



# The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



28 January 2022

Volume 12 Issue #10

## Inside

<b>Play Time (Cont.)</b>	
<b>Fashion-Country Style</b>	2
<b>State DECA</b>	
<b>MLK (Cont.)</b>	
<b>COVID Update</b>	3
<b>Lady Husky Hoops</b>	
<b>Featured Staff</b>	
Nicole Hedstrom	4
<b>Boys Basketball</b>	
<b>Wreath Sales</b>	
<b>Election Gathering</b>	5
<b>Little Guy Wrestling</b>	
<b>MHSA Rule Changes</b>	
<b>Tik Tok</b>	6
<b>Pep Band</b>	
<b>Leukemia Foundation</b>	
<b>Belt Performing Arts</b>	7
<b>DUI Reminder</b>	
<b>Senior Spotlight</b>	
Colton Lombardo	8
<b>JV Basketball</b>	
<b>College Football</b>	9
<b>Midnight?</b>	
<b>Ron Carlson Art</b>	10
<b>Ag Field Trip</b>	11
<b>Bowling Scores</b>	
<b>Birthdays</b>	
<b>Calendar of Events</b>	12
<b>Pancake Feast</b>	

Subscribe to the  
*Valley Voice* today!

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

## MLK Remembrance

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, people around the United States celebrate Martin Luther King Jr Day. Martin Luther King was a very famous civil rights leader from the 1950s to late 1960s, King was the leader of the American civil rights movement.

King organized peaceful protests and made a lot of famous speeches. He participated in marches and protests for voting rights, desegregation, labor rights and other civil rights issues. King was also the first president of Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which is an African American civil rights organization in Alabama. He was taken into custody multiple times during protests.

It was said that King became a civil rights activist because of his father. His father, Martin Luther King Sr., encouraged him to be more active during these civil rights movements. He quoted "I guess the influence of my father also had a great deal to do with my going in the ministry. This is not to say that he ever spoke to me in terms of being a minister, but that my admiration for him was the great moving

factor; He set forth a noble example that I didn't mind following."

On October 14th, 1964 King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his hard work fighting for racial equality and rights. In 1977, King won the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2003.

King was assassinated on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1968 not even a day after he presented his "Mountaintop" speech. He was shot outside of the Lorraine motel in Memphis, Tennessee. Witnesses and fingerprints point to James Earl Ray being the one who assassinated King.

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1965 King led one of his most famous marches, one of three from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. They were protesting for voting rights, and won a great victory when the Voting Rights Act was passed on August 6<sup>th</sup> of that year. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee led these marches.

In August, 1963, King led another significant protest, the so-called March on Washington. (Cont. pg. 3)

## Play Time

Belt School's board members recently approved the purchase of a new playground structure. The new playground will cost approximately \$85,000 without installation and shipping fees. Along with the new addition, Belt Schools will also be updating the outdoor basketball court with new standards, backboards, and rims. Although items such as basketballs, footballs, and jump ropes are traditionally replaced when they wear out, a new shipment of these items can be expected in the upcoming school year.

The new design will include 5 slides, with one of them being a spiral shaped slide. Other new features include: a gyro-pod spinner, stacked loop climber, curved rung ladder climber, clover climber, spiral step climber, chain net climber, track climber, cargo net climber, 48" and 72" disc climber, vertical rock climber, and rock steps. Other exciting new additions will be the lightning balance beam, suspension bridge, and an inclined arch bridge.

Many young (Cont. pg. 2)

## New Playground Equip. (Cont.)



students are thrilled for the new design as the current structure has been in place for better than two decades and is starting to display

new system in the same general area.

Equipment such as the merry-go-round and the swings will

signs of wear that are safety concerns. The old yellow equipment will be taken out and the current plan is to place the

still be available for the students to play on.

Superintendent, Mr. Gaylord, remarked "We are very excited about the addition of the new playground equipment that will be installed this upcoming spring. It will be the centerpiece of the playground that many kids will enjoy playing on for many years to come."

This new addition will be enjoyed for many years to come and children will make many happy memories on the new play structure. **By: Madisen Feldman**

## Country Fashion

When pulling together a country outfit people need to add a few modern touches to it. Some things that make country fashion more up to date are the cute bell bottom jeans, fancy boots, flannel, crop top, tight shirts, and braids or buns for hair.

Bell bottom jeans come in many different styles like high rise, or shortcut. They also come in different lengths, like long, short, or regular. The colors vary too. The most country styled color to stay in style is a darker or medium blue with some holes but not a lot, or no holes at all.

Fancy boots can go with any jeans, but they look best with

bootcut, or bell bottom jeans. Fancy boots have fun and cute designs on them that really catch anybody's eye. The only problem is that they can be a little pricey.

Flannels are a huge factor in the country industry. They will tie together any outfit even if it is not a country outfit. Crop tops also go really well with high rise bell bottom jeans, and flannels. Crop tops perfect the modern country look without straying too far away from it. Tight shirts or tank tops are really country, and is what everybody wears when they are working.

The hair is the thing that pulls the whole outfit together. If wearing a baseball cap is the choice

with a dazzling country outfit, either wear a half up half down bun, or just a normal bun. Natural hair is also a great way to set an outfit apart, but the show stopper is braids. Any kind of braid will work in any country situation.

"So I would say that country or western fashion is definitely in style right now...especially in Belt, MT. The typical articles of country fashion are flare or bootcut jeans, turquoise jewelry, boots. I haven't worn it much the last few months but it's definitely cute!" Exclaimed Haley Hoerner. Country fashion is definitely a yes for most girls.

**By: Addee Hoffmann**

## State DECA

This year's state DECA will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup> Through February 1<sup>st</sup>, and Belt School is proud to send off 20 students to the event held at Fairmont Hot Springs near Anaconda. These students will participate in many events that will improve their business skills.

There will be many activities for the kids to engage in while learning real world skills. This will help them connect with other students, and to learn more about their

fellow classmates.

For first year participants, they are encouraged to compete in a principal role play. This is where they only compete against other first year students, helping with experience for future events.

The top competitors have a chance to move on. If team or individual competitors qualify for nationals, then they will receive the opportunity to compete in Atlanta, GA April 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Jessica Tillman is in her fifth year as DECA advisor after helping out Mr. Hoyer for the five previous years. She is excited for the opportunity the kids will have this coming week.

Good luck to all of the students who are competing at Fairmont this year. The goals of the events are to develop business acumen, qualify for national DECA, and to have a great time.

**By: Eliza Tingey**

## MLK Remembered (Cont.)

There were around 250,000 people who attended the protest. This is also where MLK delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech.

King's most famous speech was “I have a dream” which he said outside of the Lincoln memorial on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1963. His 16 minute long speech is known as one of the

most important addresses of the civil rights movement.

Mrs. Visocan created a Husky Time lesson on racial diversity that most of the students watched. In addition high school teachers like Mr. Ross and Mr. Koontz came up with lessons about his “Mountaintop” speech.

The recurring theme in these lessons stressed the notion of racial diversity existing not just in the past, but also in terms of modern day America.

Martin Luther King Day is celebrated each year to honor the man and his continuing legacy.

**By: Brooke Holum**

## COVID-19 Stats

In the last six weeks, COVID cases in America have risen, including Montana.

California holds the highest number of COVID-19, Omicron, and Delta cases in with 7,691,930 infections. Texas is also a hot spot in the U.S.A at 5,962,517 reports. With 5,324,438 infected citizens, Florida jumps in the top three.

As of Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>,

Vermont had the lowest number of incidents, 99,109. Wyoming only had 135,369 infections followed by 127,200 cases in the District of Columbia.

The COVID-19 numbers have risen to 72,196,060 reported cases still increasing. Deaths have jumped to 889,990 with a daily average of 1,192 fatalities.

On the COVID impact sur-

vey website, one of the questions asked was if they wear a mask to slow the spread of coronavirus. New York has the highest percentage of 93%-98%, and Montana has a low percentage with 57%-78% that wear a mask.

For more information about variants, vaccines, and COVID-19 news go to the CDC website:

[www.cdc.org](http://www.cdc.org). **By: Eliza Tingey**

## Girls Basketball

Over the last two weeks, the Lady Huskies have played four games. One of their biggest games from this time crunch is when they battled the Lady Outlaws. These ladies look forward to seven more games, before hitting the district tournament. Their record now stands at 5-2 for conference, but 9-2 for their total record.

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, the Lady Husky basketball team ventured to Geyser to play the Bearcats. The team employed a stifling defense, while returning their quick offense back to Graham's previous years. The ladies ran the court and took more fast-paced shots.

After the break, the Lady Huskies pushed farther and the running clock began in the third quarter. They continued to play solid defense, in their usual zone. Lindsey Paulson tallied the most points, with a total of 16. Kylee Permann followed up with 10.

The Lady Eagles of Fairfield voyaged to the famed gymna-

sium in Belt last Saturday. Belt came out in a man to man defense, while enjoying their usual high-post offenses. They led the first half of the game, pushing forward with two more points than Fairfield.

In the third quarter of the game, the Ladies Huskies had very strong defense, holding the Eagles to two points for the quarter. Paulson once again held the title as the lead scorer, posting 22 total tallies. Gliko followed up with 17.

The Maroon and Gold Girls traveled to the Lady Outlaws' homecourt on Tuesday, playing a postponed game from the week before. It was rough showing for the visiting team, as the Lady Huskies struggled on offense.

It was a rare game indeed for the girls to get blown out, but they trailed 28-6 at intermission. Belt battled in the second half, but still lost by 30. Gliko was the lead scorer for this

game, with 12 total buckets. Paulson followed up with 9.

After last week's tough loss, the girls look to fire up another win streak this weekend. Tonight, the Lady Huskies will face off with the Mustangs. Start time is 6:00 p.m. tonight, and the game will be broadcast on KMON Radio. Tomorrow Belt heads to the Gulch for a match-up with Centerville. Tip-off is set for 5:00 tip.

There will be a very special half-time show, a performance by the little Husky cheer camp participants. They have taken the time all week to make their dance the best possible. **By: Kyndal Schraner**

Belt	19	23	7	14	<b>53</b>
DGS (Geyser)	6	-	3	9	<b>18</b>
Fairfield	17	7	2	13	<b>39</b>
Belt	15	11	23	10	<b>59</b>
Belt	2	4	12	11	<b>29</b>
Roy-Winifred (Win)	18	10	20	11	<b>59</b>

## Featured Staff-Hedstrom

Many of the dedicated staff members have benefited from the Valley, and Mrs. Hedstrom has returned to share and educate the coming generations. She teaches early kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade Title 1 reading and math support. She has been kind enough to share her experiences.



Mrs. Hedstrom is certified to teach elementary education. She teaches kids from early kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

She received her Bachelors in education from MSU, with an endorsement in mathematics.

The factors that brought this great teacher to Belt were the close proximity to her family, and that it is a great place for her kids to grow up and learn. "What brought me to Belt School was Belt's reputation for academic excellence and to give back to the community that helped educate me." stated Mrs. Hedstrom.

"Inspiring students to reach their full potential while giving them a safe and caring environment" is what she thinks the best parts of teaching are. Her long term career goals are to encourage young minds to be independent and teach

them how to be critical thinkers. These are important assets that every kid should have, and she enjoys teaching them how to attain them. One of her favorite things to see in her classroom is when a student gets excited about learning, and has a confident look on the problem. She also loves to see them struggle a little with new concepts on their way to developing understanding.

Mrs. Hedstrom is an amazing teacher, who has a real gift for teaching, and she will be with Belt for a long time coming. It's the tireless efforts of Mrs. Hedstrom and her colleagues that make Belt a great place to learn.

**By: Addee Hoffmann**

## Boys Basketball

Belt had three basketball games in mid-January, including a journey to Geyser to play one of their rivals, DGS and they also played Roy-Winifred and Fairfield last Friday and Saturday.

The Belt boys roared out of the gates in the DGS game with a great start, scoring 21 points and leaving the Bearcats with just 8. The following quarter was another amazing period of time with Belt dropping 17 and keeping DGS to 5. As the teams took a breather, Belt was firmly in control of the contest, leading 38-13.

After the break, DGS improved offensively, but the huskies still held a 19-16 edge during the period. The final quarter of the game was high scoring for the Huskies who notched 23 while DGS acquired 12. The ending score of the match was Belt 80, DGS 41.

Last Friday, the Huskies traveled to Winifred to play the Outlaws. The first quarter was an offensive period with Belt making 21 and Roy-Winifred tallying 16. The next period the defense for

each team stepped up with the Huskies scoring 9 and the Outlaws hitting 10. At halftime, the Huskies cluing to a 4 point lead, 30-26.

The Huskies came out of the locker room ready to play and enjoyed a great third quarter with Belt scoring 15 and Roy-Winifred making 6. The fourth quarter became a little close with the Outlaws gaining some ground on the Huskies. However, the Huskies kept their lead and won the game with a concluding score of 57-48.

Then last Saturday night, Belt hosted a game against Fairfield and it was a very evenly matched event. The first quarter was very defensive for both teams with Belt tallying 4 and Fairfield making 8. The next quarter was similar to the first with the score being Belt 13, and Fairfield 19 as both teams made their way to the locker room.

The offenses gained a little traction after the break, and the visitors outscored the homestanding Maroon and Gold team 14-

12. The final quarter got the fans on their feet and the gym was very suspenseful. It was a tight game all the way, but cold shooting doomed the Belt boys. The Huskies fought a hard battle, however the final score ended up being Belt 42, Fairfield 49. It was Belt's second loss to the Eagles this year, the team's only blemishes.

Belt sits atop the 8-C District and is in great shape to earn the #1 seed in the upcoming tournament. Their record of the Huskies is 7-0 for conference and 9-2 overall. The Huskies play GFCC in Belt tonight and then travel to Center-ville to play their rivals tomorrow (6:30 p.m. start time). Tonight's game will be broadcast on KMON.

**By: Walker Maki**

Belt	21	17	19	23	<b>80</b>
DGS (Geyser)	8	5	16	12	<b>41</b>
Belt	21	9	15	12	<b>57</b>
Roy-Winifred (Win)	16	10	6	16	<b>48</b>
Fairfield	8	11	14	16	<b>49</b>
Belt	4	9	12	17	<b>42</b>

## Wreath Sales

Each year the music students sell wreaths for Christmas to raise money for the department. This year, the students involved in music went above and beyond and crushed the previous record of 830. The wreaths are supplied by Jorgensen Wreaths in Fortine.

The musicians sold 1,082 wreaths and raised \$3,500 for the music program. The money raised goes to various activities such as funding trips, clinics, concert production assistance, new wardrobe, music, instruments, and much more.

Mr. Wilson, the music teacher, quotes "Thank you so much, to the Belt Community for supporting the music program through this amazing fundraiser!"

**By: Madisen Feldman**

## Candidate Forum

On Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meet and greet at the Belt Senior Citizen Center on Castner Street. Two candidates registered for the fall election will answer questions noon to 4:00 p.m.

Rae Grulkowski will be running for County Commissioner. There are 3 Cascade County Commissioners at one time, passing laws and advocating for Cascade County. Russ Miner is running to be one of the hundred House of Representative members for Montana's legislature.

Rae Grulkowski and Russ Miner will be answering questions and talking about local issues that have to do with the community. Refreshments will also be included, and all are welcome to attend.

**By: Brooke Holum**

## Little Guy Wrestling

The Belt Valley school began its wrestling program in 2008 to enhance the interscholastic opportunities for high school student-athletes. Over the last two years the high school wrestling program gone dormant, but efforts are underway to revive the sport in Belt.

Coach Tim Lords is reconstructing the little guy wrestling program with the hope of creating a high school team again in the near future.

The little kids are excited for this opportunity to reappear, and were glad to start these fun practices. They were long overdue. The practices started on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. If interested in exploring Little Guy Wrestling in Belt, the school for more information.

**By: Addee Hoffmann**

## MHSA Rule Changes

The Montana High School Association annual meeting took place on January 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Copper King Inn Hotel and Convention Center in Butte, Montana, with representation from each of the 182 member schools. Classes AA through C schools have an administrator from the school that represents their department. All of the new rules and regulations will go into effect in 2022-2023.

There are a series of steps that take place to make a change in the MHSA. Mr. Michelotti explained, "All proposals are gathered by the MHSA and sent to the member schools before the meeting to review. Then at the Annual Meeting, each school has 1 voting delegate. The proposed change is introduced at the meeting and then is voted on. Voting is done by a show of "colored paddles" (1 color per classification). We also have a parliamentarian that oversees the meeting to ensure we follow proper guidelines and meeting procedures.

Votes are counted and determined if the proposal passes."

One of the main changes to the MHSA is the 8th grade participation rule. Classes AA, A, B, and C will all be allowed bring up 8<sup>th</sup> graders to play any sport except football. However, the school district can decide on whether or not they let the 8<sup>th</sup> graders play. The last few years, Class C schools had a rule that if a school didn't have enough students to make a volleyball or basketball team, they could file a hardship application. Belt has used this twice for the boys and once for the girls to promote younger athletes

There will be a 35 second shot clock added to girls' and boys' basketball. This will cause games to be played at a little faster pace and mirror the growing number of states implementing the rule.

Also, Baseball will be added to MHSA for all class schools if their school district allows it. It will be played as a spring sport and it

will depend on how many schools participate in the sport to determine how divisions and classifications will shake out.

Next fall will bring new alignments to the Class C 8-man football divisions. There will be five divisions; Belt will battle in the Northern C which will include: Belt, Chester-Joplin-Inverness, Chinook, Fort Benton, Harlem/Turner, Hays-Lodgepole, Rocky Boy, and Shelby.

A rule change from last year affecting Belt athletes goes into effect this spring. Instead of using state meet qualifying scores for golf, this season a divisional tournament format will be applied. Belt is a member of the Western Division, and the divisional meet will be held at the Marias Valley Golf Course just outside Shelby. The new format will allow the top five teams (4 players per team) and the top 25 individuals to move on to the state level of competition.

**By: Walker Maki**

## Devious Licks

Social media is pervasive these days, and one of the most famous platforms is Tik Tok. One recent trend showing up on that platform is the “Devious Lick”. The Tik Tok trend “Devious Lick” encourages users to commit mischievous and damaging acts at schools. This trend has hit schools nationwide.

Many schools are blaming Tik Tok for placing ideas in kids' heads and acting as if it will not be noticed. These thoughtless actions come with dire consequences that many kids from different schools have faced. The families of the kids are also left financially responsible, paying thousands of dollars in damages.

Tik Tok said the challenge was violating their policies and would remove it, but they also said that it found no such content on its platform. While this is a pressing problem in other states it hits a little close to home with some incidents. The Great Falls School district recently had a rash of vandalism that resulted in the administration closing off several bathrooms so that they could more closely monitor the other ones.

School districts in the area were also greeted with a troubling series of posts in December. Also part of a national Tik Tok trend was a string of threats of violence directed at schools. Mr. Paulson addressed

the problem on the Belt School website, even though the threat was not deemed credible by authorities. The School district has been in touch with the Cascade County Sheriff's Office regarding the post. Students sometimes don't realize that it has such a big impact on what goes on inside the school

This situation is a good reminder as to the effects of sharing posts that are threatening the school safety, even if they are not credible threats. The school has also asked families to monitor their children's social media activity, and please speak to them about what is right and wrong to post or like on any social media platform. As a reminder: Everything online is both public and permanent!

Tik Tok is just one of the social media platforms that creates issues for the younger generation and for schools across the country. While the digital age has a variety of benefits, it can also negatively impact kids. Teens, and adults need to learn how to approach those problems without getting themselves in a big hole. Tik Tok is like a lot of what's out there these days in cyber-space...it has a lot of “cool stuff”, but everyone, especially kids, need to recognize the drawbacks.

**By: Addee Hoffmann**

## New Pep Band Beats

The Belt Valley Pep Band has been around for many years, providing the before, during, and after game music. They show off their musical acumen while the basketball, football, and volleyball teams warm up. Performing in Pep Band is a great opportunity for students to learn how to develop their talents, to focus on the task at hand, and to pay attention to their music. It also provides a fun experience and the kids are part of the show. Like many small Montana schools, Belt has to rely on middle school band members to complete the ensemble.

Many of the middle schoolers participate in band and are welcome to play in the pep band. Aizalyn Flaten is one of the flautists that showcase their skill in

the pep band. She enjoys having the time to see and play with her friends during the basketball games. Flaten claims that she likes to play during the football season, because it is outside. She looks forward to the days when she will play in the high school band.

Tobias Wilson performs the trumpet in the middle school band as well as the pep band. He loves to come to the basketball games and cheer on the team. He declares that it is fun to hang out with his friends as well as set up the instruments. Wilson's favorite pep band songs to play are “Don't Stop Believin'”, “Shut Up and Dance”, and “7 Nation Army”. Basketball is Tobias's favorite season to play since it is easier to set up instruments, stands, and percussion.

The pep band's director, Peter Wilson, decided to add five new songs to the mix. Those are Avengers, Don't Stop Believin', Old Town Road, YMCA, and La Bamba. These new songs have sparked an interest for many of the students.

Currently, both the middle school and high school bands have been working diligently to perfect their exciting new songs. The kids are thrilled to have new songs for them to work on. Look out for these songs in the next home games.

**By: Eliza Tingey**



## NHS Leukemia Foundation Fund Raiser

Every year, the National Honor Society (NHS) does multiple fundraisers for different organizations, including the Leukemia Foundation. This year, the program changed, instead of money going straight to the foundation, funds are going to local families in need of financial assistance that have children with illnesses.

National Honor Society is a program that helps students obtain scholarships, improves their leadership skills, and service. Just last year, 2 million dollars was given out in scholarships and rewards. 600 seniors around the U.S. re-

ceived these awards. NHS is offered to students that carry a GPA of 3.5 and are in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. They do things like fundraising to help support the community, along with other service projects.

This year there are around twenty members who are part of this organization. New members were recently added, as the first semester just finished. Students can stay a part of NHS throughout their high school years as long as they maintain their grades and complete service projects.

The first fundraiser of the new year will be held from Febru-

ary 7<sup>th</sup> through February 11<sup>th</sup>. The annual Pie-in-the-Face contest allows kids to smash a pie in a teacher/administrators face for a donation during the district basketball pep rally. There will also be a Pass-the-Bucket on February 11<sup>th</sup> effort to raise money during the home game against Highwood.

Currently, members of Honor Society are looking for local families that could use a helping hand. These are just a few of the service projects tackled by the NHS members. Mrs. Graham is the faculty sponsor of the organization.

**By: Brooke Holum**

## Belt Performing Arts-Crazy Chicken

To kick off the new year the musical group *Pollo Loco* stole the show with their western music. Their performance was held in the Belt Performing Art Center on Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. It was a stunning success, with nearly a full house roaring their approval. They are known for their humor, entertaining music, and their enlightening spirits. The band consists of Chuck Fulcher, Lonnie Johnson, and Jeff Christiansen.

*Pollo Loco*, translated Crazy

Chicken, is very fun to watch as they play their western style music. The three gentlemen played popular cowboy covers as well as their own originals. It was one of the most engaging performances yet.

This Great Falls group traveled to a state competition in 1991, and captured first place in the state level. After the state competition, they appeared at the largest western music contest, the True Value Hardware/GMC Truck Country Showdown! The Pollo Loco group

had the opportunity to be Montana's representative throughout the West Coast Regional Competition, where they achieved second place.

The Belt Performing Arts Center is looking forward to the next shows that they plan to host, including the trio *DIVAS-3* on Saturday February 12<sup>th</sup>, and *How Sweet it is!*, a James Taylor revival, on Saturday March 19, at 7:00 p.m. Call for tickets or more information: (406) 277-3844.

**By: Eliza Tingey**

The roads are icy once again, to some people's delight, while others not so much. Poor road conditions can lead to more than just a bumpy ride. This includes potholes, uneven road surfaces, broken concrete, exposed rebar, sinkholes, road cracks and driving with alcohol in their system. Approximately 1.35 million people die in road crashes each year. On average 3,700 people lose their lives every day on the road.

Some hazards are unavoidable, but there's element of the open road that everyone can control...

# Don't Drink and Drive!



## Senior Spotlight-Colton Lombardo

Colton Lombardo is being featured on this issue's *Senior Spotlight* and shared information about how he has come to enjoy Belt through the years. Mr. Lombardo has been enrolled in Belt since his junior year.



He would describe his overall experience in the Belt school as very friendly as well as enlightening. When he was changing schools, he heard that it would be tough to adapt to a new high school. However, the friendly students and staff in Belt made it easy and enjoyable which makes it feel like home. The best memory that he has acquired throughout the years would be going to the basket-

ball games and sitting with the student section.

The extracurricular activities that he participates in are that he broadcasts the Belt basketball games, participates in DECA, and sells drinks for the yearbook class. The largest achievement that Mr.

Lombardo has accomplished would be getting a 4 on the AP U.S. History test and his stellar ACT scores.

The advice he would give to younger kids is, "Be involved in school activities and try your best in school so you don't limit your future opportunities." His plan after high school is to attend the University of Montana where he will major in English with the goal of

teaching English or teaching a secondary language.

He will miss the teachers and students the most when he leaves Belt because they are a joy to be around. Mr. Lombardo would like to add, "I'm very grateful for the opportunity that Belt has given me to meet new people and experience such a fun setting as well as helping me grow academically."

Not only has Lombardo benefitted from his stint in Belt, but he has been a great addition to the Class of 2022.

The *Valley Voice* would like to wish the best for Colton Lombardo as he progresses in his life and schooling career. The next senior that will be in the *Senior Spotlight* is Sarah Dollenger.

**By: Walker Maki**

## JV Hoops

The JV teams seasons are now in full-swing, with two to three games a week until season's end. From the last two weeks, the JV teams had three games against: Power Varsity, Roy-Winifred, and Fairfield, with the Boys C-squad hosting a game against Fairfield as well.

On Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, the boys JV travelled northwest to Power to take on the Power Pirates Varsity team. Both teams came out very similar. Both had a good mix of offense and defense. Power got on the board first, but traded buckets all throughout the first half. The teams went into the halftime locker room tied at 36 each. The third quarter was pretty much the same as the first half. Both teams kept alternating scores and the Huskies had a two point lead going into the fourth quarter. The Huskies picked up the intensity and rallied together for an 11-0 run in the final period. The Pirates could never get the momentum back and the Huskies

picked up the win on the road by a final score of 67-56.

The next day, all teams had a shot to protect the home court against the Fairfield Eagles. The girls took the floor first and could not get much going offensively. Both teams had strong defense, leading to both teams barely being able to muster double-digit points in the first half. The teams went into halftime with a score of 14-12 in favor of the Eagles. The second half was more of the same and despite a last second attempt by Fairfield, the Lady Huskies were able to hold off the Eagles, winning by a score of 27-24.

The boys followed after and played in a close game as well. Both teams were mediocre on both sides in the first half, but Fairfield had the advantage going into halftime up 20-17. The Huskies held the lead going into the fourth, and maintained it throughout the final period. The Eagles closed the gap to one point many times, but

the Huskies were able to hold them off for a 47-45 victory.

On Tuesday, the Fairfield Eagles came back into town to play a C-squad game against the Huskies. The two teams had good offenses with subpar defense in the first half of play. Despite having bad defense, the Huskies had the lead going into halftime 25-24. Much like the rest of the season, the Huskies came out guns blazing in the second half and ran away with the game. The Huskies rallied their way to a 67-46 win. The Huskies freshman forward Rylan Davison managed to score a career-high in points with 25, and freshman guard Declan Bergstrom set his career-high in assists with 14.

The Huskies have back-to-back games today and tomorrow (January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>). Today, the GFCC Mustangs travel into the valley to play the Huskies. Tomorrow, the Dawgs travel to play their rival, the Centerville Miners.

**By: Rylan Davison**

## Montana Gridiron Heroes

The college football season wrapped up in Montana a couple weeks ago on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. On that day, the MSU Bobcats played the North Dakota State Bison in the FCS National Championship game in Frisco, Texas.

Disaster struck immediately for the Bobcats as their starting quarterback and standout freshman Tommy Mellott suffered an injury on their first drive. With him of action, the Cats turned to junior quarterback Tucker Rovig for the remainder of the game.

Their offense could not get

anything going, and their defense wasn't much help either. The Cats struggled and the Bison shined their way to a 28-0 halftime lead for NDSU. Things got better for the Cats in the second half, as they were able to manage a field goal and a touchdown. Unfortunately for them, it was too little too late as they finished the game with a loss by a score of 38-10.

It was a good season for both the Griz and the Cats. Both teams made it to the final eight, U of M falling to James Madison University who would eventually lose

against the national champion NDSU Bison.

The Cats made it all the way to the chipper for the first time since 1984, and the Griz were one of a handful of teams still playing in December. Both teams had injuries that plagued them in their final games and ultimately were the reason their seasons came to an end. Now the teams bring in new guys and say goodbye to the others as they begin their offseason recruiting campaigns in hopes of winning it all next year

**By: Rylan Davison**

## 11:59?

Nuclear bombs were introduced less than 100 years, but everyone knows the power they possess. These explosives were created and invented by Robert Oppenheimer aka "the father of the atomic bomb".

The fateful day came when on August 6, 1945, the United States of America dropped the first ever atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. The nuke was named "Little Boy". It released about 13 kilotons of force, creating a level surface about five square miles in the city. This explosive killed around 80,000 people right away, but tens of thousands would perish from radiation exposure or sickness. Three days later on August 9, 1945, another nuke was launched, but this time at Nagasaki, Japan. This nuke was called, "Fat Man", on impact slaughtered at least 40,000 individuals. Several days later, the Japan emperor, Hirohito, surrendered.

Two years after the first atomic bombs were invented, The Doomsday Clock was created. The "Doomsday Clock" is a figurative idea that was brought to life by the University of Chicago Atomic Scientists in 1947. The Clock represents how close the world is to

atomic destruction, based on geopolitical issues around the globe. As the clock moves closer and closer to midnight, a nuclear war is more likely.

The farthest the clock has ever been from Midnight, in other words a time when nuclear holocaust was least likely, was in 1991, right after the Soviet Union signed the "Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty". At that point, the minutes hovered 17 minutes away from the witching hour. Lately, clock watchers have been alarmed by the advance of the minute hand.

Based on world events, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists has updated the Doomsday clock to 100 seconds till midnight. With this time being the closest it's ever been to reaching midnight; many worry about the future of the world. CEO and president of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists Rachel Bronson states, "The lethal and fear-inspiring COVID-19 pandemic serves as a historic 'wake-up call,' a vivid illustration that national governments and international organizations are unprepared to manage the truly civilization-ending threats..."

Technology is constantly

changing, creating more stress to government leaders all over the world. Russia and China have both invented Hypersonic bombs. These delivery systems have the potential to negate modern defenses and maybe be a destabilizing factor in the balance of power.

Several high school kids have been discussing events around the world lately, like the possible invasion of Ukraine by the Russians. While insulated from such events for the most part here in Central Montana, more and more kids are seeing the connection between things taking place around the globe and their lives.

Central Montana is the center for many nuclear armed missile stationed in silos throughout Cascade and Judith Basin counties. An intercontinental ballistic missiles in up on the B Hill, close to Belt. The world has lived in the shadow of nuclear war for a couple generations now, and hopefully the men and women in charge of the community of nations will be able to maintain global safety.

To learn more about the Doomsday Clock, go to: <https://thebulletin.org/>.

**By: Eliza Tingey**

## Local Artist Ron Carlson

Bronze is the most popular material for cast metal sculptures, but what many don't know about this is that it can be a hobby or career. Belt resident Ron Carlson is no stranger to this process, as he has embarked on this journey.

He earned a living as an insurance adjuster, which caused him to live in Wyoming for 47 years after graduating from Belt High in 1965.

While living in Wyoming, he found a path for his expression through art. Using clay, he went into his garage and attempted to make his first sculpture. He explained that in the moment, he just forgot everything that was going on in his life and just worked on the clay. He sculpted long into the night and returned to the clay consecutively after that night.

Carlson admits he wasn't much good at school, and doodled a times when he should have been taking notes, but he also knew that it was through art that he found his calling.

When he attempted his first horse, it collapsed onto itself, although it didn't stop him from finishing it anyways. After becoming more educated on the subject, he created his second model; this happened to be a white-tailed deer created from poly foam clay and baked in the oven, until he painted it. Both of these unique sculptures are dis-

played in his current studio.

His third attempt was of a common big game animal, an Elk, every detail was put in with his pocket knife, toothpicks, or a toothbrush. His wife secretly entered it into the amateur division of an art show in Wyoming. He was amazed to discover the results, learning that he received first place in this competition.

He enjoys working with clay because he can set it down but come back to it and it will still be the same as when he left it.

In 1980, Carlson participated in a competition that is more commonly known as the Nebraska One Box Pheasant Past Shooters. He was a part of the VIP team. He sold all 100 of his bronzes that he put in, and donated all of his proceeds to the organization.

His current studio is a one room schoolhouse from 1911. Known as the Goodman School, the building resided for years about 12 miles from Belt on the creek. Carlson bought the school and had it moved to its current location at his home in Coke Oven Flat, just south of Belt. The studio is packed full of works by Carlson and other artists, and truly needs to be seen to be experienced.

He doesn't have a set time of day that he is "open," but he spends a bunch of time in there and is open to people dropping by at just about any time. Carlson expressed how "gratifying it is to meet people who want to buy my work." He claims



that this is one of the most enjoyable parts of the aftermath of the products.

Many Belt residents got their first taste of his high quality art work during the Christmas Stroll where he had a exhibit in the Corder Real Estate Office. The animals portrayed are incredibly detailed and some weigh upwards of 100 pounds, despite the fact that they are hollow.

Throughout his career in making bronze casts, he went through a fail and rebuild process. While he may have started uneducated, he considers himself a professional because he met with many other great sculptors. "I felt humbled," Carlson explained when asked about what he felt when he was meeting with so many other talented people. He is a truly exciting figure to learn about for this reason.

Anyone interested in a viewing of Mr. Carlson's studio is in for a real treat. The old school house is bursting with art and history. To set up an appointment for a showing, call Ron at (406) 590-6283.

**By: Kyndal Schraner**



## Ag Field Trip

Technological advances are a dominant theme in modern days, even having a great impact on one of the more traditional businesses in the area. As part of Mrs. Simons' Ag Education program for Belt students, Many of the middles school students saw first hand the changes taking place in the industry.

These kids had the privilege of seeing the McCafferty Ranch Sprout system for their field trip. The McCafferty ranch is taking a unique approach to raising and marketing cattle and it is proving a great decision. The students all had very positive things to say about the adventure, and hope to go again.

Joel McCafferty runs the third generation operation, with his daughter Megan and son-in-law Logan Gondeiro at his side. The really interesting part of the tour showed the finishing process in preparing cattle for the dinner table. It is used instead of grain finishing cattle.

The sprout process is a healthy way of feeding the cows

and it reaps many benefits. Grass finished beef is what they changed from. They changed because it didn't have enough fat, it wasn't marbling like they wanted it to, and it wasn't a consistent product because of the changing winter conditions.

The sprouts are great for better tasting beef, and healthier than grass finished beef. The sprouts fatten the cattle in a healthy way kind of like athletes get fat, with muscle. People can tell the difference between the sprout feed, and grass feed. The sprout fed cattle look a lot more athletic and are healthier.

Another benefit of the feeding technology is that it is good for healing the gut. When animals get sick they can take the feed, and it will help. It consists of a lot of nutrients, protein, and is a super food which is why it is so good for the digestive system.

Day one and two of the grass fodder process is the seeds. In the third day they can start to see

some root growth. On the fourth day the sprouting routine starts. Day five and six are the days that the sprouts grow into a good grass and good length. Day seven they harvest them and feed it to the cattle.

"I showed the kids what the seeds looked like each day. We feed 10,000 lbs. of fodder everyday to 100 head of cattle. The cattle are on this feed for about 4-6 months until they are butchered. The health benefits of the fodder is that it is higher in protein and nutrients than hay or grain. So the cattle are extremely healthy, and therefore, the bees are as well. The cattle gain about 3 lbs. per day on fodder which is very similar to grain-finished beef." explained Megan Gondeiro.

For marketing, the McCafferty's partnered with Drew Hicks from Central Avenue Meats, and the Road House Diner. These businesses have helped them get their finished product to consumers.

**By: Addee Hoffmann**

## Bowling Scores

Bowling leagues continues at Backroad's Bowling & Pizza as another two weeks of bowling concluded recently. Some highlights of the past weeks were dominant performances by Bruce Hoyer, Dave Anderson, and Susanne Halley. Bruce Hoyer also bowled a pretty impressive 247 scratch game during week 17. Below are the tallies from the previous two weeks of bowling.

### Week 17

### Week 18

Men's Scratch Game	Women's Scratch Game	Men's Scratch Game	Women's Scratch Game
Bruce Hoyer-247	Patti Sweeney-174	Dave Anderson-225	Susanne Halley-182
Jeff Pimperton-204	Polly Pimperton-170	Mike Christensen-225	Lisa Urick-174
Men's Handicap Game	Women's Handicap Game	Men's Handicap Game	Women's Handicap Game
Bruce Hoyer-271	Vicky Hicks-229	Dave Anderson-254	Susanne Halley-250
Jeff Pimperton-244	Teri Cummings-227	David Eggert-244	Dena Goodman-230
Men's Scratch Series	Women's Scratch Series	Men's Scratch Series	Women's Scratch Series
Bruce Hoyer-572	Polly Pimperton-449	Dave Anderson-595	Lisa Urick-468
Neill Sweeney-528	Patti Sweeney-448	Mike Christensen-579	Trish Kenney-460
Men's Handicap Series	Women's Handicap Series	Men's Handicap Series	Women's Handicap Series
Neill Sweeney-654	Dena Goodman-619	Dave Anderson-682	Susanne Halley-630
Bruce Hoyer-644	Patti Sweeney-592	David Eggert-677	Trish Kenney-628

Birthdays		
Date	Husky	Grade
1/31	Hunter Wood	Pre-K
2/4	Wyatt Hiatt	K
2/8	Scott Newman	1
2/9	Deacon Urick	2
2/3	Harper Price	2
2/11	Madison McLaughlin	5
2/11	Cacellia Durbin	6
2/6	Sam Kirby	8
2/8	Luke Highfill	9
2/8	David Bond	9
2/3	Danika Lords	10
2/6	Brady Drummond	12
2/2	David Wall	12

### Pancake Dinner

As the basketball regular season winds down, there are only a few more chances for local fans to take in a home ball game. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, local Husky fans have even more reason to attend, because in addition to a great rivalry game, the Belt High School Close-Up organization has dinner covered as well. On Tuesday, the local kids will host the girls and boys squads from Geraldine-Highwood.

The annual Close-Up dinner that is usually a taco dinner will now be changed to a pancake dinner. The pancake dinner will be held on February 1<sup>st</sup> during the basketball games against Geraldine-Highwood. The dinner will be open from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The silent auction items will be on display because that will be going on too.

It is \$7.00 for a plate, or \$25 for a family of more than four. On the plate will be pancakes, eggs, sausage, yogurt, and a choice of coffee or juice. All proceeds from the dinner will go to funding efforts for Close-Up, helping to defray the costs of competition at both the state and national level.

**By: Addee Hoffmann**

Calendar Of Events		
Date	Time	Event
1/28	3:00 p.m.	NHS Pass the Bucket HS BB vs. GFCC
1/29	2:00 p.m.	NHS Pass the Bucket HS BB @ Centerville
1/30	5:00 p.m.	DECA State Conference VB Open Gym
1/31	6:00 p.m.	DECA State Conference Girls BB vs GF Homeschool
2/1	3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	NHS Pie in the Face DECA State Conference Boys JV BB @ Power Varsity BB vs. Highwood-Geraldine
2/2	6:00 p.m.	NHS Pie in the Face 3-5 Ski Day 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Boys BB
2/3	8:00 a.m.	NHS Pie in the Face 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Ice Fishing
2/4	3:00 p.m.	NHS Pie in the Face HS BB @ Grass Range
2/5	3:30 p.m.	NHS Pie in the Face HS BB vs. Tri-Cities
2/6	5:00 p.m.	NHS Pie in the Face VB Open Gym
2/7		NHS Pie in the Face
2/8	7:30 p.m.	NHS Pie in the Face Board of Trustees
2/9	6:00 p.m.	NHS Pie in the Face 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Boys BB
2/10	9:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	NHS Pie in the Face 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Mid-term HS BB @ Highwood
2/11	4:30 p.m.	NHS Pie in the Face HS BB vs. DGS