



The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



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A Part of his DECA Project on Belt

State DECA

On Sunday February 10th, twenty-one Belt DECA students headed down to the State Career Developing Conference (SCDC) in Fairmont Hot Springs. The conference was over a spread of three days. In those three days, the had to compete

against other DECA students from around the state. This year was the largest SCDC in Montana history, with over ten schools in attendance and around five hundred DECA members.

Some of the schools from Montana were: Bozeman High, Whitefish, Helena High, Capital, Polson, Great Falls High, CMR, and Great Falls Central Catholic.

The twenty-one Belt students in attendance included: seniors Tori

Shelton, Brendan Wing, Matthew Dolinger, Robert Gliko, and Reanita Berlinger. Juniors were: Natalie Larsen, Anthony Wall, Keely Drummond, Maggie Andrews, and William Franzen. Sophomores included: Alivia Shelton, Sabrina Wing, Anna Pethel,

Riley Larsen, Treyton Hennes, Sierra Reese, and MaKenzie Martin. The freshmen were: Sarah Dollenger, Charlo Hook, Asa Jassen, and Brady Drummond.

This year six written projects were submitted for judging with a chance to go

to nationals in April. It was a sibling act for several of the Belt competitive teams. The Larsen sisters placed 3rd overall with their Start-Up Business Plan. Riley Larsen and Alivia Shelton finished 4th place in the Learn and Earn Project category. (Cont. Pg. 3)



Girls Divisional Basketball

Divisional basketball began last week at the Pacific Steel and Recycling Four Seasons Arena in Great Falls. The Lady Huskies placed first out of the 8-C District and their first round matchup was against the second seed of the 9-C, Box Elder. After another heartbreaking loss

the Belt girls had to make their way back through the loser out bracket. The Lady Huskies came back from their first lost in the tournament and managed to make it all the way back around through the bracket and captured a third place trophy at the Northern C Divisional Tournament. (Cont. Pg. 2)



Girls Divisional Basketball (Continued)

The first round of play for the Huskies started on Wednesday February 20th, at 11:00 a.m. when the girls made a stand against the Box Elder Bears. In 2018 the Lady Huskies lost to Box Elder in

the semi-finals, costing them a chance at state. Belt came out with vengeance in the first quarter last week charging to a 23-17 lead in the first stanza. Baskets for the Huskies in the second quarter were hard to come by, as the Belt girls only scored 6 points in the second stanza and the Bears were able to run away with 15 points. At the half Box Elder led the Belt Huskies 32-29. After the half the Lady Bears once again came out hot and set the pace for the rest of the game. With one quarter left to play, Box Elder had a 6 point lead, 47-41. The Belt girls tried to rally back in the fourth but were never able to overcome their deficit and the ending scoreboard read 51-60 in favor of the Bears. Belt was led by Kolby Pimperton who collected 15 markers and Brooke Schraner who dropped 11. Belt was then scheduled to play Thursday at 5:30 p.m. against the winner of the Simms and Great Falls Central Catholic game in the loser out side of the bracket.

At 5:30 p.m. on Thursday the girls met their next contenders, the Great Falls Central Mustangs. The Mustangs were no match for the maroon and gold and the Huskies took an early lead to end the first period, 14-5. The second quarter there was no change and Belt kept on adding points while the Mustangs were only able to put up two more. As the half came to an end the Lady Huskies owned a

commanding lead over the Mustangs, 27-7. The girls of Belt were not at all fazed by their opponents and outscored them 12-3 in the third quarter. The momentum continued to be in favor of Belt and the local heroines were able to add 9 more markers to the scoreboard in the fourth period. Belt beat the Mustangs with 32 point victory, 48-16. Pimperton tallied 14 points and Morgan Cooper added 12 of her own to lead the Belt girls past the Lady Mustangs.

The Huskies were not ready to be eliminated from the tournament and they wanted to get revenge on the Tri-Cities City girls who had

beaten Belt twice in the regular season. Earlier in the year the maroon and gold fell to the Titans in overtime at Hobson and in a close game at home. Early Friday afternoon the Lady Huskies headed to Great Falls to meet their foes from the 8-C district. At 12:30 the game tipped off and the young Belt team started out very slowly. Not many buckets came in the first stanza and by the end of it the two teams were tied, 9-9. As the second quarter commenced the Lady Huskies took off on an 11-0 run. The Titans called a quick time out and they were able to close the gap on the Belt girls' lead. With two quarters left to play Belt led the Lady Titans, 22-18 at the half. The third quarter was neck and neck the whole time and Belt led by just one at the end of the period, 31-30. The Lady Huskies had to find a spark of energy somewhere in them to win this game. The score was all tied up and with seconds left on the clock Cooper converted

an off balance 8 footer to give

the Huskies the lead with 5 seconds left. The Titans failed to get a shot off and the Huskies prevailed with a 42-40 win to keep their season alive. Cooper notched 12 points and Pimperton added another 13 to the scoreboard.

In order to keep their chances of going to state intact the Lady Huskies had to face one more opponent from the 9-C, the Turner Tornadoes in the consolation game. Turner had been playing great the whole week as they lost to Box Elder at the buzzer in the semis and then defeated the powerhouse Fort Benton Longhorns earlier that same day. Belt's Cooper was not ready to play her last game of the year and she made a statement as she racked up 20 of her 24 points in the first half. Turner did not have an answer and had only 11 points at the half. The girls from Belt never backed down and scored another 21 points in the second half. The Lady Huskies defeated the Tornadoes 50-26 and waited to see what would happen next.

In order to challenge the girls from Belt found themselves rooting for the Box Elder Lady Bears in the title game against Roy-Winifred. Box Elder led through three quarters but a 19-9 surge by the Lady Outlaws secured the Northern C championship 51-45. Box Elder and Roy-Winifred represent the Northern Division that started yesterday in Great Falls.

Despite the disappointment of falling short of a state tourney berth, keep their season going the Belt girls had a great year: placing 2nd in the conference, 1st in the 8-C district, and 3rd place at the Northern C Divisional Tournament. The Valley Voice congratulates the girls on a great season and also bids farewell to graduating seniors Morgan Cooper and Tori Shelton.

By: Kolby Pimperton

State DECA (Continued)

The Shelton sisters along with Sabrina Wing, placed 5th in their Hospitality and Tourism Operations Research Project (HTOR). The Drummond sisters, with Jassen placed 4th in HTOR as well.

All freshmen and new comers to DECA were required to participate in a Principle Event. Freshman Jassen and Brady Drummond made it to finals, both placing 6th in their Principles of Finance and Principles of Marketing. In team decision making and role plays, Reese placed 7th in Human Resources Management, Wall placed 8th in his Professional Selling, Franzen 5th in Integrate Marketing Campaign Product, and Keely Drummond and Andrews placed 6th in Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making.

The conference kicked off Sunday with the Marketing Exam, a requirement for all of the competitors. Each student was given an hour to answer one hundred questions that related to the subjects such as marketing, finances, hospitality, and entrepreneurship. After the test, all written events competed. At the end of the day, Randy

Chaves, of Marriot Hotels, gave an inspirational speech at the evening ceremony where the finalists for written events were acknowledged.

Throughout Monday and Tuesday, the DECA members com-



peted in team decision making and role playing events. Monday night, all finalists for role plays and team decision making events were announced to compete the next day, and senior, Tori Shelton, was awarded the Emerging Diamond Award. Tuesday night, all International Career Developing Conference qualifiers were announced at the closing ceremony.

All of the Belt chapter mem-

bers gave their best efforts and enjoyed their time at state, however only five members among the group qualified for nationals in Orlando.

Natalie Larsen, Tori Shelton, and Wall qualified with their Community Service Project, earning a first place. Keely Drummond and Andrews, also advanced to ICDC with their Public Relations Project, also earning a first place. After the first round of drop outs from other schools, Franzen was bumped up and will also be included on the team heading to nationals. Riley Larsen and Alivia Shelton will accompany the group to participate in the leadership program, too.

The group of eight students will head off to Orlando, Florida April 26th for the three day conference commencing the next day. There, they will compete and have the opportunity to soak up some sun. They will have the chance to visit Disney Land, Universal Studios, and the beach. The *Valley Voice* wishes the best of luck to the students that will compete on the national level and hope they will represent the Belt Schools well in Orlando.

By: Tori Shelton

Divisional Basketball Poster Contest

As a way to involve kids in divisional tournament basketball, tournament director Brian Campbell created a poster contest this year for the first time. The kids were encouraged to create posters showing team spirit, which were displayed at the Four Seasons Arena during the tournament.

The competition was open to grades K-6, with the winners of each grade announced during halftime of the girls' consolation game. The champions of the competition received prizes donated by local



businesses, with the awards presented by a basketball player from the winner's school.

The top prizes were awarded to the following schools: Kindergarten- Box Elder, first grade-Turner, second grade-Fort Benton, third grade-Winnett-Grass Range, fourth grade-Turner, fifth grade-Box Elder, sixth grade-Turner.

Congratulations to all the winners and participants on the exceptional art created. The inaugural poster contest kicked off a great Northern C Basketball Tournament and plans are even bigger for next year's event.

By: Abby Gliko

Boys' Basketball Districts

As the regular season came to a close with matchups against the Geraldine-Highwood Rival and the Denton-Geyser-Stanford Bearcats, the Huskies competed in the 8C district tournament in Lewistown February 14-16th. The Belt boys took second place and earned a spot at the divisional tournament in Great Falls last weekend.

As the contest against the Geraldine-Highwood Rivals on February 7th marked the last home game of the season, the night also honored seniors Brendan Wing and Robert Gliko. The Huskies were defeated by the Rivals earlier in the season, but the two seniors were set on their last game in the "Dawg House" being a win. The Huskies took the lead early, 16-7 after one

Geraldine/Highwood	7	17	20	26	quarter of play.
Belt	16	25	37	57	As the teams cleared the floor for halftime, Belt was still in control of the game 25-17. A fantastic defensive effort by the home team, head Geraldine-Highwood to just 9 points in the entire second half while Belt more than doubled their score, adding 27. As the final buzzer sounded the Huskies notched another win with a score of 57-26. The senior duo of Wing and Gliko led the way for Belt with 19 and 11 tallies respectively.

On February 8th, the Huskies faced the Denton-Geyser-Stanford Bearcats in Stanford in a battle for the number one seed going into the district tournament. In the first quarter, neither team could keep the lead or even extend it beyond one or two points and the score sat at 10-11 DGS going into the second quarter; however, the Huskies were able to pull ahead by 5 by the end of the second peri-

od, the largest lead of the game. During the third quarter only 4 points were scored, all of which came from the Bearcats cutting Belt's lead to just one point, 19-18. In the final quarter of play, both teams almost doubled their scores from the previous three quarters and the game went into overtime as the scores matched at 33. The Huskies prevailed in overtime with a final score of 40-39 and secured their spot at the top of the district. Wing offered 18 points to lead the Husky victory.



Coming off two big wins the weekend before, the Huskies were ready for the 8C tournament. Their first matchup was against the Centerville Miners, who beat the boys once in the regular season; however Belt could not be stopped as they dominated the Miners in a 30 point victory. The Huskies immediately jumped to a 15 point advantage, 21-6 after the first quarter. As halftime came around, Belt had extended their lead to

Centerville	6	11	18	32
Belt	21	40	54	62

control the game 40-11. With one quarter left to play the score sat at 54-18 in favor of the Huskies. A final score of 62-32 allowed the maroon and gold boys to move onto the semi-final round where they would face the Winnett-Grass Range Rams. Hunter Vogl and Aidan McDaniel led the Husky triumph with 15 tallies each.

Continuing their winning streak in the semi-finals, the Huskies bested the Rams by 15. Belt kicked off the game with a 15 points first quarter and held WGR to just 6; however, the Rams had more offensive output in the second period and the Husky's lead was reduced to 12 at the break. After the intermission, Belt outscored WGR by one point and the score sat at 33-20 as the final quarter commenced. The two teams went basket for basket once more in the second half, ending the game with a final score of 45-31. Wing led the way to the Husky victory with 17 points followed by McDaniel with 11.

The Belt boys faced the Roy-Winifred Outlaws in the district 8C championship game. During the regular season Belt beat the Outlaws both times, but Roy-Winifred had a great tournament and defeated the Huskies 36-38. Belt led after one quarter of play 11-7 and at the end of the half the Huskies were still in the lead 19-13, but

Roy-Win	7	13	28	38
Belt	11	19	27	36

the Outlaws did not want to go into the Northern C Divisional tournament as the #2 seed. After the third quarter, Roy-Winifred had taken a one point lead, 27-28. The fourth quarter was a nail biter as the two went back and forth with the lead; although, Belt came up two points short and as the final buzzer sounded the score read Belt 36 Roy-Winifred 38. McDaniel notched 12 points and Kaimen Evans shot for 9 to lead the valiant Husky effort.

The second place finish allowed the boys to advance to the Northern C Divisional Tournament in Great Falls on February 21st (see page 5). The Husky's conference record going into the tournament was 10-2. **By: Adelle Meissner**

Northern C Boys Divisional

After a second place finish at the 8C district tournament, the Huskies advanced to represent the 8C in the Northern C division. During Northern C play, Belt faced off with the Great Falls Central Catholic Mustangs, the Chinook Sugarbeaters, the Fort Benton Longhorns, and the Winnett-Grass Range Rams in their efforts to earn a place at the state tournament in Billings on March 7th-9th.

For their first game divisional matchup, the Huskies played the #2 seed from the 10C, the GFCC Mustangs. Belt jumped to an early lead, 17-7 after the first quarter and although the Mustangs made some headway in the second period, the Huskies were still ahead 30-23. GFCC continued to chip away at Belt's lead in the third quarter, cutting it down to four with one period left; however Belt was able to remain in control and advanced to the semi-finals with a final score of 57-51. Aidan McDaniel contributed 19 points along **GFCC 7 23 35 51** with Brendan Wing **Belt 17 30 39 57** who offered 12.

The Huskies then moved on to compete against the #1 seed from the 9C, the Chinook Sugarbeaters. The Beeters took the lead early in the game, out-scoring Belt 2-13 in the first quarter. Chinook continued to hold the lead and the second quarter came to close with a score of 6-25. After the intermission, the Huskies were able to increase their offensive production but the Sugarbeaters matched their points and outscored Belt once again; the score sat at 18-43 with 8:00 left in regulation. As the final buzzer sounded the Huskies were



knocked into the loser-out bracket as they were defeated by Chinook 24-60. Wing and McDaniel led the **Chinook 13 25 43 60** Husky **Belt 2 6 18 24** effort with 7 and 6 respectively.

With the end of the season on the line, Belt's next opponent was the #2 seed from the 9C, the Fort Benton Longhorns. After a tough loss the day before, the Huskies were slow to get things going and were down 10-15 at the end of the first. Belt chipped away at the Horns lead a little in the second quarter and cut it down to 2 going into halftime. The Huskies hung behind Fort Benton by just one point at the end of the third period, 36-37; however, they overcame the deficit in the fourth quarter to win the game 51-49. Wing shot for 24 **Fort Benton 15 25 37 49** points on **Belt 10 23 36 51** Belt's behalf, leading the team to victory.

In the consolation game Belt faced a familiar foe, the #3 seed from the 8C, the Winnett-Grass Range Rams. In the first quarter of play, baskets were hard to come by; in fact, the Huskies did not score a single one and the Rams got just one leaving the score at 0-2 after the first eight minutes of play. The low scoring pattern continued throughout the second period, Belt added 9 points to their side of the board and WGR got in 5 of their own. During the third quarter, the Huskies doubled their score and matched the

Ram's 9 points. The scoreboard read Belt 18 WGR 16 with one quarter left to play. In the fourth quarter, the teams went back and forth with the lead and when the final buzzer sounded the two were tied at 27. With a three point shot in the last 5 seconds of overtime the Rams took the lead by one and the Huskies had no time to score another basket. Belt fell to WGR 31-32. Kaimen Evans led the way for the Huskies with 14 points followed by McDaniel with 8.

The loss to the Rams was the end of the season for Belt and the Valley Voice commemorates the boys on a **WGR 2 7 16 27 32** season **Belt 0 9 18 27 31** well done as well as wishing them the best of luck in their future endeavors, athletic and otherwise. The Huskies final overall record was 18-5, including a first place conference finish and second place in the district tournament.

The season finale also brought an end to the Husky careers for a pair of Belt seniors. Next year Belt will have to replace graduates Robbie Gliko and Brendan Wing.

By: Adelle Meissner



Girls Basketball Districts

The regular season ended on February 9th for the Lady Husky hoopsters and they prepared to defend their District 8-C championship the following weekend in Lewistown. Conference wins over Geraldine-Highwood and DGS left the girls poised for their tournament run. The gals opened district play against Geraldine-Highwood and managed to advance their way into the semi-final game. On the 15th the girls battled against the Winnet-Grass Range Rams and forged ahead to the title game versus Roy-Winifred.

On February 9th, the maroon and gold entered the Dawg House for their final home game of the 2018-2019 season against Geraldine-Highwood. The night started off with the Belt School honoring senior cheerleader athletes. Tip off started at 6:00 p.m. and Coach Jeff Graham started both of his seniors, Morgan Cooper and Tori Shelton. As the first quarter came to a close Belt was dominating the Rivals 15-2. The Huskies continued to increase their lead and as halftime commenced the score was 30-8. With one quarter left to play the Belt girls looked to be on track for yet another victory, with a score of 48-8. When the fourth quarter ended Belt defeated Geraldine-Highwood 62-14. The balanced Husky attack was led by Kolby Pimperton (11), Kyelie Marquis (10), and Brooke Schraner (10).

The next night the girls took a trip to Stanford for their last away game of the regular season. Baskets for the Huskies were hard to come by in the first stanza and the Belt girls only led their opponents by 2 points, 12-10. The second quarter

started off better for the Lady Huskies and they outscored the Lady Bearcats 14-5. As the teams went to the locker room for halftime the scoreboard read 26-15. The girls came out flat to start the third stanza but they were able to hang on to a 10 point lead to end the third quarter, 37-27. After a very ugly fourth quarter the girls held on to their lead and ended the game 46-37. Marquis led the team with 13 markers as Schraner and Cooper amassed 7 tallies of their own.

The 8-C District Tournament kicked off on the 14th of February and the Belt girls faced off against the Lady Rivals for their first game of the postseason. The Huskies controlled the game with a 38 point victory, outscoring the Rivals 53-15. The Lady Rivals were held to 5 points in the first half and the opposing team scored 10 more in the second. Belt tallied 26 in the first half and 27 in the second. The gals from Belt moved on to the semi-final game the next night at 4:30 p.m. Schraner managed to lead the Huskies with 13 markers and Cooper and Shelby Paulson each scored 8.

The next day on Friday the Lady Huskies traveled down to the Fergus High School gym to battle against the girls from Winnet-Grass Range. The Huskies were eager to outscore their opponents in the first half and their defensive play gave them a 7 point lead at the end of the first quarter. With three quarters left to play, Belt struggled to score in the second stanza and they let their competitors back into the game. As the teams broke for halftime, the maroon and gold lead by 2 points, 16-14. The La-

dy Rams resilience kept the game close and by the end of the period Belt led by 3, 30-27. The Lady Huskies could have won the game in regulation but they struggled at the charity line and the Rams rallied back to force an overtime with a tying score of 37-37. Belt was finally able to make free-throws in the extra quarter and outscored their opponents 12-4. When the final buzzer rang the score-board read 49-41 in favor of Belt. The victory vaulted Belt into the title game against the Roy-Winifred at 7:00 the next night. Both Schraner and Pimperton managed 17 points and led their team to a triumph over the Rams.

The Outlaws of Roy-Winifred stood as the final obstacle in the Huskies path to their 10th straight district title. The Belt team came out flat and let the Outlaws take a commanding lead in the first quarter, 10-17. Finally offense came to the Huskies and they were able to manage 13 points in the second quarter and kept the Lady Outlaws to 6 markers in the second. By the end of the third quarter the gals from Belt led by 1 point, 35-34. Things in the fourth quarter finally swayed in favor of the maroon and gold, as Belt pulled away late against Outlaws, who last won the Northern C tourney. (Cont. Pg. 7)

Ger/High	2	8	8	14
Belt	15	30	48	62

Ger/High	2	5	13	15
Belt	17	26	41	53

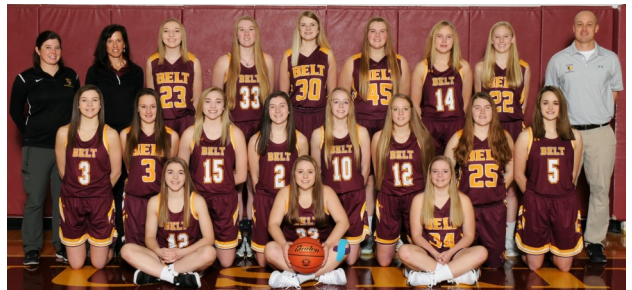
Ger/High	2	5	13	15
Belt	17	26	41	53

Ger/High	2	5	13	15
Belt	17	26	41	53

Ger/High	2	5	13	15
Belt	17	26	41	53

Ger/High	2	5	13	15
Belt	17	26	41	53

Ger/High	2	5	13	15
Belt	17	26	41	53



Girls Basketball Districts *(Continued)*

Belt kept Roy-Winifred to 5 points in the fourth period and added 10 points to their side of the scoreboard. The final buzzer rang and the final score was 45-39 Belt. Once again Schraner was able to bring the team to a victory with 15 points, ten of which came in the third quarter. Cooper and Pimperton both amassed 7 to help with the win, as well.

For ten straight years the Belt Lady Huskies have piloted their way into the championship match and

bested the competition to place first at the 8-C District Tournament.

The victory afforded Belt the number one seed out of the 8-C heading into divisional tournament where they would face the number two seed from the district 9-C, Box Elder. Coach Graham and the girls were excited for the win, but they also knew that bigger prizes waited down the road as the team's goal of returning to state hinged on the next tournament. **By: Kolby Pimperton**

JV Basketball

Tournament season signals the end of another successful Husky JV basketball campaign. The girls went undefeated for the eighth consecutive year under the coaching of Suzy Maki, while the boys went 11-7 throughout the season under Tony Cooper.

On February 7th, the Lady Huskies competed against the Geraldine-Highwood Lady Rivals in the Dawg House. Wanting to leave a lasting impression for next season, the girls surged to a 36-6 lead before halftime. After a ten minute break, the maroon and gold cruised to a 52-12 victory. Brooke Schraner led the team with 23 points, while Kyelie Marquis also notched double digits with 10 of her own.

The boys battled for the lead in the first two quarters in their match against the Rivals, and as the buzzer rang to signal halftime, the Huskies enjoyed an 18-11 lead. Using the second half to extend their lead, the Belt kids claimed a 31-22 win for their final home game. JJ Triplett led a balanced scoring attack with 7 points, Garret Metrione contributed 6, and Bridger Vogl tallied 5 points.

After a night of sleep, the teams journeyed to Stanford to take on the DGS Bearcats. The Lady Huskies dismantled the Lady Bearcats, charging to a 36-2 halftime advantage. Continuing the intensity from the first half, the girls coasted to a 61-8 victory to cap their perfect

season. Schraner tallied 16 points, while Lindsey Paulson contributed 15 points.

The boys rolled to an early advantage in the first sixteen minutes, with the scoreboard reading 26-16. Continuing the scoring run in the second half, the boys claimed a 51-35 win over the Bearcats to end their season. Metrione led the scoring force with 15 points, while Vogl added 11 points.

All and all it was another successful season for the younger Huskies. Their hard work on the hardwood continues to pay off, while continuing to work on their skills for the day they can represent Belt as varsity players on the bigger stage. **By: Abby Gliko**

Wrestling

On the 8th and 9th of February, lone wrestler Brandon Wall headed down to Billings to compete in the State B/C Wrestling Meet. His first match took place on Friday at 11:30 a.m. Although Wall fought hard, he came up short with a loss in the contest. The bracket was double elimination meaning it took two losses to be out of the competition, with anyone losing battling for the third place title. Sadly, in Brandon's second match he lost, meaning his junior wrestling season had come to an end.

While high school wrestling has ended the middle school students' wrestling season has just begun. This year there are two students on the team, 7th grader Kennedie Martin and 8th graders Montana Covington. A girls wrestling is different, but Martin had plenty to say about it, "I want to prove everyone wrong that I can make it to state and I can be just as good as the boys in this sport." Martin also said, "My favorite part of wrestling is winning a match, along with the overall feeling of

winning. It is also really great going to meets and getting the chance to meet new people." The first meet was in Fort Benton on the 22nd, where Martin went 1-1 winning her first match but losing her last match of the meet.

The schedule for middle school wrestling is still being finalized, and the *Valley Voice* will continue to follow the progress of Covington and Martin as they represent the younger Husky Nation on the wrestling mats in the coming weeks. **By: Natalie Larsen**

Senior Spotlight

Keaghan Opheim, one of the only four boys of graduating this year joined the Class of 2019 back in his 8th grade year in 2014. Opheim was born in Great Falls and grew up in Tracy. He came to Belt because he was, “running from bullies,” Opheim happily stated.

Since coming to Belt, Opheim has had a huge transformation, and during that change, he claims that senior year has been his favorite year in school due to seniority.

Opheim has expressed that his favorite teacher is Mr. Cooper because he has never done bad on any of his essays (probably because he has never written any for him). Mr. Cooper may be his favorite teacher, but Opheim’s favorite subject is



math. On this subject, he stated, “it just all adds up.” His favorite memory is when Matt Dollenger enrolled in physics .

Currently Opheim isn’t involved in any sports or extra circular activities but was in drama/theatre for over a year. After high school he plans on leaving Montana and, “hopefully winning something.” Opheim is planning on taking a break after graduating, and then returning to a higher education. He is still undecided on what career path he wants to pursue although he is interested in philosophy.

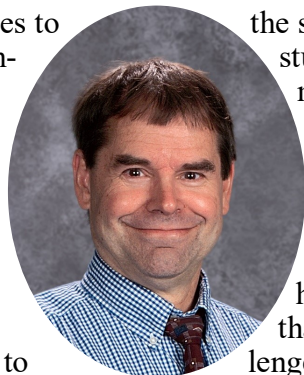
The next issue of *Valley Voice* will feature senior Victoria Shelton, with a look at her future beyond Belt High School. **By: Tori Shelton**

Featured Staff

This week’s featured staff member is Mr. Jeffery Ross. He has been chosen for the exceptional work he performs in the Belt High School as well as what he does outside of school. He continues to inspire students with his words as he continues his tenth year of teaching in the Belt High School.

Ross graduated from Madison West High School in the “Pleistocene epoch” as he likes to say. Next, he graduated from the University of California Davis in 2004. After that Ross attended the University of Montana and completed his graduate work in 2006. This ultimately led to him moving to Belt in 2008.

The decision to work at the Belt School came from Ross being impressed with the administration



and community. He believed that this would be an “ideal place to begin my [his] high school teaching career.” In the several years where Ross has taught at the school, he has continued to challenge his students, while opening their eyes to view multiple perspectives. In addition to the classroom, Ross has inspired dozens of students through the drama department he has developed.

Ross has inspired students to push themselves to new limits throughout their high school careers even when they thought that they weren’t able to overcome such challenges. His efforts in preparing students for academic life beyond high school are appreciated and he is a valuable contributor to the academic value in the Belt Valley. **By: Sierra Reese**

Middle School Math Contest

On February 15th, seven Belt middle school students participated in the MATHCOUNTS competition at Great Falls College of Technology. The students that were lucky enough to take part in this event first had to take a qualifying test in Belt. Richie Andrews, Memphis Black, Bridger Vogl, Tara Hedstrom, Sawyer Myrstol, Keaghn McDaniel, and Haley Horner were the top scorers on the test.

Andrews, Black, Vogl, and Hedstrom created an unstoppable team, which claimed first out of all Class C schools and third overall. After team events, the students competed individually against fifty-nine mathletes. Andrews placed 5th, Vogl 6th, and Black 15th. The students from Belt will compete in the state competition on March 15th in Butte. **By: Abby Gliko**

Booster’s Fundraising Dinner

Prime Rib or Shrimp Dinner with all the trimmings

Catered by the Harvest Moon on March 15th



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

Tickets are \$60, includes cash and Calcutta drawing (\$1000 Prize)

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

MHSA Meetings

After a series of meetings last April, the Montana High School Association (MHSA) announced that all four high school classifications will conduct combined same-site state tournaments beginning in 2019-2020.

Currently, the only tournament that will not be combined in 2018-19 is the State C boys and girls basketball tournaments with the girls taking place this weekend in Great Falls and the boys following next weekend in Billings. Both the State A and C tournaments were separate for the 2017-18 season, but A will combine this year and be

played in Great Falls from March 7-9th. All 2019-20 state tournaments will be played March 12th-14th. Bozeman will host the AA, while Billings will entertain Class A competitors, Butte will be the venue for B, and the smallest schools will travel to Missoula to vie for state hardware.

The same-site tournament announcement was one of a few significant changes the MHSA made during the annual meeting in Helena. The MHSA also announced that for the first time, all state championship football games must be played on a neutral site.

The MHSA also made a group of reclassifications official. In 2019-20 Belgrade will move from Class A to Class AA and Arlee and Great Falls Central Catholic will jump from Class C to Class B. Fairfield is eligible to drop to Class C, but will stay Class B and Butte Central will remain Class A. MHSA also approved St. Regis' request to co-op with Mullan, Idaho in the 1A division of the IDHSAA.

The MHSA annual meetings are a continuing attempt to adjust to the changing dynamic of competition among high schools in the Montana. **By: Adelle Meissner**

I Love To Read Month

This past month the walls at Belt Schools have been decorated extravagantly, because February was "I Love to Read Month." Mrs. JJ Meissner was one of the driving forces behind the month's activities, and she planned several contests as well as projects to inspire kids to read more.

The first activity the students took part in was making bookmarks in celebration of "I Love to Read Month." Along with making bookmarks at the beginning of the month, the elementary students began a book-related checklist, which they worked diligently to complete throughout the entirety of February.

Some examples of the tasks

included: read a biography, read a book written by an author whose last name starts with "R", read a book published the year they were born, and read a book inside of a blanket fort with a flashlight. At the end of the month, students received prizes determined by the quantity of activities completed.

Mrs. Meissner, along with Mr. Kyle Paulson, visited all elementary classes to read to students, as well. Paulson said, "I believe 'I Love to Read Month' is very beneficial to students as the promotion of reading is a terrific endeavor and is another opportunity to get students to be more interested in the joy of reading, rather than just the skill of reading."

This week the students read books by Dr. Suess (Theodore Geisel) and engaged in multiple activities in order to commemorate Suess, because he would have been 115 on his birthday tomorrow.

When asked if the students are fond of these projects, Meissner stated, "Students are enjoying the activities and the challenge to read books that they normally may not have chosen in order to reach completion of the checklist."

The students had a great time as they got the chance to read a lot. In the future students will have a better appreciation for reading and will take this with them through the rest of their academic lives. **By: Natalie Larsen**

With these past few weeks being snow-filled the road conditions are more dangerous than ever. When deciding to increase your risk of a crash by driving under the influence of any drug, then an accident is almost guaranteed. This winter make sure to always buckle up and...

Never Drink and Drive!

This message brought to you by your
Cascade DUI Task Force



Performing Arts Center

Since the renovation of the Belt Theatre, the community has been buzzing with activity and a steady stream of entertainers. Therefore, the Belt Performing Arts Council has created a website to keep people informed on upcoming

events in the theatre. Interested community members can go to <https://www.beltperformingartscenter.com/> to find more information about upcoming entertainment. The website also includes information about

venue rental, the Belt Performing Arts Council and their mission, and pictures of the restoration of the theatre. The members of the council will be regularly updating the website and event calendar.

By: Abby Gliko

Principal's Report

With the first semester coming to a close in mid-January, the second half of the school year has been just as busy as the previous. From ice fishing, to Spellings Bees, to cheer leading camp, and everything in between, Belt Schools has been abuzz with activities this month.

On February 6th, Victoria Shelton, Adam Langston, Riley Larsen, and Asa Jassen competed in the regional Poetry Out Loud Competition at the University of Providence. At the regional, Victoria and Adam tied for second and made it to the state competition. The pair will head to Helena on March 10th and compete with nineteen other regional winners for a chance to make it to the national competition in Washington D.C..

Two weeks ago, a host of high school students attended the State DECA conference in Fairmont. Eight participants qualified for national DECA which will take place in Orlando March 27th-30th.

The Husky basketball teams participated in the 8C district tournament February 14th-16th. The girls earned 1st place and the boys claimed 2nd, both teams advanced to the divisional tournament. In the Northern C divisional tournament, the Lady Huskies emerged with a third place trophy after winning the consolation bracket and the Belt boys captured fourth place, falling in the consolation game.

The junior and senior classes will make a trip to the legislature on March 12th in order to learn

more about Montana's government and how it works. The semi-annual trip will include tours of the Montana Historical Society Museum, the Montana Capitol building, legislative branch viewings, and a presentation at the Montana Supreme Court.

As part of "Hooked on Fishing" program the 7th graders went ice fishing on East Fork Reservoir near Lewistown. The fish they caught will be dissected as part of the program in April. The middle school also participated in a cross-curriculum day about fish and the significant role they play in all classes, not just science.

The 7th and 8th grade students traveled to Great Falls to compete in the North Central Montana Math Counts competition. Riche Andrews, Memphis Black, and Bridger Vogl competed in the top fifteen competition and their team, including Tara Hedstrom, took 1st in the Class C competition and 3rd overall. The team is invited to participate in the state competition at Montana Tech on March 15th.

On February 6th, thirty middle school and elementary students competed in the Spelling Bee. Clayton Jassen finished in 1st, Hedstrom took 2nd, and Reese Paulson claimed 3rd. Jassen and Hedstrom the competed at the Cascade County Spelling Bee on the 25th of February, where Jassen placed fourth.

February is "I love to read month" and Mrs. Meissner has developed a reading-based incentive

for the elementary students grades EK-5. Students will work on and complete nineteen different reading activities in the library, classroom, and at home. Rewards will be given at the end of the month.

The entire school took part in the science fair last week on February 18th-20th. Cole Hepfner won the 9th grade and overall competition with his project "L-Rod Dowsing." Asa Jassen took second in the freshmen division and overall with "Drinking Water Testing" and Ahmia Lords took third in the 9th grade with her project titled "Alternative vs Conventional." In the 10th grade division, Sierra Reese and Kenzie Martin took first in the age group and third overall with "Bacteria vs Cleaners" followed by Jessica Moon and "Column Chromatography" and Treyton Hennes with "Metal vs Bacteria." The junior and senior division were combined but senior trio Elyse Adams, Grace Davison, and Julia Vogt won with their project, "Eyewitness Testimony." Adelle Meissner and Kolby Pimperton took second with "Cooking the Vitamin C out of Vegetables" and Brady and Keely Drummond ("Headache") tied with Lindsey and Shelby Paulson ("Best Bottled Water") for third.

So far, it's been a great year at Belt School and the festivities will continue as the year progresses and the weather warms. With the third quarter ending soon, students have tunnel vision toward the end of the year and the exciting summer that awaits. **By: Adelle Meissner**

Science Fair

On Monday the 18th and Tuesday the 19th of February, the annual Science Fair took place in the multipurpose room at Belt School. The first students to partake in the contest were the high schoolers, as many of them presented their projects in the earlier hours of Monday morning. In the freshmen class first place went to Cole Hepfner with “L-Rod Dowsing”, and second place was “Drinking Water Testing” by Asa Jassen. In third place from the freshmen class was Ahmia Lords with her project “Alternate vs. Conventional.” In the sophomore class, “Bacteria vs. Cleaners” by Sierra Reese and Kenzie Martin earned first with second place going to Jessica Moon and her project “Column Chromatography.” Third place was Treyton Hennes with his project “Metal vs. Bacteria.”

The juniors and seniors were grouped together because a science course is not required after sophomore year, leaving less science students from those classes. First place for the 11/12th grade was “Eyewitness Testimony” by Elyse Adams, Grace Davison, and Julia Vogt. Second place went to Adelle Meissner and Kolby Pimperton with their project “Cooking the Vitamin C Out.” Third tied between Brady and Keely Drummond’s “Headache” with “Best Bottled Water” by Shelby and Lindsey Paulson. For the overall winners in the high school, the first place title went to Hepfner’s “L-Rod Dowsing”, second place was “Drinking Water Testing” by Jassen, and third was “Bacteria vs. Cleaners” by Reese and Martin.

The middle schools students competed the competition in the afternoon of Monday the 18th. For the sixth grade class first place went to Eliza Tingey with her project “Contest of Champions,” as second place went to the trio of Walker

Maki, Declan Bergstrom and Eli Bodner with “On Shaky Ground”. Third place was “What’s in Your Water” by Mac Hedstrom, Ben Gillespie and Andrew Dullam. The seventh grade first place title went to “Trash to Gas” by Reese Paulson and Clayton Jassen. Second went to Ethan Triplett with “Smoked,” with third place being a tie between “Stuck Tough” by Lane Waldner and “Filtering Waste with Waste” by JD Shephard. For the eighth graders first place went to Haley Hoerner with “Pain, Pain, Go Away” while second place was Tara Hedstrom’s “Dripping Drops.” Third place for the eighth grade class was “This is Quite A-Peeling!” by Bridger Vogl and Keaghn McDaniel. For the overall winners of the middle school, third place went to “Smoked” by Triplett, and second was “Trash to Gas” by Reese Paulson and Clayton Jassen. First place was “Pain, Pain, Go Away” by Hoerner.

Mrs. Debbie Vogt, the middle school science teacher, stated “I think this year’s science fair went extremely well and being able to use the multipurpose room for the fair made it a much more enjoyable experience for the students as well as the judges.” Students who placed in the Belt Science Fair will automatically be eligible for the regional science fair coming up on March 8th at Montana State University – Great Falls. Other students that will be eligible to compete in this contest received good scores and meet the criteria set forth by their teacher.

For elementary only the third, fourth and fifth grade students participated in the science fair. For the third graders, first place went to “Keep the Heat” by Rogue Roberts and Hosanna Wilson, with second place being Camree Puppee and Lilly Silvestre with “Safety Time”

Third place for the first graders was “High Fliers” by Haidyn Visocan and Junior Smith. First place in the fourth grade was “It’s Only a Matter of Time” by Hope Maki and Kate Hedstrom, while second place was Vannie Urick’s “Growing, Growing, Growing”. Third place was “Pucker Up” from Dezirae Goodman and Camee Johnson. In the fifth grade class, first place went to “Waterproof Bandages” by Emerson Hoerner and Raenee Mapston. Second place was Slater Lord’s “Melting Madness”, with third place being “Bullet Grains” by Parker Osterman.

Mrs. Kathleen Prody, the schools superintendent, was very involved in this year’s science fair, spending most of those two days down in the gym examining students’ projects and helping the days move along smoothly. Prody stated, “I have been very impressed with the science projects. I am seeing some new topics this year and the research behind the projects has improved.” Prody added, “Students put considerable thought into their projects and were creative in their display boards. The students I spoke with had a thorough understanding of their topics.”

The *Valley Voice* would like to give a huge thanks to Vogt as she organized much of the science fair putting in a lot of hard work to make the fair a smooth process with little conflicts. Another thanks goes out to the judges of the competition who graciously gave up their time to benefit the students of Belt Public Schools. The scholastic competition would have been impossible without the time donated by these volunteers.

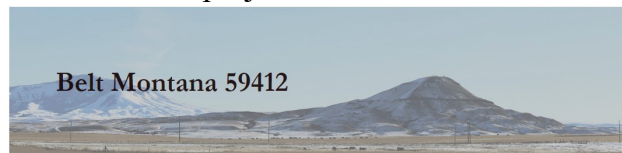
The *Valley Voice* extends congratulations to the winners of the Belt Science Fair and wish them luck in the next level of competition. **By: Natalie Larsen**

Calendar of Events

- 2/27 6:00 p.m. Little Guy Wrestling in Cafeteria
 2/27 7:00 p.m. Dance Classes in Cafeteria
 2/28 6:00 p.m. Little Guy Wrestling in Cafeteria
 3/1 2:30 p.m. Dance Classes on Stage
 3/4 4:00 p.m. MS Basketball @ Centerville
 3/6 6:00 p.m. Little Guy Wrestling in Cafeteria
 3/7 9:00 a.m. K-5 Regional Science Fair @ MSU-GF
 3/7 6:00 p.m. Little Guy Wrestling in Cafeteria
 3/8 7:30 a.m. 6-12 Regional Science Fair @ MSU-GF
 3/8 2:30 p.m. Dance Classes on Stage
 3/9 10:00 a.m. MS Basketball @ Stanford (DGS)
 3/11 4:00 p.m. MS Basketball vs HW-Geraldine
 3/11 3:30 p.m. 1st Golf Practice on Stage
 3/11 3:30 p.m. 1st Track Practice in Small Gym
 3/11 6:00 p.m. Little Guy Wrestling in Cafeteria
 3/12 7:30 a.m. Jr. & Sr. Legislative Trip
 3/12 2:30 p.m. Math Contest @ GFH
 3/12 7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting (Library)
 3/13 6:00 p.m. Little Guy Wrestling in Cafeteria
 3/14 9:00 a.m. Artmobile Montana Presentation
 3/14 5:00 p.m. Elementary Math Night
 3/14 6:00 p.m. Little Guy Wrestling in Cafeteria
 3/15 Math Counts State Competition
 3/15 2:30 p.m. Dance Classes on Stage

William's Wonderful Website

As part of a DECA assignment, William Franzen created a website all about Belt, Montana. William claims that the inspiration to create the website came from his father, Robin Franzen, who suggested that William implement his web development skills into the creation of his project.



The Town of Belt is a thriving community located in the valley of Belt Creek, between the Highwood and Little Belt mountains. Approximately 20 miles southeast of Great Falls, Belt's historic downtown is the ideal rest stop for visitors, outdoor enthusiasts, and history buffs. Visit our Wikipedia page [here](#).

The website has seven pages titled: home, about, visit, business directory, events, contact, and gallery. The home page gives basic information about Belt as well as a link to a Wikipedia page all about the small town. The second page provides a more in-depth analysis of Belt as well as information on Belt's growth as a town and how it was founded. The business directory page provides a list of different businesses in Belt with a link to another sub-page for each business with contact and background information on each place. The events page lists the different events that take place in the community. The sixth page, contact, contains information on how to reach out to Franzen if there is anything additional that someone thinks should be included on the website. The final page is a gallery of pictures from all around Belt. A few of these are photos of various businesses, the Belt Museum, and the Castner Square Wheel.

The web address is www.beltmontana.com.

Franzen stated that he fully intends to continue to add to his electronic offering. This project is shaping up to be extremely interesting. Now the small town of approximately 588 people as of 2017 has its very own website containing a great variety of information that people can look at when they want to stop through Belt.

The newly created website is extremely promising and many people can't wait to see the site's future progress. Franzen's project was submitted to the state DECA competition at Fairmont Hot Springs. Although he initially did not place in the top three at state, Franzen's website project has been bumped up into the top three, sending him to the national competition in Orlando at the end of April. **By: Sierra Reese**

Help Wanted Belt Public Schools

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