

The Valley Voice

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2016



Issue # 8

We're on the Web

Extended additions and in color at www.beltschool.com
Contact us at: valleyvoice@beltschool.com

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Belt Creek Clean – Up Project

Belt Creek is used every day by Belt residents and outsiders from the state for fishing and just having fun. However, many have reduced their time in the creek because of the pollution dwelling in the water. The pollution has become dangerous to the residents but the Town Hall has announced a potential solution.

Belt Creek didn't used to be so polluted, but in the last few years, runoff from the old mines has been contaminating Belt's land and waters. In the summer especially, the

thick film of oil is visible and it scares visitors away.

The Belt Creek clean-up will be executed



in 2017 in hopes of a water treatment plant being operational in 2018. This is not only beneficial to the residents because of the clean water, but also because it will require employment. The plant will need to be

operated by at least one individual. In addition, the plant will bring commerce to Belt during the construction phase.

The cost of the project has not yet been determined, and the proposal will be released for bidding in 2017. Montana DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) will be funding the Creek clean-up; this organization has enough funding to

construct the water treatment plant and to run it for 100 years.

This project promises to improve the quality of Belt Creek will boost Belt's overall environment.

By: Alison Stoker

Geography Bee

A new champion was crowned in Belt's school wide Geography Bee on Wednesday, December 7th. Thirty-one students ranging from 4th-8th grade qualified for the competition held in the gymnasium.



Among them was the defending school champ, Archer Throckmorton., but eighth grader T.J. Hennes captured his throne. The National Geographic Society sponsors the annual event held in over 11,000 schools nationally. Mr.

Koontz organized and moderated the competition with help from Mrs. Meissner and Mrs. Vogt, who served as judges.

The preliminary portion of the competition consisted of six rounds of questions conducted in spelling bee fashion that reduced the number of competitors to eight. This octet included: Ahmia Lords, Archer Throckmorton,

(Cont. pg. 3)

Basketball

After two weeks of practice the Husky basketball teams are ready for action on the hardwood. Today and tomorrow the teams are competing in a pre-season tournament



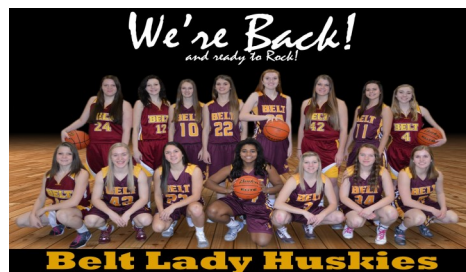
hosted in Shelby. The varsity boys will compete against Florence and Libby, while the JV team plays Malta and Libby. Because of lack of numbers on the boys' team, eighth graders were pulled up to fill the JV roster. Today the varsity girls will take on the reigning state B champs, the Mal-

ta M-Ettes, and tomorrow they will battle against the Libby Loggers. The JV girls participate against Malta and Loyola. All of the teams' first game will be in Winnett against the

Winnett/Grass Range Rams on December 16th. The games will be broadcasted not just on the radio, but online as well. The radio station 102.7 will be covering the Husky games as well as the link www.kinx1027.com <<http://www.kinx1027.com>>. The broad-

cast can also be accessed through network1sports. In addition a live stream video broadcast should be available through the Shelby High media department. Go to shelbypublicschools.org. Just click on "Coyote Vision".

By: Kerstyn Pimperton



Fun on the Slopes

Most people think of holidays, cold weather, and snow when they describe winter, but other people think of shredding up the snow at Showdown, MT. While many people struggle with exercise during the winter, others take advantage of this winter wonder land sport. Belt Public School and the health teachers set up a program so that students could enjoy the winter weather while having a

blast, learning new skills, and staying active.

Belt Public School and their students have been traveling to Showdown as a yearly tradition. Students, ranging from K-8th grade, participate in a skiing or snowboarding lesson upon their arrival, and this gives students the opportunity to work with new teachers and students.

After the students complete their lessons as a group, where kids are ranked is based on level ability, they're allowed to free ski or free snowboard with friends or individually. Here are this year's ski dates:

K-2nd: Jan. 18 & Feb. 15

3rd-5th: Jan. 11 & Feb. 8

6th-8th: Dec. 21 & Jan. 25

By: Morgan Davis

Science Olympiad

On November 22nd, the students involved in Science Olympiad traveled to the MSU campus in Bozeman, MT, to compete and share their projects. This year, only two seniors participated, Adrianna Irvine and Kerstyn Pimperton, but many other students took part in the organization, including: Jordan Swanson, Hannah Schweitzer, Robert Gliko, Elyse Adams, MaKayla O'Neil, Tori Shelton, Braydon Marks, Julia Vogt, Avery Newman, Anthony Wall, Natalie Larsen, William Franzen, Kolby Pimperton, Adelle Meissner, Ahmia Lords, Lindsey Paulson, Piper Denno, Cole Hepfner, Asa Jassen, Raily Gliko, Alivia Shelton, Leaf Corrow, Mason Williams, Brendan Dailey,

and John Luke Corbett. The *highest awards* went to Julia Vogt and Jordan Swanson, 12th in Astronomy, Asa Jassen and Cole Hepfner, 12th in Mission Possible, Piper Denno and John Luke Corbett, 12th in Wright Stuff, Robert Gliko and Anthony Wall, 9th in Wind Power, Lindsey Paulson and Livvy Shelton, 8th in Food Science, and in third place for Game On, was William Franzen. Congratulations to all participants.

Upon their arrival, the students participated in a variety of science activities that ranged from testing on the human anatomy to studying the physiology to building a Rube Goldberg designed

machine to perform certain tasks.

Mrs. Vogt and Mrs. Horton volunteered as chaperones for the trip, and they managed to contain the Science Olympians while also allowing them to enjoy themselves and have fun. Mrs. Horton has been running Science Olympiad since she began working at BVHS seven years ago. When asked about her favorite part about being involved, she replied, "I wouldn't say I am the boss, I am the supervisor because I am the science teacher. It's fun to help students find something in the sciences that they enjoy, and help them further their interest through a Science Olympiad .

By: Morgan Davis

College Online Training: Register Now

The school year is wrapping up the second quarter on January 16, 2017, and students will be preparing for semester finals in the near future. Along with the new semester comes a few minor changes, and students will have the opportunity to drop classes and take on new courses. It is extremely important for juniors and seniors taking College Online Training classes to register for their next semester.

COT Registration began December 6th, 2016, and students will have until **January 6th** to register for their classes. Mrs. Gliko stresses the level of responsibility needed for this task, and she recommends that stu-

dents register ASAP, otherwise there won't be any openings. Some classes that are usually offered for high school students online are: Intro to Psychology, Intro to Philosophy, Intro to Anthropology, History in Music, College Writing I, Basic Human Nutrition, Montana History, American History, Intro to Literature, Intro to Business, and many more options. If a student fails to register for their next COT, they will be required to take a class from Belt Public School. This will most likely be an elective, however, there are possibilities that a student could receive a teacher's aid. Enrolling in COT classes is the stu-

dent's responsibility, and no exceptions will be made on the deadline. The Great Falls College Montana State University is located at 2100 16th Ave. South in Great Falls. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Jill Gliko at 406-277-3351 or email her at jgliko@beltschool.com for further information or visit www.gfcmsu.edu. All forms needed to apply for a college class can be found online at the GFCMSU website or from Mrs. Gliko. Classes fill up quick, so hurry and enroll in a COT.

By: Morgan Davis

Geography Bee *(Cont.)*

Cole Hepfner, Corbyn Nebel, Clayton Jassen, Reese Paulson, Tara Hedstrom, and Hennes.

One by one, these contestants were winnowed down to four during the second round of the Bee. The quarter left standing (actually sitting most of the time) were: Lords, C. Jassen, R. Paulson, and Hennes. After missing two questions, Lords and Jassen had a tie-breaker for 3rd place, with Lords prevailing. With the first place prize on the line, Paulson and Hennes both missed the first three questions in the championship round, sending them into sudden death. The final question was, "Colombia, with low coastal plains along both the Car-

ibbean Sea and Pacific Ocean, borders which central American country?" When Hennes correctly answered Panama, he was crowned champion.

Hennes will now take a state wide online test for a chance to compete in Billings in early 2017. Victory there could gain him entry into the National Bee in Washington D.C. in May of 2017. A \$50,000 scholarship will be awarded to the national winner when it is all said and done. The Belt community wants to wish Hennes congratulations and good luck in the next rounds of the Bee.

By: Kerstyn Pimperton

BREAKFAST at VFW

When: December 11th
7 a.m. – 12 p.m.

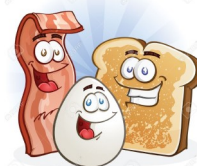
Where: Belt VFW

Cost: Donations Only

The VFW encourages community members and families to join them at a breakfast gathering, on Sunday, sponsored by the VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 4198.

Breakfast will include sausage, eggs, pancakes, biscuits, and gravy, and a bake sale.

All donations will contribute to the VFW, which serves veterans year round.



Feed the Cats Feed the Griz

The National Honor Society recently hosted a canned food drive for the elementary and middle school kids to keep them involved in Montana sports events while doing a good deed. The point of this initiative was to get students to collect cans and put them into the "Cats" bucket or the "Griz" bucket in hopes of their favorite team receiving the most cans. This

competition gathered 855 cans, or 835 pounds of food for the Belt Food Bank. Even though the MSU Bobcats won the game on the field, the school showed that they were even bigger fans of the U of M Griz because in cans, the Griz overtook the Cats 475 to 380 cans.

The class that brought in the most amount of cans overall

for the elementary was the 3rd grade. In middle school, the 6th grade class brought the most cans. This was a great idea for the students because it encouraged them to bring in cans for the food bank.

Mrs. Ray organized the event, which Honor Society has been holding for several years.

By: Alison Stoker

Heisey Basketball

Heisey basketball initiated on October 26th. Chad and Kristy Stroop did a fantastic job coaching the little ones. The kids who participated this year are: Kale Stroop, Ariana Bergos, Ellie Graham, Olivia Knudssen, Adiana Laplaunt, June Bock, Landon Hansen, and Collyns Yurek. The kiddos have had a great time practicing together every Sunday of the season. This is a splendid way to get the little ones ready for the big league. Ellison Graham and Kale Stroop lead the team and would make sure that

everyone got a chance to have their shot. Graham and Stroop have had experience in basketball in recent years so they were able to get head start before the season. After a great season of learning a lot of the game, the other kiddos are right behind Graham and Stroop.



The ballers have competed in a total of 7 games this season. Their last game was last night at Riverview Elementary. The parents of the athletes had a great time watching their kids improve in the season. The kids have achieved a great deal since their first practice. Overall, the 2016 season of Heisey Basketball was a success thanks to Kristy and Chad Stroop and everyone else who has helped out.

By: Kara Neal

Student's View on Presidential Election

Americans across the nation were taken aback by Donald Trump's election, and now the citizens await January of 2017, when the president takes office and begins acting on his proposals. The election of 2016 was easily one of the most controversial elections that the United States has ever seen, and most people found themselves torn between the lesser of two evils. While some people believe Trump will be beneficial to the country and follow through with his campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again," other people are terrified for their lives and are scared of what is to come. The truth is, no one really knows what Trump will do next, and some sources have actually claimed that Donald Trump himself doesn't even know what he's doing next. What truly matters is that the United States citizens band together to fight racism, accept political differences, and avoid a division within the people of the country.

Most people followed the political debates and election polls, so the majority of the people know what Trump stood for during the campaign...but many people, even foreign policy professionals and other Trump coworkers, are skeptical when

it comes to a sincere proposal versus his campaign rhetoric. In many cases, Trump has been known to give vague information to the public about his plans, and in others he's been extremely contradictory towards himself and his views.

As of now, sources such as www.trump.news have stated that he strongly supports concealed carry for American citizens because "the right of self-defense doesn't end at your driveway." This movement has had several people, especially in Montana, in a state of relief and relaxation. Another big issue Trump will attempt to tackle is foreign policy. On top of his idea of building a wall, which would be built on the southern border of the U.S. and be paid by Mexico, he will increase spending on military resources such as: U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

While many people worry about foreign policy and its effects, some people are waiting for Trump's plan for the reformation of health care. There are so many different things to think about and take into consideration as the president of the United States, and the U.S. citizens are depending on him and

his decisions.

Students at Belt Public School have become more involved in political discussions since the election of Donald Trump, and some students have even engaged in heated arguments on the subject. This is a big step for high school students and other young adults because they are the next generation to vote. This can be an issue because a majority of students would argue, "my vote doesn't even count." Although the U.S. has an indirect voting system, individual votes are counted for local campaigns...which contributes to the electoral vote.

It is extremely important for students and young adults to get involved with politics, and learning how they work is the best way to prepare for voting in the future. Educating the future generations of voters will only benefit the U.S. as a country, and will guarantee a successful presidency.

Most Americans have adopted a "wait and see" attitude, as has the rest of the world. It could be a very interesting four years on the horizon.

By: Morgan Davis

Fall Sports Banquet

The last couple months have been a great time for fans of the Husky athletic program. All three interscholastic squads enjoyed banner years at both the local and state levels of competition. To commemorate that success, on November 29th, the fall sports teams were recognized at the annual athletic banquet. The cross country team was great, the boys received third place. The Football squad did great this year as well. They were undefeated until the semifinal match against Charlo and received third place. The volleyball girls won the first ever state championship this year bringing home hardware. At the banquet, the boosters provided a large pot luck for the community to share as they celebrate the fall teams' accomplishments.

Coach Graham introduced the 2016 football team and began sending out their awards. The Most Tackles award goes to Jaren Maki with 181 tackles. Top Ball-Hawk went to Harry Green for 110 tackles, 5 interceptions, 1 sack, 1 fumble caused, and 1 fumble recovery. Top Defensive Lineman goes to Taylor Olson. MVP-Defense goes to Jaren Maki. Leading Rusher goes to Harry Green with 95 carries for 786 yards, averaging 8.3 yards per carry, 6 touchdowns, and two 2 point conversions. Leading Receiver goes to Jess Bodner with 49 carries for 921 yards and 14 touchdowns, the most made in all of Coach Grahams 10 years. Top Offensive Lineman goes to Taylor Olson. MVP-Offense goes to Harry green with 2172 yards passing and 786 yards rushing, 49 touchdowns, and 8 two point conversions. Most Improved goes to Robbie Flinn with 155 total yards and 34 tackles. Most Inspirational goes to Jaren Maki. Mr. Hustle goes to

Keagan Stroop with 1371 total yards, 21 total Touchdowns, and 72 tackles.

All-Conference Honors was awarded to Jaren Maki: 1st team MLB, 1st team FB; Harry Green 1st team OLB, 1st team QB; Jess Bodner 1st team OLB, 1st team Offensive End; Taylor Olson 1st team DL, 2nd team G; Troy Hennes 1st team DE, 1st team Tight End; Keagan Stroop 1st team Safety, 1st team Offensive End; Antonio Heaton 2nd team DE; Nolan Myrstol 2nd team C. All-State Honors goes to 6 athletic men: Jaren Maki, Harry Green, Jess Bodner, Taylor Olson, Troy Hennes, and Keagan Stroop. Because these men are student-athletes first, the Academic All-State award goes to Harry Green, Nolan Myrstol, Adam Langston, Hunter Vogl, and Andrew Stice.

The Class of 2017 senior boys were very successful this season and all 4 of them (Jaren Maki, Harry Green, Jess Bodner, and Taylor Olson) will be participating in the 8-man All Star Game in June.

Next the cross country running group was brought together and recognized for their tremendous season. The awards that Coach Garber gave out were: MVP to Keagan Stroop with a PR of 17:04.4 at the state meet and Shelby Paulson with a PR of 22:57.5 at the Townsend meet. The Most Improved runner went to William Franzen who improved by a whopping 7 minutes. Kolby Pimperton was also awarded Most Improved for the girls with an improvement of 1.5 minutes. Most Dedicated runners went to Robert Gliko and Kerstyn Pimperton for always going to the cold, early morning practices. Stroop timed in the top 15 and was awarded All-State for placing 7th at the state meet. Almost all of these student-athletes received Academic All-

State; these students are: Kerstyn Pimperton, Harry Green, Kolby Pimperton, Paulson, and Franzen.

Finally, the state championship winning volleyball team was presented by their coach, Christine Gondeiro. Gondeiro handed out 12 awards to the girls that achieved this season. The Most Assists went to Kerstyn Pimperton with 927. Most Kills went to Dani Urick with 320. Most Blocks went to Kassie Hoyer with 81. Most Digs went to Alison Stoker with 373. Most Serve Receive Passes went to Stoker with 322. Most Aces went to Sara Anderson and Stoker each with 57. Most Improved went to Kerstyn Pimperton and Anderson. Most Inspirational went to Hoyer and MVP went to Urick.

Voted by the coaches of the 7C volleyball conference, All-Conference 1st team went to Urick and Stoker. All-Conference 2nd team went to Anderson, Kerstyn Pimperton, Malek, and Hoyer. Voted by the coaches of the Class C state tournament, 1st team All-State went to Urick, Stoker, Anderson, and Kerstyn Pimperton. 2nd team All State went to Adrian Malek and Hoyer. The outstanding student athletes that received Academic All-State were Kerstyn Pimperton, A. Stoker, Hoyer, Anderson, Malek, Haley Stoker, Joely Stoker, Morgan Cooper, Kolby Pimperton, Paulson, Abby Gliko, and Adelle Meissner.

All of the fall sports teams were very successful this season, and thanks to the Boosters, these received proper recognition. With the ink barely dry on their certificates, these student athletes now embark on the second competitive season of the school year. Girls and boys basketball has started as well as wrestling.

By: Alison Stoker

Senior Spotlight

This week's senior spotlight is going to cover the journey of high school for seniors Jess Bodner and Kali Duncan.

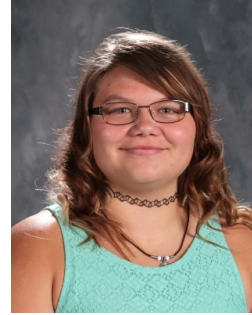
Jess Bodner is not native to the Belt Valley. He moved here with his family in March of his sophomore year in 2015 from Stevensville, Montana. Bodner has fit in right along since his arrival in 2015 and claims that he has loved his high school journey so far. However, he states that one of his lowest points in high school was contracting mononucleosis, also known as mono. This illness makes one fairly lethargic and in extreme cases, debilitated. Ever since he moved to Belt, Bodner has jumped right in with sports activities. In his sophomore year here at Belt High, Bodner was only able to join track, however, that is when he got sick from mono. Including that year and the rest of his senior year, Bodner will have participated in 3 years of track, 2 years of basketball, and 2 years of football. His favorite memories are being able to play with his friends, whether it be on the field, court, or track. Being his favorite memory, it will also be one of the things he'll miss the most. Even



though he has only spent a couple years in Belt, he's grown up with his friends here and will dearly miss them after graduation in May. After that celebration, Bodner plans on going to college, but is not positive on where to go yet. He believes that he will major in business and is open to the possibility of playing college football. As the last couple months of high school wind down, Bodner is taking in all the 'lasts' that his senior year has to offer.

Kali Duncan is also a non-native to the Belt area. She moved from Oklahoma at the beginning of her sixth grade year. One of her favorite memories was during her junior year on Valentine's Day. Her class was in charge of delivering Valentine's Day balloons to the students, staff, and parents at Belt School. With the left over balloons that the class had, a couple of them decided to go out and deliver the extra balloons to the Golden Valley Homes right here in the valley. Adrianna Irvine, Mo Wall, Isabelle Newman, and last year's exchange student from Germany: Katha Maucher, accompanied Duncan on this adventure. Many memories were made and it was an experience she will never forget. Duncan has been very school involved since the beginning of her high school years here at Belt High. She has been in

the drama department for four years, choir for three years, band for four years, yearbook for three years, journalism for one year, and cheer for two years. One thing that Duncan will miss the most is



traveling with the band and cheerleaders to cheer on at away sporting events such as football playoffs, volleyball tournaments, and basketball

tournaments. She claims that the bus rides are something she is really going to miss. After graduation, Duncan is planning on attending school in Montana. She is looking into music education as a major and is waiting on acceptance letters before she decides. As the year winds down, Duncan is taking in the lasts of her senior year like Bodner.

Bodner and Duncan both are excited for graduation and to see what the rest of the year has in store for them and their class. In the next issue of the Valley Voice, Senior Spotlight will be focusing in on Harry Green and Emily Highfill.

By: Isabelle Newman

Little Lady Husky Camp

The 2017 Belt Little Lady Husky Girls' Basketball Camp is coming up right around the corner. On January 14th, Coach Graham and the Lady Husky basketball team will work with girls in Kindergarten through 6th grade to develop their fundamental basketball skills. The Little Huskies will play during half time of the girls' varsity game against conference rival Denton/Geysler/Stanford, which begins at 6:00 p.m.,

the night of the January 14th.

The camp includes: fundamental instruction, 1 on 1 competition, hot-shot competition, free throw competition, 5 on 5 competition, and shooting competitions. The goal of the camp is to have fun and to improve the youngsters' basketball ability.

Parents may register the morning of the camp, but their child won't receive a t-shirt until later. To

get a form, visit the office at Belt School.

They will be able to supply interested parties with the proper paperwork. All of the proceeds from camp will go towards the Lady Husky Basketball fund to help offset summer tournament costs. This is an event that the Lady Huskies look forward to each year.

By: Kerstyn Pimperton

Operation Santa

Calendar of Events

Operation Santa is coming up on December 19th. This annual event lifts spirits and provides a fun learning activity.

This will be the 8th year Kathy Metrione, the 5th grade teacher, will be escorting the 4th and 5th graders to the Walmart in Great Falls to buy toys for children in need. Before the students head to town, they train for certain jobs such as a banker, accountant, shopper, etc. They also practice handling money so they spend it wisely. When the students finally reach their destination, they are split into groups of four and are handed a certain amount of money.

The money is spent on toys for little ones whose parents can't afford presents in the Belt Community. This is a

great way for the children to have an educational experience with money and the joy of giving to the ones in need.

Metrione's goal every year is to raise a total of \$1,400 for the children in the community.

Every year has been a success as she manages many fundraisers. As most of the community knows, during the fall, the 4th and 5th graders will go around

and rake the leaves in peoples' yards. Metrione and the students always have a great time taking time out of school to do something for the community. Currently, the 4th and 5th graders have been selling raffle tickets around the community. On the 16th of December, Metrione will be



drawing the winners of the raffle to win a basket full of goodies. Many of the raffle tickets were sold at the recent elementary concert this past Tuesday, December 6th.

The students not only made quite a bit money from the raffle tickets but also from the bake sale they managed. There was an abundant of goodies to choose from. The parents were able to enjoy delicious sweets as they watched their kids perform. It isn't the end of December and Metrione is already getting close to her goal. She is happy of how hard her students work for the children in need in the Belt community. Metrione will continue to hold fundraisers throughout the year and will accept donations.

By: Kara Neal

- Dec. 9th-10th-BBall Tournaments @Shelby
- Dec. 13th- 7:30pm Board of Trustees
- Dec. 16th-BBall [girls] @WGR (JVar-9:00pm Var-6:00pm)
- Dec. 16th-BBall [boys] @WGR (JVar-4:30pm Var-7:30pm)
- Dec. 17th-BBall [girls] @Belt (JVar-2:00pm Var-5:00pm)
- Dec. 17th-BBall [boys] @Belt (JVar-3:30pm Var-6:30pm)
- Dec. 20th- □Christmas Concert grades 5-12 @7:00pm
- Dec. 22nd-Jan. 1st- Christmas Break (*No School*)
- Dec. 22nd-BBall [girls] @Winifred (JVar-12:00pm Var-3:00pm)
- Dec. 22nd-BBall [boys] @Winifred (JVar-1:30pm Var-4:30pm)
- Dec. 24th-Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25th-Christmas



Approximately 40% of car accidents around the world involve alcohol. That means that around 15,000 people die annually from drinking and driving. Nobody should be driving when they have been drinking no matter how good of a driver they think they are. The reason for this is because driving is impaired with as little as .01% BAC. That may seem like a small amount but just that tiny amount can affect your driving. In the long run it is better to be safe than sorry. This means that if you have been drinking you need to call someone for a ride home. When you act responsibly you're looking out for yourself and others.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

This message brought to you by your
Cascade DUI Task Force



Where Are They Now?

Class of 2016 graduates Koltin Haugrose, Ginny Meissner, and Emily Stoker are all in their freshman year of college trying to fulfill their dreams.

Koltin Haugrose is attending Rocky Mountain College this year and is very happy with his decision.



Haugrose is playing basketball as a Battlin Bear. He received a yearly scholarship to play for this team. Haugrose loves this sport and loves it

even more at the collegiate level. College basketball is different than high school basketball for many reasons, claims Haugrose. “In college there is a lot more talented and you run into a lot more challenges and adversity... But for me I was lucky to have such great role models and coaches.” Despite these differences, there are a lot of connections between college and high school basketball. Haugrose says, “For me, Coach Paulson and all my coaches over the years were really intense and competitive and expected us to be the best we can, just like college coaches. They demand excellence. One more thing Haugrose would like to add about his new basketball team at RMC, is that it’s crazy playing with guys he didn’t know at all in high school, but they became his best friends once they were teammates. Haugrose is still involved in his studies at RMC and he is majoring in chemistry in hopes of becoming a pharmacist. “Some classes are really

difficult but the overall experience is really fun and the freedom of being a college student is really nice.” Haugrose is surprised at the amount of time he has to dedicate towards homework but he is very happy with his decision to attend RMC.

Ginny Meissner is a freshman at Carroll College in Helena, Montana. Meissner has always dreamed of attending Carroll College, and since freshman year, she has shown off her Saints gear. Just like she had imagined, Meissner loves Carroll and she says she definitely thinks it was the right choice for her. Meissner plans on majoring in nursing. Meissner is very surprised at how laid back the professors are. Contrary to what high school teachers claim, the professors want to get to know the students and the professors understand the students much



more. Meissner has always been an outgoing person throughout high school and she made sure to continue this

trend and get involved in college. She currently participates in intramural sports like soccer and basketball, and this spring she will join the intramural volleyball team. Between keeping up with her studies and athletics, Meissner, along with her alpha groups, volunteers at the homeless shelter near the school.

Emily Stoker is loving her experience so far at the University

of Great Falls. Stoker claims it is much better than high school. Stoker is a starting volleyball player at UGF after receiving a \$13,000 scholarship yearly. The collegiate level of volleyball is much more intense, Stoker says. It is “much more fast paced. Everyone is bigger, stronger, and faster.” Stoker will continue as an Argo on the court for the next three years. When she has time off from



volleyball, she gets involved in intramurals like dodge ball, and Stoker is always working on her studies. She says, “You only have school a couple hours a day but you study for the remaining 10 hours,” not to mention her tiring practices in between. Stoker knew college would be difficult, but it amazes her how much time goes into her schoolwork. Stoker is majoring in exercise science to hopefully become an orthopedic physical therapist. For a little bit, Stoker was unsure of her decision to attend UGF because it was so close to home, but she says, “I don’t regret it for a second. I love it here. Stoker would also like to mention that no matter where you go, you will find activities and people that you’ll like. Stoker encourages college bound students to relax and not worry about their decision.

By: Alison Stoker

Breakfast with Santa

The annual Breakfast with Santa took place this past Saturday, December 3rd in the Belt cafeteria. Molly Sweeney directed the event with support from the Belt Pool Committee and volunteers from Youth Leadership. This annual Breakfast with Santa benefits the Belt Community Pool.

The Belt Pool does not receive government funding and relies on donations, fundraising, and grants. The community has been doing a great job



by benefiting the Belt Pool and Sweeney wants to make sure the help continues.

Breakfast with Santa is not only a great fundraiser for the Belt Pool, it also brings families and friends together.

This event began at 8:00 a.m. and lasted until 11:00 a.m. Breakfast with Santa was a smashing success, bringing in kids from the community and from other towns around the area. The kiddos



had a great time with the several activities they were able to participate

in. Activities that included were: photo taking with Santa, ornament making, cookie decorating, face painting, wood working, and much more. The fun would not stop because there was so much to do! Sweeney and the volunteers enjoyed their Saturday morning seeing all the smiles on the children's faces.



By: Kara Neal

Sportsmanship

People get hung up in trophies, scholarships, and winning but the act of showing sportsmanship is a value every competitor should exhibit first. It not only reflects the character of the athlete but also the sophistication of the community and school. People sometimes lose sight of this important element of interscholastic competition. The modern sports fan is more likely to see poor sportsmanship exhibited versus good sportsmanship.

The semifinal football game between Belt and Charlo was a refreshing example of the better half of this principle. The crowd that stood on the sidelines of the contest was thankful for the good sportsmanship

displayed by two outstanding teams that day. The school received many compliments from the spectators, even from the opposing team. Charlo Superintendent Steve Love reached out to Belt School administrators with a letter congratulating both the team and the community on the noble sportsmanship demonstrated. Not only did the onlookers notice the trait being displayed, but so did the athletes participating.

Senior quarterback Harry Green claimed, "The Charlo players and coaches were outstanding sportsman. For such an important game, I wasn't expecting players to be so amiable." Most fan in Belt

were rooting for Charlo to win the next week in the state title game, although the Viking fell just short in that bid against Ennis.

This game set a great example for all athletes, competitors, and spectators to follow. Sportsmanship gets lost in the chaos of winning and should be recognized more often. The football contest was more than just a game; it was a celebration of sportsmanship as well. While many Husky fans were disappointed with the scoreboard, they should have been proud of what they saw on the field.

By: Kerstyn Pimperton

Wrestling

Last Friday the big Belt wrestlers trekked to Cascade for their first meet of the season. The Belt athletes that participated in this meet was Braydon Marks, Nolan Myrstol, Gavin Roberts, Andrew Stice, and Brandon Wall.

All of these students were successful, however Brandon Wall was the only Husky to place in the tournament, receiving 4th place in the 132 lb.

weight group. Myrstol and Marks were forced into a pigtail match, because of the excessive amount of athletes in that weight group, attempting to make their way into the final bracket. Myrstol went 5-0 in exhibition matches and Marks went 3-0 in the exhibition matches. Stice lost out in his first two matches because of the double illumination bracket. Because this was only the

first meet of the wrestling season, the Huskies have lots of time to improve and hopefully win. On Thursday, the manly Huskies will cruise to Great Falls High School their second meet. Even though they might not have started out the season like they wanted, they are ready to put in hard to achieve their goals as a team.

By: Alison Stoker

Holiday 3 on 3

On December 3rd, Belt hosted the annual Belt Valley Holiday 3 on 3 tournament. The tournament tip offed at 9:00 a.m. for the competitors, while the day finished at 4:00 p.m. Teams from all over Montana participated in the event. Athletes from the high school basketball teams volunteered their time to ref and keep score at the games. Coach Jeff Graham and Coach Kyle Paulson donated their day to the gym to keep it organized and flowing. The tournament consisted of six divisions (three boys' and three

girls') split up in three age groups of 3rd/4th, 5th/6th, and 7th/8th. In the boys' 3rd/4th section the Blue Chips from Billings found themselves on top for the gold. In the boys' 5th/6th category the Shelby Coyotes defeated all of the competition to earn first. In the top dog classification, Lights Out from Great Falls defeated Belt to take the tournament. As for the ladies, in the 3rd/4th division the Centerville Miners defeated Fergus to finish out on top. In the 5th/6th grouping, Shelby earned first place. Finally, in the girls' 7th/8th

grade division the Great Falls Fuzion defeated the Huskies to take the gold hardware.

The efforts put in by Coach Graham and Coach Paulson made the tournament run smoothly and on time throughout the entire day. All of the earnings from this competition goes to the basketball programs at Belt High. The Huskies hope that this tournament brought together the community and gave the young athletes another perspective of the game.

By: Kerstyn Pimperton

It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Whether it's *Jingle Bells*, *Frosty the Snowman*, or *Where Are You Christmas*, Christmas songs are one of the best ways to delve into holiday spirit and winter festivities. While some people prefer spreading their joy by caroling and handing out goodies, other people may be content with wrapping up in a warm blanket, drinking hot cocoa, and watching a Christmas themed movie. And although most people love the season and all the holidays it withholds, there are a few people that are Humbugs...but by the end of this article, they will be the Grinch – who realizes the true meaning of Christmas. Sometimes, between the weather, presents, food, and songs, people forget what Christmas truly means.

The majority of people in the United States play along in a fantasy world of magical toys, elves, and the most known character, Santa Claus, to enlighten their children's childhood. The factor of innocence is something every parent grasps, and the idea of Santa is the best way to hold onto that. It's also a great way to encourage good behavior all year because no one wants to wake up on Christmas

morning to find that they were on the naughty list and have no presents! Christmas is a fun, magical holiday for most people, but other people view it as a more sacred holiday.

Christmas is often believed to be the birthday of Jesus Christ, and many Christian people attend church and praise their Lord on the 25th of December. Most people imagine a baby Jesus, wrapped in swaddling clothes, in a manger with his parents, Mary and Joseph, and the three wise men who gifted Jesus with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Surrounded by his family, the animals, and the wise men, the baby Jesus and his birth would impact the world forever.

Christmas is a holiday that people either hate or love. It's crazy to imagine, but some people actually loathe the holiday. There are numerous reasons for this...the person's birthday falls close to the holiday, the person is lonely and without on the holiday, or the person just doesn't like the cold weather, but the most common one people can relate to is: Christmas is no longer Christmas. Christmas used to be about putting milk and cook-

ies out by the tree for Santa, waking up the next morning to open a few presents, and spending the day at Grandma's house eating cookies and Christmas dinner, enjoying family time, and being thankful for what was under the tree.

It seems that some people have lost the true meaning of Christmas in the crowded stores, in the rush to buy presents, and in the stress of losing money. Christmas isn't about losing money, buying a ton of toys, or dreading Christmas dinner at the in-laws house! Of course there should be a few presents and dinner, but that doesn't mean people shouldn't be grateful for their family, what they already have, and their God.

A wise Grinch once said, "...it (Christmas) came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes, or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'til his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?"

By: Morgan Davis

Christmas Caroling

The annual Christmas Caroling will be taking place on Wednesday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. This will be the 9th year of the community getting together for this festive event. Youth Leadership, the Community Church youth group, and the Catholic Church youth group have hosted the Christmas Caroling every year. 6th through 12th graders are welcome to join this enjoyable activity. Parents, please don't bring children that are below 6th grade, the trailers are already full and don't want the little ones to get hurt. When the kids gather at the Catholic Church at 6:00 p.m. will they bundle up and go on the two trailers that are provided for them. Last year there was a variety students that joined this festive event

that both off the trailers were full. It's great knowing that many students want to be part of the Christmas Caroling. The jolly singers usually try to hit most of the streets of Belt before it gets too cold. They generally sing 3 songs that all of the students know and change it up every block they go down. After performing for the town of Belt, the kids gather together for a delightful meal. Last year, Youth Leadership hosted the meal, this year it will be one of the Churches. The community is looking forward to another Christmas Caroling for the Holidays. Mr. Hoyer, the director of Youth Leadership, loves to bring the Christmas spirit to the town of Belt.

Youth Leadership is not on-

ly bringing joy to the community, but to the little kids as well. This past Saturday, December 3rd, many members of Youth Leadership volunteered for the Breakfast with Santa. The Breakfast with Santa is an annual fundraiser for the Belt Pool. Many children come to see Santa and enjoy many activities provided for them. There were too many kids for just a few people to handle, the volunteers helped with anything they could. The volunteers began Friday night setting up the cafeteria and ended Saturday afternoon cleaning up. Youth Leadership has been doing a great deal for the community and plan on to continue their help to the community.

By: Kara Neal

City News

The first November Town Council meeting took place on the 2nd and present at the meeting was: Mayor BJ Wells; Alderman Sally Miller, Glen Enderson, Paul Heikkila, Annie Porter and Nadine Hardinger; Clerk-Treasurer Lynn Schilling; Public Works Robin Franzen, and Belt School Superintendent Kathleen Prody.

Together the council members and guests discussed the existing water/sewer billing and shut off policy. The council has decided to reinstate the late fee policy with respect to delinquent water/sewer utility bills. Alderman Porter mentioned that the 20% delinquency fee should be applied across the board. The policy, which was adopted in 2011, helps control the amount of uncollected utility revenue which hampers the Town's ability to get grants and loans. Utility Bills go out on the first of the month and are due in full by the last day of the month. New business presented at this meeting was the Montana

Waste Systems collection contract. Clerk-Treasurer Schilling declared that the Montana Waste Systems will be renewing their garbage collection contract with the town of Belt. This new contract will be executed on January 1st, 2017, and will cover a 5 year period and will reflect an approximate 3.5% increase. This means that for every single family residence, there will be an increase of 53 cents a month. Schilling added that this increase will not have to be passed on to the customer for at least one year.

Mayor Wells announced a reminder that the meeting with the DEQ will take place on November 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Seniors Center. DEQ will be discussing and answering questions related to the approaching program to clean up the mine waste water that has polluted the Belt Creek for some time. This dirty water affects all citizens of Belt because in the summer, children swim and play in the Creek for days on end. Details

regarding this project are on the front page of this publication. It is one of the more important items of business tackled by the Belt Town Council in recent years. After over a century of pollution in Belt Creek caused by coal mining in the late 1800's, many hope that Belt Creek will once again run cleanly through the valley.

Next, a proposal was put forth regarding looking into drafting and ordinance that would ban strip clubs and similar businesses from operating within the Belt city limits. This ordinance would keep Belt classy and safe because of all the young students walking around town to the theatre, the store, or across town to the bank, post office, and their homes.

The next meeting will be within the next few weeks, with a plan to begin working on a Growth Policy for Belt. The Valley Voice will provide continuing coverage of events that impact Belt.

By: Alison Stoker

Hunting Trophies

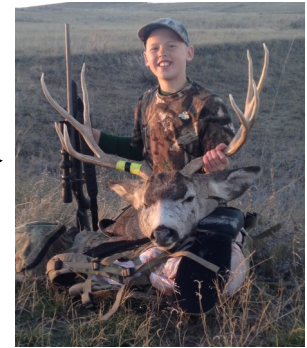
Name: Kyle Paulson
Type: Bull Elk
Range: 25 yards
Weapon: Bow
Area: Tenderfood Creek
Highlights: "Thank goodness for horses."



Name: Lindsey Paulson
Type: Whitetail deer
Range: 120 yards
Weapon: .243 Savage
Area: Dutton
Score: 4 by 3
Highlights: This was Lindsey's first buck...one shot.



Name: Reese Paulson
Type: Mule deer
Range: 75-100 yards
Weapon: .308 American Ruger
Area: Mosby
Score: 4 by 4
Highlights: This was Reese's second buck and his biggest.



Valley Voice
P.O. Box 197
Belt, MT 59412