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2016

# The Valley Voice



Issue # 2

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## Homecoming

Homecoming week for the 2016-2017 school year is coming up from September 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>. The student body is more than thrilled for this traditional week of fun and school spirit. It's a great way to start off the school year with a bang and an even greater way for students to socialize with each other.

Every year during homecoming, the high school classes compete against each other for spirit days, class Olympics, the husky roar, and so many other events. It's healthy competition for the classes to experience and they are all excited to see what

class will end up on top. Will it be the seniors wanting their 3<sup>rd</sup> victory in a row? Maybe the juniors wanting revenge? Possibly the sophomores or freshman hungry for their first win? Results will be posted in Valley Voice's fourth issue. The spirit days this week are: Monday- Pajama Day, Tuesday- Camouflage Day, Wednesday- Favorite Team/College Day, Thursday- Throwback Day, and as always Friday- Maroon and Gold Day. (Just a reminder for all students- Dress code standards apply for all dress up days!)

On Monday the 26<sup>th</sup>, a week before homecoming starts, clas-

ses will be pulled into their homerooms for husky time. Here the classes will nominate a boy and a girl from the senior class for homecoming royalty. The seniors will get to nominate first, then juniors, sophomores, and freshmen.

On Tuesday, Camouflage Day, the seniors will leave during 6<sup>th</sup> period to Paint the B with Principal Paulson. All the seniors are elated to paint the B, for that is what they've been looking forward to since the beginning of their high school education. It's a bittersweet moment for the seniors every year because this is their last homecoming,

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## 9/11

September 11, 2001, a day that still lives in infamy. On this troubling day 15 years ago, many lives were lost due to the terrorist attacks from Al Qaeda on the World Trade Center buildings in New York.

The events that day began at precisely 7:59 a.m. when Americans Airlines Flight 11 took off from Boston's

Logan International Airport with Los Angeles as its destination. At 8:19, twenty minutes after the plane took off, the flight crew alerted ground personnel immediately while American Airlines warned the FBI. At 8:24 a.m., hijacker Mohamed Atta made one of two accidental transmissions to ground control in 'an attempt to communicate with the

cabin'. Two fighter planes from NEADS (North East Air Defense Sector) were dispatched in order to tail Flight 11. However Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower before the fighter planes arrived. The first crash occurred at 8:46 that morning. New York was stunned when the hijackers crashed the

*Cont. pg. 5*

## Husky Football

After a shutout against the CJI Hawks, the Huskies continued their winning ways while on the road against the Fort Benton Longhorns and at home against the defending state champs, the Chinook Sugarbeaters. As the season progresses, the Husky football team continues to improve, finding new ways to best their competition. Coach Jeff Graham is impressed with how the team is playing but still sees room for improvement.

The Huskies competed in their first road game of the season last Friday in Fort Benton. The Longhorns, who had the size advantage, were no match for the more experienced Belt squad as the Huskies defeated them by a final of 50-8. In the first quarter, the Huskies drew blood first as Jaren Maki received a seven yard pass from Harry Green. The two point conversion was good as Maki found Troy Hennes in the end zone. Belt continued to advance the ball up field as Maki ran in for another six at five yards. Keagan Stroop also found pay dirt after a 75 yard run. By the end of the first, the Huskies held the advantage, 20-0.

In the second period, the pack continued to find weaknesses within their competition, scoring 18 more unanswered points. The

Green to Jess Bodner duo, lethal in their last game, found their stride once again to add six more for Belt. Stroop, as the quarterback, snuck into the end zone adding to the already dominant margin. Robbie Flinn scored his first touchdown of the season from a 24 yard run after a pass from Stroop to end the first half. The Huskies acquired a commanding lead of 38-0.

After the half time meetings, the Husky reserves played the second half, giving the starters a rest. This was a good time for the future athletes to gain more experience for their coming years at Belt High. Belt once again scored after Hennes received a pass from Green. Hennes ran 33 yards for the touchdown after the pass. The Longhorns struck back and decreased Belt's lead to 44-8 by the end of the third.

Heading into the final quarter of the ball game, the Longhorns dug themselves too big of a hole to catch up with the Huskies. Belt scored on a pass from Stroop to Brandan Wall, his first of the season, to clinch Belt's second win of the campaign. The ending margin was 50-8, Belt.

Fort Benton	0	0	0	8	<b>8</b>
Belt	20	18	6	6	<b>50</b>

Although the competition featured a bigger offensive and defensive line, the Huskies held their own with Antonio Heaton, Hennes, Nolan Myrstol, and Taylor Olson using quickness and guile to control the game. Hennes was the only Husky to earn a sack. Green accumulated the most tackles with two solo tackles and seven assisted.

On the offensive side of the spectrum, Belt was unstoppable with their speed and agility. Green completed 8 of out of 9 passes for 132 yards, striking for three touchdown passes along the way. Stroop also was positioned at quarterback for a portion of the ball game. He threw two touchdown passes on the night. Stroop ran for 95 yards throughout the competition averaging 13.6 yards per carry. Together, the team rushed for 175 yards. Through the air, the Huskies amassed nearly 200 yards. Maki was the leading receiver as he hauled in two catches for 52 yards.

The Huskies continued to push themselves after another shut out against the defending state champions, the Chinook Sugarbeaters.

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## Youth Leadership

The members of Youth Leadership group are looking forward to another extravagant year. Mr. Hoyer, the director, plans on making the members more active in the community and school than in recent years. This year Mr. Hoyer plans on using some of the money from their account to buy Husky T-Shirts for the students to wear on Fridays.

Youth Leadership had their first meeting on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. The members selected officers for Youth Leadership, including: Kassie

Hoyer, President; Kara Neal, Vice President; Jordan Swanson, Secretary; and Kerstyn Pimperton, Treasurer. Neal is ahead of the Belt Grade cleanup scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. Any of the members who would like to volunteer are encouraged to do so. It's a great way to clean up before the week of Homecoming.

Youth Leadership will also be a part of Youth Days as they are every year. Mr. Hoyer is only allowed to bring 12 members so

they will be picked randomly from the membership. Youth Days is a great opportunity to get in some hours from volunteering to show on scholarships. Other than Youth Days there has not been much planned yet.

Mr. Hoyer would love to have more students involved in the community this year. As Mr. Hoyer said, "Youth Leadership is an opportunity to make the school and community better."

**By: Kara Neal**

## Scholarship Deadlines

The 2016-2017 school year has begun, but for the seniors, graduation will be quickly coming up. This is the time for students to be jumping on scholarship opportunities because they are given away rapidly. Many college bound students don't realize how important and crucial scholarships are despite the fact that they can pay for some of their college. There are not any local scholarships avail-

able until the spring, but there are millions available within Montana State and nationally, you just need to start looking. The best website for Montana scholarships is: Myscholly.com, and the access code is RHM406\$.

The national scholarships are at Scholarships.com, Studentscholarships.org, Collegeexpress.com, Scholarships4stu-

dents.com, fastweb.com, high-scholarships.com, and yescollege.com. Belt councilor, Jill Gliko, stresses the value of scholarships. Gliko states that Belt seniors need to be committed to submitting their applications before December 1<sup>st</sup>, in order to receive scholarships from the college they applied to.

**By: Alison Stoker**

## Husky Volleyball

The Lady Huskies are off to a great start with a 6-0 winning streak. These girls played 5 games in the last week and did an excellent job. These ladies played Fairfield on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Geraldine-Highwood on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, Simms on Sept. 10, Great Falls Central Catholic on Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, and



Centerville on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. In all of these games, the squad defeated the opponent in 3 quick sets. The Fairfield Eagles met the Belt Huskies in Belt's home gym for the contest. The C squad and JV beat the Eagles prior to the varsity match. The game quickly kicked off and the Lady Huskies scored closely to their competitors. In three sets, the Huskies snatched a win 25-17, 25-21, and 25-9. Leading in stats was Dani Urick with 11 kills, Kassie Hoyer with 4 blocks, Alison Stoker with 2 aces, Stoker with 8 digs, and Kerstyn Pimperton with 20 assists.

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, the Lady Huskies traveled to Highwood to play the Highwood-Geraldine Rivals. The JV team defeated the Rivals quickly, and immediately the Varsity teams faced each other. Rapidly, the Lady Huskies fired away and conquered the Rivals in three swift sets 25-17,

25-14, and 25-9. In this match, Hoyer lead with 9 kills, Adrian Malek, Hoyer, and Urick tied with 1 block each, Sara Anderson lead with 3 aces, Stoker with 8 digs, and Pimperton with 26 assists.

Soon after, on September 10<sup>th</sup>, the Belt squad challenged the Simms Tigers in a volleyball match in the home gym. After traveling to Belt, the JV Lady Tigers were defeated by Belt along with the Varsity team. The Husky squad swept in and captured the win 25-10, 25-12, and 25-17. Leading in stats was Urick with 9 kills, Anderson with 1 block, Stoker with 6 aces, Stoker with 16 digs, and Pimperton with 23 assists. Earlier this week, the Belt Lady Huskies visited Great Falls Central Catholic. The JV suffered a loss to the Mustangs in 5 sets; the Varsity Huskies won in four tight sets. The Husky squad received the win after four tiring sets 19-25, 25-9, 25-21, and 25-20. This was the closest



game the Lady Huskies have had to play. This was a much closer competition for the Huskies than they have experienced this season. Leading in stats were Pimperton-40 assists, A. Stoker-3 Aces, A Stoker-21, Urick 19 kills, and Urick-9 blocks. Malek also recorded 12 kills.



Last night the dogs played the Centerville Miners in the opponent's gym. The Lady Huskies swept in and took the win in three sets 25-21, 25-12, and 25-22. Details from that match-up will be posted in the next editions of the Valley Voice.

The girls are now 6-0 in competition, not including their undefeated showing in the Belt Showcase. Tomorrow, the Lady Huskies will travel again and play the Big Sandy Pioneers. The varsity match will start at about 6:00.

**By: Alison Stoker**



## Backpack Program

The backpack program is a program that is run by Mrs. Tillman, and has been in place for a few years now. It allows students that are in grades K-12 that do not have much access to food over the week to sign up and get one backpack per week.

Each backpack includes two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, snacks, and one can of fruit. Many people help out with this program and contribute a lot of hard work to it.

Some of the people who help out with this program are the student senate, Mrs. Tillman and Mrs. Teresa Elam. They want to thank many donators and fundraisers for the program which include Northwest Farm Credit Service (who donated a total of \$1,000 in food and shelving), the Belt Community Food Bank, and the Great Falls Food Bank. The contributions of these organizations make a real differ-

ence.

With all of this in mind Mrs. Tillman says “I think that the backpack program has been going very well and been very successful. Also I think that the students have that are in the program have benefited much from it.” It is a program that benefits both those who donate and those who receive.

**By: Abby Marchington**

## Student Spotlight

The Valley Voice is introducing a new segment to the paper called Student Spotlight. In this article, students ranging from all ages will be interviewed about specific subjects. Here, they are allowed to voice their opinion and express how they feel about certain matters that are relevant to the study body, to staff, or even to the entire school.

The first question on the list is: If you were the principal and found yourself in charge of the student body, what would be the first thing you would do? Well, students Kirsten Loucks, Adelle Meissner, Grace Norstedt, Sam Vaughan, and Tommy Highfill were interviewed on the subject and expressed their

She believes that it’s a distraction for students to have their phones on them all day, wanting to text their friends, snap chat, or scroll through social media during school.

On the other hand, Adelle Meissner, Grace Norstedt, freshmen at Belt High, and Sam Vaughan,

their attire for the day.

Tommy Highfill, second grader at Belt School,

thought that it would be pretty cool

to be the principal and exclaimed “I would tell them to sit down if I were the principal!” Highfill says that when he thinks of school, he remembers that he is always told to sit down, so if he were the principal he could just



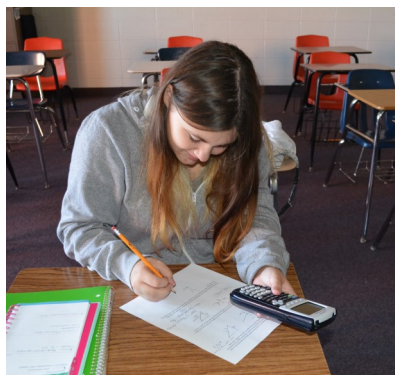
sophomore at Belt High, all came to the same conclusion. “We would want to change to dress code back!” That comment is in reference to a change in dress code policy that was enacted over the summer. All three feel very strongly about the matter and believe very few students complained about it last year. They also believe that it should be changed back to make the students more comfortable in clothes that they choose during the school day. They voiced that they feel they perform better as a student in the clothes that they choose to wear because it can be distracting trying to do school work while fixating on

make everyone sit down so his teacher wouldn’t have to anymore.

Here at Belt High School, students think that if they were the principal for a day they would enforce no cell phones, change the dress code back, and tell everyone to sit down. That is it for student spotlight this issue. Any questions, concerns, or opinions can be sent to [valleyvoice@beltschool.com](mailto:valleyvoice@beltschool.com).

Thank you to the kids who shared their ideas about these matter. Coming issues of the Valley will share the opinions of the student body on other issues that impact the school day in Belt.

**By: Isabelle Newman**



thoughts on the matter.

Kirsten Loucks, senior at Belt High, stated “If I were principal of the school, the first thing I would do is probably enforce no cell phones.”

## 9/11 (Cont.)

plane into the North Tower between the 93<sup>rd</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> floors. Everyone on board the plane, including the hijackers, died along with hundreds of people inside the building. At 8:47, New York Police Department and Port Authority Police Department, one minute after the plane hit, began to immediately evacuate the people in the North Tower. Three minutes after the plane hit the tower, the White House and President were notified.

During this same morning, United Airline Flight 175, the same kind of plane as flight 11 (a Boeing 767) took off from Boston at 8:14. Its destination was also Los Angeles with 65 people aboard. At roughly 9:00 a.m., Port Authority officials began to evacuate both the North and South Tower World Trade Center Buildings. At this point in time, an estimated 10- 14,000 people began to evacuate. At 9:03, Flight 175 crashed in to the South Tower between the 75<sup>th</sup> and 85<sup>th</sup> floors, also killing everyone inside the plane and hundreds in the building. At 9:08, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) banned all flights coming in or going out from the New York area.

At 8:20, Flight 77 departed from the Dulles International Airport by Washington D.C. This was also the same type of plane as flight 11 and flight 175, with the same destination, and with 64 people aboard. At 9:21, Port Authorities were able to close all tunnels and bridges connected to New York City. At 9:24, the FAA was able to notify NEADS of a possible hijacking on flight 77. They were able to do this because some of the passengers and crew members on the plane were able to contact friends and family on the ground. Thirteen minutes later at 9:37, the hijackers on Flight 77

crashed the plane into the side of the Pentagon building killing 59 people upon the plane and 125 people that were in the Pentagon. Six minutes before the crash happened, President George Bush stated that the plane crashes are “an apparent terrorist attack on our country.” At the time, he was visiting an elementary school in Florida.

Flight 93 was late taking of this day 15 years ago. Scheduled to take off at 8:00, around the same time the other hijacked planes took off, it didn’t take off until 8:41. This plane had 44 people aboard from Newark International Airport as San Francisco was its destination. By 10:07 that morning, passengers and flight crew had already contacted family and friends to say their last goodbye’s. Heroically, the passengers decided to attack the hijackers. Using a fire extinguisher, these citizens charged the cockpit. During the ensuing melee, the hijackers crashed Flight 93 into a field in Pennsylvania killing everyone aboard.

At 9:42, for the first time in history, the FAA grounded all flights to or from the United States. The flights that were supposed to arrive in the United States were then redirected to Canada for the next two and a half hours. 9:45 rolled around and the White House, U.S Capitol, and other high-profile buildings were evacuated. 14 minutes later, the South Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed. 29 minutes after the South Tower went down, the North Tower also crumbled to pieces.

Later that evening, at 5:20 p.m., The Seven World Trade Center had collapsed. The building had been burning for hours due to the crash to the North and South towers. Rescue workers fled the area, running for their lives, but gladly there were no casualties due to the

collapse of the Seven World Trade Center building. At the end of the night, the last event to happen was an announcement from President Bush stating that the terrorist attacks upon America “are evil, despicable, acts of terror.” He also declared that allies and friends associated with America are going to “stand together to win the war against terrorism.” American troops have been engaged in preventing a repeat of the incident for the last fifteen years.

A minority of high school students were alive when it happened, and were so young that it is history more than memory for them. Mo Wall, senior at Belt High states, “I believe that it is okay for people to dwell and feel sad on a day like 9/11. Even though that happened 15 years ago, it’s still a very recent event in history that effects America today. I vaguely remember the day myself even though I was only 2 years old. Some families are still grieving over lost ones, so how could anyone tell them to not dwell on the day that took the lives they loved? It’s okay to be sad, and it’s okay to dwell and grieve. I think that 9/11 is a day of remembrance and honor for those lives who were lost and for those who risked themselves to save others.” Kali Duncan, also a senior at Belt High says “I don’t personally like to think about the day. However, I do believe that knowing exactly what happened on this sad day, talking about it, and learning about it in school is important.”

9/11 is a day that will be remembered for the rest of history. It was a day of grief and sorrow for America, but has made the country stronger as a whole. It also represent a turning point in modern history.

**By: Isabelle Newman**

## Homecoming (Cont.)

their last year with their class that they've grown up with, for some since the days of day care.

Also on Tuesday, the class Olympics will be held by Mrs. Tillman, Mr. Koontz, and the student senate. Every year, the classes compete in the Olympics which usually include: volleyball, dodge ball, relay races, and much more. However, events for this year's homecoming will be decided on by Mrs. Tillman, Mr. Koontz and the student senate. The competition will start on Tuesday, 6:00 at the school.

Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, volleyball girls will compete against Great Falls Central. Middle school starts their games at 4:00 and 5:00 that evening. JV will begin around 6:00 and Varsity will follow after the homecoming parade. The homecoming royalty parade will begin after the JV volleyball game and will end before the varsity volleyball games begins.

September 30<sup>th</sup>, Maroon and Gold Day, is a busy day for the student body here at Belt High. At 9:30 a.m., all the high school classes will hold class meetings in order to vote

for homecoming king and queen. After everyone votes, the classes will then make their way to their designated float sites. They will work from the end of the class meeting until 2:30 that afternoon. At 2:00 p.m., the middle school football team will have a game against Hays- Lodgepole. The senior class will be holding a spaghetti dinner as a class fundraiser in order to pay for their graduation expenses this year. The dinner will be taking place from 4:00- 7:00 in the school cafeteria. At 5:00, the homecoming parade will be held downtown with a community/ school pep rally at 5:30. During this pep rally, fall sports teams will be introduced briefly by the team's coaches and captains. The last events of the night will start at 7:00 with the varsity football game against Hays- Lodgepole. The homecoming king and queen will be announced as well as the winner of the spirit stick at half time.

It may seem like the end of homecoming, but there are still some events to come to. On Saturday, September 31<sup>st</sup>, DECA will be

hosting a homecoming dance in the cafeteria from 8:00- 11:00 at night. Admission is \$2 or 2 cans of food.

The high school classes are already feeling the competitiveness rise and it's not even homecoming yet. "I'm looking forward to my last homecoming and winning the spirit stick for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. Suck it juniors!" senior Kassie Hoyer exclaims. Well, there it is. Another year of competition is about to start and all the classes are getting prepared to win over the spirit stick. The excitement building up within the school is too much to contain and all the students can't wait for homecoming week.

**By: Isabelle Newman**



## Music Program 2016– 2017

This year, the Belt Public School music students welcome the new music teacher Gabriel Nordquist. After scheduling for the school year was finished, there are twenty-one students in the high school band, sixteen students in the high school choir, twenty-four students in the middle school band, and twenty-five students in the middle school choir.

When asked about what his goals were for the music program this year, Mr. Nordquist states "I want to focus more on sight reading in both band and choir, and make sure the students know the major and minor scales. I also want to start learning



more about music literacy in our classes, it's important and helps with understanding the music."

Mr. Nordquist has planned five concerts for this school year, two for the K-4<sup>th</sup> grade students and three for the 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

The upcoming concerts will be October 25, December 6<sup>th</sup>, which will be the K-4<sup>th</sup> graders first concert, December 20<sup>th</sup>, is the next concert for the 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. The high school band and choir will also be competing in the District Music Festival in April in the auditorium at the University of Great Falls. April 27<sup>th</sup> will be the last concert for K-4<sup>th</sup> graders, and May 11<sup>th</sup> will be the final concert for the 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. October 25 will be Mr. Nordquist's first conducting performance with the 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade music students.

**By: Kali Duncan**



## Football (Cont.)

Thus far, visiting teams have not scored a single point at Remington Field against the home team. Once again, Belt did not have the size advantage, but because they are so nimble, it is hard for other teams to defend.

In the first quarter against Chinook, the Huskies came out on fire. Green was the first to score as he ran 2 yards to put Belt on the board. Bodner's kick was good for the extra point.. Stroop received Chinook's punt and ran 45 yards all the way to the end zone. The extra point was no good for Bodner after being blocked. The Husky defense was tenacious against the Sugarbeeters. Chinook's next possession resulted in a punt, which Heaton blocked into the end zone. When Olson tackled the Sugarbeeter in the end zone, Belt had two more points on the board. Maki was the last to score in the first quarter after a 6 yard run. The kick was good to add another point. By the end of

Chinook	0	0	0	0	0
Belt	22	14	12	0	48

the first, Belt's lead was 22-0. In the second period, Green started out the scoring again with a 50 yard run to the goal line. Bodner's kick was counted. Green then threw to Stroop for a 52 yard touchdown. To top it off, Bodner kicked a successful conversion. The half time score was 36-0, Belt. The third quarter was much like the first and second, as Belt continued their scoring ways while Chinook could not. Green ran 11 yards for a touchdown to expand the Husky lead. A 21 yard run from Stroop completed the scoring. No extra point conversions were successful in the second half. In the final stanza, the Belt starters did not play, giving the younger athletes a chance to gain more experience for their coming years.

Neither team scored in the last twelve minutes of the ball game. The ending score was 48-0, Belt. The Huskies dominated the game both defensively and offensively. One interception was caught by the Huskies, coming from Green. Maki accumulated 16 tackles on the night, with ten

assisted and six unassisted stops. Bodner earned 8 tackles, three of which were for loss of yardage against the Sugarbeeters. Heaton blocked a kick for the Huskies, resulting in a safety. Offensively, Green threw 93 yards for the Huskies, his longest being 52 yards, while Stroop threw for 31. Green also rushed for 97 yards. One of his runs were 50 yards long to result in a touchdown. Stroop also had some key runs as he rushed for 47 yards, his longest being 21 yards for a touchdown. As a team, Belt rushed for 166 yards. Stroop was the only Husky player to score off of a pass. He received two passes for 60 yards, including a 52 yards scoring touchdown catch thrown by Green.

The Huskie's record stands at 3-0, tied for the top spot in the North. Tonight, Belt takes on Cascade in a pivotal match up, as the Badgers are also undefeated. Kickoff is set for 7:00 p.m. at Remington Field.

**By: Kerstyn Pimperton**

Some teenagers are coming to the point and age where they are starting to drink because they might think that it makes them cool or popular, which it doesn't. If you are one of the teenagers that are thinking about drinking you should really wait until you are the legal age. Under no circumstances should anyone be drinking and driving at the same time. Also, do not enter a vehicle with a driver that has been drinking.

Even when having one drink, your ability to concentrate, think, and see clearly can be affected negatively. However if you are in a situation where you have been drinking and you need a ride call a trusted adult. Also one last thought to keep in mind is that the consequences of drinking and driving can be brutal and even deadly so please. So make a plan:

**Don't Drink and Drive!**

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This message brought to you by your  
Cascade DUI Task Force



## City News

The City Council met in a couple meetings within the last few weeks to discuss the solutions to problems in the Town of Belt. The sessions were held August 3<sup>rd</sup> and September 7<sup>th</sup>. Within these meetings, the council consisted of Mayor BJ Wells; Aldermen Hardinger, Darko, Porter, Enderson, Heikkila, and Miller; Public Works Robin Franzen, Clerk Treasurer Lynn Schilling; Superintendent Prody; NCI Engineer Trenberth; and member of the public, Debbie Veleber.

One topic the council discussed was the potential of having a police department. Tammy Nicola and Clerk Schilling mentioned that it would involve lots of money. Belt is a safe community with minimal violence and crime so this action was not yet taken.

In the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the council made major action towards Belt's dog licensing requirements. This topic was revisited on September 7<sup>th</sup> and mentioned that dog control has not been enforced in recent years. Because of this, it has been stated that beginning October 31<sup>st</sup>, all dogs must be licensed and must be on a leash at all times when being walked or let out. Dog licenses are only \$5 annually and can be done by the City Hall in

Belt or by requesting a mail in application.

The City Council has been discussing the sewer expansion project for months now. This project will deepen the third sewer line and will keep the creek, which the city plays in often, free of pollution. This expansion project is estimated to cost \$2.4 million. Belt has received \$960,000 in loans and \$547,100 in grants from USDA. This will help a lot with the production of the Sewer expansion project. This project will be executed this spring and is expected to be accomplished by September 2017. In the park, there is a water fill that the public has been using. However, this fountain is not for public use and the council motioned that a sign be put in that mentions the fountain is not to be used. One major building that represents the town of Belt is the old Grain Elevator. However, this piece will be torn down soon. Mayor Wells discussed in the meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup> that Jim Larson said BNSF will be tearing down the grain elevator. No more information was provided, but as soon as they get more news, the Valley Voice will be updating the Belt communi-

ty.

Gravel roads are constantly being beaten up from cars, but the issue will be fixed shortly. City grader is having some minor repairs done to it and as soon as it is fixed, it will grade the allies as well as repairing the road by Pizza Pro and the Ambulance.

What has been a safety issue for years, will be potentially be fixed in Belt. At the intersection of Castner and Bridge Street, there is a lot of traffic that speeds by with little caution to pedestrians. However, Harry Barnett was put in charge of putting in crosswalks and the word "stop" painted in the street at this intersection to provide safety and prevent future complications. Many children cross this road before and after school, so the possibility of having crosswalks put in would relieve parents' stressing about their children's safety.

Finally, Alderman Porter mentioned that the hydrants in Belt had not been flushed and cleaned. Consequently, the City agreed to clean and inspect all fire hydrants annually.

**By: Alison Stoker**

## First Annual Jacqui Harmala Arndt Memorial Celebration

Last Saturday the very First Annual Jacqui Harmala Arndt Memorial took place at Castner Park where a variety of events were held. They included bingo, live music, horse shoe tournament, bounce house, sack race, egg toss, mini golf, dancing, and silent/live auctions.

Some of the items that were auctioned off were a smoker, fire pit, jewelry, books, baskets that contained alcohol beverages, gift certificates, and much more. At this event the Belt Shakespeare kids sold many different

goodies such as burgers, Polish dogs, candy, chips, and drinks. The event earned approximately \$6,000 which is being donated to the Belt Shakespeare kids to send them to their trip to the Fringe Festival in Scotland.

While the theatre kids did very well when selling things, so did the celebration. Approximately 100 people attended the celebration despite the crazy wind. For those who do not know who Jacqui Harmala is she is a greatly

loved person by family and friends who passed away a little over two years ago. She is the daughter of Becky Harmala who was the host of this exciting and fun celebration. Becky Harmala has been wanting to do something for the community in her daughter's memory so that's what the celebration is for. This celebration will also be benefitting all different youth programs that are held around the Belt Community.

**By: Abby Marchington**



## Matt Darko Poker Tournament

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Matt Darko Scholarship Poker Tournament will be at the East Side Bar on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The tournament begins at approximately 12 p.m. The regular sign up starts at 10:01 a.m. Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at the bar. As a bonus, everyone who signs up before the 21<sup>st</sup> will receive \$500 in bonus chips. The players are able to buy back into the tournament and the winner will re-

ceive a Trophy Buckle in addition to the first place prize money.

All profits from this tournament will go to the Matt Darko Scholarship fund which benefits the graduates of Belt High School. Matt Darko passed away in March of 2013 and a group of his close friends and relatives decided to come up with various fundraisers to benefit the community. The

three fundraisers each year are the Soft Ball Tournament, Poker Tournament, and the Coyote Derby.

From these fundraisers, a total of \$13,100 has been awarded to Belt students since May of 2014. Belt has been doing a great job of supporting the Matt Darko Scholarship and hope it continues.

**By: Kara Neal**

## Cross Country

The cross country squad participated in their first meet on September 2<sup>nd</sup> in Cut Bank. The Belt/Centerville co-op team also ran in Kalispell on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Kalispell is where the state cross country meet will be hosted, so it was a great meet for the runners to get a feel for the course.

In Cut Bank, William Franzen was the only boy from Belt to make it to the meet. Two others from Centerville also ran. Jacob Kelley from Centerville was the first to cross the line for the team with a time of 20:54. Brandon Little, also from Centerville, clocked in at 21:48. Franzen was the last runner for the crew to come in at 33:05.

As for the ladies, Shelby Paulson was the first to cross the line for the Belt/Centerville group at 24:00.

Shaylyn Dilley from Centerville finished the 3 mile run at 24:25. Not too far behind her was Kolby Pimperton who clocked in at 24:29. Kerstyn Pimperton was the fourth of the crew to finish. She had a time of 24:39. Lastly, Makayla Paul of Centerville ended her race with a time of 25:01. This concluded the Cut Bank meet. Robbie Flinn, Robbie Gliko, Harry Green, and Keagan Stroop also run for the Belt/Centerville co-op, but because they had football that day, the athletes had to miss their first meet. The weather on Friday was almost perfect running conditions with a slight breeze.

The gentleman began the running for the co-op team. Kelley came in first for the squad with a time of 20:14. Behind him was

Little, who crossed the line with a final of 21:16. Lastly, Franzen came in at 33:06.

The ladies tend to run closer to each other, as all of them come in within one minute of each other. Paulson led the ladies with a time of 24:02. Dilley was the second runner to reach the finish line at 24:25. Not too far behind her was Kerstyn Pimperton who had a time of 24:30. Kolby Pimperton crossed the line as the clock read 24:38, while Makayla Paul had a time of 25:13.

Today, the cross country team will head to Great Falls where they will run at the Anaconda Hills Golf Course. Next week on Saturday, the team will travel to Missoula.

**By: Kerstyn Pimperton**

## Bears

Two weeks ago, a black bear cub was hit and killed on highway 89 by mile marker 65. This event is very rare and brings up the issue of bears. For years black bears have been hunted but now the new question is whether to let people hunt grizzly bears or let the population continue to grow.

After almost 41 years with the grizzly bears being protected under the Endangered Species Act protection the bears have finally reached

recovery. The grizzly population was estimated at 765 bears in 2004. Grizzlies are also the official state animal of Montana.

If the hunting does go into effect, the hunters will of course have the same regulations they do with the black bears. Today hunters have to pass the "Black Bear Identification Test," to be able to hunt. This test helps the hunters identify females from the males because they cannot hunt females or cubs.

Most of the grizzly bears are around the Yellowstone and Glacier National Park. This makes it dangerous for the tourists around the area; this is one of the reasons to hunt grizzly bears. Black bears are not considered to be as dangerous as grizzly bears because they eat mostly plants and fruits. Still, try not run into either type of ursine.

**By: Kara Neal**

## \$5,000 Strand Donation

Leroy Strand was a very generous man who donated money to his community over the year. Strand also was a supporter of many charities such as the Russell Museum in Great Falls. He and his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife created the Geysler Public Strand Scholarship and have donated thousands of dollars to graduates. Many people are very grateful

for what Strand has done for the community. Strand rarely thought of himself and would want to use his money for a good cause.

Strand passed away at the age of 97 on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. At the age of 80 he wrote a book, "From the Shellrock to the Highwoods." It was published in 2000, rated 4 stars by [abebooks.fr](http://abebooks.fr).

This year the Strand Foundation donated \$5,000 to the Belt Boys & Girls Club. The club and the rest of the community are very thankful for a man like Strand. He lived a great life and was a man who made a positive difference in many of the local communities he called home.

**By: Kara Neal**

## ACT Scores

Earlier this year, in April, the class of 2017 took their ACT test. The ACT is a standardized test that is used to measure how well students are learning the material they are taught all across the country. In addition to measuring student achievement, the ACT is used heavily in admissions to colleges and places of work.

Almost every junior in the nation worries all night about this test, hoping they do well. Many study every day for months to prepare for the test that is over 3 hours long. After lots of practice, these students took the test and were very successful.

Belt School Principle, Kyle Paulson, has received the Class of 2016's ACT scores and is pleased with the outcomes. Last year's graduating class was above the state average. Paulson is excited to see the Class of 2017's results. "I'm confident we'll be above the state average again," Paulson states.

These tests are very heavily looked at in Belt Public Schools because it can be compared to every student across the country, instead of only across the state, like the Smarter Balance tests. The same ACT test is given to the entire country, so Belt Schools are able to compare the scores, fairly, to the rest of the nation. However, this exam doesn't give a good diagnostic and sometimes

makes it difficult to understand which areas of a subject they are specifically struggling in. This makes it difficult for teachers to determine what sections to work on more.

The reading and writing portions of the ACT tests seem to be the biggest challenge for students attending Belt in recent years. It has been determined that students struggling with reading and writing also struggle in every subject on the exam.

As a result, Paulson has required all teachers to include reading and compositional work in these classes. Students say this helps them much more and prepares them for the test.

Belt students have always done very well on the test, and only dipped below the state average 3 times in the past 10 years. In 2013, Belt got a head start from the rest of Montana and required every junior to take the ACT, while the rest of the state did not. This was the year Belt was slightly below state average. Prior to 2013, only college bound students were required to take the standardized test.

The number of students tak-

ing the ACT went from 6,024 in 2012, 6,631 in 2013, and skyrocketed to 9,611 students in 2014. Students that do not plan to head to college after high school have been studying hard and still doing well on their tests and keeping Belt School's scores at and very close to the state average. Not only has Belt School started to require all students to take this test, but so have schools all across the state. The state is attempting to transition the system to where every school and student takes the ACT.

Approximately 70% of students retake their ACT to test to their peak score, the score that counts. Because students will be retaking the test for several months into their senior year, Paulson will receive the final ACT scores next August. At that point, Paulson will be able to examine the scores compared across the nation and Montana state to see if Belt was above the state average.

Paulson is very satisfied with the scores of his students. If the students did very well on their first time taking the ACT, they will probably do even better their second time, and impress the rest of Montana even more.

**By: Alison Stoker**

## Safety First

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, the Red Lodge volleyball team traveled to Choteau, Montana, for their season opener against the Fairfield Eagles. The girls were pumped and enthusiastic about the competition, but no one was ready for the devastating news they received. The Fairfield volleyball team forfeited the game, due to the tragic car accident that occurred the day before the game. Lauryn Goldhahn, a 15 year old Fairfield volleyball player, and her older sister, Allix Goldhahn, were not wearing their seat belts when the crashed happened. On August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Lauryn, daughter of Pat and Windie Goldhahn, passed away. The Valley Voice would like to pass on prayers and condolences to their family.

The Red Lodge team was moved by Lauryn's accident and decided to make a statement. Before

their game against Laurel, the Red Lodge Volleyball team and Jim Hildermander created a tribute for Lauryn called #buckleupblue4Lauryn. Using the blue for Fairfield Eagles, the team passed out blue ribbons to every person who walked through the door. The blue ribbon represents Lauryn, and is to be tied around people's steering wheels as a reminder to buckle up. Car crashes are extremely dangerous, but wearing a seat belt can prevent the passengers and driver from serious injuries.

Students and staff are constantly reminded to wear their seat belts, but many people do not take it seriously. Questions like, "How is this little belt going to make a difference?", or why is it always such a big deal?, or who are you to tell me how to drive?," are often asked by

young people. A student at Belt Public School, Jordan Swanson, voices her opinion of seat belts, "Overall, in my experience, you're more secure and feel safer when wearing your seat belt. I was in an accident during the summer of 2015, and without my seat belt I might not be here today."

Seat belts are essential to being safe in a car, and they prevent the passenger from being ejected from the car, and reduce the chance of serious injury. Always remember to Buckle Up!

**By: Morgan Davis**



## New Students

In this issue, the Valley Voice will be introducing three more new students from across Montana, and across the world. Moving into a new environment can be scary sometimes, but these students are keeping a positive attitude while they adjust to the Belt area. These three students are John Coehlo, a sophomore, John Luke Corbett, a seventh grader, and Gabe Triplett, also a seventh grader.

John Coehlo, originally Joao, is a foreign exchange student from Brazil. Coehlo came to America only a couple weeks ago and is loving the transition. "It's small, like it a lot!" but I men- Coehlo enjoys soccer loves class



they are always doing something active. Foreign exchange students will be featured in another article.



John Luke Corbett is a seventh grader from Morningside Elementary in Great Falls, Montana. Corbett is quite a

smart young man, he loves engineering and anything science. He enjoys building plastic models for engineering. Corbett enjoys Belt because of everything it has to offer. Corbett has made some really nice friends that are a lot like him.

Gabe Triplett is also a seventh grader from Havre, Montana. Triplett is an outdoors kind of guy and really enjoys hunting, fishing, and playing sports. Currently, Tri-


plett is a member on the football team, and plans on joining the basketball and track teams later



this year. Triplett enjoys belt because the students are a lot nicer

and more fun. The Valley Voice is happy that the new students are having a good experience in their new school. In the next issue, three more new students will be introduced to the Belt community.

**By: Alison Stoker**

Games and Puzzles	Inspirational Quotes
<p data-bbox="102 176 699 289">This week's issue for games and puzzles is a continuation of body parts! To whom do these belong?</p>  <p data-bbox="102 856 565 888">Answer from Issue #1: Kali Duncan</p>	<p data-bbox="724 176 1516 411">Last week's inspirational quotes were based off of the theme determination. With jumping right in to the new school year, it's vital that students stay determined to do well in their classes/academics, and extracurricular activities. This issue's theme is confidence. Confidence can be used in the classroom, on the field, on the court, and in any aspect of one's life.</p> <p data-bbox="724 447 1239 478">"Confidence is key."- Jean Baker Miller</p> <p data-bbox="724 514 1490 615">"If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint', then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced."- Vincent Van Gogh</p> <p data-bbox="724 651 1490 751">"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."- Ralph Waldo Emerson</p> <p data-bbox="724 787 1516 888">It is amazing how much one can accomplish with self-confidence because it can bring one distances and accomplish goals they couldn't imagine.</p>

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