



# The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



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As 2018 gave way to the New Year the Lady Huskies continued to display their prowess on the hardwood, despite a surprising loss last weekend. Victories over Fairfield, Roy-Winifred, and Conrad highlighted the fortnight, but defeat at the hands of Tri-Cities reminded the girls that there is still work to be done. The maroon and gold got



back on the winning track last night against the Lady Rivals.

They first showed their dominance over the Lady Eagles from Fairfield on Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of December. In the first quarter of the game the **Belt Huskies** 18 44 62 **69** outscored **Fairfield** 10 20 32 **39** their opponents 18-10. As the klaxon sounded to end the first half the scoreboard read Belt 44 Fairfield 20. The pattern continued in the second half and the girls triumphed to a 69-39 win over their longtime rival Fairfield, of Class B. Kolby Pimperton and Shelby Paulson combined for 45 points, Pimperton tallying 24 and Paulson notching 21.

The next day the team travelled to Winifred to take on the Lady Outlaws of Roy-Winifred. The Huskies started off the game with 19 points in the first quarter and limited their competitors to just 13 points. The momentum changed in the second quarter as the Belt girls were kept to just four points. At half time... (Cont. Pg. 2)

## New Year's Resolutions

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According to Merriam Webster, a New Year's resolution is "a promise to do something differently in the New Year." As the holidays come and go, individuals tend to examine their habits and chose a resolution or two around January first that will improve their life. Once any person picks what they want to change, then the goal is to stick with it throughout coming year. Typically, however, after a week or two,

most people tend to revert back to their old habits.

Several people in the Belt School made resolutions, as well. Some individuals swore up and down that they wouldn't back down on their goals. (Cont. Pg. 3)



Girls' Basketball (Continued)

...the Lady Huskies headed to the locker room leading the Outlaws by just two points, 23-21. The Lady Outlaws did not back down in the second half and rallied to force the

<b>Belt</b>	19	23	27	36
<b>Winifred-Roy</b>	13	21	26	36

game into overtime with the score tied at 36. In overtime Belt out-scored the co-op 8-4 and the Huskies came out on top with a 44-40 win. Pimperton led all scorers with 19 points and Morgan Cooper contributed 13 of her own to lead the team to a victory.



On the first Thursday of this month the team competed in their second home game of the year against the Class B Cowgirls of Conrad. The girls were back on track, scoring 19 points again in the first quarter and ending the 40 half with 37 points. The Lady



Huskies kept the Cowgirls to 2 points in the first quarter and finished the half with 15 marks.

<b>Conrad</b>	2	15	18	22
<b>Belt</b>	19	37	49	64

When the game ended Belt had the advantage with 64 tallies to a mere 22. Cooper finished the game with 13 tallies and Brooke Schraner concluded the game with 11.

Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> the girls

tasted their first defeat of the season and their first conference loss since 2009 (Highwood).

Battling against the Tri-City Titans in Hobson, the Belt girls

<b>Belt</b>	9	21	26	33	41
<b>Tri-Cities</b>	5	11	20	33	46

held on to a ten point lead at the half. But it was a tale of two halves; when the second half rolled around the Ladies were not ready for the pressure from the Lady Titans. The maroon and gold maintained a 6 point lead after the third quarter but turnovers and inexperience against pressure changed the outcome of the fourth quarter. The home team outscored the visitors by six in the fourth stanza and shocked the Belt girls in the extra period of play. In the overtime session the Titans missed only one of twelve free throws, resulting in a 41-46. The girls of Tri-Cities were 19-23 from the free throw line on the night. Schraner and Paulson amassed 9 points each in the battle against the co-op.

Last night the girls got back on the winning track in Highwood when they bested the Rivals by a final score of 59-16. Tonight their quest continues as they will host the Bearcats from DGS at 6:00. The overall record this season is 8-1 and the conference record is now 4-1.

**By: Kolby Pimperton**

Big Husky/Little Husky

Once a quarter the high school and elementary students team up in order to create a collaborative work of art. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of December, the high school students visited the young Huskies in order to produce Christmas masterpieces. Students were given two cookies, frosting and sprinkles which allowed them to construct delicious

Christmas treats that put everyone into the holiday spirit. Many of the older and younger Husky students look forward to getting to know and spend time with each other.

The Big Husky/Little Husky has been a hit for years. The older students enjoy reminiscing about elementary life while the younger ones get a glimpse of what high

school looks like.

The elementary students appreciate the help high schoolers contribute as well as putting their own spin on the projects. The next Big Husky/Little Husky is during third quarter, with another fun project in store for Huskies both large and small.

**By: Natalie Larsen**

## New Year's Resolutions *(Continued)*

Unfortunately, others have already succumbed. A few common resolutions that Belt students came up with were to work out more, eat healthier, drink more water, or limit the amount of caffeine or salt consumed. Some students have also added improving their own study habits after a recent Husky Time lesson that asked students to write down their current study habits, find ways to improve said habits, and read a packet informing students how to both study better and

read actively. The previously listed objectives are meant to help make a person have a healthier lifestyle and a better year.

Although the ambitions of all who choose to create a new year's resolution normally start out on the right track, they tend to go off the rails. People should keep on making new goals throughout the year instead of just giving up a month or so after the opening of 2019.

New Year's resolutions are

often too difficult or too much all at once, so perhaps try to create smaller, more achievable goals that gradually get more demanding throughout the balance of the year.

Despite many people giving up on their resolutions, it is the thought that counts in an effort to improve oneself, which is admirable. As 2019 rolls along, people should continue making resolutions. One resolution might be to follow through on ones already made.

**By: Sierra Reese**

## JV Basketball

The junior varsity teams faced off against the Class B Fairfield Eagles and the Roy-Winifred Outlaws right before the Christmas break. Not wasting any time in the New Year, Belt battled against another Class B foe, Conrad, and then traveled to clash with the Tri-City Titans.

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, the teams loaded the bus and headed to Fairfield. Starting off the night was the girl's C squad game, which consisted of the freshman and sophomores, and gave them an opportunity for more minutes. The Lady Huskies dominated at half time, with a score of 26-7. Once the final buzzer rang, the maroon and gold had secured a 44-18 win. Maddison Osterman led the team with 18 points.

The next game for the night was the JV girls. As the first 16 minutes ran off the clock, the score read 31-15 in favor of Belt. Keeping their foot on the gas in the second half, the girls continued to throttle the competition with a final score of 59-24. Brooke Schraner led the way with 22 points.

Despite their best efforts, the boy's JV tasted defeat at the hands of the Eagles. When half time came, the Eagles were ahead 29-19.

Although the Huskies outscored Fairfield in the second half, the deficit was too great to make up. The final score read 47-42 with the Eagles coming out on top. Garret Metrione scored 17 points, which was a team high for the Huskies.

The next day, the Belt players traveled to Winifred for their next competition. Due to a lack of players on the Outlaws roster, the girls JV only played half a game. As the final seconds ticked off the clock for the shortened period, the score read 23-2 with the Lady Huskies crushing their opponents.

Keeping the intensity was the boys JV who managed to outscore the Outlaws 27-7 in the first half. After a ten minute intermission, the maroon and gold continued to control the game with a final score of 45-16, with Bridger Vogl notching 18 points.

After taking a break for Christmas, the Lady Huskies were tired of practicing and were ready for the real deal again. On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the girls took to the court and competed against the Conrad Cowgirls at home. Once again, due to roster shortage, the athletes only participated in a half game. The time shortage did not affect the maroon and gold, who handed Conrad

a 25-10 defeat.

With the Conrad boys also dealing with a shortage of players, the JV boy's game was also rescheduled to a half game. After the seconds ticked off the clock, the score was tied up, forcing overtime. Despite the Huskies best effort, they tasted a 22-23 loss.

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, the teams headed east to Hobson to face off against the Tri-City Titans. Rolling in the first half, the girls had a 38-18 lead when the halftime buzzer rang. Continuing to dominate in the second half, the Lady Huskies cruised to a 62-31 win. Lindsey Paulson had a team high 23 points.

After a 20 minute warm up, the boys were ready for play, and after a tough first half, the Huskies showed a 24-17 lead. Maintaining the lead throughout the second half, the maroon and gold pulled off a 56-42 win. Vogl led the team with 12 points, while Metrione and Asa Jassen both contributed 11.

Last night the teams competed against the Geraldine-Highwood Rivals in Highwood. Scores from this game will be reported in the next issue of the Valley Voice. Tonight the maroon and gold will host the DGS Bearcats.

**By: Abby Gliko**



# Valley Voice

## Boys' Basketball

As 2019 dawned upon the valley, the Huskies brought 2018 to a close with away games against the traditionally strong Fairfield Eagles followed by a conference matchup against the Winifred-Roy Outlaws. To kick off the New Year, the Belt boys went head to head against another Class B foe, the Conrad Cowboys in the Dawg House on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and hit the road for a contest against the Tri-City Titans on the 5<sup>th</sup>. In this series of games, the Huskies tasted defeat just once, at the hands of the Eagles.

On December 20<sup>th</sup> the boys traveled to Teton County to take on perennial powerhouse Fairfield. Although they were outmatched by height and numbers, the Huskies hung with the Eagles. After one quarter of play the boys were down 11-18 and as the teams broke for halftime the score read Belt 29 Fairfield 40. After a pep talk from Coach Paulson the Huskies came out for the third quarter and added nine points to their side of the board while the Eagles accumulated ten. As the final buzzer sounded the Huskies were bested by Fairfield 66-50. Aidan Belt 11 29 38 50 McDaniel Fairfield 18 40 50 66 led Belt's valiant effort, offering 28 points.

Despite a loss the night before, the boys rallied for a victory over the Winifred-Roy Outlaws on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Huskies ended the first quarter down one point, 9-10. In the second quarter, both teams added ten points to their side of the board leaving the score at 19-20 at half time. Once again, the teams matched their scoring output with twelve points each; however, in the final quarter of play the Belt boys

<b>Belt</b>	9	19	31	<b>45</b>
<b>Winifred-Roy</b>	10	20	32	<b>39</b>

increased their offensive production with nine buckets totaling 14 points while holding the Outlaws to 7. The final score read 45-39 and McDaniel and Brendan Wing both contributed 12 points to the victory.



After two weeks of Christmas break, the boys hit the hardwood for their first game of the 2019 season on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Huskies took control of the game right from the get go scoring 20 points and keeping Conrad at 13.



As the teams cleared the floor for half time the score stood at 37-26 with Belt in the lead. After a ten minute intermission, the Huskies increased their lead to 25 points, leaving the score to read Belt 58 Conrad 33. The boys triumphed with a final tally of 69-52 led by McDaniel who shot for 23 and Wing who offered 19.

<b>Conrad</b>	13	26	33	<b>52</b>
<b>Belt</b>	20	37	58	<b>69</b>



On January 5<sup>th</sup>, the Huskies loaded the bus and hit the road for a contest against the Tri-City Titans in Hobson. Belt hung behind the Titans after one quarter of play 7-9; however, the Huskies rallied in the second quarter and took the lead 25-21 going into halftime. The break gave the boys an opportunity to catch their breath and they came out ready to play in the third quarter extending their lead to 18 with a score of 46-28. As the final quarter of play came to a close, the Huskies notched another win 54-35 with McDaniel marking 14 and Wing and Hunter Vogl chipping in with 13 each.

Last night the boys took on the Geraldine-Highwood Rivals in Highwood. The Huskies fell in overtime 49-52. Details of that game will be in the next issue of the *Voice*. The loss left Belt's conference record at 4-1 and their overall mark stands at 8-2. The Belt boys will be back in action tonight against the Denton-Geyser-Stanford Bearcats with tipoff set for 7:30.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

## Students' Holidays

Christmas was a welcome break for many students in Belt. For the holidays several students traveled a long way to visit their families or ventured far and wide for family vacations. Students Ahmia Lords and Jason Wall both traveled out of the state of Montana and were thrilled to share their experiences.

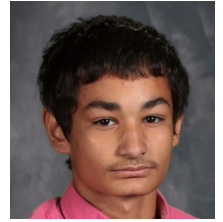


Freshman Ahmia Lords and her family traveled all the way to Hawaii. They took off to begin their journey on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. They took a plane from Great Falls to Seattle where they set up camp for the night. The next morning they were up bright in

early to catch their flight from Seattle to Hawaii, a six hour plane ride. While on their vacation, they visited the islands Hawaii and Kailua. There they came to see several beaches, went scuba diving, zip lined, para-sailed, hiked to several volcanoes, swam with turtles, snorkeled, and saw dolphins as well as whales. Of all those fun activities, Ahmia's favorite part was scuba diving and zip lining. Lords also said that Hawaii has eleven different climates and they were able to experience seven of them. Ahmia and her family returned January 4<sup>th</sup> just a little after school had come back into session.

Another travelling student is sophomore Jason Wall. Jason, along with all the Wall household,

took an eleven hour car trip to visit family in Washington. While there, they visited the zoo, aquarium, the mall, rode a ferry, and saw dolphins. His favorite part of the whole trip was just being able to be with his entire family again. Jason and his family returned to Belt December 27<sup>th</sup> and Jason said he was glad he got to see family he doesn't usually get to see but he was happy to be home.



Everyone had a fantastic Christmas and a Happy New Year. The 2019 school year resumed on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and semester finals are already looming..

**By: Livvy Shelton**

## Principal's Report

In December, Belt Schools was abuzz with excitement for Christmas break and the impending end of the first semester. Mr. Paulson's Principal's Report for December detailed the events within the confines of Old Belt High.

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, high school and middle school musicians gathered in Mr. Sutton's room for a performance and presentation by a brass trio from Montana State University (MSU). The presentation taught the students a lot about the concepts of making music and the importance of breath and air while performing. The Chinook Winds Quintet then came to display their talents to the entire school of November 16<sup>th</sup> along with an educational element on the science of playing an instrument.

Grades six through twelve gathered in the gym once again on the 29<sup>th</sup> for a performance by Montana Shakespeare in the Schools from MSU. This year the group per-

formed *Julius Caesar* and the actors conducted several workshops with the high school students at the conclusion of the play.

On November 15<sup>th</sup> the high school basketball players took the floor to begin the 2018-19 season. This year there are 19 girls out for basketball and the boys' team consists of 23 athletes including nine eighth graders; both Husky teams are off to an 8-1 start as the season is halfway done. Also on the 15<sup>th</sup> began wrestling season, there are two Husky wrestlers.

The basketball teams also ran a Holiday 3-on-3 Tournament to benefit their budget for this season; the basketball tournament coincides with "Breakfast with Santa" which saw over 20 high school students volunteer to work booths such as cookie decorating and writing letter to Santa.

As Christmas dawned upon the valley, students participating in Youth Leadership gathered for car-

oling around town on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The following day, the third graders traveled to the Golden Ages Retirement Home to sing carols for the senior citizens. The fifth graders also went shopping for Operation Santa, an initiative to provide gifts for children from low income families for Christmas.

The fifth through twelfth graders who are enrolled in band gathered in the gymnasium on December 18<sup>th</sup> for their Christmas concert. The elementary then attended the Colony Christmas Program on the 20<sup>th</sup> and school adjourned for Christmas break on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The students of Belt High have been back in class for seven days and quickly began preparation for finals on Monday and Tuesday. Stress levels with finals looming on the horizon have increased along with anticipation for the second semester and spring.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

## Senior Center News

Full of caring people that are always willing to help out the community, the Belt Senior Center provides meals and holds a plethora of classes and events. On a daily basis, Belt's senior members sip coffee in the morning and play cribbage to start the day.

Coming in bright and early, Gilbert opens up the place, getting the coffee started. He comes in anywhere between six or eight in the morning. On Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the Senior Center also hosts weekly lunches and they close for the day after everyone is

done eating lunch at around eleven or eleven-thirty.

A few of the events held at the senior center are class reunions, birthday celebrations, tutoring, exercising classes (such as Pilates), voting, and monthly Coffee with Expectations, which is when the mayor visits the people at the Senior Center on the first Monday of every month. The aforementioned tutoring is done by Kim LaRocque. She volunteers her time for this activity every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Exercise classes are also done on every Monday and

Wednesday each month.

For Christmas, the Senior Center embraced the festivities and decorated the center with a string of garland around the room and a nativity set placed where everyone enjoyed its beauty.

On Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>, the first and second graders sang and talked to those who were in the Senior Center at that time. The seniors are always excited to see young faces and love visitors. The Senior Center never fails to aid the Belt community and is open to all.

**By: Livvy Shelton**

## George H. W. Bush Memoriam

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, the forty-first president of the United States, passed away. George H. W. Bush wasn't just the president of the U.S. or even the forty-third vice president, but also a national hero, father, and friend to many.

Bush dedicated his whole life to this country. He enlisted in the navy at the age eighteen after the attack on Pearl Harbor. In World War II, he served as a naval aviator and worked on aircraft carriers. In 1963, he also was elected chairman of the Harris County Republican Party in Texas. The following year H. W. Bush ran for Senate. He served as Director of the Central Intelligence agency and led the nation as president from 1989-1993.

During his presidential term, H. W. Bush saw the end of the Cold War and fall of the Soviet Union. From 1945 to 1991, these two countries were competing in a race for arms, space, and athletics, along with the struggle between communism and capitalism. Bush also initiated the launch of Operation Desert Storm and First Gulf War.

Besides being a political leader, he was also a husband and a father, being married to Barbara Bush for seventy-three years. In their life time, the couple welcomed six children; one of which, George W. Bush, grew up to become the forty-third president.

In honor of his passing, President Donald Trump declared a day of mourning and all flags were

lowered to half-staff.

Respects were paid in Houston and Maryland, and the final stop was the U.S Capitol. The White House conducted a memorial service that featured all five living presidents. On the morning of Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup>, a service was held at the Washington National Cathedral, where politicians and public figures attended. Throughout the three days, friends and family, along with the public, were able to say goodbye.

President George Herbert Walker Bush left a lasting mark on the United States as both a political leader and friend. Although sorely missed, there is no doubt that history will call him a great American.

**By: Tori Shelton**

## Colony Christmas

On Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, students kindergarten through fourth grade traveled to Pleasant Valley Colony for their yearly Colony Christmas Program.

Every year the Pleasant Valley Colony puts on a Christmas program. This year's production included a number of plays, Christ-

mas carols, and German songs. All the colony school kids are involved in several of those acts. The Colony has been performing these programs since the school opened.

The school is K-8 and Mrs. McKinney and Mrs. Shimerdla teach at the colony every day with help from Mrs. Silvestre.

This year's extravagant performance by Pleasant Valley Colony was one for the books and the Colony will continue to conduct these wonderful performances. It is a fun experience for Belt students to attend and lets the students learn about other cultures.

**By: Livvy Shelton**



Bustling Belt

In mid-April of 2018, Castner Street saw the placement of a log building, more modern than the typical 1900's aesthetic exterior the majority of businesses don; yet the building seems to fit in to the town's cozy atmosphere, nestled between the local art gallery on the right and the SISU gym on the left. The warm and welcoming cabin would be opened on May 10<sup>th</sup> as Jack's Beans, the local coffee shop.



76 Castner Street has always been the local destination for a hot cup of coffee and the morning news. Owned by Fay and Bill Nebel the land the land was once home to the local cafe. Since then the building has closed and the Nebel's bought the land with plans to open a coffee shop. The original building was

then demolished and the log structure was put in its place. Even after adding a new building, the Nebel's hope to continue expanding possibly adding an outside deck as the local shop becomes more popular.

Despite their original plans of opening Jack's Beans as a sole coffee shop, the company is now making the transition into becoming a bistro. While continuing to sell coffee, tea, and numerous other refreshments including the new addition of coke products, Jack's Beans is now serving soup and chili as well as sub sandwiches. The shop also offers a \$5 lunch special featuring a drink and sandwich. Jack's Beans will also be serving soft serve ice cream beginning late this month. The Nebel's also plan to add roaster chicken and other primary foods to Jack's Beans' menu.

While the front of the building is home to the coffee shop, the back serves as an office for Nebel Enterprises, a home distributor company. Bill Nebel ran the company for 12 years but moved into the building when Jack's Beans opened. Nebel Enterprises features homes from Whisper Creek Homes, Rocky Mountain Log Homes, and Pioneer Log Homes. The company features a variety of log homes and Nebel is available for contact "whenever someone calls."

The addition of Jack's Beans and the relocation of Nebel Enterprises has been a great addition to the community while maintaining the antiquated, cozy charisma that seems to inhabit the Valley. The next issue of the Valley Voice will feature another local business, the Senior Center.

By: Adelle Meissner

As icy roads still create havoc on Montana roads, drinking and driving is more dangerous than ever. It is crucial to think before taking actions that can change one's life forever, especially when putting others' lives at risk. Throughout January, a time for changes, let's hope everyone realizes that drinking and driving is never a safe idea, even if one thinks there is potential benefits. This winter please always buckle up and...

**Never Drink and Drive!**

This message brought to you by your Cascade DUI Task Force



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## Holiday Hoops

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, young basketball players ranging from third to eighth grade hit the hardwood at Old Belt High for the annual Holiday 3-on-3 Tournament. The event featured fourteen 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls teams which were split into two pools, seven 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls teams, nine 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls teams split into three pools, six 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys teams, ten 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys teams split into two pools, and five 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys teams also split into two pools. All teams participated in round robin play in the morning, then the top two teams faced off for the championship of each division.

Pool A of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls' division contained Belt, the Big Sandy Ballers, the Knight-hawk Huskies, the Cowgirls, Lewistown, Hi-Line Hoops, and the Little Yotes 1. Hi-Line Hoops and the Nighthawk Huskies ended with the best records and faced each other for the Pool A championship where Hi-Line Hoops came out the winner. Pool B consisted of the Huskies, the Big Sandy Pioneers, the Belt Minions, DGS, the Golden Eagles, the Lady Horns, and Little Yotes 2. The Huskies and DGS bat-

tled in the final round and the Huskies became won Pool B.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls all played together in a bracket consisting of J.E.R.M., the Lady Yotes, Titans B, Conrad, Denton-Geysers-Stanford, the Cowgirls, and Winnett-Grass Range. The Lady Yotes defeated DGS in the battle for domination of the division.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' division had such a great turnout that they were split into three different pools. Pool A featured Belt 8<sup>th</sup>, the Miners, and the Mountaineers, Pool B consisted of Fairfield, Titans A, and Swoosh, and Pool C was made up of Huskies 7<sup>th</sup>, the Lady Coyotes, and Denton-Geysers-Stanford. Round robin play left only the Lady Coyotes, Fairfield, and the Miners standing; however tournament play eliminated Fairfield while the Lady Coyotes and Miners were awarded co-champions of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls division.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade boy bracket contained six teams including: the Huskies, Conrad, the Little Brothers, the Happy Hoopsters, the Cowboys, and Denton-Geysers-Stanford. At the end of round robin play, the Huskies and DGS ended with the best overall records and the

two faced off for the championship. The Huskies won and were named the winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade bracket.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys division featured two pools, Pool A was made up of Neihart, the Miners, Shelby, Conrad and Armington and Pool B consisted of Riceville, the Hoop Hunters, Monarch, Denton-Geysers-Stanford, and the Cowboys. The Miners dominated Pool A while DGS was the number one seed from pool B; the two met for the championship and the DGS Bearcats were victorious.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys division had five teams: Belt, the Huskies, the Harlowton Engineers, the Coyotes, and the Bearcats. Round Robin play left the Coyotes and the Bearcats with the top two seeds and a spot in the championship game. The matchup resulted in a triumph for the Bearcats.

The Holiday 3-on-3 Tournament is a great way for young athletes to showcase their talents and have fun playing basketball. The proceeds of the tournament go to the Belt basketball programs and the athletes and coaches are thankful for everyone's involvement.

**By: Adelle Meissner**

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## Preparing for Finals

With Christmas in the past, students have been preparing for finals throughout the last week and a half for finals. Students are spending hours staring at their notebooks trying to retain the information needed in order to succeed on these tests.

The final schedule looks familiar to most seasoned high school students, as odd period finals are taking place on Monday with Tuesday being allocated to even numbered classes. Finals usher in the second semester of the 2018-

2019 school year.

For high school freshmen this is their first round of finals and many of them don't know exactly what to expect. Not only freshmen, but all high school students typically err when it comes to their studying methods. Many end up staring blankly at their notebooks for hours, hoping to retain the information needed for each final but there are much better study skills the students can use. Examples include creating study cards, whether they be physical notecards or

online, this is one study method that is extremely effective. Along with study cards students can create little quizzes and test themselves or quiz a study pal over the knowledge they need to learn.

As the semester comes to a close the school is buzzing with activity. Monday and Tuesday of the coming week provide students a chance to help their semester grade and get off to a good start for the next grading period. Best of luck to all students on final exams.

**By: Natalie Larsen**



Featured Staff

The first featured staff member of the new year, Jill Gliko has worked in the Belt School System for thirteen years. Gliko has been inspiring people in the school ever since she began her career in Belt.

Gliko graduated from Geysler High School in 1990 and then went on to college at MSU-Bozeman, where she graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics Education. She received her Masters in School Counseling in 2012 from the University of Southwest.

The path that led Gliko to her current position as Belt’s Kindergarten through twelfth grade counselor is quite interesting. Originally,



she moved to Belt in 1995, teaching history and physical education from 1996 to 2006. Gliko then to Moore in 2006. After some decision making, Gliko decided in 2015 that she wanted to pack up and move back to Belt once again, where she has resided ever since.

Over time, Gliko has built several bonds with students and has consistently been a trusted person for students to go to when they need to talk or have a problem they need help solving. An extremely important part of her job is guiding students through the process of college admission and applying for scholarships, and her work is much appreciated.

**By: Sierra Reese**

Senior Spotlight

Faith Hawthorne is the senior of the week. She came to Belt originally in 2013 and stayed for one school year, before moving to Texas. She realized that Belt is where she belonged and rejoined the community in 2016.

Hawthorne was born in Jerome, Idaho. She attended elementary, middle school and a year of high school in Idaho. However she moved to Belt to be closer to her dad’s side of the family.

As for favorites, Hawthorne claims that 8<sup>th</sup> was her favorite grade because of the people she spent that year with. For teachers, she prefers Mrs. Jessica Tillman because she is “nice, kind and funny.” Hawthorne also stated that her



favorite school subject is art. “It gives you creative ideas and I want to create a lot of things.”

Proving that she loves art, her favorite school memories involve painting. For example, back in Jerome, she enjoyed putting painted hand prints on rocks. Hawthorne’s favorite Belt memory is painting also the “B” with her class.

After high school, Hawthorne plans on attending WyoTech for auto body study. Even though she has been here a short while, she says she will miss the school and the people in Belt.

Tune into the next issue of the *Valley Voice* as MaKayla O’Neil steps into the “Senior Spotlight.”

**By: Tori Shelton**

National Honor Society

As part of their commitment to NHS, senior Morgan Cooper and junior Keely Drummond conducted a project for the holiday called the Angel Tree.

The two brought the community together by presenting gifts to children who are underprivileged in the community during



Christmas.

The Angel Tree was located in the Belt Valley Bank and had been up since the first week of December. Community members were encouraged to pick a tag off the tree and purchase a present for a less fortunate child in Belt and the surrounding area. The tags on the tree indicated the age and the interests of the child, but did not reveal their name. The gifts were arrayed under

the tree at the bank and were collected on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December. After all the presents were gathered the office in the school notified the parents that the gifts were ready for pick up.

The pair would like to thank the generous community members who helped with their project and they hope all had a very Merry Christmas!

**By: Kolby Pimperton**

## Where Are They Now?

Logan Gondeiro was a 2010 Belt graduate. In high school, he participated in football, basketball, and track all four years. He earned red zone athlete of the year, 1<sup>st</sup> team all-conference in football as a line-backer and wide receiver as well as 1<sup>st</sup> team all-conference in basketball. He played in the Bob Cleverley classic for football, and played in the crown plaza all-star game. Along with being a stellar athlete, Gondeiro also was a part of Science Olympiad for four years.

After conquering Belt High, Gondeiro moved to Bozeman to attend Montana State University (MSU) for four years. At MSU, he earned a degree in Construction Engineering Technology. From Bozeman, he moved back to his hometown and currently lives on a ranch just outside of Belt.

Gondeiro always knew that he would come back to Belt, stating, "No better place than home.

Yes, I expected to return home." Since moving back he has made an effort to stay involved with the community that he grew up in by coaching 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball and teaching high school bible study.

In August of 2013, Gondeiro married his high school sweet heart, Megan McCafferty. In 2016, they welcomed a little girl, June Rayne. They are also expecting another child, a little boy. Currently, Gondeiro is a Project Engineer for Dick Anderson Construction, working on multi-million dollar projects. One of Gondeiro's most recent projects was the expansion on Belt School.

For the foreseeable future Gondeiro plans on continuing to be a good father and husband with the hopes of having additional children. "I want to work



to the best of my abilities at my current job, and share God's word."

Tune into the next issue of the *Valley Voice* to see yet another Belt graduate and where they are now!

**By: Tori Shelton**

## Vaping Presentation

Last month on December 19<sup>th</sup>, Belt' students viewed a presentation on vaping with some high school students from Highwood. A Tobacco Use Prevention Specialist at the Office of Public Instruction, Kris Minard was the speaker of the presentation, which was orchestrated by Belt High's principal, Kyle Paulson, and the Montana Behavioral Initiative.

The presentation enlightened students of the many dangers of vaping and smoking cigarettes. One particularly important statement during the presentation was "safer does not mean safe," which basically meant that even though vaping is safer than using cigarettes is some ways, it still isn't safe for its users. Perhaps the largest surprise was the massively increased nicotine doses dispensed in some

form of vaping.

Cell phones were also incorporated into the lecture. A popular website called "Kahoot.it," which is similar to trivia, was used and students used their phones to answer the questions. First and second place received notebooks.

Several of the lucky individuals who were able to witness this extremely informative presentation have stated that they learned a plethora of facts that were completely foreign to them before. The Highwood High school even traveled to the Belt facility to witness this sharing of information and to become more knowledgeable in regards to vaping and cigarette usage.

In conclusion, the vaping presentation was very successful. Students enjoyed participating in the Kahoot.it trivia game and learn-

ing about the safety issues with vaping and cigarette usage. It was an eye opening presentation and many in attendance appreciated the information set forth.

**By: Sierra Reese**

## 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

## Guest Speaker

A few days before Christmas break kicked off President Donald Trump announced through news article and Twitter that American Troops are going to be removed from Syria. With Trump claiming the war in Syria, against the Islamic state of ISIS, has been won, many are advising that conflict in Syria is only just beginning as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), ethnically known as the Kurdish people, that occupy the Northeastern part of the country are being threatened with invasion by Turkey. At this point in time Syria is not fully united under one government system, as President Bashar al-Assad has support from much of the country but not the northern Kurdish people that are currently being protected by the United States military.

The beginning of the chaos taking place in the Middle East truly began in the days of the Cold War. With the Soviet Union and the United States in constant contention the world quickly segmented into two groups. One being capitalist, allying with the United States, while the others were communist

being on the side of the Soviet Union. In the process, the world became a jumbled mess, especially in the Middle East, that is still being sorted through. These issues are linked to attacks of 9/11 and the Arab Spring that have only created more issues for the United States and the countries that are involved.

Trump's call to remove troops from Syria seems promising, with many military families and some political leaders seeing only benefits. While these ideas seem very favorable it can also cause disarray for Syria in the process. Many of the people in Syria, that American military is currently protecting, fought bravely with the American troops in order to defeat ISIS. Deciding to turn away from them now would not only put them in immediate danger but would compromise the U.S.'s image to the rest of the world. How would anyone rely on a country who turn their backs on those who offered them so much help? This question and many others have arose from many as this topic is being debated heavily in much of United States' media.

With these topics being de-

liberated constantly, Mr. Jeff Graham, one of the high school U.S. history teachers, brought in Sam Sweeney who just recently got back from Syria, in order to speak on the subject and better explain it to the students. A few teachers even showed up in order to not only hear Sweeney speak about his experiences but also his opinions on what the United States government should do. He agreed that eventually troops should be removed from Syria, but disputed with Trump in the sense that he believes the situation is too volatile to leave the Kurdish people on their own just yet.

This presentation was very informative for the high school juniors as they now have more information to formulate their own opinions. The students found the speech extremely interesting and it gave them insight as to how decisions are made by the President, with help from his advisors. Hopefully, the students learned a lot of from this presentation, gaining a more thorough understanding of the situation and aiding them in awareness of the problems in the world around them.

**By: Natalie Larsen**

## DECA Day

On Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Belt DECA chapter held the first official DECA Day. The goal of this was to allow the chapter members to receive help on their written projects and to practice role playing. The event was held in Mrs. Tillman's classroom. She was at the school till noon. Six of the DECA members participated. These students were: Natalie and Riley Larsen, Keely and Brady Drummond, Mag-



gie Andrews, and Asa Jassen.

The Larsen sisters came in to work on their Start-up Business Plan Project.

The two made it to Nationals with this project last year and placed in the top seventy percentile. Keely Drummond and Andrews worked on their Public Relations Project. Last year their

hard work with the #LetsTalk app and Alliance for Youth, bought

them a ticket to Nationals were they also placed in top percentile. Brady Drummond and Jassen got help on their Hospitality and Tourism Operations Research Project. This is their first year in DECA, which means it is their first written event, so the help was greatly appreciated.

All written projects were mailed into the state on the 9<sup>th</sup>. They will be judged and the qualifiers will be notified February 1<sup>st</sup>. The state conference will be held in Fairmont Hot Springs on the 10<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> of February.

**By: Tori Shelton**



## Calendar of Events

- 1/11 6:00 p.m. Basketball vs. DGS  
 1/14 High School Finals (Odd Classes)  
 1/15 High School Finals (Even Classes)  
 1/15 End of Second Quarter and First Semester  
 1/16 12:31 p.m. Early Out (PIR Day)  
 1/17 Middle School Ski Trip  
 1/18 6:00 p.m. Basketball vs. WGR  
 1/19 5:00 p.m. Basketball @ Centerville  
 1/19 Wrestling @ GFCC  
 1/22 5:00 p.m. Wrestling Meet @ Belt  
 1/24 Wrestling @ Big Sandy  
 1/25 6:00 p.m. Basketball vs Roy-Winifred  
 1/25 Wrestling @ Simms

## Picture Puzzle

Who had T-rex arms after he shot one of his free-throws? (Tune into the next issue for the answer.)



## Steven Olson Concert

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, Belt came alive as Husky alumni Steve Olson, performed his Christmas album, *Merry Christmas from Great Falls*, at the Belt Performing Arts Center. There were two separate performances, one at 3 p.m. and another performance at 6 p.m., which brought in a total of about 165 attendees.



Featuring seventeen songs, the *Merry Christmas from Great Falls* album highlighted various instruments. Each of the pieces performed were original arrangements that Olson composed between 2015 and 2017. The selections included: "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "Gesu Bambino," "Go Tell it on the Mountain," "Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "The Christmas Song," "I'll Be Home For Christmas," "Carol of the Bells," "O Holy Night," "It's Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "The First Nowell," "Do You Hear What I Hear," "Snow Day," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "I Wonder as I Wander," and "Sleigh Ride."

Graduating in 2006, Olson was interested in music throughout high school and is now has found great success in the musical industry. He has excelled in academics and music and today he is in his 7<sup>th</sup> year of being an orchestra director at Charles M. Russel High School in Great Falls. Mr. Olson is also an orchestra director for the Steve Olson Orchestra and Big Sky Telemann Players. In addition he is a music director for the Great Falls Ballet Ensemble, Act I Theatre Company in Great Falls, and the Assistant conductor of the Helena Symphony. Olson spends time as a violinist in the Helena Symphony and does freelance piano work throughout the state. He is extremely involved in music.

Olson was very ecstatic to be back in his home town of Belt. He would like to thank the community for sharing his love and passion for music. He also is amazed at how the Belt Performing Arts Center has transformed throughout the past year and was much honored to take the stage as one of the first groups to take the stage in the newly remodeled building.

The next performance by Olson is scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup> with another to follow on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April. Each performance will be held in the CMR High School auditorium at 7:30. Admission is free.

**By: Kolby Pimperton**