



The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



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Poetry Out Loud

Two weeks ago every high school student was given the task of reciting a poem to their classmates and Mr. Ross, the high school English teacher and judge of the competition. Thirteen students were chosen from the original seventy-seven to perform their poems in order to determine who would move on to the regional contest. The finalists in the school-wide competition were: MaKayla O'Neil, Tori Shelton, Julia Vogt, Adam Langston, Natalie Larsen, Grace Norstedt, Shelby Paulson, Riley Larsen, Jessica Moon, Charla Hook, Ahmia Lords, Asa Jassen, and Molly Tingey.

Mr. Kyle Paulson stopped by Ross's English classroom on 30th of January, in order to view the thirteen astounding orators that had made it to the second round of competition. Paulson was thoroughly impressed, noting "I thought the competition was a great way for students to develop public speaking skills, personal expression and their understanding of poetry."

This competition is relatively similar to the Spelling and Geography Bee, in which students fourth through eighth grader compete in every year. With hopes of the Poetry Out Loud contest becoming just as popular Paulson declared, "It taps into such a unique part of English that all students can enjoy if they are willing opening up their hearts and minds." Along with this when asked if he, Mr. Paulson, would ever participate in a similar contest he said, "Yes, I love to memorize sayings and phrases and have always admired people who can take that a step further and are able to recite a poem that perfectly captures a certain moment, event, or feeling."

The school was lucky enough to find three volunteer judges, Mary Meissner, Sally Triplett, and Cindy Bumgarner. They, along with Ross, chose four students to be the school champions. These winners included: Tori Shelton... (Cont. Pg. 3)

Hall of Fame Inductees

"Compete, compete, compete" that was the motto of Craig Cummings. As a teacher, coach, administrator, and community leader in the small town of Belt, Mr. Cummings embodied a commitment to excellence. Membership in the Craig Cummings Hall of Fame exemplifies the standard Mr. Cummings set and recognizes athletes, coaches, and community members that have made outstanding contributions to the Belt High School Athletic Programs.

During his tenure at Belt Mr. Cummings was a nationally recog-

nized teacher who inspired students to excel academically, a renowned coach, leading athletes to conference, divisional, and state titles, as well as an exemplary principal founding the Principal's Cup and Close Up programs and playing a large role within the Student Council. Mr. Cummings's service in Belt extended from 1991-2006 and in 2012 Belt launched the Hall of Fame in his honor.

The 2019 class of inductees featured 1966 graduate Don McClellan, 1975 diplomate Bruce Neill, and two 2011 alumni... (Cont. Pg.2)

 Hall of Fame Inductees *(Continued)*

Mariah Gondeiro and Emily Urick.

Don McClellan was the first inductee to be introduced. Participating one year of track and football as well as four years of basketball McClellan made the varsity team his sophomore, junior, and senior year averaging 14 points a game in the latter part of his career. McClellan and the Husky team earned first place in the district and third at divisionals his junior year as well as fourth in district in 1966. After graduation from Belt High, McClellan worked at A.C.M. in Great Falls for a year then moved to Helena where he became a house painter before joining the Helena School's maintenance department for 36 years. McClellan has since retired but still resides in Helena and remains a basketball fan.

Bruce Neill was the second inductee featured during the night's inductions. During his career in Belt, Neill participating in football, basketball, and track. While he played football all four years of high school, Neill began a shining basketball run his sophomore year. He lettered for three years, helping the Huskies make it to state and led the conference champions in rebounds his senior year. Neill's accomplishments include: all conference and all-state honors his junior and senior years, 1974 MVP in foot-

ball and basketball as well as qualification for state track, and the first ever Dale Thompson award which is given to an outstanding three sport athlete. Upon graduation, Bruce remained a staple in Belt's athletic programs and still inhabits the valley today.

Following Neill was the third inductee, Mariah Gondeiro. Gondeiro was a part of four state champion cross country teams and basketball teams that finished 2nd, 3rd, and 4th at state as well as being an individual state champion in the two mile. She was named all-state a total of nine times, four in cross country, twice in basketball and track, and once in volleyball. Gondeiro also maintained excellence in the classroom, earning academic all-state for four years. Gondeiro attended Rocky Mountain College and played basketball for three years and ran cross country for one, finishing 5th in the frontier conference and qualifying for the NAIA national championships. She then received her bachelors from Rocky and continued to study Law at Pepperdine University. During her time in law school, Gondeiro competed for one year in the NCAA D1 track program and set the school record in the 3000 meters. Gondeiro has settled in Los Angeles where she works as an attorney and has

continued her athletic career as a competitive triathlon athlete, qualifying for the US age group national championship twice.

The fourth and final inductee was Emily Urick. Urick earned varsity letters in volleyball, basketball, and golf all four years of high school along with academic all-state honors for each sport. She was an all-state athlete for all three sports and competed in for years of state basketball tournaments as well helping her team earn back-to-back conference and district volleyball titles her junior and senior year. Urick was also a founding member of the Lady Husky Golf team, leading her to qualify for the state golf meet all four years, medaling as a sophomore (12th), junior (10th), and senior (5th). As a senior, Urick was awarded Female Athlete of the Year. After graduation, Urick continued her education at Montana State University-Billings and now works as a behavior specialist.

Membership in the Craig Cummings Hall of Fame is a great honor and the *Valley Voice* congratulates all the existing members as well as the new inductees on their athletic successes. Forms to nominate future inductees are available on the Belt School website under the documents tab.

By: Adelle Meissner

Dance Classes

After a break in the dance program at Bel Schools, Design Studio has taken over for the remainder of the school year. There will be classes for students 3 & up as well as multiple competitive dance teams. Recreational classes will be separated into two age groups, the first being three to six years of age, costing twenty dollars a month and taking place 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. every Friday. The second age group will

be for those who are 7 & up and will cost twenty five dollars a month. These classes will be held 4:00 to 4:40 p.m. on Fridays.

Along with recreational classes there will be several competitive teams, which will cost thirty dollars a month. The age groups for these classes are as following; 12 & up, 9 through 11 year olds and 6 through 8 year olds. A practice schedule for many of the competi-

tive students is yet to be determined.

Ending along with the school year, these dance classes will take place until the middle to the end of May. To get more information there will be sheets in the Belt School office that are free for anyone to take. Hopefully, the kids really enjoy these classes and have a great time learning and competing in dance.

By: Natalie Larsen

Poetry Out Loud (Continued)



...Adam Langston, Riley Larsen and Asa Jassen. Tori Shelton, a senior at Belt High School, was asked

if she enjoyed Poetry Out Loud. In response, Tori said, "Yes and no, I hate public speaking but it was really cool trying something new." When asked whether or not she was looking forward to the regional competition, Shelton exclaimed, "No! Well kind of. I'm just super nervous, because I have never talked in front of a big crowd." Ironically, Shelton will be going on to State for Poetry Out Loud.

A sophomore, Riley Larsen added "I also enjoyed Poetry Out

Loud. I find it very fun to be able to interpret the meaning of a poem and then learn to recite it that way." Larsen added to this saying, "I was surprised that I won because there were other students who had very good performances." Lastly, Larsen was asked how she felt about performing at the Regional competition, "I am very, very nervous to recite poems in front of so many people."

The Regional Poetry Out Loud competition took place in Great Falls on Wednesday the 6th of February. Belt students that will



go on to the State Poetry Out Loud Competition in Helena are Victoria Shelton and Adam Langston. With a little luck to get rid of their nerves, Shelton and Langston may do well at the state level.

Hopefully, Poetry Out Loud is a competition that continues within Belt High School (which is more than likely due to the successes at regionals). As years progress, students will continue to improve as the competition flourishes.

Mr. Ross expressed pride in the performances, specifically the poise with which the students delivered their orations. It bodes well for the future.

The Valley Voice would like to congratulate all participants, and sends along best wishes for Shelton and Langston in the next round of competition. Results from their next level of competition will be available in the next issue of the paper. **By: Natalie Larsen**

Spelling Bea

On Wednesday the 6th, students gathered in the gym to compete in the annual Spilling Be. Last year's Spellink Bee was won by, (now freshmen) Asa Jassen, with second going to Madisen Feldman and third place was Zach Feldman.

Thirty students, grades four through eight, waded through several rounds of competition, with Mr. Koontz moderating, before the field was reduce to three. The three finalists consisted of eighth graders Clayton Jassen and Tara Hedstrom,



and seventh grader Reese Paulson. In the first round, Hedstrom and Paulson faltered, while Jassen nailed the regular word and spelled "couriers" correctly to claim the title. Hedstrom then outdueled Paulson for 2nd place. Paulson's third place finish matched his outcome in the Geography Bee held earlier in the fall.

The local Bee was part of national competition sponsored by the Scripps Institute. The Bee is ninety-two years old. At the end of the rainbow, the national champion of the Bee wins a cash prize of over \$40,000.

Based on school size, Belt is allowed two competitors at the county wide contest slated for February 25th. Hedstrom and Jassen will represent Belt, while Paulson will accompany the team as an alternate.

Middle school ELA teacher Michelle Stinson is in charge of the local competition and Librarian J.J. Meissner volunteered as a timer/judge. Stinson remarked that she "...was impressed with how well the younger spellers did in the early rounds." However, as is usually the case, it was the more experienced students who were still standing at the end.

Mrs. Swanson and Mrs. Metrione helped prepare the young apellers in the weeks leading up to the Bee

This year's Spelln' Be saw many talented students who showcased their brilliance and compete against their peers. The Valley Voice wishes Jassen, Hedstrom, and Paulson good luck, as they carry their talents to the Cascade County Spelling Bea in the coming weeks. **By: Natalee Larsen**

Valley Voice

Girls Basketball



The final weekend of the regular basketball season is at hand and the girls are putting finishing touches on preparation for next week's 8-C District Tournament in Lewistown. Over the last two weeks the Lady Huskies won three of four contests and continued their winning ways last night against Geraldine-Highwood.

On January 25th, the Lady Huskies faced off against the red and black Outlaws from Roy-Winifred with a home court advantage for the maroon and gold. Tip off started at 6:00 Friday night and the girls from Belt rolled in the first quarter gaining a 14 point advantage. While the girls were outscored in the second period of play they managed to cling to an 11 point lead at halftime, 28-17. In the third stanza the teams matched in offensive production, tallying 13 each. In the final quarter the Outlaws were not able to match the Lady Huskies offensive output and as the buzzer sounded the scoreboard read 55-41. Brooke Schraner led the

Roy-Winifred	8	17	30	41
Belt	20	28	41	55

Huskies scoring 16 and Morgan Cooper contributed 14 more for the team.

The next day the team hosted the Class B Fairfield Eagles and soared to a victory in the friendly confines of the Dawg House. In the first stanza the Belt girls kept their opponents to just 5 markers while the home team scored 13 of their own. By **Fairfield** 5 10 12 **18** halftime the La- **Belt** 13 23 42 **55** dy Eagles doubled their score and Belt added another 10 to lead by 13. In the second half the Belt girls showed their defensive and offensive ability to outscore the competition 32-8. Cooper lead the team with 16 tallies and Kolby Pimperton and Schraner followed with 9 points each. The final for the game



was 55-18.

On Friday the 1st, Belt headed to Conrad to compete against another Class B opponent. As the first quarter came to a close, Belt was dominating the Cowgirls 17-8. The Huskies continued to increase their lead and as halftime commenced the score was 33-11. With

Belt 17 33 47 **69** one quarter left to play
Conrad 8 11 18 **27** the maroon and gold looked to be on track of another victory, with a score of 47-18. When the final buzzer sounded it was 69-27 in favor of Belt. Pimperton managed 17 points and Cooper added another 14 in the balanced team effort.

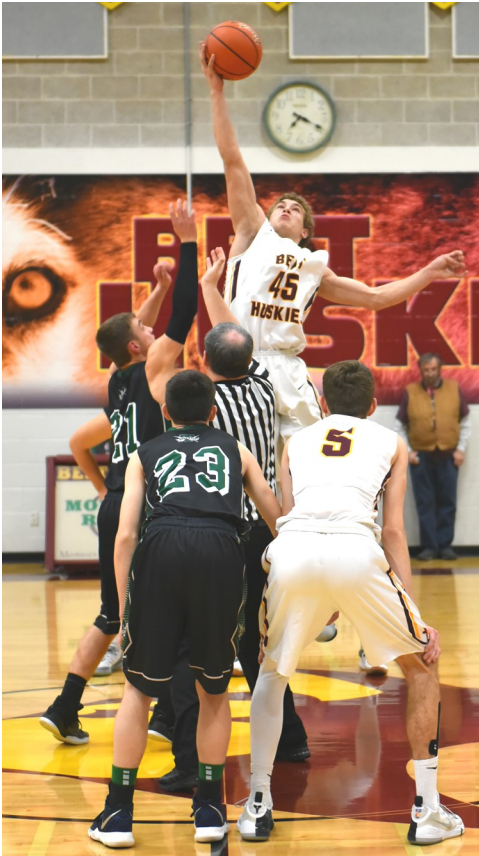
The landscape of the 8-C basketball has certainly changed this year as evidenced by the Lady Huskies first home loss in to a Class C team in nine years. On February 2nd, the Tri-Cities Titans handed Belt their second conference loss of the season, relegating the Lady Huskies to a second place in the upcoming 8-C District Tournament.

Turno-	Tri-Cities	17	19	34	44
vers in	Belt	11	21	29	39
the first					

quarter sent the Lady Titans to a 10-0 lead in the first four minutes of the game. After a quick timeout the Lady Huskies rallied and were able to score 11 points and keep their opponents to 17 in the first quarter. A successful second quarter allowed the Huskies a two point lead at half and the scoreboard read 21-19. The Belt girls came out flat in the third quarter and the Titans were able to outscore the Huskies 15-8. The maroon and gold were never able to overcome their deficit in the fourth quarter and Belt was faced with defeat once again, 39-45. Kyelie Marquis and Pimperton notched 10 each.

Last night Belt had their last home game of the season against the Lady Rivals of Geraldine-Highwood. It was senior night as the Belt girls roared to an easy victory, 62-14. The team is back in action tonight with a game against DGS in Stanford at 6:00. The girls are 8-2 in conference play and 14-2 overall. **By: Kolby Pimperton**

Boys Basketball



As regular season play wraps up tonight, the Belt boys have been working their way up to the number one seed in the conference. Facing off against the Roy-Winifred Outlaws, Fairfield Eagles, Conrad Cowboys, Tri-City Titans, and Geraldine-Highwood Rivals, the Huskies cinched four victories, falling only to Class B powerhouse Fairfield.

On January 25th, Belt hosted Roy-Winifred for their second matchup of the season. Right away, the Huskies showed their superiority, jumping to an 18 point lead 21-3. Belt continued to be in control of the game during the second quarter, clearing the floor for halftime with a tally of 39-17. After the intermission, the Huskies only continued to display their athleticism and skill,

Roy-Winifred	3	17	25	39
Belt	21	39	53	63

board to read Belt 53 Roy-Winifred 25 with one quarter left to play. The final period brought more Husky success and the Outlaws were bested by Belt, 63-39. The Huskies were led to triumph by Brendan Wing who chipped in 20 points followed by Aidan McDaniel who added 14.

The Eagles came to the Dawg House for a contest against the Huskies on the 26th. In the first quarter of play, Belt was outscored by Fairfield 18-9. As the teams cleared the floor for halftime, the Eagles had advanced their lead to 16 and the score sat at 36-20. The third quarter saw Fairfield pull farther away from the Huskies, 28-55. The Eagles, Class B football champs, played a rugged physical style and their defense was outstanding, leading to a decided rebounding advantage and lots of turnovers. The final buzzer sounded as the board ready Belt 33 Fairfield 75, a tough loss for Belt but not one that would affect their conference standings. McDaniel offered 14 and Wing notched 7 in the valiant Husky effort.

Looking for a victory after falling to Fairfield the week before, Belt was quick to outscore the Cowboys on February 1st. The Huskies accumulated 16 points in the first quarter, while Conrad got in 6 points of their own. Belt's offensive production continued in the second period adding 14 and a great defense held the Cowboys to just 2 points. After a quick intermission, the teams took the floor for the third quarter; the Huskies continued to dominate leaving the score at 43-18 as the fourth quarter began. Belt

was victorious over Conrad with a final score of 55-38, led by Wing and Kaimen Evans with 19 and 10 respectively.

The Huskies came back to 8C play on the 2nd as they hosted Tri-Cities. The Titans hung with Belt for the first quarter, leaving the Huskies with only a three point lead going into the second period; however, Belt increased offensive production as well as defensive intensity leaving the score 24-15 at half. In the second half, the Huskies continued to extend their



lead and the board read Belt 52 TCT 34 as the final buzzer sounded. Wing shot for 20 points while Evans contributed 10 to the Husky victory.

Last night the Belt boys avenged their earlier loss to the Geraldine-Highwood Rivals with a resounding win of 57-26. The win solidifies the Huskies spot as the number one seed in the conference going into the district tournament. Tonight the boys battle the Denton-Geyser-Stanford Bearcats in Stanford with tip off set for 7:30 p.m.. The boys' conference record is 8-2 while their overall record stands at 12-4.

By: Adelle Meissner

The Longest Government Shutdown

On December 22nd, 2018, the United States government began the longest shut down in U.S. history. It all started over President Trump's refusal to sign an appropriations bill, which is for money to fund the government. Trump refused to sign the bill unless there was an attachment, called a rider, for \$5.7 billion to build a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico. The bill would not become a law unless the president signed it or if it was vetoed, the bill would need to be passed by a 2/3 vote from the Senate and House of Representatives. However, there were not enough members in agreement to get the votes needed to pass.

Meetings were held between the Judicial and Executive branch and the Democratic and Republic members, to try to come to a compromise on the details of the bill.

On Friday, January 25th, a deal was struck and the government was turned back on. The government will have to make up for lost

funds and wages during the time of the shutdown. A deal was brokered to temporary fund the government. The Democrats and the Republicans reached an agreement to fund the government for three weeks, but that deadline is nearing as well. After the three weeks are up, the government will potentially stop functioning with the exception of necessary service like the military and some social programs.

Due to the shutdown, most government workers suffered dearly, because they missed two paychecks. Because all non-essential government jobs were put on hold, national parks closed and trash built up.

Many families in Belt and the surrounding area have been affected because of this shutdown. Some are the parents of students in Belt. They work in government jobs, such as the Forrest Service. Many of them had to either take vacation days or work for free.

When asked about the shut-

down, most students didn't quite understand what it all meant; junior Shelby Paulson only knew minor details. "I know Trump wants to build a wall and the Congress wouldn't give him the money he needs." On the other hand, senior Grace Davison, was very up-to-date with the ordeal. The thing she was confused about was, "What was the point of working, if federal workers didn't get paid." Some students have been following the news and some haven't. Students, such as junior Karlee Permann, didn't want to comment on the subject due to her "strong opinions". Another junior, Adam Langston, didn't follow or pay attention to the shutdown because he "did not care".

The shutdown was thirty-five days, the longest in American history. The last government shutdown, which lasted sixteen days, was in 2013 under President Obama. Depending on negotiations, another shutdown could be a reality in a few days. **By: Tori Shelton**

Little Lady Husky Camp

One of the elementary kids' favorite things to do is hang with the high schoolers. On Saturday, January 26th, girls in grades K-5 got to spend a day with the Lady Husky basketball team working on their skills and learning the game.

Camp started at 9:00 a.m. and went until 12:00 p.m. Before the kids ran through the drills Coach Graham planned, he split the kids into two groups. Grades K-2 went to the multi-purpose with Shelby Paulson and Abby Gliko, while grades 3-5 stayed in the big gym with Adelle Meissner, Morgan Cooper, Tori Shelton, and Kolby Pimperton.

Being the busy bee he is, Graham bounced between each gym, helping the little girls with

their skills, while also helping the older girls control the chaos.

The campers were split into 5 on 5 teams that played during the halftimes of the varsity games against Fairfield that night. The younger girl's teams played during halftime of the girls' varsity game, while the older teams played during the boy's break. Spectators enjoyed watching the younger girls play, and look forward to watching them play as they get older.

Good times were had by all, large and small and the Lady Huskies enjoyed interacting with the younger students. Coach Graham always emphasizes to them the importance of being a good role model, because those younger girls look up to them. **By: Abby Gliko**

Booster's Fundraising Dinner

Catered by the Harvest Moon on March 15th



Prime Rib or Shrimp Dinner

Full cash bar provided, with Happy Hour starting at 5:00 p.m. and dinner starting at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets \$60 a piece includes a cash drawing and a Calcutta drawing (\$1000 Grand Prize)

Support Belt Athletics-Contact Jen Hepfner, Polly Pimperton, or Jill Gliko at the Belt School (277-3359)

JV Basketball

With the JV basketball season quickly winding down, the Husky teams continue to roll over their competition. Over the last two weeks, Belt has competed against tough teams including the Roy-Winifred Outlaws for the boys JV, while the girls competed against the Cut Bank Wolves, the Fairfield Eagles, Conrad Cowboys, and the Tri-City Titans.

On January 25th, girls JV faced off against the Cut Bank Wolves in the Dawg House, due to a cancellation on the Outlaw's part. Pulling ahead early in the first half with a 37-13 lead, the Lady Huskies continued to roll in the second half. As the seconds ticked off the clock, the score read 66-28 with Belt coming out on top. Lindsey Paulson led the team with 23 points, while Brooke Schraner accumulated 17 points throughout play.

The boys JV game however, was played against the Roy-Winifred Outlaws. The Huskies displayed their prowess in the first half, outscoring their opponents 16-9. After a ten minute half time, the maroon and gold came out on fire scoring 28 points in the second half. The final score read 45-24 with the boys notching another win for Belt. Garrett Metrione racked up 18 points throughout play.

The next day, once again on their home court, the Lady Huskies competed against class B foes, the Fairfield Eagles. Keeping the intensity from the night before, the girls secured a 10 point lead as the buzzer sounded for halftime. Holding their opponents to 18 points in the second half, the maroon and gold cruised to a 51-28 win. Schraner raked in 19 points, while Paulson contributed 11 of her own.

Next up was the boys JV, who was looking for another win after the night before. Despite the

Huskies best efforts in the first half, they could not compete with the athletic Eagles who had a 31-9 lead going into halftime. With a deficit to great to overcome, the maroon and gold tasted a 59-26 defeat at the hands of their class B competitors.

On February 1st, the teams loaded the bus and headed up to Conrad to face off against another class B competitor. Due to a rooster shortage on the Cowgirls part, the JV girls were only able to play 16 minutes. The maroon and gold still played with the intensity that they normally do, and outscored their opponents 15-5.

The boys on the others hand, competed in a grueling full game. The score went back and forth in the first half but as the buzzer rang, the Cowboys were ahead 21-20. After a pep talk from Coach Cooper, the boys came out looking for a win. They were not able to completely shut down Conrad though, which resulted in overtime, with scores tied at 46. Once the extra four minutes ran off the clock, the score was still tied, meaning the game would go into double overtime. Although the Huskies gave it their best effort, turnovers and fouls played a factor with the score ending 50-53 in favor of the Cowboys. Metrione accumulated 14 points throughout play.

The next day the Lady Huskies were back home and ready to defend their court against the Tri-City Titans. Pulling ahead early in the first half, the girls were ahead 19-13 when the buzzer rang for a 10 minute break. The maroon and gold continued to grow their lead in the second half, while holding the Titans to only 8 additional points. Once the minutes ticked off the clock, the Huskies came away with a 46-21 win. Schraner led the team with 15 points, while Kyelie Mar-

quis tallied 12 of her own.

With the Husky boys were still feeling the sting of the loss from the night before, they fell behind 25-27 after 16 minutes of play. Finding their groove, the lads outscored their opponents 35-15 in the second half. This surge of scoring ultimately led to a 60-42 victory over the Titans. Bridger Vogl dropped 35 points, while Metrione accumulated 12 points.

Last night, the teams competed against the Geraldine-Highwood Rivals for the Huskies final home game. Today, Belt will travel to Stanford to battle against the DGS Bearcats. These scores will be reported in the next issue of the *Valley Voice*.

By: Abby Gliko

Help Wanted

Belt Public School Custodian

Starting wage \$14.45 per hour

Bus Drivers

Stating 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

Wrestling

Last weekend, February 1st and 2nd, junior Brandon Wall competed at the Southern B/C Divisional wrestling meet in Townsend. He conquered much of his competition to take third place at



the tournament. With this third place medal, Wall qualified for the state meet, where he will compete against tal-

ented grapplers from around the Treasure State.

The state meet will take place this weekend, on February 8th and 9th, in Billings. The state meet is an all class affair that really is quite a show. Wall is looking forward to his second trip to the Montana-wide matches, having qualified last year as well.

The *Valley Voice* wishes Wall the best of luck in the state meet this weekend, as he makes the whole community proud. Tune into the next issue to find the results of Wall's state wrestling appearance. **By: Natalie Larsen**

DECA Fundraising Husky Mugs

\$16 per cup

Contact a DECA member school to order.



Belt High National Honor Society students continue to work on service projects to help the community. This week the *Valley Voice* recognizes Makayla O'Neil for her efforts to limit the schools carbon footprint and spread recycling awareness.

Every year the United States generates about 254 million tons of trash and less than a quarter of this garbage is recycled. The rest of the garbage is incinerated, buried in landfills, or dumped in the oceans.

National Honor Society

O'Neil is bringing back the paper recycling program in the Belt Schools. Cardboard boxes have been placed in the library, high school hall, the office, and in teacher's rooms to collect paper for recycling. Acceptable materials for recycling include: printer paper, newspaper, cardstock, and craft paper. Everyone is encouraged to put their leftover papers in the bins. The papers must be free of staples and glossy paper is unacceptable. Every two weeks O'Neil will collect the

paper from each bin and travel to Steel Etc. in Great Falls where she will drop off the material and begin the recycling process.

The project has been in action since October 30th 2018 and O'Neil states that she is not a fan of wasting paper and hopes to reduce the carbon footprint of the Belt School. She also would like to teach the youth that they can make a positive impact on the planet that they call home.

By: Kolby Pimperton

Ice Fishing

This past week on the 29th of February twenty-nine seventh grade students traveled to East Fort Reservoir, which is close to Lewistown, in order to conduct the annual ice fishing trip. This is part of the program "Hooked on Fishing", which includes several guest speakers throughout the year where the students learn all about fish in Montana.

The students learned about gyotaku, which is fish art. Along with this students used math to estimate fish population and will learn how to tie flies for fishing. Later in

the school year the pupils will dissect fish they caught as well as playing Jeopardy to review everything they learned this school year.

This program has been ingrained into the Belt curriculum for nearly twenty years as Ms. Lisa Gerke, the former science and ELA middle school teacher in Belt, was one of the first teachers to participate in the program. Along with the exciting trip comes the delightfully disgusting tradition of students kissing the first fish they catch. This is supposed to give enough luck to catch even more fish throughout the

day. It's a tough moment for many, but one that certainly builds memories.

Other area schools that attended the ice fishing trip to Fergus County were Fort Benton, Stanford, and Highwood, but many other middle schoolers partake in this program and ice fish throughout the winter months. The students had a fantastic time ice fishing, as many of them caught multiple fish. Hopefully, this trip continues in the years following as the seventh graders had fun learning about wildlife this year. **By: Natalie Larsen**

Great Falls Symphony

Tomorrow night, Great Falls symphony will be performing at 7:30 at the Mansfield Theater in downtown Great Falls. Belt School's very own Jonathan Sutton is part of this very esteemed organization. The theme is "Heart and Fire." Several pieces will be performed, but Sutton reported that Maurice Ravel's "Pavane," which is easily one of his top five favorite music pieces. This year, Sutton claims that this is his favorite program of the year up to this point. Sutton is in his second year sharing his love of music with Belt students.



In order to play in the Great Falls Symphony, an individual has to prepare an audition and perform for the director, which can be extremely nerve-wracking. In the past, Sutton played in the Concordia Band and the Concordian Orchestra in college. His motivation to join the Symphony came from his past experiences and he wanted to continue making music with other individuals who enjoyed it as much as him

"The Firebird Suite" by Igor Stravinsky is considered one the most complex songs and most difficult to play consistently. The bass trombone is Sutton's usual instrument, but the principal trombonist is unavailable, so Sutton was asked to take his place for the weekend

performance, adding a twist to his weekend.

The next performance after tomorrow night scheduled in April. The Great Falls Symphony will be co-oping with the Great Falls Symphony Chorale on Johannes Brahms "Ein deutsches requiem." The *Valley Voice* wishes Sutton good luck as he continues to thrive in the Symphony and perform challenging pieces as much as he can.

By: Sierra Reese

Girl Scout Cookies

\$4.00—\$5.00 per box
Sales end February 17th



Trefoils
Do-Si-Dos
Samoas
Tagalongs
Thin Mints
Gil Scout S'mores
Toffee-Tastic

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Passing the Crown

After a year of representing Montana at rodeos all over the state, Keely Drummond has relinquished her crown and is returning to her life as a junior at Belt Valley High School. Chinook's Rebecca Stroh will hold the title until next February, when her reign will come to an end as well.

This experience benefited Drummond developing skills that will help her throughout her life such as: professional communication, public speaking, and how to conduct herself around different types of people. She also got to enjoy the perks of traveling for rodeos like being around stock contractors, other queens, all the contestants, and of course all the little cowboys and cowgirls. One thing that Drummond will miss is being able to travel all over Montana and meet new people along the way.

The most difficult part of being Miss Teen Rodeo Montana was balancing school, work, and all the responsibilities of her title. There were a lot of things



that went on behind the scenes that made this year so successful for Drummond, but according to her "the support team I had behind me helped me a lot."

While she made an abundance of new memories throughout the year, one of the former Miss Teen Rodeo Montana's favorite memories was the Home of the Champions Rodeo in Red Lodge over the Fourth of July. She got to hang out with queens from all over the state, as well as see many competitors that are reigning world champions.

It was a demanding year, which both tested and enhanced her skills in organization and public speaking. Drummond is definitely going to miss many of the elements of being Miss Teen Rodeo Montana and being so involved in the rodeos, but she is also ready to return to her normal life. She is looking forward to having a great deal more free time and being able to have some down time, while also focusing more on her school work.

By: Abby Gliko

Where Are They Now?

In 2012, Belt's original Miss Teen Rodeo Montana, Jennika (O'Neil) Heikkila, graduated from good ole Belt High. During her time as a Husky, Heikkila, was a very busy body. She was very involved in her school and community. She participated in: Track and Field, Golf, DECA, National Honor Society, Choir, yearbook, Student Senate and was her class president.

Heikkila went to college Great Falls College Montana State University and graduated in 2017. After five years of post-secondary schooling she graduated with honors and two degrees, an Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene and an Associate of Applied Science in General Studies. During college she received High Honors, made The Dean's list, and Phi Theta Kappa.

Since graduating, she has worked in a variety of jobs. She worked at the Cattlemen's Cut Supper Club as a waitress and bartender, at multiple private housekeeping jobs, and as a face painter for Jurassic Quest. After receiving her Dental Hygienist License, in the spring of 2017, she has been working full time at Alpine Falls Dental Care for Dr. Levi Maltby.

This is not where Heikkila thought she would



be after high school. "I always wanted to be a big time singer or a model." Heikkila confessed. She later stated that she is blessed with the life that god has chosen for her.

After high school, Heikkila has achieved much. For example she married her high school sweetheart, Jeff Heikkila, in December of 2015. She has graduated college, has a job and just recently the young couple purchased their first house.

In her future she is looking forward to starting a family of her own and "hopefully being surrounded by horses." She wants to pay off student loans and work towards getting her dream car, a new Chevrolet Camaro. Also she wants to get more involved in the family ranch. "...a goal for more than five years away but, I would like to barrel race in WPRA."

Heikkila would also like to give a shout out and congratulate the class of 2019 and wish the best of luck to her little sister, MaKayla, as she takes the next step in "the incredible journey of life."

Tune into the next issue of the *Valley Voice* to get a peek into another Belt graduates lives, and see where they are now.

By: Tori Shelton

Little Husky Cheerleading Clinic

During this past week from Monday through Thursday, the annual Little Husky Cheerleading Clinic took place. Last night at the final home basketball game of the year, the mini cheerleaders performed their dance. They did an absolutely adorable number to "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus. The fun-filled dance routine left the audience astonished at how well they performed. While it was Senior Night at the game, the young cheer squad stole the show, at least for a time.

Monday through Thursday every day after school for approximately an hour, the little Huskies practiced for an hour and fifteen minutes in the multi-purpose gym. They began by stretching in a circle and then learned how to do jumps. The jumps they learned to do were the same as the ones that the cheerleaders perform during time outs in the basketball. Next, the fourteen girls and single boy were taught cheers that they used last night. The final thing they did each day before the clinic came to an end, was learn the dance

performed yesterday.

The dance routine was enacted at halftime during the girls varsity basketball game. The clinic was lead by the Belt High School's cheerleaders, who love encouraging younger kids to get involved in the cheer program. Meghan Johnson, a participants mother, stated "Kora came home each night asking if she gets to go to cheer camp again. She shows me the cheers she has learned too!" Kora will most likely be another one of next year's participants as this amazing four day program continues to take place.

First year cheer coach Andrea Visocan commented that the camp "...was a lot of fun and gve the high school girls a chance to contribute to the future of cheer in Belt. This clinic will continue for many years to come and will keep encouraging younger children to cheer for the Belt Huskies as they compete and to do it with good team spirit. The cheerleaders would like to wish the Huskies good luck as they compete in districts next week.

By: Sierra Reese

Bustling Belt



At the tail end of downtown Belt, just before Castner Street cuts through the town’s residential area, sits the Senior Center. The building is a staple in the small community, filled with elderly community members who are always willing to lend a helping hand whether that be

providing meals for locals or hosting a variety of classes and events.

Every morning, Gilbert is the first one to arrive and he unlocks the door as well as brewing the coffee; as others come and go, they have coffee and conversation accompanied by a game a cribbage. The center is open from anywhere between 6:00 and 8:00 in the morning, closing when the lunch crowd leave, typically around 11:30 a.m..

In addition to providing senior citizens with a place to hang out, the building is also host to exercise classes on Monday and Wednesday,

class reunions, tutoring by Kim LaRocque on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, birthday parties, and Mayor Olson’s “Coffee with Expectations” meetings.

The local “seniors” also enjoy a performance or presentation by the elementary students around the holidays and are grateful for the center as a place to stay involved with the community even though they have retired and stepped back from the “social scene.” The senior center is a great place for anyone to visit and is always open to new company. **By: Adelle Meissner**

Featured Staff

This issue, Tony Cooper is Belt’s featured staff member. He teaches pre-K, to high school P.E. classes. Aside from his typical teaching duties, Cooper also helps coach different sports activities throughout the year. He is the assistant high school boys’ basketball , boys’ middle school basketball , and assistant track and field coach.

Cooper graduated from high school in 1986 from Drummond Montana and then from Western Montana College in 1991. Eventually, Cooper and his family moved to Belt the summer of 2013. This



championship in 2015. “Being a part of that, seeing how those young men came together as a team and

Since coming to teach at Belt, Cooper has reported that he has had many memorable experiences, but the one that stands out is state championship in 2015. “Being a part of that, seeing how those young men came together as a team and

believed in what was possible, didn’t allow any distractions and just would not be beat. That was special and something I will never forget.” Some of Cooper’s other favorite memories are watching his daughter’s volleyball and basketball teams win games and competitions over the years.

Coach Cooper and his family are an important part of the community and the students appreciate his contributions. Tune into the next issue for another featured staff member at Belt Schools. **By: Sierra Reese**

With icy roads plaguing the streets drinking and driving is more dangerous now than ever before. Getting into an accident without the added drugs can be dangerous, but when deciding to drive under the influence then you are increasing your risks of crash by an insane amount. Nearly 1.1 million people were arrested in 2018 for driving under the influence. This winter don’t become a statistic and...

Never Drink and Drive!

This message brought to you by your Cascade DUI Task Force



Calendar of Events

2/8	6:00 p.m.	Basketball vs DGS @ Stanford
2/8—2/9		Wrestling @ Billings (10:00 a.m.)
2/10—2/12		DECA State Conference
2/12	7:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees
2/14—2-16		District Basketball @ Lewistown
2/14		3 rd Quarter Mid-Term
2/15		No School for Tournaments
2/18		MS & HS Science Fair
2/19—2/20		Elementary Science Fair
2/20—2/23		Divisional Basketball @ Four Seasons

Valentine's Day

February 14th, the day of love. The common theme of this holiday is Cupid, his bow and arrow, red hearts and box of chocolates. The day is recognized for its significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance.

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day, is a day honoring an early saint named Valentinus. Valentinus was a saint known for marrying soldiers to women in a time when it was illegal under the Roman Empire. Saint Valentinus was executed for his actions.

This holiday is celebrated throughout the world with the selling roses and heart-shaped boxed chocolates. Throughout the school, red hearts and decorations fill the halls, office and classrooms.

The Class of 2020 is raising money for prom by selling fun, love themed Valentine's balloons. The balloons will continue to be sold until Tuesday. Also, classes throughout the elementary will be hosting Valentine's Day parties, where children will distribute candy and little valentine's cards to one another.

Other communities surrounding Belt are celebrating Valentine's Day as well. On February 10th, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., breakfast will be served at the Raynesford Community Center for \$8. This includes the hallmarks of breakfast, along with homemade maple bars and refreshments. Without a doubt, as February 14th nears, love is in Central Montana's air.

By: Tori Shelton

Ski Trip

On January 17th, Belt middle schoolers headed to the Little Belt Mountains to Showdown for a ski trip as part of their P.E. curriculum. The students departed the school right after announcements at around 8:10 and got back to the school by five. Middle school teachers and some parents of the students helped chaperone the exciting trip. For the students who did not attend the school outing, stayed at school with Mrs. Vogt and continued to do their school work. All the students had a blast on the slopes and a few of the students had some things to say about the experience.

Eighth grader, Gavin Olson said his favorite part of the whole trip was just being able to be out in the snow. He was glad that the snow was finally sticking and there was enough to actually snow board on. When asked what the funniest part of the trip he said, "Definitely when I pushed Owen down and he fell in the snow." In his opinion the best wipe out was when seventh grader Kennedie Martin was going down one of the trails and she caught an edge and fell on her face. He said the whole experience was a lot of fun but it was pretty icy and hard to stop.

The next student contributor is eighth grader Garrett Metrione. Garrett's favorite part of the snowy adventure was just being able to hang out with his friends outside of school. The part that he thought was the funniest was when JJ Triplett tried to do a jump and failed miserably. He said skiing with his buddies was very exciting and he can't wait for their next jaunt to Showdown.

The kids got a second shot at winter fun on last day of January, as the middle school ventured to Showdown for their final ski trip of the year. The students departed the school right after the announcements to hit the slopes. It was another eventful day, however, Nicholas Rubek suffered a leg injury which put a damper on the festivities.

The students were sad to hear it was their last ski trip of the 2019 school year and were already talking about next year. Although the school ski trips are done, there are plenty more chances to go on their own due to the amount of snow that is piling up at Showdown. The school intends to continue making these trips and giving students a chance to broaden their choice of activities.

Showdown Ski Area, atop King Hill about fifty miles from Belt, will remain open until the second week of April, with lifts running daily from 9:30-4:00.

By: Livvy Shelton

