



The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



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Inside

Fashion Corner	1
COVID Grant	
School Play (Cont.)	3
Football Post-Season	
Boys B-Ball Preview	4
Athlete of the Month	
Girls B-Ball Preview	5
Cats-Griz Food Drive	
Santa Claus is Coming	
Hooked on Fishing	6
Business Design Classes	
Volleyball Wrap-Up	7
Future Husky Stars	
Shakespeare/Schools	8
Christmas Concert	
Hunting Trophies	
Senior Spotlight	9
Colony Christmas	
Free Throw Challenge	
Christmas Stroll	10
College Recruiters	
USS Montana Launches	
Belt Performing Arts	11
Veteran's Day	
Calendar	12
Birthdays	
Bowling Scores	

It's time for the Belt School
Geography Bee!



The Public is invited.

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Date: Mon., Dec. 6th

Place: Main Gymnasium
at Belt School

Dollenger Awarded

This year the Montana Secretary of State invited students from around Montana to participate in a constitution competition, it started on September 17th and submissions were due by October 15th. This contest was very open, contestants could write poems, paint a painting or even make a song. Kids from K-12 were allowed to participate. The prompt was "What does the US Constitution mean to me?"

Sarah Dollenger, a senior at Belt High, is one of the people who participated in this competition. Dollenger won 2nd place after sending in

her poem "The American Boy". She quoted "the competition was one of the least stressful to partake in, being there were no restrictions other than the topic. I also enjoyed being able to enter my poem since the U.S. Constitution is a huge part of America."

The Montana Secretary of State, Christi Jacobson, personally came to Belt on Wednesday, December 1st to present Sarah a certificate and a water bottle during Government class. She also had a certificate for Mr. Koontz for his contribution to constitutional education. Secretary Jacobson then answered questions from the upperclassmen about state government and federal constitutions.

This competition was meant to help students and their families learn more about the Constitution. It allowed them to go over the importance of the document and its history. Students are taught a lot about the Constitution by their teachers and this gives them an opportunity to learn even more.

By: Brooke Holum



Comedy of Errors During COVID

For 13 years, the Belt Public Schools have sponsored a theater program. This year's performance will be a Comedy of Errors During COVID, written by William Shakespeare, adapted by Mr. Jeffery Ross. The productions will be on Saturday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m., and on Sunday, the 5th at 2:00 p.m.

The performances will be hosted at the Belt Community Performing Arts Center both nights. To watch the production from the Belt Students, it costs \$3 for students and \$5 dollars for adults.

"Comedy of Errors" was writ-

ten by William Shakespeare, but Mr. Ross, the theater director and Belt High English teacher, adapted the play. Ross changed some of the scenes, and made cuts in different parts of the play. Ross commented, "Cutting Shakespeare is necessary anyway... [and we wanted to emphasize] the challenges of COVID-19 into the play was important." Changing the play will bring out the funny parts of the script. Also, it applies to a middle school cast more, which comprises most of the actors.

This year's play has 18 students performing, (Cont. pg. 3)

Fashion Corner

Nails are a huge deal in the Fashion Empire. Many girls prefer to have their nails done because it creates a self esteem that is positive for them. Changing your nails is much easier than changing your hair color and a lot more accessible.

The nail trends for 2021 consist of a lot but the following represent the top five most attractive for current fashion plates.

Number one is sunset shades and bright shades. Employing bright nails provides a very cheery and easy going feeling that

goes beyond the tips of ones' fingers and touches the soul.

A close second on the list are the pastel tones. Sometimes bold colors are not for everyone so then go with the muted tones that better match a mood.

Coming in at number three are Japanese inspired nails. They anime inspired acrylics are high-maintenance, but they fancy.

Number four is leather looking hues, and the brown grey black color that is matte or shiny.

Last on the list is grown up

glitter. Honestly, glitter nail polish will never go out of style but there are only so many glitter polishes available.

These nail fashions are cute, easy, and don't take a lot of effort. "Designer nails are cute and unique. There are so many options available. However-I think the 'coffin' shaped nails are strange. I prefer a more natural look." Andrea Visocan Exclaimed.

That's the scoop on nails these days. Don't forget...looks matter. **By: Addee Hoffmann**

COVID Response Grant

Due to the pandemic, Joe Gaylord (Belt School's superintendent) explains "...there has been a huge amount of money made available for schools, businesses, and other entities to help prevent, prepare for, respond to COVID."

Much of the valley's education center funding comes from American Rescue Plan (ARP), which entices Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security act and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds. This is part of the national effort to mitigate the impact of the negative impact of the virus.

These sponsors are in place to help each school with COVID-19 related issues, while continuing educational services. The funding can be used for any additional costs stemming from the pandemic, such as personal protective equipment for the staff members, creating a cleaner/healthier environment, additional staffing services, educational materials, among a multitude of other items.

This funding has helped create a safer and cleaner environment for students; to obtain this there was a series of upgrades, such as HVAC improvements, which ultimately

make maintaining in-person learning an option. This has also helped other facilities provide remote learning if and when necessary.

"Maintaining learning for students is vital as it is certain that we will see students greatly impacted by school closures and the inability to attend school in-person," Gaylord expressed when asked why this funding is so important to the students.

Congress and government have allotted trillions of dollars in response to the current pandemic. The American Rescue Plan, is a program that provides money to the people in times of emergency, including nearly \$122 billion for K-12 education.

"The money is distributed through the federal Title I formula and in total from the start of the pandemic through 2023, Belt School will receive approximately \$700,000 dollars to help prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID."

The funds can be used for anything, as long as it helps prevent, prepare, or respond, as stated before. The school will be using a portion for additional cleaning, infrastructure improvements, and ad-

ditional staffing and tutoring; Each of these are very important, tutoring helps the students keep up on their school work and close any gaps in learning that were created during the hiatus.

Recently, the school has changed the lunch program, meaning that each student receives free breakfast and lunch; originally it was intended to stay for a single year, but after this extension the school will retire this plan. The current funding received is set to be used over the next three years.

When asked if this financing is expected to continue, Gaylord expresses "I foresee additional funding in the future but perhaps it will be given in grants and have more specific guidance for how it has to be used."

The last couple years have brought dislocation to the regular routines in the country and community, but hopeful these programs help keep things more normal. The COVID-19 funding has helped the valley students maintain a fairly normal educational environment and the goal is to keep it that way. The school has been fortunate so far, but this funding has greatly decreased it. **By: Kyndal Schraner**

Comedy of Errors *(Cont.)*

including seven high schoolers and 11 middle school kids. Three of the 18 actors will be in charge of tech. These actors/actresses that are contributing to the production are Miya Anderson, Chloe Lehnerz, Zoie Anderson, Luke Highfill, Johnny Tingey, and Molly Tingey in high school. Dawson Iverson, Livie King, Brooklyn Phillips, Cheyenne Smith, Josh Gill, Kate Hedstrom, Addison Urick, Vannie Urick, and Kaylynn Madden are the participants from the Belt Middle School.

The individuals that will be providing the technical part of "Comedy of Error During COVID" are Maverick Black and Miya An-

derson from the high school with the middle school techie, Rachel Madden.

Some of the permanent major roles in the play have been given out to very talented actors/actresses. Dawson Iverson captured the role of Antipholus of Syracuse, Livie King will be showcased as Antipholus of Ephesus. Molly Tingey will take on the role of Ms. Haviham and Adriana. Dromio of Syracuse will be presented by Luke Highfill, and Johnny Tingey will be acting as Dromio of Ephesus.

This year's play will be different from the previous years because this year, the players will be

using cue scripts. Cue scripts are made by specific actors with only their lines on it, with the line before them right above it. This helps the actors/actresses understand how Shakespeare companies created their performances.

Ross advises his actors daily, and some of the advice is that they like to emphasize the speed of the play, to open up to an audience, to express the different form of language Shakespeare had at the time, but most of all is to have fun. The show will cap a big day of activities in Belt, as one of the highlight of the town's 2nd Annual Christmas Stroll. **By: Eliza Tingey**

H.S. Football Postseason

The Montana fall football tradition has officially come to an end in more of a normal fashion as opposed to last year's COVID ridden season, and with that, five champions have been crowned from each of MT's five classes: AA, A, B, C 8-man, and C 6-man. In addition to that, All-conference and All-state players have been announced, and there are indeed some outstanding Huskies to make that list.

Among the biggest schools, it was the much-anticipated rematch of 2020 state championship when #1 Missoula Sentinel hosted #2 Billings West in the Garden City. Billings West went in with revenge on their minds, but to no avail, because for the second year in a row, Missoula Sentinel won the championship. This time around, winning by a margin of 35-6.

For Class A, Eastern Division champ Laurel figured on back to back titles, but #1 out of the west, Hamilton took the field to make sure that didn't happen. Hamilton took care of business as they derailed the Locomotives by a score of 21-7, the Broncos' first championship since 1998.

Two new foes appeared in the championship game as #1 Florence-Carlton and #3 Bigfork battled it out for the title of Class B champions. The underdog Bigfork Vikings couldn't make the upset happen though, as they lost by a final of 42-0.

Replicating 11-man play but on a smaller scale, #2 Drummond/Granite looked to win back-to-back championships at the Class C 8-man level, which would have been their 4th in five years, but #1 Thompson Falls stood in their way. Thompson blew it open after a tight 1st half, as they won the matchup pretty handedly, not even letting Drummond/Granite get to double-digit points. The final score of the game was 40-8.

For the smaller schools, #1 Medicine Lake/Froid looked to be defending champs, but Power/Dutton-Brady went in thinking otherwise. The home field advantage for Power/Dutton-Brady didn't seem to have any effect on Medicine Lake/Froid, however, as they stomped all over the Titans, shutting them out with a score of 43-0.

Football fans wait all season

to watch close, hard fought games at the end, but that wasn't quite the case this year, as Championship Weekend featured five blowouts. With the credits rolled on the fall campaign, all-state and all-conference honors were released, and the Huskies had several kids make an appearance on those lists.

For the Northern C all-conference selections, these Huskies grabbed the following honors: Keaghn McDaniel- 1st team tight end, 1st team defensive end, Garrett Metrione- 1st team inside linebacker, 1st team running back, Bridger Vogl- 1st team safety, 1st team quarterback, Cole Hepfner- 1st team center, Ethan Triplett- 1st team wide receiver, honorable mention cornerback, Memphis Black- 2nd team defensive line, honorable mention offensive guard, Jeremy Nebel- honorable mention outside linebacker/cornerback. Attaining the next level of excellence, McDaniel, Metrione, and Vogl were recognized as all-state players.

Congratulations to the belt athletes on receiving recognition for an outstanding season.!

By: Rylan Davison

Boys Basketball Preview

The 2021 basketball season is approaching and the Belt community is excited to see the Huskies in action once more. Last year Belt posted a 22-4 record and were victorious in their conference and district and qualified for the state tournament.

The Huskies are looking forward to a successful season with Coach Kyle Paulson and his assistant Coach Tristan Cummings. With the upcoming team, they will have to play at a more upbeat tempo

because of the loss of last year's seniors: Kamen Evans, Treyton Hennes, and Aiden McDaniel. The seniors that will be replacing them are: Cole Hepfner, Asa Jassen, and Aidan Bergstrom.

This year, the teams in the conference will all be stronger than the previous year because the players were young. The teams that make it out of the conference will be good in divisionals. In state, Froid/Medicine Lake, Broadus, and Manhattan Christian are considered

early contenders for the big prize.

Coach Paulson is looking forward to this fresh basketball year and says that the Belt School has a good crew of players. There was great commitment in the off season that will certainly benefit the team in the forthcoming season. The first practice was held on November 18th, and the Shelby Invitational will kick off next weekend. Conference play with Belt home opener on December 17th.

By: Walker Maki

406 Athlete of the Month

Last month, a senior here at Belt High School, was named the 406 Athlete of the Month. Lindsey Paulson is a multi-sport athlete, competing in track, cross country, basketball, and volleyball. She has also contributed to DECA, Youth Leadership, National Honor Society, Principals Cup, Student Council, and Science Olympiad.

406 Sports is a sports new service covering high school and college athletics throughout the Treasure State, and acknowledges outstanding performances in competition.

She was named the Athlete of the Month for the reasons that she was the first-Class C girl to win back-to-back cross country championships in six years at the state meet in Missoula. In the same month she also helped the Husky

volleyball team to a fourth-place finish in the Northern C Divisional. Being a four-sport athlete and having school on

top of that it is pretty hard to manage time. Lindsey is grateful that the practices are at different times of the day which is helpful. She states that "Just knowing my schedule to be able to balance the stress/workload of both is helpful." Paulson is hardworking, and believes that getting as much schoolwork during the school day and utilizing class time in the best way to get things done, along with not letting it pile up.

After Paulson was announced as the 406 Athlete of the Month, she exclaimed, "I feel super honored to be athlete of the month. It is a super cool award and there are a lot of other super great athletes out there, so I am just super grateful."

Over her high school career, she has set many, many goals for herself, but primarily in this cross-country season her goals were primarily to repeat as the State C Champion, and break the nineteen-minute barrier, both of which she achieved. But not only does Paulson have goals for cross country, but basketball too. Her goals for basketball are to get back to the state basketball tourney.

Her post-graduation plans are running cross country and track and field in college, however she is

currently undecided as to where she will attend college. When asked what she will miss most about high school, she says "I will miss the tight knit community, knowing I have the support from my community and they are always cheering me on."

Paulson's advice for the young aspiring athletes is to enjoy it while it lasts and always push one's self past where they think they can go. Lindsey may be another athlete's inspiration or influence, but who influenced her the most in her high school years is Mrs. Megan Graham. (Megan Graham) She has had the biggest influence on her high school career, and has always believed in her, supported her, and been there for every early morning run.

Paulson is not done yet in creating her athletic legacy at Old Belt High. Her star spangled career has include multiple individual state track and field titles, as well as membership on a state volleyball champion team as a freshman and title winning basketball team as a sophomore.

Congratulations to Miss Paulson on this remarkable achievement and best of luck in the remainder of her high school career and beyond. **By: Gracie Watson**



Girls Basketball Preview

The school has no shortage of experienced players, with 13 returning lettermen preparing to sweep the floor. As usual Jeff Graham will serve as the head coach, and will be assisted by Renzi Horton, Mollie Maki, and Peyton Ferris.

It is the final season for a few of the girls, Ahmia Lords, Lindsey Paulson, and Raily Gliko. These women have worked hard all four years to get where they are now. Hattie Bumgarner and Alyssa Nebel are representing the Junior class. A plentiful number of players comes from the sophomores, Addi Urick, Danika Lords, Ella Pethel, Kylee Permann, Kyndal Schraner,

and Madisen Feldman. There is a singular freshman, Gracie Watson.

For the first time (girls) pulled up the 8th grade class, due to numbers. Each of them will be participating in both High School and Middle School basketball. Aaliyah Gaylord, Kenzie Pogany, Aizlyn Flaten, Lily Pupee, and Raene Mapston are the ones who will take on this challenge.

The Lady Huskies should have very good depth this year and will be trying a more upbeat tempo than in previous years. The coaches are hoping to go up and down the court more this year as well; a generous amount of press can be expected.

The junior varsity team should also have a great year, although they are very young and mostly composed of the 8th grade class. While the team is exceptionally young, it also means that there is so much room for improvement.

In the divisional tournament, the Lady Huskies will face many solid teams. These teams are Box Elder, Fort Benton, Winifred, and Chinook. When asked about what Coach Graham expects, he explains "We can expect Belt and Winifred to have a great shot at making State."

Good luck to the Lady Husky Basketball team!

By: Kyndal Schraner

Cats & Griz

The University of Montana Grizzlies and the Montana State Bobcats have been the biggest rivalry in the state of Montana for over 100 years. The games between the two are easily the most anticipated game by any people in Montana. One of the most common questions asked about football in Montana is whether someone is a Cats or Griz fan. The winner of the game gets bragging rights, as well as the Great Divide Trophy as a reward.

The rivalry began on November 26, 1897, making it the 31st oldest rivalry in NCAA Division I history and 11th oldest west of the Mississippi River. This was the day the two teams faced off for the first time in Bozeman, home of the MSU Bobcats. Despite having home field advantage, the Cats couldn't hold off the Griz, as the Griz rose victorious by a score of 18-6.

Throughout all 120 meetings between the two, the Grizzlies have controlled the rivalry, as they have a record of 72-41-5 against the Cats. U of M holds the largest vic-

tory and the longest win streak. The largest victory had a final score of 79-0 in 1904, and the win streak lasted 16 games, going from 1986-2001.

The most recent contest between the two was on November 20th, and the Griz ended the four-year win streak that the Cats held. The final score of the game was 29-10 in favor of the Grizzlies.

In conjunction with the game, Belt High's National Honor Society continued its tradition of "Can the Cats, Can the Griz." The kids put non-perishable food items, mainly canned foods, into one of two bins, one of which represents the Cats, and the other represents the Griz. All of the food is donated to those in need, and the bin with more food at the end is crowned the winner. The Cats dominated that competition despite losing the game.

Nearly 1,000 cans were donated in total; the Cats with a total of approximately 600, and the Griz with about a measly 300.

By: Rylan Davison

Breakfast with Santa

Throughout the years, the annual Breakfast with Santa day has brought the Christmas Spirit to Belt School. The Breakfast with Santa This year's program will be hosted in the Belt School Cafeteria tomorrow from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

To participate in most of the stations and to eat breakfast, the cost will be \$5 per person. For more elaborate projects, extra money will be required.

Some of the pastimes that the Breakfast with Santa showcases will be Photos with Santa, Cookie Decorating, Kid Crafts, and many more.

All the money that the Breakfast with Santa makes will be put towards the Belt Community Swimming Pool. The swimming pool is a nonprofit organization that does not receive public funds. This pool has been around for many years, and hopes to be around for many future years.

The Belt Community Swimming Pool thanks all those who support them this Christmas season.

By: Eliza Tingey

Hooked on Fishing

After a one-year hiatus Belt School has recently welcomed back the hooked on fishing program. This program allows 7th graders to learn about several aspects of nature and fishing. Traditionally, the seventh-grade class participates in this program, but due to COVID-19 the eighth-grade class is also participating in the activities. All the activities the classes do will culminate with an ice fishing trip for the seventh graders, as the eighth-grade class was able to go ice fishing last year.

The Hooked on Fishing program kicked off with gyotaku taught by Kathy Ketcham on November 9th. Gyotaku is a Japanese method of printing fish which dates back to the 1800s. Gyotaku was invented as a way for Japanese fishermen to keep track of what fish they caught. When asked why gyotaku is important for the students to learn Mrs. Vogt, the middle school science teacher, quotes “Gyotaku allows the students to be creative and make art with fish models.”

Dave Hagengruber from fish wildlife and parks visited Belt school on November 16th to educate the students on fish identification. He presented a

slideshow and shared information about fish around Montana. Hooked on fishing helps spread information about fish in Montana and provides experiences to allow the students to appreciate Montana’s natural resources especially focusing on fish and fishing.

So far students do not have any more activities planned but, Mrs. Vogt is hopeful that the classes will be able to tie flies, learn about water distribution, complete fish math, play fish jeopardy, and go ice fishing.

Hooked on Fishing goes beyond the walls of the Belt School system. It is a program orchestrated by the Montana Bureau of Land Management, whose mission is to “sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations”.

Belt Middle School students have benefitted from participation in this program for over a decade and it continues to be a memorable experience for all the kids. It’s a unit of study that many continue to discuss into their high school years, and the photos of kissing the first fish last a lifetime.

By: Madisen Feldman

Business Design

The Belt High School Agricultural Entrepreneurship class has taken up the Chamber of Commerce’s challenge to construct a business plan. The students are competing with plenty of other scholars, to ultimately win the first-place prize. The young scholars have already started their design and marketing projects.

There are seven teams, with each team doing different things. It ranges from a very wide variety of corporations to automated lawn services. While many of them do not fully plan on ever starting their plans, it is highly beneficial for them to know the process and general layout.

Brooke Holum, Kyndal Schraner, and Madisen Feldman began the process of designing a car detailing company. They call it “Detailing: Done Right,” their purpose is to theoretically provide quality service to a big town in Montana that doesn’t have this option readily available.

Clayton Jassen and Jeremy Shepard are in the making of a custom fencing company. Their intent is to provide a service, and in general make money. This helps their hometown because it is surrounded by many ranchers, so this may come as a great benefit to them.

Alyssa and Jeremy Nebel have in view lawn mowing. This comes as a great gain to the Valley because it truly appeals to the people who cannot mow.

They also want to help the area have a new level of charm to it.

Much like the last group, Nick Rubeck created a goal to make cutting grass much easier. Rubeck has taken on the lone wolf role and aspires to make an automated lawn mower. His hope is to speed up the process of the trim, especially in larger areas. This would be such an amazing asset to the community.

Keaghn McDaniel and Ethan Triplett plan on selling Montana apparel. They intend on the sales supporting local businesses and ultimately making a profit of some sort. Their product name is Montana Native.

Chloe Lehnerz, one of the few independent groups, designed a babysitting company, to help the people who may need emergency babysitting. She hopes that guardians will take advantage of this opportunity, so that more people will have access to either being or obtaining a responsible person to babysit.

Zach Feldman, yet another loner in this, has a dirt work company in the works. He hopes to aid people in their personal projects, and to ultimately complete the assignment given to him by the teacher.

The submissions are due January 17th and 18th, although the judging begins in March. The final awards will be given out April 22nd. As this competition edges forward, stay tuned for the *Valley Voice* for the results and coming information.

By: Kyndal Schraner

State Volleyball Report

The volleyball girls were sad when they lost out at divisionals, but it was a great end to an amazing season. Many of the Belt Girls traveled to Bozeman to watch the state tournament. The games were all very exciting and the stands were packed as all four Montana school classifications fought for titles at MSU.

The state winner for AA was CMR. They defeated Billings West in five sets, the last set going to 18 points. The winner of state for

A schools was Billings Central. The girls had to face Havre twice because this tournament was a true double elimination. The Class B schools championship game was intense, with Huntley Project winning in three sets. They never dropped a single set in the whole tournament.

The Lady Huskies earned fourth place at divisional, but followed the Northern C teams in Bozeman. Both teams from the north were ousted in two games, with

Simms winning one set and Fort Benton getting blanked. The state Champion for Class C was Manhattan Christian.

Following the season up, the All-Conference 6-C volleyball teams have been made. Senior Raily Gliko, and Sophomores Kylee Permann and Addi Urick were named on the 1st team All-Conference team. Lindsey Paulson, a senior, and junior Hattie Bumgarner were awarded 2nd team honors. **By: Addee Hoffmann**

Young Hoopsters

Younger Belt kids are getting a taste of organized basketball during their 5th and 6th grade season. The head coach is former standout for Belt, Chad Stroop. Joe Gaylord, superintendent, helps him out at practice and during the games.

The fifth graders on the team are Kale Stroop, and Landon Hanson. The sixth graders are: Emmit Anderson, Hayden Visocan, Weston Tingey, Wyatt Remington, JJ Hoffmann, Michael Gaylord, and Nikias Esparza.

When asked what they expected to see from the kids by the end of the season, Joe Gaylord stated, "We hope to see their funda-

mental skills such as passing, dribbling, and shooting improve as well as their overall understanding of the game." These are good skills for the kids to learn so when they enter high school their fundamentals will already be above average for their age.

The kids are very excited every time they can get together and practice. They are a group of nice kids who all enjoy being a part of the team. They work hard and have so much fun in practice and they all hope that the season continues out that way.

The coaches hope they put in all their effort so that they can

become the best they can. "The boys have done very well this season. They play as a team, have continued to improve, and they have a lot of fun together." Joe Gaylord exclaimed.

The coaches were asked if they liked coaching and playing basketball. They found a passion for the game in early elementary school, all the way through high school, and college. They said they didn't get to play as often as they would like but they still enjoy the game. They like to get to the gym and help young athletes, like they once were, to pursue their goals.

By: Addee Hoffman

It's the holiday season! From the end of November, till the New Year, people gather from everywhere to celebrate and enjoy many feasts. But, people don't think about how much food they are eating until they are full or feel like a balloon. In other words, it's easy to overdo it.

Throughout the holiday season the average person gains just over two pounds! While it's true that seeing family and eating feasts is exciting, you need to make sure that when you are driving, you are driving safely. Whether you are traveling down the road, or across the country, don't drive under the influence, and have an amazing season.

Enjoy a Happy AND Safe Holiday Season!

Don't Drink and Drive!



Much Ado About Nothing

Tuesday, November 16, high school and middle school students were able to experience a live Shakespeare performance brought to them by Montana Shakespeare in the parks. Montana Shakespeare in the Parks has been performing around Montana and surrounding states since 1973 and travels to over 50 schools.

The play *Much Ado About Nothing*, a romantic comedy, followed the relationships between Benedick and Beatrice as well as Claudio and Hero. The couples each battle deception and misunderstandings but in the end, everyone

received a happy ending.

Afterwards, the actors put on two workshops, Be Vigilant! Physical storytelling and In Conversation: Women writers in Shakespeare's England. Each workshop was done twice so students had the opportunity to attend both.

Throughout performances relationships, characters, and power structures can be conveyed through actors' physical actions as well as through dialogue. This workshop allowed students to create stories about characters and relationships through games and exercises inspired by *Much Ado About Nothing*.

A major theme throughout the play dealt with the credibility of women and if their opinions are to be believed. This workshop, In Conversation: Women Writers in Shakespeare's England, focused on three women writers in England who wrote explicitly about women's rights. Students who took advantage of this opportunity were able to compare the women's work with that of Shakespeare's and add their own words to the scenes.

Shakespeare in the Schools is an outreach program presented by Montana State University.

By: Madisen Feldman

Tis the Season!

This year's annual Belt High School Christmas Concert will be held in the Belt Public School main gymnasium on December 14th and 16th. The middle and high school grades will perform on December 14th at 7:00 p.m. and the elementary grades will showcase their skills at 7:00 p.m. on December 16th, 2021.

Both of these bands and choirs have been under the direction of Peter Wilson, the K-12 music teacher for Belt School. This will be Wilson's second year of coordinating and preparing the Belt students in the music program.

Recently the Belt Music Program recently concluded their Christmas wreath sale. This year set a new record for the most wreaths sold. All the funds that were collected will go right back into the music account. This will provide the music students more opportunities for new songs and money for traveling with the tournament teams. The winners will be announced at the High School Christmas Concert and prizes will be given to the top sellers.

By: Eliza Tingey

Hunting Trophies

The last couple weeks brought more hunting victories to the kids in Belt.

Cadence Graham took down a mule deer buck, she shot it with



a .22-250 at 180 yards in Winifred Montana.

Cadence Graham's highlight of the hunt was that it took one shot to kill the buck and that they could not find it for 20 minutes, almost running over it in the ranger when they finally found the deer.

Sam Kirby shot an elk with a 6.5 Creedmoor at 15 yards. He



says that the location he shot it at is a secret because he doesn't want anyone to come up there and possibly steal an animal that he could

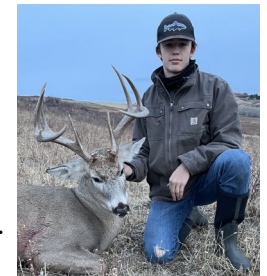
have killed. He also doesn't know the score yet either. Sam said that he had no highlights during the hunt.

Cole Hepfner also shot a mule deer buck with a .300-win mag from 339 yards away. The location of the kill was in Denton, Mon-



tana he has been hunting for 7 years and since then he has shot 7 bucks in total throughout his years. One of his highlights for this hunting season was when he was hunting near Fort Benton he crested a hill finding the whole side of the hill was crystallized salt.

Ethan Triplett killed a whitetail buck from 100 yards with a Tikka .270 short mag. The location that he shot the buck at was in the Highwood's. his highlight of the hunt was that he was able to spend



Senior Spotlight

Raily Gliko joined the Belt Community when she was in 6th grade and has acquired many memories along the way. She would describe her Belt experience as, "Great! Full of memories."

Her best memories that she has obtained through her schooling career are participating in homecoming weeks and cheering on the boys at tournaments. She engaged in many extracurricular activities including: volleyball, basketball, track, National-



Honor Society, Youth Leadership, Science Olympiad, and Close Up.

Through her schooling career in Belt, she has received many academic, athletic, and extracurricular awards. There is no doubt that she will accomplish

more goals for her last stretch of high school.

The advice that she would give younger kids is, "Get involved and don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone! Also, always try

to be nice, you never know what someone is going through." She plans to journey to MSU to study Pre-Veterinary Medicine and a minor in animal sciences.

She would like to add, "Have fun in high school." When she departs, she will miss the support from the Belt Community and all the friends that treated her like family.

The *Valley Voice* wishes the best for Raily as she proceeds into the next chapter in her schooling career. The next senior that will be featured in *Senior Spotlight* is Aidan Bergstrom. **By: Walker Maki**

Colony Christmas

Title

The Christmas Colony Program is loved and adored by staff and students alike. The Belt K-5 students pack onto the bus to go and enjoy some festive and creative Christmas activities performed by the K-8th of the colony.

Pleasant Valley Colony has 25 kids in the school, and they all have fun participating in the

Yuletide performance.

The kids perform eight acts four English songs, two German songs, and two poems. The elves and the shoemaker, the Teacher play, Santa's cookie problem, the night before Christmas, Santa's Diet, and The North Pole Goes Rock & Roll.

The school is very lucky to

be able to watch the Colony kids do an amazing job at acting. When asked if it was really enjoyable, Tina Shimerdla said, "It is really fun, the kids enjoy it." The Christmas Colony program is loved and cherished by everybody that goes, and is a huge part of the kids fun time before their Christmas break.

By: Addee Hoffman

Young Guns

Last year, Ellison Graham won the national Elks Hoop Shoot Competition, and she's looking to repeat that title again this year along with several of her schoolmates. A total of six Belt kids embarked on the path to the championship a couple weeks ago, beginning in their hometown.

The young athletes began their journey in the hometown main gym. The top two from each grade were selected and advanced forward to the local competition, in the Great Falls High gym. The challenge itself consists of 25 shots divided into two rounds, with a five shot tie breaker as necessary. Amazingly, all six kids bested all challengers.

They now have qualified for

the next layer of comp, where they will compete against the best. Hadley Yurek and Luke Jassen will travel to the Great Falls High gymnasium. Graham and Kale Stroop will take their chances against other 10-11-year old's. The final age group is 12-13, where Michael Gaylord and Cadence Graham will contest.

The local competition is more rigid, which means that the top place from each age division will move on. The players each tally up their buckets and are placed accordingly. Belt students swept the floor, with each making it to the next round in January.

The next step up is the state level, where 5 or 6 students will be competing from each division. The

top state winners will move onto Regionals, Montana will take on North and South Dakota. After this comes the national tournament in Chicago.

Both the Graham girls have done tremendously well in this, as Cadence and Ellison have both gone to regionals, or farther. In her first year, Cadence went to the regional tournament, but her streak ended in South Dakota; much like her sister, Ellison went quite far her first time around. She went all the way to nationals, and proved her athletic prowess.

Stay tuned to the *Valley Voice* for the coming updates on how far each student goes, and the results of this competition.

By: Kyndal Schraner

Chamber Brings Christmas Cheer

The Belt community has been fortunate the last couple years as the local Chamber of Commerce has brought fun and valuable activities to the valley. The new tradition of a Farmer's Market completed another successful run this fall and tomorrow they will host the Second Annual Belt Christmas Stroll.

The fun all gets under way at 9:00 a.m. at the school with a 3 on 3 tournament for the little ones. That event lasts until the early afternoon before a champion is crowned.

Throughout the afternoon businesses will be offering their wares and in addition a wide variety of the local craft vendors will be enticing customers with their

unique offerings.

Gift wrapping services will be provided downtown as a high school fund raiser to add a touch of class and color to the festivities.

Culture won't be lacking during the event, as the afternoon also brings with it the Western Art Show exhibits featuring the likes of Kira Fercho and Ron Carlson.

While many of the activities are focused on adults once the basketball games are completed the Belt Performing Arts Center will host a free showing of the Christmas movie for the little ones. Provided by the Alliance for Youth, the kids will be enthralled by playing of the classic Christmas tale *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. The show-

ing is scheduled to commence at 3:00 p.m. and wrap up around 5:00.

Patrons of the day's events can show up hungry as all the local eateries will be working at full tilt, filling both plates and bellies well into the evening.

The Chamber is to be commended for their efforts to make Belt's business community a vibrant and successful one, and all are encouraged to attend some or all of the events tomorrow. It should be lots of fun for people of all ages.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

College Recruitment

In addition to the day to day rigor of high school activities upperclassmen were prompted to start looking towards the future as last week Belt High saw visits of college recruiters from MSU Bozeman and MSU Billings. Any junior or senior who was interested in either of these colleges was welcome to listen to the presentations. Usually, presentations include housing options, extracurricular activities, and scholarships. The programs and degrees that are offered are always mentioned.

Most colleges around Montana have open enrollment policies which means that one can apply anytime throughout the year to attend. Colleges begin to award scholarships for the following year on December 1st, it is recommended that applications are submitted by that date. The scholarship application is also fast approaching and students and parents are reminded to stay on top due dates and requirements for the thousands of dollars available for education.

With the arrival of the col-

lege reps' seniors were prompted with the questions about their post high school plans. Senior, Ahmia Lords, quoted "I will be attending MSU in Bozeman to pursue a bachelor's degree in Cell Biology and Neuroscience. I then plan on applying for medical school and becoming a pediatric surgeon!"

Molly Tingey, another senior at Belt School, wants to attend Brigham Young University in Utah, but is unsure of what she would like to major in.

By: Madisen Feldman

USS Montana

The USS Montana is a Virginia-class submarine of the United States Navy. The name of the submarine was announced on September 3rd, 2015 to honor the state of Montana. Construction started on May 16th, 2018 and the ship was christened and launched earlier this year, on February 8th, 2021.

The Original USS Montana was set to be a battleship back in the early 1940's. But the project got placed on hold because they

stopped making battleships after the tragedy of Pearl Harbor. This Montana Class of battleship was going to be one of the biggest ever to be launched. But Montana had to wait over 70 years to get its namesake sent to sea.

The purpose of the Virginia-class Submarine is to carry out missions including anti-submarine warfare and intelligence gathering operations. These submarines are equipped with 12 vertical missiles

launch tubes and four 533mm torpedo tubes, the vertical launching system has the capacity to launch 16 Tomahawk Submarine launched Cruise Missiles (SLCM). The length of these submarines is 377 feet and are capable of moving up to speeds of 25knots or 46 km/h, they have been tested to dive greater than 800 feet under the surface of the water in carrying out American strategic objectives.

By: Gabriel Triplett

R & B/Jazz Concert

Recently, the Belt Performing Arts Center welcomed the singing sensation, Dee-Dee Darby-Duffin. Darby-Duffin showcased her singing talent on Friday November 19th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and wowed the audience with her strong vocal show. With a production that is focused towards Jazz, R&B, Soul & Funk, Darby-Duffin boarded her musical knowledge within the two-hour performance.

Dee-Dee was born in the "Charm City", better known as Baltimore, Maryland. For 25 years, Darby Duffin has been producing her mixture of different musical styles and genres. Darby-Duffin is

not only musically talented, but she also has acted in countless theater productions. She has performed sold out shows as she played Billie Holiday in "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill" for the Pygmalion Theater Company in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Overall, the Dee-Dee Darby-Duffin show was a great addition to the Belt Performing Arts Center. Her powerful voice commanded the stage and the crowd of about 100.

Some of the future productions will be the Belt School play, a "Comedy of Errors, During COVID" on December 2, 3, and 5, 2021. Then at 2:00 p.m. the Belt

Christmas Stroll will take place on December 4th, 2021. On December 12, 2021 the annual Steve Olson Orchestra Christmas Concert will be held in the auditorium from 3-4 p.m. and 7-8:00 p.m. Starting the new year of 2022, there will be a Pollo Loco concert on Saturday, January 15, 2022. This production will be 7-9 p.m. Then on February 12th, 2022 the Divas 3 will make their way down to the Valley for their performance at 7:00-9:00 p.m.

There will be more performances as the year progresses, and the *Valley Voice* will continue to report on the upcoming productions.

By: Eliza Tingey

Veteran's Day Program

On November 11th, the Belt Public Schools hosted the annual Veterans Day Program, honoring the brave men and women who have served this country nobly for generations. Grades K-5 the program, arrayed around the floor. According to Linda Assels - "It was a great Veterans Program and was very well organized and well rounded, along with a great turn out from the community."

This was a substantial way to congratulate, and honor the Veterans today and those who are no longer with us. To start off the program, everyone was asked to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance, and remain standing as the Belt Highschool Choir sang the National Anthem, directed by Mr. Peter Wilson.

The individuals that attended, got the privilege to listen to the first and second place winners of the Voice of Democracy contest, by Jon Highfill, and Ahmia Lords. Followed by a speech presented by the winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest, Hayden Visocan. The last speaker was Sarah Dollenger, who recited a poem of her choice. After explain-

ing what the word Veteran means by the students, Tobias Wilson had the honor of playing TAPS. Everyone who served or is serving in the Army, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard, and Air Force were asked to stand for a round of applause. The students in grade K-5 sang You're a Grand Old Flag, God Bless America, America the Beautiful, This Land is Your Land, My Country Tis of Thee, and Thank You Soldiers.

There was also a Veteran who was willing to share his experience and information. His name is Josh Virts. He was in the U.S. Navy along with his father Jerry Virts. Although he doesn't know why he chose the U.S. Navy, just because. He enlisted July 27th 1992, for the reasons that it was something to do after high school and a pretty good job for him. "I never really thought about what the military was about before I actually experienced it, I just went in."-Josh Virts. He served for 23 years and retired in August of 2015. Josh explained that it was somewhat difficult to keep in touch with family and friends while stationed in Florida for 5 years, and

California for 18 years, he was also deployed to Spain, and Afghanistan. His favorite memory would have to be when he went to Spain with the MCB3, which is the hardest working month. "We all worked extremely hard but it was very fun too."

The Valley Voice is very pleased that Josh Virts was able to share his experiences. All in all, this is just one reason that Veterans Day is so important, and will always be remembered.

Veteran's Day has been celebrated in the U.S. for over 100 years. Originally, the date marked the end of the Great War when the guns of WWI fell silent. In 1938 it became a national holiday, and in 1954 President Dwight Eisenhower changed the name to Veteran's Day in order to commemorate the men and women who have worn the uniform of armed forces in the country.

The school and community would like to thank Mrs. Twyla Jones and all the other teachers and staff who pitched in to keep alive this tradition of honoring those who have served.

By: Gracie Watson

Birthdays		
Date	Husky	Grade
12/6	Olivia Rupe	1
12/10	Wade Hoyer	1
12/15	Paisley Eisch	4
12/2	Markki Arndt	5
12/7	Haidyn Visocan	6
12/8	Katy Smith	8
12/17	Parker Osterman	8
12/16	Axis Throckmorton	8
12/1	Zachary Feldman	11
12/2	Gabriel Triplett	12

Bowling Scores

Bowling continues at Backroads Bowling & Pizza, and below are the scores from the previous week, and even the highest scores to date throughout the first month of action. Two highlights are Mike Christensen bowling a 248 scratch, and Trish Kenney controlling women's games for week 9.

Calendar Events		
Date	Time	Event
12/3	5:00 p.m.	Staff Christmas Party
12/4	8:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	3v3 BB Tournament Christmas with Santa School play "A Comedy of Errors"
12/5	2:00 p.m.	School play "A Comedy of Errors"
12/7	3:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Fiddle Club MS Open Gym Basketball/Volleyball
12/8	6:00 p.m.	3 rd /4 th Boys Basketball
12/9	6:30 p.m.	MS Open Gym Basketball/Volleyball
12/10	TBD	Pre-season HS BB Tournament @ Shelby
12/11	TBD	Pre-season HS BB Tournament @ Shelby
12/13	7:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
12/14	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	MS Open Gym Basketball 6-12 Christmas Concert
12/15	6:00 p.m.	3 rd /4 th Boys Basketball
12/16	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	MS Open Gym Basketball EK-5 Christmas Concert
12/17	3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	HS Basketball vs. Roy-Winifred Colony Christmas Program

Week 9

Men's Scratch

Zac Banta-223

Mike Christensen-215

Men's Handicap

Zac Banta- 267

Tony Cooper-250

Men's Scratch

Drew Koffler-594

Mike Christensen-558

Men's Handicap

Drew Koffler-678

Zac Banta-637

Women's Scratch

Trish Kenney-196

Polly Pimperton-183

Women's Handicap

Trish Kenney-259

Sara Christensen-240

Women's Scratch

Trish Kenney-491

Polly Pimperton-431

Women's Handicap

Trish Kenney-680

Susanne Halley-600

Year to Date High Scores

Men's Scratch

Mike Christensen-248

Kalem Halley-230

Men's Handicap

Robert Williams-275

Kalem Halley-270

Men's Handicap

Mike Christensen-691

Drew Koffler-594

Men's Handicap

Robert Williams-718

Mike Christensen-704

Women's Scratch

Trish Kenney-196

Patti Sweeney-194

Women's Handicap

Trish Kenney-259

Patti Sweeney-250

Women's Scratch

Lisa Urick-516

Polly Pimperton-500

Women's Handicap

Trish Kenney-680

Denise Puppe-656