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The Valley Voice



Issue # 18

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DECA International

The international DECA convention took place in Anaheim, California last week and the Huskies had eight individuals partake in the event. The International Career Development Conference, or ICDC, is the highest competition a DECA member can compete in. High school students from all over the world including the United States, Canada, China, and many more countries participated in the event. The kids represented the town of Belt and the state of Montana at the convention.

Under the mentorship of Keith Hoyer, Keely Drummond, Kassie

Hoyer, Kerstyn Pimperton, Hannah Schweitzer, Tori Shelton, Ali Stoker, Haley Stoker, and Joely Stoker all took part in the leadership affair. Drummond is a freshman at Belt High and she was participating in a leadership conference. She wants to become a state officer her junior year of DECA. K. Hoyer and

Pimperton were marketing the new fitness room with the school bond. They were a part of the Creative Marketing Project event. Schweitzer and Shelton were partners in their project to promote the school bond. Finally, the Stoker sisters were all partners. They were in the Innovation Business Plan event and they explained their experi-

ence of starting a business.

The business aspect of DECA is probably its most important component. Students have the opportunity to learn new skills that will benefit them in their upcoming adult years as they begin their

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Election Results

On Tuesday, May 2nd, local election officials worked into the night tabulating results from the Belt School Board of Trustees election. Ballots were mailed to district voters weeks earlier.

At stake were two seats on the five member board. Three candidates threw their hats in the ring,

including incumbents Dan Miller and Todd Vogl, and Don Crowell.

When all the votes were counted, Miller and Vogl retained their positions on the board. The final tallies were Vogl-423, Miller-386, and Crowell-101.

The two winners will serve on the board for the next three years, helping

guide policy in Belt's K-12 facility as well as the colony school.

The five member board also include Chad Stroop, Cindy McCafferty, and Jon Hepfner.

Voter turnout stood at about 48.5%, with the 596 out of 1229 eligible voters in the district exercising their right to vote.

Lady Husky Golf Team

The Lady Husky Golf team competed at Conrad, Fort Benton, and Fairfield in the past two weeks. There was a JV meet scheduled for Conrad on the 21st of April but it was cancelled due to bad weather conditions. On the 22nd, the varsity girls competed in Conrad and placed 2nd with a score of 343. Adrianna Irvine took the lead with a score of 113. Following Irvine, Hannah Schweitzer and Mo Wall shot a 115. Karlee Permann scored a 140, Tori Shelton shot a 127, Kassie Hoyer scored a 153, and Keely Drummond shot a 156.

The following week on April 28th, the lady golfers traveled to Fort Benton. The ladies had a rough day, having to golf in hail and rain but they finished strong. Kara Neal took the lead as she shot a 111 and placed 4th. Behind Neal, the Davis scored a 122, Wall shot a 130, Irvine scored 133, and Duncan tallied a 135. The rookies competed well on the course



for their 2nd-3rd time out. Karlee Permann shot a 139, Sydne Flinn scored a 140, Tori Sherwood tallied a 143, Natalie Larsen fired a 155, and Raenita Berlinger scored a 161. The ladies tallied up a team score of 374 and placed 4th.

After a day of golfing in rain and hail, the ladies had a night to rest before their meet in Fairfield the following day on April 29th. Irvine took the lead with a score of 101. Following Irvine, Neal shot a 108, Wall scored a 110, Duncan fired a 122, and Davis shot a 130. Irvine, Neal, Duncan, and Wall had PR's! The rookies didn't do so bad either as Karlee Permann almost qualified for state with a score of 121. Behind Permann, Sherwood tallied a 128, Flinn shot a 142, Larsen scored a 153, and Berlinger fired a 155. The ladies team score was a 319 and they placed 2nd.

Tomorrow morning the girls will be heading off to Chinook for their final meet of the sea-



son before state. Hannah Schweitzer, Kara Neal, Adrianna Irvine, and Mo Wall will be competing in Seeley for a Pre-State on May 9th. The following week they will be travelling to Seeley again for the State meet.



By: Kara Neal

Reminder

The 2016-2017 Spring Athletics Awards Banquet will be held on Monday, May 22nd. The banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Belt cafeteria with a potluck dinner. Chicken will be provided by the Belt Boosters. The awards ceremony will follow in the cafeteria at approximately 6:15/6:30pm.

Female athletes: please bring desserts and male athletes please bring salads.

There will also be a short Booster Club meeting following the awards. Everyone is invited to attend this celebration.

Schedule Change

Belt Public School is going through many changes in the year of 2017. Not only will the school undergo construction this summer for the facility upgrades, new classes and a different schedule will be offered at BVHS for the 2017-18 school year. Students are excited to see the physical changes of the school environment, but they're pumped up for more opportunities in the classroom.

Although many classes will be added to the school schedule, graduation requirements will stay the same and Belt Public School will continue practicing the 8 period day.

The adjustments will only affect the high school, adding: AP U.S. History, AP Chemistry, Financial Math, and Creative Writing. Students will be required to

make their schedules before the end of the school year to ensure that the schedule adjustments will be successful.

This is a great chance for students to participate in new classes, classes they couldn't take in the past, and it will give them a diverse variety of classes to choose from.

By: Morgan Davis

Track and Field

The Husky track and field team continues to improve their times and distances, hoping to meet the state qualifying standard. The end of the season is near with pre-districts starting up next week. Two weeks ago on the 22nd, the squad ventured to Centerville to compete against district competition. Last Saturday, the 2nd Belt/Fairfield Invitational Meet brought in competition from all over the state and classes B and C. On Tuesday, May 2nd, the tracksters competed in the Cascade Top 10 Meet.

At the Centerville meet, Jess Bodner competed in the 100 meter dash. He finished 2nd with a time of 12.13. Brandon Wall took 6th in the 200 meter dash with a finish of 25.98. Hunter Vogl ran the 400 meter dash and earned 3rd with a time of 57.86. Right behind him was Nolan Myrstol who crossed the line when the clock read 59.92.

Vogl earned 1st place in the 110 meter hurdles. He finished with a time of 18.06. Right behind him was teammate Adam Langston who finished with a final of 18.38. Vogl took 2nd place in the 300 meter hurdles, crossing the line when the clock read 46.04.

The distance kids represented the Huskies well throughout the day. In 800 meter run, Harry Green took 2nd followed by Keagan Stroop. They finished with times of 2:13.2 and 2:14.4, respectively. Stroop earned 1st in the mile and 2 mile with times of 5:06 and 10:59.4. Green took 3rd in the mile and 2nd in the 2 mile. He finished with finals of 5:15.6 and 11:15.8. Robbie Flinn finished 4th in the 800 with a time of 2:21.2. He took 6th in the mile with a finish of 5:50.4. Robbie Gliko racked up the points finishing 5th in the mile and 4th in the 2 mile. He had times of 5:37.4 and 11:58.

The relay teams also tried to

improve their times over the weekend. The short relay took 2nd with a time of 50.35. The long relay finished 1st, crossing the line at 3:56.56.

In the shot put, Jaren Maki took 2nd. He heaved the shot 40-04.5. He also took first in the javelin. Gavin Roberts earned 6th place in the shot with a distance of 36-05. In the discus, Antonio Heaton earned 2nd place followed by Bodner. They threw the discus 105-03 and 99-11, respectively.

In the jumping events, Heaton earned 4th place in the high jump after jumping 5-06. Bodner took 2nd in the long jump, leaping 17-10.5. He also placed 4th in the triple jump. Directly behind him was Langston and Brendan Wing. They jumped 35-11.5, 33-09.5, and 33-06.

As for the ladies, Sara Anderson took 1st in the 100 and 200 meter dash with a times of 13.47 and 28.3. Kyelie Marquis earned 3rd place in the 100 meter dash, crossing the line with a time of 13.87. Adelle Meissner was 3rd in the 200 with a time of 29.69. Grace Norstedt also finished 6th in the 200. She had a time of 31.84. Meissner and Marquis finished 2nd and 3rd in the 400 meter dash. They had finished of 1:10.16 and 1:11.69. Shelby Paulson finished 5th in the 400 when the clock read 1:18.79.

Anderson racked up the points in the hurdles, finishing first in both the 100 and 300 meter hurdles. She finished with times of 17.5 and 53.31. Brooke Schraner placed 4th in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 20.09. She took 2nd in the 300 meter hurdles with a finish of 57.27. Haley Stoker placed 6th in the 100 meter hurdles and 4th in the 300 meter hurdles with time of 22.25 and 68.86, respectively.

In the 800 meter run, Paul-

son took 1st place with a time of 2:48.4. Kolby Pimperton earned 2nd place in the mile and 1st place in the 2 mile. She finished the mile with a time of 6:42 and the 2 mile with a time of 14:23.9.

The short relay and long relay both took 1st place finishes. They had times of 57.7 and 4:49.6, respectively.

In the throwing events, Dani Urick took 1st in the javelin and 2nd in the shot put. In the jav she hucked the spear a distance of 119-02.5. She pushed the shot a distance of 34-05. Kerstyn Pimperton earned 2nd in the javelin with a throw of 105-10.5. Jordan Swanson heaved the shot 27-07, good for 6th. She was also 6th in the discus with a distance of 83-06.5. Joely Stoker placed 3rd in the discus with a distance of 88-04.

Marquis earned 1st place in the long jump with a leap of 14-04.25. Morgan Cooper took 3rd in the long jump. She had a distance of 13-10. In the triple jump, Cooper notched 1st place with a jump of 29-08.

After the meet was finished up, both the boy's and the girl's team took first place overall. It was a great meet for the tracksters to compete against district competition.

The Belt/Fairfield Invitational Meet was filled with athletes in both class B and C. In the hurdles, Langston and Vogl took 4th and 5th. They had times of 18.44 and 18.78, respectively.

In the 800 meter run, Green took 1st place with a time of 2:10.43. Keagan Stroop took 1st in the mile with a finish of 4:46.24.

In the throwing events, Maki finished 2nd in the shot with a push of 42-08. He also finished

(Cont. pg. 10)

Sports Camps

As the school year comes to an end, different summer sports camps begin. The 2017 Belt High School Lady Husky Girls' Basketball Camp is for girls entering grades 9-12. The camp starts on June 5th and ends on June 7th. The 2017 Belt Middle School Basketball Camp lasts

from June 5th-8th. Both girls and boys going into grades 6th-8th are able to compete in the activity. The 2017 Belt Elementary Basketball Camp is for girls and boys currently in grades Pre-K-4th grade. It will begin on May 22nd and end on May 24th. The last Belt camp available

this summer is the 2017 Middle School Mini Camp. This camp is for boys entering grades 6th-8th, and will last from July 17th-19th. For more information regarding these camps, visit the Belt School website at: <http://www.beltschool.com/>.

By: Kerstyn Pimperton

Soccer Registration

It's that time of year again for soccer in Great Falls. The early registration for the children born in the years from 2003-2012 was in April. Now for the month of May it's now the late registration. The registration ends on May 7th and it's \$100 per player (this fee includes a jersey). However, every player needs to supply their own shorts, shin guards, and athletic shoes or soccer cleats (not

toe cleats).

The players that are not registered with AYSO-GF since 2013 must provide proof of age by scanning and uploading a copy of their birth certificate during registration. The games will be taking place from June 13th through July 27th of this year. The American Youth Soccer Organization of Great Falls is not only looking for players, but

also for coaches.

If anyone would like to be a coach or volunteer in another way, contact the Regional Commissioner for more information. If anyone needs more information about signing up their children, they can find more information at www.aysogf.com or the Facebook page, AysoRegion674GF.

By: Kara Neal

VE Day

Victory in Europe Day originated on May 8th, 1945, when the Allies of WWII claimed victory of the Nazi Germany. Europe had finally accepted the German surrender, and celebrations swept across the world. From Moscow, Russia to Los Angeles, California, citizens flooded the streets in celebration and happiness. King George IV, Queen Elizabeth, and the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, oversaw the celebrating crowd from the palace balco-

ny as Princess Elizabeth and her sister, Margaret, roamed the streets with the crowd. The event also took place on Harry S. Truman's 61st birthday, which made his birthday even more significant.

Victory in Europe Day was not only crucial to the world in 1945, but it directly effects modern day society. Over 75 million people, ranging from citizens, soldiers, sailors, and victims of the Holocaust, were killed during the Sec-

ond World War. Of those 75 million, approximately 600,000+, were American soldiers. Millions of people gave their lives to ensure that Europe, the U.S., and countries around the world could live in peace.

Today, the Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on April 23-24th, representing the last liberations, and VE Day is celebrated on May 8th.

By: Morgan Davis

Academic Awards Assembly

The school year is coming to an end and that means the Academic Awards Assembly is fast approaching. For anyone who is not sure what the Academic Awards Assembly is, it is an assembly where students in grades K-12th that performed/reached some type of academic achievement will be recognized for their hard work. Some examples of these

awards are like the perfect attendance award. This award is rewarded to any student that managed to make it to school each and every single day. There are also multiple reading awards, awards for the science fair, DECA type awards, multiple honors awards, the CMR essay contest award, a variety of math awards, music awards, and many

others. This upcoming Academic Awards assembly will be taking place on the 15th of May around 8:30 a.m. All parents are welcome to attend the assembly if they wish to. This is the perfect way to recognize students for their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments all year round.

By: Abby Marchington

Spanish Fashion Show– Ole

Foreign languages can be a challenge for most people, especially high school students, but Mrs. Seniorita Hiatt at Belt Public School is very skilled in the Spanish language and culture. Seniorita Hiatt recognizes how difficult it can be to become familiar with the differences between English and Spanish, so she strives to work with a variety of activities and hands-on projects to help with comprehension. The Spanish Fashion

Show was an opportunity for students to explore the Spanish culture, and this aided students with techniques used to apply the dialect and culture to their personal work.

This year, 15 Spanish I students, ranging from seniors to sophomores and freshmen, culminated their clothing unit with a fashion show. Seniorita Hiatt partnered students up, and assigned them to accumulate an eccentric outfit. The requirements were: the clothing had

to consist of at least 4 ‘regular’ garments and 4 accessories, and the students had a 2 day grace period to prepare their outfits and classwork. The students prepared written scripts that described their partner’s garb, or clothing, by using vocabulary, phrases, and grammatical concepts from the unit of study they were in. It was a great way to review the chapter, and they had a fun time with the hands-on activity.

By: Morgan Davis

COT Field Trip

This year, all high school kids taking a shop class got the opportunity to travel to Great Falls to the Montana State University College of Technology. Belt’s very own shop teacher Mr. Zuhoski was the field trip’s supervisor and coordinator with the COT. The students departed from the school the morning of May 1st directly following morning announcements and returned before lunch. At the college the students visited different class rooms and shops in order to see if anything pulled their interest and to educate them on

the importance of this industry.

This trip was especially beneficial to the seniors this year because it’s a great way for them to hone in on what kind of major they would like to pursue after graduation if shop is a favorite class.

A couple seniors this year went on the excursion and thought that the trip was an overall success. Emily Langston thought that “The trip was very interesting and it was neat that the people at the college were offering themselves as resources for high schoolers.” Jess

Bodner stated that he agreed with Langston and that “We learned a lot about college and the different majors and programs that MSU COT can offer.” Lastly, Jason Metrione thought that “The trip was alright. I think it was super beneficial for kids who want or are interested in the industry.” The field trip was an overall beneficial learning instrument for all students and they all enjoyed the time at the college.

By: Isabelle Newman

Craig Cummings Tournament

Two weeks ago, the annual Craig Cummings Co-Ed Tournament took place in Belt and Highwood. The competition began on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and a 16 team, double elimination bracket attracted teams from all over the state. Craig Cummings was a dedicated teacher, coach, and administrator at Belt High. After passing away in 2011, Cummings left a long time legacy in the Valley. Therefore, the Belt Athletic Hall of Fame is named in his honor. Tanner Cummings, his oldest son, organized the event in hopes to continue the tournament in his father’s name.

On Sunday, a champion was

crowned in a competition between the young and the has-beens. In other words, Bad News Bears consisted of mostly Rocky freshman basketball players, whereas the Harvest Moon team had more experience on the hardwood. Bad News Bears consisted of three Belt representatives including: Koltin Haugrose, Addy Martin, and Kerstyn Pimpton. Unfortunately for the Beltians, they lost to the most experienced team by a score of 98-78.

The tournament raised a large amount of money from entry fees and t-shirt sales. This money will go towards tournament expenses, the hall of fame plaques, and a

\$500 scholarship that will go to a Belt senior. This competition was a great way to unite the state of Montana over the common bond of basketball. All teams had a blast throughout the course of the weekend and couldn’t be happier to be part of such a great cause. The t-shirt sales and entry fees aided costs for future tournaments and hall of fame plaques not just because it was for a good cause but because of Craig Cummings. Tanner Cummings hopes to continue the tournament throughout the coming years in honor of his father.

By: Kerstyn Pimpton

Scotland

Due to the theatre recently going under full construction, the Belt Valley actors and actresses have been granted the permission by Mr. Nordquist (Belt's music teacher) to practice their performance in the music room. This was a very lucky turn of events for the theatre considering that the music room has nice acoustics.

Along with switching practice areas, the actors and actresses now have two new recruits that will be joining them nearing July. The first is Hannah Palmer who attends school in Bozeman. She was very ecstatic to be joining the Belt kids on their trip to Scotland. Lucky for her she got one of the main characters named Miranda who is the daughter of Prospero "the master of a full parcel". Daniel Westlake was the second to join the group of actor(s)/actresses. He has taken over the part of "The Noble Neapolitan Gonzolo". Since the new actor and actress will be joining soon, the double casted actresses, Mo Wall and Kali Duncan, will get the chance

to focus on a single character .

Aside from all of the changes, the performers along with some supporters have been doing a variety of clever ideas to fundraise money for the upcoming trip to Scotland. At the moment the actors and actresses are working on selling raffle tickets that are \$1 per ticket or \$5 for six tickets. The drawing will be June 19th. If anyone is considering buying a raffle ticket the prizes are: Pampered chef supplies, a Queen sized quilt, a Scroll saw wall hanger, and plenty more. Along with the group funding, Belt's very own Hezekiah Langston has been helping by doing one pushup per dollar donated.

Overall, the fundraising and help from Belt community has been a tremendous help in getting the troupe to Scotland. Thank you to everyone who has been helping the kids make their trip to the Annual Fringe Festival in Scotland this summer.

By: Abby Marchington

Belt on the Fringe Edinburgh 2017

Raffle Fundraiser-\$20 per ticket

Great Prizes!!!

Kimber 30-06

Vintage 12 gauge shotgun

Trout Fishing Package

Handmade Gun Sling

Tickets and additional info:

Sandra Irvine: 788-5242

Tiffany Vermeland: 781-4002

Tickets are also available at the Harvest Moon Saloon, Belt, MT
Drawing Date: June 19th

*Need not be present to win.

Student Senate

On Wednesday, April 26th, Belt's very own Student Senate took a field trip to Great Falls in order to attend a regional student senate meeting at Great Falls High. The trip lasted from 9 a.m. to 3 in the afternoon and the kids were ecstatic to embark on this inspirational journey.

At Great Falls High the students were able to express their concerns about the education system in Montana as well as the rest of the country. The officers in attendance for this field trip were Emily Langston, Adrianna Irvine, Isabelle Newman, Dani Urick, Elyse Adams, Kolby Pimperton, and Andrew Stice. All the students were in a unanimous decision that the best part of the excursion was listening to the speaker Joe

Fingerhut.

Fingerhut was a motivational speaker to come and convince this student senate region to change their mind set. In this day and age, kids are prone to saying "I can't", or "I wasn't meant to do this", or "I can't financially make it happen". Fingerhut was able to change all of those pessimistic outlooks into an optimistic one: "How can I?" He made it very clear that if somebody has a dream or a goal that they are intent and determined to pursue but have a pessimistic outlook, it's not going to happen. Having an optimistic view puts those thoughts into action and soon reality.

Fingerhut dived into the topic of travelling. Fingerhut has visit-

ed 30 countries in his life time and he is only in his late twenties. He is able to do this with an additional wife and two kids, an amazing accomplishment. Fingerhut wanted to let all the children know that no matter what and how hard life swings at oneself, always be prepared to swing back twice as hard.

If there are any questions about the field trip, talk to Mrs. Tillman at Belt School or any of the students that were present. Any and all of them would be able to explain the inspiration that was put into their minds and hearts during Fingerhut's motivational speech.

By: Isabelle Newman

Dance Competition

Calendar of Events

Darcy Darlington's School of Dance competed in the Dance Sports competition of the Big Sky State Games at Skyview High School in Billings on Saturday, April 22nd. The competition started early as 7:30 a.m. The Belt Valley dancers had three group dances. The lyrical group dance scored a silver, the jazz group number also received a silver, and the tap dance received a gold metal. The groups have to score a specific number to receive those metals. A bronze metal is a score of 199 and below, a silver is from a 200-249, and a gold is from a 250-300. The little ones who participated in the group dances were: Ariana Bergos, June Bock, Olivia Knudson, Rogue Roberts, Sidney Paulson, and Addison Urick. The soloists Rogue, Sidney, and Olivia all took Silver in their amazing dances. The little ones did amazing for their first competition and are looking forward to their next one.

The little ones weren't the only ones who competed from the Belt School. Charity Highfill, Danika Lords, Madisyn Lords, Miya Anderson,

and Taryn Diekhans (from Highwood). Some of these ladies danced on April 22nd and the 23rd. Charity Highfill performed two solos and scored silvers on both her solos. Taryn Diekhans also danced two solos and received silver on the both of them. The tap, jazz, and lyrical dances all receive silver metals. These ladies danced astonishing for the audience and judges.

Overall, the competition was a success from the children's beautiful dances thanks to Darcy Darlington's hard work and dedication to the team. Darlington is hoping to continue going to competitions to show the girls outstanding dance talents.

By: Kara Neal



- May 5th-Pre-District Track Meet and Schwans in the building @Belt Public School
- May 6th-Golf Meet @Chinook, Dance Camp @9:00 a.m., and MS Track Meet @Centerville
- May 8th-Lewis and Clark Caverns Field Trip Grades 4-5th, National Guard Obstacle Course, and Golf Meet @Seeley Lake (Pre-State)
- May 9th-Spanish field Trip and Board of Trustees
- May 10th-Senior Dinner @St. Marks and Buffalo Jump Grade 3rd
- May 11th-IEFA Event Day @Belt Public School Library and 5-12th Grade Concert
- May 17th-Retirement Party For Pete and Dave (bus drivers)
- May 18th- Drivers Ed Parent Meeting @Belt Public School (7:00 pm)
- May 21st- High School Graduation Day
- May 25th- 8th Grade Graduation
- Friendly Reminder: High School- 10 Days Left of School, 8th Grade- 14 Days Left, Lastly Everyone Else has 15 Days Left.

There are multiple reasons why people drink and drive. They believe that they aren't as drunk as they really are. They feel confident that even if they are drunk they are a pro at driving and will make it home with no difficulties. However, a big reason they drink and drive is that they are too ashamed or embarrassed to call someone for a ride home. They do not realize that when they drink and drive, they are putting multiple lives in danger, including their own. Around a third or more of these people end up dead because of these lies/reasons they tell themselves.

For anyone who thinks that it is okay to drink and drive take a long hard look at the statistics of how many people die from making this small little mistake.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

This message brought to you by your
Cascade DUI Task Force



City Hall

The Town of Belt gathered together for their second meeting of April on the 19th at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were: Mayor Wells, Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling, project engineer Idaho Trenberth, Alderman Annie Porter, Paul Heikkila, Glen Enderson, and Sally Miller. The members of City Hall started off the meeting talking about some old business as Idaho Trenberth gave a Sewer Project update. Trenberth reported that plans and specs would be submitted to the DEQ Friday to avoid fines. He also noted that there will be no tax rate increase to support the purchase of the sewer project land.

Moments after Trenberth discussion of the sewer project, the council deliberated on the progress on the Dennis Stack Ball Fields project.

The council addressed the idea of having the Belt public works employees remove weeds and growth from the infields of the baseball fields. A unanimous decision was made to have the public works employees begin clearing vegetation from both of the infields immediately. The members of the council decided the Town of Belt would also seed areas, fertilize, and provide general upkeep on the grounds of both of the baseball fields.

In new business, the council deliberated on the possibilities and arrangements that would need to be made with respect to a cash hay lease on the Milos property. They decided to begin drafting a proposal so that it would be ready to implement as soon as the land deal closes.

Towards the end of the meeting, Alderman Heikkila asked if the Town of Belt could get Public Works to repair the broken bench in the BBQ pit in Castner Park. He also added that the benches and table tops need to be painted as well as the backstops at the horse shoe pit. There was an unanimous agreement to have these three items completed.

The members of City Hall continue to improve the Town of Belt and makes more goals in every meeting. There were more events and important items discussed in the meeting on May 3rd, which will be distributed in the next issue of the Valley Voice.

By: Kara Neal

Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo, or the 5th of May, commemorates the victory of the Battle of Puebla, which took place during the Franco-Mexican war of 1861-67. While France, Britain, and Spain originally demanded repayment of the debt Mexico, President Benito Juarez, owed them, France saw an opportunity to build an empire out of the Mexican territory.

General Charles Latrille de Lorencez and 6,000 French troops marched to attack Puebla de Los Angeles, but Juarez managed to rally 2,000 loyal indigenous Mexicans and those of mixed ancestry. The outnumbered Mexicans were led by General Ignacio Zaragoza, who secured Puebla and prepared his men for French assault. The battle resulted in the French retreat, with 500 casualties, standing against the Mexicans, who had lost less than 100 men. While the Battle of Puebla was not a strategic win against the French Ar-

my, the symbolic victory gave the Mexican government morale and hope. Later on in the year, the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian, emperor of Mexico by Napoleon's command, was captured and executed by Juarez's troops.



Although the Franco-Mexican war ended in 1867 as a French Victory, many people celebrate Cinco de Mayo and the Battle of Puebla due to its significance at the time. The battle gave Mexican gov-

ernment, troops, and citizens hope in their time of dismay, debt, and ruins, and people still celebrate the victory today. In Mexico, many areas take part in the celebration, but it is mainly observed in the state of Puebla, where Zaragoza's victory originally occurred.

Military parades, recreations of the actual battle, and other festive events take place in celebration, but it isn't a federal holiday. In the United States, Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage, but awareness was raised by Mexicans who identified with the victory in the 1960s. Today, celebrations include: parades, parties, mariachi music, Mexican folk dancing, and traditional foods are served, especially in the largest cities such as Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston.

By: Morgan Davis

Testing Skills

Testing and taking exams can be very nerve racking and stressful for many students. While trying to juggle daily assignments, practice, and everyday life, students often have a difficult time finding a window for homework and studying. Although finals are a challenging part of the curriculum, students can be successful by managing their time and work in an efficient manner.

One of the biggest issues students face when preparing for exams, finals, or even a simple test is tracking down previous assignments and studying notes. The best way to avoid scrambling to find these resources that aid in studying, is to purchase a folder or notebook with dividers for each individual class. This allows a student to keep their notes organized while also keeping homework and

handouts neat, tidy, and accessible.

Prioritizing school work can also be a challenge for students. Classes, especially in high school, will not wait for the presence of students. If a student is absent, they're responsible and required to collect and complete the work they missed, along with the homework assigned the day of their return. Even when students are present, it is crucial to manage their time wisely, ensuring that they applied their best effort, and so the work is handed in on time.

Organizing notes and homework, and managing time and work will make prepping and studying for finals much more efficient. Not only will a student be able to create quick, clear study guides, they will also be able to study more because

they aren't spending their valuable time searching for lost work and notes. This procedure will also guarantee that students won't be cramming for tests.

Cram and flush is the most ineffective way of learning not only because the human brain can only remember so much, but also because the student does not process and remember the information for the long term.

Senior finals will take place May 15-19th, and they will be on a regular class schedule. The following week, the remainder of the high school will endure semester finals on a block schedule. The testing will be split into two days, consisting of the odd classes on Tuesday and the even classes on Wednesday.

By: Morgan Davis

Notifications

Invitation For All

The Montclair United Methodist Church of Belt located at 200, 2nd Avenue South, is open to serve the community of Belt and surrounding areas as it has been for decades.

Sunday school is at 8:15 a.m. and Worship Service is at 9 a.m. on Sunday.

The church bells ring through the valley at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning to announce and welcome anyone who desires to attend worship service.

Thank You

A recent gathering was held to commemorate Jim Dawson's retirement from the Belt Ambulance Service. Jim passed along his appreciation for the notice, "To all who attended and sent cards for my retirement part from the Belt Ambulance Service, I appreciate your thoughtfulness and friendship. It was a blessing

to serve the community during my 38 years with the ambulance crew."

May Dates to Remember

As the school year nears its end, several important events loom on the horizon. In addition to interscholastic activities like district, divisional and state track and state golf, many other occasions are worth marking on the calendar.

On Monday, May 15th at 8:30 a.m. the school will host its annual Academic Awards ceremony in the school gymnasium. Students will receive much deserved recognition for their achievements in the classroom. Recipients includes elementary, middle school, and high school students. The public is invited to attend this celebration of excellence.

This coming Tuesday evening, Belt High seniors who have completed the Honors Program will

present their academic portfolios to the school administration in the Belt School Library. These presentations are the culmination of three years of advanced course work for which these students will receive recognition.

A bit farther down the road, commencement exercises for the graduating class of 2017 will take place in the Belt Gymnasium on Sunday, May 21st. Twenty Belt seniors will perform their final duties as Belt students when they receive their diplomas. The start time is 2:00p.m.

Also taking a step toward their future, Belt's 8th grade class will say goodbye to middle school with a graduation ceremony that begins at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 25th.

School is almost out, but there is still much to do before May gives to June.

Track and Field *(Cont.)*

2nd in the discus. He threw the discus a distance of 137-09. Finally, in the javelin, he launched the spear 154-04, good for 3rd place.

In the girls' sprints, Anderson finished 6th in the 200 meter dash when the clock read 28.35. She also took 3rd in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 17.4. In the 300 meter hurdles, Anderson finished 1st with a time of 49.41.

In the throwing events, Urick finished 4th in the shot. She finished with a distance of 32-05.5. She also took 2nd in the javelin with a heave of 125-07.

That concluded the Belt/Fairfield Invitational Meet. The boy's team took 3rd place overall while the ladies took 8th.

The Cascade Top 10 Meet took place last Tuesday. Tracksters who have one of the top 10 fastest times, longest jumps, or farthest distances in their event participate in the meet. The Huskies had multiple athletes who made the cut.

In the 110 meter hurdles, Langston finished 5th with a time of 17.97. As for the ladies, Anderson

competed in the 200 meter dash. She took 5th place with a time of 27.6. She also ran in both of the hurdle races. In the 100 meter hurdles, Anderson finished with a time of 16.33, good for 2nd. With a finish of 48.37, Anderson took home the blue ribbon.

In the distance running events, Green finished 6th in the 800 when the clock read 2:11.46. Green also competed in the mile finishing 4th with a time of 4:54.56. Stroop participated in the mile and two mile. He placed 2nd in both with times of 4:44.47 and 10:24.92. Gliko earned 5th in the 2 mile with a time of 11:21.42. Kol. Pimperton ran the 2 mile for the ladies. She finished with a time of 13:39.82, earning 4th place.

The boys' long relay team crossed the line in 6th place with a time of 3:49.83.

In the throwing events for the boys, Maki placed in all three. In the shot put with a distance of 42-04, Maki placed 5th. With a throw of 142-07, Maki earned 2nd place in the discus. Finally, in the javelin, Maki hucked the jav 160-05 to earn 3rd. On the ladies side, Urick had herself a great day on the field. She broke her previous javelin record of 130-07 with a throw of 140-08.25, taking 1st place. She also participated in the shot put and with a final of 32-10, Urick took 4th. Ker. Pimperton threw the javelin a distance of 108-07 feet to earn 4th place.

Bodner took 6th in the triple jump with a distance of 36-09. In the girls' triple jump, Cooper placed 5th with a leap of 31-03.25.

This concluded the Cascade Top 10 Meet. On Thursday, the freshman and sophomores competed in another JV meet against competition their age. Yesterday, the track and field athletes competed in the 8/10 C Preview Meet, preparing them for districts and divisionals.

Their next meet will be on May 12th at Memorila Stadium in Great Falls for the District 8C Meet.

By: Kerstyn Pimperton



DECA *(Cont.)*

lives. Senior K. Hoyer claims, "DECA is an amazing experience to expand your knowledge of the various cultures of the world and to enhance your public speaking and interviewing skills. DECA is a great opportunity to meet the future politicians, CEO's, and other corporate leaders of tomorrow's world." The students not only enjoyed the business and competitive characteristics of DECA, but also the amusing fea-

tures California has to offer. The members were able to voyage to Disneyland and California Adventure right in Anaheim. Only a bus trip away, Universal Studios offered all DECA members "A Day at Universal" where they could ride rides and take a tour of all the studios. Finally, the squad was able to see the Pacific Ocean where they could go swimming and shopping right on the shoreline. DECA is a great way

to expand a student's horizons of the professional world. The skills they learn from DECA will give them a step up as they begin their search for a job and public speaking. Mrs. Jessica Tillman will be taking over DECA at Belt School in the following year. It doesn't take much to become involved in this leadership program at the school.

By: Kerstyn Pimperton

Special Olympics

The 2017 Special Olympics was hosted by the Great Falls Memorial Stadium on April 20th, 2017, and 4 participants competed for the Belt team.



Two competitors from Belt, 1 representing High Wood, and 1 traveling from Shelby were the students representing Belt Public

Schools. The Special Olympics allows students to compete against

other students that are in the same age range and share the same abilities, and it's a great way for these students to feel accomplished through their achievements.

Madisyn Lords and James Leitheiser were the two Belt students who attended the event to represent BVHS. The two students competed in events such as: 50 m dash, turbo javelin, softball throw, and standing long jump. While everyone receives a ribbon, Madisyn placed 1st in both the Turbo Javelin and Standing Long Jump, and James ranked 1st in both the Standing Long Jump and Softball Throw. While Madisyn held a solid 2nd

place in the 50 m Dash, James took home the first place trophy for his division.



Both individuals performed satisfactorily and made Belt Public School proud. The Valley Voice is excited to report for next year's event, too.

By: Morgan Davis

Middle School Mass Band

The halls are quiet at Belt Public Schools on May 3rd, as the Middle School traveled to Cascade for the Middle School Mass Band event. Accompanied by Mr. Nordquist, the students departed, bright and early on the Husky Bus at 7:30 a.m. The Belt kids joined musicians from Cascade and Ulm for a day packed full of tunes.

Under the direction of Mr. Gabriel Nordquist, and chaperoned by Mrs. Debbie Vogt, all but 12 7th and 8th graders made the journey to the music quest. They rehearsed throughout the morning and afternoon, and conducted a concert at 3:00 p.m.

Belt middle school practiced for one month before combing as a



Mass Band with Alm and Cascade. Students were divided into groups based on grade level, and each group performed different pieces individually. The 6th grade performed "T Rex," "Jus Plain Blues," and "Magnificent Seven," while the Junior High presented "Mozart

Mix," "Hogan's Hero's March," and "Tempest."


The trip was a great success, and many students returned with a different perspective on music and a great

deal of positive feedback. Tara Hedstrom, a 6th grader involved told reporters, "It was so much fun. It was awesome playing with different kids because we learned that we were actually better than them, and it allowed us to help them better their skills."

Mr. Nordquist also added that students enjoyed working with new peers, and it was a fun experience for everyone. Not only was he able to help students from other schools, but his students were given the opportunity to see other music teacher's perspectives as well.

By: Morgan Davis



Games/ Puzzles	Inspirational Quotes
<p data-bbox="102 178 787 277">Clothing Articles: Who wore this hat while Float Building during homecoming week? (Hint: they are a part of this years graduating class.)</p>  <p data-bbox="102 903 641 934">Answer to last week's game: Harry Green</p>	<p data-bbox="816 178 1518 378">This week, The Valley Voice is going to focus on diversity. Diversity is something that every person should learn about and respect. It is variety, the pieces of somebody that make them different from another person. With this in mind, nobody is the same which makes it easier to be prideful in one's own uniqueness.</p> <p data-bbox="816 415 1502 546">“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”- Martin Luther King Jr.</p> <p data-bbox="816 583 1518 682">“We are all different, which is great because we are all unique. Without diversity life would be very boring.”- Catherine Pulsifer</p> <p data-bbox="816 720 1469 787">“Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common. Celebrate it every day.”- Author Unknown</p> <p data-bbox="816 825 1502 982">Being unique, different, and diverse isn't very common to see nowadays, so embrace what makes one stand out from others. Accepting diversity can open horizons that were never imagined possible, so make the most out of what's been given.</p>

Valley Voice
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