



The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



14 January 2022

Volume 12 Issue #8

Inside

This Issues

Gingerbread Houses	2
Fall Sports Awards	
NHS Service Projects	3
Comedy of Errors (Cont.)	
Senior Spotlight	
Kaiden Marquis	4
Breakfast with Santa	
Hunting Trophies	
Hayden Urick	5
Kaiden Marquis	
Seasonal Traditions	
Time for a Break	
Girls Basketball	6
Hot Start for the ladies	
Basketball Schedule	
DUI Reminder	7
UGLY Sweaters	
Boys Hoops	8
Huskies jump out 2-0	
Belt High Academics	
Christmas Concert	9
Student Focus Groups	10
Survey Results	
COVID Update	
Performing Arts Center	11
Honor Band/Choir	
Birthdays	
Calendar of Events	12
Bowling Scores	

Subscribe to the
Valley Voice today!

Send an email to:
kkoontz@beltschool.com
It's free...
and worth every penny.

Wilson Repeats in Geo Bee

There has not been a person to win the Geography Bee twice in a row, since 2006, until Tobias Wilson claimed his victory this year. In past years, National Geographic hosted the annual Bee, but this year is different as they moved their funding's toward other things.

The Geography Bee was held in the Belt Gym on Monday December, 6th. It took about an hour and a half before Wilson dawned the crown for the second time. Mr. Koontz served as moderator again with Mrs. Stinson and Mrs. Meissner judging.

Twenty-nine Belt elementary and junior high kids qualified for the school-wide bee, based on their scores from a qualifying exam they took in November. The competition consisted of three different rounds, preliminary, semi-final and finals. The first portion consisted of six rounds of questions divided among three categories: Montana, US, and World Geography.

Eight young scholars advanced to the semi-final round; this element of the contest was altered, with the goal of making it fairer. Each student an-



swered the same questions, with three mistakes resulting in elimination. 6th grader, JJ Hoffman, captured 3rd place before being terminated.

In the finals, Tobias Wilson and Sidney Paulson battled for the top spot in the competition. This compartment of the bee contained two questions, before ultimately deciding the winner. Wilson only missed one question the entire time.

Taylor Cummings was the last repeat victor to achieve this accomplishment. If it wasn't for Wilson then she would have held that for a full fifteen years. Congratulations to each of the qualifiers and the ones on the podium.

By: Kyndal Schraner

A Comedy of Errors

The COVID-19 adaptation of *A Comedy of Errors* was a huge success for the school play this year. The first night that it was showing, the theater sold out of tickets. This performance left a big impact and the audience filled up the theater on the second day as well.

The storyline of the play is, "Aegon, a merchant from Syracuse, and sentenced to execution-in the city of Ephesus for breaking a law that prevents people from traveling between the two cities. He tells his story.

Many years before, he had a wife and twin sons, who had twin slaves. There was a shipwreck, and he saved one son (Antipholus of Syracuse) and slave (Dromio), while his wife and other son and servant were washed away and never seen again. Just recently, Antipholus had set out with his servant to try and find his mother and brother. The Duke grants Aegon a day to come up with the money to pay his fine, or else be executed.

(Cont. pg. 3)

Gingerbread Houses

The 4th Graders have been involved in the tradition of building Gingerbread houses. With the relaxation on Covid restrictions this year the kids did not have to wear masks and could socialize with their fellow stu-



dents in the activity allowing them to have more enjoyment out of the activity. This event is huge for them and they look forward to it all year getting them hyped for Christmas.

The materials were supplied by the students with their parents there to help out the process of making the houses. After the kids are done making their houses they put them in the trophy case so everyone in the school can see the miraculous work of the younger generations. The kids usually spend around 2 hours making their masterpieces.

Mrs. Gaylord said "this is



such an amazing student activity and I hope it continues in the future." "All the students worked really hard, and put in tremendous effort and were very proud of the end results". **By: Gabriel Triplett**

Fall Sports Banquet

Monday, December 6th, Belt Schools held their annual fall sports banquet to celebrate all the athletes and their successes in the football, volleyball, and cross country. The banquet is sponsored by the Belt Boosters who supplied a chicken dinner, while players brought sides and desserts. After dining, letters, pins, and participation certificates were handed out.

Coach Jeff Graham kicked off the banquet by recognizing many of his football players and their achievements. Awards were based on a combination of statistics and team voting. Bridger Vogl, a junior, was the Most Valuable Player for offense with impressive running and passing totals. Junior Garrett Metrione was tabbed as the defensive MVP and was also the leading rusher for the team.

The leading receivers for the season were Keaghn McDaniel, a junior, and sophomore Jeremy Nebel. Memphis Black, a junior, received the most tackles award and the top ballhawk was sophomore Ethan Triplett. Those were the prizes that came from the stat sheet.

The following awards were

based upon players' reflections across their team members.

Most improved was Sawyer Myrstol, a junior, and Rookie of the Year was granted to Luke Highfill, a freshman. Most inspirational as voted on by his teammates was McDaniel and the Mr. Hustle award went to Metrione.

Cole Hepfner, a senior, won the top defensive lineman as well as top offensive lineman. Hepfner will also be going to represent Belt and play in the 8-man All-Star game.

Volleyball awards followed football and was led by coach Christine Gondeiro. Raily Gliko, a senior, led the stats in kills, while Lindsey Paulson, a senior, and Hattie Bumgardner, a junior, tied for blocks. Bumgarner had the most assisted blocks and Addi Urick, a sophomore, had the most serve receive passes as well as the most digs. Ella Pethel, a sophomore, had the most assists and her classmate Kylee Permann, recorded the most aces

Volleyball also had awards based upon players' outlook of teammate contributions to the season. Gliko was the MVP for the

season and Bumgarner was the most inspirational. Rookie of the year was Aaliyah Gaylord, 8th grade. Olivia Moran, 8th grade, and Mackenzie Pogany, 8th grader, were both voted most improved.

Coach Megan Graham concluded the evening presenting the cross-country team. MVPs for girls and boys were Paulson and Asa Jassen. Most improved for the girls was Ahmia Lords, a senior, while Trevor Shimerdla, a freshman, was the most improved boy.

This year a new award was added, called never give up. This award is based upon a quote by Dean Karnazes who ran 50 marathons in 50 consecutive days in all 50 states. "Run when you can, walk if you have to, crawl if you must; just never give up." The never give up boy was Clayton Jassen, a sophomore, and the never give up girl was Sarah Dollenger, a senior.

As the banquet wrapped up the fall sports season and recognized husky athletes for their achievements the Valley Voice would like to wish all players good luck for their winter sports season.

By: Madisen Feldman

NHS Service Projects

Students who participate in National Honor Society (NHS) choose partners to create a project for the good of the community. Students who take part in this program are required to do these projects every year. Currently there are 5 groups with 2-3 people in each one.

Ahmia Lords and Raily Gliko are going to be hosting a cornhole tournament for their service project. The specific date changes but one can expect it to be around new year's, before March. These ladies are giving all their proceeds to Finnley Foster, a young girl who has spent most of her life in the hospital due to her health

complications.

Molly Tingey and Aubrey Johnson will be sending packages and letters to overseas troops. There are multiple different items in these bundles. Currently, they do not have a set date on when they will be sending them out.

Bridger Vogl and Isaac Maki will be doing a canned food drive during the week of the super bowl, similar to the cat and griz canned food drive. This will help the community by raising food for people in need.

Brady Drummond, Lindsay Paulson, and Asa Jassen are working on recycling within the Belt

School; they are placing cardboard boxes in classrooms for teachers and students to put in their excess paper.

Haley Hoerner and Sarah Dollenger are going to have elementary students draw Christmas pictures on cards so that they can send them out to overseas troops. High schoolers will be writing a letter of appreciation to go along with the cards, these will be sent out over Christmas.

The community service component of National Honor Society is an important part of the program, building tomorrow's leaders.

By: Brooke Holum

Comedy of Errors (Cont.)

The whole thing is finally woven together by an abbess, Aemilia, who turns out to be Egeon's long-lost wife and mother of the twins. The whole family is reunited, and the charges against Aegeon are dropped."-Joell Herr

Performers won the hearts of the audience with their funny comments and actions during the play. Luke Highfill performed Dromio of Syracuse, and Johnny Tingey played his dynamic duo of Dromio of Ephesus. These two actors invited the audience to laugh during the play and they showcased their hilarious remarks. The other set of twins was played by Livie King with her outstanding representation of Antipholus of Ephesus, and Dawson Iverson played Antipholus of Syracuse. Molly Tingey

surprised the audience with her portrayal of Ms. Havisham and Adriana. Luciana, Adrianna's sister, was performed by Kaylynn Madden and Brooklyn Phillips. Chloe Lehnerz showcased her acting talents with Aemilia, wife to Egeon, an abbess at Ephesus. The Duke of Ephesus, Solinus, was presented with Katy Smith. Addison Urick conducted the role of servant in the play as well as Luce, the servant to Adriana. Josh Gill produced three different parts including, Goaler (jailer), Balthazar (a merchant), and the officer. Courtezan was conducted by Kate Hedstrom. Hedstrom presented Ronnie with Vannie Urick. Urick performed Egeon as well as Ronnie. Cheyenne Smith paired up with Vannie Urick to split the role of Egeon. Smith played Pinch for her second role of the play. Finally, the tech supporters were Maverick Black and Rachel Madden.

Mr. Ross introduced Julia Vogt as his new assistant director this year for the school per-

formance. Vogt participated in theater in high school, and was a great addition for a *Comedy of Errors*.

Many Belt School kids came to support their classmates that were acting. Paisley Enos stated, "I liked the funny parts of the play, also how they slapped each other off and on. It was also cool how they incorporated the script like how Shakespeare did. [Also] The way Vannie talked and did her lines." Aubrey Johnson also attended the school play. Johnson's most memorable moment of the production was, "When they dumped the bucket of balls from the roof." Emerson Hoerner's favorite part was, "When it was revealed that the characters were identical twins."

Overall, this year's Belt School Play was a huge success, with many people coming and supporting these young actors. A thanks goes out to the Belt Performing Arts committee for letting the actors use the stage, Mr. Ross for spending countless hours adapting the script and practice times, and to all the supporters of the performers.

By: Eliza Tingey



Senior Spotlight

Kaiden Marquis is being featured in the 8th issue of *Senior Spotlight* and shared his experiences with the *Valley Voice*. He has been in the Belt Community for all 18 years of his life and is on his final trip in his Belt Academics.

He would describe his belt experience as, "Could have been better, but with the friends I have grown up with and the friends that I have met throughout my elementary, middle school, and high school years, years in Belt High have been something that I will remember well and something I will never forget."

His plans for after high school are to either be in the United States Marine Corps or to continue

welding. He states that he will most likely be going into a military field to serve his country and protect others. The advice he would give to younger students and children would be, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts."

The extracurricular activities that he participates in are DECA. This will be his first year participating in DECA and he is excited to start the journey. He will miss his family and friends the most when he departs from his community to start his next chapter in schooling career and life.

The best memory that he has acquired throughout his high school occupation is engaging in Home-

coming Olympics and activities with his classmates. He used to play sports in his past and his biggest achievement was

volunteering himself as a firefighter to help others in need of assistance.

The *Valley Voice* wishes the best of luck to Mr. Marquis as he proceeds in his upcoming career and life. They would also like to thank him for being a volunteer firefighter and serving the Belt Community. **By: Walker Maki**



Breakfast with Santa

Since the mid 1990's, The Belt community has been lucky enough to have a great recreational opportunity for both the young and old in the valley. Since 1995, the Belt Community Pool has provided summer fun as well as employment for many a Belt High School student.

On December 4th, 2021 the annual Belt pool fundraiser, Breakfast with Santa, was a huge success. For seven years the Belt Pool has set up the Breakfast with Santa activities. These activities included a visit from Santa who gave out toys to all the kids, Home Depot crafts, and the Dustin Young & Company (a real estate company) ran the cookie decorating table. The Belt School provided breakfast sandwiches, fruit and juice for the fundraisers. This year the pool raised a total of \$3,500 from this fundraiser alone.

The Belt Community Pool has been open for 26 years, and each year the pool is required to fundraise \$25,000 to stay open dur-

ing the summer. It also covers the cost of facility maintenance, life-guard salaries, payroll-related taxes, insurance, safety equipment, etc. Georgia Hansen is a representative of the Board of Directors and she quotes, "The pool runs entirely on community fundraising, donations, grants, membership fees, and swimming fees. We receive no public funding."

The Belt Pool hosts a Super Bowl board fundraiser every year, and this is run by Brett Keaster. This is when the pool sends out fliers before the pool opens. The flyer holds all the opening and closing times, the different events, and it also gives the supporters of Belt a chance to donate money to the non-profit business.

Due to COVID-19, Breakfast with Santa was unable to take place last year, and with that fundraiser being the biggest campaign that the Belt Pool presents, it impacted the pool financially. COVID also impacted the training of life guards, which all forced the pool to

stay open later than regular. This caused more money for labor shortages.

The Board of Directors and elected officials that help support the small businesses in Belt. This organization is proud to have April Hansen, Brett Keaster, Molly Sweeney Bock, Georgia Hansen, Lindsey Simpson, Kristy Enos, Kinzie Campbell, and Mollie Maki working on their committee. The Belt Pool would like to recognize Steve Raska who provides voluntary pool maintenance, thanks.

The Breakfast with Santa was a huge success this year for the Belt Pool, and they are excited for summer to come.

The pool is located just outside the rodeo grounds in Castner Park on the east side of Belt. The pool is open from early June (weather permitting) until August and its operating hours are from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Thanks to all who contribute to this community treasure.

By: Eliza Tingey

Hunting Trophies

A couple Belt seniors hit hunting pay dirt late in the season with a pair of nice bucks to mount on the wall. Hayden Urick shot a



mule deer buck with a 30-30 from 50 yards away. The score of the buck was a class 180. The location of the kill was in the Belt Park area. His highlight of the hunt was that the buck was his second largest he has ever shot so far.

Kaiden Marquis also killed a mule deer this hunting season. He shot it at approximately 300 yards, dropping it with one shot with his 7mm Magnum. He shot it in the Sluice Boxes. His favorite memory of the hunt was hiking around to find it then getting such a well-



placed shot from long range.

By: Gabriel Triplett

Tis the Season

The weather finally seems more like Christmas, with a fresh coat of snow on the ground, and it's about time as the Holiday Season is here. It's a time that to make memories for young and old alike, a time for family, friends, and fun.

Recently, holiday festivities have become rooted into everyday life, giving opportunities to reflect upon the traditions associated with this time of year.

Hanukkah is an 8-day Jewish celebration that commemorates the successful revolt led by the Maccabees against the Syrian-Greek oppressors and the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. After the revolt the temple only had enough oil for one nightly lighting of the menorah, by miracle from God the small amount of oil was able to last for 8 days allowing the Jewish people to get more oil.

Hanukkah is also referred to as the Festival of Lights where families and friends come together to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness by candles for eight nights. Lighting the Menorah is one of the most important traditions. Families light the menorah from left to right while saying a blessing. After candles are lit they are often

placed in windows to fill the room with light and be visible to neighbors.

A dreidel is a small spinning top inscribed with Hebrew letters on four sides. Each player contributes a portion of their gelt (money) coins, or other small objects into a pot. The pot may be won depending on how the dreidel falls on any turn. The letters on the side indicate whether players may take nothing, take everything, take half, or put in. This game is extremely popular with both children and adults.

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus on December 25th. Customs such as giving gifts, singing songs, eating special foods and decorating homes were all derived from early Christmas celebrations. The holiday was further developed with the legend of St. Nicholas. Many miracles are attributed to him and has been named as a patron saint in some countries. In honor of him, feasts and gifts were exchanged. Eventually both holidays merged because of their close proximity to each other.

Decorating Christmas trees is very popular within the United States. Tree decorating allows families to bond over good times and

create something beautiful. According to the American Christmas Tree Association, 77 percent of U.S. households display Christmas trees in their homes.

Advent calendars are a fun way for children to count down to Christmas. Each day one opens a door or window to a small gift ranging from chocolates to action figures. Elf on the Shelf began in 2005 and has since become a staple in many American households. Parents hide the elf in elaborate scenarios for their children to wake up to and find.

Many people celebrate New Year's by enjoying meals and snacks to bestow good luck for the coming year. Some people eat a dozen grapes before midnight to symbolize their hopes for the new year. Watching the ball drop in Time Square is an iconic tradition, millions of people around the world watch the event which had taken place since 1907. The practice of making resolutions is very popular and a good way for many people to set goals for themselves.

The *Valley Voice* wishes all a Merry Christmas and a blessed 2022!

By: Madisen Feldman

Winter Break

As the winter season starts to truly come, one must not forget about the winter break. The students have December 22nd to January 3, 2022 off of school. The young scholars should make sure to stay on top of their homework, because the end of the second quarter is just around the corner.

Belt School learners have all this time to do what they want, so many students are traveling or taking the time to spend with their families. In the 3rd grade there are many students taking advantage of this time, Jaxton Marn is no exception. When asked what his plans are, he explains "I have friends and family coming over."

In the fifth-grade class, Collyns Yurek, expresses that she is looking forward to seeing her family and friends over break. "On Christmas Eve my family and I are going to my grandma and grandpa's house for dinner for a little get together. Then on Christmas Day my aunt and uncle are coming to our house for Christmas Dinner."

A middle school student, Aaliyah Gaylord, will take part in hanging out with her family. She is going to a family reunion that alternates between Thanksgiving and Christmas. There she plans to have lots of fun and excitement with her cousins.

Some of the high school students are going to spend time with their family, and Brooke Backus is no exception. She intends on going to Sheridan, Wyoming and staying the night there. "Then we will go all the way to Wentworth, South Dakota. Wentworth is my mom's side of the family... On Christmas Eve I will go to my friend's house and have a gift exchange with them."

Out in the shop, Mrs. Simons, plans on sleeping in as much as possible. She explains "I plan on sleeping in as much as possible, writing the semester finals and spending time with my family and my dog, Jake." When asked if she has special plans for the 25th she expresses "For Christmas, we are visiting my family and taking Jake to the beach for the first time and for New Years, we are going to carry on the tradition of struggling to stay awake until midnight to celebrate."

These times are truly enjoyable for all the students and staff. As all this time is taken off, it is imperative to remember to have fun with family and friends whenever possible. Have a great break to each and every one, and don't forget...semester finals are right around the corner!

By: Kyndal Schraner

Girls Basketball

Last weekend, the Lady Huskies opened up their season at the "Coyote Classic," a large tournament on the Hi-line, once again. The ladies traveled to Shelby where they battled Florence and Chinook Friday and Saturday evening.

The girls played quite well, holding the falcons to 23 points by the halftime buzzer. While Lindsey Paulson tailed 12 in the same amount of time. The maroon and gold girls employed stifling defense to generate no breakaway points, while on offense they settled down into their familiar weave offense. Until the end of the second quarter when they scored many fast break points on the falcons.

The second half of the game went quite similarly, as they weaved through much of the quarter and took many inside shots. The falcons had solid defense, although it was no match for the Lady Huskies. Lindsey Paulson led the way, as she marked 18 points.

total of 13 points.

Once again, the Huskies competed greatly against their opponents, claiming victory over the Sugarbeaters. They prepared for this game greatly, as Chinook is projected to do pretty well this year. Similar to the previous game, they used their weave offense and fast break skills to tally 20 points in the first half. They used impressive defensive skills to hold their opponents at a mere 13 points by the mid game buzzer.

During the second half, the ladies settled into the same offense, and played man to man defense. The best quarter, scoring wise, was the fourth because they amassed 14 buckets. Once again, the team was led by Paulson, with 14 points; Permann followed closely behind with 8. As a team, they scored 43 points, while 23 of the points were in the second half.

The ladies record is 2-0 overall and tonight they will battle defending divisional champ, Roy-Winifred at home in their first 8-C conference contest. Tomorrow, they will travel to Fairfield and take on the Eagles. Next Tuesday and Wednesday as the holiday break commences, the girls will continue their quest with games at Great Falls Central and against Center-ville in Belt.

By: Kyndal Schraner

Florence	14	9	7	6	36
Belt Girls	10	13	15	7	45
Chinook	6	7	2	11	26
Belt Girls	12	8	9	14	43

Kylee Permann followed closely behind, amassing a

Belt HS Basketball 2021-2022

Dec 17 th	Winifred-Roy	Belt	GJV(½)3:30/BJV4:30/GV6/BV7:30
Dec 18 th	Fairfield	Fairfield	JV both 1:00pm/GV 2:30/BV 4:00
Dec 2 st	GFCC	GFCC	GJV3:00/BJV4:30/GV6/BV7:30
Dec 22 nd	Centerville	Belt	GJV1:00/BJV2:30/GV4/BV5:30
Jan 7 th	WGR	Belt	GJV3:00/BJV4:30/GV6/BV7:30
Jan 8 th	Tri-City	Hobson	BJV3:30/GV5/BV6:30
Jan 13 th	Ger/High	Belt	GJV3:00/BJV4:30/GV6/BV7:30
Jan 14 th	DGS	Geyser	GJV3:00/BJV4:30/GV6/BV7:30
Jan 21 st	Roy-Winifred	Winifred	GJV(½)3:30/BJV4:30/GV6/BV7:30
Jan 22 nd	Fairfield	Belt	GJV2:00/BJV3:30/GV5/BV6:30
Jan 28 th	GFCC	Belt	GJV3:00/BJV4:30/GV6/BV7:30
Jan 29 th	Centerville	Centerville	GJV2:00/BJV3:30/GV5/BV6:30
Feb 4 th	WGR	Grass Range	GJV3:00/BJV4:30/GV6/BV7:30
Feb 5 th	Tri-City	Belt	GJV??/BJV3:30/GV5/BV6:30
Feb 10 th	Ger/High	Highwood	GJV3:00/BJV4:30/GV6/BV7:30
Feb 11 th	DGS (Sr. Night)	Belt	GJV3:00/BJV4:30/GV6/BV7:30

*Game order: Girls B, Boys B, Girls A, Boys A

*Game times are subject to change

2-17-2/20 District GFHS 2-23 to 2-27 Divisional 4 Seasons 3/9-3/12 State 4 Seasons

The holiday season is here and what does that mean? It means traveling, either by car, plane, bus, or train, along with eating, maybe some drinking, and as of this month, bad weather. Every year In the United States, more than 5.8 million motor vehicle accidents occur every year. A lot of car accidents are from bad weather conditions, and while most are focused on that, we forget about the accidents caused by drinking under the influence. According to preliminary data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 20,000 people have died on U.S. roads in the first half of 2021. That's an increase of about 18.4% from 2020. There have been 277 fatalities on Montana Highways in 2021, compared to the 197 fatalities as of this time last year. But a quote for all to remember also is "A drunk driver is very dangerous. So is a backseat driver if he's persuasive." - Demetri Martin.



Don't Drink and Drive!

Ugly Sweaters are Back

It's Christmas time and all the decorations, trees, and ugly sweaters are coming out. Christmas has so many cute and stylish clothing items, and ideas for nails, makeup, and hair.

Ugly Sweaters are a main fashion statement when it comes to Christmas time. There are people walking around everywhere with funny sayings on their sweaters, and weird looking art on them. People can buy matching family ugly sweaters for photos or funny t-rex ones. Ugly Sweaters are the thing to wear during the holiday.

Santa outfits are another cute thing to wear during the holiday season, even if one isn't excessively bulky. It doesn't matter how stylish or fancy it is, it will look good in any photo's either way.

People can get matching elf dresses too.

Makeup is the normal Christmas colors like green and red. Sometimes people add a candy cane look to it with little jewels that frame their eyes. Some people even go full out and do cute grinch makeup all over their face. Adding a string of lights down one side of the face would make a real fashion statement, and look amazing in photos.

Christmas nails are always cute, and have a warm sense. Christmas nails consist of many designs all cute and stylish. People can get a simple design with red and gold, or they can get cute reindeer nails. Sometimes just the white nail is perfect for the winter season, but with Christmas people can add

a little design to it, like a snowman face, or blue snowflakes.

Christmas hairstyles consist of fuzzy hats like Santa's, or ones with little fuzz balls on them. People can make cute braids that look like Christmas trees, or they can put a bun in and have antlers, and a red nose sticking out of it.

"Ugly Sweaters, Winter nails, and Christmas pajamas are very festive and they really exaggerate the holiday." Exclaimed Aaliyah Gaylord. Paisley Enos added, "I like Ugg boots, high ponytail, any sweater and a vest as my everyday outfit for the season."

Christmas is a magical time, made even more magical with all the fashion items that come with it. Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! **By: Addee Hoffmann**

Boys Husky Basketball

After another state tournament appearance last season, the latest version of the Belt Huskies made their 2021-22 basketball debut last weekend and put a great show on the court. The boys expect to be contenders throughout the campaign so they found tough competition for the preseason and did not disappoint. The Shelby Showcase was a pre-season contest and there were teams from all across the state that journeyed their way to the Hi-line.

The varsity boys played Florence Friday evening, and played great defense and offense in the first quarter with 9 points for Belt and 3 for Florence. The second quarter was a little rough for the Huskies with them only scoring 8

points and the Florence Falcons at 15.

After the teams came out of the locker room, the boys were ready to dominate the court. They sprung and put 20 tallies up on the board with Florence only putting up 8 in the third quarter. The fourth quarter of the game ended with the Huskies racking up 17 and the Falcons 20. The boys obtained their first win of the tournament and Bridger Vogl, Keaghn McDaniel, Garrett Metrione, and Reese Paulson scored a majority of the marks.

In the Chinook game last Saturday, the Huskies bolted from the gate, amassing 16 in the first period, while holding Chinook to a half dozen. The 2nd quarter was a defensive period with both teams tallying one field goal and at halftime the score was Belt Huskies 18 and the Chinook SugarBeeters 9.

Halftime adjustments favored the offense as both

teams came out of the locker room with a combined score of 31 points, with Belt amassing 14 and Chinook recording 17. The final quarter of the game ended with Belt gaining 12 and leaving Chinook with 6. The Huskies left the floor successfully with a final score of 44-32 Belt.

The Huskies stand at a record of 2-0 with the first conference game tonight against Roy-Winifred. It should be a good one, as the two teams are favorites in the 8-C entering the season. Tomorrow night the Huskies journey to Teton County to take on the Fairfield Eagles, a perennial Class B power and old rival.

KMON Radio (560 am and kmon.com) will be broadcasting many Belt games this year including: the game tonight, Belt at GFCC on December 21st, WGR at Belt on January 7th, Geraldine-Highwood at Belt on January 13th, GFCC at Belt on January 27th, and Tri-City at Belt on February 5th.

By: Walker Maki

Chinook	6	3	17	6	32
Belt Boys	16	2	14	12	44
Florence	3	15	8	20	46
Belt Boys	9	8	20	17	54

College Courses

For students looking to challenge themselves in preparation for college and beyond, Belt High School has a few different choices for credits, including: COT classes, a rigorous honors curriculum, and Advanced Placement classes.

College of Technology classes are a great opportunity to get college credits during high school. These dual credit classes can give students college credit and high school credit at the same time. COT classes can be taken by junior and

seniors, currently 24 upperclassmen are taking advantage of this opportunity; including Haley Hoerner who quotes "It's a great opportunity for upperclassmen. It is extremely important because it gives students an advantage when they enter college."

The honors program is also a good way to challenge students and gain honors credits for graduation. To obtain an honors diploma upon graduation, a student must have 6 honors credits along with all

the required credits needed to graduate. Some AP classes and COT classes can count as an honor credit too. A student must complete the honors curriculum to be eligible for valedictory and salutary recognition come graduation day.

AP Classes are another great opportunity for students to have more options to challenge themselves, students can also earn honors credits from these classes. AP classes include Art, Math and Biology. **By: Brooke Holum**

Christmas Concert

The annual Belt High School Christmas recital took place on Tuesday, December 14th, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Peter Wilson directed throughout the night, and is proud of the progress that the bands and choirs have made from the start of the year. The participants in the concert strived to do their best at the concert. Close to 300 patrons enjoyed the show that brought Christmas spirit alive in the main gymnasium.

The 6th grade band played "William Tell Overture" by Gioachino Rossini, arranged by Brian Balmages, "Christmas Bits and Pieces" which was arranged by Michael Story, and "Good King Wenceslas" a well-known song.

The 7th grade has a band and choir. The seventh grade used to be in a choir with the 8th grade to make a combined choir, but this year they split, creating two different singing groups. The 7th grade choir pleased the audience with their songs of "We've Been Awhile A-Wandering" composed by York-shire Carol, arranged by O.C. Christiansen, and "Winter Wonderland" by Dick Smith & Felix Barnard, arranged by Andy Beck.

The seventh-grade band also used to be a part of the eighth-grade

band, but this year they split apart just like the choir. At this concert the band performed "La Morisque" by Tielman Susato, arranged by Brian Balmages, and "Christmas Chorale and March" arranged by John Kinyon.

This year the 8th grade choir will be showcasing their developing musical skills. "Betelehemu" is a Nigerian Christmas Carol which is arranged by Andy Beck, and "When Sweet Winter Comes Again" written by Cynthia Gray.

With one more step before high school, the 8th graders continue to develop their musical talents. The elder middle school musicians broadcast "Ukrainian Bell Carol" which is arranged by James D. Ployhar, also as well as "Christmas Tiding" arranged by Ernest Ortone.

This year the High School Choir performed three different songs. Those songs are "Do You Hear What I Hear" written by Noel Regney & Gloria Shayne and it was arranged by Harry Simeone, "Le Sommeil de L'Enfant Jesus" was another one of their songs and is a traditional French song that was arranged by Francois Gervart. Hattie Bumgarner surprised the crowd with her stellar solo during "All I Want for Christmas is You"

By Mariah Carey & Walter Afanasieff and arranged by Mac Huff. The audience ended each of their songs with a thunderous applause, proud of their young musicians.

The High School Band wrapped up the Christmas concert with a delightful set of songs when it was their turn to take the center stage. Their first song that was played was "Themes from the Nutcracker Suite" composed by P.I. Tchaikovsky, and arranged by Clair W. Johnson. The final song that was played in the Christmas performance was "A Christmas Fantasy" which consisted of four popular Christmas songs. The version of a "A Christmas Fantasy" that the Belt High School band played was arranged by John Verrall. During the last song of the concert, the audience was asked to sing along during the well-known songs.

Overall, this year's concert was a great success. Mr. Wilson wanted to show his gratitude for the administrators Mr. Paulson and Mr. Gaylord, Mrs. Patty Kolar, the teachers of Belt School, Mrs. April Wells, maintenance crew, and parents. A special thanks that goes out to Isaac Callender for the sound production and recording.

By: Eliza Tingey

Student Focus Groups

A few weeks ago, the Belt High School kids participated in the My Voice Survey. My Voice surveys are an M. B. I. initiative. Two boys, and two girls were picked from each class to take part in the focus groups. The focus groups would meet during Husky Time to talk about how my voice surveys went down.

The kids who took part in the focus groups were, for the seniors, Sarah Dollenger, Raily Gliko, Cole Hepfner, and Colton Lombardo. Hailey Assels, Makaila Marchington, Memphis Black, and Ryley Mapston were picked for the juniors. The sophomores included: Ryann Osterman, Kylee Permann, Brady Moran, and Lane Waldner. The freshman were Zoie Anderson, Addee Hoffmann, Rylan Davison, and Andrew Dullum.

The student split by gender, and focused on several specific areas of concern generated by the survey.

The first question was, "I am a valued member of my school community". Only 56% of the school agreed with that statement. The girl's solution to this problem was to have a more hands-on class room, and group work. The boy's solution was that the teachers need to make it clear that criticism is not personal but is instead to make students more successful, and encourage participation to create a sense of belonging and value.

The second statement that was evaluated was, "Adults at this school listen to student's suggestions." Only 50% of the students said that this was true and that had the staff a little concerned. The boy's solution to the problem was to emphasize that teachers are open for questions and suggestions and to keep things said relatable for the content being learned. The girls said for the ideas the students want

to present they could open an anonymous box of suggestions related to the stuff being studied.

"Adults and students work together to make our school better." Only half of the students agreed to this statement. The solution for the girls was to create posters around the school that kids can interact with, and that also have goals for the school. The boy's solution was to create clubs that would meet with students to talk about their needs, and survey students to determine their interests.

Another issue within this same concept of sense and accomplishment was "Teachers let parents know what I do well." The solutions were for the teachers to send out emails when their students are doing well, or improving, adding comments to the report card, and sometimes extra cards when they are doing really well.

"I enjoy being at school" was next. Another half of the school agreed to this statement. An answer to this problem would be to bring in students that have gone to Belt before, and have them speak about their amazing experiences at Belt. Another one would be, have more options for the students who don't participate in traditional extra-curricular activities.

One statement that worried the teachers with the results was, "My classes help me understand what is happening in my everyday life." Only 40% of all students agreed with this statement. Suggestions included a broader class selection. This would depend on student interest and teacher certification.

"I find homework helpful to my overall learning." Again, 40% of the students agreed. Positive reinforcements on projects that they do well on, would help with this. Also, the girls said that they weren't really given homework but if they

were they could explain why the homework was needed, instead of it feeling like a punishment.

"I am afraid to try something if I think I may fail." It was higher than years before but still low, it was 32%. Solution is that students feel safe trying something new, facilitate more clubs, and encourage students that they will not be ridiculed for failing. The girls said they should provoke positive things when someone is answering a question and not laugh when they get it wrong.

A statement that was low was, "Other students see me as a leader." It was 44%. A solution would be to have people who normally aren't "leaders" out of their comfort zone and leading groups. The boys said it is more about participation and effort than leading.

"I know the goals my school is working on this year." 39% of the school agreed to this. The school has to have more specific goals that are measurable. The girls said make a poster with the goals, and how the students can help achieve them.

"School is preparing me well for my future." 63% of the students said yes. The boys said they should create more specialized classes ex: Home Ec. The girls said that the school should open a variety of more classes that include things that are more vocational in nature, in other words, more directly related to a real job.

The focus groups accomplished a lot over the four days that they gathered. The principal Mr. Paulson will now evaluate the response in an effort to address the issues that matter to the kids in the school. The focus groups are really helpful towards the learning environment of the students, and makes school all the more effective and a positive place to learn.

By: Addee Hoffmann

COVID-19 Update

Since 2019 the Coronavirus has impacted and changed many people's lives. With numbers continuing to grow each day, the world is starting to take in this "new normal". But just as citizens start to adjust and get used to this "New Normal", another challenge appears. On November 29th, 2021, the first test of the Omicron variant appeared in the United States. The Omicron variant spreads fast across large amounts of population, and it infects lots of different citizens along the way, but it is still in the early stages of study.

As of December 13th, the United States has reached a total of

51,018,282 COVID-19 cases, with 819,315 deaths. Each week the number of cases continues to grow and expand. But 98% of all cases recover from the virus, with only 2% of deaths in the United States of America. 186 new cases were added to the total of COVID cases on December 13th.

The Montana cases have also risen. As of December 13th, 2021, the Montana cases have reached 193,905 COVID-19 cases, with 2,830 deaths. From October 13, 2021 the average number of positive test rates went down 55.814%.

With the continually chang-

ing economy, more restrictions due to COVID have been lifted, creating more freedom to the United States. But to secure the lowering numbers, doctors still recommend getting vaccinated, with the booster if eligible. They also suggest getting tested if symptoms occur, to wear a well-fitted mask in overcrowded rooms, to receive fresh air frequently, wash hands, and to practice social distancing whenever possible.

For more information about COVID-19, vaccines, variants, etc. visit the CDC Website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

By: Eliza Tingey

Steve Olson Orchestra

The Steve Olson Orchestra began in September of 2015 with their debut album "Merry Christmas from Great Falls, Montana," which featured accomplished vocalist Joel Corda. Corda also won the contest to be the next singer at Sip 'N Dip Lounge in Great Falls. The album had 13 classic holiday songs and one original composition.

The orchestra is composed of both adult and high school musicians with a goal of mentoring students to help them become life-long

learners, performers, and supporters of music regardless of their career paths. Olson takes pride in having young musicians participate in his orchestra and his role as a mentor to them. The teaching environment that Olson brings is not available in other groups such as the Great Falls Symphony who expects their members to already be experienced.

The orchestra has created two scholarships as part of the Great Falls Public Schools Foundation each for \$700. These are

awarded to two seniors who have dedicated much of their to the musical arts and the betterment of the Great Falls community.

The Steve Olson Orchestra recently performed in the valley on December 12th in the Belt Performing Arts Center. They performed a collection of classical Christmas songs live. Some of their songs were solos performed by Olson himself whereas others included all the instruments.

By: Madisen Feldman

Honor Band and Choir

On November 29th and 30th, students grade 9th through 12th members of the Honor Band and Choir gathered in Choteau to hone their talents and entertain acoustic aficionados with a unique all-star performance. Several Belt High musicians were among those chosen.

The following students were invited to play or sing with other students from North Central Montana. Molly Tingey, Hattie Bumgarner, Danika Lords, Nate Gill, Johnny Tingey, Gracie Watson, Da-

vid Bond, and Luke Highfill.

These participants departed from Belt to travel to Choteau at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 29th. Once they arrived, rehearsal began right away, running from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. After four hours of practice, dinner was the next activity on the agenda. The young musicians spent an additional two hours rehearsing.

The next day they met up again at Choteau High School for more hours of practice and later that evening, at 6:30 p.m. there was a

concert in the auditorium to show how well the choir and band performed.

"Honor Choir was an experience that not only broadened my knowledge of music but made me love it even more. It was just incredible to sing with people you don't even know, and the experience was so heart felt." -Luke Highfill.

Congratulations to those selected to prestigious group of talented young musician.

By: Gracie Watson

Valley Voice

Birthdays		
	Husky	Grade
12/26	Kavik Schaack	P-K
12/28	Violet Rupe	P-K
12/30	Bishop Mohiuddin	P-K
1/2	Clare Wilson	K
12/26	Lea Maves	3
12/29	Ember Myllymaki	3
12/25	Dutch Dawson	3
12/18	Mayes Belakjon	4
12/29	Skyler Whitley	4
12/29	Dean Burke	5
12/31	Tenley Jones	5
12/29	Weston Tingey	6
12/31	Emerson Hoerner	8
1/3	Cade McCoy	8
12/18	Andrew Dullum	9
1/6	Kyndal Schraner	10
12/18	Jeremy Nebel	10
12/20	Brady Moran	10
12/30	Nicholas Rubeck	10
12/30	Boston McLaughlin	11

Calendar of Events		
Date	Time	Event
12./17	3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	HS BB vs. Roy-Winifred Colony Christmas Program
12/18	1:00 p.m.	HS BB @ Fairfield
12/20	10:30 a.m.	POL Finals (High School) @ Belt Theatre
12/21	3:00 p.m.	HS BB @ GFCC
12/22	1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Winter Break Starts HS BB vs. Centerville 3 rd /4 th Boys BB
12/25	12:00 a.m.	MERRY CHRISTMAS
12/29	6:00 p.m.	3 rd /4 th Boys BB
1/3	8:00 a.m.	School Resumes
1/5	6:00 p.m.	3 rd /4 th Boys BB
1/6		ODD Finals
1/7	3:00 p.m.	HS BB vs WGR

Birthdays		
	Husky	Grade
12/29	Kaiden Marquis	12
1/5	Ahmia Lords	12

Bowling Scores

Weekly results from Back Road Pizza and Bowling.

Week 11

Men's Scratch Game

Rick Brewer-201

Matt Lewis-190

Men's Scratch Series

Rick Brewer-503

Bruce Hoyer-495

Men's Handicap Game

Matt Lewis-238

Bill Mital-229

Men's Handicap Series

Bill Mital-629

Matt Lewis-588

Women's Scratch Game

Celeste Hoyer-205

Teri Cummings-167

Women's Scratch Series

Lisa Urick-436

Laura Koffler-426

Women's Handicap Game

Celeste Hoyer-269

Teri Cummings-228

Women's Handicap Series

Sara Christensen-602

Celeste Hoyer-602

Week 12

Men's Scratch Game

Kalem Halley-188

Zac Banta-182

Men's Scratch Series

Kalem Halley-532

Mike Christensen-521

Men's Handicap Game

Zac Banta-223

Kalem Halley-222

Men's Handicap Series

Kalem Halley-634

Bill Mital 630

Women's Scratch Game

Lisa Urick-165

Denise Puppe-157

Women's Scratch Series

Lisa Urick-454

Denise Puppe-424

Women's Handicap Game

Denise Puppe-211

Jo Cooper-209

Women's Handicap Series

Jo Cooper-595

Denise Puppe-586