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Belt Public Schools



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Graduation Plans

High school graduation is very important and meaningful to seniors and their families. With the Covid-19 outbreak there have been several concerns about how the event will look. It will still be taking place on May 17th at 2:00 pm as originally planned.

Weather permitting, the ceremony will take place on Belt's football field. This setting will allow more spectators to attend than would be allowed inside the gym. If the weather is bad then the ceremony will be moved into the gym. Less seating would be available in this situation.

The ceremony will be broadcasted on the NFHS Network for free for anyone who is unable to attend.

This year's Commencement speaker is Suzy Maki. Shelby Paulson will speak as valedictorian and Adelle Meissner will deliver the salutatory address.

The seniors have spent twelve years to this point studying and preparing for the moment where they are finally done with high school and their achievements deserve to be recognized. Belt School realizes this and is trying their best to make this as traditional as they can for the graduates. Following graduation, a parade will be held. The seniors will each ride in the back of their vehicle as community and family members congratulate them on this milestone.

Good luck to the graduating class of 2020 as they embark on their next adventure into adulthood.

By: Sierra Reese



Fire Season Begins

On April 26th a call came in to the Belt Rural Fire Department for a wildfire at 55 Pinewood Lane, Belt Montana. Fifteen crew members responded with 3 brush trucks, 3 water tenders, a side by side ATV, and a command vehicle to battle the blazes on the windy afternoon.

A water tender and a hand crew came from Malmstrom Fire Fighters Association to provide additional help. The fire charred just over four acres of brush, grass, and timber. Fire Chief Travis Johnson states that

the fire is of undetermined and accidental cause.

The Belt Rural Fire Department is always looking for volunteers, though the department would prefer volunteers 18 years of age or older.

At this time the organization has a good number of junior firefighters. To be a part of this cadre, contact Travis Johnson at (406) 788-5202, contact the fire department at (406) 277-4151, or message Belt Rural Fire Department through messenger on Facebook!

By: Haley Hoerner

Semester Finals

As this school year comes to an end, students begin to prepare for their semester exams. Seniors will take their finals on May 13th and 14th. Grades 9-11 will take them on May 19th and 20th. Students will be given the option to take the exams at the school.

These exams must be at least ten percent of the student's semester grade. They need to cover

all of the material learned during that semester and have to have a reading/writing section. This component needs to be three hundred words or more.

Due to distance learning, students that have earned an A (93%+) for their semester grade in any class will be exempt from that final. If an A- or less is earned then they will be required to take the ex-

ams as regularly scheduled.

The students' hard work is paying off. Although finals can be stressful, it will be a chance for many of the kids to see each other and their teachers after this long period of isolation. The *Valley Voice* would like to wish all high school students luck as they prepare for finals.

By: Sierra Reese

School Entrance by Appointment

After careful consideration and respect for Governor Bullock's order, Belt School decided to allow students to make appointments with their teachers for in-person instruction starting May 7th.

Student appointments will be under the circumspection of their teachers and are required to follow safety protocols, such as buzzing in at the main entrance and waiting to be screened for possible illness.

Students will not be allowed

in the building if within the last 14 days students have: traveled out-of-state, had a sore throat, felt sick/tired, had a fever of 100.4 or greater, experienced respiratory symptoms, or if a student has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Both students and teachers are required to follow strict social distancing rules in order to prevent illness.

Furthermore, student ap-

pointments are recommended to last no longer than one class period.

Students needing to meet with multiple teachers are recommended to stay in the same classroom, with teachers rotating when practical.

In conclusion, face to face educational opportunities are now available for interested students. Call the school for more information or to set up an appointment. 277-3351 **By: Haley Hoerner**

Seniors Sign

The 2019-2020 school year is rounding out to an end, and some of the seniors are signing up to continue their athletic careers. A few of these seniors are Andrew Stice, Abby Gliko, Brooke Schraner, Kolby Pimperton, Shelby Paulson, and Karlee Permann.

Stice decided to sign with University of Montana because he wanted to continue his passion for the sport of cheering. He was won over by UM because it isn't too far from home. This means that he can visit his family without travelling a long distance. He is looking forward to cheering for the Grizzlies this upcoming year.

Gliko signed with Miles City Community College because she wanted to continue to play the sport she loves, volleyball. She was

also persuaded by the time she spent at Miles City Community College. Lastly, Gliko likes the atmosphere of the school, and is looking forward to attending MCC.

Schraner signed with Dawson Community College. She is not ready to quit the game of basketball, and DCC offered Schraner a full-ride scholarship. She also is fond of the coach, and is ready to start school next year.

Pimperton, just like her teammate Schraner, was not ready to put her Kobe's back on the shelf and was looking for an opportunity to play basketball. She signed with North Idaho College on a basketball scholarship and is super excited to continue to play the game she loves.

Paulson was no different than the aforementioned basketball

lovers and wanted to further her career as a basketball player as well. Shelby signed with Sheridan College in Wyoming and looks forward to playing alongside former teammate Morgan Cooper.

Permann also played basketball but her passion lies in golf. She signed with the University of Providence in Great Falls on a golf scholarship. Permann is excited to see how different college golf will be and looks forward to both college and continuing the game.

These are just a few of the seniors who signed with colleges. Many other seniors will continue their athletic careers beyond the walls of Belt High and *The Valley Voice* wishes them the best of luck. These seniors may be leaving Belt, but they aren't quite ready to leave athletics. **By: Isaac Maki**

Following Coronavirus Precautions

This week for “Following Guidelines” a group of students that go to Belt School answered questions regarding the coronavirus. More specifically how they are following the guidelines such as the six foot rule, washing hands, and not hanging out with people.

These students were also asked about how they are going about the coronavirus and what they are doing to keep themselves busy. It's been a hard thing for everyone and these students expressed the hardest things they have had to go through due to the coronavirus and since it started.

Lastly they were asked to share their own thoughts on how they think others are following precautions and guidelines. They shared their opinions on whether or not these precautions are beneficial and actually working as well.

To have a little background of what the coronavirus precautions are, here is a list: stay home as much as you can, keep a safe distance, wash hands often, cover cough, if sick call ahead. These precautions are here to have the public follow and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Now, see how well these precautions are being followed and how they are effective.

Staying at home all day can get pretty tiring at times and students are getting restless, but doing things to help keep their minds off of boredom is a good way to pass the time.

Here are some ways the Belt students have been keeping themselves busy. “To keep myself busy I've been going outside a lot”, “I have been working a lot”, “to keep busy in quarantine I have been going to brandings, riding, roping, and doing various jobs on the ranch. Plus finishing all of my homework”.

These students are in a tough time right now without being able to see friends and staying at home but here are some things that they have been struggling with.

“My biggest struggle is not being able to participate in basketball nor track”, “the biggest struggles with the coronavirus is not being able to go out and do what you want or need to get things done”, “my biggest struggles with the quarantine are not being in school/track and not seeing my friends. I feel like I'm not learning as much as I would if I was physically at the school and I miss people in general”. “I have had a hard time with keeping up with my homework and it's hard to do it at home. The other thing that is hard is that a lot of activities and big events I was really looking forward to have been cancelled”.

When asked if they are following the guidelines and precautions they replied “I haven't hung out with anyone, so I guess I'm following the rules”, “I am paying attention to the rules by and staying 6 feet apart while also not going

around people who are not my family”, “I haven't really gone to town at all, and I am focusing on making sure I am washing my hands. I have hungout with a couple of my friends but no more than four”, “I have been paying attention to the rules, but I only follow them in the city. I have been hanging out with friends and going to brandings where we don't follow the rules, but honestly I don't think it is a big deal here. If I was in a city or somewhere with a lot of cases I would be more observant”.

Lastly, how these students think the guidelines and precautions are working and are effective at stopping the coronavirus or at least slowing the spread.

“I think that the guidelines are effective in bigger cities but not where we live”. “I think the guidelines have been effective in limiting the amount of people affected by the coronavirus”. “I do not think the six foot guideline is necessary, but I think that quarantine effectively helped prevent the spread of the virus”. “I think that it is an honest effort and is effective in some ways.”

Good job to all the Belt School students who are going through the coronavirus and keeping safe. Hopefully, these students will be able to see their friends sooner than later. Don't forget to wash your hands, and most importantly stay safe.

By: Gentry Johnson

Winter Sports Banquet

With Coronavirus still circling around, the winter sports celebration has yet to be ironed out.

Right now the annual banquet is planned for May 18th and the school hopes to be able to recognize the student athletes that have competed in sports throughout the winter.

Because of the status of the Coronavirus, the time and place of the event or still up in the air; however, Belt High is committed to honoring the athletes and all the hard work and dedication they put into their seasons.

While the school's administration is trying their best to make

this decision, there are a lot of other factors to consider in order to keep everyone who is involved healthy and safe.

The *Valley Voice* will continue to keep readers apprised of the planning and scheduling of the banquet.

By: Memphis Black

DECA Funds

All throughout the year DECA students have fundraised money for their trip to ICDC (national DECA). Unfortunately, the trip to Nashville, Tennessee was cancelled due to Covid-19. Four seniors were supposed to go on the trip this year.

Throughout the school year DECA has hosted many fundraisers. They sold milkshakes at school sporting events, raffle tickets, stickers, and more. They also hosted the Craft Show this year. Several of these fundraising activities will be used again next year.

All airline tickets for Belt DECA's national trip were purchased before the pandemic struck. United Airlines issued vouchers for the tickets that can be used within one year of the original purchase. The flights must be booked by the end of the 2020 calendar year. There could be changes to this and Covid-19 continues to change.

The ICDC qualifying seniors that raised more funds than the cost of the airline ticket received a scholarship. This amount depends on how much that senior fundraised throughout the school year.

Any funds raised by juniors and underclassmen over the cost of an airline ticket will remain in the DECA account and will be put towards next year's ICDC conference.

The scholarship will help reward the seniors' hard work throughout the year. This is a positive highlight for a less than ideal situation.

Good luck to all future and returning DECA members on their future endeavors, in DECA or otherwise.

By Sierra Reese

Teacher's Opinions on Distance Learning

Each of Belt's teachers have a different point of view on distant learning. Because of the increase in distant learning over the past few months teachers have developed a variety of opinions.

Ms. Mollie Rose has had a difficult time teaching from a distance because the reason she loves her job is because she gets to interact directly with students.

Even though she gets to communicate with her students on a regular basis, she misses getting to see them in person daily.

Rose's curriculum has also been entirely changed. Her usual one-on-one classes have been completely flipped upside down.

Mrs. Twyla Jones describes

teaching from a distance as a new challenge. She states, "Knowing what to teach during a google meet was hard to start."

Organization has also become a strong factor in her teaching. She will spend more time each day correcting, planning, and preparing packets. However, she also says that she gets to spend more time learning about her students when they get on meets early. Her students still make Jones smile every day.

Mrs. Taylor Mavrinc struggles with teaching her hands-on Art classes in a distance environment. However, she also realizes that she can overcome this struggle by being creative.

The biggest change in her class is the delivery process, and that is the only part of her curriculum that has had a drastic change. Lastly, Mavrinc has to stay a week ahead, so that she can work individually with students if they start to struggle.

The teachers of Belt all enjoy seeing their pupils. This means that they don't enjoy distance learning as much, but they still love the interaction with their students.

These teachers and staff at the school are working hard through this challenging time and encourage all students to continue to work hard and finish the academic year in strong fashion.

By: Isaac Maki

It's Real: College Students and Mental Health

Many students experience a lot of changes moving out of their homes and attending college and, unfortunately, many of these changes are negative and can lead to depression.

Tracy Russell works for the Board for the Montana Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and having had a son who committed suicide, she is

very dedicated to spreading the chapter's message.

Russell will be conducting a free virtual presentation of "It's Real: College Students and Mental Health" on May 14th at 7:00 p.m..

Students will sign up with the registration link and then create a login specific to themselves. Then the students can continue to login to the site if they are having any prob-

lems adjusting to the college lifestyle.

The link for registration is open today and is <https://itsrealmtmay14.attendase.com/>. The school administration and many others encourage the students to watch the presentation and get involved with the website and all that they do.

By: Adelle Meissner

Meteor Shower and Full Moon

Starting last Monday and through this last week a meteor shower was in action and lighting the sky as well with a full super-moon. It's known as the Eta Aquarids, and this happens every year in the beginning of May.

The Eta Aquarids meteors are fast and travel at about 148,000 mph into the earth's atmosphere. Because of how fast they are they leave a glowing trace behind them. These meteors are left behind by Comet Halley, and this creates a meteor shower.

A fun fact about Comet Halley is that it takes about 76 years to orbit the sun once. The last time it was seen was in 1986 and is not expected to be seen until 2061.

To take in this spectacular sky show the Eta Aquarids can be seen in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres in the early morning. A great way to see them clearly and the best is to find a place away from the city where there are no lights around. If a person lies down for about 30 minutes in the

dark, their eyes will adapt and they will begin to see the meteors.

Hopefully some Belt community members were able to see this in their night sky and enjoy the full moon and the Eta Aquarids meteors as well. It's a great thing to do to keep isolated and stay curious about the world around.

By: Gentry Johnson



Fishing Stories

On Saturday, April 25th, Belt High senior Gavin Roberts, and Junior, Kaimen Evans went on a fishing trip out on the Missouri River. The two high school students went down to Widow's Coulee fishing access, and then continued to go upriver for about a mile to their fishing spot.

Roberts and Evans planned an overnight trip in the hopes to catch some big catfish.

At first, the bite was slow. As the night continued, the fishing started to pick up. For a while all they caught were bullhead catfish. Bullheads are a small subspecies of catfish there are good for nothing but stealing bait.

Eventually, they caught some channel catfish, the bigger, more edible species, and lit a fire to

keep some light around them. When asked about their experience, both of the young men said that it was a lot of fun to be out, even though the fishing was a little slow for a while.

On Tuesday, May 5th, Ethan Triplet and his brother went fishing out in a landlocked pond surrounded by forest service land. The two Triplet boys went out to go catch some trout.

While they did catch some brown trout, Ethan reported that fishing was slower than normal. He also said that they didn't catch as many fish as they normally, but it was fun to get out and not worry about Coronavirus.

On Saturday, May 2nd, Belt high students Maverick and Memphis Black went on a fishing trip with their dad, Dennis Black, and

grandpa, Gary Black. They hooked up to their boat at about 8:00 a.m. that morning. They then went and launched the boat out of Fort Benton and went to some secret locations.

After arriving at the first spot, the crew got set up and started to fish. With the cold water temperature and being early in the season, fishing was still a little slow. Maverick caught a 27 pound carp. Dennis and Gary only caught goldeye and suckers. Memphis, however, caught a 4 pound catfish, a little bullhead catfish, and some goldeye and carp.

While the team did not catch many fish to keep, they still enjoyed getting out and spending time together as a family.

By: Memphis Black

The coronavirus has affected the whole world in more than one way than one, one way is, driving under the influence cases. This has gone down by a large amount of 70% from last year according to "The Office of Traffic Safety". This decrease has been a positive thing for a lot of places as people are staying home. Stay safe and always remember to...

NEVER DRINK & DRIVE!

This message brought to you by your
Cascade DUI Task Force



Scholarships

Big Sky State Games	11-May	\$500	High School Junior
T. Eugene Young Montana's Promise Scholarship	13-May	\$2,500 (20 awarded)	Must be majoring in a STEM major; preference to engineering, bio-health sciences, computer science
Immigration Law of Montana Scholarship	25-May	\$500	Graduating Seniors
B. Davis Scholarship	27-May	\$1,000	This scholarship is available to all high school juniors and seniors as well as all students currently registered in post secondary institution.

Mr. Sutton Leaves Belt

After three years of dedication to the music department, Mr. Johnathon Sutton has decided to move to Three Forks, Montana to teach 5-12 band and choir.

When asked why he chose to resign his position at Belt School, his response included, "I'm choosing to leave so I can live closer to my parents who live in Bozeman. That's the primary reason."

Over the last three years Mr. Sutton has made many incredible memories. When asked what his most fond memory at Belt Schools was, he responded, "I've had a lot of great memories here. One highlight was leading students in performance for our concerts. Concerts can be magical when all the students are working towards a common goal. Music Festival last year was very special, performing

Faure's Pavane with the high school band. Another fun memory is getting pied in the face for the

"Pennies for Patients fundraiser."

Furthermore, when asked about the interconnection with his students, Mr. Sutton noted, "I will miss the students in Belt a lot. It has been a joy to get to know the students and learn about their lives. My hope is that I've given them some experiences and skills to be successful on their voice or instrument. I will miss the daily banter and greetings in the hallway."

Lastly, while Mr. Sutton claims to enjoy teaching each and every day, there are exciting aspects to each job.

After being asked to explain the most onerous aspect to his work, Mr. Sutton deduced, "I think the most challenging part of this

position is managing all the different ages of students. There are many things that go on behind the

scenes in school that students don't know about, and preparing materials and music for all the ages can be a big task."

The *Valley Voice* wishes Mr. Johnathon Sutton the best of luck in the next phase of his life as an educator.

Mr. Sutton would like to leave his students and colleagues with this quote, "I would like to thank the students, staff, and community in Belt for three fantastic years. It's a bit of a weird time to leave during a pandemic, but I'm really thankful for all the relationships and things I've learned here. I will always hold a special place in my heart for the Belt Huskies."

By: Haley Hoerner

Belt Valley Times Digitization Project

Back when Belt was still a mining town and business was booming, *The Belt Valley Times* was established as the local newspaper. Even as the mining wound down and Belt became a little town, the newspaper continued weekly publication into the 1970's. Luckily, most of the old issues were preserved on microfilm at the Montana Historical Society in Helena.

In order for these microfilm files to be used currently, one must go through them reel by reel. It's a reel pain, but now a project is underway to digitize the issues from 1894 to 1918. This will make them universally available.

The project will cost \$5600, and \$1,000 has

already been raised. This is a worthwhile endeavor that has a lot of people in the valley excited. Project organizers are looking for support. Send donations (tax exempt) by check to: Montana History Society Attn: Molly Kruckenberg, Belt Valley Times Digitization Project 221 North Roberts PO Box 201201, Helena, MT 59620-1201

To pay by credit card, or more information contact Lori Ereth at (406) 444-2065. Be sure to designate donations to Belt Valley Times Digitization Project.

By: Adelle Meissner