



The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



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Craig Cummings Hall of Fame

Craig Cummings was a dedicated teacher, coach and administrator in the Belt School. He enhanced the students' academics, clubs, and sports throughout his tenure in the valley. Alongside his sport successes, Cummings also guided the Students Council and founded the Principal's Cup and Close-Up programs. These clubs have helped develop students with their education and learning skills. Cummings was a nationally recognized teacher that sacrificed his time to help students succeed in life, and guided many a teacher down the road to success in the classroom as well.

Mr. Cummings died unexpectedly at the age of 54, and in 2012 the Craig Cummings Memorial Hall of Fame was created to honor his legacy and recognize outstanding sports careers at Belt High. Last Saturday, the induction class of 2022 was announced in between the varsity basketball games.

The honorees were: Kara Gerke, Katie Fertterer, and Josie Stinson. All three ladies graduated in 2014 from Belt Valley High School and ex-

celled in sports as well as academics.

Many of their accomplishments were the result of super successful teams, as they qualified for the state volleyball tournament three years in a row and won the state basketball crown as sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

In separate years, Gerke and Fertterer were named MVP of the state hoops tourney. All three inductees collected numerous All-Conference and All-State plaques in the team sports. As a group, they earned Academic All-State recognition over thirty times. Fertterer was even selected to the prestigious Montana-Wyoming All-Star squad. Gerke and Fertterer both played Frontier Conference basketball.

Individually, all three were bright stars in their own right. Fertterer competed and lettered in all four years of volleyball, basketball, and track. Gerke was awarded both Academic All-State and All State honors in all three sports. As a freshman she won the state championship in the 400 meter dash and anchored the state championship 400-meter relay (*Cont. pg.5*)

State DECA

Success at the state DECA Convention is common for Belt kids and this year's business development conference was no exception. The students from Belt High School that were enrolled in DECA departed from the school on Sunday, January 30th at 7:00 a.m. They included: seniors Colton Lombardo, Sarah Dollenger, Cole Hepner, Molly Tingey, Asa Jassen, Brady Drummond, Gabe Triplett, and Kaden Marquis. Juniors Hattie Bumgardner, Aubrey Johnson, Owen Halley, Riley Mapston, Sawyer Myrstol,

and Isaac Maki. And freshman, Walker Maki, Gracie Watson, Eliza Tingey, Addee Hoffmann, and Hans Bumgardner. These high schoolers traveled to Fairmont Hot Springs to compete in the Career Development Conference.

Mrs. Tillman is in charge of the crew, and students from Great Falls High School hitched a ride on the Husky Bus for the three day adventure.

When the students were competing, or in a convention there was a dress code. The business (*Cont. pg. 5*)

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COVID & Mental Health

While some are looking at recent trends as bringing the end of the pandemic, the Omicron variant continues to infect Americans at an alarming, although less lethal, rate.

COVID-19 has damaged the world in more ways than one, but one of the biggest and widely affected ways was in mental health. As the virus first rolled into the United States, many people have become stressed out and worried all the time. The outbreak forced those citizens into their house, away from society. This caused many people to feel isolated and lonely.

Many people claim that they have increased feelings of sadness, anger, and worry. Fear has been known for disrupting decision making and the thinking process both in negative ways. The University of Minnesota researches how fear is always a part of today's world, and how more people are getting affected by it. With COVID-19, the fear of receiving the virus or the fear of losing one's job can inject a person

with fear.

The social isolation came from the months that quarantines were in place. Social isolation is when someone is alone, but it doesn't always have to be a bad thing. Spending time alone can help with relaxation, and to center the brain. On the other hand, having too much isolation can affect the brain by experiencing low self-esteem or even anxiety. Tulane University studies how isolation causes major impacts on the brain and on their social life. Social isolation can come in many different ways such as the obvious ones like being in a remote location, loss of loved ones, mental health issues. But there are some that have recently been identified as social isolation like social media and unemployment.

According to the CDC, the percent of symptoms of anxiety disorder in January-June 2019 was around 8.2%, but has risen to 36.9% on December 9-21, 2020. This is a 28.7% difference in the

span of a year and a half. The same goes to symptoms of depressive disorders, with a 23.6 increase. This data suggests that many more people have been experiencing more anxiety and depression due to the COVID-19 isolation.

Many people are continually getting infected because of the COVID-19 outbreak. With more individuals getting infected, the number of cases have reached heights of 78,361,503 infections. Unfortunately, the deaths due to the coronavirus have also been reaching record highs with 928,838. Ever since the worldwide pandemic, the United States have recorded a total of 48,257,639 recovered from COVID-19.

Some states are accelerating the lifting of mandates as the nation continues to live with the pandemic. For more information about the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccines, variants, and the COVID-19 news, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

By: Eliza Tingey

Chrome Book Policy

With increased technological access in the school, it's not surprising that some of the machines have suffered abuse. Therefore, a new policy has been mandated in Belt Schools regarding the use of Chrome Books, chargers, and headphones. This new policy has been implemented to assist in tracking repairs in damaged technology as well as monitoring the items on loan to students.

The new policy states that while repairs occur, or if a student has forgotten or left their Chromebook at home, the student is required to leave their phone as collateral in order to loan technology. When the technology is returned at the end of the day, the student will receive their phone back. Loaner Chromebook are not to be taken

home. If one does not have a cellphone another item will be taken as collateral. This policy encourages students to become more responsible and bring the necessary technology to school, charged and ready for learning.

If technology has been damaged students are responsible for submitting a form indicating the issue; the equipment will then be released to Eldon Burgess, who will make repairs. Nothing changes in the fact that students will be fined for the extent of the damage.

Since COVID-19, Belt School was required to change practices in technology distribution and availability. Each student needed a Chromebook so meeting technological needs has required flexible efforts to develop a policy that

fosters a positive learning environment. Recently students had been checking out equipment and failed to return it until they had been tracked down by faculty members hence the implementation of the new policy.

This policy primarily applies to middle school and high school students. Each high school student was issued a Chromebook and a charger for the duration of the year. Middle school students have a chrome book cart to store and charge Chromebook overnight. Each Chromebook costs approximately \$250 and a charger is \$40.

All Chromebooks belong to Belt Schools and are intended for educational purposes, and it's important that they care for them.

By: Madisen Feldman

Lady Husky Hoops

Over the past fortnight, the Huskies have advanced to almost tournament time. The senior's will experience their last senior night, later today against the Bearcats. Their record now stands 11-2 for conference, and 15-2 overall. They will go into the district tournament as second place.

The Mustangs traveled to the hometown gym, with the Maroon and Gold Girls securing a twenty-point lead in the first quarter. Both teams employed in a 2-3 zone defense. Belt pressed Great Falls Central Catholic, ensuring that their opponents couldn't score double digits in the first part of the game.

After intermission, both teams came out in the same offense and defense. The girls took their lead and ran with it. The mercy rule kicked in during the third period, although the ladies scored a mere 16 points. While the lead in itself is impressive, possibly even more amazing is that there were four players who scored double digits. Kylee Permann tallied 19 points, while Raily Gliko followed closely behind at 17. Lindsey Paulson outdid Hattie Bumgarner by 1, totaling 12 points.

Centerville hosted the Huskies basketball game, although Belt claimed victory in their opponent's gym. The girls came out in a man to man defense, while the Miners didn't play much defense due to the ladies taking quick shots. In the second quarter, they employed a stifling defense that held their challenger to 2 points.

Just before the final half of the game begins, the Huskies zoned up in their familiar 2-3; the miners also zoned up in a similar defense. More than half of the Maroon and Gold Girls' points came from inside the paint, 34 of their 55 in total. Bumgarner paved the way

with 14 points, while Paulson was just 1 point behind.

Belt entertained the Geraldine Highwood Co-op on the 4th of the month, a game that was rescheduled from earlier. The ladies were out to seek revenge, due to an unexpected loss on the Volleyball court earlier this year. Both teams came out in a 2-3 zone, and the Huskies pivoted between a few of their zone offenses. In just the first quarter of the game, the Rivals were in a 10 point deficit.

Once again, they both came out in a similar way. Each team persisted, while Belt still shut them down once again in the third period. They outscored their foe, 22 to 5 during the penultimate quarter. Paulson, once again fell on the top of the board, scoring a total of 23 buckets.

The team traveled to Grass Range in the past week. The Rams came out in a man to man offense, while the Huskies came out in their signature zone. Their challengers gave their best first punch, but during the subsidiary quarter the ladies shut them down. They obtained a 23 point lead to begin the next portion of the game.

After a brief intermission, they both came out in the same offenses and defenses. Overall, the ladies play quite well. Many of the points came from inside the paint, or a post kickout for a made three-pointer. Bumgarner led the way in terms of points, tallying 15 for the Maroon and Gold Girls; Paulson followed just behind with 11.

Last Friday, the Tri-Cities team traveled to the hometown gym. The Huskies came ready to play, shutting their adversary down completely. They obtained a

20 point lead, with many transitional buckets, before Coach Graham pulled the press and slowed their offense down.

During the final periods of the game, a lot of the bench people scored. A couple of these young ladies obtained their first varsity points of the past few weeks, this could show just how bright the future is for the Lady Huskies. Bumgarner contributed 15 points to the board, while Paulson followed up with 12 tallies.

Last night the girls headed to Highwood The final score read 37-19 when the horn sounded. The ladies used their winning formula of solid defense, up-tempo offense, and precise passing on the way to victory.

Tonight, the Huskies battle the Bearcats of Denton, Geyser, and Stanford in the regular season finale at home. It's Senior Night for Gliko, Paulson, and Lords. Tip-off is set for 6:00 pm.

The ladies will venture to Great Falls High Gymnasium next week, to do battle in the 8-C Tournament. They will play at 3:00 in the afternoon on Thursday. The tournament lasts through Saturday.

By: Kyndal Schraner

GFCC	5	8	7	9	29
Belt	25	21	16	6	68

Belt	11	15	17	12	55
Centerville	7	2	4	15	28

Geraldine-Highwood	7	13	5	10	35
Belt	17	12	22	10	61

Belt	11	22	6	14	53
WGR (Grass Range)	9	1	5	6	21

Tri-City	-	1	4	2	7
Belt	20	6	13	13	52

Boys Hardwood Action

Approximately two weeks ago, Belt hosted a basketball game against Great Falls Central Catholic, traveled to Centerville the following day, played Geraldine-Highwood in Belt last Tuesday, performed in Winnett last Friday, and completed a match against Tri-Cities the next day.

The Huskies didn't come out hot against GFCC and at the end of the first quarter the score was 12-10 with the opposing team possessing the lead. However, the next period Belt had a great defensive and offensive quarter with keeping the Mustangs to 2 points while scoring 10. Concluding the first half, the score was Belt-20, GFCC-14.

As both teams returned to the court to resume play, the 2nd quarter was a very evenly played match with both teams tallying 9. The final quarter of the game GFCC made 13 and Belt achieved 11. The ending score of the match was Huskies-40 and the Mustangs-36.

The following day, the Huskies traveled to their rival's territory, the Centerville Miners. The 1st quarter was an exceptional offensive and defensive period with the Huskies keeping the Miners to 2 points while scoring 22. The 2nd session was great for the Huskies with them scoring 15 and leaving Centerville with 7. As the teams made their way to the locker room, the score was 37-9 Belt.

After the break, the Huskies started off the second half with making 17 points while keeping the Miners at 14. The ending quarter of the match concluded with Belt making 12 and Centerville having 19 with the final score being Belt-66, Centerville-42.

Belt hosted a game against Highwood/Geraldine, which was postponed due to Highwood/

Geraldine, and started off the first quarter defensively with the score being Belt-8, and Highwood/Geraldine-6. The second quarter the Huskies picked up the offensive and dropped 16 on the Mountaineers while keeping them to only 8 more points. At the end of the first half, the score was Belt-24, Highwood/Geraldine-14.

After the locker room talk, Belt sprung out of the gate strong with making 17 more points with Highwood/Geraldine only making 7. The fourth quarter of the match the Huskies scored 7 and the Mountaineers made 16 with the final score being Belt-48, Highwood-Geraldine-37.

The Huskies traveled to Grass Range to play one of their toughest games, Winnett-Grass Range. The first quarter started with Belt making 10, and Winnett-Grass range getting 11. The second quarter, the Huskies picked up the pace and started hitting more shots, achieving 12 while keeping the Rams to 7.

When both teams got back from the halftime break, they played a very evenly matched third quarter with both of them scoring 9 points. The fourth quarter was very intense for the fans and the players with Winnett-Grass Range making 17 and Belt getting 13 to tie the game. Once overtime started, Belt made a whopping 11 points while keeping Winnett-Grass Range to 2. Belt grasped the win with a final score of Belt-55, Winnett-Grass Range-46.

The following day, Tri-Cities made their way to the home of the Huskies. Belt started off the first quarter with great defense and offense with the Huskies mak-

ing 16 and leaving Titans with 8. The second quarter was even better than the first with Belt scoring 18 and keeping Tri-Cities to 6. The scoreboard displayed Belt-34, Tri-Cities-14 as halftime began.

Belt came out of the locker room very strong defensively and offensively scoring 25 while keeping Tri-Cities to 6. The concluding period of the match ended with Belt making 8 and Tri-Cities getting 9. The final score of the game read Belt-67 and Tri-Cities-29.

The Huskies played at Highwood last night and won the game with a final score of 56-23. The win ensures that the boys will enter next week's district tournament as the number 1 seed.

Tonight, Huskies lace 'em for their final conference game of the season. It's Senior Night, and the valley will witness the last home game for elder statesmen Aidan Bergstrom, Cole Hepfner, and Asa Jassen.

Entering tonight's play, the Huskies record stands at 13-0 conference, and 15-2 non-conference, with just a pair of losses to Fairfield. Belt is proceeding into district tournaments which starts next week at Great Falls High.

By: Walker Maki

GFCC	12	2	9	13	36
Belt	10	10	9	11	40

Belt	22	15	17	12	66
Centerville	2	7	14	19	42

Geraldine-Highwood	6	8	7	16	37
Belt	8	16	17	7	48

Belt	10	12	9	13	11	55
WGR (Grass Range)	11	7	9	17	2	46

Tri-City	8	6	6	9	29
Belt	16	18	25	8	67

Hall of Fame (Cont.)

team as a senior. Fertterer claimed state track and field medals in an astonishing variety of events, including: javelin, high jump, shot put, and 800 Meter Dash. Stinson holds most of the school golf rec-

ords, and finished her career with a 10th place finish and two individual state championships on the links. She also led the Lady Huskies to a pair of state runner-up finishes and the team's lone state title in 2014.

Gerke lives in Billings and keeps close to athletics, as a specialist at Scheel's Sports. Fertterer is pursuing a career as a registered nurse at Benefis in Great Falls and is planning a summer wedding to Belt High graduate Dylan Croff. Stinson, who found time to also claim the academic honor of valedictorian, is now a civil engineer in Willis-

ton, N.D. She is also planning a wedding scheduled for next June.

Congratulations to all three of these deserving inductees into the Craig Cummings Hall of Fame. Each of them left a positive mark on Belt High on the field of competition and beyond.

For more information on the Craig Cummings Hall of Fame and for nomination forms, contact the school office or check out the school web site (Menu... Documents...Hall of Fame. Here's the direct link: <https://www.beltschool.com/browse/9397>

By: Eliza Tingey



Pie in the Face

National Honor Society has a unique fundraiser in the works. Students have been voting for staff members worthy getting pied in the face by donating to buckets for their choice.

Whoever has the most coins in their bucket, will be pied at the pep rally on Wednesday, the 16th, before the district basketball tournament. The donations will go to-

wards local families in need of financial assistance, along with the donations from the corn hole tournament

Posters will be hung in the hallway that depict the families that the donations will go towards. Finley Foster, a little girl within this community with a severe compromised immune system will be supported by this fundraiser.

The National Honor Society will be holding this fundraiser.

NHS is an organization that helps students develop leadership skills, community service, and it helps participants obtain scholarships.

Members of NHS do multiple fundraisers throughout the year as their service projects to help out the community.

By: Brooke Holum

DECA (Cont.)

attire for opening/closing session, exhibits, and competition was a business suit, DECA Blazer, dress slacks, dress skirt, or business dress. Each young entrepreneur received a badge with their name along with the events that they were involved in.

Sunday and Monday night there were guest speakers who were able to make time in their schedules to come speak to the students at DECA. Sunday night from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. there was the opening session that everyone was required to attend. Rhett Laubach is a professional speaker, author, presentations coach, leadership expert and owner of YourNextSpeaker, LLC. He has taught leadership

skills to youngsters for more than 25 years to one million audience members and in 48 states, the Bahamas and Canada.

The following night Brian Imbus, an award winning hypnotist, entertained the crowd He has traveled from Las Vegas, all the way to Paris, for over 20 years. Imbus took 10 volunteers up on stage, 2 of which were Hattie Bumgarner and Gracie Watson from Belt High School. With his performance he got the whole audience member to laugh and become part of the show. Most people think that it was the best part of the trip, but others, not so much.

Right after the young entrepreneurs got dismissed from the

performance from Brian Imbus they got to enjoy DECA In The Dark. To get in, everyone had to have on their conference wristbands. The entrepreneurs got to enjoy unlimited water slide access, experience the sounds of a DJ, and enjoy the company of other conference attendees.

DECA Nationals qualifiers included:: Addee Hoffmann, Eliza Tingey, Walker Maki, Hans Bumgardner, Aubrey Johnson, Hattie Bumgarner, Sarah Dollenger, Cole Hepfner, and Brady Drummond. The international competition is schedule for April 22th though April 27th in Atlanta GA.

By: Gracie Watson

I Love to Read Month

Reading is one of the number one things that strengthens the brain, and helps it retain information. Research shows that reading enhances cognition in many good ways. Reading builds vocabulary, helps manage emotions, and reduces stress.

February is "I Love to Read Month." It is a month when multiple activities are introduced to the school for reading. It is a whole month dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of reading.

Drop everything and Read is the activity the Belt school is doing for the month. During each day out of one week, Mr. Paulson will announce that it is time to drop everything and read. The kids read for fifteen minutes everyday and it relaxes their brain from the stress of normal school work.

Many teachers were asked if their kids enjoy doing the drop everything and read, Mrs. Jones exclaimed "They love it." Many teachers also said that this will help the kids get more excited about reading. The kids are anxiously waiting for the announcement to come on. The rooms are so quiet as they are working on their reading comprehension. This will also be a great benefit for the kids to excel in their reading.

Tatum Enos and Olivia Knudsen from 5th grade both said that they think the drop everything and read activity is not helping them, but they enjoy doing it. Olivia said that AR parties are her favorite part about reading and achieving her goal. Tatum said that it is fun because you don't have to do boring school work. Olivia's favorite book is *The Selection* series, and Tatum's is *Alabama Moon*, and they really enjoyed reading these great books. Jet Marn and Blaire Keaster from 4th grade both had many good things to say about

the activity. Jet said that the drop everything and read activity really does help because they are taking time out of the day to read and it helps with fluency. Blaire said more time spent reading improves the skill. Blaire and Jet both enjoy reading because they get to use their imagination to escape from the reality of the world.

They both agree that when the drop everything and read announcements come on they are immediately reading their book and read the whole time. Blaire's favorite book is *Where the Red Ferns Grow*, and Jet's is *Epoca*, the book series by Kobe Bryant.

Each day during morning announcements, Mr. Paulson and a select elementary students conduct a book review for all to hear. Mr. Paulson asks each young reader what they liked best about a book they recently read. After recounting favorite parts, and sharing information about the plot, the kids give a recommendation to the staff and students about the value of reading that particular selection.

Another activity that the elementary students are doing during the reading month is the sundae's. A sundae is a cut out ice cream thing that the kids have to work on to get each cut out piece. In third grade, to get the bowl you have to read 100 minutes. To get the spoon and ice cream you have to read 50 minutes, also you have to read for 50 minutes to get toppings. Sprinkled, and Cherries takes 30 minutes to earn, and it takes 20 minutes to get the whipped topping part of the sundae. After the kids obtain all the items, they will be invited to a sundae party. This is a great exercise for the kids to up their reading skills.

By: Addee Hoffmann

MAPS Testing

Measuring academic progress is an important part of the overall process of education. Recently, the Belt Public School students participated in a series of tests, known as MAPS testing. Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) hosts a Measure of academic Progress (MAPS). These are district mandated, that help give teachers, students, and administrators more information regarding a student's level of attainment.

MAPS tests are not required by the national or state governments, they are primarily evaluations that the district uses to measure of students' progress. It allows the staff and administration to target specific skill for individuals and even customize their education in a way. Some students excel at all categories, while others may do better in a given subject.

They do these examinations three times per year, during each season, until they are in eleventh

grade. Juniors are required to take the American College Test, the ACT, in the spring. Seniors are not required to complete any standardized tests, although they have the opportunity to retake the ACT on their own. ACT scores are factors in admission to some, but not all, colleges.

These tests are very important for the students because it can determine what level of progress is needed until the next grade level. They also are used to determine if a student needs extra help in a certain field.

Testing has always been a part of education and has been more emphasized over the past years. It's important for students to get proper rest and nutrition; one of the biggest factors in a good score is to try hard and genuinely do the best possible.

By: Kyndal Schraner

Hooked on Fishing

As part of the middle school science program, Mrs. Vogt engages students in the Hooked on Fishing program. This program encourages kids to enjoy the great outdoors responsibly and includes many activities, among those is an annual ice fishing trip.

On February 1st the middle schoolers participated in a fish math activity which was taught by Laura Hajek. Fish math was a simulation that showed how fish biologists estimate fish populations.

On February 3rd, the students ventured to the East Fork Reservoir for their annual ice fishing trip. The Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has been using this location for the past 10 years for the Hooked-on Fishing Program.



The students practiced catch and release with the perch they caught as the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks have already caught enough fish for the dissection later in spring. Belt was not the only school on the ice as they were joined by Fort Benton and Foothills Christian.

When students arrived, the equipment was already set up courtesy of the Montana FWP, who also supplied

all rods, tackle, reels, and bait. No licenses were required for this trip.

Ice fishing was extremely successful as each student caught at least a few fish. Graham Halley caught 42 fish while Cliff Pethel followed up with 37. Several students were asked about the tradition of kissing the first fish they catch for good luck. Halley remarked "I didn't do it and I caught the most."

Zoe Holum quotes "I think it is weird and stinky." Mylah

Flaten commented "The tradition of kissing the fish is gross but... it's a cool way to get good luck while fishing." Maryann Reis "I think it was a good tradition because it works."

When asked about the best and worst part of the day Halley expressed "The best part was when we were catching them. The worst was when for about 1 hour I didn't catch any fish." Flaten mentioned that the worst part of her day was getting cold.

For some students like Reis and Flaten this was their first-time ice fishing. Reis quotes "I got to go for the first time and got a lot of fish." Flaten added "I caught my first four fish ever."

The trip left a good impression and many plan to continue ice fishing in the future.

By: Madisen Feldman



As the basketball season comes to an end the tournaments are almost in sight. Almost everyday the high school players are having to travel to the school for practice to prepare themselves for tournaments. It is widely known that basketball means a lot to the citizens of Belt, and love to celebrate victories for the home team. But, with celebrating you also have to act responsibly, along with drinking responsibly. If you know that you have partied a little hard, or you have noticed that a friend has been, then don't drive nor let anyone else under the influence.

Don't Drink and Drive!



Where are They Now?

B.B. King once said “The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.” Kerri Hiatt is a woman who strongly believes in the power of education, especially considering that she was a teacher at Belt School for many years.

Hiatt began her journey when she received an academic scholarship to the University of Montana in Missoula. She later earned her bachelor's degree from Lesley University. This degree is for teaching Spanish, while she has certification for student kindergarten through 12th grade. Her masters degree is in Creative Arts in Learning.

She was not only involved in the education of her students, she also coached for both Belt and Highwood. “As an employee of Belt School, I coached volleyball & track for a year in Belt many years, then coached in Highwood for 13 years.”

When looking back at some of her fondest memories from her hometown, she feels that greeting students is among the highest. “The excitement (by Spanish students, any student walking by the FACS room, and staff that got samples) of when we would cook for class, Spanish 2 field trips (WalMart scavenger hunt and Mexican restaurant-- all in Spanish) to Great Falls, and the Latin American and European travel experiences with so many students,” are just a couple more of her favorite recollections from her career.

She worked full-time at the facility, for two years, before joining the Peace Corps and serving in Paraguay. Upon return,, she was hired once again but for part-time teaching in both Belt and Highwood. “At the time, I thought I would do it for a year or so, but ended up driving between those schools for 21 years!” Her future plans include continuing to work at

Benefis as a medical coder. She loves to travel, so she is hoping to work part-time and spend much of her time doing this.



When asked if she has any additional information for the *Valley Voice*, she expresses “A huge Gracias and Adios goes out to all of the students and staff through the years that made for 23 years of a plethora of memories. I’m sad that there is currently no foreign language teacher in Belt, but I hope that students will try to expand their horizons by learning about other cultures and trying out different languages; this can open doors for them for the rest of their lives. It was truly a pleasure to be a part of the Belt School system for so long.”

By: Kyndal Schraner

Developmental Screening

There will be a free multi-agency developmental screening at Belt School Monday, March 7th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. People can reserve appointments if they are concerned about their child's learning, speech, ability to see or hear, interacting with other children, etc.

Northern Learning Resource Center, is partnering up with the rural Cascade County School District, Eye Clinic of Great Falls, Cas-

cade Audiology, and Benchmark Human Services Early Intervention Services to provide the ability to check their child with a specialist.

Children who are between the ages of 0 to five years and 11 months, and are not in kindergarten yet, will be eligible for these valuable services. There will be other locations around Cascade County that will be holding appointments such as the Cascade, Centerville

Fort Shaw, and the Vaughn Bible Church.

Anyone interested can contact the Northcentral Learning Resource Center at (406) 727-6303. Recommendations and written results will be shared with the parent or guardian. The screening process takes around one hour to complete and can provide an important step in early intervention.

By: Brooke Holum

Fiddle Club Sign-Up

Last year the students involved in the Fiddle Club finished off their term strong with a concert for the parents and community that was a smashing success The class resumed on February 1st.

The beginner fiddle class and the beginner guitar, ukulele, and mandolin class will be at 3:45-

4:15 p.m. and the Fiddle Club will be at 4:15-4:45 p.m. in the Music Room on Tuesdays. There will be 10 classes from February 1st to April 26th.

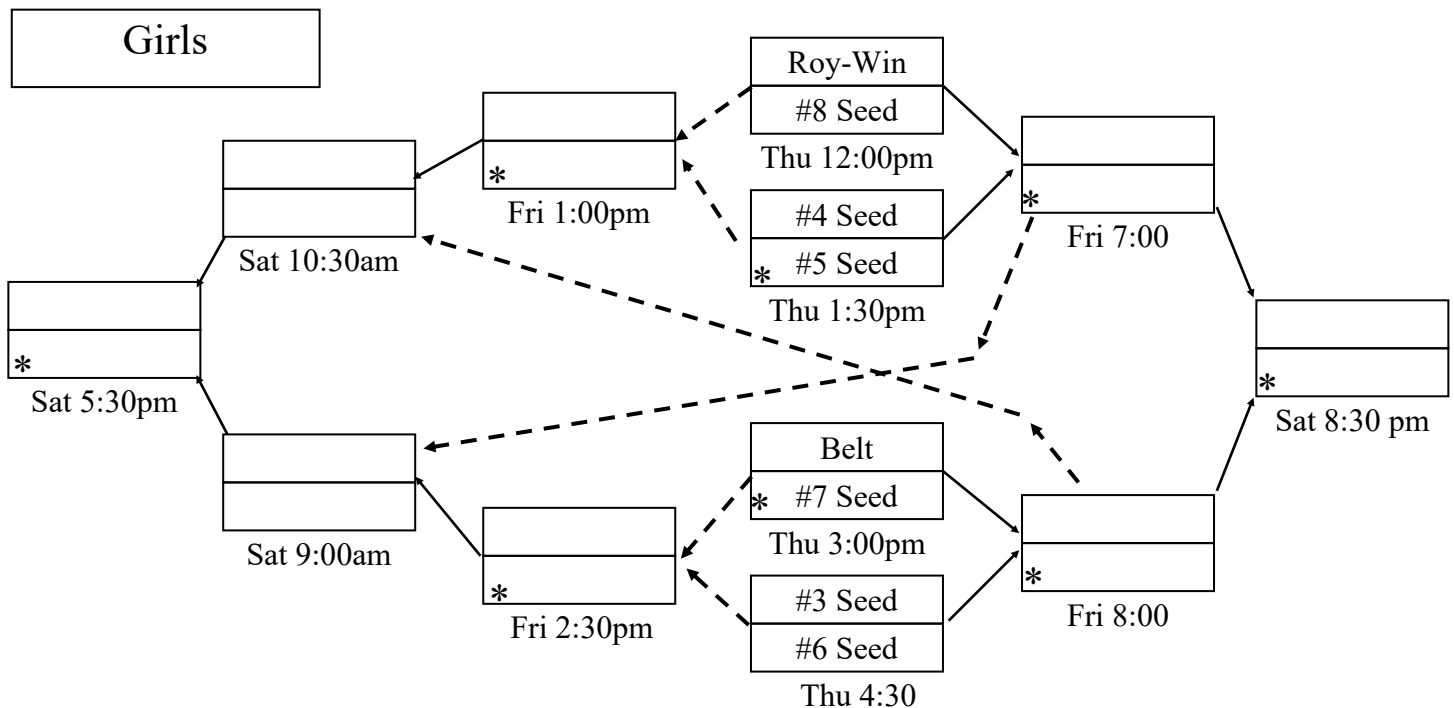
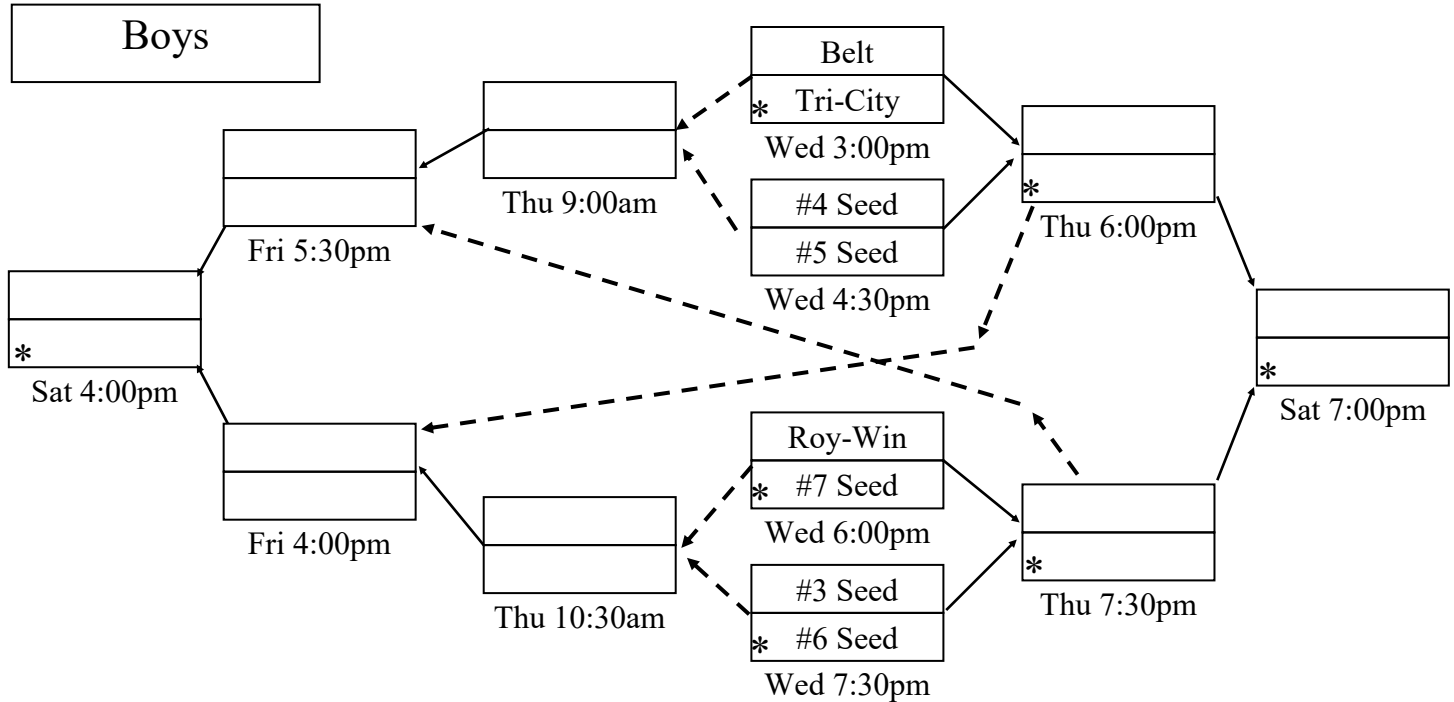
Parents are encouraged to help their children continue to practice and play their instruments at home. Along with videos on their

website and use the handouts (in their red folders) to give them some guidance at home.

Sign up in the Belt School office or see Mr. Wilson. The Fiddle Club webpage can be found at <https://montanastateoldtimefiddlers.org/belt>.

By: Gracie Watson

8-C Basket Tournament Brackets



The girls and boys 8-C District Basketball Tournaments will be contested at the R.W. "Bill" Swarhout Fieldhouse on the campus of Great Falls High School Wednesday, February 16th through Saturday, February 19th. The top three teams from each tournament will advance to the Northern C Divisional Tournament to be held at the Pacific Steel Recycling Four Season Arena in Great Falls the following week (Wednesday-Saturday). The #1 and #2 seeds have already been determined and are indicated above. The results from this weekend's games will complete the brackets.

Northern C Basketball information, including history, brackets, and rosters, can be accessed via the following web site:
<https://sites.google.com/nsschools.org/22northerncbb/home?authuser=0>

* Indicates games which will be broadcast on KMON Radio (560 AM and kmon.com)

SWAT Training

Special weapons and tactics teams (SWAT) are special operation units in civilian law enforcement agencies. SWAT teams generally carry out high risk operations that would be outside of regular law agency's capabilities. SWAT teams were only developed in the 1960s after a series of incidents took place highlighting the need of specially trained officers to handle dangerous circumstances.

As recently as Tuesday, January 18th, the Cascade County Sheriff's office SWAT team ventured to the valley to complete a training regimen in the school. The high school wing was closed after school, so law enforcement could perform their training. Belt schools Detective Baker, was able to provide insight into what the SWAT training included as well as the logistics of the team.

The purpose of the training is to practice and perfect their skills, or train new members. SWAT typically trains for all situations to be

ready for any scenarios. Their training includes aspects such as small skill drills which are then incorporated into larger movements. A range of tactics are practiced from firearms training, communication, and specialized function including breaching and chemical munitions.

SWAT teams differ from regular police forces in the sense that the members receive additional training and have access to specialized tools for their missions, that allow them to lessen the risk factors involved. City and county teams are very similar except for their area of responsibility. City teams operate mostly in the urban environment whereas county teams can operate in a multitude of environments.

Certain areas come down to jurisdictional boundaries. Both teams adhere to strict training schedules and are able to implement their tactics when the team is activated.

SWAT teams operate with 2 teams which include 2 entry elements, and a marksman team.

Teams are composed of a tactical Commander who oversees all the functions of the team as a whole. A team leader who oversees the functions of each entry element is also assisted by an assistant team leader.

The Sheriff's Office uses a form which outlines risk factors that may or may not be present during the investigation. If the level reaches a point where Patrol Deputies would be put into a dangerous situation, and SWAT is able to mitigate the risk factors, then the use of the team is determined. Tactics vary as each situation dictates what equipment will be used. In a typical year, Great Falls and Cascade County SWAT teams are deployed about ten times.

The CCSO SWAT team trains regularly at Belt Schools, usually every 1 to 2 times a year. Belt faculty members are grateful to the team for honing their skills and familiarizing themselves with the school in case it's needed..

By: Madisen Feldman

School Spirit

Tournaments are just around the corner for the Belt Huskies. For preparation for the basketball games, the students and faculty will be participating in the Husky Nation Week dress up days this coming week. Husky Nation week will be held on February 14th-18th. These school days are to get the kids lots of Husky Spirit for the tournaments. Mrs. Visocan and the Belt High cheerleaders are in charge of the operation.

Monday will be a Valentine's Day theme in honor of St. Valentine's Day. Huskies will be encouraged to wear pink and red or Valentine's Day attire. The other option is to grab a friend and dress like a famous couple. Some examples include Mickey and Minnie, Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head, Barbie

and Ken, etc.

Patriotic Day will be placed on Tuesday, February the 15th. This day will give the students the opportunity to proudly sport the colors of the United States of America; red, white, and blue.

Wednesday will be the favorite, Back in Black day. This day will feature the new black t-shirts that Close Up 2023 sold the week prior. On the 16th the basketball team will be heading off to their tournaments with the occupation of the cheerleaders and pep band.

Wednesday is also set aside for a morning pep rally before the players head to Great Falls for the opening game of districts. The rally will be the climax to the festivities with music, cheering and the staff "Pie in the Face" challenge taking

place.

On Thursday the 17th and Friday the 18th there will be no school due to the district tournaments. If one cannot attend the games, watch the games on the NFHS Network.

Participating in the Husky Nation week activities and dress up days is a great way to show one's Husky spirit. But remember that full face paint/masks, threatening or distasteful costumes, along disruptive hair, make-up, or jewelry will not be permitted.

Daily winners exhibiting the moist spirit will receive a prize from the cheerleaders. Good Luck to all the basketball players that are participating in the District Basketball tournaments.

By: Eliza Tingey

Senior Spotlight

With an enrollment of just 17 students, the Class of 2022 Senior Spotlight section of the Voice is moving into the home stretch.



Sarah Dollenger is featured as this issue's senior in *Senior Spotlight* and has shared her memories and adventures during her time in Belt. She joined the community when she was in 8th grade.

She would describe her Belt experience as interesting and the best memory that she has acquired through her years is winning Tug-O-War every year in Homecoming Olympics.

The extra-curricular activities that she participates in are cheer, cross country, Youth Leadership, DECA, and National Honor Society. The accomplishments that she has achieved are "Never Give

Up" award for girls cross country, academic all-state, and DECA State Champion.

The advice that she would give to younger students is, "Make sure to get involved at school." Her plans for after high school are to go to MSU in Bozeman and to study psychology. When she leaves her community, she will miss Mr. Hoyer's conversations the most.

The Belt community wishes Ms. Dollenger the best as she proceeds in her life and schooling career. The next senior that will be highlighted in the *Senior Spotlight* article is Maverick Black.

By: Walker Maki

Scholarships

Scholarship	Due Date	Amount	Criteria	Information	Requirements
Chancellor's Leadership at Western Scholarship	2/1	Varies			
MSU Premier	2/1	Varies			
Great Falls Legion of Honor	2/15	\$500 (2)	Senior: immediate family must have Masonic Affiliation	Application from Counselor	Must be attending a school within the Montana University System
(3 Rivers) Foundation of Rural Service	2/25	\$2,500	Senior: minimum 2.0 GPA; express interest to return to a rural community after graduation	www.frs.org or see counselor for information	300 word essay, application, letters of rec, educator's statement
Chesbro Family	3/1	\$1,000	Senior: must be attending Univ. of Montana	Belt students have first preference	Apply on the UM scholarship portal
Northwest Farm Credit Services	3/1	\$2,000	Must be child of current NWFCS member or child employee of current NWFCS member	https://www.northwestfcs.com/Stewardship/Youth/Customer-Scholarships	Essay Required
Centene Corps. Scholarship	3/1	\$2,500 (3)	Senior: must be able to write essay on specified date in Great Falls	Application from Counselor	Essay written on Specific date in Great Falls

Tournament Preview-Boys

As the conference season comes to a close, the Huskies are enjoying the march toward the conference title, of which the boys have won or shared the last ten. They completed another great season and the community is excited to see the Belt Huskies perform in the post-season tournaments.

The 2021-2022 conference season for the Belt boys basketball team was very successful. They won their conference with a record of 14-0 and are the number one seed in the district bracket. They will play on Wednesday the 16th at 3:00 p.m. against the 8th seed. The district games will be held at Great

Falls High. If they win that game, they will proceed to play in the semifinals on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. If they continue to win, they will play in the championship game on Saturday at 7:00 p.m. Three teams in the district will move onto divisionals depending on their placements in their district games.

The previous year, the Huskies swept districts and won the tournament allowing them to move onto divisionals. This year, the opponents that will be good are Winnett-Grass Range and Roy-Winifred.

The divisional schedule will be played on February 23rd-26th,

and will be played at the Four Seasons Arena in Great Falls. Last year, the Huskies achieved 2nd in divisionals in double overtime against Fort Benton. The game before, they played Chinook in single over time and it was more intense than the championship game the following day.

Coming out of the other divisions, the teams that will be good this year are Big Sandy and Box Elder out of the 9-C, as well as Heart Butte and Dutton-Brady out of the 10-C. Only 1st and 2nd will progress onto the state level in the other divisions.

By: Walker Maki

Little Kids Basketball

The Belt Ladies Basketball Team has hosted a winter basketball camp for elementary age girls each season since 2009. The high schoolers put in three hours, teaching them the fundamentals of basketball. They also get a new Husky Camp T-shirt, and the proceeds go to buying these and the basketballs.

There were 37 attendees, K-3rd with 17 and 20 for the fourth and fifth graders. They were split up, while the younger group went into the multipurpose room and the older section stayed in the big gymnasium.

All ages learned the different positions on defense. Many of the girls could tell the coaches what place they were in, i.e. gap, help, and ball. They also grasped how to shoot layups, as well as the average form shot. How fast or much they learned is customized to the age and skill level of the individual.

Coach Graham is in charge overall, and has made this is such an amazing event for the young children because they learn an immense amount of information and are more prepared for the coming years.

Graham expresses, "The girls on the High School basketball team did an amazing job of working with the Little Lady Huskies. They relate well with the young girls and do a great job of teaching the fundamentals of basketball. The coaching staff is very proud of them."

The highlight of the event is a chance for the kids to play on the main gym floor at halftime of the varsity games. No score is kept, but any ball that finds its way into the basket delights the crowd. It's the best half-time show of the year.

By: Kyndal Schraner

Love is in the Air

Valentine's Day has been celebrated in the U.S. since the 19th Century, but the holiday has been celebrated for a long time before that.

The holiday is believed to be celebrated in honor of Saint Valentine, a Christian martyr. The holiday came to be by folk tales and traditions, and became very important to people's religion. Nowadays, everybody celebrates Valentine's Day as a day for romance.

The Valentine's Day tradi-

tion started as just a feast. In Ancient Europe, people would gather around and have a thanksgiving-like feast, but for Valentine's Day.

The holiday was not associated with love and romance until later stories claimed that someone wrote a love letter to a girl and signed it "your valentine" on the bottom of the letter. There have been many renditions of the story, but that is the main one that is believed by historians.

In present day, people don't

have Valentine's feasts anymore. Instead, they give flowers, chocolates, and many other gifts to their loved ones.

Valentine's Day is also considered one of the most hated holidays. The reason for that is that the holiday only applies to people with significant others. The holiday is also one of the least celebrated amongst Americans.

Have a happy holiday and enjoy time with loved ones!

By: Rylan Davison

Tournament Preview-Girls

The Lady Huskies are looking forward to tournament season, which commences this coming week. The 8-C District tournament is a fantastic Central Montana tradition, and this year the competition will be held at Great Falls High School. The top three teams will move onto the divisional tourney, slated for the following week.

The Lady Huskies finished off their conference season, losing only two games in total. They will enter the district free for all as the #2 seed. Last year, the Maroon and Gold Girls took second place in the district tournament, before advancing

into the divisional brackets.

Roy-Winifred won the conference this year, and while it's not official yet it is quite likely that Geraldine-Highwood will take the third seed. The Lady Huskies are projected to play in the semi-final game against the Rivals, who they defeated on the road last night.

Last year, the Lady Huskies were disappointed to lose out against the Box Elders Bears by a scant 2 points at divisional. The girls hope to keep their season alive for a few more games this year by advancing to the state competition.

The Lady Huskies should

contend at the divisional level, but expect solid competition from the likes of Box Elder and Chinook from the 9-C and Simms from the 10-C. Only two will advance to the state tournament.

The Northern Division has dominated the state tournament in recent years, winning nine of the last ten championships. In most of those seasons, a team from the North even finished second. All three tournaments will be in Great Falls and fan support would go a long way to helping the girls reach their goals.

By: Kyndal Schraner

Shop Project-Flags

Students enrolled in advanced welding have been busy working on flag projects. These American flags are made out of three different types of metal, which the students have cut and welded together. These projects were originally half of their fall final, but the project has evolved into a way for the shop to make money.

Over the past few weeks Mrs. Lauren Simons, the vocational agricultural teacher, has incorporated these flags into her lessons so

the students can finalize them to be sent out into the community. Simons quotes "The students in the welding class worked hard to put their best welds together to create these flags. They are proud of their work and would like to see them in the community." Boston McLaughlin, a student enrolled in advanced welding, remarks "This was a fun project and a good team effort."

The advanced welding class would like to sell two flags and display the third in the school. The di-

mensions for the flags are 27" x 48". It is recommended to place one of these flags in an area with extra support. One flag is painted and the other is metal with the option of being painted. These flags are being sold for \$300 each, and the funds will go back into the shop budget for future projects.

If one is interested in purchasing a one of a kind American flag contact Mrs. Simons at: (406) 407-6590.

By: Madisen Feldman

DIVAS3

The Belt Performing Arts Center continues its 2021-22 season with yet another "can't miss" show tomorrow night.

The DIVAS 3 have been invited to perform at the Belt Performing Arts Center. Their performance will be held on Saturday February 12th, 7:00 p.m. For a ticket to the show, call 406-277-3844. Admission for the show is \$25. The extra unsold passes will be sold at the door, but there is no guarantee that they will be available.

The trio includes Kirbi Long, Tracy Distefano, and Emily Yates. These three females are

known for their powerhouse voices that rock the house. These ladies bring back classics and memories with their high energy show. They perform classic songs written by some of the greatest artists of all time. Some of the artists/singers include Aretha Franklin, Carole King, Celine Dion, Whitney Houston, Dolly Parton, Donna Summer, Abba, and so many more.

This group of talented females started their journey on the Las Vegas Strip, and their music has literally taken them around the world. They have traveled around to many hotels and casinos all

throughout Las Vegas and been featured as cruise ship talent. They are a favorite as a guest entertainer act on cruise ships as well.

Their slogan represents these females perfectly. It is Three Voices, Four Decades, All DIVA. Come see these incredible artists that are showcasing their talents in the Belt Theater.

Looking ahead to the spring, Steve Leslie will perform the works of James Taylor in his show titled "How Sweet it is!" That show is scheduled for Saturday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m.

By: Eliza Tingey

Birthdays		
Date	Grade	Husky
2/13	12	Lindsey Paulson
2/12	11	Aubrey Johnson
2/16	10	Miya Anderson
2/21	10	Marshall Bond
2/13	9	Ben Gillespie
2/16	8	Jaida Pruitt-Warren
2/14	Pre-K	Kate Tingey
2/15	Pre-K	Jeremiah Johnson

Bowling Scores

The bowling season continues to unwind as the last two weeks of bowling are in the books. There are only six more weeks of bowling remaining at Backroads Bowling & Pizza. Some highlights of the previous weeks are a 222 scratch game authored by Darin Osterman and a 214 scratch game by Jake Larson in the same week.

Calendar of Events		
Date	Time	Event
2/11	4:30 p.m.	NHS Pie in the Face HS BB vs. DGS
2/13	5:00 p.m.	VB Open Gym
2/14		Husky Nation Week
2/15	3:30 p.m.	Husky Nation Week Fiddle Club
2/16	6:00 p.m.	Husky Nation Week District BB @ GFH 3 rd /4 th Boys BB
2/17		No School-District Tournament District BB @ GFH
2/18		No School-District Tournament District BB @ GFH
2/19		District BB @ GFH
2/20	5:00 p.m.	VB Open Gym
2/21		MS Science Fair
2/22	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 3:30 p.m.	HS Science Fair Elementary Science Fair Fiddle Club
2/23	6:00 p.m.	Divisional BB @ 4 Season's 3 rd /4 th Boys BB
2/24		Divisional BB @ 4 Season's
2/25		Divisional BB @ 4 Season's

Week 20

Week 21

Men's Scratch Game	Women's Scratch Game	Men's Scratch Game	Women's Scratch Game
Darin Osterman-222	Lisa Urick-177	Dave Anderson-203	Denise Puppe-173
Jake Larson-214	Sandra Francom-169	Mike Christensen-197	Laura Koffler-171
Men's Handicap Game	Women's Handicap Game	Men's Handicap Game	Women's Handicap Game
Darin Osterman-270	Sandra Francom-225	Bill Mital-230	Denise Puppe-229
Jake Larson-250	Jessica Schatzka-218	David Eggert-229	Dena Goodman-228
Men's Scratch Series	Women's Scratch Series	Men's Scratch Series	Women's Scratch Series
Chad Stroop-567	Laura Koffler-452	Dave Anderson-567	Dena Goodman-492
Dave Anderson-524	Lisa Urick-447	Mike Christensen-520	Laura Koffler-464
Men's Handicap Series	Women's Handicap Series	Men's Handicap Series	Women's Handicap Series
Darin Osterman-650	Sandra Francom-613	Bill Mital-656	Dena Goodman-666
Brad Mendenhall-632	Jessica Schatzka-599	Dave Anderson-642	Jo Cooper-616