Honor Band and Choir will welcome eight Belt students. Molly Tingey on flute, Johnny Tingey on tuba, Danika Lords on saxophone, Nate Gill on tenor saxophone, and David Bond on percussion will be participating in the Montana Honor Band. In the choir, Hattie Bumgarner, Luke Highfill, and Gracie Watson, have been selected to sing in the choir. The students will be travel-

ing to Choteau on November 29th and 30th, and their final concert will fall on November 30th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

The Northwestern Honor Choir consists of six honor choirs for the grades 4 through 12. This program finds and teaches many talented students in their singing career. Many different types of students come together and learn more from each other. The auditions for this choir started on September 1st, 2021 and ended on October 1st, 2021. Molly Tingey, Emerson Hoerner, and Oliva King received notice on November 1st, 2021 that they were awarded a place in the Northwestern Honor Choir.

A reminder to all the Northwestern Honor choir members that they need a designated chaperone to stay in their room. A chaperone can accompany more than one singer.

Congratulations to all Belt's melodic prodigies and best of luck in their continued musical journeys.

By: Eliza Tingey

Patriot's Pen

The Black Eagle VFW hosts a Patriots Pen essay every year, this year being no different. Each middle school student creates their very own essay based on a theme. The theme for this year was "How can I be a Good American?"

Each essay must be at least 300 words and cannot exceed 405 words; the title, footnotes, etc. are not included in the addition of the words. The students must not identify themselves, or obvious features, such as school, name, city, state, or race. Each scholar is limited to a single competition, any more than one and they will

be disqualified.

Poetry is not accepted as a form of an essay and the ideas are to be clearly focused and communicated. The essays are judged on how well the topic is understood, developed, and presented. A positive approach is recommended to express the viewpoint. Belt takes three students who did an exemplary job to the next level.

Hayden Visocan, 6th grade, excelled and claimed his place as first across the school. Aizalyn Flaten, 8th grade, reached second place, with Dawson Iverson, in the 7th grade, following up. (Cont. pg. 11)

Fiddle Club

As most people know, there is a Fiddle Club. There has been practice every Tuesday at 3:45 p.m. after school in the music room.

The students involved are Addi Urick, Addyson Staelens, Cooper Olson, Ellie Osterman, Ezra Krebs, Febe Krebs, Garrett Remington, Hans Bumgarner, Harley Schraner, Harper Price, Harris Bumgarner, Jackson Newcomer, James Larson, Jasmine Anderson, Khasia Gaylord, Khaila Gaylord,

Livvy King, Mark Hoffmann, Mackenzie Adkins, Merrick Heikila, Merritt Peterson, Milo Urick, Nora Watson, Olivia Redd, Parker Arndt, Presley Marn, Raleigh Iverson, Rhyann Langley, Scott Newman, and Wade Hoyer. There will be a couple performances or concerts, the date, time, and other details will be announced as it gets closer to that time.

Mr. Wilson has been helping with this club, but the main peo-

ple who have been teaching these students are Isaac Callender, and his wife Louise Steinway. Isaac teaches some experienced kids. He is a versatile musician who plays all string instruments, plays them professionally, has played with other very talented people, and has also gone on tour. Louise Steinway teaches the beginner classes. She has been teaching fiddle classes for an afterschool program for 15 years. **By: Gracie Watson**

Husky Football

The Belt High football season came to an end last Saturday in Thompson Falls as the Huskies bowed out of the Class C playoffs in the second round after winning their first round match-up against Culbertson. When the two playoff games were done, the team had logged over 700 miles on the road.

On October 30th, the Huskies took on the Culbertson Cowboys, the 32 seed from the Eastern Division. Belt's defense controlled the game, and a balanced offense produced plenty of points.

Bridger Vogl scored early on a short run as Belt moved ahead 8-0 after one period. An interception return by Jeremy Nebel and a fumble run back by Garrett Metrione resulted in defensive touchdowns and by halftime the Huskies were in charge at 24-0.

Belt led 30-0 through three quarters on the strength of a Metrione to Vogl pass. Culbertson scored late against the reserves as Belt celebrated the win and prepared to travel to the other end of the state last Saturday.

The second round pitted the Huskies against the top team from the west, the Bluehawks of Thompson Falls. A highlight of the trip to Sanders County was a practice session in Washington Grizzly Stadium.

The boys probably needed a break or two early in that one, but that wasn't in the cards as Belt got off to a horrific start in the first three possessions.

T-Falls ran the opening kick back for a TD. Belt moved into the Bluehawks red zone, but fumbled the ball, resulting in a 68 yard

scoop and score for the home team. After a penalty on the kick return Belt threw an interception that was returned for another score. It was 18-0 three minutes into the game and 25-2 at the break. Belt tried to rally in the third when Keaghn McDaniel caught a TD from Vogl, but a fourth quarter TD by T-Falls removed all doubt as to the outcome. The final score stood at 31-10.

The playoffs continue without the Huskies as Park City heads to T-Falls and Fort Benton entertains Flint Creek in a rematch of last year's semifinal.

The Huskies finished the season 7-2 and look forward to more success in the years to come with lots of talent returning next year. The team wishes the best of luck to graduating seniors Cole Hepfner and Gabe Triplett.

Washington-Grizzly Stadium											
Belt	8	16	6	6	36	Belt	2	-	8	-	10
Culbertson	-	-	-	15	15	T-Falls	18	7	-	6	31

Fashion Corner

There are many places where people can buy cute clothes, and outfits that fit the trend. This time the fashion corner will take a turn to online fashion shopping.

Macy's is a great online or instore location to buy clothes, and they cycle through sales and promotions constantly. It'll take only seconds to find the perfect outfit that fits everyday style. Zulily is another amazing place to spend some bucks. Zulily works on creating a unique look that fits personality. If people sign into Zulily then go through the process of selecting

their favorite styles they can really find a winning combination. It takes a few days to get the order but if that's okay some amazing deals can be scored. Forever 21 is a great place to go to get the trends. It has great sales and the online version is way better than shopping in the store.

Old Navy creates great clothing pieces that feel nice to put on for everyday wear. It has a great budget for people who don't want to spend \$100 on a pair of jeans. Target, a favorite for all people, has unique styles that are cheap and

they create a warm and welcoming atmosphere when in the store. Another super cheap place is Shien. People can spend as little as \$1.00 for rings that are \$20 dollars at another place.

Hattie Bumgarner boasts, "Target has everything you need" Brooke Holum added "North face has a lot of good options and most of their clothes are pretty cute." That's the lowdown on low cost fashion. It shows that people can look great without breaking the bank.

By: Addee Hoffmann

Montana Football Playoffs

The Huskies season came to an unfortunate end last Saturday in Sanders County as they lost to the Thompson Falls Blue Hawks 31-10, but the state playoffs continue on to the semi-final round as four teams in each of Montana's five classes hope to claim championships.

In AA, second round concluded as Missoula Sentinel shut out Great Falls High 45-0, Bozeman was defeated by Helena High 42-7, Billings West pummeled Helena Capital 49-28, and Butte fell short against Glacier by a score of 35-25. For the semi-finals, #1 Missoula Sentinel is set to play #6 Glacier, and #2 Billings West is set to take on the #5 Helena High Bengals.

Both games take place on Friday, November 12th at 7:00 p.m. Missoula Sentinel is looking to repeat as champions, but Billings West is looking forward to getting revenge for last year's championship game.

The results of the quarter-final games for Class A teams look as follows: Laurel topped Frenchtown 34-17, Polson beat Billings Central 49-28, Hamilton Pummeled Custer County (Miles City) 52-13, and Lewistown rose above Sidney

39-28. Last year's runner-up, Billings Central, fell out of contention, but reigning champion, and #1 seed Laurel still has hopes of competing in the chipper. #2 seed Polson stands in their way though for the semi-final matchup. The other semi-final game is #1 Hamilton against #2 seed Lewistown. Both games will take place on Saturday, November 13th and 1:00 p.m.

Round two of playoff football for Class B ended as Florence-Carlton beat Columbus 28-8, Whitehall/Harrison got shut out by Jefferson 42-0, Bigfork squeaked out a win over Broadwater 10-15, and Lincoln Co. (Eureka) took care of Sweet Grass Co. 47-12. #1 Florence-Carlton is set to take on #3 seed Jefferson, and #2 Lincoln Co. plays #3 Bigfork.

Those games are set for will Saturday, November 13th at 1:00 p.m. Two new teams will have a shot at the title as none of the previous two schools are in contention for the big game.

The Class C 8-man tourney will continue on without the Huskies as they lost in the semi-finals to Thompson Falls 31-10. Park City was able to reign victorious against Scobey/Opheim 32-20. Drummond/

Granite took care of Fairview 32-14, and St. Ignatius lost 26-42, to the Fort Benton Longhorns. The two #1 seeds battle in Thompson Falls, as they take on Park City. #1 Fort Benton hosts #2 Drummond/Granite in their semi-final matchup.

Both contests will be played on Saturday, November 13th at 1:00 p.m. Drummond/Granite is looking to go back-to-back, as their hopes are still alive.

The top seeds control the tournament in the Class C 6-man division, as three #1 seeds and one #2 seed remain in the bracket. Power/Dutton-Brady beat White Sulphur Springs 46-28, Shields Valley topped Richey/Lambert 45-20, Medicine Lake/Froid took care of Bridger 44-22, and DGS/WGR lost out to Big Sandy 50-14. Two #1 seeds play in Power/Dutton-Brady as they host Shields Valley. Medicine Lake/Froid will host #2 seed Big Sandy.

The semis will take place November 13th, at 1:00 p.m. A state championship is still in the cards for the defending champions, the Medicine Lake/Froid Redhawks.

The Voice will put a cap on the season in the next issue.

By: Rylan Davison

New Students

The “New Student” features are nearly complete and the special new Kindergarteners are Hadley Adams and Konnor Johnson. They both attended different schools before journeying to Belt Public Schools and at the moment are enjoying their new community.



Hadley took part in Summer Hands Elementary School and she is still getting used to her new school and in various moments she misses her old

school and friends. On the playground she finds entertainment on the tire swings and she enjoys her mom helping her with school work. In her free time, she watches her sister play and finds it delightful playing with her sister. She appreciates her new friends and being welcomed into her new school.

Konnor would describe the biggest difference between his past school and his present school as having new friends. He participates in the Belt Flag Football Team and would express his experience as, “Great, and gets to get a lot of flags.” He enjoys being able to play during recess and have some extra time to play with his friends. In his

free time, he watches on his computer and partakes in activities around his house. He would like to add that he loves to ride horses and does it regularly.



The Belt Community welcomes these new fellow students and wishes them the best as they proceed through their elementary career.

By: Walker Maki

Belt Anniversary

In two weeks Belt will remember a grim anniversary. Just a mere 45 years ago, Belt suffered a great loss when a train derailed and hit the town. It occurred on November 26th, 1976, the day after Thanksgiving. This year Friday, the 26th is again the day after Thanksgiving.

That Friday so long ago, the first snow of the season had blanketed the ground. A Burlington Northern cargo train, carrying multiple cars filled with propane and fuel oil, came roaring into town, around 3:00 p.m. that afternoon. A chain of tanks abandoned the track, causing it to plummet on the viaduct road.

The explosion was so massive that houses a half mile away had their windows shattered; while this is tragic, the brunt of the damage was mainly focused on the Belt Farmers Union Cooperative. At least half a dozen people were there, waiting for their winter tire installment. The blast engulfed the structure, shattering the glass and setting several buildings ablaze.

The tragedy left two dead, 72 year old rancher Charlie Pimpton, and 17 year old Timothy Ostlie, a Belt High School junior.

Another serious concern arose in the midst of the explosion. Hundreds of gallons of flaming petroleum from the Farmer's Union tanks were streaming down the slope and into Belt's core. By a load of luck and fast thinkers, part of the town was protected.

Current Belt history teacher Karl Koontz, a sophomore in high school when the calamity struck, recalls his memories of that fateful day, “I was watching the rivalry football game between Oklahoma and Nebraska with my old buddy Mike Guedesse. When the sound of the initial explosion echoed across the valley, the ground shook like an earthquake. Mike and I sprinted up town to see what was going on and as we approached the old jail we saw that the entire area around the viaduct was ablaze. Some of the people who escaped the Farmer's Union were emerging from behind the jail. By this time, fire had erupt-



ed on the east side of the creek bank and Mike and I parted ways, each racing home to see what we could do to help our families.”

The highway department had prefilled trucks with sand, due to the need to sand the highway after all the snow. This was used to build a sand dike that diverted the flaming gasoline into the Belt Creek. The ferocity of the burning gasoline was so strong that aerial images showed trees along the bottom, a mile away, charred.

The fire burned for three days and after that there was extensive environmental clean-up but despite this the day left scars. Mr. Koontz recounted, “a few years later we were swimming in the creek downstream and I (Cont. pg. 5)

Anniversary (Cont.)

remember stepping in the sand, causing a bubble of oil about a half-gallon in volume to rise to the surface and float down the stream.”

An analysis from the National Transportation Safety Board released ten months later states that Belt’s catastrophe resulted in 2 deaths, 22 injured, wreckage of 10 buildings, and destruction of 19 automobiles. The report says that be-

cause of the ensuing flames roughly 200 people were evacuated.

This investigation also states that the incident was caused by an overloaded rail portion that developed in an undiagnosed transverse crack; the railway had essentially disintegrated. The destruction sustained by the fatal crash and associated explosion was projected to cost about \$4.54 million, nearly

\$19.75 million in today’s dollars.

Similar to other major events, everyone remembers when and where they were when the train derailed in Belt. While this is a truly horrific event, enough to warrant national news, it is important to reminisce on who was lost and the resilience of the community.

By: Kyndal Schraner

Book Fair

Once again, Belt Public School hosted a scholastic book fair for the students; it is a community project taken on by Mrs. Meissner, the school librarian. It took place over the past two weeks, being open for a half hour each afternoon after school. Anyone who wanted to attend could have. It reveals an amazing opportunity to encourage the young scholars to take reading into their own hands.

Once again it had a very high attendance, although this time much better turnout than usual, during the parent/teacher conferences, but shoppers continued to flood in before and after each school day. Usually sales are pretty high, but the school normally obtains about nine hundred dollars to spend on scholastic elements.

Each penny comes back into

the school library to purchase new books and furniture. This is such an important program in the school because all the new additions to the library encourage young scholars to truly dive into books; due to this, many more choices, and comfort, are provided.

Some of the books go faster than others, this year was truly no different as some of the books sold out immediately. Meissner intends to order more so that the ones who missed out will still have an opportunity to both buy the books or check out.

While this is technically called a book fair, there was a multitude of other things, such as science experiments, cook books, pencils, erasers, and journals. There wasn’t a certain age that the books appealed to, as it ranged from board

books to young adult novels. The young learners are extremely appreciative of this occasion.

Harley Schraner, in the 4th grade, saved some money over this past summer and used it during the event. She bought a science experiment book/kit, and executed almost all of the tests. She explains “you can get really crafty with it and it is super fun.” Among her favorites is a “slow-mo volcano” where the yeast reacts to the hydrogen peroxide.

Thank you to each and every person who attended this year’s annual book fair. A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Meissner in the library for helping make sure that this remains possible and attempting to always improve the reading environment down in the library.

By: Kyndal Schraner

Belt Election

The results of the Belt Election have been received and there are new people taking office in the city council. Belt is divided into three different wards consisting of Ward I (east side of Belt Creek), Ward II (west side of the creek and north of 2nd Ave S), and Ward III (west side of the creek and south of 2nd Ave S).

In Ward I, April Wells was victorious against David Eggert and

will take office on January 1st of 2022. The votes were 40-29 in favor of Mrs. Wells. On the other side of the creek, Sally Miller was triumphant over Becky Gorton in Ward II. Mrs. Miller won by 19 total votes. Mayor Olson ran unopposed and will serve a second four-year term of office.

There are two aldermen in each ward and in Ward I the Aldermen are Michelle Stinson and April

Wells, Ward II is Dwayne and Sally Miller, and Ward III is Paul Heikkila and Russ Roberts. The aldermen and mayor serve four years and one alderman in each ward gets sworn in every 2 years.

Belt Town Council meetings are held at the City Hall every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month and anyone in the community is welcome to attend.

By: Walker Maki

Senior Spotlight

Asa Jassen has been enrolled in Belt for 12 years since he was in Kindergarten. He has contributed a lot to the Belt Community and is on his final journey of his high school career.

He would describe his Belt experience as great. "Small schools are awesome because of the student



teacher dynamics and I'm glad Belt has great teachers," Asa commented. He is very appreciative of the sports and extracurricular activities that he has participated in throughout his education in Belt because of how it has impacted him as a person.

When he moves on from the small school, he plans on pursuing a major in Biology Pre-Med, but hasn't

decided on where he will start his next career path. Also, he hopes to be able to run in college.

His advice for younger kids is, "Get involved and put in some effort at school. You get out what you put in and high school only happens once."

The extracurricular activities that he partakes in are: National Honor Society, the Tiger Butte 4-H club, the Principals Cup, Basketball, Track, Cross Country, DECA, and in Rodeo he does team rope.

His favorite memories that he has acquired throughout high school are DECA trips, post season sports championships, Principals Cup, and homecomings.

The Belt Community and the *Valley Voice* would like to congratulate Asa for trying his hardest throughout high school and they wish him the best of luck in his next stage in life. The next senior that will be featured in the *Valley Voice* will be Raily Gliko.

By: Walker Maki

Lady Husky Volleyball

After a great season that saw the Lady Husky volleyball team claim a conference title, they were eliminated from the divisional tournament last week in Belt to conclude their season.

The Maroon and Gold girls were the champions of the 6-C District and entered the tournament as the #1 seed. District play took place in Simms October 28th through the 30th. The girls opened the postseason against the Elks of Augusta, and prevailed in three straight sets by scores of 25-6, 25-11, and 25-12. It was dominating performance, fueled by a great effort across the board. Seniors Raily Gliko and Lindsey Paulson worked their magic at the net, and great serving and back-court play by Aaliyah Gaylord and Kylee Permann spelled victory for Belt.

Valier was next up for the ladies that same day and again the Belt squad dispatched their foes in three quick sets. Coach Gondeiro appreciated the continued balance in the win, as Hattie Bumgarner, Addi Urick, and Ella Pethel stepped up big time in helping out with the cause, and the elders on the team carried on their strong efforts.

Those two wins propelled Belt into the undefeated game against the Lady Tigers of Simms. Despite Belt's best efforts, they fell to defeat in this one in three sets, 18-25, 14-25, and 20-25. The Tigers used their tremendous size at the net in prevailing. Belt was led by Urick with 20 digs, Gliko with 8 kills and 15 digs, and Permann's 3 kills, 2 blocks, and 11 digs. In addition, Ella Pethel's play from the service line and backcourt was instrumental in the victories.

In the true double elimination format the girls could still grab the big prize, and after sweeping away the GFCC Lady Mustangs Saturday morning, they had another shot at Simms.

As had happened the day before, the Lady Tigers bested Belt and won the district tourney title, this time in four sets. 25-16, 25-15, 22-25, and 25-17. Again, size mattered and Simms' play at the net was the primary difference in the outcome. Still, a second place trophy went to Belt and they advanced to the Northern C Divisional Tournament last weekend.

The Belt Gym was the scene of the divisional match-ups, and the Lady Huskies opened play on Thursday, November 6th against Chinook. Belt played tremendous defense in this one, frustrating the Lady SugarBeeters at every turn and winning easily in three, 25-20, 25-23, and 25-23.

The win sent Belt into a second round battle with District 7-C champion Geraldine-Highwood, the pretournament favorite. Belt managed one set, but tumbled in the other three and was dispatched to the loser bracket, despite Urick's 21 dig total. The sets were 25-16, 25-18, 20-25, and 25-18. The co-op is very balanced and stresses defense, blocking many an opponent's shots.

Friday afternoon the girls played well, staying alive with a sweep of CJI. The girls won 25-22, 25-18, and 28-26, behind the stellar play of Permann who smashed 13 kills, eliminating the Lady Hawks.

By Saturday morning, only four teams were left standing, and only two of those (Cont. pg. 7)

Volleyball (Cont.)

would be around when the day was done and state tournament berths handed out. The girls faced their nemesis Simms in the morning, and just could not get their traction. Simms won the match in three sets, ending Belt's tournament and season. The set scores 25-21, 25-18, and 25-22. After beating Simms twice early on, Belt lost to them three times in a row.

The Lady Longhorns of Fort Benton ended up winning the Northern C and are in Bozeman now for the state tournament. Simms also qualified for state.

It was a great campaign for the Lady Huskies, but it ended a bit short of their aspirations. Most of the girls will now shift gears and prepare for the upcoming basketball season. It was a great four years for seniors Gliko and Paulson, and while neither one plans to pursue a collegiate career in volleyball, each one cherishes their days wearing the Maroon and Gold of Old Belt High.

Belt finished the year with an impressive record of 17-5. All-Conference and All-State selections from Belt will be announced in an upcoming edition of the *Voice*.

By: Addee Hoffman

Music Opportunities

There is an opportunity for students from age 12-19 years old to be part of the Great Falls Symphony. Lots of opportunities exist for musical expression, and the symphony is divided into four age groups.

For high school students there is Youth Orchestra with a full orchestral ensemble. A step down is Sinfonia which is for intermediate students, and this group includes only string ensembles. Then there is also the Chamber of Music which is a small ensemble group including all ages and all instruments. The fourth group is reserved adults, called the Great Falls Symphony.

Those who might be unsure about the commitment can attend a Great Falls Symphony Concert. This is a fantastic chance to find out what can be expected from participation in one of these groups.

The musicians that make up the Cascade Quartet and Chinook Winds are the "core musicians" of the Great Falls Symphony. There is an upcoming event that is open to the public on November 14th. This will be a performance of the Youth Orchestra's Fall Concert, which will be held at the Mansfield Center

in downtown Great Falls.

Also on the schedule of activities is the Cascade Quartet Concert November 19th and 21st. This event will be held at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 2900 9th Ave S, Great Falls, MT 59405.

If interested in joining any of these groups or attending any event, questions should be directed to the Great Falls Symphony at (406) 453-4102. Their hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. September through May. In the summer months hours are from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Or they have a website, gfsymphony.org.

This is a fun experience that kids 12-19 years of age, in school or homeschooled can enjoy even if they choose to just go and watch. This may also be an interest to some of the students in the Fiddle Club here in Belt.

By: Gracie Watson



Veterans Day was yesterday, and we honored the Veterans for all their hard work and sacrifices. These people have significant experiences and expertise in their occupation or field. Yes, they are no longer serving in the military, but they still are honored and we recognize them.

The Veterans made/make sure that people are safe. But when people are driving under the influence, they put everyone in harm's way.

Don't Drink and Drive!



Farmer's Union Camp Awards

Last summer 5th graders Tenley Jones, and Markki Arndt attended Farmers Union Camp, and won the Mildred Stoltz award on October 30th. This award is given to campers who have shown their membership in MFU, a positive attitude, kindness, good verbal skills, and a good understanding of cooperative principles.

This award is named after Mildred K. Stoltz, a Montana Farmers Union leader who worked as the Education Director for 18 years. The campers that earned this award are given a plaque, \$50, and free camp registration for next year's camp which they are both planning on going to.

Both the girls are proud of themselves and super excited. "I was nice, friendly, and I am proud

of myself because it was my first year."- Tenley Jones. "I helped people, and I'm really proud of myself, and didn't know that I could do that."- Markki Arndt. In the future they are planning on being counselors and want to help run the camp.

Yes, this camp is full of fun, but it is also very educational. All the campers learned about Co-op, in which both of the girls were voted to help run the camp Co-op store. They also learned about safety with four wheelers and about hydration. Tenley's favorite part of camp was the slow dancing at night, the jitterbug, pretzel, cupid shuffle, and a lot more.

Although Markki couldn't decide what her favorite part was, the water games were very fun. But the one thing that was always good

was the food, and the desserts along with it.

From the sounds of it, Tenley and Markki absolutely loved this camp, and they hope that more people attend next year so they can have fun too. Congratulations to both girls on their achievement.

The Montana Farmers Union runs four separate camp session each summer for a variety of age groups. Camps are hosted at the scenic Arrowpeak Lodge in the Highwood Mountains. The goals of the organization are to enhance rural interests. The organization dates back 1915.

More information about Montana Farmers Union Camp can be found montanafarmersunion.com.

By: Gracie Watson

Halloween Parade

On October 29th, kindergarten through the fifth grade participated in a Halloween parade. Students dressed up in their costumes and walked around the gym with Halloween music playing.



tasteful or threatening were also not permitted. Makeup and jewelry were encouraged.

Many students from each class chose to show their

costumes off to the school, a pretty high number of them, and celebrate Halloween spirit.



Kyndal Schraner explained "I am very pleased that I get to see them feel great in their Halloween costumes because you can really see how happy each kid was. I really appreciate seeing all the people who participated because they seemed to truly enjoy it. It was also a fun experience for everyone and I loved seeing Mayson and Harley in their costumes."

By: Madisen Feldman



Students who chose to wear their costumes had to abide by all dress code rules. Students could not wear full face paint or masks, costumes that could be perceived as dis-



High school and Middle school students were able to watch and take pictures, as many have younger siblings who participated. Sophomore



Principal's Report

At the school board meeting on Tuesday, Mr. Paulson gave a report on the highlights of last month.

Mr. Paulson would like to congratulate the senior and 7th grade classes because they had the largest percentage of students on the honor roll.

Mrs. Jones's 3rd grade class visited the Belt City Hall to ask their own questions concerning local government. Mayor Jim Olson answered each question that the young students had and Mrs. Jones would like to thank him for taking the time to see the students. It was a fun field trip.

Brady Drummond, Sarah Dollenger, Cole Hepfner, Bridger Vogl, Isaac Maki, and Asa Jassen were recognized for their work at

the Belt Theatre. They helped support *BeltStock 2021* while participating in the Belt Youth Leadership Program.

The Red Ribbon Week took place throughout the week of October 25th-29th and Mrs. Gliko taught students about being drug free. It was a very successful year of the Scholastic Book Fair with Mrs. Meissner making \$3,000. The library will be able to use \$1,125 for books and library supplies.

The community would like to congratulate Raily Gliko who has been named Belt School's Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen for this year. She will receive a pin and certificate and enter into the regional scholarship competition.

The Patriot's Pen Essay

Contest commenced in the month of October and the 3rd place winner was 7th grader Dawson Iverson, 2nd place was 8th grader Aizalyn Flaten, and the 1st place winner went to 6th grade's Haidyn Visocan. These students will move on to the national contest and receive a cash reward.

The week of October 18th-22nd was Teen Driver Safety Week and "announcements were shared each day to create awareness and remind students that teenage driving accidents are the leading cause of death to teenagers."

Mr. Paulson would like to thank "Coach Graham, Mrs. Gliko, Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Hill, and everyone else who pitched in as Belt hosted a very well attended Divisional Volleyball tournament.

By: Walker Maki

Leaf Raking

Recently the 5th grade has been raking leaves around the community to gather money to fund Operation Santa, which is a program to raise money to buy gifts for local children. The youngsters have spruced up eight lawns, collected 160 bags of leaves, and raked in around \$480 dollars.

In addition to their yard work they will also sell raffle tickets. Students will start selling the tickets around November 17th and the drawing will be near the 15th of December with a variety of fabulous prizes awarded to the lucky winners. When asked what this program is about Mrs. Metrione, the fifth-grade teacher, explains "The 5th graders earn money to buy local

children presents to brighten their Christmas."

The event culminates with a shopping spree at Walmart which is tentatively scheduled for the middle of December. Participants in the program are unaware of who they will be shopping for, but they have the age and what the person likes. Students are put into groups and are tasked with spending as much of the money they are given, so budgeting matters also.

After each group has purchased the presents, they are bussed back to the school and wrap the gifts. After the presents are wrapped, school faculty or volunteers bring bags of presents to the families, who are truly appreciative

of the gifts.

When asked about her experience, student June Bock felt "I thought it was fun because we sang songs the whole time. We jumped in the leaves too. We also got calluses on our hands." Elli Graham added "The calluses and wind were bad. We are excited to go shopping." Landon Hansen expressed that "It was fun to jump in the leaves and get to help people."

If one would like to donate to this worthy cause, raffle items are appreciated as well as monetary donations. Checks can be made out to Belt School Operation Santa. Thank you to each person who makes this possible.

By: Madisen Feldman



National Honor Society
Service Project

Bring your non-perishable items
during the week of Nov. 15-19!

Can the Cats - Can the Griz

Food Drive



Bet on the
Cats or the Grizz...

The class that collects the most food
wins an **Ice Cream Party!!!**



Shakespeare in the Schools

On Tuesday, November 16th, Shakespeare in the Schools will be coming to Belt to perform *Much ado about nothing*.

Shakespeare schools have been traveling all around Montana to perform for students. Montana Shakespeare in the school's mission is to enrich, and engage many cultures into the professional world of acting through an educational outreach.

The history of this program is that the first season opened in the summer of 1973. Shakespeare in the schools was founded by Dr. Bruce Jacobsen, and it was filled with amateur students, community

members, and many other people. They only performed Shakespearean and had a total of thirteen performances in seven cities the first season. The goal was to bring Shakespeare straight to the people who without this would not have the opportunity to learn about him and his plays. The very next summer the group performed two whole plays (*The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Merchant of Venice*). The company doubled its showings. It had 26 showings in 18 cities. Shakespeare In the Schools has come a long way from the once amateurs' group.

Belt is one of the many lucky towns in Montana that get to

experience the thrill of having a play go on in their gym. The play they will be doing is *Much ado about nothing*. The kids will march down to the gym at 8:10 a.m. to enjoy some Shakespeare. It will go until the middle of the third period. There will be workshops that the cast will put on after the showing. One of them will be one about women in literature during Shakespeare times.

Shakespeare in the Schools is an outreach program presented by Montana State University and its goal share the wonders of the theater in rural Montana.

By: Addee Hoffmann

Belt Performing Arts

The Belt Performing Arts Center opened its season October 22nd with an interesting presentation. Gideon Freudmann who performed on the opening day, is a cello innovator. Freudmann played an electric Cello and improvised his performance while explaining his craft to the crowd of about 80 patrons for the first half of the presentation.

In the second hour they played a silent movie on the new movie screen in the Performing Arts Center called Sherlock Jr. starring Buster Keaton. Freudmann played background music while the crowd sat and enjoyed the unique performance.

Belt senior Molly Tingey, who attended the event, said "It was my first time ever watching a silent

movie. It was definitely a really cool experience".

The next performance at the Performing Arts Studio will be on November 19th, at 7 p.m. The performance is called Dee-Dee Darby Dullin, which is a combination of Jazz and R&B. for tickets call (406) 277-3844 or email: belttheater@gmail.com.

By: Gabriel Triplett

Hunting Trophies

Football and volleyball season have come to a close for Belt kids, but hunting season is in full swing. It is now the third week of the 2021 session and three Huskies cashed in since the last issue of the *Voice*.

Boston McLaughlin and Zach Feldman, and Wyatt Remington have had successful hunts over the past two weeks. It was good week in all three cases as the trio all enjoyed big game firsts.

McLaugh-

lin, a junior at Belt High shot a mule deer buck at 30 yards with a .25.06 around Havre.

Feldman, also a junior in Belt, downed his bull elk from about 170 yards with a .308 Tikka T3 near White Sulfur Springs. Zach says that this was his first bull elk that he

has ever shot.

Finally, the youngest of the bunch among this issues gamesmen

is 6th grader Wyatt Remington. He literally got his hunting season off to a booming start with a 400 yard kill of a bull elk in the Little Belts with his trusty .243. This was also his first elk.

Submit photos and a brief story to the Valley Voice for publication the next issues as the paper continues to celebrate the Montana Fall tradition of Hunting Season.

By: Gabriel Triplett



COVID-19 Update

As of November 5th, COVID-19 numbers continue to rise, creating more restrictions for the many people of the United States. Even though masks are not required in most stores, they are recommended if someone is sick. In the United States of America, the numbers have reached up to 47,419,083 cases (November 8th, 2021). There has been a total of 776,014 deaths, but fortunately 37,451,816 citizens have recovered from COVID-19.

The Montana numbers have risen even higher since November 8th, 2021, there have been 182,468 COVID-19 cases, with 2,437 deaths. The number for citizens that have recovered from COVID-19 is

a striking 172,027.

The trends in Montana are still rising from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. On a daily basis, the average number of cases in Montana is 625 per day. Per 100,000 people, 59 people are estimated to receive or to have COVID-19. Overall in Montana the daily average has declined -28%.

In Cascade County there is an average number of 52 new COVID-19 cases per day. Out of 100,000 people, 64 citizens would have or are affected by COVID-19. The daily average for the number of people getting infected went down 45%. There has been a 32% decrease in hospitalizations in Cascade Country, only 29 people are

currently hospital bound.

Almost 50% of all Montana individuals have been vaccinated. Anyone can receive the vaccine for free in the following places: Walmart Pharmacy, Walgreens, CVS, etc.

In Belt, there have been a few cases, and some students have been forced to quarantine through the first semester, but classes have proceeded mostly unscathed.

For more information about the Covid-19 Pandemic, the vaccine, or the Covid-19 variants go to the CDC website, located at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>. The *Valley Voice* will report on the Covid-19 changes in the next issue.

By: Eliza Tingey

Cyberbullying Lessons

Cyberbullying is sending a threatening or hurtful message to someone on the internet. Cyberbullying can happen through SMS, Text, and apps for social media, or even gaming. It is sharing, posting, or sending mean or hurtful things about someone else. Cyberbullying can cross the line to unlawful or criminal behavior. Many things that are posted on a Social Media platform can be seen by other people, often with devastating effect.

Most information shared back and forth on devices is perma-

nent and public and can cause damage to reputations and great pain. When people cannot hear the cyberbullying happening it is hard for parents, teachers, and peers to realize that it is going on. As cyberbullying has risen in numbers, many states have places in the laws where cyberbullying resides.

While cyberbullying is not a great problem in Belt, the administration at the school takes steps to prevent that sort of behavior. The kids recently had a MBI Husky Time meeting on the subject. Many

schools around the area have had suicide incidents.

Paisley Enos said, "watch your thoughts they become your words, watch your words they become actions and watch your actions because they become habits, and watch your habits they become your character and your character becomes your destiny." It's quote from Patrick Overton which explains the lasting impact of attitudes, words, and the whole issue of cyberbullying

By: Addee Hoffmann

Patriots Pen (cont.)

The three winners recited their essays during the Veteran's Day Program just yesterday.

They will each advance to a farther position, but ultimately are striving for national recognition. Each first-place state winner will automatically obtain \$500, but the amounts just increase from there on out.

The total national awards total is \$55,000. The first-place

prize for the nation stands at \$5,000 and drops one thousand as it gets to second. 3rd place will receive \$3,500; all of this money comes from the VFW to inspire the younger generations to take a deeper look into American history and society.

The students did a great on their essays again this year. The Patriot's Pen serves dual purposes; it is both a great English Language Arts projects, and on top of that it

gives youngsters a chance to reflect on what patriotism and service mean in America.

Good luck to each of those students in the higher levels. Thank you to Mrs. Stinson, Mrs. Visocan, and Mrs. Vogt, Belt Middle School ELA teachers, for helping guides the students through the process of composing their thoughts and getting them on paper,

By: Kyndal Schraner

BIRTHDAYS		
Grade	Husky	Date
K	Piper Finco	11/18
K	Brody Steiner	11/22
2	Aurora Christensen	11/13
2	Aiden Bacon	11/15
3	Kinsley Anderson	11/14
3	Decker Madden	11/24
4	Zayben Petroff	11/14
5	Lily Goodman	11/13
5	June Bock	11/16
5	Katie Anderson	11/24
8	Aaliyah Gaylord	11/17
8	Landin Schraner	11/20
11	Haley Hoerner	11/17
11	Deanna Davison	11/18

EVENTS		
Date	Time	Events
11/15	6:30 p.m.	5 th /6 th Parochial BB @ Cascade
11/16	TBD 3:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m./6:30 p.m.	Shakespeare in the Schools Fiddle Club MS Open Gym BB/VB
11/17	6:00 p.m.	Early Out-PIR 3 rd /4 th Boys BB
11/18	3:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m./6:30 p.m.	1 st HS BB Practice MS Open Gym BB/VB
11/20	TBD	FB State Championship Game
11/22	6:30 p.m.	5 th /6 th Parochial BB vs Foothills
11/23	3:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m./6:30 p.m.	Fiddle Club MS Open Gym BB/VB
11/24	6:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Break 3 rd /4 th Boys BB Winter Sports Pictures
11/25	6:00 p.m./6:30 p.m.	Thanksgiving Break MS Open Gym BB/VB
11/26		Thanksgiving Break

Bowling Scores

The bowling season continues at Backroads Bowling & Pizza in Belt as the individuals and teams fight for the top spot in the ranks. The highest games bowled over the fortnight were authored by Kallem Halley (230) and Lisa Urick (193). Mike Christensen had the best men's' series with a 607 and Urick tallied a 514. Here are the other notable scores from weeks seven and eight. Grab a slice of pizza and hit lanes. Then try to top these scores.

Week 7

Men's Scratch

Kalem Halley-230
Jeff Pimperton- 213

Men's Handicap

Kalem Halley- 270
David Eggert- 260

Men's Scratch

Kalem Halley- 579
Robert Williams- 532

Men's Handicap

Kalem Halley- 699
Jeff Pimperton- 664

Women's Scratch

Lisa Urick- 193
Laura Koffler- 168

Women's Handicap

Lisa Urick- 221
Sandra Francom- 217

Women's Scratch

Lisa Urick- 514
Laura Koffler- 447

Women's Handicap

Jessica Schatzka- 603
Sandra Francom- 601

Week 8

Men's Scratch

Mike Christensen- 211
Drew Koffler- 201

Men's Handicap

Brock Hanson- 245
Drew Koffler- 231

Men's Scratch

Mike Christensen- 607
Drew Koffler- 535

Men's Handicap

Darin Osterman- 649
Drew Koffler- 625

Women's Scratch

Polly Pimperton-191
Lisa Urick- 176

Women's Handicap

Polly Pimperton- 239
Trish Kenney- 227

Women's Scratch

Polly Pimperton- 500
Lisa Urick- 469

Women's Handicap

Polly Pimperton- 644
Denise Puppe- 617