



The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



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As most of the community knows, two weeks ago the annual celebration of homecoming took place but the previous article did not address the ending of the festivities. On Friday the following took place: float building, the Husky Roar, the football game and the crowning of Royalty. After second period and a Big Husky/Little Husky activity, the busy part of the day started with the hectic task of each class putting together floats that were in the Homecoming Parade down Castner St....*Cont. Pg. 3*



Volleyball

The Lady Huskies march towards tournaments continued through September and into October, as over the last two weeks, the maroon and gold girls competed in eight games. While the girl's conference record is still untouched, their overall record now has two blemishes. The games included one showcase, two 7C conference games, and two non-conference games.

In the last edition of the Voice, it was reported that the girl's defeated the Lady Longhorns in four sets. The scores of the game were as followed: 25-11, 25-23, 18-25, and 25-17. The team was led in aces by Morgan Cooper who had 2, with Kolby Pimperton notching 31 assists. Shelby Paulson blocked 4 balls, while Adelle Meissner dug up 30 balls. Fourteen of Pimperton's assists translated into kills by Abby Gliko.

After their Homecoming win against Fort Benton, the girls loaded the bus on September 29th and headed

to Choteau for their annual mid-season showcase. The format for this tournament consisted of two 21 point sets for each matchup. The Lady Huskies first game was against Deer Lodge and the girls pulled out a win 21-19 and 21-14. Next up was Jefferson County High, who hasn't lost a set yet this year. While the girls gave a valiant effort, they end up losing 20-21 and 19-21 to the Class B powerhouse. After their loss against Jefferson, the girls came out flat against Choteau, losing both sets 15-21 and 19-21. Tired of losing, the girls came out ready to play against GFCC. The Lady Huskies won both sets, 21-8 and 21-20. The Belt squad finished third based on the point system in the tourney and did not qualify for the championship match.

On October 4th, the girls once again faced off against the Lady Fairfield Eagles, this time on Belt's home turf. The C squad and JV started the night off with a pair of wins. With the last match in their minds...*Cont. Pg. 2*

Volleyball

...the girls came out ready to play. Winning three sets by identical scores of 25-19, the girls added another win to their non-conference record. Leading the team with 30 digs was Meissner, while Pimperton added 25 assists. Ten of those assists translated into an equal number of kills by Cooper. Pimperton and Meissner each contributed one ace, while Paulson and Gliko controlled the net with two blocks a piece.

Two days later, October 6th, the girls loaded the bus and headed to Highwood to battle the Rivals. The girls won in three sets with scores of 25-22, 25-

14, and 25-16. Leading the team with 28 assists was Pimperton, while Meissner added 24 digs, who also added three aces. Gliko blocked three balls, and Marquis killed 9 balls.

After their wins last week the girls came out swinging, which showed last night as Belt beat Simms at home in four: 25-17, 26-24, 29-31, and 25-22.

After all the wins in the past two weeks, the girls 7-C conference record now stands at 7-0, with the Lady Huskies overall record at 24-2.

By: Abby Gliko

Voice of Democracy

Last week the Class of 2019 completed one of their big assignments for the year, delivering their Voice of Democracy speeches (VOD). The theme this year is "Why My Vote Matters". The seniors were given a week and a half to compose an oration, sponsored by the Veteran's of Foreign Wars, on why they believe their voice is critical in American democracy.

The VOD speeches are a patriotic competition that all seniors partake in as part of government class. Each senior had to write a speech interpreting and voicing their opinions on the prompt. The speeches were between three to five minutes in length, and were judged by local VFW representatives. Since 1947, the VOD speech has been the VFWs' premier scholarship program. The grand prize for winning the VOD is a \$30,000 award at the national level, and cash prizes are also awarded to local, district, and state placers.

The students performed their orations in front of their peers last week, and the final speeches to the

VFW judges yesterday the 11th.

This year's winner was Matthew Dollenger, whose delivery brought tears to some of the judges eyes. Grace Davison finished second in local competition, with MaKayla O'Neil and Julia Vogt tied for third. Dollenger will now send a tape

to the District 2 competition. The Montana winner is eligible for the national competition in Washington, D.C. in March of 2019. All members of the class were congratulated by the judges for their fine effort.

By: Tori Shelton



Middle School Sports

The last few weeks have resulted in quite a few more wins for the Huskies as the fall sports season continues. The middle school football team played at home on Remington field on the 28th of September against Hays-Lodge pole. The young football players won their game led way to a win by the high school football players. The next game was against Choteau on the 5th of October against Choteau and once again the young football players gained a win. The young team played their last game of the season on the 9th of October

against Simms. The middle school Husky football players ended the season with a perfect record and making everyone in the community very proud.

The first game for the Volleyball girls in this two week period was against Fort Benton, which was also their homecoming game. Sadly, the A team Huskies took a loss against the Longhorns but the B team players did end up with a win. On October 6th the middle school team played their last regular season game of the season against Geraldine- Highwood. Both teams won

against the Rivals with the B team girls very happy to have won their last game. This weekend the A team will be competing against teams in the district at the annual Middle School Volleyball Tournament. The results from the tournament will be featured in the next edition of the *Valley Voice*.

Lastly, the cross country team has had one meet in Great Falls at Jaycee Park. Mac Hedstrom the lone runner for the middle school cross country team placed 13th with a time of 12:43.

By: Natalie Larsen

Homecoming (Continued)

The students were dismissed from school after second period and then allotted a period of time to gather their supplies. From there the students dispersed to their sites for float building and spent until approximately 2 p.m. working on their floats. The winners of the float building competition were the sophomores, with the freshmen coming in second. Juniors took third place and the seniors took last place.

After the parade the students convened in the gym for the pep rally. The pep rally included the infamous Husky Roar, which is a chant that is done annually during Homecoming. The winner of the Husky Roar is the loudest class, which is decided upon by the public attending the assembly. The winners of this year's Husky Roar were the juniors, earning them twenty points towards their total score for the week.

The Husky Roar was the last scored competition of the week with the totals for each class then being displayed in the cafeteria. The winners of Homecoming week were the juniors with the seniors coming in second. The freshmen were third and lastly the sophomore class. With this competition out of the way came the football game.

last game, it was a bittersweet reminder that the boys would be moving on from Belt's football team.

Afterward, Homecoming royalty were crowned at half-time. The nominees were as followed: Morgan Cooper and Robbie Gliko, Julia Vogt and Matt Dollenger, Tori Shelton and Keaghan Opheim and lastly Elyse Adams and Brendan Wing (who was an honorary nominee.) The title of Homecoming Queen went to Tori Shelton, a sophomore class nominee, and Robbie Gliko won the boys' crown.



Saturday the 29th was the Homecoming dance where the winner's homecoming were honored with the presentation of the Spirit Stick. Approximately fifteen students attended the dance. The homecoming dance was put on by the school's DECA chapter. Those who attended the dance had a great time, but in the future the DECA students want to make sure the dance either falls after an event, such as a volleyball game, or they will come up with a new way to get students involved on Saturday night of Homecoming.

By: Natalie Larsen



Featuring a match against the Thunderbirds, the game was also senior night. Both Robert Gliko and Matt Dollenger were escorted to centerfield by their parents before the game. Despite this not being their

Cross Country

On a cold and windy Saturday, September 29th, the Belt-Centerville cross country team traveled across Rodger's Pass to run their 6th meet of the season, Mountain West Classic in Missoula.

In attendance for the Husky/Minor team was Robbie Gliko, Cole Hepfner, and Asa Jassen. Gliko came in first for the team with a time of 19:25, placing 110th overall in a field of 716 runners. Jassen crossed the line at 19:32

with a final placing of 123rd. It was then Hepfner who stopped the clock at 19:50 with a very generous 172nd place finish.

The cross country runners had a meet scheduled last Thursday but due to other athletic commitments the Belt members of the BCXC team were not able to compete in that particular race. Here are the times for the Centerville runners: Shaylyn Dillely ran a 23:08 and placed 12th out of 45 runners.

Chaz Dillely came across the finish line with a 28:49 finishing 47th out of 49 runners.

The cross country season is coming to an end and the athletes only have two more weeks left to achieve their highest marks. The runners will take off tomorrow for their last regular season meet in Townsend and the following week will consist of the state meet in Missoula.

By: Kolby Pimperton

Husky Football

As the last full week of September came to a close and October dawned upon the valley, the Husky football team took the field for their last two regular season games. On September 28th, the boys gathered on Remington Field for the introduction of Robbie Gliko and Matt Dollenger, the pair of seniors on this year's team. Senior Night also happened to fall on Homecoming when Gliko was also named Homecoming King. Following their last home game of regular season play, the boys loaded the bus and headed to Choteau for a final shot at making the playoffs.

With the dates of Homecoming and Senior Night coinciding, the bleachers depicted a sea of maroon and gold as the Huskies took the field against the Hays Lodgepole Thunderbirds. The Huskies kicked off the night with an 11 yard run by quarterback Kaimen Evans and a two point conversion by Robbie Gliko to take the lead 8-0. Belt's defense held the Thunderbirds scoreless in the first quarter; however, Belt remained scoreless for the remainder of that period as well.



The Thunderbirds were first to score in the second quarter but the Huskies quickly added a touchdown of their own when Adam Langston intercepted a pass and ran 58 yards to the promise land. Building on Langston's success, Evans completed a pass to T.J. Hennes for the extra two points. Hennes found pay dirt again, receiving a 41 yard pass from Evans later in the second. The boys were successful in the attempt for two more points with a pass from Evans to Dollenger, and the score read Belt 24 Hays 8 when the teams cleared the field for halftime.

After a brief intermission and a pep talk from their coaches, the teams took the field once again. Eager to put on a show for the hometown crowd, the Huskies were quick to add another touch-

down to the board. Brandon Wall got in on the scoring action, receiving a 55 yard pass from Evans with the two point conversion scored by Dollenger. Hays Lodgepole then answered the three consecutive Belt touchdowns with one of their own; however, the Huskies retaliated with two runs by Evans, increasing the margin to 28 points. With one quarter left to play the score was 44-16 in favor of Belt.

In the final quarter of play, the Belt boys continued to build their lead with Dollenger finding glory in the end zone, scoring not only the touchdown but the conversion as well. Following Dollenger's touchdown, the Thunderbirds added their last points to the tally sheet. The final points of the game came from freshman Kaiden Marquis on a two yard pass from Evans. The game ended with a score of 58-22 and a Husky victory.

Hays	-	8	8	6	22
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Belt	8	16	20	14	58
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Fresh off their

victory, the Belt boys loaded the bus and made the trek to Choteau for their final game of the regular season against the Bulldogs. The Huskies hung around for the first half but were overcome by the depth and size of their opponent. Choteau took control of the game right from the get go, scoring the only touchdown of the first quarter. As the second quarter of play commenced the score read 8-0. In the second quarter, the Huskies scored their first and only touchdown of the match-up with a 50 yard pass from Evans to Wall. The teams cleared the field for halftime with a score of Choteau 22 Belt 8.

Coming back to play after halftime, Belt still had a shot at a comeback and spot in the playoffs; however, despite the Huskies' valiant efforts, the Bulldogs were victorious with a final score of 58-8. The Huskies played a great first half of football, but after the Bulldogs switched to a zone defense the Belt offense really struggled. The freshmen and sophomores got a ton of playing time in preparation for upcoming seasons.

While the Huskies did not make the playoffs this year, the boys will still play two more games before racking their helmets and hanging their cleats. Tomorrow afternoon Belt will battle the Longhorns in Fort Benton at 1:00 p.m. and on Wednesday night at 6:00 the athletes will perform their final showing on Remington Field for the 2018 season. The Valley Voice will continue to keep readers apprised of the Class C football playoffs although Belt is not competing for the state title.

By: Adelle Meissner

New Staff

This week the *Valley Voice* celebrates new staff member Ms. Mollie Rose. Currently, she teaches Elementary Resource, but before she could help Belt students, Ms. Rose had to become a teacher.

First, Ms. Rose graduated from Geraldine High School in 2010, continuing her education as a student athlete at Rocky Mountain College for three years. She then transferred to Northern RMC and graduated with her bachelors in Elementary Education as well as Health and Physical Education degree.



A few interesting tidbits about Ms. Rose include: that her favorite time of the year is winter, and while her favorite color regularly changes, it's blue.

Ms. Rose also credits her decision to choose this career to watching her older sister teach and loving every part of it. She said "I was so inspired by her love for teaching that I followed in her footsteps." She has grown to love teaching throughout her lifetime and will hopefully continue to prosper upon this for many years.

By: Sierra Reese

New Students

In this issue of the *Valley Voice*, three more new students will be introduced. These three students are eighth grader Ryan Moon, fourth grader Greyson Garza, and his younger sister who is in first grade, Ellison Garza.

with fresh information this year.

The last new student of this issue is Greyson Garza's little sister, Ellison Garza. She is a first grader in Mrs. Waldner's class. Her favorite subject is reading and she really enjoys coloring. E. Garza's favorite hobby is swimming. She is also excited to have a lot of fun in class with her classmates this year, making new friends.



The next issue of the *Valley Voice* will introduce Chloe Feit and Tobias Wilson and their experiences at Belt so far.

By: Livvy Shelton



Ryan Moon is an eighth grader here at Belt School this year and has two other siblings that go to this school as well and were discussed in previous issues. Moon really enjoys school here, and his favorite teacher is Mr. Koontz. His favorite subject is history. Planning to play basketball with Coach Paulson, he currently participates in football.

Moon's hobbies consist of playing the guitar, riding his bike, and reading. Moon is super excited for sports here at Belt and he is just glad to have the opportunity to go to Belt.

The next new student is fourth grader Greyson Garza, who currently attends Mrs. Swanson's class. Of all the interesting subjects that are taught here at Belt, his favorite is math as of the moment. On the flipside, G. Garza plays football, basketball as well as baseball. He also enjoys hunting and fishing. Like many of the other students covered this year, he is ecstatic at the thought of making new friends and filling his brain



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 City News

On September 5th the city council for the town of Belt convened for the first monthly meeting at 7:00p.m., five days later the group gathered again for a special meeting to approve additional charges related to the Waste Water Sewage Expansion Project. In attendance at the first meeting were Mayor James Olson, Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling, and Aldermen Delbert Darko, Annie Porter, Paul Heikkila, Russell Roberts, Dave Eggert, and Sally Miller. The latter assembly featured the aforementioned council members as well as NCI project engineer Idaho Trenberth and one member of the public.

The first meeting of the month commenced with Trenberth requesting for another two change orders and a special meeting of the council to discuss and approve these change order requests. The meeting was scheduled for 6:00p.m. on September 10th.

A member of the public inquired as to whether boats were covered by the Parked Vehicle ordinance #586. Schilling confirmed that the ordinance covers boats, trailers, RVs, large trucks, and campers; however the amended section only pertains to campers. Campers can be parked roadside from May 15th to October 1st, but boats, trailers, RVs, and large trucks are restricted to 24 hour roadside parking year round.

Next on the council's agenda was the discussion of the fiscal year 2019 budget. Discussion of the budget was tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting on September 19th. Along the lines of budgets, the council discussed the Park and Recreation Project expense allotments that were made in April. It was unanimously decided that the city would proceed with projects designated and budgeted last spring including: marking the camp ground with spaces, installing an honor system pay box, placing signs explaining the fees, adding basketball hoops and lights to the tennis courts, and repairing cracks in the existing basketball courts.

After a few other points of discussion, Alderman Darko brought the council's attention to the possibility of constructing a new footbridge. Darko reported that the Department of Transportation did not recommend a project related to the replacement of a bridge in the same location of the old swinging bridge. Extensive permitting would be required from a variety of agencies; however, other options are available and Darko will be pursuing them. All ideas and comments regarding the replacement of the bridge are the private efforts and statements of Darko and the city will make no decisions, plans, or budgetary allocations to replace the bridge.

The meeting concluded with Mayor Olson's report that the project to install a new temporary pump at Lift Station 1 would commence the following day. An application for emergency grant funding through the Department of Natural Resources has been submitted in order to recoup some of the \$60,200 the city spent in connection with the failure of the pump at lift station #1.

At 6:00 p.m. on September 10th, the special meeting of the town council convened. There were three items on the agenda for discussion, including: approving a change order in the amount of \$68,992 to Phillips Construction Company for the removal of an extra 3,500 yards of dirt out of lagoon cell #3, as well as granting a change order of \$9,500 to NCI Engineering for the hours spent processing calculations and change order requests due to the additional work on the project, and approving NCI Engineering as the sole project engineer for the upcoming Lift Station Project.

All three points of discussion were unanimously approved by the council and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. As always, the public is welcome to venture out and take a seat during the city council meetings that help the municipality of Belt function on both a day to day and yearly basis.

By: Adelle Meissner

 Equine Corner

Although the weather is cooling off, students' affections for horses are still blazing. In this edition of the *Valley Voice*, we will be highlighting junior Charity Highfill and her journey with horses.

Highfill has been around horses her entire life. She got involved with the majestic beasts be-

cause she lived on a ranch where her father trained and broke horses. Although she doesn't own any horses now, when she was younger she had six of her own. Because it has been a while since Highfill has owned horses, she can't recall the names of them, but she does remember all the fun she had riding.

In the future, Highfill hopes to see herself owning a ranch with a herd of horses.

In the next edition of "Equine Corner", we will be talking to Karlee Permann, another junior from Belt School in love with the four legged critters.

By: Abby Gliko

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month began a few weeks ago on September 15th with the school inserting a bit of Hispanic culture into students' everyday lives. Around the school, the morning announcements have featured a daily trivia question with participating classes keeping track of the winners. At the end of Hispanic Heritage Month, Seniorita Hiatt, the middle and high school Spanish teacher, will collect those names and enter them into a drawing for each grade level, and the winners will enjoy various prizes. Hiatt has also asked elementary teachers to try to incorporate anything Hispanic into their lesson plans, offering assistance.

Hispanic Heritage Month began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson but was expanded under Ronald Reagan to a full thirty day period in 1988. This law was enacted in August of 1988, and since then the month has been celebrated annually. The reason September 15th was chosen is due to many Latin American countries earning their independence on this date, like: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala,

Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico also celebrates its independence a day later on the 16th of September while September 18th marks Chile's independence. With all of these dates comes Columbus Day (Dia de la Raza) which is heavily celebrated within the South America. The month of Hispanic celebration may end on October 15th but observation of Hispanic culture will continue to occur around the school.

During this month, Seniorita Hiatt plans on organizing many activities for the Spanish students. For example, the seventh grade students have been learning about the singer Selena and will be doing some light cooking. While the eighth graders have been given a famed Hispanic achiever of past or present to research, they ultimately must portray in a unique assessment called the 'Meet the Achievers Fiesta'. There, students will walk around cafeteria, enjoy Hispanic snacks and beverages, listen to Hispanic music, and talk about themselves, all the while assuming the persona of their achiever. They then grade each other's portrayal, and move on to the next achiever. In addition, they're

also learning about Ritchie Valens and watching *La Bamba*.

While the middle school pupils complete all of this, the high school students in Spanish I will discuss other achievers and watch a film on cultural differences, which is like a Hispanic/American 'Romeo and Juliet.' Lastly, the Spanish II students have been participating in and discussing cultural trivia questions. The students also cooked last week. Sadly, with limited time, the cooking experience was fairly elementary including only nachos, quesadillas, and a tropical fruit smoothie.

Hispanic Heritage Month is imperative because Latino youth are the fastest growing population in the United States, and Seniorita Hiatt expressed, "It's important for our rural adolescents to understand some cultural aspects of the people they'll meet outside of Belt, America." Hopefully, the students will be able to appreciate and embrace Hispanic culture, whether it be through music, art, food and drink, entertainment, science, politics, language, or sports.

By: Natalie Larsen

Fall is in full swing with many festivities taking place within the community, which can lead to many impaired driving accidents. There is always a risk when deciding to drink and drive no matter how good of a driver one might be. It is never worth endangering the lives of others selfishly.

In 2016, 10,497 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, accounting for 28% of all traffic-related fatalities in the United States. This number is astounding and should be a wakeup call for the danger of drinking and driving. Hopefully, this fall the residents of Belt will always buckle up and...

Never Drink and Drive!

This message brought to you by your
Cascade DUI Task Force



Superior Senior Score

Julia Vogt is a talented scholar in the Belt community. This year, she was commended for her efforts by the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program, which recognizes students who have shown outstanding talent in academics.

Vogt has conquered several feats throughout her high school and middle school career. In both sixth and eighth grade, she won the scholastic challenge, a competition that gives recognition to whichever student and school reads the most over the summer. In her seventh grade year, she also won the middle school entomology division at the State Science Olympiad with Elyse Adams, but her achievements didn't just end in middle



school.

In high school, Vogt traveled to the Fringe Festival at Edinborough in 2017 to perform as part of the Belt Shakespeare Players. Her most recent accomplishment revolves around her superior PSAT score. She received a 1380, which is in the top ten percent of all scores in the nation.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an organization that gives recognition to seniors who

have shown above average academic performance.

Individuals garner recognition by the National Merit Scholarship if they take the PSAT in their third year of high school and are in the top 50,000 high scorers.

This program began in 1955 and has grown exponentially to approximately 1.6 million entrants each

year. Winners are broken down into groups. First, the top fifty thousand scorers receive Letters of Commendation. Second, sixteen thousand students are semifinalists, which is determined based on their home state. Fifteen finalists are selected in February and are presented with certificates notifying their achievements. Finally, winners are selected based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments.

Seeing as how she has already done so much with her skills, there is no doubt that Vogt will continue to impress her peers and anyone else that reviews her academic record. Vogt is an exemplary student and certainly has a bright future ahead of her. At this point, her postgraduate plans are undetermined, but she does know that she will probably attend Carroll College to study a field in science.

By: Sierra Reese

Where are they now?

In 2016, Austin Shelton, grabbed his Belt diploma and left home to attend school in Bozeman. In high school, Shelton was involved in theatre from sophomore to senior year. He also participated in band and pep band, playing percussion and guitar.

Currently, Shelton attends college at Montana State University (MSU). Shelton is in his third year of college, studying Health and Human Development. After completing his four years at MSU, Shelton plans to attend the University of Montana (U of M) to get his doctorate for physical therapy, saying "I really like working out and helping people push themselves and to learn new things, so I figured that would be the best field to go into."

When asked where he saw himself after high school, Shelton

replied "I wasn't entirely sure. I wanted to go to the college in Great Falls and get my prerequisites, but decided to go down to Bozeman with my sister."

Since high school, Shelton

has had a job at Miller's Dining Hall on campus and worked at Perkins for a summer while balancing school. Shelton stated, "It's nice working at the dining hall because they work with my class schedules."

In his free time Shelton enjoys hanging out with his friends,

playing guitar, working out or just "chilling". Two of his roommates are also former Belt graduates, Will Green and Josh Botti-Anderson.

In the next decade, Shelton's goals are to graduate from

college, start his own business, or join the family business of E & S Recovery. He also wants to start a family of his own. "It's weird to think that far into the future, but that's where I want to be." Shelton added.

Tune in next issue to learn more about former Belt High School graduates and where they are now.

By: Tori Shelton



Sluice Box Cleanup

On Sunday, September 30th, a group of students along with Mr. Hoyer departed Belt School on a bus to Sluice Box State Park. These students included: Tori Shelton, Anthony Wall, Shelby Paulson, Livvy Shelton, Cierra Kelly, Lindsey Paulson, Hayden Urick, Charla Hook, Sarah Dollenger, Cole Hepfner, Asa Jassen, and Reese Paulson. The students left the school at 1:00 p.m. and headed for the park.

When the students got there, they were instructed by Colin Maas who works at Fish Wildlife and Park. He has also been working there for thirteen years. He explained the dangers of knapweed and how it is bad for native species.

Knapweed is an herb with purple flowers on prickly stems. It is a noxious weed nearly everywhere.

Although, the type of knapweed the students were pulling did not have flowers on top. Once the students knew what they were hunting for, they grabbed trash bags and headed for the trails. Knapweed was difficult to spot because it blended in with the environment behind it. On the other hand, the tall plants were not as challenging to find, growing up to three feet.

By 3:50, the students filled about fifteen bags of knapweed. They had to carry the bags of knapweed and trekked back to the bus. Exhausted from pulling all the

weeds, the students tied up the trash bags, put them in a pile, and loaded back on the bus.

This was an excellent opportunity to give back to the community especially because the Sluice Boxes are a popular hangout. The Sluice Boxes is such a beautiful place and it wouldn't hurt anyone to help clean up around the park once in a while. It keeps the place looking admirable and makes it more enjoyable for all visitors who come there to either hike, swim, cliff jump, or take in the view. It doesn't take long to put in a little time and effort to help out our natural parks.

By: Livvy Shelton

Featured Staff

Freedom Dirkson is an outstanding and versatile staff member at Belt School. She has been part of the staff for approximately five years now. Maintenance, custodial duties, teacher's aide/paraprofessional, substitute teacher, and bus driver are only a few of the tasks that Freedom has and does tackle on a daily basis. Because of how much she does in the school, this hard-working individual has been chosen as this year's very first featured staff member.

Dirkson feels as though she graduated "a million years ago," from Lincoln High School, but her actual graduation date was in 1996. Her career in Belt began in 2012. Previously, she worked in Great Falls in the medical field for over thirteen years, but she decided that she wanted a closer-to-home job in order to save her the drive to and from Great Falls on a daily basis. When she first joined the Belt School staff, Dirkson believed that it would be a worthwhile opportunity to meet people in the community and to become involved in local

activities. Since this time, she has partaken in many activities that she helps with and has met a plethora of different people.

In the past, Dirkson has been a custodian and boiler operator as well as working with Robert Back as his personal aide. Currently, she helps with custodial duties and maintenance, substitute teaches when needed, drives a bus route in the afternoons, drives students to a variety of different athletic events, and is a teacher's aide for Mrs. Tillman, Mrs. Jones, and Mrs. Meissner. In Mrs. Tillman's room, Dirkson helps students who need a little "extra attention" on whatever they are working on in order to make sure that they have a complete understanding, regarding whatever subject it is that they are learning. She also fills in for Mrs. Tillman when she needs to leave class for a meeting or other reason.

This astonishing woman definitely doesn't lack when it comes to hobbies. When asked, she said that she loves "to camp, hike, hunt, and fish." She also mentions

kayaking as one of the activities that she enjoys particularly when she attempts to catch some "monster fish or at least rays." More specifically, campfires and listening to a nearby stream cause Dirkson the most happiness. Essentially, anything outdoors is greatly enjoyed, but when she can't get outside, she reads and even attempts to solve puzzles that she comes across.

Considering all of the outstanding duties that Dirkson takes on, she definitely deserves recognition. She has helped in several various departments throughout the Belt School. She without a doubt helps the school run smoothly and assists in teaching students who need a guiding hand. Her desire to help others and do as much as she can is completely clear. For sure, all of her efforts do not go without recognition. Freedom Dirkson is a wonderful staff member at Belt Public Schools and an even better person. She makes the school a better place and it wouldn't be the same without her.

By: Sierra Reese

Backpack Program

The Belt Backpack Program is entering its fourth year of helping children in need. The program is designed to help children with their nutritional requirements and provide meals to students who may not always receive adequate sustenance. The initiative was started by the Student Senate in the school year of 2014-2015 and continues to be a much needed success in the community.

This year the Belt DECA and Student Senate members have volunteered their time to help load the bags and collect essentials. The program has been assisted by the donation of the Town Pump Grant for \$2,500 as well as a generous donation from Mrs. Yurko. Anyone interest-



ed in donating to this worthwhile program should contact Jessica Tillman: jtillman@beltschool.com

The backpack program is set up for weekends and provides the students with the needed nutritional supplements that consists of six meals: two breakfasts, two lunches, and two dinners, and some snacks. Currently, there are fourteen backpacks being prepared each week.

Teachers, staff, parents and/or students can recommend a family that is in need of this beneficial program. An application process is required to become a recipient. Families in need can also be referred to Mrs. Tillman at Belt School.

By: Kolby Pimperton

Senior Spotlight

Senior Reanita Berlinger was born and raised in Belt, and has attended three schools: two in Great Falls and back to Belt where she belongs. She came Belt Public Schools in 2010.

Her favorite grade has been senior year. She prefers weights with her favorite teacher, Coach Graham. Berlinger enjoys weights because she likes to push herself to become stronger and even stated, "I like Coach Graham because he gave me my nickname, Ray Dawg." As for high school memories, her fondest was her junior prom. Berlinger said, "I liked dancing with all my friends." She also enjoys hanging with all of her friends.

For extracurricular activities, Berlinger is in-



involved in golf and DECA. She has played golf all through high school and will again this spring. On the other hand, this is the first year she has participated in DECA. In the past, Berlinger also worked at the Husky Club, but now she works at the Boys & Girls Club.

After high school Berlinger plans on attending either Montana State University Northern in Havre or University of Montana in Missoula to pursue welding. When asked what she would miss about Belt, Berlinger said, "I'll miss seeing all of my friends and having my friends around."

Next week the *Valley Voice* spotlight will shine on senior Morgan Cooper.

By: Tori Shelton

Sutton's Symphony Success

On September 29th at 7:30 p.m. upwards of 1000 spectators gathered in the Mansfield Theater, an enclosed performance space within the Great Falls Civic Center, for a performance of the Great Falls Symphony.

The ensemble, under the conduction of Maestro Grant Harville, features about 150 performers, among them Belt High's music teacher Jonathan Sutton. Mr. Sutton plays the bass trombone and is the 1st chair in that section; however, overall he plays the third parts which present him with notes of the lowest frequency.

The group performed a total of three pieces, including: the Hungarian March by Hector Berlioz, a fun piece featuring the trombone section, Felix Men-

delssohn's Piano Concerto no. 1, a solo piece performed by a guest pianist, and wrapped up the night with Symphony no. 1 by Gustav Mahler, the longest piece of the performance.

The next performances are November 3rd and December 2nd and 7:30 p.m. also in the Mansfield Theater. If a local musician wishes to get involved with the symphony, they are welcome to audition by performing for the conductor; otherwise, if one wishes to hear music, performances are open to the public and attendance is encouraged.

By: Adelle Meissner



Big Husky/Little Husky

An event that is continuing after its success in the 2017-2018 school year is the Big Husky/Little Husky program that helps the elementary pupils connect with the high school students. The Big Huskies meet with their Little Huskies once a quarter in order to either create a craft or make one large class project. In the past, some of the classes have decorated Christmas cookies or produced a large poster with everyone's hand

prints on it.

Before float building on September 28th, the high school students met with their Little Husky class to help the young Huskies make maroon and gold headbands to show their Husky spirit for homecoming week. The seniors went to the third grade classroom, and the juniors were partnered up with the kindergarten class. Sophomores went with the first graders, leaving the freshmen class with the

second graders. This project was a huge hit with the younger students who wore the masterpieces all day.

Many of the older pupils say they cannot wait until the next time Big Husky/Little Husky comes around, hoping the projects they do are just as amusing. Hopefully, the program continues and is able to bring the older and younger students together through playful tasks and fun activities.

By: Natalie Larsen

Boosters

Despite the Belt Boosters being an integral part of the school, many do not know that they provide athletes with equipment and food when they travel, as well as concessions at games to feed the crowds. So far, the Boosters have been ferociously preparing for fall athletics.

Beginning in June and ending in September, the Boosters purchased football helmets, a volleyball cart and balls, and a basketball rim for the old gym. Soon, there will be two new basketball rims in the old or main gym with one being purchased by the school and the other by the Boosters as previously

mentioned. In other news, the Boosters have also invested money in the brand new weight room, located in the elementary wing, donating \$2,500 for new equipment for the weight room that overlooks the scenic playground.

In order to fund these donations, Belt Boosters make most of their money from selling concessions at all the home games and are always tracking down parents generous enough to help. The Boosters is not a closed group, anyone in the community is encouraged to help out and then is considered part of the Belt Boosters. Currently, the

people at the helm of the Boosters are: president Polly Pimperton, secretary Crystal Vogl, and Jill Gliko as treasurer.

Coming soon, this year's Northern C Divisional Volleyball Tournament will be hosted in the Belt Gymnasium on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, the first three days of November. The Boosters are desperately looking for parents and other community members to volunteer to work concessions. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Jill Gliko at jgliko@beltschool.com or 277-3351.

By: Abby Gliko

Darko Poker Tournament

On October 6th the annual Darko Poker Tournament took place at The Diamond Sports Bar. The tournament included twenty-seven participants with the first place title going to Josh Larson with second place being Barney Lopez. The total earning were \$3,050 which was donated back to the Matt Allen Darko Scholarship.

Each year the Matt Allen Darko Scholarship is awarded to a male and female graduating senior of Belt Valley High School. The scholarship is worth \$1,500 and the

requirements of this scholarship are: to have at least a 2.0 un-weighted GPA and an essay that typically features the plans of the graduate in the following years. This year the scholarship application and essay are due to the counselor, Mrs. Gliko, by April 15th.

From December 14th through 16th, the next fundraiser, the annual Coyote Tournament, will take place at the East Side Bar. Volunteers are also needed for this tournament.

By: Natalie Larsen

Sudoku

5	3			7				2
6			1					
	9		3		2		6	
8		9		6	1	4		3
								1
7		3		2		8		
	6	1				2		4
	8		4		9	6		
3		5	2				7	9

Calendar of Events

- 10/12 MS VB Tournament (Continued from Thurs.)
- 10/12 1:00 p.m. Hearing Test
- 10/12 4:30 p.m. VB @ Cascade
- 10/13 11:00 a.m. XC @ Townsend
- 10/13 5:00 p.m. VB @ GFCC
- 10/15 6:00 p.m. VB vs. Centerville
- 10/11 8:00 a.m. MS Field Trip
- 10/17 1:00 p.m. LDS Blood Drive
- 10/17 4:30 p.m. VB @ Fort Benton
- 10/18—10/19 No School—Educators Conference
- 10/20 11:00 a.m. XC @ Missoula
- 10/23 7:00 p.m. 5-12 Fall Music Concert
- 10/25 10:00 a.m. District VB @ GFCC
- 10/26 10:00 a.m. District VB @ GFCC

Perfect Pies

On the 22nd of September, the annual Raynesford Pie Social kicked off at 1:00 p.m. As usual, the Raynesford Community Center hosted visitors from the neighboring towns of Geysler, Neihart, Belt, and Great Falls with the pie social and garage sale being successes.

Other than the pie social being an excellent opportunity for people to socialize, the event also serves great causes. Although some of the donations go towards maintenance of St. Mary’s Church in Raynesford, most of the money goes toward people in need. Some of the charities that benefit from the pie social are: Mercy Home for Boys & Girls, St. Vincent de Paul, Family Promise, Student in Need, the Rescue Mission Center, and the Children’s Receiving Home. The money generated from the pie social is also used to improve the community center, which used to be the Raynesford school until it was shut down due to a lack of students attending. As of now, the community center is renewing the floor in the hallway by the old classrooms and considering putting new carpet down or polishing the now exposed concrete.

Currently, the Pie Social is a St. Mary’s Alter Society fund raiser. Specifically, the main people who manage the Pie Social are secretary and treasurer Lois Hill and president Patty Annala. Although the pie social has been a tradition in the Raynesford community for more than ten years, the pie social replaced the harvest dinner that used to be held in the parish hall of St. Mary’s. Due to dwindling participation and appearance by the community, the Alter Society made the switch to baking various pies to fundraise.

Along with Nicole Hedstrom’s margarita pie, the pie social had commodities other than pie for sale. The garage sale from the previous weekend continued in one of the old classrooms. There people had the opportunity to purchase anything from old clothes, kids toys, and chairs. Greeting the people who came to the pie social, Betty Hedstrom also collected donations while simultaneously selling copies of St. Mary’s Cookbook from 2012.

Soon the community center will host the mid-term election. Other events on the community center’s agenda are the Valentine’s Day Breakfast (last year maple bars were served with a variety of other morning foods), St. Patrick’s Day Dinner, Mother’s Day Breakfast, and Fourth of July Barbeque. Without a doubt the Raynesford Pie Social was a triumph in the community center’s yearly events with more on the way.

By: MaKayla O’Neil

Word Search Answer Key

N S E N I O R C E N T E R N M K S U J I
 J O P E N A I H E B Z I I D B J I O T O
 D C C B E L T S T O R E H E G F S I Z U
 Y R H J W N L O O T R I O A C J U K E E
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