



The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



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Belt Boys Grab Hardware

The Belt boys brought home a 3rd place trophy from the state tournament in the Four Seasons Arena last week. After a tough opening round loss, the boys found their groove, winning three games in a row to finish their season on a high note.

In the opening loss for Belt, the pace of the game was the largest factor against the Broadus Hawks. When Belt kept Broadus in the open court, the Huskies owned the game. However, when Broadus was in half court territory, they were able to use their superiority in height to establish an effective post-up game. Belt had a tough time making deep shots, however Garrett Metrione did not have a problem sinking shots beyond the arch, scoring 17. Keaghn McDaniel played tough post defense while being able to make moves down low to score an abundance of 12 points throughout the match. Bridger Vogl had a combined total of 12 points. The Huskies were behind by as much as 13 in the first half. As halftime approached, Belt was trailing by 9 points with the scoreboard reading Belt-24, Broadus-35.

As both teams marched back on the court to resume play, Belt played phenomenal hard to stay in it. In the 4th quarter, the Huskies had an offensive surge to bring the game within 2 points and they had possession of the ball. However, Broadus sustained their lead and Belt took their first loss of the tournament with the final score reading Belt-52, Broadus-59.

The following game, Belt battled against Fairview and were down early at the start of the game. Not long in the second quarter, the Huskies went on an enormous offensive run adding 22 more points to their original score in the first quarter to take command. Metrione shot great from beyond the arch and was able to drive the ball to the rim. He scored a total of 21 points with Vogl scoring 11 and Reese Paulson making 10.

At halftime the score was Belt-31, Fairview-24. Towards the end of the game, Fairview found something in them and brought the score within 2 points. Belt and Fairview went back and forth scoring until (Cont. pg. 2)

Tingey Performs in Spokane

Molly Tingey, a senior at Belt High School, jumped on the opportunity to sing in the Honor Choir Concert with the best from the Northwest. The concert was held at the Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, Spokane, Washington at 2:00-5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 12th, 2022.

There were four different choirs that performed in sequence, the Middle School Honor Choir with conductor Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, The 9th-10th Grade SATB Honor Choir with their director Dr. Lynnel Joy Jenkins.

The 11th-12th TB Honor Choir was directed by Dr. Gary Packwood. Finally, John Byun conducted the 11th-12th grade SA Honor Choir.

Tingey was elected into the 11th-12th SA Honor Choir. Over the span of three days, all the kids that successfully auditioned for the choir practiced together for the first time. Before the gathering of choirs, participants were required to memorize their parts. The students practiced for three days, then performed before a crowd of about 1200 patrons. (Cont. pg. 4)

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State Hoops (Cont.)

the final moments of the game when Belt grasped hold of the win. The scoreboard read Belt-51, Fairview-49 as the teams shook hands.

There weren't a lot of scouting secrets in the Friday loser out game. As Belt took on their rivals in the tournaments, Roy-Winifred. They faced each other 4 times previously in the regular season and in the district and divisional championships. This time, the Huskies played their best and beat their rivals when it

mattered the most. Both teams came off to a slow start not scoring much and the Huskies were trailing to the Outlaws at halftime by 7 points. Metri-one made a buzzer beater



three to take the teams into the locker rooms for halftime.

Once both teams came back from the 10-minute break, Belt started to gain on their rivals. At the end of the third quarter, Belt was still losing by 6 points. However, Belt became hot in the third quarter and played amazing basketball to seal the game and win by 4 points. They made 17 points in the final quarter and the scoreboard read Belt-38, Roy-Winifred-34.

The consolation championship game was played between the Belt Huskies and the Melstone Broncs. Similar to

previous games, both teams came out a little cold making single digit points in the first quarter. Belt stuck with their defense and started to hit more shots towards the end of the second quarter.

After the halftime break, Belt started to pull away and took sight of a third-place trophy. They finished the game scoring 16

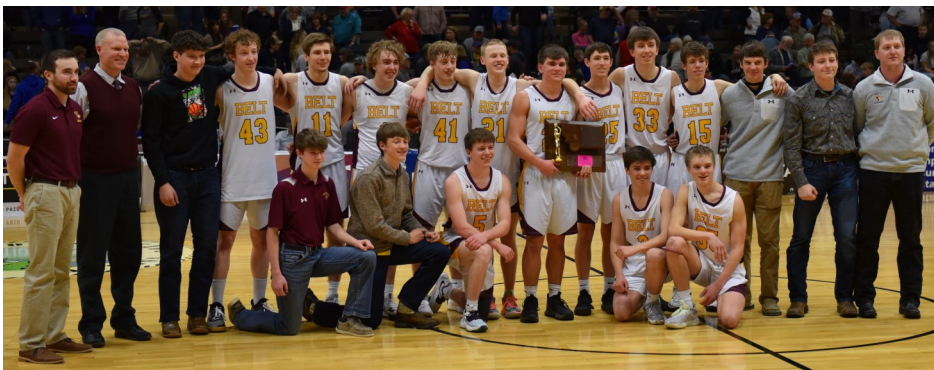
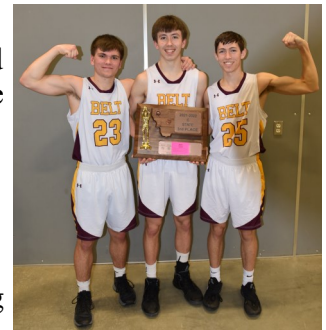
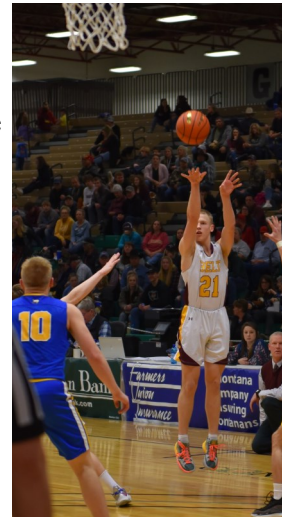
points and leaving Melstone behind. The final score of the game was Belt-47 and Melstone-22.

The championship game was played between two undefeated teams being Froid Medicine Lake and Manhattan Christian. Manhattan Christian dominated the game and won the championship with a final score of Manhattan Christian-55 and Froid Medicine Lake-35.

Seniors Cole Hepfner, Aidan Bergstrom, and Asa Jassen donned Maroon and Gold for the last time last week-end and went out in style.

Considering the age of the team, the future looks very bright. Congratulations to all the Huskies on a great season!

By: Walker Maki



Broadus	19	16	13	11	59
Belt	11	13	16	12	52
Fairview	14	10	7	18	49
Belt	9	22	13	7	51
Roy-Winifred	8	12	7	7	34
Belt	9	7	8	17	38
Melstone	4	4	8	6	22
Belt	8	12	11	16	47

Senior Spotlight

The featured senior in this issue's *Senior Spotlight* is Hayden Urick who has attended school in Belt for approximately nine years. He would describe his Belt experience as long, but eventful. His plans for after high school are to join the military and to fight and support his country. The advice that he



would give for younger students and kids is, "Don't do drugs."

When he departs from the Belt school and community, he will miss family the most. His most memorable event that occurred when he was in Belt was driving the backroads with some friends.

The Belt com-

munity would like to wish Urick the best as he moves forward in his life and career. Also, thanks for going on to pursue a career in the military in service of the country.

The Mighty Class of 2022 is getting itchy to "escape" the halls of Belt High School after twelve years, but there's still some work to be done. The next senior that will be featured in the *Senior Spotlight* is Aidan Bergstrom.

By: Walker Maki

Principals Cup

The annual principals Cup activity will occur on March 25th at Simms. Membership is based on grade point average. Belt will send two teams to the competition and the teams consist of one member of each class (Freshman through Senior) and one at-large member. The questions consist of English, Math, History, and background knowledge. The students that are participating in the activity are: Asa Jassen, Molly Tingey, Isaac Maki, Aubrey Johnson, Clayton Jassen, Reese Paulson, John Tingey, Walker Maki, and Eliza Tingey.

The Principal's Cup began in 2004 and grew in popularity with almost every North-Central Montana school now participating. Mr. Craig Cummings, former principal, teacher, and coach at Belt High,

was one of the programs founders. It was first hosted by the University of Great Falls, then moved on to Centerville, and continues its journey to Simms. As teams won the competition, they were awarded a trophy and medals to each of the participants. They are encouraged to move on to the next level, Montana Academic State Championships at the University of Montana.

The teams that have been exceptional in the past are Lewistown, C.M. Russell High School, Great Falls High School, and Conrad High School. The high schools that are engaging in the event this spring are: GFC, Charles M. Russell, GFHS, Augusta, Belt, Conrad, Chinook, Choteau, Cut Bank, Fairfield, Lewistown, Havre, Sunburst, Power, Shelby, Simms, and Win-

nett.

The students were required to take a "pretest" to see where the teams will place for the beginning round. The contest consists of multiple rounds that are played with two teams competing to ring in first and answer the question correctly. The winning team will move on to the next round and the loser will have one more chance to stay in the competition. It is double elimination and there are 32 teams in the bracketing system. There are 62 rounds for the cup and each team will guarantee to play four matches.

The *Valley Voice* wishes the best of luck for the participants in the Principal's Cup and there will be a follow up article discussing the results of the event.

By: Walker Maki

Belt Town News

Several news items have emerged from Belt's city government over the two weeks. "The City of Belt is moving forward with a proposed system of Zoning and Subdivision Regulations for the town," Lynn Shilling.

Belt's local government is still looking for a person to apply for a seasonal public works job that includes benefits. The position requires semi-skilled and skilled technical and maintenance work that

needs equipment operation including, "construction, operation, repair, maintenance, and replacement of the town's water supply, wastewater system, treatment or distribution facilities and systems, streets, snow removal and other public works projects and programs."

Many of the following meetings held at the City Hall will speak about planning and developing a draft zoning ordinance by the town's engineering firm.

The city is also researching the resources needed to get the flood levy certified by the Army Corps of Engineers. It would be very expensive to get the obstruction certified, however it could make costs lower for citizens when purchasing flood insurance.

Meetings are held at the City Hall in Belt the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

By: Walker Maki

Northwest Honor Choir



The 11th-12th grade SA Honor Choir sang *Rise Up* by Jake Runestad, *Psallite* by Kyle Pederson, *The Answer* by Matthew Lyon Hazzard, *Serenade italienne* written by Ernest Chausson, arranged by Mari Esabel Valverde, *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)* arranged by Keith McKay Evans, and *Suddenly* by Michael Engelhardt. Tingey's choir also joined the TB honor choir to sing *Lift Your Voice and Sing* by Raymond Wise.

Tingey's favorite memory was the practices with all new people as well as her super energetic conductor, John Byun. Tingey has been a great representative of Belt's music program and she will always cherish these memories that she made in Spokane.

Preparations are already underway for CDA National Honor Choir 2023. Auditions for a spot in next years esteemed group of talented young voices will be held in September, 2022.

By: Eliza Tingey

Regional Science Fair

On Tuesday March 3rd students boarded a bus headed to MSU Great Falls to represent Belt at the Regional Science Fair. There were 26 different schools represented, 34 total projects in elementary, 158 in middle school, and 65 projects in the high school.

Similar to the Belt Science fair, judges were volunteers from the community. The same rubric was used for the regional fair as was used in Belt. Some judges were specialized under general categories while others were not.

Sixth grade students Rogue Roberts, Mak McCoy, and Camree Puppe placed first under biology. Cacellia Durbin claimed 2nd in physics, with Wyatt Remington, JJ

Hoffman, and Weston Tingey following closely behind with third.

Sixth graders Roberts, McCoy, Puppe, and Durbin along with fifth grade students Olivia Knudsen and Collyns Yurek have been awarded a Boone and Crockett Trip May 20th. This trip is part of a conservation education program on the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch in Dupuyer. This ranch's mission is to provide outdoor science-based conservation education that shows the community that conservation is inclusive to everyone.

Seventh grade students Reagan Jassen, Cadence Graham, and Maren Keaster obtained first in biology. Dawson Iverson, Mylah Flaten, and Addy Urick placed sec-

ond in physics. These ladies all earned scholarships for camps at Montana Learning Center. These scholarships are worth 550 dollars and can be used either this summer or the next.

Sidney Paulson and Zoe Holm claimed third in biology while eighth grade students Parker Osterman and Kyle Atwood placed third in physics.

Gold ribbons were awarded to the following students: Durbin, Jassen, Graham, Keaster, Paisley Enos, and Kylie Maas. Multiple other students received silver and bronze ribbons. Students also received merit awards in their respective categories.

By: Madisen Feldman

Spring Sports

Spring sports kicked off last Monday, on March 14th. In past years, the Belt School student-athletes have done very well in both sports track and field and girls golf. There are a few new rules that go along with the golf season.

In golf, markers will no longer be required by the MHSA; markers are people who follow along the group to tally how many strokes each person has taken. Unlike prior years, there will also be the top four people from each team

taken to a divisional tournament, as this will be the new format for state meet qualifiers. The top 25 individual golfers and top 5 teams will qualify for state.

Montana is divided into Eastern and Western Divisions, with playing in the West. Divisional for golf will be held at the Marias Valley Golf Course (Shelby) on May 9th, with state set for the Sydney Country Club May 17th and 18th.

Memorial Stadium in Great

Falls will host the 8-C District, the Northern C Divisional and State Class C Track and Field Meets on May 13th, May 19th & 20th May 27th & 28th respectively.

Divisional track was moved to avoid conflict with the state golf meet as more and more athletes are competing in both spring sports. Belt has a pair of girls who will attempt to double up on spring sports this season. Good luck to all the Belt kids in the next couple months.

By: Kyndal Schraner

Close-Up

Close Up is hosting the annual color run this year. It takes place on the 16th of April and registration opens at 9:30 a.m. The race will begin at 10:30 a.m., and they can either run or walk. It is the participants' decision. The start line is in the Belt School Parking lot, and then wraps around the football and school. It is \$25 per person pre-registration (Postmarked by April 11th), and \$30 same day registration.

Pick up and drop off forms and fees are in the school office or call 406-277-3351 to register. Also if it works better, email avi-socan@beltschool.net. Get a registration form now!

The run is just under one mile, and they can run one, or two for more fun. When running, colorful pops of color will come out of no where, so be ready!

By: Addee Hoffman

Self-Defense

A self defense course is coming to the Belt community. The Belt Valley Chamber Of Commerce will be hosting it, and it is a part of an Alliance for Youth program.

This activity is an interactive, participatory workshop. The participants will learn skills in boundary settings, investigate personal responses to violence, and explore community safety.

This is a free self-defense workshop for teens and older. It will also include parents. It takes place on Monday, April 4th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Belt Performing Arts Center. The space is limited at the facility so RSVP to reserve a spot for this fun event if interested.

People can send the RSVP to Kristy Pontet-Stroop at (406)-781-9938, or email her at kpontetstroop@allianceforyouth.org.

By: Addee Hoffmann

School Spirit

Two weeks ago divisional tournaments dominated the attention of most people at the school. The tournament advisors decided they would love for everyone attending to have a little extra fun, and participate in spirit days. The whole tournament was welcome to dress up and enjoy seeing what school was most spirited.

On Thursday the 24th, the dress up day was throwback day. It was dedicated to throwback because it is a Thursday, and as stereotypically most Thursday's are throwback days. Hawaiian day was Friday, February 25th, in honor of Coach Griff Bye. Saturday the 26th was suits 'n sneakers day. The dress up events added to the fun.

The tournament was filled with excited crowds, and very good participation with dress up days from the Belt student section.

Addee Hoffmann

Student Opinions-Ukraine

The news outlets have been debating the recent invasion of Ukraine. Vladimir Putin has sent troops into Ukraine in hopes of "retaking" the land. Putin's claim was that Ukraine was a part of Russia during the Cold War, so that means he now has the right to reclaim it.

There has been a lot of talk of war, but one may ask if the youth of the world are listening. This invasion has sparked an interest in the current events among the Belt High School Students. An autonomous poll was taken to see how much input they really had on this topic.

When asked if they were following the news on current world affairs, three of about every ten students stated they weren't following it. Many more students expressed that they were tuning in, but not due to their guardian figures.

Not a single student declared that they haven't heard of the

invasion. Majority of them actually declare that they hear of it often. They also believe that there is a high possibility of it affecting their future. Now that there are many students who acknowledge how lethal this invasion may be for the Ukrainians, there are many opinions sprouting. Several students shared their opinions with the Voice, but since things these days are so politically charged their comments are printed here anonymously.

Many students hope that Russia is shut down before the United States must get involved. One states "I feel that this invasion is very harmful in many ways around the world. I also agree that Putin underestimated Ukraine and thought it would be much easier to invade than it is proving to be. If the United States gets involved it will become WWII."

Another comment was "I honestly feel that if the situation at

hand gets worse and Russia attacks part of NATO then we should hop in and try to resolve this. Also, at the same time I feel that this could lead to WWII because of Putin's will to concur."

Many more students felt like the states needed to step in and end it before it states. Someone added "I think that the US should step in to help the wounded and protect Ukraine's freedom." A similar remark was "I believe the United States should make it clear that we will get involved as soon as Russia takes even the smallest step onto NATO territory."

One student even placed criticism on Putin, when they exclaimed "I think it could end up being catastrophic, especially if the US and/or NATO ends up getting involved. Hopefully, Putin is smart enough to not let this dissolve into WWII."

By: Kyndal Schraner

Featured Staff

Middle school mentor Mrs. Andrea Visocan is this issue's featured staff article. In addition to teaching, she is a proud varsity cheerleading coach.

Mrs. Visocan is certified to teach in both Georgia and Montana. In Montana she is able to teach Elementary (K-8), and all secondary Social Sciences (6-12). As of right now Mrs. Visocan is teaching Middle School ELA and Social Sciences. She has been teaching this for the past four years of her Belt School academic career.

Mrs. Visocan received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from the U of Georgia. She earned her master's Piedmont College. She also earned a masters in Elementary Ed from Liberty University.



What brought this wonderful teacher to the Belt community was her just wanting a change of scenery. She worked at the Ranches of Belt Creek during the summer, then in the Spring of 2015, she started substituting at Belt Schools. She was then pleased by the good news that the

school needed a new fourth grade teacher. She applied for the job and was hired to work the next year, a welcome addition to the staff

"The best parts of teaching are getting to know students and building relationships with them. I hope to inspire students to push themselves beyond the classroom and to make a difference in the world around them. I really like the quote by William Arthur Ward that says, 'The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.' Helping students see and realize the best parts of themselves is what I strive to do each day." Exclaimed Mrs. Visocan.

Mrs. Visocan explained that all her memories from Belt are great memories and she can't pick just one to share. She loves that she gets to spend time with amazing students, and have fun with cheerleaders. Her long term career goal is to hope to continue teaching and making an impact everyday.

"I consider it a real privilege to teach in such a supportive and close-knit community. Belt is one of the best schools around. I am glad that my own children are able to grow and learn here, and that we can call this our home." - Mrs. Visocan

By: Addee Hoffmann

Treasure State Hoops

Lots of people in the Belt Valley were focused on the Class C State Basketball Tournament in Great Falls and know that Manhattan Christian and Roy-Winifred won the boys and girls basketball titles. But while those athletic dramas were playing out at the Pacific Steel & Recycling Four Seasons Arena, six other teams around Montana were hoisting championship trophies of their own.

These days. All four high school classification use a combined boys and girls format for their eight team state tournaments. The AA games were played at the Metra in Billings, the class A games were played in Missoula at the University of Montana campus, and the B matches were held at Brick Breeden Fieldhouse in Bozeman.

The class AA boy's championship was played between the Bozeman Hawks and the Helena Capital Bruins. The game was played on March 12th, and resulted in a 62-48 victory for the Bruins. The Bruins took home first, Bozeman placed second, and Missoula Big Sky took down Billings Senior to claim third. The girls AA title game was between Billings Skyview and Missoula Hellgate. Billings Skyview was able to hold off Hellgate to claim first. Missoula Hellgate claimed second, and Flathead beat Sentinel to

take third.

The class A boy's chipper was played between Butte Central and Lewistown. The game was close all the way through, but a buzzer beating three by Butte Central guard Dougie Peoples that won them the game 61-58. Central took first, Lewistown took second, and Polson beat Hamilton for third. The girl's championship was played between Havre and Billings Central. It was a low scoring game, but in the end, Havre took home the victory 37-30. Havre took first, Central got second, and Hardin held off Dillon for third.

The class B boy's big game was played between Three Forks and Harlem. It was a high scoring game, and when the buzzer sounded, Three Forks were declared champions 72-57. Three Forks took first, Harlem got second, and Lodge Grass beat Shelby to take home the third-place hardware. The Class B girls closing match was played between Jefferson and Colstrip. The fun game resulted in a Colstrip victory 56-42. Colstrip took home gold, Jefferson took silver, and Bigfork beat Glasgow for bronze.

Congratulations to all the state champs who created lasting memories for their schools, communities, and families.

By: Rylan Davison

Youth Sing Festival

The crowd went wild after the middle school choir sang their last note. After a day of practicing and rehearsing, the 4th-8th grades smiled as they took a bow. On February 28th, 2022 kids from Belt, Great Falls Elementary schools, Dutton Brady, Highwood, North and East Middle schools, Conrad, Power, August, went to Great Falls to show off their talent in the event known as Youth Sing.

Mr. Wilson chose the top 25 singers and took them to this festival. 150 4th-6th graders attended the elementary choir. In the 7th-8th students, 93 students participated in the middle school choir.

Rehearsals were scheduled for 10 a.m.-4 p.m. all day, except

for lunch and dinner breaks. Four or five songs were prepared for the final concert later that night. Practices were at the Great Falls College -MSU, and the performances were showcased at West Elementary.

Throughout the day, students were allowed to wear whatever they chose, but during the show, concert attire was mandatory. Dressing up makes the schools look and feel more professional.

Overall the concert was a success, with the help of Kayleigh Griffith, a music teacher from Bozeman, and Jordan Lee, a choir director at Great Falls High School.

The festival was hosted by the Montana Choral Directors Association, with the help of the Belt

Music Director, Mr. Wilson is a member. MCDA will continue to host two more Youth Sings throughout the year to provide a chance for every student to be a part of this opportunity.

The MCDA's mission is to give students a musical experience, and to bring more music into their daily lives. It helps to teach students how to develop their musical skills among talented directors and vocal coaches.

The elementary and middle school students had a blast throughout the day and the performance. They will continue to improve their singing skills for the next Youth Sing.

By: Eliza Tingey

National Honor Society/American Red Cross

NHS will be conducting a Blood Drive with the American Red Cross on Monday March 28th.

This important event will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the Belt School Library.

Staff and students over the age of 17 are allowed to donate.

Parental consent required.

Contact Mrs. Megan Graham for more information.



American Red Cross

When someone is drinking alcohol, they don't realize that the first thing that is affected is the brain. This is why when people get drunk they can't think straight and have no control over their own body.

Alcohol interferes with the communication pathways of the brain. But it doesn't only affect the brain; it also affects the heart, liver, pancreas, immune system, and can even cause cancer.

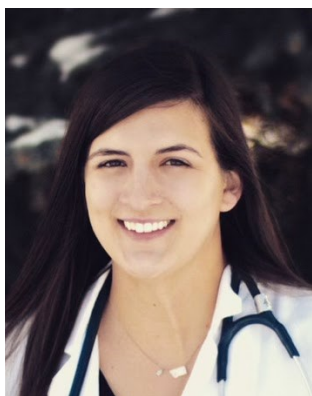
Next time you think about drinking, first think about the long term consequences, and especially ...



Don't Drink and Drive!

Where are They Now?

Will Rogers once said, "The best doctor in the world is a veterinarian. They can't ask their patients what is the matter—they've got to just know." Kelli Kolar graduated from Old Belt High in 2010, and became "the best doctor in the world." She gave the *Valley Voice* an opportunity to look into how she got here.



Kolar graduated from Belt School in 2010 as an exemplary student. She furthered her education

at Montana State University. She received her undergraduate degree, before attending veterinary school at Colorado State University. She earned her Doctor of Veterinary Science degree there.

She is currently living near Belt, and works at Associated Veterinary Services in Great Falls. She intends on continuing her help for the family ranch. She hopes to eventually open up a veterinary practice in the Belt area.

Although she is in a much different place now, she enjoys reminiscing about her hometown.

Among many of her hobbies are "playing sports, DECA trips, Spanish trips, state music, and time spent with my friends and classmates outside of school."

Because she isn't very far from her hometown, she comes to Belt rather often. She expressed that she "tries to catch as many basketball games as my busy work schedule allows." Kolar is yet another Belt alumni to show off their skills outside of the valley.

Tune into the next "Where are They Now?" to peer into the life of yet another successful former Husky.

By: Kyndal Schraner

Mush, Mush

Two weeks ago Mrs. Kathy Remington provided a fantastic lesson for Mrs. Jones' 3rd grade class about the great northern tradition of the Iditarod. Mrs. Remington is both a dog-sled enthusiast and a long time elementary teacher in Belt who returns each year to share her love of the event with the kids. She even attended the Iditarod last year and had a blast.

This year Alaskan natives and other mushers from different countries, along with their dogs, line up right next to each other. Dogs are restless, having the urge to bolt ahead of the competition. For a whole mile, the excited line waited in the bitter cold for the race to start. Then at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 5th, the gun signaled the start of the race. The crowd cheers for the teams and they come rushing past them. In a blur, all 54 runners are out of sight, being consumed into the woods of Alaska.

From Southcentral Alaska to the town of Nome, the 50th annual Iditarod has brought many different types of culture together. Anyone can enter the race, as long as they follow the criteria. Some of

these requirements are, being 18 and older, have to pay an entry fee of \$4,000 plus transportation, among many others. Other demands include having at least two 300-mile races or three 150-mile races. Or if the musher has participated in the Yukon Quest then no other qualifications are required.

The Iditarod is a harsh race that is held in the bitter cold weather of Alaska. Racers train for years, choosing their dogs carefully. Some of them breed their dogs especially for racing. The breeders aim for longer legs to run in the deep snow, as well as strong muscular muscles. These features help the dogs when they are running for short or long distances.

Out in the deep Alaskan forest, many dangers wait for these brave teams. Moose are problems to the dogs, they attack them as they are running or on a break. Another hazard is running the huskies too much. Exhaustion will affect the total race time.

Mrs. Remington, a past Belt School teacher, spoke to Dallas Seavey, five-time winner of the Iditarod. Seavey says that he and his

dogs run for two to four hours and then a quick break. He claims that this personally is the best way for his dogs.

On March 15th, 2022, Brent Sass claimed his very first victory with his personal best of 8 days, 14 hours, 38 minutes and 43 seconds. He will be awarded with more than \$50,000, as well as a new truck and other assets. Sass was interviewed about his first victory and he replies with, "It's awesome! It's a dream come true!"

Remington's enthusiasm is contagious and all the kids were very interested in the whole process as she explained it. Montana has sent a few mushers north over the years, including Clayton Perry of Power, who qualified this year.

The Iditarod helps keep the sled dog tradition alive. With more native Alaskans participating and contributing to the race, more spectators come to cheer on the dogs and mushers. As more teams come through the finish line, the leaderboard will continue to change. For more information on the Iditarod, go to www.iditarod.com.

By: Eliza Tingey

Scholarships

Scholarship	Due	Amount	Criteria	Info.	Requirements
MT Assoc of Sec. Principal's Scholarship	3/18	\$500 (1 boy, 1 girl)	graduating senior	See Counselor	See Form
MT Community Foundation	3/18	\$500-\$5,000	38 available on this site for graduating seniors	www.mtcf.org/applications	See Form
Audrey Wilber-Ewing Nursing	3/26	Varies	Recent Graduate or upper classman in Cascade/Yellowstone Counties	See Counselor	application, transcript, letter of reference (recommendation), 300 word personal statement

Assistant to the Head Coach

At Belt High, there are five assistant basketball coaches who deserve recognition for their tremendous contributions to the successful teams. Lady Husky assistants include: Renzi Horton, Mollie Maki, and Peyton Ferris, while the boys program gets help from Tristen Cummings and Tucker Zuhoski.

Coach Horton attended high school in Scobey and Plentywood and Carrol College Dickinson State University. She started playing on a traveling teams in 2nd or 3rd grade with her classmates in Scobey, then played all through high school.

Coach Horton contributes any and all basketball knowledge she has learned over the years to the team. Film breakdown is not always the easiest job, so her overall motive is to make Coach Graham's job easier. "Coach Graham is knowledgeable, caring, competitive, and the most well organized, well prepared coach you could ever ask for. He is a great mentor and friend to me." -Coach Horton.

Mollie Maki attended Geraldine High School, and spent her early college years at Rock Mountain and finished at Northern. She started her basketball career as a Geraldine Tiger, and while she was at Rocky she was on the Battlin' Bear volleyball team. She began her coaching career at Chinook as the head coach of the Lady Sugar-

beeters for five years.

Coach Maki's role now is to assist in improving the athlete's individual abilities as well as be an encouragement and motivator for both the team and head coach. "Coach Graham, the bald guy, is one of the best coaches we will ever get the opportunity to know and learn from. Although he loves the game of basketball he truly loves his athletes more..."

Peyton Ferris spent her high school career at Twin Bridges, then Montana State University for college. She played basketball for Twin Bridges from 2009-2012, Montana State University from 2012-2017, and 2017-2020 she played professionally for GDKO Ibaizabal, which is in Spain. She then worked for MSU Women's basketball Director of Basketball Operation before moving to Belt.

Ferris now helps with practices 2-3 days per week, sharing her vast experience. "Coach Graham is very detailed and high energy. He puts in a lot of work and holds everyone accountable to put in a lot of work and holds everyone accountable to put the team in the best possible situations to succeed." - Ferris

Tristen Cummings is a former Husky, and once he graduated, attended MSU Northern. From fourth grade on, he never had a summer where he and his friends

weren't traveling to play in summer tournaments or camps.

He contributes the understanding of the importance of defensive fundamentals and preaching communication skills on the basketball court. Cummings describes Coach Paulson as a basketball enthusiast.

Tucker Zuhoski attended Park City High School, then finished college at U.P. He has played basketball from 6th grade to his sophomore year of college. He was also a starter his junior and senior year of high school. He has been the assistant coach for Belt middle school and high school boys for two years.

Zuhoski's role is to guide the program to grow the players into better people while giving them hands on basketball. He contributes an eye for matchups defensively, offering offensive set options in game, explaining to players skills to work on or improve. "Coach Paulson is a driven, supportive, leader who holds everyone accountable, and pushes people to do their best. And HATES to lose!"

Both Coach Paulson and Coach Graham have nothing but praise for these assistants, whose tireless effort and attention to detail are big reasons the student-athletes enjoy success year after year.

By: Gracie Watson

Perfect Prom Prep

With Prom set for tomorrow night, formal fashion is on everyone's mind. "Will this dress look good at this length or should I hem it?" "Does this tux stand out too much or is it just enough?" So many decisions because for many people this is the one night out of the year they can dress this formal.

Prom is here so everyone gets ready for the formal long flowing dresses, or if it's preferred to wear a short, but not too short, fitting dress. The boys can wear patterns, bright colors, or even just a plain simple black suit. This is an exciting event for all the high

school kids, and their chance to dress formally. The colors of the dresses vary in so many different ways. Some boys and girls choose the best color for their skin tone most of the time. If the boy and girl are going together they must match in some way because that is just common in prom, but if they don't want to that is okay too.

A corsage is for a girl, and usually correlates with the color of the dress. The boutonniere is for the boys, and they match their dates' corsage. The corsage goes on the wrist, and the boutonniere goes on the boys tuxedos.

With online shopping these days it makes it much easier for girls and boys alike to find their perfect dress/tux for prom. Amazon is a good place to find a very fancy but cheap formal fit. While the Belt School does not enforce a dress code for prom, the administration and staff expects the attire to be modest and appropriate. There are several rules regarding Prom that all participants need to heed.

That is the normal prom fashion; hopefully people took this into consideration for the event tomorrow evening.

By: Addee Hoffmann

March Madness

The time has arrived, the time in which millions of people fill out their brackets in hopes of it being perfectly correct. Most of the time, actually all of the time, they are not perfect. There has not been a single perfect bracket filled out in all of March Madness history.

Every year, there are favorites to win it all, and this year is no different. The common theme this year is the Gonzaga Bulldogs winning it all. The popular teams to make the final four this year are: Gonzaga, Arizona, Wisconsin, Purdue, Texas Tech, Kentucky, Kansas, and Iowa. There are also two teams that people are excited to see. The first one is the local Montana State Bobcats. This one is pretty self-explanatory, because they are

getting a lot of hype and praise from all Montanans. Unfortunately for the Cats, they face the favored Texas Tech Red Raiders in the first round. The odds don't look good, but anything can happen in March. The other team is the Loyola Chicago Ramblers. The Ramblers seem to always be an underdog, even though every year they make a pretty deep run in the bracket. They face a tough slate of teams however, starting off with the Ohio State Buckeyes, followed by teams that are most likely going to be Villanova, Tennessee, and Arizona. That is, if there are no underdog wins for those three teams.

In Belt, there was a competition in the school where students had to guess which team in the

bracket plays where. The students had a week to prepare and learn, then on Thursday, they duked it out. Each student had to name the city and state that each team played in.

Also, there is a competition for the students that is just a straight up bracket challenge. There is a 10 dollar buy-in, and the winner gets 65% of the pot. Good luck to everybody that filled out the bracket, luck needs to be on their side.

Nationwide, it is estimated that some \$3.1 billion in a variety of ways on the tournament, whether it be through brackets, or head-to-head match-ups, or other methods. That number exceeds the gross national product of 30 of the world nations...madness indeed.

By: Rylan Davison

Pre-ACT

Standardized tests are a big part of the education process these days, and the Class of 2024 faces an important battery of exams this coming week.

Tuesday, March 22nd, Sophomores will take the Pre-ACT test at the Catholic Church Hall at 8:00-11:20. These tests give students a chance to experience what the ACT

is like in regards to format and what the questions will be like; these are also very helpful because it gives them more experience with timed testing.

Pre-ACTs can predict how a student will do on their ACT and allows students to view where their weaknesses are so they may improve for their junior year. Typical-

ly, students who do not take the Pre-ACT score 3 or 4 points lower than those who do. The real ACT test can impact college admissions and scholarship for students.

There is no way to study for this test, but student should make sure they get good rest and eat a hearty breakfast in preparation.

By: Madisen Feldman

A wee Bit 'O Irish

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated around the world on March 17th, this holiday celebrates the Patron saint of Ireland. It also celebrates Irish culture, there are parades, parties, and other get-togethers. People usually wear green in honor of this holiday.

St. Patrick's Day was originally created to honor the Patron Saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick. He was credited with bringing Christianity to the country of Ireland. It

was said that he used a 4-leaf clover to explain the Holy Trinity.

People have been celebrating St. Patrick's Day since the ninth or tenth century. There are hundreds of parades around the world to honor this holiday, especially in big cities like New York. Records show that the first parade was held in a Spanish colony, here in America, on March 17th, 1601.

There are quite a few traditions that most people follow on St.

Patrick's Day. There are traditional foods such as corn beef and cabbage along with Irish soda bread and people in America usually wear green.

When the Irish first moved to the Americas, it was difficult for them to find jobs and fit in because of their accents and religion. However, due to St. Patrick's Day, they were able to come together and celebrate strength and unity.

By: Brooke Holum

Principal's Report

In February, the school totaled 20 office referrals. This is better as opposed to the 10-year average (2011-2021), which was 24. There was a total of 79 tardies, which is outstandingly better than the 10-year, which was 144 tardies. Out of the 79, 33 were from the high school, 25 were middle schoolers, and 21 were elementary students. For the 10-year, 75 tardies are high schoolers, 28 are middle schoolers, and 43 were elementary.

Brady Drummond, Molly Tingey, and Gracie Watson competed in the statewide Poetry Out Loud competition recently and made up the largest high school contingent at State. They competed against students from Flathead, Chrysalis, Sentinel, Hellgate, Valley Christian,

and Red Lodge.

Many guest speakers have come to classes at Belt, two out in Mrs. Simons' shop class, and three for Mr. Wilson's classes. Tom Shimerdla, manager at Liberty Electric, and Jarred Simons, manager of CED, spoke to Mrs. Simons' classes. Cindy Stevens, Great Falls College Choir Director, worked with the MS and HS choirs. Noman Menzales and Terry Knowles (Bozeman and GF Symphony respectively) came and worked with MS and HS students on flute and other woodwind instruments.

The annual 4th-8th Spelling Bee happened on March 2nd. 35 students duked it out, and 7th grader Hope Maki was the runner-up, and 5th grader June Bock took the crown

as school-wide champion.

February 14th-16th was Husky Spirit Week, in which everyone in the building would dress up to show support for the Husky basketball teams in their postseason runs.

On the 16th, there was a pep assembly in the Gym to honor the Poetry Out Loud students, and the basketball teams. There was also the pie in the face, where three people got a big pie slammed into their face. Those three were: Mr. Koontz, Mrs. Gaylord, and Detective Baker. The fundraiser also raised over \$1,000 for childhood leukemia.

Finally, Raleigh Iverson was declared the winner of the Charlie Russell 5th grade essay contest.

By: Rylan Davison

Graham Girls

Recently, two exemplary student-athletes from Belt ventured to Rapid City, South Dakota to battle in the regional round the 50th



Annual Elks Hoop Shoot. Both the young Graham girls, Ellison and Cadence, represented the state of Montana against kids from both

Dakotas hoping to move on to the national level of the tournament. Only the regional champion advanced, and both Grahams made the grade with championship efforts.

Fifth grader Ellison didn't miss a single bucket throughout all of her twenty-five shots followed by a North Dakota girl who canned 23. Cadence, in 7th grade, drilled 21 of her 25 shots to edge her closest competitor by a single mark.

They will move onto the next competition in Chicago on April 30th.

Ellie is the defending national champion and both girls are looking to grab the top prize across the land.

By: Kyndal Schraner



Birthdays		
Date	Husky	Grade
3/20	Cooper Kolve	Pre-K
3/30	Trenton Hansen	K
3/28	Brooklyn Tillman	K
3/17	Mason Koffler	K
3/22	Trinity Johnson	1
3/13	Hayden Johnson	1
3/21	Emersyn Jessee	2
3/19	Avery Meier	2
3/18	Parker Arndt	3
3/27	Collyns Yurek	5
3/20	Zoe Holum	7
3/19	Cheyenne Smith	7
3/23	Ethan Triplett	10
3/22	Garett Metrione	11

Calendar of Events		
Date	Time	Event
3/18	3:00 p.m.	MS BB @ Highwood
3/19	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	MS BB Jamboree Prom
3/21	5:45 p.m.	NHS Banquet
3/22	3:30 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Fiddle Club MS BB @ Centerville
3/23		3-5 Ski Day
3/25		Principal's Cup @ Simms
3/26	10:00 a.m.	MS BB Jamboree
3/28		NHS Blood Drive
3/29	3:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Club 6-12 Spring Concert
3/30		6-8 Ski Day
3/31	8:15 a.m. TBA	Elementary Shakespeare HS Track @ Fort Benton
4/1		MS BB Tournament

Bowling Scores

The closing matches of the bowling season are underway at Backroads Bowling & Pizza. Some Highlights from the last couple weeks are a 236 scratch game by Mike Christensen, and a 199 scratch, issued by Patti Sweeney.

Week 25

Week 26

Men's Scratch Game	Women's Scratch Game	Men's Scratch Game	Women's Scratch Game
Kalem Halley-204	Pattie Sweeney-199	Mike Christensen-236	Laura Koffler-191
Drew Koffler-202	Polly Pimperton-178	David Eggert-197	Patti Sweeney-186
Men's Handicap Game	Women's Handicap Game	Men's Handicap Game	Women's Handicap Game
Kalem Halley-237	Patti Sweeney-247	Mike Christensen-240	Laura Koffler-235
Drew Koffler-234	Dena Goodman-234	David Eggert-238	Patti Sweeney-232
Men's Scratch Series	Women's Scratch Series	Men's Scratch Series	Women's Scratch Series
Mike Christensen-544	Patti Sweeney-490	Mike Christensen-568	Laura Koffler-499
Bruce Keaster-519	Laura Koffler-477	David Eggert-563	Linda Lewis-460
Men's Handicap Series	Women's Handicap Series	Men's Handicap Series	Women's Handicap Series
Bruce Keaster-639	Teri Cummings-643	David Eggert-686	Laura Koffler-631
Robert Williams-615	Patti Sweeney-634	Bill Mital-660	Linda Lewis-619