

The Valley Voice



Belt Public School

6 June 2018

Issue 19

Congrats Grads!

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Plans

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Web

in color at:
www.beltschool.com

On Sunday, May 20th, diplomas were conferred to nineteen graduates from Belt Valley High School in the school gymnasium. The ceremony was witnessed by about 800 family and community members, as well as friends, administration and staff for the school. The emotional eighty-five minute in the exercise capped the academic careers for the members of the Class of 2018.

The program began with all assembled reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Principal Kyle Paulson provided thoughtful words for the class and welcomed all those in attendance, and recognized sever-

al members of the Class of 1968 on the 50th Anniversary of their stroll across the dais.

Class salutatorian Jordan Swanson imparted some gems of wisdom to her classmates in a brief speech and then Adrian Malek delivered her valedictory address. Both young ladies expressed excitement for the future and a twinge of bittersweet nostalgia for the days that have passed.

After the BVHS Band played "Thought of Home" by Don Besig, class president Hannah Schweitzer introduced

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Graduation (Cont.)

Sean Ryan, whose commencement address was themed on; taking chances, never taking oneself too seriously, and remembering a person's roots.

Physical education instructor Tony Cooper was recognized as the Dufresne Foundation award winner halfway through the ceremony, followed by the Belt High School choir's rendition of the "Shenandoah", arranged by Jay Althouse. Scholarship awards and postgraduate plans were announced for each young adult just prior to the moment everyone was waiting for, the presentation of diplomas. School trustee chairman Chad Stroop, Superintendent Kathleen Prody, and Mr. Paulson called each candidate for graduation to the stage and handed each certificate they had worked toward for the past

twelve years.

The traditional personal touch of the Rose Ceremony and Senior Slide Show, followed by the recessional capped the proceedings. The freshly minted graduates exited the gymnasium to the strains of "Majestica" by Brian Balmages and "White River Canyon" by John Higgins.

Refreshments in the school cafeteria and a reception line on the front lawn concluded the day at the school. Several venues then hosted parties for the young adults as they marked passage from one stage of their lives to the next. The school and community are proud to congratulate these nineteen members of the Class of 2018 and wish them all the best in their futures.

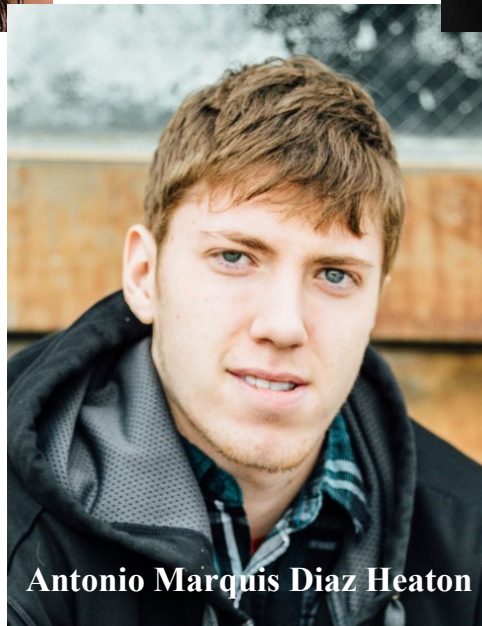
Valley Voice Staff



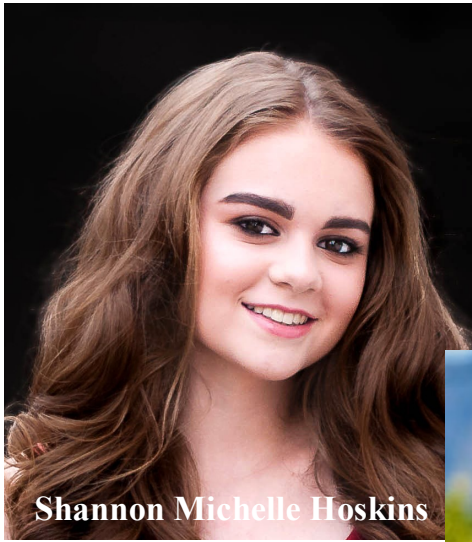
Adrian Lauren Malek



Jordan Christine Swanson



Antonio Marquis Diaz Heaton



Shannon Michelle Hoskins



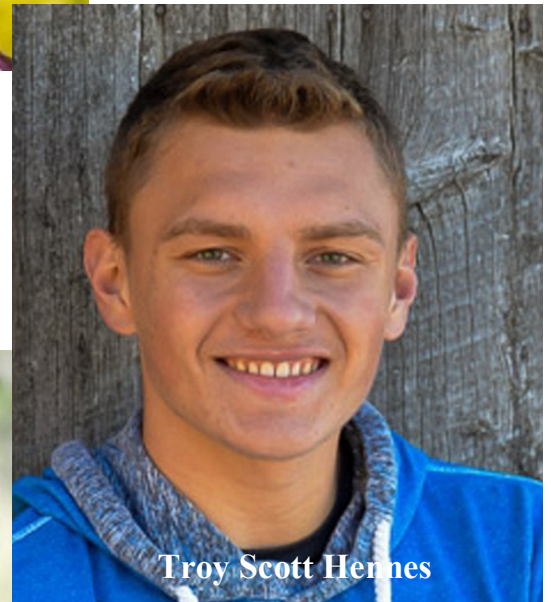
Dayton William Marquis



Tucker Lane Johnson



Trey Jacob Heitzman



Troy Scott Hennes



Ashley Nicole Triviso

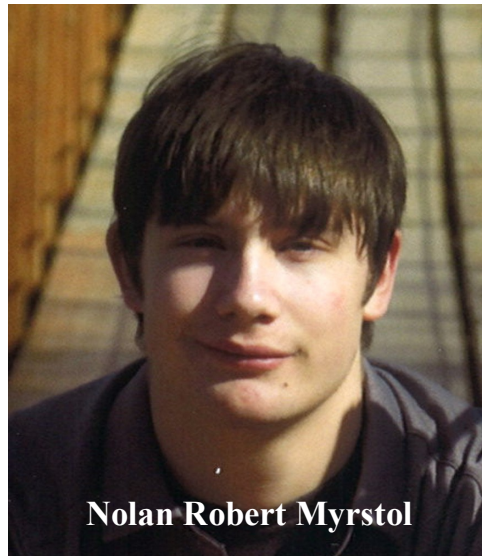
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Dani Renee Urick



Brayden Walker Haugrose



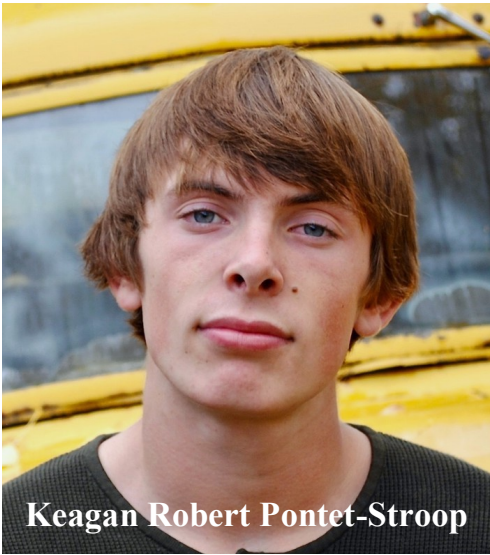
Nolan Robert Myrstol



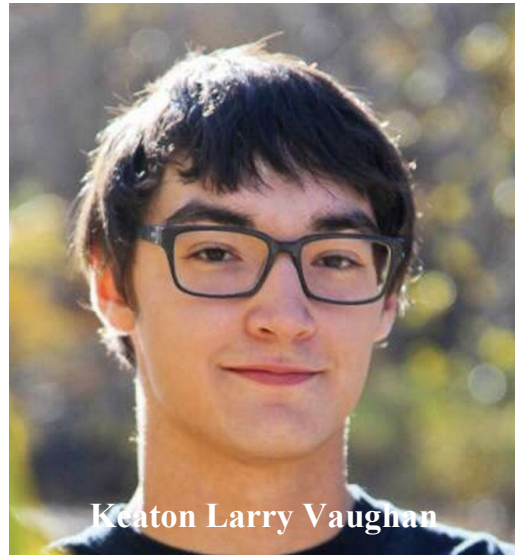
Robbie Ericson Flinn III



Hannah Ellen Schweitzer



Keagan Robert Pontet-Stroop



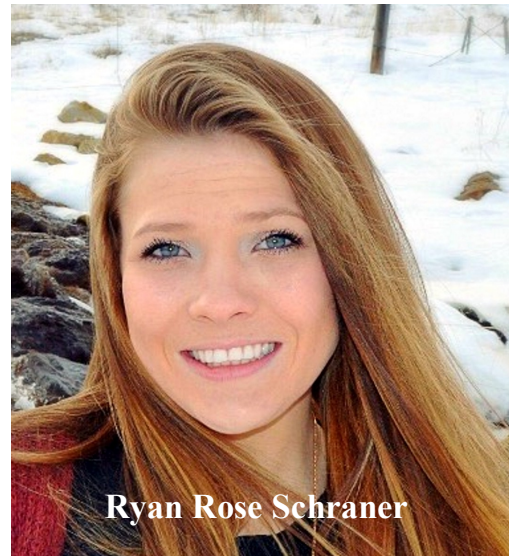
Keaton Larry Vaughan



Cristina Margarita Fernandez



Brianna Wall



Ryan Rose Schraner

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Belt Performing Arts Center

Culture came to the fore on May 24th in Belt, when the Cascade County Great Falls Historical Preservation Advisory Commission held its annual dedication ceremony in the newly revamped Belt Performing Arts Center. The old theater, once the Knight of Pythias Hall, has undergone extensive remodeling over the last couple years. The effort was worth it, as the modern structure is a show piece. The Belt edifice was honored along with two other buildings, as were the life-long efforts of Preservationist Ruthann Knudson who passed away earlier this year. The two hour celebration was attended by about 150 people.

The award represented the culmination of a long standing effort to renovate the once dilapidated building that is over a century old. Steve Keaster of Keaster Construction in Belt was the general contractor, and Dave Urick Construction was the builder. The



home for performing arts in the Valley. Another project that received well deserved attention was the new roof and dome on the Cascade County Courthouse. The reworked copper dome shines bright in the Great Falls sky after \$4 million was allocated to fix the leaky roof and add the cupola. Belt resident and Cascade County commissioner Jim Larsen spoke about the project and several pictures were on display.

The other two honorees included the renovated Pennant Building in Great Falls. Owner Jason Madill removed a series of drop ceilings and revealed the lovely craftsmanship beneath in adding his contribution to historical preservation. Finally, Ruthann Knudson, who passed away this past year was honored posthumously for her all she did for the preservation group.

The Cascade County Great Falls Historical Preservation Advisory Commission is an eight member panel whose mission statement is, "The purpose of the Great Falls/Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission is to provide a leadership role in the preservation of cultural, historic, and pre-historic sites, structures, buildings and districts within the City and County. Del Darko, vice-chairman of the board, lobbied to bring the ceremony to the valley.

Valley Voice Staff

Correction

A story in Issue #18 of the Valley Voice (dated 5-18-18) reported on the donation of a drum set to the Belt School Music Department. The generous gift was made by John Harris. The Voice erroneously reported the donation as a posthumous memorial for Mr. Harris. Mr. Harris is still alive and his donation is much appreciated. The Voice apologizes for the error.



refurbished interior of the building features beautiful hardwood floors, a 114 seat theater, and a banquet room upstairs. Gary Gray accepted the award on behalf of the many people who contributed to the project through fund raising, volunteering, and organizing the work. Fund raising continues with the goal of adding a 100 year old Steinway piano to the facility.

The annual awards banquet, usually conducted in Great Falls, was moved to Belt to show off the new

State Track and Field

As the coolness and rain of spring gave way to the heat and excitement of summer, the high school track athletes were faced with their two hardest competitions all season, the divisional and state meets. Both events were hosted just twenty minutes away on the familiar grounds of Great Falls High in Memorial Stadium, which recently upgraded their infield to turf and got a new all-weather track providing the athletes with the springy rubber to help them dash away with more Husky hardware.

Both the boys' and the girls' team earned second place finishes at the Ralph Halverson Northern C Divisional Track Meet. The boys' path to victory began with Kaimen Evans fifth place finish in the 400 meter dash with a 56.34 and their first points. Keagan Stroop then followed, getting third in the 800 stopping the clock at 2:01.24, winning the mile and totaling the four laps in 4:53.21, and then going on to snatch first in the two mile as well with a time of 10:20.79. Hunter Vogl then added to the team's success by gaining third in the 110 meter hurdles running them in 16.86 and then grabbing fourth in the 300 meter hurdles clearing the obstacles in 42.78. Vogl, Nolan Myrstol, Robbie Flinn, and Stroop then added another 10 points to the Husky effort with a first place finish in the long relay, tag-teaming the mile in 3:41.55. Antonio Heaton contributed to the Husky finish with sixth place finish in discus with a fling of 118-11 and a first place finish in high jump clearing 5-10.

The girls' second place finish began with Shelby Paulson gaining second place in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:37.72. Kolby Pimperton then continued to build on that success placing third in the 1600 with a time of 6:01.75 and third in the 3200 meter run, stopping the clock at 12:56.56. Brooke Schraner then

earned fifth in the 100 meter hurdles finishing as the clock read 17.81 and third in the 300 hurdles, crossing the line at 49.34. The short relay composed of Adelle Meissner, Grace Norstedt, Paulson, and Schraner then punched their ticket to state with a fifth place finish and a time of 54.05. The long relay also advanced to state as Meissner, Paulson, Pimperton, and Schraner clocked a time of 4:26.88, good for a second place finish. In the shot put Jordan Swanson advanced to state with third place and a heave of 33-06 as well as Dani Urick with a throw of 31-09.5 and fifth place. Swanson also captured second in the discus with a throw of 104-3 and second place while Urick won javelin with a toss of 122-09. Morgan Cooper added to the success with a second place finish in triple jump with a hop-skip-and-jump totaling 31-07 and placed fourth in high jump, clearing 4-08.

Keagan Stroop and the long relay team gained all the points for the boys' team at the state meet. Stroop placed fourth in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:01.02, third in the mile totaling the four laps in 4:35.71, and third in the 3200 meter run, finishing his final race in 10:13.24. The long relay made up of Vogl, Evans, Flinn, and Stroop totaled the mile in 3:36.39 and snatched a fifth place finish. Dani Urick was the lone girl to find the podium in the state meet as she cinched third place in the javelin with a throw of 125-02 in the final act of her brilliant high school athletic career.

The Valley Voice congratulates all the athletes on a season well done and wishes the seniors the best of luck and a fond good bye from the athletic program that was such a big part of their lives for the past four years.

By: Adelle Meissner



They Weren't Always So Big



Overlord



Today marks the 74th Anniversary of the Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy, France. The amphibious assault against Nazi Germany's "Atlantic Wall" precipitated the fall of Hitler's Reich. Under the leadership of Dwight D. Eisenhower, 156,000 American, British, and Canadian soldiers established a friendly foothold in Western Europe and opened a second front with the goal of squeezing the life out of the Axis reign over the continent. When the "Longest Day" was over, the Allies suffered approximately 10,000 casualties, including 4,000 dead, but Operation Neptune (part of the larger Operation Overlord) was a success. It was the largest assault of its kind in history. Using the beachhead as a launch platform, France was liberated in the following months and World War II was over in less than a year.

The heroes who survived that fateful day are mostly gone now, but their sacrifice and contribution to the modern world should never be forgotten. As members of the greatest generation, these Americans saw the country through the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and the largest conflict in human history. The Second World War, sometimes called the "Last Good War", was truly a battle between good and evil, and it defined the planet in many ways. The four years of U.S. involvement in the war resulted in more than 400,000 fatalities and a casualty count of more than 1,000,000. Worldwide, perhaps 60 to 70 million perished including combat and civilian deaths.

It's easy these days to focus on the now and disregard the past. After all, technology provides society instant infor-

mation and everyone seems in a hurry to get to the next thing on their busy schedule. Yet, with Memorial Day just a few days in the mirror it's a good time to think about how this country became what it is and pause a moment to remember and thank those who made it so great. The Veterans Administration estimates that there are about 22 million American military veterans, men and women who served the nation in places like Korea, Vietnam, the Middle East, and other troubled places across the globe.

Courageous men and women in uniform continue to protect the American way of life and provide freedom and opportunity for all the nations' citizens. The graduates honored in this issue of the Valley Voice, along with everyone in Montana and the United States owe a debt to the members of the armed forces that can never be repaid. Eleven months before America entered WWII, President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke of the Four Freedoms for which the U.S. stood: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear. It's not a perfect world, and while many are still deprived of these fundamentals, more people enjoy these basic rights than have in all of measured time. The brave men and women in uniform are part of the reason this is so.

Historic dates are more than answers to trivia questions. They are marking points on the calendar that need to be remembered for their importance; moreover, the individuals who lent their blood, sweat, and tears to the fabric of a nation deserve the respect and thanks of the citizens who benefitted so much from their sacrifice. The future for the youngsters featured in this issue are brighter because of that history of service.

Thank You.