



The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



25 January 2018

Volume 10 Issue 10

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School-Based Health Clinic Comes to Belt

The range of services provided by public schools continues to expand in the modern era, as it is recognized that a good deal more than just pencils and paper go into the molding of young minds. In line with that trend, Belt Schools are adding a new resource designed to enhance the overall learning environment in the building.

Belt Public Schools now have a Community Health Care Clinic (CHCC). The service began yesterday, January 24th, and will only be open every Thursday. The CHCC hopes to expand access to health services for Belt students.

Fully operational, the clinic benefits students, families, and faculty. With the exam room near the girls bathroom in the high school hall, the clinic will be open on Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. while the behavior health clinic will only be available from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursdays. People are encouraged to schedule appointments ahead of time by call-

ing (406) 454-6973, but walk-ins will be accepted. In the future, the clinic hopes to provide service for the community, but it's currently only an option for students and their families and faculty and their families.

The CHCC offers a range of services including: routine well child check-ups with immunizations, physical exams, sports physicals, urgent care, management of chronic illnesses (like diabetes or asthma), blood drawings for laboratory testing, and well-woman exams. For less common immunizations, like meningitis, 24 hours notice will be required. Along with treating the cold and flu, the CHCC will clean ears as well as check blood sugar and pressure.

There also will be a behavioral health service that has a mental health therapist who can aid with: trauma, stress, grief, loss, and general counselling. *(Cont. Pg. 3)*

Girls Basketball

On the 10th and 11th of this month the girls basketball team finished up their first half of home and home conference play when they battled against the Lady Rivals of Geraldine-Highwood and the Lady Bearcats of Denton-Geyser-Stanford. The second half of the season started as the girls faced Winnett-Grass Range at home and the Centerville Miners in the Coulee.

Two weeks ago the Lady Huskies trekked to Highwood to face off against the Lady Rivals. The Belt girls started off their night with a 10 point lead in the first quarter and doubled that margin by halftime. Belt continued their excellence through the remainder of the second half and when the buzzer sounded the scoreboard read 59-14 in favor of the Huskies. *(Cont. Pg. 2)*



Girls Basketball (Continued)

Shelby Paulson **Belt** 12 29 50 **59**
 and Brooke Schraner both **Geraldine-Highwood** 2 9 12 **14**
 tallied 12 points as four Belt girls scored in double digits.

The next day the maroon and gold were able to score a victory in their home gym. They faced off against the DGS Lady Bearcats and controlled the first half once again. With a very defensive first two quarters the girls kept their opponents to only 2 points in the second period. Going into halftime Belt amassed 47 points and DGS managed just 10. The second half followed a similar pattern, and the Lady Huskies dominated their foe 82-29. Paulson led the Huskies by racking up 20 markers and Kolby Pimperton and Schraner added 14 apiece.



WGR 4 8 16 **33**
Belt 16 25 40 **53**

Last Friday, the Huskies faced off against the Rams in the Dawg House. The Huskies defense managed to hold the Rams to just 4 tallies in the first quarter while Belt's offense shot for 16. The second stanza resulted in a similar outcome as the home team went to the locker room with a 25-8 point advantage. After the intermission the maroon and gold continued to control in the second

half keeping their opponents to just 8 in the third quarter. The last stanza of the game the momentum changed a little as the Rams outscored the Huskies 17-13 but the victory was already secured by the Huskies. The resulting score ended at 53-33 in favor of the home team. Morgan Cooper shot for 22 while Paulson and Pimperton shot for 12.

Belt 23 36 52 **62**
Centerville 3 7 12 **14**



On the 19th of January the Belt team headed to Miner territory in search for another victory. The girls started off the night with a commanding lead in the first stanza, 23-3. They appeared unstoppable as their defensive energy and offensive execution kept their opponents to 7 points at half and added 36 of their own. In the second half both teams doubled their points and the scoreboard read 62-14 by the end. Four Lady Huskies scored in double digits Schraner tallied 13, Pimperton marked 12, Paulson notched 11, and Kylie Marquis managed 10 of her own.

The girls are 7-1 in 8-C conference play with a record of 11-1 overall. Tonight the Belt girls will be home at 6:00 against the Outlaws of Roy-Winifred where they are hoping to get another victory. The Saturday game will take place at 5:00 in the Belt gymnasium against their Class B rivals of Fairfield.

By: Kolby Pimperton

National Honor Society

This week the *Voice* focuses on the National Honor Society service project of Abby Gliko, Kolby Pimperton, and Hunter Vogl. The trio chose a project that provides a needed service and saves the school money. They have cleaning up the gym after basketball games. In the past the custodial staff cleaned the bleachers but a man power shortage necessitated other methods.

The task was first taken on because the students saw a need

when Mrs. Prody was cleaning up after the contest. In addition to creating a nicer environment, trika ,all ball players, recognized that they owe something back to the community.

It's more than just picking up garbage in the bleachers; the project also changes their outlook on how they as students respect the property of the school. It makes them think more about the responsibility of picking their own garbage

up at other activities and also how much custodians do for the school.

Everyone is encouraged to help with the project and it only takes about thirty minutes. The worthwhile undertaking will continue throughout the remainder of the basketball season and the three juniors hope to start again next year during fall sports and continue through their senior basketball campaigns as well.

By: Kolby Pimperton

School-Based Health Clinic Comes to Belt *(Continued)*

As far as staffing, the clinic includes: Kate Antonich, Terri Adams, and Jackie Woyth. Antonich, a family nurse practitioner, and Adams, a registered nurse (RN), handle the health care clinic side. Terri Adams is not the first in her family to work in the Belt Schools since her husband, Troy Adams, teaches 5th-12th art. On the other hand, Woyth takes care of the behavior health service as a licensed clinical professional counselor.

Concerning payment for health services, the CHCC is flexible. They accept most insurance plans including: private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, and Healthy Montana Kids. They will bill the insurance directly, people are still responsible for co-pays and unmet



Terri Adams, Kate Antonich, and Jackie Woyth

deductible amounts. However, no child will be denied care, even if they are unable to pay. The CHCC also offers a sliding fee scale, based on income and family size. Before the CHCC can see a child, the parents must sign a release form, which will be mailed home.

The school-based clinic is a satellite clinic of the Community Health Care Center, which is feder-

ally funded. It used to be affiliated with Cascade County, but just this month, the CHCC split and is now called Alluvion Health.

Although there will be an adjustment period, the CHCC will quickly get into the rhythm of life in Belt Schools. The CHCC is a great addition to the expanding school that will improve the health of Belt students. In addition, parents should remember that no child is denied care by the CHCC and to sign the release form so that their child can receive these exceptional services.

CHCC will bill all copays to the home. Payment is not required to be seen. The new service is a welcome addition to the school.

By: MaKayla O'Neil

Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment Classes

To expand educational opportunities, Belt High has been fortunate enough to partner up with Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) Montana State University Northern (MSU-N), Montana State University Billings (MSU-B), and Great Falls College Montana State University (GFCMSU) in order to allow juniors and seniors to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. Some will earn as many as 18 college credits during their high school careers, effectively gaining a full semester or more toward a degree program.

The classes are offered during any period of the day and the students utilize the library as a "hub" for their various courses. While the GFCMSU classes last for just one quarter, the MTDA, MSU-N, and MSU-B courses are semester long. Many students also take

more than one online class at a time.

There are currently nine Belt students enrolled in the MTDA, earning high school credits in courses that are not provided by the Husky school system or simply do not fit into the student's schedule. These courses include: Calculus, Geometry, French I, French II, Latin I, German I, Gothic Literature, and Digital Photography.

Five high school students attend an online class through MSU-N which will give them college credits in courses that they would normally take as freshmen or sophomores in college. Currently, Husky students are enrolled in: Intro to Sociology, MS Intro to Montana History Access, and American History II.

MSU-B has nine Belt students taking classes through their

online courses. The range of classes Belt students are in is rather wide stretching from music to business and everything in between. The current classes consist of: Intro to Literature, Global Visual Culture, Intro to Business, Intro to Sociology, and Intro to Psychology.

Three students also take classes at GFCMSU and are moving into their third class of the year as the semester came to a close mid-January. These classes are made up of: Intro to Ethics and Enjoyment of Music. In the fourth quarter the classes will switch again becoming: Intro to Stats, Intro to Philosophy, and Intro to Sociology.

Belt Public Schools is proud to offer these classes as a way for students to enhance their high school education and even get a jump start on college.

By: Adelle Meissner

Boys' Basketball

In the past fortnight, the Husky basketball team crossed the halfway point in the conference season, then began to face off against 8C teams for the second time around. In those games, Belt felt defeat at the hands of the Geraldine-Highwood Rivals in Highwood and the Centerville Miners in Miner territory but triumphed over the Denton-Geyser-Stanford Bearcats and the Winnett-Grass Range Rams in the Dawg House.

As the Huskies and the Rivals took floor on January 10th, the Geraldine-Highwood co-op took control of the game. The Rivals outscored Belt 12-16 in the first quarter. The competitors continued to battle and went basket for basket in the second period and

Belt	12	22	39	46	49	the players
Geraldine-Highwood	16	31	38	46	52	cleared the

floor for halftime with a score of 22-31 in favor of the Rivals. After a pep talk from Coach Paulson, the Huskies increased their offensive production and cranked out 17 points while an excellent defensive effort held home team to 6; however the Rivals weren't ready to give up and came back to force overtime with a fourth quarter score of 46-46. Geraldine-Highwood bested Belt in overtime, ending the game with a total of 52 while Belt accumulated 49. The Huskies were led by Aidan McDaniel and Hunter Vogl with 22 and 13 respectively.

Belt faced yet another stern test on the 11th as the DGS Bearcats descended into the valley. To start the game the Huskies added 13 points to the board while the Bearcats got in 10 of their own. DGS made up the three point deficit to leave the score tied 24-24



as the ten minute intermission commenced. After the break, the score remained balanced until the Huskies pulled ahead by two going into the fourth quarter with a score of 38-36. A long fourth quarter ensued as the two teams swapped the lead several times. As the "final" buzzer sounded the game was tied at 50. In a four minute overtime, the Huskies matched their fourth

quarter output with 12 more points while holding the Bearcats at 10. Belt tallied a momentum shifting win 62-60.

DGS 10 24 36 50 **60**

Belt 13 24 38 50 **62**

Kaimen Evans led the Husky victory with 18 points while Vogl followed with 16.

On January 18th, the Huskies hosted the Winnett-Grass Range Rams for their second



matchup of the season. After consecutive overtime contests, the Belt team and especially Coach Paulson were looking for a game with a bit less stress and scored 13 points in the first quarter compared to WGR's 7. In the second quarter, the Rams and Huskies matched offensive production with nine points each. As third quarter began the score read Belt 22 WGR 16. During the third period of play, Belt extended their lead to ten points and the score advanced to 33-23. Wing and Vogl both offered 16 as the Huskies notched another victory over the Rams by a final tally of 52-44.

WGR 7 16 23 **44**

Belt 13 22 33 **52**

The following day, Belt loaded the bus and headed for the coulee for a contest against the Centerville Miners. After one quarter of play, the Huskies trailed the Miners 15-11. Centerville's lead was reduced to just one after the second quarter as Belt added eight baskets and held the Miners to six; however

Belt	11	26	35	47	the home team
Centerville	15	27	45	58	doubled the Huskies

points in the third quarter to extend Centerville's lead to double digits at 35-45. Although Belt accumulated 12 points in the fourth quarter, the Miners earned 13 and triumphed over the Huskies 58-47. Wing contributed 19 while McDaniel added 15 to lead to valiant Husky effort.

The Belt boys will be back in action tonight against the Winifred-Roy Outlaws in Belt with tip off set for 7:00 p.m. and tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. against Class B powerhouse, the Fairfield Eagles, who upended the Huskies the first time around in Fairfield. The Huskies conference record sits at 6-2 and the overall record is 7-3.

By: Adelle Meissner

JV Basketball

Over the last two weeks, the Husky JV basketball teams continued to improve their skills. The girls stayed undefeated and the boys went 3-1 against the DGS Bearcats, Geraldine-Highwood Rivals, Winnett-Grass Range Rams, and the Centerville Miners.

On January 10th, the teams loaded the bus and traveled to Highwood to face off against the Geraldine-Highwood Rivals. The maroon and gold dominated in the toy box, outscoring the Lady Rivals 22-12 in the first half. Showing no mercy in the second half, the Lady Huskies swept the competition with a 55-19 final. Lindsey Paulson had a game high of 21 points, with Maddie Osterman contributing 19.

The boys JV game was a closer competition than the game before. At half time, the Huskies led 26-21. The maroon and gold wanted to push their lead higher, but the Rivals had a different idea in mind. Both teams battled throughout the second half, but the Huskies skill and perseverance shined, which showed with the 46-40 win. Asa Jassen led the team with 13 points.

The next night the teams were back in their hometown to compete against the DGS Bearcats. Once again, the Lady Huskies dic-

tated the game, cruising to a 38-10 halftime lead. With DGS only scoring 5 points in the second half, the girls rolled to a 63-15 win. Paulson had a career high of 22 points, with Kyelie Marquis tallying 12.

Expecting another tough game, the boys were ready to defend. The lead went back and forth, but when the halftime buzzer rang, it was the Bearcats with the 19-14 lead. Despite the Huskies best effort in the second half, DGS managed to keep the lead, capturing a 34-30 victory. Garret Metrione led scorers with 14 points.

After another week of practice, the Huskies took on the Winnett-Grass Range Rams in Ole Belt Faithful on January 18th. Due to a roster shortage on the Lady Rams side, the JV only got to play a half game. Although the amount of points scored was cut down, the intensity and fire was still roaring in the Belt girls. Once the clock ran out, the score read a 33-12 Husky victory. Paulson notched 16 points in the shortened period.

The JV boys were lucky enough to play a full game against the Rams. Continuing the streak of tough games, the boys were behind 17-18 when the buzzer rang for halftime. After a pep talk from Coach Cooper, the Huskies stepped

up their game and pulled out a 37-33 win. Bridger Vogl racked up 17 points throughout the game.

The next night, the teams loaded the bus to venture to Centerville. Keeping the intensity from the night before, the girls came out with their foot on the gas, outscoring their opponents 32-2 in the first half. Continuing to blow out the competition in the second half, the Lady Huskies secured a 55-4 win. Paulson and Marquis contributing 15 points each.

After two weeks of close games, all within a margin of six, the Husky lads fourth quarter was more relaxed, due to an 18 point lead. With a first half lead of 31-17, the boys were feeling good about the game when they exited the locker room. After another 16 minutes of play, the maroon and gold ended the game with a 49-31 win. Vogl managed 14 points in the contest.

This weekend the Huskies will enjoy home cooking, with games in Belt tonight against the Roy-Winifred Outlaws and tomorrow against the Fairfield Eagles. The girls JV starts at 3:30, with the boys game at 4:30 against the Outlaws. The girl's C squad game starts at 12:30 on Saturday, with the JV games to follow through the afternoon.

By: Abby Gliko

Dittler Takes Charge

With Mrs. Tillman is on maternity leave, Mrs. Lynn Dittler has stepped in to fill the position of middle school/high school resource teacher. Dittler has worked as a teacher for thirty years, including two years at Foothill Christian School. This is her second year substitute teaching in Belt. Mrs. Dittler took the long-substation position, because she loves working with kids.

It is very clear that Dittler enjoys working with not only the

students but her fellow teachers, as she exclaimed "My favorite part of the job, is the students because many of the ones I work with have been very kind and helpful to me. The staff has been very welcoming. The kitchen staff makes wonderful treats for me and the rest of the teachers every day."

Dittler plans on continuing to substitute in Belt after finishing this stint. She also plans on continuing to substitute at other schools, as she did before. While Dittler loves

substituting in Belt there are some drawbacks. Living in Great Falls, her daily commute is long, especially with the icy road conditions. The last week or so there have been very challenging road conditions. With this in mind she states, "But it is all worth the drive to spend my days here."

Good subs are hard to find and the school is lucky to have a talented professional like Mrs. Dittler filling in for the next several weeks.

By: Natalie Larsen

City News

On December 5th, at 7:00 p.m. the first city council meeting for the town of Belt was called to order. In attendance were Mayor James Olson, Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling, Aldermen Delbert Darko, Paul Heikkila, Sally Miller, Russell Roberts, and Dave Eggert.

The first item of discussion was relative to how best to handle the issue of leaking and failing water meter valves as they crop up. To date, 17 meters have failed and developed leaks and the problem has been reported to the public works employees. When a leak is reported to the city, a public works employee will fix it. *Note: residents should not attempt to fix it on their own or hire an outside plumber to come do the work.*

The council then discussed a change order proposed by Phillips Construction that the council rejected earlier, NCI project engineer Idaho Trenberth proposed that instead they award Phillips Construction 15 rather than 30 additional contract days or \$15,000+ rather than \$36,000. Trenberth has not yet heard back from the construction company and the discussion was tabled until the next meeting. Trenberth continued to report that the design plans and specs for Belt's Lift Station Project will be finished in January and he would give a further update at the next meeting.

The conversation then shift-

ed to snow removal and attention was brought to the fact that 6:00 a.m. snow removal was not being conducted and the walkway to the Pavilion was not being plowed. There were further comments reported regarding inadequate snow removal and it was decided that the public works personnel would complete proper snow removal in the future.

Alderman Darko followed up with the council about the possibility of getting a new foot bridge for Belt and went on to report that a private Park Board group set up a bank account and were accepting donations to fund a new bridge. \$5000 has already been collected and Mayor Olson thanks Darko for this while also reiterating that the Park Board is independent of the city and the town of Belt has no current plans to construct a new bridge. Darko continued to report that construction is still four or five years away, but the Park Board will be pursuing grants and donations whenever possible.

Mayor Olson began to discuss the cleanup of Belt Creek and noted that the Mine Water Cleanup Division of DEQ came to City Hall and met with citizens who have been affected by DEQ's quiet title acquisition to Belt's land. DEQ has their plans for the plant 30% completed and the construction project is expected to commence in the late

summer of 2019.

With no further business to attend to, the first meeting was adjourned. On the evening of December 19th, the council gathered once again for the second monthly meeting. In attendance were Mayor James Olson, Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling, Aldermen Delbert Darko, Paul Heikkila, Russell Roberts, Dave Eggert, and Annie Porter, NCI Project Engineer Idaho Trenberth, and four members of the public.

Trenberth presented the council with Phillips Construction's counter proposal in respect to the Wastewater Expansion Project. The council accepted the change order recommended by NCI and Trenberth continued to request that a proposed change order for NCI engineering be placed on the agenda for January 2nd.

Trenberth also reported that NCI was running behind schedule in regard to the Lift Station Project but final plans and design specs should be available by late January with bids going out in April and the completion of construction during the summer of 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. and the council is set to meet again on February 6th. As always the meeting is open to the public and Belt residents are encouraged to attend and join in local democracy. **By: Adelle Meissner**

Boosters Fundraising Dinner

On March 15th the Belt Boosters will be hosting a fundraising dinner and would like to invite the community to come enjoy a night of socializing, booze, and good food, all while supporting Belts' student athletes. The event will be catered by the Harvest Moon, who will be serving prime

rib or shrimp with all the trimmings for dinner. There will be a Calcutta drawing of lucky ticket winners and a silent auction as well. Happy Hour will begin at 5:00 p.m. with dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. A full cash bar will be provided.

Tickets for this gathering are now being sold and are \$60 per

ticket. If interested in purchasing a ticket, contact Jen Hepfner, Polly Pimperton, or Jill Gliko at the Belt School (277-3359). The Belt Boosters provides the students with equipment for games and practice, while also providing the community with concessions during the home games. **By: Abby Gliko**

Middle School Sports

Over the past four months the middle school students have had quite the athletic break, as their sports teams have not been in action. This past week, Monday the 14th, the middle school basketball season kicked off with its first day of practice. The coaching staff of this year's teams has changed up a bit. While head coaches remain the same, with Mrs. Renzi Horton serving as the girls coach and Mr. Tony Cooper head coaching the boys, there will be a new addition as Ms. Molly Rose is the new middle school girl's assistant coach. Along with Ms. Rose joining the coaching staff, student teacher Mr. Johnson is assistant coaching for the middle school boys.

This year's little Lady Huskies roster consists of fifteen students. This includes three sixth graders (every girl in the class),

seven seventh graders and five eighth graders.

In the past couple of years the girls have performed very well within the district and have won quite a few trophies at the district tournament held at the end of the season.

The boys have also had great success at past district tournaments, and are looking to have another successful year. The boy's team roster contains a whopping thirty players, eleven eighth graders, ten seventh graders and nine sixth graders. With both teams in the gym practicing they have a little more than a month until their first game, which is in Centerville on March 4th.

The *Valley Voice* wishes both of these teams the best of luck, and will update their progress in the coming weeks as their season gets underway. **By: Natalie Larsen**

Help Wanted

Belt Public School
Custodian

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

Scholarship

On last week's early out day, Wednesday the 16th, Mrs. Jill Gliko spoke to the senior class about scholarships as well as their future plans. With spring rapidly approaching scholarship season is only just beginning. Gliko also took this opportunity to speak to the sen-

iors about the graduation ceremony, as they need to start preparing for a date just a few months away.

The class of 2019 is starting to wrap up their high school careers, with only a semester left time is sure to fly by. The main focus of many of the seniors right now is

scholarships, so Gliko's speech came at just the right time.

While there are no scholarship deadlines to report at the moment, check future issues of the *Valley Voice* for more information about upcoming scholarship opportunities. **By: Natalie Larsen**

With spring just around the corner slushy and ice roads are almost guaranteed. This leads to dangerous road conditions, that can lead to devastating crashes, especially when one is driving under the influence. Deciding to drive while intoxicated is a major mistake and can lead to the loss of several lives. The consequences of drinking and driving can be severe and it is never worth the seemingly great benefits. Make sure to always buckle up and...

Never Drink and Drive!

This message brought to you by your
Cascade DUI Task Force



Student Teacher

This year, Belt High School gained a new math student teacher. Mr. Johnson is from a ranch outside of Hinsdale, Montana, where he graduated high school in 2015. In the upcoming May of 2019, he will officially graduate college with a teaching degree in mathematics.

In his free time, Johnson enjoys playing basketball, hunting, and fishing. He claims that the most interesting thing about himself is his prodigious height of six feet and eight inches. The friendly giant will be student teaching for approximately three and a half months. Several students report that they are looking forward to seeing how he teaches when the time comes for him to show his skills. The Belt School welcomes him in as a new member of the pack with open arms.

By: Sierra Reese



Close Up

Super Bowl Pizza!!



Cheese, Pepperoni, Meat
\$17 Per Pizza
Pizza Made By "The Diamond"

Contact a Close Up student or call Belt School to order. Delivery on February 3rd, 2 – 5:00 p.m.



Senior Spotlight

MaKayla O'Neil was born in Great Falls. O'Neil has always lived a couple miles outside of Raynesford. She attended pre-school there, but then transferred to Belt Public School in Kindergarten.

O'Neil's parents thought about sending her to Geyser's school, like her older siblings, but they decided that it would be easier to pick her up from school on the way to her grandparents' house in Great Falls. She has attended Belt ever since.

In regards to her favorite grade, O'Neil does not have one. "Every year I've challenged myself so it's all become a blur. The pros and cons of every year even the playing field as far as favorite grade."

She also stated that she does not have a favorite teacher, but a couple. "Honestly, we have too many great teachers in Belt that are invested in each student's future. Personally, I have four teacher vying for the top spot along with all of the supportive staff."

O'Neil has always been artistically and musically talented. She has won many awards for her art at the Montana State Fair. For two years she sang as a

Soprano I at district honor choir. It's not surprising that her favorite school subjects are art, journalism, and her music classes.

All of O'Neil's favorite school memories are centered around prom. "I don't necessarily like prom, but I do like getting all dressed up with my friends and going to Denny's afterwards."

She has gone to prom every year and is excited to attend her last one.

After high school she will attend the University of Montana in Missoula. O'Neil also was accepted to the Davidson Honors College at the university. She hasn't declared a major yet but she does plan to enter the journalism program. It's a fit, as she is the current editor of the *Valley Voice* after service as a reporter last year. She would also like to get out of Montana and explore. She wants to visit either France, the U.K. or her sister in Germany.

Leaving home can be tough. O'Neil mentioned that she will miss the familiarity of her life in the Belt Schools the most about Belt. Next issue in the *Valley Voice*, the journey of senior Keaghan Opheim will be chronicled. **By: Tori Shelton**



Featured Staff

Andrea Visocan began her career working for the Belt School in 2015 as a substitute teacher, but was hired that fall as a fourth grade teacher. Although teaching is her primary job, she takes on several other duties out of the good of her heart. Due to everything she does in and out of the school, Visocan has been chosen as this issues featured staff of the week.

Visocan graduated from Jackson County Comprehensive High School in Jefferson, Georgia in 1998 and her class had over three hundred students. While still living in Georgia, Visocan taught ELA and history to middle schoolers for twelve years. After teaching as a fourth grade teacher for two years, Visocan began teaching middle schoolers. She teaches sixth through eighth English/ Language Arts and seventh Grade World Geography/ Montana History. Visocan claims that although she is happy for the experience gained working at a larger school, she is very thankful for the benefits of teaching in a smaller school system. Aside from this, Visocan also is the High School



cheerleading coach and a sponsor for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

When asked, Visocan stated that she has gained several memorable experiences while working with children and teenagers, but one of the most memorable experiences for her were “when she(I) was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. When her(my) hair started falling out and my family (husband and kids) got to officially shave my head, all of my fourth grade students wore pink and made headbands the next day... It was a very touching display of support and it made her(me) very proud to be a Belt Husky.” Throughout all of her struggles, Visocan remained strong and continued to teach for the Belt School, spreading inspiration everyday.

For the three years Visocan has worked with the Belt School, she has been a very respectable person. She plans on working in her current position for “as long as they’ll keep me,” as she puts it. Tune into the next issue for insight into another dedicated staff member from the Belt School.

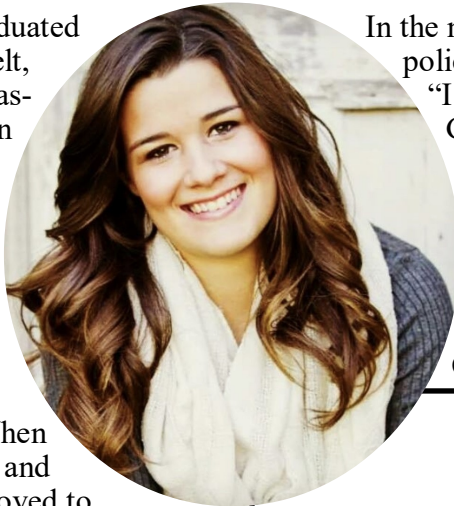
By: Sierra Reese

Where Are They Now?

In 2015 Dakota Romero graduated for Belt High. During her time at Belt, she participated in volleyball, and basketball for four years and one year in golf. She has been a part of three state titles in basketball and made it to state in golf her senior year. She was also female athlete of the year in 2015.

However, she is no longer as involved in her home town community. After high school, Romero joined the Army National Guard. When she was finished with basic training and advanced individual training, she moved to Missoula to attend University of Montana (U of M). She went to college for one year then moved back to Great Falls to join Law Enforcement.

Since moving back to Great Falls she has been working for Cascade Country Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) for two years. Currently she works as a Detention Officer there. “This is my stepping stone to the police department.” Romero stated.



In the next five years she plans to become a police officer and finish her Army career. “I have progressed in my Army National Guard as well as started my career in law enforcement and I love every minute of it.”

Check out the next issue of the *Valley Voice* to look at yet another Belt Graduate and see where they have landed since their graduation at Old Belt High. By: Tori Shelton

DECA

Super Bowl Food Drive

Be sure to send kids in perishable food items to support the local food

Rams Vs. Patriots

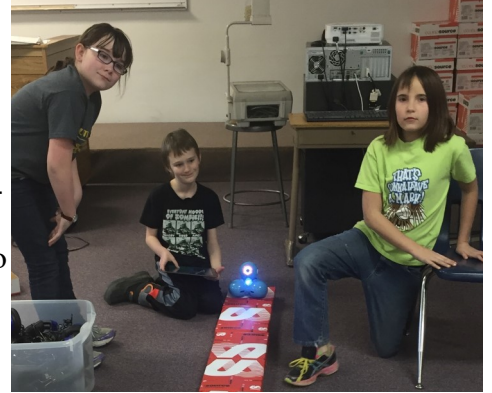
Wonder Bots

Five years ago, Travis Hedstrom's workplace donated money that was used in Mrs. Vogt's science class. At the time, she taught fifth grade, but has since moved up to teaching middle school. With some of the money, Wonder Robots were purchased.

Currently, the robots are being used in an enrichment class, which is being taught to fourth and

fifth graders. The students learned basic coding from the website code.org and after this, they used their newfound skills to control the robots. The donation providing these robots has been greatly appreciated and the bots that resulted from them will continue to be put to use and further enhance the knowledge of students.

By: Sierra Reese



Belt Girl Scouts

On Wednesday, December 19th, there was a meeting to discuss the girl scouts in Belt. Daphne LaPlaut and a couple volunteers helped start a troop in Belt three years ago. Ms. LaPlaut said the reason for starting the troop was she wanted her daughter to try out something different besides dance and sports. The idea of Girl Scouts in Belt came into play because the

nearest troop is from Great Fall. That meant that Daphne and the other volunteers would have to travel to town for meetings and projects and that was too much of a hassle at times.

The girls started out as just Daises their first year and during the fall recruitment some girls didn't return so they recruited new girls. LaPlaut says they were able to complete a second year and they added a few more members last fall. The oldest recruit they have is a fifth grader so she is a Junior Scout. She may be older and more skilled than the other girls but she still meets with the other daises. Mrs. LaPlaut noted that they are able to find separate projects to help them earn their badges at their current levels.

The troop meets once and sometimes twice a month in the Belt School's Library. The first year daises will work on their Daisy Pedal Patches, "Journey into the Daisy Garden". The second and third year daises will be working on "Journey between the Earth and Sky" and the oldest scout is working on her journey, "It's Your Planet, Love It".

The girls did some fundraising and the fall fundraising is all wrapped up. The scouts sold candy, nuts, and magazines to the community, family, and friends. In the

spring they will kick off their cookie sales. During these fundraising, the girls learn goal setting and decision making skills along with business ethics. All of the money that they earn is used to pay for supplies for their projects. At the end of the season the girls get to plan a trip and spend their money however they decide. Last year they spent a night in Helena and attended the fairy garden festival at Tizer Gardens. Daphne LaPlaut says the girls had a blast swimming, eating pizza, and making fun crafts to wear to the fairy garden festival. She says the girls made fairy dust necklaces and the boys got to make wizard potions. They are so excited to plan this year's trip.

Mrs. LaPlaut said she would not be able to keep the troops going without the help of Kathryn Peterson. She organizes all the projects for each meeting and each badge they are working on. She gathers supplies for each meeting delivers instruction during the meetings. LaPlaut handles all of the accounting and fundraising paperwork. It's been a learning experience for the both of them just jumping in and learning what girl scouts is all about. She is excited to see the girls grow and learn from their projects and hopes to keep this troop going for many more years to come.

By: Livvy Shelton

Belt Close Up

Indian Taco Dinner

January 26th
During Basketball vs. Fair-
field



Indian Taco Prices:

\$7 - Adults

\$5 - Students

\$25 - Family

Cinnamon/Sugar Fry-bread: \$3

VandenBos Baby

To start off the year of 2019, Dayna VandenBos's baby girl was born. Brinley Jean VandenBos came into the world at Benefis Hospital in Great Falls, on January 1st at 2:03 in the afternoon. This precious gift to the world was born on the exact day predicted. Baby Brinley weighed seven pounds and thirteen ounces. She was the third baby and second girl to be born in Great Falls in 2019.

Mrs. VandenBos plans on taking December 21st through April 1st off. While she is on maternity

leave, Mrs. Alex Thiel will fill in. Miss Thiel will be running her class until March 20th. She just started substituting here this year and is planning to become a teacher.

Mrs. VandenBos will be missed around the school but everyone is happy that she is welcoming her first born child. The *Valley Voice* wishes Mrs. VandenBos and her husband luck in beginning their journey of being parents and are happy to have another little Husky as part of the pack.

By: Livvy Shelton



District Music Festival

As the first semester came to an end, the music department began preparing for the fascinating journey of Music Festival. This will take place on April 11th and 12th and is where the choirs, bands, soloists, and other groups perform to be judged. Large groups generally perform in front of three to four judges, whereas solos and duets are performed in front of a single judge.

This year, Belt High School will have the choir and the band performing two songs each. The choir will perform "Inscription of Hope" by Z. Randall Stroope and "Keep your Lamps" by Victor Johnson. The band will be playing "Pavane - G. Faure" arranged by Anne McGinty and "Kaleidoscope" by Frank Bencriscutto. At this point, the final number of students

who are committed to performing a piece at Music Festival has not been determined. All students participating in the music program at the school have to practice and prepare a solo or piece to play/ sing as part of a third quarter grade, so this still leaves an opportunity for students to change their minds and show their talents in front of a judge.

On the first day of Music Festival, groups perform all of their pieces and receive a rating from one to five, one being a superior rating. Students are judged based upon musicianship, rhythm, intonation, style, and a few other factors that are up to the judge. The second day, students who prepared solos, duets, or small ensembles, perform one on one with an adjudicator. This gives students a great opportunity to re-

ceive tips suggestions on how to better themselves as a musician. The same one through five scale is used for solos, duets, or small ensembles, but if they earn a superior rating then they advance to State Music Festival.

Students who participate in high school music will continue to practice so they can show of their skills as well as their efforts to improve themselves in the music industry. One of the most important parts of the Music Festival is "that the students learn something new about making music," according the School's music director, Jonathan Sutton.

Stay posted for updates about the Belt High's journey to Music festival in issues of the *Valley Voice*. **By: Sierra Reese**

MAPS Testing

There is a modern emphasis in education testing students on their academic progress. In preparation for the high stakes ACT and SAT tests at the end of a student's high school career, the MAPS test measures progress toward that goal and gives educators direction on how to develop and administer curriculum. MAPS is an acronym for Measurement of Academic Progress, and is used to see the stu-

dent's growth in mathematics, reading, and science.

The tests are administered in the fall, winter and spring. While this test is not state mandated like Smarter Balance testing that is also given during the spring, Belt uses MAPS to get a better understanding of the effectiveness of the curriculum being taught. MAPS is given to K-10th graders and is an online adaptive test administered by Mrs.

Gliko.

K-1st grade students take reading and math tests, while 2nd-10th take reading, math and language arts tests. As with any test, parents are encouraged to make sure their children are well rested during the testing cycle and eat breakfast each day. Elementary students have been taking MAPS tests this week and 6th-10th will test next week. **By: Abby Gliko**

Calendar of Events

1/25	6:00 p.m.	Basketball vs Roy-Winifred
1/25		Wrestling @ Simms
1/26	5:00 p.m.	Basketball vs Fairfield
1/28	5:30 p.m.	DECA Practice for State
1/29		7 th Grade Ice Fishing Trip
1/30	8:00 a.m.	3 rd -5 th Ski Trip
1/30	7:00 p.m.	Dance Classes in Cafeteria
1/31		Middle School Ski Trip
2/1	6:00 p.m.	Basketball @ Conrad
2/1	2:30 p.m.	Dance Classes in Cafeteria
2/2	9:00 a.m.	DECA Practice for State
2/2	5:00 p.m.	Basketball vs Tri-Cities
2/2		Wrestling @ Townsend
2/5	8:00 a.m.	8 th Grade Math Counts Competition
2/6	8:00 a.m.	K-2 nd Ski Trip
2/6	8:00 a.m.	5 th -8 th Spelling Bee
2/6	6:00 p.m.	Little Guy Wrestling in Cafeteria
2/7	6:00 p.m.	Basketball vs Highwood-Geraldine
2/7	6:00 p.m.	Little Guy Wrestling in Cafeteria
2/8	6:00 p.m.	Basketball vs DGS @ Stanford
2/8	10:00 a.m.	Wrestling @ Billings
2/8	2:30 p.m.	Dance Classes on Stage

Thank You

On behalf of Maida Sorkness, the Sorkness' family would like to send out a big thank you to all those that attended Maida's funeral, bought flowers, participated in the reception (Becky Harmala and crew), brought the family food and supplies, sent cards, helped with expenses, made a donation to the Cancer Society in Maida's honor, and were just there for support.

The family could not have done it without you and we know that mom is so happy. We would also like to send out a special thanks to the Sletton Cancer Institution, Hospice, the community of Belt, and St. Mark's Catholic Church (father, Ed Spragg, & Matt Urick). They showed so much love toward Maida and our family. We will miss mom so much, but cannot believe all the support we have had to help us through this difficult time.

The Sorkness Family

Super Sunday

As February 3rd approaches, many Americans are preparing for the game of the year, the Super Bowl. On the first Sunday of February Super Bowl LIII will kick off at 4:30 p.m. The game will take place at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta Georgia, home of the Falcons. The new park opened in 2017 and this will be the first Super Bowl ever hosted there. The nation will pause as the New England Patriots face off against the Los Angeles Rams.

The Rams will be the underdogs against veteran Tom Brady and his squad of Patriots. The Rams have not won a Super Bowl since the year 2000 when quarterback Kurt Warner led his team to a national championship. At the time the Rams were in St. Louis. Last Sunday, QB Jared Goff and his team trailed the whole game against the New Orleans Saints, but snuck into overtime in controversial fashion. They forced an interception and the kicker Greg Zuerlein was able to kick his team into the Super Bowl. The Rams are guided by the youngest coach to pilot his team to the big game 33 year old coach Sean McVay.

On the other hand, the New England Patriots are no strangers to this game. For the last three years, the Patriots have made an appearance at the Super Bowl and have won two out of the three games. Last week, they knocked of the Kansas City Chiefs in a nail bitter that came down to the wire. Brady yet again marched his team down the field, leading to another AFC Championship in overtime. Head coach Bill Belichick is ready for the challenge and is excited to see what his future Hall of Fame quarterback has in store for the Rams.

As the Super Bowl rolls around the game is always a subject of debate throughout Belt School. Based on the question "who do you want to win the Super Bowl," an informal survey was conducted in the high school which revealed the following preferences: nine respondents opted for the Patriots, thirty-six chose the Rams, and twenty-five offered no opinion. Junior Grace Norstedt says that she is rooting for the gold and blue Rams because she believes that they are the more deserving team. She also gave a firm answer that she is not at all a Patriots fan, a sentiment that echoed throughout the high school. On the other hand Asa Jassen has been a Patriots "fan forever" and when asked why he liked them he proudly stated that Tom Brady is the GOAT (greatest of all time). Many in the community and school, including this reporter, are going to cheers against the Patriots and are ready for a new Super Bowl champion. Regardless of outcome there will be plenty of football conversations come Super Monday.

By: Kolby Pimperton