



The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



15 March 2019

Volume 10 Issue 13

Inside

Legislative Trip

Track Preview	3
Golf	
Music Festival Preview	4
Pennies For Leukemia Cheers!	
The end of three seniors' careers cheering on the Belt Huskies	5
Voyagers Reading Program	
Senior Spotlight	
Shining on Victoria Shelton	
Featured Staff	6
Featuring Michelle Stinson	
Scholarships	7
Heritage Outreach Program	
Burton presented the sophomores, juniors, and seniors of Belt High with an oral stimulation and presentation about World War II.	8
MS Sports	
MT Under the Weather Pi Day	
Not just an excuse to eat pie!	9
Boys State Basketball	
MT Conservation Corps	10
Back Roads Pizza and Lanes	
St. Patrick's Day	11
Calendar of Events	
Chairity Auction	
Hoop Shoot	12

On Tuesday, March 12th thirty-four students from the junior and senior class of the Belt Public School headed off to Helena, to visit the states' capital. The purpose of the trip was to inform the students about the history of the state and to see just a small fraction of how the process of law making is done. They were taken down by Mr. Koontz, along with the chaperones, Michael Shelton, and Gladys Rayhill. Montana became part of the U.S in 1803 after the Louisiana Purchase from France, and became a ter-

ritory in 1864. The population grew due to the growth of copper mining in the state. It finally reached statehood November 8th, 1889 after reaching the population of 60,000 citizens.



During the trip the students visited the Montana Historical Society Museum and had the chance to look at exhibits about World War I and II, the homelands, which displayed exhibits spanning the last two hundred years of Montana History, and a C.M. Russell gallery. For some students that was their favorite part of the trip. Senior, Morgan Cooper... *Cont. Pg. 3)*

City News

This past Wednesday, February 13th, at 7:00 p.m. the first city council meeting of the month was called to order. In attendance were Mayor Jim Olson, Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling, Aldermen Delbert Darko, Annie Porter, Paul Heikkila, Sally Miller, Russell Roberts, and David Eggert, as well as four members of the public.

The council's discussion began with Schilling reporting that funds for the 2019 BaRSAA road/alley project would be available beginning March 1st in the amount of \$10,327.24 with a minimum town of Belt match of \$516.36. The 2018 project, which included paving part of Church Street, must be officially deemed complete in order for the city to request funds for

this fiscal year. The council continued to discuss various projects for the 2019 funding, including paving and repairing low water pooling areas of the dirt road that goes along the east side of the dike. A final decision and resolution will be made during the March 6th meeting.

The conversation then shifted to snow removal and the pavilion. Alderman Heikkila reported snow removal was not completed on the walkway by the pavilion and Alderman Darko reiterated the thought that snow removal on the VFW steps should be routinely performed to alleviate hazards as well as mentioning a grant that could provide funding for the pavilion's structural repair as a historical building. *(Cont. Pg. 2)*

Alderman Heikkila also brought up the possibility of using solar panels to defray the electrical costs at the sewer lagoons. A spokesman for the solar program could address the council with more detailed information, but Heikkila indicated that the program could be very beneficial to the Sewer Fund O&M costs as well as a source of revenue in the sale of left over generated power; the council unanimously agreed that this program would be well worth looking into further.

Mayor Olson then produced pictures of a "Welcome to Belt" sign that he said he would like to have made at a cost of \$500. He went on to report that continued Coal Severance Tax Funding had passed in the Senate and was expected to be successful in the House of Representatives. He also added that Robin Franzen would be going ahead with the Northwest Energy program for LED lighting at City Hall and the City Shop, explaining that the program provides a rebate for the purchase of bulbs.

With no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned. The second monthly meeting, attended by Mayor Olson, Clerk-Treasurer Schilling, Alderman Darko, Heikkila, Miller, and Roberts, NCI engineer Idaho Trenberth, and two members of the public, began at 7:00 on the night of February 20th.

To begin the meeting, Trenberth gave an update of his efforts to refinance Belt's original Sewer Bond as well as progress made on the Lift Station Project. In regard to refinancing, Trenberth reported that he had spoken with Anna Miller of DNRC and that she was receptive to the idea, but the government shutdown had slowed any actual progress with that. He went on to explain that the Lift Station Project

had been held up by equipment manufactured that had not given pricing to NCI. Trenberth said that as a result, nothing had been submitted to DEQ in the way of design or application.

Mayor Olson voiced the concern that the project had been slow in getting started and the final construction may not be completed by the funding agency's deadlines. Miller added that if the project was not let for bids soon, construction companies might already be engaged with other projects during the spring. Trenberth indicated that he would shoot for a final submission of plans to DEQ by March 1st and would give a follow-up report at the March 20th meeting; DEQ has 60 days following the submission of specs to give their approval or request amendments to the submitted specs and design.

Trenberth also noted that April 10th was the projected startup date for the sewer irrigation system and that he would provide Mayor Olson with a timeline of training for the public works personnel in its operation.

The council then moved forward to discuss the possibility of road and alley improvement projects for the 2019 BaRSSA funding with five possible options: finishing Church Street, widening the road on Belt Drive, installing outlets and drains on the dirt road that parallels the dike, paving the intersection area of 5th street and Butte Street, or paving and repairing Butte Street. The council decided to focus on the repair and improvement of the dirt road beside the dike and declare the Church Street project complete for BaRSSA purposes and rework and repair it during the normal course of spring and summer road and alley patching, repair, and maintenance. Final designation of the BaRSSA project will be made at

the March 6th meeting.

Alderman Heikkila presented materials related to a commercial solar PV system, saying that implementation of such a system by the city could greatly defer the costs of electricity, could pay for itself in eight years, and could provide income through the sale of excess energy produced. The use of such a system could greatly decrease the cost of electricity both at the water pumps and at the sewer lagoons, thereby staving off future water/sewer rate increases. The council was in agreement that such a project is worth looking into; Heikkila planned to contact the program spokesperson to address the council at a future meeting about the requirement and benefits of such a project.

Mayor Olson then reported that grant funding for the pavilion structural repairs may be available through the Historic Preservation Group. He indicated that Steve Keaster had estimated that it would cost between \$19,000 and \$29,000 to replace the trusses in the ceiling. He went on to report that the light rebate program for the installation of LED lighting at City Hall and the City Shop was being abandoned since Franzen reported that the rebate was considerably smaller than last year and would involve city output of over \$1,000. Mayor Olson closed in saying that the City Shop door was again in need of repair and that a repairman had been engaged to complete the work.

The city council meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.. The next meeting will be held on March 20th at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall on Castner Street. As always two student representatives go to the meetings which are open to the public and residents' attendance is encouraged.

By: Adelle Meissner

Legislative Trip (Cont.)

...liked the exhibits about the Native Americans in the Homelands. "I like the little cabin and all the neat little artifacts.," Cooper remembered about her trip. Another senior, Grace Davison, was most excited about the World War exhibits. "I liked being able to see the different guns and how they transitioned between the wars."

From the museum, the group of students headed to the Montana Supreme Court. There two Supreme Court clerks showed them the court room and also explained how the appeals process works within the Montana court system. Junior, Maggie Andrews, said that she learned quite a bit from the clerks. "I didn't know about all the trials that came through the Montana Supreme Court. I also learned a lot about how the different levels of crimes are handled," Andrews noted. After the presentation, all the students were allowed to explore the court room and even sit in Supreme Court Justice's chairs.

Before the students went to their last leg of the trip, they took a lunch break. Students had about an hour to gobble up some grub before heading off to the State Capitol Building. Construction on the capitol building started in 1899 and was completed in 1902. Two wings were also added to the building in later years.

At the Capitol, the students broke out into groups and were able to explore and tour all its featured artwork, especially in the Rotunda. Some of the features artworks were *The Trapper*, *The Indian Chief*, *The Prospector*, and *The Cowboy*, all by F. Pedretti's Sons. Other rooms throughout the building also displayed art work, such as the Senate Chamber and the House of Representatives. One piece from the Senate Chamber is *The Louisiana Purchased* also by F. Pedretti's Sons. In the House, a famous *Lewis and Clark Meeting Indians at Ross' Hole* by Charles M. Russell, was displayed all the back wall.

After about an hour of learning some background of Montana, they headed to watch the state House of Representatives in session and observed how the law making process unfolded. During this session the representatives discussed an upcoming charity basketball game between the House and Senate, and dealt with their meeting schedule. Some of the students were shocked about how the session was run. Junior Hunter Vogl said his views on the system had changed, "It was not as formal as I thought it would be. It ended up being people just having fun."

The eventful day in the Queen City ended about 1:30 p.m. with highlights of the trip being the Montana Historical Society Museum, the Montana Supreme Court and the State Capitol Building. The students left Helena with new knowledge about their home state and new understandings of some of the legal processes within the government. **By: Tori Shelton**

Track Preview

As mid-March saw the conclusion of basketball season, the young athletes of Belt High School traded their high-tops for spikes, blocks, and hurdles and took to the gym for the start of track season. As far as coaches, the sprinters and hurdlers are being coached by Jeff Graham, Megan Graham is leading the distance runners, Tony Cooper is in charge of the jumpers, and Taylor McNally will be mentoring the throwers as the season gets underway.

This year, the team returns seniors: Morgan Cooper, Robbie Gliko, and Brendan Wing, juniors: Adelle Meissner, Shelby Paulson, Kolby Pimperton, Brooke Schraner, Adam Langston, Wyatt Marshall, Gavin Roberts, Andrew Stice,

Hunter Vogl, and Brandon Wall, and sophomores: Kenzie Martin, Kaimen Evans, TJ Hennes, and Aidan McDaniel. The Husky squad also welcomes sophomore Madisyn Lords and freshmen: Lindsey Paulson, Ahmia Lords, Raily Gliko, Maverick Black, Aidan Bergstrom, Anthony Hook, Cole Hepfner, Gabriel Triplett, Asa Jassen, Braeden Moon, and Landon Nelson.

With the weather being so cold and wet, the athletes have been limited in what they can do for practice. The distance runners have been running along the streets throughout the community while the throwers are confined to the mezzanine in the gymnasium and the sprinters, hurdlers, and jumpers hit the weight room in preparation

for the outdoor season.

The weather also prevents Belt Schools from validating a permanent schedule of regular season meets and at this point. A tentative schedule has been established, but is not ready for publication due to its uncertainty. However, The 8C District Meet will be in Great Falls on May 10th and divisionals will be held the following week; both meets will be at Memorial Stadium on the campus of Great Falls High and the state meet will be hosted in Laurel on May 24th and 25th.

The *Valley Voice* wishes these athletes the best of luck in their upcoming season and hopes that spring arrives soon, melting the snow and drying out the track and field. **By: Adelle Meissner**

Golf

The golf season officially started this past Monday, the 11th, with the first practice for the Lady Huskies. Coach Michelle Stinson knew weather-related problems could arise, especially with the snow-filled February everyone just experienced, so new indoor swing nets and mats were ordered so that the golfers to fully swing clubs indoors. Practicing indoors in coordination with circuits in the weight room are how the girls are likely to spend the first three weeks of this golf season.

There were fourteen girls that showed up to the first practice, with ten of those returning from last season. There are two seniors: Tori Shelton and Raenita Berlinger, and seven juniors: Natalie Larsen, Karlee Permann, Sydne Flinn, Kyelie Marquis, Candyce Davison and Keely Drummond, three sophomores: Riley Larsen, Sierra Reese and Alivia Shelton, and three fresh-

men: Maddie Ostermann, Charla Hook and Sarah Dollenger.

The two coaches are both returning as well with Stinson continuing her role as head coach, along with Coach Karl Koontz who will remain the assistant coach.

With the loss of Hannah Schweitzer, who placed fourth at the state meet last year, the younger Husky golfers have big shoes to fill this season. Two returning lettermen, Karlee Permann and Natalie Larsen, are looking to qualify for this year's state meet, hosted in Seeley Lake on May 13th through 15th. In order to qualify for the state meet one must hit 120 strokes or less within a marked group, meaning there is an adult accompanying the golfers keeping track of their scores. There also needs to be at least three girls qualify for state in order to post a team score.

The Montana High School Association (MHSA), in alignment

with worldwide golf has adopted some new rules for this season. The goals of the changes are to simplify the rules and speed up play. Some of the most notable changes are being able to putt with the pin in the hole, and taking a drop at knee height as opposed to shoulder height. This year's golf season is setting up to be relatively different from those in the past as many rule changes have been added this year for the Lady Huskies to figure out.

Stinson's expectations for the entire team are for the returning players to keep improving their averages throughout the season, as well as having a full team to take to state this year. For the freshmen Stinson hopes they learn a lot this year and keep improving at each meet.

The *Voice* wishes good luck to the girls and hopes they have a great season with little weather interference. **By: Natalie Larsen**

Music Festival Preview

In April, students the Belt music department will participate in the District Music Festival. The event will be hosted at C.M. Russell High School. The students will make a afternoon of the event, as they are scheduled to leave school around noon and not return until about 8:00 p.m.

The band and choir in the Belt School District are each performing two pieces. The band is performing "Pavane" by Gabriel Faure and "Kaleidoscope" by Frank Bencriscutto. The choir is performing "Keep Your Lamps" by Victor C. Johnson and "Inscription of Hope" by Z. Randall Stroope.

Aside from performing their pieces, the groups also do sight singing (choir) and sight reading (band). This is where the students are given a song that they've never

seen before and attempt to play or sing it cold. This is a very challenging feat to accomplish and requires a great deal of skill and practice to perform properly.

In the entire music department, there are eight students performing solos and four performing duets. In this group of individuals, there are two who are performing both a vocal solo and a solo on an instrument, one of which is also performing a duet. It takes an immense amount of courage for anyone to get up in front of a judge and sing or play by themselves.

Tune in to the subsequent issues for results from the Belt musicians' festival adventure. **By: Sierra Reese**

BACK ROADS PIZZA AND LANES

Enjoy a slice! Fresh hot Pizza right here in Belt. Sample any of the dozens of varieties of mouth watering combinations...

Join a bowling league at Back Roads Pizza and Lanes this spring! In the summer there will be kids leagues and couples leagues as well as 3 and 4 person teams in the spring...



Contact Laura Koffler at 788-7790 or Back Roads at 277-3245 to join a league or to ask any further questions.

Pennies for Leukemia

National Honor Society (NHS) students set up a fundraiser for cancer patients with Leukemia. In hopes of helping raise money for the cause, the NHS students set up collection boxes around the school. The students also created fun ways to help raise money by getting teachers and students involved in fun activities.

The first charity event took place in the Belt High Gymnasium on the 7th of February during the varsity girls and boys basketball games. In between the third and fourth quarters of each game, NHS members went through the crowd with collection boxes asking people to donate loose change for patients with Leukemia. The NHS students then collected the boxes and

brought them to Mrs. Graham to be added up after the game.

The next fundraiser provided an opportunity for students and staff members to get involved. Many collection boxes were set up with teachers' faces on them. The three teachers with the most change in their canister were "rewarded" with a pie in the face at the pep rally on Wednesday the 13th of February. The pie in the face was a fun part of the day but the students were more interested in the money being raised. After the week was over it was time to add up the votes for the teachers: Ms. McNally took first place, Mrs. Jones came in second place, and Mrs. Graham was lucky enough to find herself in third place.

Also the students were asked to make more donations in exchange for the chance to partake in dress-up days as part of the district tournament. On Monday, the students wore their pajamas to school, Tuesday the students came in orange, Wednesday they came dressed as superheroes, Thursday they brought their hats to wear, and Friday they supported the Huskies with their maroon and gold gear.

The charity events were an exciting way to get the students, staff, and even surrounding communities involved as well as raise money for a very good cause. By the end of all the fundraising, the NHS program was able to raise around \$1,100.

By: Kolby Pimperton

Cheers!

As the basketball players ended their season, so did the cheerleaders and pep band. All throughout volleyball, basketball, and football, the pep squad shared the highs and lows of the teams' competition.

In this group of Belt Huskies, there were three seniors: Grace Davison (cheerleader), Julia Vogt (pep band), and MaKayla O'Neil (pep band). All three of these individuals made a huge impact on the Belt Community. Davison was renowned as the cheer mom in the cheer squad due to her willingness to help out the underclassmen and

preparedness to aid any of the young ladies with one thing or another. O'Neil sang the National Anthem several times during home games at the Belt School, and she also played bass clarinet. Vogt played the flute in the band for her entire high school career. They will surely be missed as they head to their respective colleges to begin their journey in their adult lives.

The fifteen members of the pep band showed commitment and passion as they added to the atmosphere of community events throughout the season, under the

direction of music teacher Jonathon Sutton. The cheerleaders will be honored for their year long work at the spring sports banquet along with the track, golf, wrestling, and basketball athletes.

The *Valley Voice* would like to wish Davison, O'Neil, and Vogt good luck as they begin their adult lives and would like to congratulate the cheerleaders and pep band on another successful season of cheering on the Belt Huskies. The graduates will surely be missed and the pep squad will have to learn to adapt.

By: Sierra Reese

Voyagers Reading Program

Every year the elementary students participate in a reading program sponsored by the Voyagers baseball team in Great Falls. The program is a great way to get students motivated to read while incorporating sports to draw the kids in. Students are rewarded for time spent reading by advancing from base to base on a theoretical base-

ball diamond.

For eight years the initiative has been in place, with Mrs. Hoffmann running the program for seven years. Her favorite part of the event is seeing how proud the kids are of how much they have read that week. The program started last Monday and will be in place for nine weeks.

As a reward for all of the kids being so committed to reading and improving their vocabulary, the Voyagers' mascot, Orbit, is scheduled to visit the school in the spring to talk to the kids about reading and show them what prizes are available as rewards. It's a fun way to help young students experience the joy of reading.

By: Abby Gliko

Senior Spotlight

Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, Victoria (Tori) Shelton is this week's senior in the spotlight. Due to her father's job as an electrician, Shelton has lived all over the West and Mid-West. In both Indiana and Wyoming, Shelton lived in two towns. She also inhabited one town in North Dakota, Kansas, and Arizona. Before coming to Belt, Shelton also lived in seven other Montana towns, attending three schools and being homeschooled on her journey toward graduation.

Settling near Belt, Shelton was homeschooled for the first year she inhabited the area in 2009. A year later, Shelton joined the future class of 2019 in her 4th grade year. Since then, she has contributed greatly to the Belt Public Schools. Beginning in middle school, Shelton has participated in: volleyball since her 6th grade year, basketball and Youth Leadership since her 7th grade year, and Science Olympiad since 8th grade. In high school, Shelton has taken part in four years of DECA and golf, as well as three years in Student Council.

Looking back on her years at Belt Schools, Shelton conjured a few treasured memories. Ending on a high note, Shelton won Homecoming Queen and the local Poetry Out Loud competition. Therefore, her favorite school year is senior year with good grades and



sports seasons. On the other hand, Shelton couldn't pick a preferred teacher, saying, "I like all my teachers for different reasons. They all help and want to see me succeed." While at Belt, Shelton nurtured her love for history and science, enjoying those classes the most. Although Shelton has consistently enjoyed Homecoming's Spirit Week and dressing up in general, she absolutely loves prom. Overall, Shelton doesn't enjoy dancing as much as simply spending time with her friends.

Coming to the end of her senior year, Shelton looks ahead toward her future. After high school, Shelton plans on attending an online college for two years to obtain an associate's degree. Although she is uncertain as to what career path she wants to take, Shelton leans towards psychology. As Shelton envisions her future, she can't help looking behind at her home, Belt. Despite living in various places, Shelton lived in Belt the longest. All in all, Shelton said, "I'll miss the supportive community and the feeling of stepping onto the court as a Belt Husky."

With best wishes to Shelton as she ventures into the adult world, the *Valley Voice* will get to know Samantha Vaughn better as the next senior in the spotlight.

By: MaKayla O'Neil

Featured Staff

This weeks featured staff member is Michelle Stinson. Stinson has taught for twenty six years, the last ten of which have been in the Belt School. She has been chosen as this weeks featured staff member due to her commitment and the hard work and effort that she puts in on behalf of her students.

Leading up to her current position, Stinson worked in several different teaching positions. She began her career by teaching in Hamilton for four years until her and her family moved to Belt in 1997. She then taught at Highwood for twelve continuous years. She eventually was given the opportunity to teach at the Belt School and she pounced on it. The reason Stinson decided to take the position as a Pre Kindergarten teacher was that her children attended school in Belt and the



commute to work was so short that she was and is able to walk. Her first two years in Belt were spent teaching the Pre Kindergarteners and then she went on to teach Middle School math and English language arts.

Stinson graduated from Florence Carlton High School as a Falcon. Later, she attended the University of Montana. There, she obtained her Bachelors of Elementary Education. Currently she is enjoying her time as a middle school teacher for English Language Arts and math and her students enjoy her, too. She also enjoys coaching, as she has just embarked on her fifth season as the girls varsity golf coach.

The next issue of the *Valley Voice* will take a closer look at another one of dedicated teachers in the Belt school system.

By: Sierra Reese

Scholarships

Amount	Due Date	Name	Requirements
\$15,000	March 15 th	Horatio Alger Montana Undergraduate Scholarship	Must be attending an in-state institution, Family income must be \$55,000 or less
\$500	March 15 th	Oddfellow & Rebekah Lodges Scholarship	Students with a GPA of 3.0 or <u>less</u>
\$1000 – 1 st place \$500 – 2 nd place	March 15 th	Cascade Country Clerk and Recorder's Scholarship	Must be attending an in-state school
\$500	March 29 th	Lauryn Goldhahn Scholarship	Everyone Welcome to apply
\$500	March 29 th	Three Rivers Communication Banner Scholarship	Cannot be class valedictorian or salutatorian, Academic improvement, Financial need, Maturity, Citizenship
\$1000	March 29 th	Belt Valley Emergency Responders Scholarship	Planning on pursuing firefighting or within the medical – field
Between \$500 - \$1000 Varies each year	March 29 th	Little Belt Cowboys Association Scholarship	3.0 GPA or higher, Demonstrate a financial need, Demonstrated Community Service and/or Vocational Experiences
\$500	March 29 th	P.J. Osterman Memorial Scholarship	Everyone can apply
Varies on number of applicants	March 29 th	Malmstrom Spouses' Club Scholarship	Dependent family member of one of the following: The applicant must be: a natural child, legally adopted child, dependent stepchild, or dependent spouse of any of the following: Active Duty Personnel (USAF) B. Active Guard or Reserve Personnel (USAF) C. Retired Personnel (USAF) D. Deceased Active or Retired Member (USAF) Civilian Personnel
\$10,000	March 31 st	Make Sense Foundation	Female living in the United States GPA of at least a 3.0

With the sun melting the snow is very important to be careful on the icy and increasingly slushy roads. Poor road conditions are dangerous to the people of Montana but adding alcohol to that mix can be fatal. This spring don't make poor decisions and make sure that plans are made to get home when going out on any occasion.

Approximately every fifty minutes somebody in the United States dies from a drunk driving incident. This can happen to anyone. Don't risk anyone's life when deciding to drink. This spring make sure that you make a plan, buckle up, and...

Never Drink and Drive!

This message brought to you by your
Cascade DUI Task Force



Heritage Outreach Program

On Tuesday, February 5th, Heritage Outreach Program (HOP) Coordinator Charmayne Burton presented the sophomores, juniors, and seniors of Belt High with an oral stimulation and presentation about World War II.

Formerly and locally known as CJ Hicks, Burton joined the United States Army in 2008, when she was just a junior. In the beginning Burton only drilled but upon graduating from Belt in 2009, she attended training camp was soon deployed to Afghanistan. After spending a year in the foreign country, Burton returned to the U.S. in 2013 and attended college at Montana State University Billings, majoring in education. She then continued to drill part time as well as teaching but eventually returned to drilling full time and was appointed the position of HOP coordinator in September of 2018, when her presentation circuit began.

Burton does presentations all across Montana, ranging from schools as small as Belt to ones as large as Sentinel High in Missoula.

She also offers three different oral stimulations about the American Civil War, World War I, and World War II as well as a presentation on the War of 1812. Burton's exhibitions focus more on the lives of Montana soldiers and their experiences in the war zone.

The oral stimulations feature situational questions in which points are awarded for a correct answer and subtracted when one makes the incorrect choice, each student starting with an initial 150 points. In total, Burton has constructed 11 questions for the Civil War and 15 situations for each of the World Wars. The student with the most points at the end of the stimulation can pick from a variety of prizes including but not limited to: backpacks, water bottles, shirts, headphones, a tile locator, and lanyards. The total presentation of WWII takes about one hour but can be adapted down to 45 minutes or stretched to an hour and a half.

The World War II presentation featured in Belt consisted of pictures of Montana soldiers in ac-

tion as well as some posed photos of all soldiers and other photos from various areas in the United States during the time of war. Burton also had a slideshow prepared which detailed the soldiers' lives and experiences as well as facts about the war. Accompanying the powerpoint were music that was popular during the time and the aforementioned stimulation. Burton also brought along a string of belongings typical of soldiers during WWII including: a helmet, a canteen, a dinner tray, a bag for personal items, a dog tag, and many more.

Burton's display provided students a very interactive way to learn more about World War II and more specifically, the role of Montanans in the United States' fight against the fascist powers of Japan and Germany.

The students learned a lot from the presentation as well as having fun through the stimulation. Belt Schools is very thankful to the HOP for coming up with such an engaging way to teach the students about WWII. **By: Adelle Meissner**

Middle School Sports

With basketball wrapping up for the high school, the middle school basketball season is just getting started. Coaches for the teams this year include: Renzi Horton and Mollie Rose for the Lady Huskies and Tony Cooper and Lukas Johnson for the boys.

The first game for the middle school teams was in Centerville. The girls B team was up first as they won easily with a final score of 27-17. Next the boys B team took the floor and sadly lost to the Miners as the score read 16-18 at the final buzzer. Then the girls A team played, falling to the Lady Miners as the final score read 19-42. The final team to play that evening was the boys A team who won with a

score of 42-30.

The next game for the middle school Huskies was in DGS. Once again, the first team to take the floor was the girls B team who lost to the Lady Bearcats as the final score was 14-20. Next the boys B team played, ending up with a very close game as the scoreboard read 30-27 at the end of the game in favor of the Huskies. The Lady Huskies of the girls A team were up next and they defeated the DGS Bearcats with a final score of 25-18. Lastly, the boys A team faced off with the DGS Bearcats and won 43-18.

The final game in this two week period was the first home game of the season. The girls B

team played right after school and won 36-15 against the Highwood/Geraldine Rivals. The boys B team followed them adding to the night's success as they also defeated the Rivals with a score of 26-24. Sadly, the girls A team took a loss to Highwood/Geraldine Rivals as their final score read 22-37. The Boys A team however won against the Rivals by a final tally of 48-21.

The girls A team is sitting with one win and two losses for the season so far while the boys A team is has no losses on their record. Their next game is on the road at Roy/Winifred tomorrow and the *Valley Voice* would like to wish both teams good luck throughout the season. **By: Natalie Larsen**

Under the Weather

Recently Montana has been in a bit of a cold rut. February temperatures consistently held in the negatives leaving more than a little frost in the air. The forecast for much of the last month called for snow, snow, and even more snow, leaving Belt a little buried. Mounds of snow have been piling up around the town and cars are beginning to disappear.



Due to recent weather conditions, giant snow drifts, piles and icicles have formed around the town. Plows have been running non-stop to keep roadways clean and clear for traffic. Some roads, like

the highway from Monarch to Raynesford, have been shut down because of the amount of snow fall. The streets and drive ways of Belt have been starting to look like one big snow maze. Some streets and drive ways of the town have even been plowed in.

Along with the town of Belt, the Belt Public School has also been having trouble because of the weather. The schools head of maintenance, April Wells, has had to continuously keep the parking lots plowed and the walk ways shoveled. The eaves off of the schools' shop building has also formed large icicles, deeming it a safety hazard. The front door to the building has been closed due to cold temperatures causing the concrete to heave. Entering the shop, students have to now take the side door to class to avoid possible falling ice.

The weather seems to be breaking. The first week of March temperatures stayed below freezing and a bit more snow accumulated,



but forty degree plus days of late have begun the to make it feel like spring might come around after all.

It's all part of the joy and challenge of living in central Montana. Belt school has remained open throughout, although several area schools have closed for at least a day or two. Punxsutawney Phil (the famed groundhog) could not find his shadow back of February 2nd, which of course means an early spring. Huh? **By: Tori Shelton**

Pi Day

Pi Day: a day where people celebrate eating the wonderful desert of pie... or not. Contrary to this popular belief, Pi Day is actually a national holiday in the United States that celebrates the number pi (π), not the popular dessert, which is spelled with an "E". The pi symbol is commonly used in various studies of math and sometimes creates scenarios that can better help mathematicians come up with a solution.

The reason Pi Day falls on March 14th is because the first three digits are three, one, and four (3.141592653589...). Interestingly enough, pi is the sixteenth letter of the Greek alphabet. The non-repeating number is the Greek word for perimeter.

Pi was first created approximately four thousand years ago and was originally discovered by Archimedes of Syracuse. The symbol for pi, however, was not used until the 1700's by the Swiss mathematician, Leonhard Euler. Even though this tool was discovered such a long time ago, the movement to celebrate pi was created recently by physicist, Larry Shaw. Due to this, Shaw has earned himself the nickname of "Prince of Pi."

In the Belt School, several classrooms celebrated this wonderful holiday by eating the dessert of pie and partaking in other fun activities. Books pertaining to the day were read and many games were played in lower grades. Mr. Johnson, the student teacher for

high school and middle school math, was in charge of the festivities for these groups. In middle school, he read "Sir Cumference and the Dragon of Pi" and "Sir Cumference and the First Round Table." Coincidentally, these students are currently studying circumference and radius, whose relationship is that the two times the radius, multiplied by pi equals circumference. In the high school, students were fed pie and held a competition in each class to see who could recite the most decimals in pi.

It was a great day for celebrating the number pi and for eating a very beloved dessert. All in all it was a smashing success that put a fresh new twist on a centuries old concept. **By: Sierra Reese**

Boys' State Basketball

The 2019 State Class C Boys' Basketball Tournament took place last weekend at the Metra Park Rimrock Auto Arena in Billings. Representing the state were the Chinook Sugarbeaters, the Plenty Coups Warriors, the Scobey Spartans, the Arlee Warriors, the Manhattan Christian Eagles, the Fairview Warriors, the Melstone Broncs, and the Hayes-Lodgepole Thunderbirds.

In the first game of the tournament the Sugarbeaters took on Plenty Coups and Chinook was victorious 67-51 sending the Warriors into the loser out bracket. In the following game, the Warriors of Arlee were more successful, defeating the Spartans 63-57. Scobey would also move to the loser out bracket and face Plenty Coups.

During the second session of the first day, the Eagles triumphed over Fairview with a score of 54-48; Manhattan would advance to the semi-final round and the Warriors would be sent to loser out. To wrap up the night, the Broncs bested the Thunderbirds 78-55; Melstone moved on to face the Ea-

gles and Hayes-Lodgepole would have a matchup against Fairview.

The morning of March 8th, Plenty Coups and Scobey kicked off the day with a loser out contest. The Spartans kept their season alive with a final score of 74-61 while the Warriors season came to a close. The next loser out game was between the Fairview Warriors and the Thunderbirds of Hayes-Lodgepole. The Thunderbirds came up short and ended their season with a 35-69 loss to the Warriors.

After a quick break in between sessions, the Sugarbeaters and Arlee Warriors took the floor for a chance at advancing to the state championship. The Arlee Warriors, who won state last year, were victorious over Chinook with a score of 72-61. Arlee advanced for the opportunity to defend their title and Chinook moved to the loser out bracket. The final game of the night featured Manhattan, who got second at state last year, against Melstone. The Eagles moved on for a rematch of last year's state championship, triumphing over the Broncs 40-36.

Early Saturday morning, Chinook faced the Fairview Warriors with the winner getting the chance at a third place trophy. The Warriors bested the Sugarbeaters 63-45. Next up was Scobey vs. Melstone; the Spartans were able to outdo the Broncs and win the game 47-42. The consolation game would be between the Scobey Spartans and the Fairview Warriors.

The Spartans and Warriors competed for the third place trophy on Saturday night at 6:30 p.m.. Wanting to end the season with a win Scobey prevailed and captured the bronze, besting Fairview 51-43. At 8:00 p.m., Manhattan Christian and Arlee took the floor for the championship game. Wanting revenge after last year's loss, the Eagles jumped to an early lead in which the Warriors could not recover. The Eagles soared to a state championship with a final score of 83-51.

The Valley Voice congratulates all the teams on a season well done and wishes them the best of luck in the future.

By: Adelle Meissner

Montana Conservation Corps

Tuesday March 5th, Madie Pardon from the Montana Conservation Corps came to Belt Public School to try and recruit middle and high schoolers to join their summer program. The Montana Conservation Corps is based out of Helena but conducts work throughout the Treasure State.

There are two summer programs one for high schoolers, fourteen to seventeen, and another for middle schoolers, twelve to fourteen. The program for high schoolers is four weeks of getting into the land. Older students have more opportunities such as creating new trails, creek clean ups, tree planting

and over all wild life conservation.



The middle school program is a six day hands on experience, where they will have the chance to clean trails, pick weeds and engage in the

natural environment of Montana.

A total of sixteen Belt students applied to be part of the program. To join, students had to fill out an application. All applications will reviewed and chosen based on a certain criteria. Selections will be announced in the coming weeks.

"We try to look at kids from different places around the state and have different interests. We want some diversity." Pardon stated. For anybody older than seventeen that wants to partake in this worthwhile program, don't worry. There is also a program for adults to join. For more info: <https://mtcorps.org/>.

By: Tori Shelton

Back Roads Pizza and Lanes

Last year, the town of Belt was heartbroken to hear that their beloved Pizza Pro was closing. The building was to be torn down but Laura Koffler came to Belt's rescue. The Pizza Pro, now known as Back Roads Pizza and Lanes, reopened on December 1st and a few things have been improved to make the place more enjoyable.

Laura Koffler wanted to update the place, including the look. The best way for her to do this was to repaint everything and buy new furniture such as tables and chairs. In hopes of making Back Roads

more fun, they added a game room and a ping pong table.

During the week, Back Roads is open eleven to one for lunches and then at four-thirty to eight-thirty. On the weekends, it is open eleven in the afternoon till ten at night. For lunch they sell six, twelve, and sixteen inch pizzas or it can be bought by the slice.

The staff at Back Roads includes: Laura Koffler, her husband Drew Koffler, and Sam Olson. Many people reserve the bowling lanes for birthday parties and are making plans to enjoy the lanes for

retirement parties as well as class reunions. Back Roads Pizza and Lanes is also willing to open any other time if someone wants a party or any other type of celebration at the bowling alley.

Koffler is thrilled about the challenges and opportunities of the new business. She also is grateful to have so many people wanting to use the bowling alley for their festivities and hopes Back Roads continues to boom. The Belt community and students are ecstatic to have the lanes rolling again.

By: Livvy Shelton

Saint Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's Day is this Sunday on the 17th. This holiday celebrates the Irish patron, Saint Patrick, whose original name was Maewyn Succat. He later changed his name to Patricius or Patrick, which means "father figure" in Latin. This change in name was made when he became a priest. Since he became a saint, this holiday has been celebrated across the world.

Maewyn Succat was born in Britain as a Roman Catholic. Sometimes during his seventeenth year, he was torn away from his family to become a slave in Ireland. He was a slave for six years before he escaped. His faith was thus insured during the turmoil he endured, so he decided that he wanted to help convert people to Christianity and in 432 A.D., he began his journey. Over his lifetime, Patricius built several schools, monasteries, and churches. One amazing legend surrounding the great saint is that Patrick stood atop a hill, Croagh Patrick, and banished all of the snakes from Ireland using only a wooden staff.

The belief in lobaircins, which means small-bodied fellows, comes from the Celtic belief in fair-

ies. Lobaircins are more commonly known as leprechauns in the modern world. Although they did not play a large role in Celtic folklore, they did, however, earn a reputation for themselves. Leprechauns are known as tricksters, whose methods were put to use in order to protect their treasures. It is said that if someone finds a leprechaun and catches it, then it has to give them their gold. Another story claims that if someone were to find the edge of a rainbow, then there will be a pot of gold beneath it. They can take this treasure from the leprechaun and it will rightfully become theirs because it takes skill to track a rainbow's end.

As an official public holiday since 1903, Saint Patrick's Day has been continuously celebrated in multiple different ways. It is celebrated the most by people wearing green and/or shamrocks. The tradition is that if any individual does not wear green, then it can result in being pinched. Shamrocks, or seamroys, represent the Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It also symbolizes the coming of spring. Although this is a holiday meant to celebrate Irish culture and

their patron saint, it is celebrated around the world. A traditional meal of corned beef and cabbage is commonly eaten in celebration.

In Montana, there are a couple of towns very well known for their St. Patrick's Day celebrations due to their large Irish populations. One of these are in Butte. They have a massive parade featuring Irish step dancers. People gorge themselves full of corned beef, cabbage, and green beverages for children and adults. Restaurants and other establishments have a plethora of music playing as people party through the night. This form of celebration has been a tradition for the past thirty five years and is likely to continue for many more. Many adults go to a local tavern or inn to celebrate the wondrous night with their friends, but many just use the holiday as an excuse to go out. Helena is another Montana city famous for turning green each year in the middle of March. As they say, everyone is at least half Irish on St. Patti's Day.

Don't forget to wear green on Sunday. The *Voice* wishes everyone a happy upcoming Saint Patrick's Day. **By: Sierra Reese**

Calendar of Events

3/15	Math Counts State
3/15 2:30 pm	Dance Classes on Stage
3/16 8:00 pm	Junior Prom—Saturday Night
3/16 11:00 pm	MS BBall @ Roy-Winifred
3/18 6:00 pm	Little Guy Wrestling Cafeteria
3/20	End of 3 rd Quarter
3/20 12:31 pm	PIR Early Out
3/20 6:00 pm	Little Guy Wrestling Cafeteria
3/21 6:00 pm	Little Guy Wrestling Cafeteria
3/22	Principal's Cup
3/22 3:00 pm	MS BBall vs Centerville
3/22 2:30 pm	Dance Classes on Stage
3/23 11:00 am	MS BBall vs Tri-Cities
3/24	Elementary Ball
3/25 6:30 pm	NHS Induction Banquet
3/26 4:00 pm	MS BBall @ Tri-Cities (Hobson)
3/28	K-2 Ski Trip
3/28 8:00 am	Student Council to CMR
3/28 12:30 pm	4 th Grade Music Trip
3/29 2:30 p.m.	Dance Classes on Stage

Chairity Auction

Tomorrow night, March 16th, the third annual Team Rogue “Chairity” Auction will take place at the Harvest Moon Saloon. Team Rogue was created after Belt third grader Rogue Roberts was diagnosed with diabetes at a very young age, and the auction is an opportunity to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The group collects chairs from local artists and craftsmen, which are auctioned, in addition to a 50/50 drawing. The organization wants to raise \$3,000 for the cause. The night begins at 7:00 p.m. with a taco bar, followed by the chair auction at 8:00 p.m., and karaoke taking place an hour later. If anyone is interested in donating a chair, they should contact Amber Roberts at (406) 788-4570 or Penni Hoe at (406) 781-1716.

Attend this event to support this great cause or donate directly. You can make a big difference in the fight against juvenile diabetes. **By: Abby Gliko**

She Shoots...She Scores!

The Elks Hoop Shoot Program has been going on for more than forty-six years and they have goals of developing and reinforcing grit in the youth of America. This year Caydence and Ellison Graham competed in the free throw contest in their age groups. Caydence competed in the 10-11 division where they shoot free throws and Ellison in the 8-9 division where they shoot a bit closer.

The two Graham girls qualified for the city competition after dominating locally. On the 8th of December at the Paris Gibson Education Center in Great Falls both girls bested their competition, as Caydence delivered fourteen out of twenty-five free throws and Elli controlled the contest making twenty out of her twenty-five attempts. The duo survived the city competition to advance.

This next competition also took place at Paris Gibson on January 12th against the winners from the Havre and Lewistown events. Cadence converted 17 for twenty-five and Elli hit eighteen of twenty-five and once again the Grahams were the dominant shooters. The pair both had the opportunity to move on to the state competition in Livingston. At state on February 2nd Cadence managed twenty-one of her twenty-five tries and Elli hit twenty-two. They both placed first at state and were two steps away from Nationals in Chicago but had to make their way through the regional competition against marksmen from North and South Dakota.

At regionals on March 9th, Cadence struggled and did not shoot her best of the year. She made 13-25 and came away with a third place finish. Ellison managed to shoot 19-25 and tied with a girl from South Dakota, so they had to shoot five more shots to settle the score. Elli made all five of her shots while the other girl only made one.

Ellie is now headed for nationals in Chicago, Illinois to battle against eleven other contestants from around the nation. She shoots on the 27th of April and friends, family, and community members are encouraged to send her an e-Greeting. When Elli gets to the competition in Chicago she will receive the book of messages for the completion. The e-Greetings need to be submitted by the 15th of April. The link is: enf.elks.org/greetings.

Congratulations both girls and good luck Elli! **By: Kolby Pimperton**

