



# The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



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## Belt Boys State Bound

The boys have had a couple busy weeks concerning basketball with finishing their conference season, district tournament, and divisional tournament. The week before the district tournament the Huskies played DGS winning both games and finishing as conference champions.

Coach Paulson's squad has played great all year, especially on defense, and the tournament were no exception. Starters Aidan Bergstrom, Keaghn McDaniel, Garrett Metrione, Bridger Vogl, and Reese Paulson form and athletic bunch, and get ample support from a deep bench: Cole Hepfner, Asa Jassen, Zach Feldman, Riley Mapston, Clayton Jassen, Jeremy Nebel, and JD Shepard.

Belt opened the district competition against 8 seed Geraldine-Highwood and controlled the game from the start. It was 25-4 at halftime and the boys never looked back. Belt won the game 60-8 and coasted into the next round against Centerville.

The semi-final of the tournament was Belt pitted against Centerville. The beginning quarter of the

event Belt scored 18, and played great defensively, keeping Centerville to 9. In the second quarter, the Huskies made an offensive push acquiring 22 and only allowing the Miners 13, leaving the score at 40-22.

As both teams charged out of the locker room, Belt had another exceptional eight minutes, scoring 22 while holding Centerville to 12. The fourth quarter of the match ended with the Huskies scoring 14 and the Miners making 8. The final score of the game read Belt-76, Centerville-40.

The championship contest of the district tournament was played against Belt and Roy/Winfred. The first chapter of the game was a very defensive period with Belt coming out on top with 8 and Roy-Winfred with 4. The next session, the Outlaws gained some ground with them obtaining 12 points, but Belt countered with 10 points of their own to stay close.

After halftime, the third quarter was another very defensive stretch with Belt scoring 6 and Roy-Winfred notching 7. The final eight minutes of the match were very (Cont. pg. 2)

## Science Fair

On February 21<sup>st</sup> middle school students were able to prove their academic prowess in science with the Belt Science Fair. The fair was hosted in the multipurpose room where students were able to set up their boards and present to judges. The next day, elementary and high school students competed in the science and engineering fair as well.

Scoring was based on preset rubrics and all of the local judges volunteered their time, which was greatly appreciated.

During the first round of judging, projects are scored by three judges and the scores are averaged. In the second round the judges go back and see any of the top five experiments that they did not examine in the first round. The scores are reviewed and the judges determine the winners.

The judge's rubric regarding the elementary was fairly simple and was based upon the following criteria: booth design and enhancement, communication, creativity and innovation, media use, content, (Cont. pg.3)

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## Boys Basketball (Cont.)

intense with the score being within 5 points throughout the match. When the dust settled, the Huskies fell short of their championship goals by 2 tallies with the score being Belt-35, Roy-Winifred-37.

The 8-C District changed a little this season, to include: Belt, Roy/Winifred, Winnett/Grass Range, Centerville, Highwood/Geraldine, and Great Falls Central Catholic. However, only Belt, Roy/Winifred, and Winnett/Grass Range are proceeding onto the next level.

The Belt boys competed against Dutton/Brady last Thursday for their first divisional basketball game at the Four Seasons Arena in Great Falls. Belt started off the match very strong scoring 16 while keeping Dutton/Brady to 4. They continued to dominate on the court with the Huskies gaining 19 and the Diamondbacks obtaining 6.

Post intermission, the Huskies played an amazing period of time achieving 14 tallies while only allowing 9 points to the opposing team. The finale of the event ended with Belt making 11 and keeping Dutton/Brady to 10. The final score of the game was Belt-60, Dutton/Brady 29. The Huskies won all four quarters and jumped out to a great start in the divisional tournament.

The following day, the Belt Huskies and Chester/Joplin/Inverness battled against each other and the first chapter of the match was very similar in play with Belt scoring 11 and CJI making 9. In the second duration of eight minutes,

the Huskies picked up the pace and garnered 22 more and the Hawks only adding 11.



When play resumed in the third session, Belt and CJI played a very similar offense and defense, both obtaining 13 points. The final period of the contest finished with Belt having 12 and CJI ended with 15. As both teams departed after the final horn, the scoreboard read Belt-58, CJI-48.

The Divisional Northern Tournament Championship game commenced between the Roy/Winifred Outlaws and the Belt Valley Golden Huskies. The two teams competed in a spectacular game the week before in the District Championship and the Huskies were looking for revenge.

The beginning period of the event Belt took a quick lead of 5 points while Roy/Winifred stayed behind with only a singular tally. The next interval, the Outlaws made a surprising 18 points while the Huskies added 7.

After halftime, Belt scored 7 and Roy/Winifred made 10. As the end of the match approached, the Huskies tried their hardest to beat the Outlaws putting up

12 more points; however, the Outlaws gained 8. The scoreboard read Belt-31, Roy/Winifred-37 when the game was completed.

The Huskies played a consolation game against Winnett/Grass Range to find out what team will move on to the state level. Belt came

out very strong in the beginning of the contest with the Huskies scoring 11 and only allowing 4 points for Winnett/Grass Range. The following period the boys still came out on top adding another 14 points while the Rams gained 12.

As both teams came out of the locker room to resume play, Belt tallied 9 and Winnett/Grass Range scored 12. As the final eight minutes of the match were ending, Belt added 11 with Winnett/Grass Range making 13. Bridger Vogl had a great game rallying the team together and scoring many points to win the match. The scoreboard read Belt-45, Winnett/Grass Range-41 at the end of the game.

Belt placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Divisionals and are heading to State at Four Seasons Arena. They will play the 1<sup>st</sup> seed in the Southern Division on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. All Husky games will be broadcast on KMON Radio (560 am & kmon.com).

**By: Walker Maki**

Ger-High	1	4	2	2	<b>8</b>
Belt	10	14	24	12	<b>60</b>
Centerville	9	13	12	8	<b>40</b>
Belt	18	22	22	14	<b>76</b>
Roy-Win	4	12	7	14	<b>37</b>
Belt	8	10	6	11	<b>35</b>

Dutton-Brady	4	6	9	10	<b>29</b>
Belt	16	19	14	11	<b>60</b>
CJI	9	11	13	15	<b>48</b>
Belt	11	22	13	12	<b>58</b>
Roy-Winifred	1	18	10	8	<b>37</b>
Belt	5	7	7	12	<b>31</b>
WGR	4	12	12	13	<b>41</b>
Belt	11	14	9	11	<b>45</b>

## Science Fair (Cont.)

project impact, research, and student interview.

Middle School experiments were graded based upon the criteria of scientific thought and engineering goals, clarity, creativity, thoroughness, and skill. Scientific thought and engineering goals, judges were looking to see if the student properly identified the problem or purpose of the experiment and were able to show the scientific method. Clarity was evaluated based upon if the board was understandable to the casual observer as well as the neatness of the board. Creativity was judged on the originality of the material, and demonstration of the understanding of the project

High school students were graded in similar ways to their younger counterparts. Research problem, design and methodology, execution, creativity, poster, and interview were the primary rubric criteria. Similar to how middle school students were graded, researchers looked for a clear purpose, a contribution to the field of study, and that the experiment that was replicable using the scientific method. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, Lynndee Bushnell, Aleah Kerkes, and Dutch Dawson won out of their class with their experiment "Magnificent Movement."

Second place was awarded to Gracyn Brown, Luke Jassen, and Lea Maves for "Mighty Materials." There was a tie for third place with two projects "Sock, Shoe, Friction" and "Friction in Action." The former endeavor was completed by James Dean Larson and Kinsley Anderson. The latter was Maddek Leritz, Ember Myllymaki, and Easton Guedesse's presentation.

Fourth grade winners were Kenady Keaster, Bentley Boreseon with their investigation "Tasty, White, & Beautiful Apples." The

runner up was Bentley Ellis, Haris Bumgarner, and Rhyann Langley with "Soaking Apples." Khalia Gaylord, Ellison Garza, and Zayben Petroff claimed third with their presentation "Stopping Apples from Browning."

Fifth grade pupils June Bock and Ellison Graham collaborated with "Popping Popcorn." Collyns Yurek and Olivia Knudsen obtained second with "Galactic Garbage." Cleaning up the podium was Tenley Jones and Leila Budesky with the inquiry "What Will Prevent Apples from Turning Brown?"

In the sixth grade, student Brooklyn Philips, won with her project "Fix Your Flexibility." Her classmate, Cacellia Durbin, obtained second place with "Blazing House Fire." Third place went to Haidyn Visocan with "Penetrating Tips."

Seventh grade students, Hope Maki and Vannie Urick, claimed first with their project of "Sediment Slide." Kate Hedstrom was runner up for her class with the project "Contain That." Teaghan Triplett placed third with his presentation "Best Water."

Paisley Enos and Kylie Maas collaborated to earn first place out of the eighth grade. Their inquiry was "Do You See Vitamin C?" "Favorable Fashion" by McKenzie Pogany and Aaliyah Gaylord claimed second. Liliana Corbett with "Market to Make It" earned the last seat on the podium. The winning projects for the middle school were "Fix Your Flexibility" "Sediment Slide" and a tie for third between "Contain That" and "Blazing House Fire."

Freshman pupils Mackinaw Hedstrom, Walker Maki, Eli Bodner achieved first with the performance "Concrete Strength." Ben Gillespie, Declan Bergstrom, and Hans Bumgarner claimed second

with "When Drums Fly." "Beat and Bops" by Luke Highfill, David Bond, and Carson Sherwood rounded off the podium obtaining third.

Sophomore scholars Danika Lords, Miya Anderson, and Kylee Permann beat out the competition and placed first with "Safer Travels." "Popping Pills" by Brady Moran and John Tingey followed closely behind. Clayton Jassen, Reese Paulson, and JD Shepard cleaned house and placed third with "Fuel Efficiency."

The overall winners from the high school were the presentations "Safer Travels", "Concrete Strength", and "Popping Pills."

The regional science fair will take place Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> for middle and high school students. Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup>, eight 5<sup>th</sup> graders will compete in regionals at Great Falls College MSU. 55-60 students in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade will compete in regionals as well. Students qualify for regionals by scoring an average of 90% or better in the school science fair.

In addition to middle school students moving on to regionals, high schoolers Shimerdla, Highfill, Bond, and Sherwood will also advance to the next level.

Mrs. Vogt, the middle school science teacher, explained that science fair preparation consumes a lot of time both in and outside of the classroom, but the results are worth it. She feels that participating in these projects helps students to hone their skills in researching, writing, and presenting materials. Although science fair is a big commitment, it is rewarding to see the final products and the presentations.

Congratulations and best of luck to Belt kids representing the valley at regional Science Fair competition.

**By: Madisen Feldman**

## Spellink Bee

The annual spelling bee took place in Belt School on Wednesday. Thirty-four kids, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, went head to head in the competition and only one took the top spot. That spot belonged to 5<sup>th</sup> grader, June Bock. Unfortunately, due to COVID, there is no county bee, so the school competition is the furthest level that one can participate in.

In 1908 in Cleveland, Ohio, the NEA held the first National Spelling Bee. Although it was first held in 1908, the annual tradition didn't start until 1925. This was held by The Courier-Journal, the Louisville, Kentucky newspaper.

The winner of this competition was Frank Neuhauser, who was 11 at the time. In 1941, the Scripps-Howard News Service took over sponsorship of the competition and eventually named it the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Over the past five years, there has been only one repeat winner, Asa Jassen. Jassen also doubled up with a Geography Bee win. This year 8<sup>th</sup> grader Tobias Wilson tried to duplicate that feat, but came up short. The past winners have been: 2021-Rylan Davison (8<sup>th</sup>), 2020-Walker Maki (7<sup>th</sup>), 2019-Tara Hedstrom (8<sup>th</sup>), 2018-Asa Jassen (8<sup>th</sup>), and 2017-Asa Jassen (7<sup>th</sup>).

Congratulations to the top finishers in the competition, those being: 1<sup>st</sup> Place: June Bock, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Hope Maki, and co-3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Aaliyah Gaylord, Emerson Hoerner, and Dawson Iverson. After her victory, June had this to say, "It was very fun. It definitely gave me a boost of confidence for future years. Maybe, I could even win back to back." As stated previously, there is no county bee, so their competitive spelling is done for the year, but their feat is still important nonetheless. Great job by everybody for competing and good spelling this year.

**By: Rylan Davison**

## Lombardo-Sportscasting

Recently, there can be a new voice heard on the NFHS Network while listening to many games. Colton Lombardo, a senior at Belt, has taken up a new found love with broadcasting. In the past, NFHS broadcasts either had ambient crowd noise or were sometimes linked into the radio, if available.



NFHS Network is a web page that allows viewers to watch unlimited footage of high school games, both live and on demand.

To subscribe, one should go to the NFHS Network page and hit the subscribe button; a new page pops up, asking which membership would be liked best. After selecting either the monthly or yearly membership, one puts their information in and gains the ability to watch the games whenever they please.

The valley's education center recently looked further into the network and upgraded their system to allow for local play-by-play.

The new team that will be providing the voice of the Huskies is Andy Newcomer and Belt High School senior, Colton Lombardo. Lombardo expressed that "My love for sports led me to take up broadcasting just so I could become more involved."

They called many of the final home games; Lombardo explains that he plans to continue his hobby later on in life, as "It is very enjoyable, so I will look into doing it in the future."

His favorite part about announcing is that he has the opportunity to commentate on the people he sees every day, and especially when they make great plays. He is the color guy, so he gives the viewer a deeper insight into the games and plays. When asked to portray any of his lasting thoughts, he proclaimed "I would like to thank my Partner Andy, Mr. Hoyer, Mr. Graham, and Mr. Koontz for helping

me and giving me this opportunity."

Newcomer is not new to the whole idea of broadcasting, as he began in his college years. He provided radio play-by-play and color commentary for the Baldwin-Wallace University men's basketball and football games for four years. He also called many more for Ashland University's football and local high school basketball teams for a season apiece.

This was his first-time announcing play-by-play for the television broadcasting. He expressed that this is a much different type because the viewer can actually see what is happening.

"We are also looking at ways to continue to improve the broadcast for the viewers." Newcomer expressed how he tries to improve his skills all the time. He plans to continue next year and is looking forward to the coming seasons. He also expressed how much he enjoys calling with Lombardo, when he stated "Colton Lombardo did a great job joining me this year and I hope he will continue if he stays in the area."

**By: Kyndal Schraner**

## Girls District/Divisional Hoops

Tournament time kicked off quite well, but ended rather quickly. The Lady Huskies completed their season at 24-4 for their record. They obtained divisional third place, but was not able to play in a challenge.

Due to winning almost all of their games during the conference, the ladies came into the district tournaments in the second seed. The girls battled the Rams, seventh seed, on their first day of this competition. They commenced with very strong defense, the Maroon and Gold girls obtained an 18-0 lead in the first quarter.

The strong defense held true, carrying them to a victory at 55-19. Perhaps the most impressive part of the entire game, three players reached double digits. Kylee Permann led with 16 on the board; Lindsey Paulson remained just behind at 12. While Raily Gliko followed up with 11.

Their win against Winnett-Grass Range led them to the semi-final district match-up against the Rivals. The ladies played quite well, with solid defense holding their foe to 25 points the entire game. The Huskies have done a good job throughout the season of maintaining good defense, and normally held their opponents at a low score.

The second half of the game is when the players must dig deep and push through their thoughts. The defense continued to be strong, holding them to very little points.

WGR	-	11	2	6	<b>19</b>
Belt	18	12	23	2	<b>55</b>
Ger-High	6	4	7	8	<b>25</b>
Belt	13	8	19	6	<b>46</b>
Roy-Win	16	7	9	10	<b>42</b>
Belt	9	11	4	12	<b>36</b>

Hattie Bumgarner and Ahmia Lords tied for the leader scorer title, both with 9 markers.

This win led them to the chipper of the district tournaments, against the one team who had defeated them earlier in the season. The Roy-Winifred players came out ready to play, although the Ladies did also. Much like the beginning of the conference, they commenced in a tight battle.

Oftentimes coaches say that the players learn more and become better in the close match-ups. This prevailed, as even after a six-point loss they looked inward and pressed to the next week. Two outstanding players during this battling, helped maintain intensity throughout the entire game, were Bumgarner and Permann. They led the way with 13 and 12 tallies up when the final buzzer rang.

Due to the loss to the Outlaws, the ladies kicked off their divisional tournament against Simms. This battle showed how far they intended to go in the postseason, claiming victory by just under 40 points. Defense leads to victory, which in this case it may have done just that.

The defense continued to be strong in the second half, only allowing a mere 8 to get on the board. Paulson showed her skill as a senior, tallying 15 points throughout the entire match. Lords followed up with 9 on the board.

This victory led to the semi-final round, against Box Elder. In the past, Belt had lost to the Bears multiple times but each game was very close. The Maroon and Gold Girls lost by a total of ten points, although the level of intensity would have suggested it was much closer. Most of the Huskies points came from all around, mean-

ing there were many players with points. Paulson obtained the most, at 8 total buckets.

Their loss led to them playing early the next morning, against Chinook. The ladies played the Sugarbeaters in the beginning of the season. As the Huskies have worked hard throughout their season, they claimed victory once again. They set up in a man defense, which pulled through once again. There were many scorers in this game, but Permann topped it off at 9.

Their final game commenced against last year's state champs, Fort Benton. Maroon and Gold Girls manned them up, which once again worked quite well. They won by a fairly large margin, while many players scored once again. This is not a new-found thing for the Lady Huskies, but when it happens they pull normally together a strong victory. Paulson completed the game at 15 tallies, and Bumgarner just behind at a mere 14. This win put the ladies in the third-place position with a possibility to challenge if the Outlaws lost to the Bears. The Outlaws, so there was no challenge, ending Belt's season.

A big thank you goes out to the seniors, Gliko, Paulson, and Lords, for helping make this team reach its potential. Good Luck to all three as they move on!

**By: Kyndal Schraner**

Simms	7	3	2	6	<b>18</b>
Belt	16	16	15	8	<b>55</b>
Box Elder	9	12	11	12	<b>44</b>
Belt	10	8	9	7	<b>34</b>
Chinook	9	9	7	5	<b>30</b>
Belt	5	10	14	17	<b>46</b>
Fort Benton	15	7	5	7	<b>34</b>
Belt	11	11	17	8	<b>47</b>

## Blue Ribbon Nomination

Belt Elementary School was nominated for the National Blue-Ribbon award. This award recognizes public and private elementary, middle and high schools based upon their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps.

The main criterion for the award is to be a high performing school which has made great strides to close achievement gaps in math and English. This award is made possible by the United States Department of Education.

Schools are eligible for nomination by their state's chief education officer based upon state assessments, graduation rates, and other achievement measurements. Elsie Arntzen, Montana's State Superintendent of Public Schools, nominated Belt's elementary school for this award.

Belt's elementary school is one of two schools in Montana that received the honor of being nominated. The other school that was nominated for this prestigious award is Monforton Elementary. After a school has been nominated, schools must complete an application process which allows them to be considered for

the award. Winners will be announced in September of 2022 by the Secretary of Education.

Mr. Gaylord, superintendent of Belt schools, remarks "Being nominated for this award speaks highly of our school, students, staff, and community. Everyone should be proud of the quality education and the positive culture of the Belt Schools. Every student and staff member contributes to the quality of education, positive school climate, and ultimately the success of students. We should all enjoy and celebrate the recognition of being nominated for the Blue-Ribbon School award."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program dates back to 1982. About 225 schools win the award each year, based on performance by students on state assessments. Further information can be found on the US Department of Education website under Blue Ribbon Schools.

Congratulations are in order to all as the hard work of administration, staff, and students toward academic success is working

**By: Madisen Feldman**

## Fashion Head to Toe

Accessories are a huge part of the fashion industry, and many companies make most of their profit off of the sale of these trinkets and such. Accessories come in all shapes, sizes, and styles. They start at the top of the head with barrettes, and claw clips, and extend to the toes, with toe rings, and nail polish.

Head wear is a great accessory to pull together any outfit. A simple beret can go a long way in the fashion industry. Cute things to wear in hair would be gold bobby pins with lettering, pearl barrettes, and headbands. Some more would be like a flower pin to put in a bun, scrunchies, and small hair ties. In style this year are the claw clips. Claw clips are really easy to apply, and are super cute.

Next is the Piercings. piercings are a great way to show a certain style, and make a unique look. Ear piercings are really common but super chic and classy. People get so many fun earrings to wear when they have these, including animal looking ones, hoops, studs with different colors, shapes, and so on. There are also different kinds of piercing, like a helix, snug, orbital, and industrial to name a few. They are all on the ear too.

People can also have them all over their faces. Like on the eyebrow, and eyelids. The one that is in the middle of the forehead is called a third eye. People can even get them on their cheekbone. Also, they come all over the nose too, and on the tongue and lips.

Piercings are available everywhere. Tongue piercing and tattoos are options, but one needs to be careful about some of those decisions.

Necklaces are for the neck, the next step down from the face. There are many different styles of necklaces, like a choker, a chain, and long ones. They come in different styles too, like the "Outerbanks" necklace set that is very beachy, or the Emo girl set that is yin and yang signs and black. There are also so many in between.

Bracelets are a very cute way to style up any outfit. They come in so many shapes, sizes, and colors. People get friendship bracelets, chain bracelets, parachute bracelets, and many more. They come with charms or without, and can pull together any outfit.

Then comes belts. Belts can be so cute with a fall dress and leggings, or a crop top and jeans. They can go with anything and can be worn many different ways. People can get belt buckles for them too, and that can add a lot of bling.

Last but not least is ankle bracelets. Most ankle bracelets are friendship ones, or are gold chains with butterflies. They are so cute and great for the beach, or pools.

Fashion is one thing to express someone's personality, but the accessories can really show someone's true self.

**Addee Hoffmann**

## Senior Farewell

Senior night was a fun filled, extravagant night. They were escorted by their parents onto the court, where the announcer would say some of the kids favorite memories. favorite memories. Then they gave their painted B to a special supporter of theirs.

Aidan Bergstrom, a proud participant in the Belt Basketball program claimed that senior night was what he expected, maybe even better. He was proud to give his B to his Grandpa, Dee Bergstrom. His favorite memory was the long and very eventful bus rides.

"It was amazing to see the community once again supporting us through the entire night," exclaimed Ahmia Lords. She participated in Basketball all four years of her high school career, and she is sad to see these years come to an end. She gave her B to Todd and Crystal Vogl because they have always been there for her, and they are two of her biggest and best supporters, and friends. Her favorite memory for her four years was playing in front of the home crowd, and playing in postseason tournaments.

Cole Hepfner explained that

Senior Night was a bittersweet experience. He said this because it was fun to see the whole community come together for the seniors, but sad to know this would be almost like a goodbye. Hepfner participated in basketball, and is a great athlete, and leader for the younger kids. "I gave my B to my grandma and grandpa because they are so supportive to me in my high school career," said Cole Hepfner. The long bus rides with the team is when some of Cole's favorite memories took place. "A thanks to the team, coaches, families that help, and the cheerleaders and fans."

Sarah Dollenger, the Belt Varsity Cheerleader Captain exclaimed, "Senior night honored our seniors involved in sports at this time. It also brings a moment of sadness because we are graduating soon. Sarah gave her B to Shannon Osterman because she has always been there for Sarah, and taught her to keep persevering during the hardest of times. Her favorite memories include all the fun times she had with Aubrey Johnson, causing them to lose track of what they were doing, and being a leader for all the girls.

Senior night was a great night for a senior Raily Gliko who is participating in basketball. She said it was pretty emotional between Coach Graham and the other seniors, and she also stated that it was a lot like what she expected because of the Volleyball Senior night. Gliko decided to give her honorary B to Peyton Ferris. Peyton has helped her improve so much over the course of the year as a post, and a team leader. "She is very helpful and has been their for me through a lot this season," stated Raily Gliko. Raily's favorite memory is when Coach Ferris and told Ahmia to "Jump off the Ground when doing her post moves. She also really enjoyed the summer ball tournaments. "I'm sure going to miss the team and the sport," Raily Gliko.

Senior Night was a memorable night for the crowd, and the seniors. It was a great way to honor the seniors and all their hard work they put into their sports. It honored Raily Gliko, Ahmia Lords, Lindsey Paulson, Sarah Dollenger, Colton Lombardo, Asa Jassen, Cole Hepfner, and Aidan Bergstrom.

**By: Addee Hoffmann**

Marijuana was legalized on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

When people think about a DUI they usually think about driving under the influence of alcohol, but, you can get a DUI when using any substance that causes impairment, including marijuana. Any intoxicating substances like marijuana can negatively impact one's driving ability, causing a variety of hazards: reduced concentration, drowsiness, poor information processing, and difficulty doing more than one thing at a time.

Although there is a lot of publicity about the legalization of marijuana, it is still illegal to drive under the influence, and it is a crime.



# Don't Drive Impaired!

## Social Skills

Each week in Belt Elementary School, there is a program called a Social Skill of the Week, and the students are notified from the morning announcements each day.

There are nine skills that are taught to the learners and staff of the school. These include: being prepared, following instructions, owning your actions, listening, accepting criticism and consequences, thinking first, being considerate of others property, interacting with appropriate voice and body behavior, and to resist peer pressure.

Since there are only nine major social skills, Mr. Paulson will repeat the fundamentals about four to five times a year. Every elementary teacher throughout the week reminds their students of the behavior they should be displaying.

**By: Gracie Watson**

## Ed Screening

Northcentral Learning Resource Center is an educational organization that provides screening and evaluation services for disabilities in education. They will be in Belt on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Child Find program tests the child's learning ability, memory, sight, hearing, balance, behavior, physical motions, and how they interact with other children.

Any parent with potential concerns is allowed to enter their offspring as long as the child fits into the age range of a newborn baby up until six years old and not yet entered Kindergarten.

Appointments are required. The process will take approximately one hour. Call (406) 727-6303 to register or for more information.

**By: Eliza Tingey**

## Poster Contest

Spirit was the name of the game during the district and divisional tournament season that recently passed.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, at 8 a.m. there were eight posters that were judged for the District Poster Contest. The posters were scored based on the posters that illustrate Husky Basketball spirit and pride while promoting positive sportsmanship.

The judges made sure the poster was not cliché, and was visually pleasing along with the grammar. Based on the scoring rubric there was a maximum of 30 points. The first-place winner was the Husky Nation Posters, pictured below, which was crafted by the Class of 2026.

The winning poster was displayed at the District Basketball Tournament at Great Falls High School.

**By: Gracie Watson**

## JV Sports Wrap-Up

The junior varsity season has wrapped up for the Belt Huskies, and it was another successful one at that. Both teams finished way north of .500, and every player has improved greatly, which is the main point of the junior varsity level of play, preparing for "The Show."

Boys coach Tristan Cummings and girls mentor Renzi Horton were proud of the effort of their respective squads and remind the kids to keep working in the off-season.

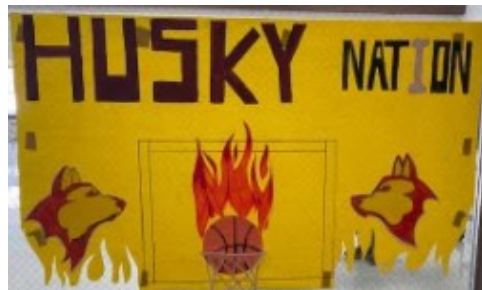
Two athletes from each JV team were asked three questions about the season. The two from the girl's JV were 8<sup>th</sup> graders Raene Mapston and Lily Puppe. The two from the boys were sophomores Nate Gill and Lane Waldner.

The first question asked was "What was your favorite part of the season?" Raene Mapston replied to that question stating, "Probably

the beginning or middle of the season." Lily Puppe's was, "traveling with the team and improving my skills." Nate Gill responded, "... playing and beating Power's varsity twice." Lane Waldner's favorite time was "Locker room time with the team and annoying TC." Which refers to Coach Tristan Cummings.

The next question was "What part of your game has improved the most over the season?" Raene answered that question saying, "My shooting and dribbling skills." Lily states that, "my shot has improved a lot and not being scared to handle the ball." Nate says that his, "finishing at the rim through contact" has improved the most. Lane stated that "My tres punto, or 3-pointer" has improved the most.

The last question asked was "What area of your game do you need to work on the most for next season?" Despite it being one of her



most improved areas, Raene said that her shooting ability was what she needed to work on the most. Lily thinks that her defensive positioning needs to be worked on. Nate said that the main area he needs to fix is his free throws. Lane said that the main thing he needed to work on was his ability to more effectively handle the ball.

Overall, the Huskies had a great season and everybody is proud to be part of the teams. Belt would like to wish the best of luck in their playing careers for the future. Congratulations Huskies on a successful winter campaign.

**By: Rylan Davison**

## Elks Hoop Shoot

Previously, multiple elementary students went to the Elks Hoop Shoot Free Throw competition in Black Eagle. Two Belt students remain alive in the single elimination contests, looking to go all out and be crowned a national champion.

Celebrating its 50th year, the Elks Hoop Shoot is nation-wide contest that culminates in crowning national champions for both boys and girls from ages 8-13.

In recent week, four Belt kids have excelled in the competition, and two remain alive in their quest to win it all. Each round of competition requires the kids to

shoot 25 free throws.

Several weeks ago in Great Falls, Ellison Graham, Kale Stroop, Michael Gaylord, and Cadence Graham all won their age group to advance to the area wide contest.

Also held in the Electric City, the next eliminations saw the kids pitted against foes from throughout Central Montana. Again, all four bested the field and moved on to state, where the met the best the Treasure State had to offer in Livingston.

In that round, Gaylord and Stroop place third (Stroop bowed in a sudden death shoot-out), but both Graham girls were tops in the state.

In capturing the state title, Ellison nailed 22 of 25 and Cadence hit 20.

They now move on to regional competition on March 12<sup>th</sup> in Rapid City, SD. The Midwest Regional is one of 13 nationwide. The champ from each regional will meet in Chicago at the end of April for national finals. The winner there will be recognized at the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield MA.

Last year Ellison was best in the U.S., and hopes to repeat. Best of luck to both girls as they take their exceptional talent to South Dakota and beyond.

Go Huskies!

**By: Kyndal Schraner**

## 100 Board

The young elementary pups of Belt School have been performing good acts of kindness throughout the school year. Since those certain individuals have been doing helpful tasks, they were awarded a golden Husky Ticket.

This ticket gets entered into a bucket, among others, and waits there till Thursday afternoon then Mr. Paulson pulls out a couple of lucky tickets. If the ticket that is pulled has one's name on it, then a number between 1-100 gets pulled out of another bucket. After that, the kid's name gets put on the whiteboard number that they previously pulled. Whenever a full row of ten gets filled up, those fortunate students get treated to pizza and bowling for one afternoon with Mr. Paulson. These tickets allow students to show off their helpful and kind skills.

Last Tuesday, February 15, 2022, ten kids landed on the lucky row and went to pizza and bowling. These kids include Kale Stroop and Madison McLaughlin from fifth grade, Madden Leritz, James D Larson, Dutch Dawson, and Aleah Kerkes from third grade, Noah Pet-

roff represents the second grade, Wade Hoyer will illustrate the behavior of first grade, and finally, both Jaxon LeCureux and Mason Koffler have left their kindergarten classroom to spend a fun lunch with the other students.

Wade Hoyer was one of the chosen few to go pizza and bowling. This was his first time that he was chosen to go with nine other elementary students for the afternoon with Mr. Paulson. He claims that it was super fun to go with the other elementary kids, especially since he doesn't go often. Hoyer says that when his class has the opportunity to get on the 100 board, they act a lot better.

Around the Belt Elementary, middle school, and high school, there have been many good acts of kindness and helpfulness. These actions have led them to receive husky tickets. To receive a coveted Husky ticket, one has to follow the Husky guidelines. These rules are posted up in every classroom in the school. They state: Help others, Understand differences, Show respect to self and others, Kind it all, Ignite enthusiasm,

Expect to be the best, Show responsibility. This acronym helps the younger kids remember what the word HUSKIES stands for.

After they accomplish one of these attributes, then they are awarded a white Husky ticket. A white Husky ticket is given to the elementary students when they are kind or helpful. A gold Husky ticket is awarded to outstanding students for their excelled behavior in the classroom, cafeteria, during recess, and/or when interacting with others. The green Husky ticket is received by middle school and high school students. When they perform good tasks, they are granted the token that will be placed in a jar. Then on Thursday each week, Mrs. Patty Kolar pulls a couple of tickets out of the bucket and calls them out on the afternoon announcements. These middle and high school students are awarded a free drink from the yearbook room.

The students of Belt Public Schools strive to do helpful and thoughtful acts to better their school and community because of the reward in sight.

**By: Eliza Tingey**

## Featured Staff-Krista Gaylord

Mrs. Krista Gaylord, a new staff member as of last school year has agreed to be the Featured Staff for this issue. She is proud to be sharing information with young minds and helping them to a successful future.

Mrs. Gaylord came to Belt to be closer to some of her family. She also liked the environment of the Belt, and it was a small school close to a big city.

Before she came to Belt she taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Fairview for 5 years, 7<sup>th</sup> grade life science and 7th P.E. and Health at Huntley. She also did 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade elementary school for 11 years in Marshall,

Alaska, and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade in Grass Range for 4 years. She is certified to teach Elementary K-8 All subjects, and K-12 School Counseling. As of this moment Gaylord is teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

"Eventually I think I want to try and teach some college level classes. I would also like to earn a doctorate degree in education," stated Mrs. Gaylord. The best parts of teaching to her is building relationships with the students and staff, and watching amazing potential filled kids grow and succeed.

Mrs. Gaylord stated, "My first year in Belt was certainly unique with all of the Covid re-

strictions.

It is great to be fully back in school. In person learning will never be taken for granted after the challenges of the past couple of years." She feels lucky to be a part of the community, and her family is fortunate to have a great place in which to grow.



**By: Addee Hoffmann**

## DECA Fundraisers

Founded in 1946, the national DECA organization promotes student learning through hands on experience in a variety of business, marketing and leadership educational programs and competitions. Belt High School has engaged in the DECA program for years and has again put together a strong contingent for DECA 2022.

During the Montana State DECA Conference nine out of nineteen Belt students qualified for the National Convention, scheduled for April 22<sup>th</sup> through April 27<sup>th</sup>. A huge congratulations goes out to the finalists, Sarah Dollenger, Cole Hepfner, Brady Drummond, Hattie Bumgardner, Aubrey Johnson, Walker Maki, Hans Bumgardner, Addee Hoffmann, Eliza Tingey, and Asa Jassen, who will be attending in the DECA Leadership Training position.

Although the trip to Atlanta, Georgia will be fun, there is some preparing to do their part. Each student that qualified is required to fundraise approximately 600 dollars, which seems like a lot of money, but the overall amount has to total up to 13,000 dollars. The re-

maining competitors are still encouraged to fundraise to help put more money into the DECA bank account.

As of now there are two fundraisers going on. Each DECA student received forms to sell Marion-Kay Spices to whoever they please. They are selling over 100 different cooking spices including economy large products, economy small products, extracts, J.R. Mad's Packets, breadings and specialty items, and marinades. Anyone interested in purchasing any of these items please contact any DECA students or at Marionkay.com.

Marion-Kay Spices has been around since 1922 and celebrates each year by processing "The World's Finest Spices and Extracts." The founder, Marion "Bill" Summers started the business in St. Louis, Missouri, but since 1949, they have operated in Brownstown, Indiana. They serve more than 1,500 full service restaurants nationwide, and are found in almost every major U.S. city. They serve and ship to restaurants in cities outside the U.S. Marion-Kay claims a superior quality that begins with the fin-

est raw materials purchased from around the world in areas recognized as the finest growing regions for a particular spice.

But, the Marion-Kay Spices are not the only way to generate revenue for the DECA students, they are also hosting a DECA Bingo Night on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 2022. This event will be held in the Belt School Cafeteria from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. On that day, it will officially be the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Bingo Night. There will be prizes for each round, along with a silent auction. DECA participants are asking for your help in donating any food. Such as potatoes, chips, tortilla chips, lettuce, shredded cheese, taco seasoning, nacho cheese, salsa, sour cream, candy, and fruit roll ups. Along with beverages consisting of water, pop, and coffee. There has recently been a generous donation of the supplies, which include paper plates, forks, napkins, and tin foil.

Please show as much support to these qualifiers as possible by participating in the DECA Bingo Night, and buying seasons from Marion-Kay Spices.

**By: Gracie Watson**

## Pep Assembly

The Belt Cheerleaders hosted a pep assembly before district tournaments. The assembly was held to send the basketball teams to district tournaments. It coincided with Spirit Week, and was held on Wednesday, "Back in Black" day. The assembly began at 10:50 a.m. The school all joined together in the main gym for the exciting event while the pep band played their tunes.

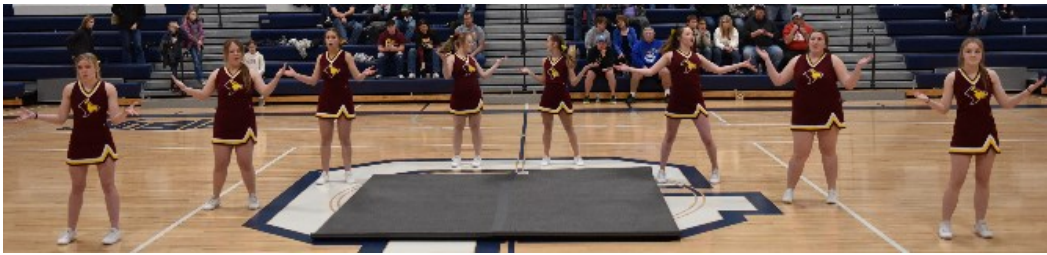
Once everyone was seated

the pep band played "Hot Shot" and the cheerleaders did one of their sidelines to the song. After that the Cheerleaders lead the crowd in a cheer, "Husky Power", then they performed their tournament routine that entertained the crowd. The basketball teams were then welcomed onto the court and each person said a few things. The fun then began with an exciting game of backwards free throw shooting, a contest won by the boys.

Sportsmanship was addressed when Mrs. Metrione acted out a scenario of how "Not" to behave at games. To wrap up the pep assembly the National Honor Society hosted the Pie in the Face competition, a FUNdraiser that saw Mr. Koontz, Mrs. Gaylord, School Resource Officer Detective Shawn Baker get messy.

It was an exciting and fun filled assembly for everyone. The crowd was active in all the things that were going on the court, and was very respectful when the cheerleaders were doing their dance. The Belt School will be excited to host another pep assembly like that one.

**By: Addee Hoffmann**



## Scholarships

Scholarship	Due Date	Amount	Criteria	Information	Requirements
Montana Farmers Union	3/15	\$500	Family must be members MFU	<a href="http://www.montanafarmersunion.com/?hd=home&amp;id=scholarships">http://www.montanafarmersunion.com/?hd=home&amp;id=scholarships</a>	variety of scholarships on this site
Oddfellow & Rebekah Lodges of Montana	3/15	\$500	MT High School Senior 3.0 GPA. Attend a Montana college or COT.	See counselor for application.	
MT Clerk & Records	3/15	\$1,000	In-state college or university	See counselor for application.	
Horatio Alger Montana	3/15	\$5,000	Min.2.0 GPA, MT resident, pursue bachelors MSU or U of M	<a href="http://www.horatioalger.org/scholarships">http://www.horatioalger.org/scholarships</a>	application opens in Jan., transcript, and page for counselor (don't wait until last min.)
Montana University System Honor	3/15	Tuition Waver 8 Semesters-Eligible MT College		See counselor for application.	
Studio 706 Bill Chigbrow Memorial	3/16	\$500	Artistic merit and educational objectives	Application from Counselor	Essay, portfolio, letters of rec

Birthdays		
Date	Husky	Grade
3/7	Jaxston Sederholm	K
3/6	Patrick Larson	1
3/7	Finnian Flaten	1
3/7	Beatrice Iverson	2
3/10	Owen Hovey	4
3/11	Brinley Belakjon	6
3/7	Emmitt Anderson	6
3/9	Vannie Urick	7
3/5	Tommy Highfill	7
3/4	Lily Puppe	8
3/9	Mac Hedstrom	9
3/11	Tawny Redding	9
3/9	Nate Gill	10



Calendar of Events		
Date	Time	Event
3/5	11:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	MS BB @ Hobson DECA Bingo Night
3/7	8:30 a.m.	Child Find-Library
3/8	3:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	MS/HS Regional Science Fair Fiddle Club Board of Trustees
3/9	TBD	State BB @ Four Season's
3/10	TBD	State BB @ Four Season's Elementary Regional Science Fair
3/11	TBD	No School - State BB @ Four Season's
3/12	TBD	State BB @ Four Season's
3/14	3:30 p.m.	First day of HS Track/Golf
3/15	3:30 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Fiddle Club MS BB vs. Highwood
3/16	12:30 p.m.	Early Out PIR
3/17	12:15 p.m.	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter HS Fitness - Great Falls PEAK Trip
3/18	3:00 p.m.	MS BB vs. Highwood

## Bowling Scores

Bowling rolls forward at Backroads Bowling & Pizza as two more weeks have concluded. A few highlights from the weeks are a 254 scratch game issued by Mike Christensen, and a 210 handicap game, courtesy of Teri Cummings.

### Week 23

### Week 24

Men's Scratch Game	Women's Scratch Game	Men's Scratch Game	Women's Scratch Game
Mike Christensen-254	Polly Pimperton-151	Tony Cooper-221	Lisa Urick-181
Kalem Halley-211	Patti Sweeney-151	Kalem Halley-211	Teri Cummings-174
Men's Handicap Game	Women's Handicap Game	Men's Handicap Game	Women's Handicap Game
Mike Christensen-259	Teri Cummings-210	Tony Cooper-255	Teri Cummings-233
Kalem Halley-246	Celeste Hoyer-202	Kalem Halley-244	Denise Puppe-227
Men's Scratch Series	Women's Scratch Series	Men's Scratch Series	Women's Scratch Series
Mike Christensen-693	Polly Pimperton-437	Mike Christensen-569	Lisa Urick-514
Rick Naccarato-564	Teri Cummings-416	Jeff Pimperton-540	Linda Lewis-463
Men's Handicap Series	Women's Handicap Series	Men's Handicap Series	Women's Handicap Series
Mike Christensen-708	Teri Cummings-596	Jeff Pimperton-657	Linda Lewis-622
Kalem Halley-668	Jessica Schatzka-594	David Eggert-646	Lisa Urick-619