



# The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



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On December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. students ranging from Early Kindergarten to 4th grade filled the gymnasium for the annual elementary winter concert. The performance featured ten festive songs which let the audience get excited for all the holiday buzz. Two weeks later, the gym filled once again for the fifth through twelfth grade winter performance. The older group of musicians played a grand total of seventeen songs which enveloped the spectators in a convivial and festive ambiance.

Each elementary class displayed their musical ability with at

least one song. The Early Kindergartners performed "I'm a Great Big Snowman" and "The Reindeer Pockey" to begin the night's festivities. The kindergartners then proceeded to display their rendition of "Listen to the Reindeer" and "Jingle Bells." Next up were the first graders who sang "Up on the Housetop" and "Jolly Old St. Nicholas." The first grade was followed by second who performed "Hanukkah Hanukkah." The third grade then treated the audience to "Silent Night" and the fourth graders wrapped up the performances with "Fum Fum." (Cont. Pg. 3)



## Girls' Basketball

With a 4-0 record, the girls defeated a couple Class B teams from the other side of the mountains and beating two teams a little closer to home. Belt initiated their season at the Coyote Classic Tournament in Shelby where they faced the Florence-Carlton Falcons and Big Fork Valkyries. Conference play started last week against the Winnett-Grass Range Rams and the Centerville Lady Miners.

The Lady Huskies first match up was against the Lady Falcons of

Florence-Carlton. In the first quarter the Huskies outscored their opponents 16-9. When the buzzer sounded at the end of the second quarter the Belt girls had an 8 point lead. As the game continued the girls' intensity never weakened and they proved to be superior to the Falcons as the ending score was 51-29. Morgan Cooper led the team with 16 points, followed by Kolby Pimperton who added another 15 points to the scoreboard.

(Cont. Pg. 2)

## Girls' Basketball *(Continued)*

In the second game of the year the Lady Huskies faced the Valkyries from Big Fork. The girls came out ready to play and accumulated 14 points in the first quarter led by Cooper with 10. Rolling into half time the Lady Huskies doubled their opponents' score with a lead of 36-18. After a short intermission the two teams scored an equivalent score of 12 each in the third quarter. The final score ended in Belt's favor with a 57-36 win. Belt was led again by Cooper who tallied 22 points and Pimperton with 21.

The first game of conference play commenced last week as the team loaded the bus to take on the Lady Rams from Winnett-Grass Range. In the first half the Belt girls scored 36 points, leading the Lady Rams who marked 14. As the second half began the Lady Huskies struggled to score against the defen-

sive Rams, recording just 8 points in the third quarter. With fouls adding up on both sides the game was slowed and the fourth quarter took longer than expected. The Huskies ended up beating the Lady Rams 59-29. Pimperton led all scorers with 22 and Kyelie Marquis added 11 of her own to help the team rally past their opponents.

Last Saturday the girls competed against the Centerville Miners in their first home game of the year. The Lady Huskies dominated the first quarter, scoring 25 points while the Miners tallied 3. Centerville held at 13 points in the first half, while Belt added 21 more points to their side of the score-

board. After half time the Huskies coasted to a 70-21 victory. The Belt girls were led by Pimperton who amassed 16 while Marquis and Shelby Paulson contributed 11 points each to the final count.

The girls' defensive has proven to be hard to tackle as their competitors are struggling to score against full court pressure and a variety of zone and man to man half court defenses. One area that the girls have been working on is their free throws that have been less than impressive.

Last night the girls battled against the Class B Fairfield Eagles and prevailed 69-39. Details will follow in the next edition of the Voice. The ladies are now 5-0 overall and 2-0 in 8-C play with a game tonight in Winifred at 6:00 p.m. against the Lady Outlaws.

**By: Kolby Pimperton**

## FCA Comes to Belt

A national organization, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) was recently implemented in the Belt community. It allows middle and high school students to partake in discussions and activities. For two hours per month, the FCA meets either before or after school. The FCA works to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and ath-

letes as well as demonstrate integrity, service, teamwork, including an excellence in sports and life.

The first meeting was held last week before school hours in Andrea Visocan's classroom. Mrs. Visocan is the school contact for the FCA. In this meeting, Mrs. Visocan and community sponsor Matt Triplett explained the purpose of FCA and the attendees watched a

video that explained what the group is all about. Triplett also delivered a message of Christmas and its relation to Christ's birth.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. in Mrs. Visocan's room, where students joining the FCA will discuss a service project for feeding the homeless.

**By: Sierra Reese**

## Christmas Caroling

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Belt students participated in the twelfth annual Christmas Caroling. One of the main contributors to this event was Youth Leadership, but many other students that are not in this prestigious club participated as well. The students traveled around Belt in festive trailers singing Christmas music, such as "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer", "Holy Night" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." The

event brought in herds of students with approximately 45 attending this year's Christmas Caroling.

Although it was quite chilly outside, the students had a fantastic time. Following the caroling, the students stampeded into the doors of the St. Mark's Catholic Church, located across the street from the school, in order to eat a dinner provided by members of the church. The students enjoyed the arranged

dinner and had fun visiting with their peers.

A festive tradition that pupils and chaperones love to participate in, Christmas Caroling always is a grand time. Everyone enjoys the time spent together, as they revel in the joy of the season. Hopefully, this tradition continues for many years to come, and everyone has a tremendous Christmas.

**By: Natalie Larsen**

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 Concert *(Continued)*

Finally, the entire elementary sang “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” to conclude the evening.

The fifth through twelfth grade winter performance began with the fifth grade band. The fifth graders took up their instruments just this year and mastered five notes since the school year started in August. Their new found talents were showcased in a traditional arrangement of “*Merrily We Roll Along*,” the traditional English carol “*Good King Wenceslas*,” and a Norwegian Folk song “*Song of the Fjords*.”

Next to perform was the sixth grade band. With one year of experience under their belt, the music performed by the sixth grades expands to a broader range of notes and rhythms than that of the fifth graders. The young musicians played three songs including: a Welsh Folk song “*All Through the Night*,” “*Theme from Symphony I*” which sounds a lot like the French song “*Frere Jacques*” and finished their display with “*William Tell*.”

The focus of the concert then shifted to the risers for a performance by the seventh and eighth grade choir. Middle students are not offered the opportunity to take choir in the sixth grade, so for many members of the ensemble this was their first year in choir. The group sang two songs, “*Silent Night*” a traditional holiday hymn and “*Welcome Christmas*” from the well-known movie *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

The seventh and eighth grade band then took the stage for their section of the concert. With three or

four years of playing their instrument, the skill level of the musicians is starting to advance and the pieces they perform are more musically and technically challenging. The instrumentalists showcased two pieces, “*Glorioso*” and a more traditional song “*Olde English Christmas*.”

The audience then turned their attention back to the risers as the high school choir got ready for their performance. The group features the most advanced singers of the concert and their choices of music displayed their talent. Their songs included: “*Zum Gali Gali*” featuring Sierra Reese as a soloist, “*Coventry Carol*” showcasing Shelby Paulson as a soloist, “*Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella*” during which Grace Davison performed the violin, and “*Betelehemu*” which required Rosalyn Kenner-Carrington, Andrew Stice, Paulson, and Reese to play percussion.

The final group number was delivered by the high school band. The ensemble has the highest level of ability on their instruments after about six years of experience playing in a concert band. The group demonstrated this talent with two technically demanding pieces, “*Adeste Fideles*” and “*Pavane*.”

Mr. Sutton then gathered every member of the music program, grades five through twelve, for a performance of “*Jingle Bells*” to bring the evening to a close. The spring concert is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> and the Belt Music Department as well as the *Valley Voice* wishes everyone happy holidays.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

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## Operation Santa

Operation Santa is an annual program that allows the fifth grade students to purchase gifts for those less fortunate in the Belt community. Over the course of several months the fifth graders raked leaves, sold raffle tickets, and hosted a bake sale at the elementary Christmas program in order to acquire the money needed for Operation Santa.

Then, these hard working students headed into Great Falls to shop at Walmart and purchase Christmas gifts on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Previously, the fifth grade students applied for jobs for Operation Santa, which included: banker, shopper, and accountant. These jobs helped the fifth graders split into groups and shop.

Each group shopped for one child. The students did not know any of the children’s names, having only a number and basic knowledge about them. The information included: age, size and ideas about specific things the child may want for Christmas. Using this knowledge to give the best Christmas presents,

the fifth graders spent a lot of time deciding what they wanted to purchase for the recipients of Operation Santa. Each group had approximately 50 to 100 dollars to spend on each child, so the bankers and accountants budgeted very carefully in order to give these children the best Christmas they could.

Even before entering fifth grade, many elementary students look forward to Operation Santa. For some this program is the highlight of their elementary careers. Mrs. Metrione’s class enjoyed giving back to the community and experiencing the true meaning of Christmas. In the future, students could use their experience from Operation Santa to aid themselves when they have service projects later in high school. Hopefully, the recipients of these gifts have a very merry Christmas and the fifth graders learned a lot about earning and budgeting money during the entire process of Operation Santa.

**By: Natalie Larsen**

# Valley Voice

## Boys' Basketball



After three weeks of practice filled with anticipation for the 2018-19 season, the boys of Belt had a chance to test their mettle against someone other than their teammates. They hit the road for two games at the Coyote Classic tournament in Shelby, then kicked off the regular season with a road trip to Winnett for a game against the Rams, as well as a home contest against the Centerville Miners, and a trip to Fairfield for a matchup against the Eagles.

The boys' first game of the Coyote Classic came at 1:00 on December 7<sup>th</sup> against the Florence-Carlton Falcons. In the first quarter of play the Huskies dominated the Falcons, 12-4. At second quarter's end, the Huskies offensive punch eclipsed the Falcons as they scored 14 points to bring their score to 26 while Florence-Carlton tripled their output, accumulating 12 points and headed to the locker room with a score of 26-16. After a brief intermission and a chance to catch their breath, Belt's offense racked up 15 points in the third quarter while the Huskies' defensive efforts held the Falcons to 8. As the final buzzer sounded, Belt bested Florence-Carlton 56-37. The Huskies were led in triumph by senior Brendan Wing and sophomore Aidan McDaniel with 16 and 15 points respectively.

**Florence** 4 16 24 37

**Belt** 12 26 41 56

**Cut Bank** 18 26 32 47

**Belt** 16 34 41 53

After a victory Friday afternoon, the boys were given the following day to rejuvenate for a match up against the Cut Bank Wolves at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday. The contest against the Wolves

proved to be more challenging than that against the Falcons and as second quarter commenced the Huskies were down 18-16; however, a stellar second period performance by the Belt boys put them in the lead 34-26 as the teams cleared the floor for half time. In the third quarter, the Huskies continued to maintain their lead and with one quarter left to play the board read Belt 41 Cut Bank 32. The Huskies were victorious over the Wolves with a final score of 53-47. Once again, Wing led Belt with 15 points followed by McDaniel with 12.

The Huskies kicked off season play with a game against the Winnett-Grass Range Rams last Friday. The two teams went basket for basket in the first quarter, clearing the floor with a score of 9-6 with three quarters left to play. While the competitors continued to go back and forth in the second period of play, the Huskies began to pull away from the Rams little by little. As the buzzer sounded for half time the score read Belt 22 WGR 17. After the intermission, the Huskies increased the offensive production and added 11 points to the guest

**Belt** 9 22 33 44

**Winnett** 6 17 24 40

**Centerville** 8 24 35 44

**Belt** 18 27 41 57

side of the board while holding the Ram to 7, which put Belt ahead 33-24 going into the fourth quarter. The Huskies added another tally to their win column with a 4 point victory over Winnett-Grass Range with a final score of 44-40. McDaniel led the Huskies with 24 points.

The first home game of the season came on Saturday as the Huskies took on the Centerville Miners. Belt dominated the first quarter of play, amassing a ten point lead with a score of 18-8; however, the Miners continued to battle and as the teams headed to the locker room for halftime the lead had been reduced to 3. Coach Paulson's locker room pep talk motivated the boys and they increased their lead to 41-35 with one quarter left to play. In the fourth quarter, Belt pulled ahead of Centerville and ended the game with a final score of 57-44. Led by junior Hunter Vogl with 16 and sophomore Kaimen Evans with 14, the Huskies notched their second win in conference play.

Last night, the Huskies went to Fairfield for a non-conference matchup. Despite a solid effort, the boys were bested by the Eagles 66-50. The loss knocked Belt's overall record to 4-1 while the conference record remains untouched at 2-0. Tonight the Huskies will head to Winifred for a game against the Outlaws with tipoff set at 7:00 p.m.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

## Fall Athletic Awards Banquet

On Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, there was a gathering to celebrate the fall athletes and all their success. Football, cross country, and volleyball players were all recognized at this assembly. Community members were encouraged to come support the teams and enjoy a meal. The cafeteria was full of loyal Husky fans. Participation certificates, varsity letters, individual awards, and academic all-state certificates were distributed during this celebration.

Starting off the night was Coach Jeff Graham and the Husky football team. Graham told the people in attendance how the season went and proceeded to hand out letters to those who earned them. Receiving varsity letters were seniors: Matt Dollenger and Robert Gliko, juniors Adam Langston, Gavin Roberts, Andrew Stice, Hunter Vogl, and Brandon Wall. Sophomores earning varsity letters included: Kaimen Evans, Treyton Hennes, and Aidan McDaniel, along with lone freshman Cole Hepfner. Acquiring participation awards were freshmen: Aidan Bergstrom, Asa Jassen, Kaiden Marquis, Braden Moon, Gabe Triplett, and Hayden Urick. Individual awards were also presented, with half of those prizes based on statistics and the other six awards were voted on by the boys. Racking up five plaques was Evans, who was the leading rusher, offensive MVP, most inspirational, and second team all-conference designation at both running back and defensive end. Stice collected the prizes of Top Ball Hawk, defensive MVP, and top offensive lineman. Wall also garnered awards for most tackles, Mr. Hustle, and earned honorable mention for inside linebacker for the Northern C. Gliko received the award for top defensive lineman, while Hennes

snagged the leading receiver mention. Earning most improved for the 2018 season was Triplett, while Hepfner received the Rookie of the Year award.

Next up was Coach Mark Garber and the BCXC runners. The Belt members of the team consisted of lone senior Robert Gliko, juniors Shelby Paulson and Kolby Pimperton, and freshmen Cole Hepfner, Asa Jassen, and Lindsey Paulson. All six qualified for the state meet, which earned them pins. Excelling in the classroom as well as on the track, Jassen, both Paulsons, and Pimperton earned academic all-state recognition. Academic all-state acknowledgement requires that the athlete both earn a letter and maintain a 3.5 GPA during that season of competition. Receiving MVP for the boys was Gliko, while L. Paulson received MVP for the girls. S. Paulson raked in most improved, as did Jassen. Pimperton and Hepfner earned the most dedicated award for the season.

The last group to take the stage was the 2018 Class C State Champions, the Lady Husky volleyball team. Coach Christine Gondeiro told the audience about how impressed she was by this great group of girls. Even with their backs against the wall, the maroon and gold represented Belt. Earning participation awards was freshman Sarah Dollenger, sophomores Livvy Shelton, Riley Larsen, Sierra Reese, and junior Candyce Davison. Receiving varsity letters were: seniors Morgan Cooper and Tori Shelton, juniors Abby Gliko, Natalie Larsen, Kyelie Marquis, Adelle Meissner, Shelby Paulson, Karlee Permann, Kolby Pimperton, and Brooke Schraner, sophomores Anna Pethel and Sabrina Wing, and freshmen Raily Gliko, Lindsey Paulson, and Maddisen Osterman. Receiving Ac-

ademic All State recognition went to seniors Morgan Cooper and Tori Shelton, juniors Abby Gliko, Natalie Larsen, Adelle Meissner, Shelby Paulson, and Kolby Pimperton. Also earning recognition for their work in the classroom were underclassmen were freshmen Raily Gliko and Lindsey Paulson. Just like in football, some of the awards given to the girls were based on statistics, while others were voted on by the team. Pimperton collected most assists, most aces, was first team all-conference, and was named all state. Morgan Cooper earned most kills, Co-MVP, all conference first team, and was also named all state. Adelle Meissner notched most digs, most serve receive passes, and most improved. Shelby Paulson received most blocks, while Anna Pethel gathered most improved and rookie of the year. Abby Gliko earned second team all-conference, along with Kyelie Marquis, who also received the Co-MVP award.

Congratulations to the fall athletes and good luck throughout the rest of the school year.

**By: Abby Gliko**

### Belt Close Up Indian Taco Dinner

January 23<sup>rd</sup>

During Basketball vs. Fairfield  
3:00 - 7:30 p.m.



#### Indian Taco Prices:

\$7 - Adults

\$5 - Students

\$25 - Family

**Cinnamon/Sugar Frybread: \$3**

## JV Basketball

A big part of why Belt's basketball programs have been so successful throughout the years has been due to the young athletes on the junior varsity pushing the varsity to become better. The girls and boys JV season commenced at the Coyote Classic Kick-Off Tournament on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Both teams played two games over the course of the weekend. The girls faced off against the Malta Lady Mettes and the Cut Bank Lady Wolves, while the boys battled against the Malta Mustangs and the Florence-Carlton Falcons.

The Lady Husky junior varsity consists of juniors: Candyce Davison, Mika Haagenson, Kyelie Marquis, Adelle Meissner, Grace Norstedt, Karlee Permann, and Brooke Schraner. Sophomores consist of Livvy Shelton and Sabrina Wing and freshmen: Raily Gliko, Ahmia Lords, Maddisen Osterman, and Lindsey Paulson. The boys' junior varsity is made up of sophomore Jason Wall and freshmen: Aidan Bergstrom, Cole Hepfner, Jon Highfill, Asa Jassen, Gabe Triplett, Hayden Urick, and because of roster shortage eight graders: Richie Andrews, Zach Feldman, Owen Halley, Isaac Maki, Ryley Mapston, Keaghan McDaniel, Garrett Metri-one, JJ Triplett, and Bridger Vogl.

The girls made a statement while down in Shelby, defeating

Malta 41-29 and notching a win against Cut Bank 61-32. After a ten minute halftime, the Huskies continued to roll. When the final buzzer rang, Belt won 41-29. The girls' junior varsity has not lost a game in seven years, so there is some added pressure. As halftime closed in, the Huskies pushed their lead to 42-21. The second half continued on the same path as the final score read 61-32 in favor of the maroon and gold.

While the boys gave a valiant effort, they were defeated by the Malta Mustangs and the Florence-Carlton Falcons. As the buzzer rang for half time, the score was tied at 21 points. The Huskies fell behind in the third and were defeated in a heartbreaking 32-30 loss. Wanting to redeem themselves after a loss the night before, the boys had an extra incentive to win. Inexperience was the silent killer for the Huskies, leading them to taste a 59-30 defeat.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, conference play began with girls and boys traveling to Winnet to face off against the Rams. The Lady Husky junior varsity rolled over the competition with a final score of 50-6. It started with an 18-0 run in the first quarter and just got worse as the game continued. As the next two quarters flew by, the Lady Huskies scored 23 points, with the Lady

Rams adding 3 extra points. Lindsey Paulson led scoring with 19 points while Brooke Schraner added 12 of her own. The boys also notched a 43-29 win. As the teams headed to the locker room for halftime, the scoreboard read 21-17 with the Huskies hanging on to the lead. When the last seconds ticked off the clock, the boys had secured Belt's second win of the night.

After a win the night before, the girls were back in action on the home court. They faced off against the Centerville Lady Miners, easily pulling out a 58-18 win. Both teams contributed 2 points to the final score in the fourth quarter, and once time ran out, the Lady Huskies were once again victorious. Kyelie Marquis led scoring with 17 points, while Paulson contributed 13 of her own. Continuing the winning streak that night was the boy's junior varsity. The halftime score read 31-17 in favor of the Huskies. The second half brought a 56-38 in favor of the home town Huskies. Garrett Metri-one scored 27 points, with 6 baskets being three pointers.

Last night both teams traveled to Teton County to take on the Fairfield Eagles and tonight they head east to battle the Roy-Winifred Outlaws. Results from these games will be reported in the next issue in the New Year.

**By: Abby Gliko**

With the joyous holiday season upon everyone, it can quickly fade with the devastation of a terrible crash due to someone driving under the influence. Hopefully, throughout the course of this winter the residents of the Belt community will choose not to drink and drive in order to avoid any type of disastrous accidents.

This holiday season the people of the community should always buckle up and...

## Never Drink and Drive!

This message brought to you by your  
Cascade DUI Task Force



Senior Spotlight

Robert Gliko is one of the few original Belt kids left in this year’s class of 2019. He was born in Great Falls, lives in Monarch, and has always attended Belt Public Schools.

Gliko has always been extremely involved in his school and community. In middle school he participated in cross country, football, basketball and track for all three years. He continued expressing his love for sports by participating for another four years in high school. Along with being an ebullient athlete, Gliko has been involved in Science Olympiad, the science fair, Close Up, and DECA.

Gliko doesn’t just show his skills on the court or field but also by increasing his all-around academics. Rather than having a favorite grade (due to a lack of bad memories), Gliko holds in his heart a favorite school subject. He has always had a special love for math. Gliko stated, “I like it because I can get my mind around and understand it.” Since his favorite subject is math, it’s only fitting that his favorite teacher is Mrs. Graham.

Gliko would also like to give a special shout out to Mrs. Tillman. He thanks her for being the teacher that aids and supports him. “She is the teacher that

helps me or makes me think I can do better. So thank you!”

Aside from enjoying the many perks of attending Belt School, Gliko likes to dirt bike, hunt, fish, and hang out with his friends.

Although Gliko is the youngest of his three siblings, he fills some big shoes around the house. Balancing school, sports, and clubs, Gliko helps out on his family’s ranch, as well.

After high school, Gliko plans on attending college in either Butte or Havre. He wants to earn either an auto or deasil mechanics degree.

Growing up in a supportive community helped Gliko flourish, but in the spring, he will take a huge step in his life. He will graduate from good ole’ Belt High, leaving his small town behind to enhance his education. Gliko expressed, “I will miss my class mates and all my older brothers who have already graduated.”

After Gliko, “Senior Spotlight” will be done with half of the senior class of 2019, meaning that out of the thirteen seniors, there are seven left to learn about. As light is shed on the next senior , tune into the next issue featuring Faith Hawthorne.

**By: Tori Shelton**



New Students

For this issue of the *Valley Voice* Montana Covington and Lillee Vitale have returned to the Belt Public Schools. Although both have been gone for awhile, the two have gotten back into the swing of life in the Belt Schools.

Returning as an eighth grader, Montana Covington’s previous experience as a Belt husky was in second grade.

Although Covington left to be homeschooled, he reappeared for the start of the second quarter of the 2018-2019 school year. When asked what he was looking forward to coming back to a public school, he smirked and said “gym”. So far, Covington’s teacher of choice is Mrs. Visocan, and he’s really fond of math, as well.

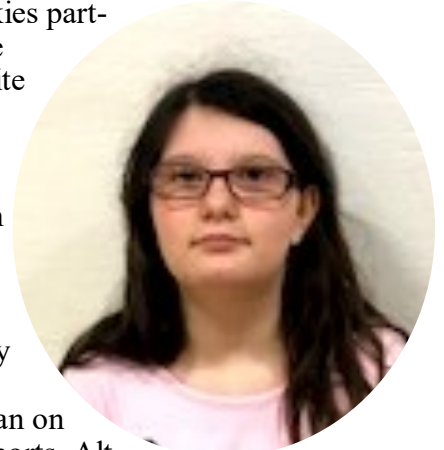


Coming to Belt as an eighth grader, Lillee Vitale left the Belt Huskies part-

way through the same year. In order to reunite with her freshman class, Vitale quickly returned a little into this academic year. In her free time, Vitale enjoys watching television and YouTube videos. She also really enjoys playing video games and doesn’t plan on participating in any sports. Although Vitale doesn’t have a favorite teacher yet, she loves lunch.

In the next “New Students” article, Thomas Vitale, Lillee Vitale’s younger brother, and Landon Nelson will be interviewed.

**By: Livvy Shelton**

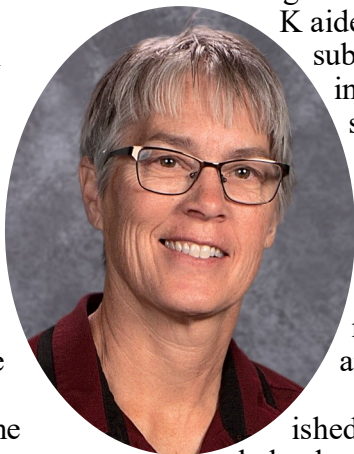


## Featured Staff

Teresa Elam is the featured staff member of the week for the *Valley Voice*. For approximately twenty years she has worked with the Belt School. Over time, she has filled different positions, all of which led up to her current job as head cook. Her enthusiasm for her profession never ceases to create smiles on every student and staff members' face as they pass through the lunch line.

Elam moved to Belt in 1977 from Watford City, North Dakota, while she was still a sophomore, but she moved back to North Dakota at the end of that year. She continued to live in Watford City until she graduated in 1979 and then later married Terry Elam. Mrs. Elam made the decision to move back to Belt in 1980 and has resided in the small town ever since. She also decided to raise her two children in the Belt Community.

When the time arose, Elam became inspired to take a job in the Belt School because of her love to cook and love for kids. When asked, she stated that the most memorable thing for her while working at the school is "seeing students outside of school and being recognized as the 'lunch lady'! And the smiles on students faces as they whisper to their



friend and say 'she knows me so well' as they get their burger with no bun without asking." It is completely clear to anyone who pays attention that Elam's passion for her profession is not limited in the slightest bit.

Elam has been a factotum, as some prefer to call her. She has served in several positions while working in the Belt School System. She's been a Pre K aide, a kitchen substitute, a games cleaner, a substitute janitor, a groundskeeper, a worker in Husky Club, and a cook. Her current position is much more complicated than it seems. A few of her responsibilities are: menu planning, ordering food and supplies, cooking, baking, filling out paperwork, keeping track of inventory, unloading deliveries, and meeting the special nutrition and dietary needs of the students and staff.

In conclusion, Mrs. Elam is a cherished staff member of the Belt School. She has helped make the school a better place ever since she started working there. Whether it was being a janitor or cooking, Elam has constantly been there to create an all around better environment for students and staff members alike.

**By: Sierra Reese**

### *She Stoops to Conquer* Conquered

Nine students put on a fantastic performance of *She Stoops to Conquer* by Oliver Goldsmith on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of December. December 13<sup>th</sup> marked the dress rehearsal for these students but it was open to public viewing with a few parents and students showing up. The following day, opening night brought in quite a crowd with many of the seats being filled. On Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>, the students put on a matinee performance that brought in a large crowd as well.



The actors in this play were in grades six through twelve, including the following students: Tara

Hedstrom, Nate Gill, Eliza Tingey, Addee Hoffman, Molly Tingey, Jessica Moon, Sydne Flinn, Tori Sherwood and Julia Vogt. The directors of the play were Mr. Jeff Ross, the high school English teacher, and Miss Elizabeth Harrison.

*She Stoops to Conquer* is a comedy featuring several characters devising separate plans in order to get what they want. For example, Mr. Hardcastle tries to marry off his daughter, Miss Hardcastle to Charles Marlow. Unfortunately, Marlow is uneasy and shy around high-society women, so Miss Hardcastle "stoops to conquer" posing as a maid in hopes of earning his affection. Meanwhile, Miss Constance Neville and Tony Lumpkin team up with George Hastings to escape the pressure of Mrs. Hardcastle's hopes of marriage between her beloved son, Tony Lumpkin, and Miss. Constance Neville.

Many who attended the play claimed it was excellent and amusing. Some of the students in *She Stoops to Conquer* are also involved in the Belt Valley Shakespeare Company which performs this spring.

**By: Natalie Larsen**



## Remembrance

In 1941, the world was at war. Rising to power, Germany took control of Europe. On the other side of the world, Japan became a tyrant in Asia. At the time America was isolationist, avoiding outside conflicts, but that all changed early on a Sunday morning when the United States was shocked out of its voluntary solitude.

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy sent hundreds of war planes to bomb the US Pacific Fleet stationed in Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. The attack damaged and nearly destroyed twenty American vessels, eight battleships and over three-hundred airplanes. The attack caused the fatalities of over 2,400 military personnel. That number included over two thousand navy, one hundred marines, and two hundred army personnel. Along with military deaths, approximately sixty-nine civilian lives were taken.

Although the country was

shaken, they were not defeated. The next day Congress declared war in nearly a unanimous fashion; the vote to go to war was four hundred and seventy to one. Coming from a Missoulian, the single vote against the war was Jeanette Rankin, the first woman elected to the United States Congress back in 1916. Born in Missoula County, Montana, Rankin had also voted against entering WWI. In both cases, Rankin believed voting for a war she could not fight in was wrong. Despite Rankin's vote, America declared war on Japan on December 8<sup>th</sup>, becoming entangled in WWII.

Rankin wasn't the only Montanan involved in the WWII. Many Belt residents and Montanans served in the war, but the list is so extensive, that the *Valley Voice* doesn't want to risk excluding any of the brave people who served America in WWII. In remembrance of all the fallen, December 7th is dedicated to national Pearl Harbor

Day. During that time the flags are lowered to half-staff and citizens of the United States take a moment to honor the legacy of that day 77 years ago.

Prior to the bombing, the United States instituted the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, which required all men between the ages of twenty-one and forty-five, to register for the draft. As a result, around four hundred and sixty thousand Americans were serving when the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred. After Pearl Harbor, over fifteen million Americans donned uniforms and took up the cause.

America, along with the Allies, fought relentlessly for four years, defending against the Axis Powers controlling Asia and Europe. During those four years, America was united. The country was brought together from the tearing apart of others.

**By: Tori Shelton**

## Christmas

Christmas has been celebrated for centuries and although traditions have changed throughout the years, the main ideas of the season have remained relatively similar. Today, people around the world celebrate Christmas in order to commemorate not only the religious background of the holiday but the overall theme of giving back. As many students, especially those in the elementary grades, are having Christmas parties today they relish in the joy of the holiday season as they participate in many festive activities throughout the day.

The middle of winter has always been a time of festivity for cultures around the world, as people celebrated the worst of winter being over along with the promise of

longer days and extended hours of sunlight ahead. Throughout the early years of Christianity Easter was the main holiday celebrated by those who followed the religion. However, in the fourth century the Roman Catholic Church instituted the birth of Jesus as a holiday, although the exact date of his birth is unknown, and it has grown into the massive celebration of Christmas that most everyone knows today.

At 2:30 p.m. today the final bell will ring signaling the beginning of Christmas break, with students departing school looking forward to Christmas as it rapidly approaches. The *Valley Voice* wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**By: Natalie Larsen**

## Help Wanted

### Belt Public School

#### **Custodians**

Starting wage \$14.45 per hour

#### **Bus Drivers**

Starting Wage \$18.20

All State and OPI eligibility requirements apply. CDL training is needed and will be paid for.

#### **Substitute Teachers**

Starting Wage Certified Teacher:  
\$100 Day

Classified: \$86 Day

#### **Substitute paraprofessional**

Starting Wage: \$13.15

Pick up the application from  
in the Belt School office

\*Background checks required for  
all positions

## Gingerbread Houses



On November 30<sup>th</sup>, the fourth graders and their helpers gathered in the cafeteria to construct gingerbread houses, part of a tradition started long ago. Mrs. Swanson organized this event, with the help of the parents and other volunteers.



Teaghan Triplett's favorite part about the whole adventure was simply "building them". His parents came down to help him complete his gingerbread



house. Tommy Highfill's highlight of the day was "throwing candy at my friends and getting to spend time with my mom." Greyson Garza loved constructing his house and getting the opportunity to do this project with his grandparents.



Clifford Pethel enjoyed "watching everyone else stuff their face with lots of candy." He had a really great time building his hockey rink gingerbread house with his mom. Overall, the children had fun and the parents enjoyed spending time with their kids, and getting into the Christmas spirit.

**By: Abby Gliko**



DECA Projects

Belt Students and Their DECA Events

Marion Kay Spices came in on Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup>. Five hundred and forty-two dollars worth of spices were sold and over one hundred and eighty-nine dollars were profited. The fourth DECA meeting took place on the 5<sup>th</sup>, students had to confirm which events they will be participating in at state.

This year, Montana DECA has adopted a new rule, where all written projects must be turned into the state by January 9<sup>th</sup>. This year also only the eight top written events throughout the state will be able to compete in February at the state competition.

The students from the Belt DECA chapter will be competing in nineteen different competitive events this season. Some events include research operations, community service projects, business growth plans, team decision making, and a variety of principle events. Currently, there are only eighteen participants of the original thirty that signed up. The final project sheet is yet to be determined.

The chapter officers this summer came up with the plan to hold more practice times for members to rehearse their projects. Over the Christmas break, Mrs. Tillman plans on hosting practice rounds,

ASM: Automotive Services Marketing	Treyton Hennes
BOR: Business series Operations research	Brady Drummond, Keely Drummond, & Asa Jassen
BTDM: Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making	Margarette Andrews & Keely Drummond
CSP: Community Service Project	Natalie Larsen, Victoria Shelton, & Anthony Wall
EBG: Business Growth Plan	Natalie Larsen & Riley Larsen
EPP: Entrepreneurship Promotion Project	Sierra Reese & MacKenzie Martin
ESB: Business Growth Plan	Matthew Dollenger, William Franzen, & Brendan Wing
FTDM: Financial Services Team Decision Making	Sarah Dollenger & Charla Hook
FOR: Finance Operations	Sierra Reese
HTDM: Hospitality Services Team Decision Making	Sarah Dollenger & Charla Hook Natalie Larsen & Victoria Shelton MacKenzie Martin & Sierra Reese
HTOR: Hospitality and Tourism Operations Research	Alivia Shelton, Victoria Shelton, & Sabrina Wing
LEP: Learn and Earn Project	Riley Larsen & Alivia Shelton
PFN: Principles of finance	Asa Jassen
PHT: Principles of hospitality and tourism	Charla Hook
PMK: Principles of marketing	Sarah Dollenger; Brady Drummond
PRP: Public Relations project	Margarette Andrews & Keely Drummond
PSE: Professional Selling Event	Anthony Wall
QSRM: Quick Service Restaurant Management	Treyton Hennes
STDM: Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team decision Making	Matthew Dollenger & Brendan Wing

which will last a couple of hours each. These rounds will consist of older DECA members helping and

guiding their peers with their projects and presentations.

**By: Tori Shelton**

Drama Craft Show

On Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Belt School cafeteria and main hallway filled with life when the Drama Craft Show kicked off two weeks ago. It lasted from ten o'clock in the morning to four in the afternoon with approximately one hundred people going in and out. Each vendor paid a fee from twenty-five to fifty dollars per table, and over forty vendors claimed a spot at the Drama Craft Show.

The craft show raised money for the Belt Valley Shakespeare

Players. Several attendees stated that they felt the craft show should become an annual event, so DECA is considering it as a possible fundraising option. If DECA does this, then the money would be put towards the Belt chapter's yearly trip to the state and national competitions provided students make it.

Along with several vendors, a raffle was also held. Many of the vendors donated one item to the raffle, as well. Raffle tickets were purchased and entered into a prize

box. Later that day, the winners were drawn. A few of the raffle items were: soaps, blankets, scarves, wreathes, a wood sled, Paparazzi Jewelry, scarves, and a plethora of other intriguing items.

In total, two-thousand dollars were raised for the Belt Valley Shakespeare Players and will be put towards their trip to the 2019 Fringe Festival. Organizers hope to continue the craft show in the future with funds going to another cause.

**By: Sierra Reese**

## Calendar of Events

12/21	6:00 p.m.	Basketball @ Winifred
12/22	-1/2	Winter Break
12/25		Merry Christmas!
1/1		Happy New Year!
1/3	6:00 p.m.	Basketball vs. Conrad
1/5	5:00 p.m.	Basketball @ Tri-Cities (Hobson)
1/8	7:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
1/9	8:00 a.m.	3-5 Ski Trip
1/10	6:00 p.m.	Basketball @ Highwood
1/11	6:00 p.m.	Basketball vs. DGS
1/14	-1/15	1st Semester Finals
1-15		End of 1st Semester

## Escape Room

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, five staff members went to Escape the Falls in Great Falls Montana. The five staff members consisted of Ms. Hiatt, Ms. Rose, Mrs. Vogt, Mrs. Hedstrom, and Mr. Sutton along with two spouses. They did The Asylum, a room themed around human scientific testing and completed it in a whopping fifty-five minutes and five seconds.

The participants had to overcome many obstacles. When asked about those challenges, Mr. Sutton stated "All the puzzles were tricky, but we had enough people to divide and conquer that it worked really well." Mr. Sutton added that the most difficult part of the whole experience was "...the location of one key, which was really tricky for us to find, as well as the method of getting another key stuck in a bottle, but those challenges make the escape room a lot of fun!"

The idea of the staff members doing an escape room together came from Mr. Sutton when the suggestion of a staff/union bonding night came about. He recommended the escape room and found a time when most people were available. Once he found the ideal time frame, he reserved a room and prepared for the adventure that was in store. "I was happy to set it up and organize it." These real life puzzles are a great activity for people to increase their team bonding skills and stretch their minds. Mr. Sutton would highly advise booking an escape room for family outing, birthday parties, or any type of group activity. It's fun, wholesome, and extremely exciting.

**By: Livvy Shelton**

## Hunting Trophies

### Hunter Vogl

Animal: Whitetail  
Weapon: 270 Savage  
Score (total inches of horns): 140  
Location: Little Belts  
Range: 350 yards



### Bridger Vogl

Animal: Mule deer buck  
Weapon: 270  
Score: 145  
Location: Townsend  
Range: 200 yards  
Highlights: First and biggest Mule Deer he has shot on his grandpa's ranch.



## Belt's Latest Addition

On the morning of December 13<sup>th</sup>, Noah James Tillman was born, growing the Belt school family. He also weighed eight pounds and seven ounces at birth. Everyone is happy and healthy, including parents Jessica and David Tillman. The *Valley Voice* wishes the best of luck to Belt's latest addition.

