

Friday,  
January 13<sup>th</sup>

# The Valley Voice

## Purple Heart



Issue # 10

### We're on the Web

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Joseph Dickison, a local citizen of Belt, recently received the Purple Heart. The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces who have been wounded in combat. The Purple Heart was first introduced by George Washington in 1782, as the "Badge of Military Merit." However, it was not put into effect until February 22, 1932 as the Purple Heart. It is a huge honor for any member of the armed forces to receive the Purple Heart.

Dickison is a very courageous man as he served in Afghanistan, Iraq, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and the Azores. While Dickison served in Southern Afghanistan, he was laying foundation for the mass transition from Iraq to

Afghanistan. During the process, Dickison was wounded. He was serving with the 819<sup>th</sup> Red Horse Squadron. This squadron is a unit of civil engineers based at the Malmstrom AFB. Their mission is to transport equipment, people, and heavy construction vehicles across the world. Dickison has done his fair share for this country and has been recognized for his service, which is incredible.

The Purple Heart is one of the oldest military medals that is still handed out today. Dickison is honored to receive the Purple Heart as he stated, "There are so many deserving military members out there that have sacrificed more than me. I am blessed and hon-

ored to even be considered in the same category. This is a tribute to all my brothers out there."

Dickison's daughter, Brinn-Leigh Dickison, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Belt Elementary, is very proud of her father. She knows that he has gone through a lot and truly believes he deserves the Purple Heart. The moment Brinley witnessed her father receive the Purple Heart she had mixed emotions. She was really happy for her father and cried because it was such a touching moment. Brinley said she is somewhat interested in going into the military. She is very supportive of the armed forces, as she said, "They work really hard and I'm glad that they are here to support us."

*(Cont. pg. 8)*

## Sam Sweeney

Sam Sweeney was just another ordinary kid that grew up in Belt, MT, on a local farm before leaving the county and then the country to fulfill his dreams. After graduating in 2005, Sweeney pursued his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in Washington D.C, and in 2009, he graduated from Catholic University with a bachelor's in Political Science. Today, Mr. Sweeney is working

hard to earn his Master's degree in Islamic and Christian Relations in Bei Rut, Lebanon. Most people spell it "Beirut," but Mr. Sweeney was clear that it's actually two words.

As a child, Sam always wanted to delve into a political career, but as a child he imagined it to be more partial. While he is still pursuing a career related to politics, it

is in the Private Sector, and his job is more nonpartisan than a politician's job. He recently transitioned from a job in Turkey as a contractor for the United States State Department and British Foreign Service doing translation work.

He has many exciting experiences to share with his hometown. For example, one interesting topic he shared was his work in Syria  
*(Cont. pg. 10)*

## Sisu Health Club

When people first drive into the Town of Belt, they travel down Castner Street, the busiest thoroughfare. This byway houses businesses like The Brew Pub, the Harvest Moon, Belt Valley Grocery, City Hall, Belt Chiropractic, Belt Mercantile and Art Gallery, and the VFW. There is a new addition to the business district, the Sisu Health Club.

Jason Harmala, a personal trainer, fitness specialist, and power lifter is the owner and operator of the new health club. Sisu Health Club is a workout facility that welcomes all Belt citizens from ages 16-up. Harmala opened this business just before the Christmas break and he is already



successful with a growing clientele. This is a perfect time to open a gym because of the New Year and people's fitness goals regarding their New Year's resolutions.

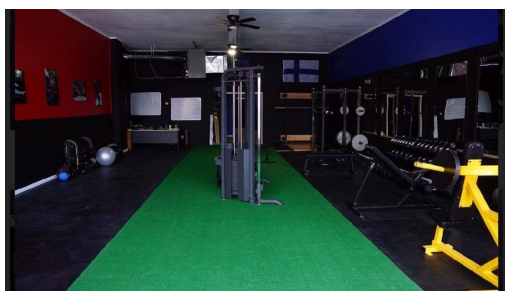
Sisu is a Finnish word defined as the extraordinary endurance in the face of adversity

persistence, determination, guts full of courage, tenacity, resolve, willpower, and an indomitable spirit. Harmala's heritage comes from Finland, where the people "believed their courage and strength was greater than anyone else's." Sisu Health Club is a great name for the new workout facility because of the courage and motivation Harmala gives people. Harmala's new gym has updated machines, high ceilings allowing more exercises to be done,

personal training, nutritional advice, and a workout buddy for low prices. Harmala will create workouts, grocery lists, and advice according to each person's goals. Because Sisu Health Club is currently the only updated fitness amenity with a personal trainer, it should have no problem succeeding in Belt.

The cost for memberships for teens (16 yrs.-19 yrs.) is \$25 monthly, \$35 for adults, and \$60 for a couple. As more and more people find out about the new health club in town, membership is on the rise. Sisu Health Club is the key to keep teens and adults in shape this New Year. Harmala is present in his new workout facility every day from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. If interested, don't be afraid to call Harmala at 406-697-2078 or drop in at 72 Castner Street to discover the benefits of joining the Sisu Health Club!

**By: Alison Stoker**



## Volunteer Work

The town of Belt is a very cheery, family-like community, so finding volunteers to aid in local emergencies isn't too much of a hassle. Belt Public School encourages students, staff, and community members to volunteer their free time to help ensure safety within the small district of Belt. The Belt Rural Volunteer Fire District can be contacted at (406) 277-4151, and the Belt Volunteer Ambulance Service can be reached at (406) 277-3642 for volunteer forms or any further questions.

The Belt Rural Volunteer Fire District and the Belt Volunteer Ambulance Service have been two separate organizations for more than 20 years. These programs have aided Belt, and surrounding areas, in many different emergencies in the past years. Volunteers are required to be

18 years of age, with the proper training, in order to become an EMT or fire fighter, but the program offers 'ride alongs' for students who are underage but interested in pursuing this career. After volunteers pass one semester of training classes at the Great Falls College MSU and receive a state license required to drive the ambulance, volunteers will partake in fighting wild and domestic fires, responding to car accidents, and answering to medical emergencies.

Travis Johnson has been the chief of the Fire Department in Belt for 20 years, and his wife, Meghan, manages the ambulance calls and keeps things on track. Both organizations are located in Belt, and they're funded by tax

percentages and the payments they receive for personal ambulance transfers. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson encourage people to get involved with these programs, and they stress that it's a great way to give back to the community and the surrounding areas.

Without the volunteers at The Belt Rural Volunteer Fire District and the Belt Volunteer Ambulance Service, many people would be in despair. Whether it's a local house fire, car accident, or an elderly person who has fallen, all of these emergencies, although some may be minor, couldn't be solved without those who volunteered.

A big thank you from the students, staff, community, and Valley Voice.

**By: Morgan Davis**

## Belt Boosters

The Belt Booster Club has been extremely successful in contributing to Belt Public School by raising funds for the athletics and extracurricular activities. The club is a non-profit organization that sponsors BVHS by raising money to support Belt athletics and extracurricular activities, and the organization is open to volunteers. The program is designed so that any parents, community members, or guests are welcome, and encouraged, to join the club! Meetings are hosted two times a year after the high school Fall Banquet awards and Springs Banquet awards, and anyone who is interested in joining or volunteering can contract Jill Gliko or April Wells at Belt Public School (406) 277-3351 or stop by concessions during any athletic events.

This organization is run by three different officers, which include: Polly Pimperton, the President, Jill Gliko, the Treasurer, and Crystal Vogl, the Secretary. April Wells holds the position of the Head of

Concessions, and she also manages the day-to-day concession necessities. Any requests for funds need to be directed towards the officers because they're responsible for considering the request and putting it on the agenda for the next meeting. The primary fundraiser of the Belt Booster Club is the concessions at athletic events, but they also raise money by selling individual and business ads in December – January of each school year. These ads are usually sold out of various athletic sport tournament books, and the ads are renewed the following year.

The concessions for home basketball games have begun, and the club will accept any volunteers that are able to work a shift during the boys' JV, girls' JV, boys' varsity, and girls' varsity games. Volunteers from the past are greatly appreciated, and the Belt Booster Club would like to thank them and encourage people to keep helping their school community. The Belt

Booster Club benefits the entire community by promoting school pride. This includes the club hosting community events, benefiting the athletes and students in extracurricular activities, and benefiting the Little Husky Program and the students involved in the program.

Some recent Booster contributions range from purchasing a new drum set for the music department, funding the cheerleaders and their attire, buying new basketballs for high school and middle school, providing coolers of food and beverages for traveling athletics, and hosting and organizing community dinners for celebrations such as State Championships and Award Banquets. Without the Belt Booster Club, athletics and extracurricular activities would suffer. The Valley Voice, athletes, and students at Belt Public School thank Booster members and volunteers.

**By: Morgan Davis**

## Winter Concert

The 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Winter Concert was rescheduled for January 3 in the gym of Belt Public School after the unexpected power outage in Belt last year on the day of the concert. The fifth graders played:

Good King Wenceslas, a popular Christmas song that tells a story about a Bohemian King. Jolly ol St. Nick, is another popular Christmas song that was originally a poem, and Sweetly Sings the Reindeer. The sixth graders played: All Through the Night, a song written by Cyndi Lauper. Banana Boat Song, a traditional Jamaican folk song, Allouette, and Theme from the New World. The middle school band played: Ukrainian Bell Carol,



Two Mexican Carols and Sounds of Christmas. The middle school choir sang: Carol of the Bells, a piece that was based off of Ukrainian folk chants.

The High school choir sang: A True Lover's Farewell, a traditional English folk song arranged by Reginald Unterseher for a SATB choir, I Should Be Glad, originally a poem written by Sara Teasdale and arranged for SATB choir by Susan LaBarr, and A Christmas Song, written by Mel Tormé and Robert Wells.

The Belt High Band performed: Seal Lullaby, a beautifully written piece of

music by Eric Whitacre, Czech Suite, a three movement piece by Paul W. Whear, Afternoon of a Faun, a piece with many solo opportunities written by Claude Debussy arranged by Harold L. Walters, and the final piece, Green Sleeves, a traditional folk song arranged by Alfred Reed.

The next upcoming performance for the High School band and Choir will be in April at the District Music Festival.

**By: Kali Duncan**



## Child Screening

The annual Child Find Screening will be taking place Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The screening accepts children from ages from 5-11 years. The screenings are free and can answer many questions of parent's concern of their child's development. The de-

velopment of every child is more than important, it's vital. Without these testings, a serious complication could be missed and effect them in the long run. The screening takes about 45 minutes as the child's hearing, thinking, vision, motor and social skills will be eval-

uated. The results will be shared with the parent about the concerns and observations of the child. Appointments are required, to make an appointment call the Belt School at 277-3351.

**By: Kara Neal**

## Christmas Art



Hunter Adams, 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Belt School, has been working on some amazing art, especially before and during Christmas Break. He created this original artwork on his father's white board in his classroom with dry-erase markers. Mr. Adams allows not only Hunter, but all students taking his class to go above and beyond the

regular art assignments.

During the days preceding Christmas, Hunter Adams created the fun countdown for the students to look at when they came into the classroom. Every day he would add another character or add something to existing characters.

It really shows off his amazing art skills and doesn't only bring joy to him, but his father and students who take art class.

**By: Isabelle Newman**

## Killer Cooks

Sometimes school can be overwhelming for students due to the early mornings and no snack breaks. Many students suffer from hunger throughout the morning, which results in negative attitudes, low test scores, and small attention spans.

Thankfully, Belt Public School is blessed with three Killer Cooks that live for feeding the hungry. Whether it's Ellie's jokes, Ruth's mad dish washing skills, or Teresa's mean entrees, these three ladies make everyone's day brighter, and not just because they are keeping everyone's bellies full!

Teresa Elam began working at Belt Public School many years ago as a substitute teacher. After a few years of working as a helping hand, Teresa decided to pursue her profession as the head cook and manager of the Belt Public School kitchen. Her decision was based upon her love for cooking, and a local

job was an opportunity she couldn't turn down. "Feeding hungry children is my dream job," Teresa adds.

Belt Public School was treated with Ruth Sanborn 14 years ago, and she began working as the assistant cook. When asked about her job, Ruth will tell reporters, "I was looking for something to do, and this job just picked me." After several years of being away from home, Ruth returned to follow in her mother's footsteps and work in BVHS kitchen. Today Ruth partakes in assistant cooking, and she also manages dishwashing. "The people, the kids...Ellie's crazy!" Ruth jokes when questioned about the affections of her position.

In 2012, Ellie Hill began working at Belt Public School. She aids Teresa in assistant cooking, and she also covers the dishes when Ruth needs help. Ellie's fun personality and jokes make everyone's

day a little bit brighter as they move down the lunch line, and the kitchen would be a lot less lively without her there. Ellie would like a retraction of what Ruth said earlier, and she also added, "I love dealing with kids and driving Teresa nuts."

Without these three hard-working, heartwarming ladies, Belt Public School would be in despair. Everyday Teresa is here before 5:30 a.m. to ensure that every student receives a warm, yummy breakfast before they have to start their busy day.

Everyday Ellie and Ruth hustle about the kitchen, helping Teresa cook, and they clean up after every meal. Everyday students and staff thank Teresa, Ellie, and Ruth for their hard work and commitment to being killer cooks!

**By: Morgan Davis**

## Senior Spotlight

This week's senior spotlight is going to go to two ladies who have been attending Belt School since preschool: Kassie Hoyer and Adrianna Irvine.

Kassie Hoyer has been an enthusiastic member of the mighty



Class of 2017 since day one. For example, at her kindergarten graduation,

she wanted to be a ballerina. Well, let's just say that it didn't work out that well for her.

Hoyer couldn't decide what memory was the best out of her time here at Belt School, but she was able to narrow it down to a couple. She can still remember the day her friend and fellow classmate Jaren Maki walked into science class, sat down in his chair, and broke it. It's still a story being told today. Hoyer also enjoyed the time another friend and classmate Dawson Marquis was in science class with her dissecting frogs. Some juice from the frog splattered and unfortunately landed on Marquis's lip. Hoyer claims that he kept gagging because he thought it was so gross and it's still one of Hoyer's favorite memories. Lastly, Hoyer will always remember the state championships that she has been a part of since her freshman year. However great these memories were, everyone has a worse memory. Hoyer would always hate it when she ran out of toilet paper in the bathroom stall and would have to text her friends to come

and give her some. That's probably one of the most common worst memories throughout the student body. Along with her memories, good or bad, Hoyer was a part of several sports teams and extracurriculars throughout middle and high school. She participated in volleyball, basketball, and track all three years in middle school and all four years in high school. She also was committed to cross country all three years in middle school and freshman year.

Along with sports, she was also a part of DECA for all four years in high school. She has appreciated the fact that she has gotten the opportunity to be a part of all of these teams and extracurriculars despite her knee injuries her junior and senior year. Along with her friends, Hoyer is going to miss the community support and involvement as well as the faculty and staff at the school. After high school, Hoyer plans on attending college, but not sure where yet. However, she is looking at majoring in either sports psychology or criminal psychology. One fun fact about Hoyer is that she has a birth mark on her stomach that looks like whale.

Adrianna Irvine is another 'original' from the Class of 2017. She has also been quite the addition to Belt School like Hoyer. Sports and extracurriculars are also up Irvine's alley. Her first school involvement was in middle school when she participated on the basketball team and joined the drama department. She continued her drama commitment throughout high school and it will be 6 years completed at the end of this year. She will be one of the four seniors in drama this year to travel to Scotland in the summer to participate in the Festival Fringe. She began golf her freshman year and plans on finishing it out this year to make a com-

plete 4. She also joined the cheer team her junior year with her foreign exchange student, Katha Maucher (from Germany).



Irvine, being the youngest of three, was the only child after her brother graduated from Belt in 2011. When Maucher arrived in the United States, there was an instant connection between the two; they couldn't be separated. Having Maucher live with her was one of Irvine's most treasured moments of her high school career. She also enjoyed traveling to tournaments, whether it be with cheer or band, and going to state for golf. Her worst memory of all was studying for all her tests. Irvine claims that she would start studying, and then get bored, so she'd end up eating instead. Like her peers, Irvine is going to miss her friends, however she is also going to miss pep band games. She enjoys the atmosphere and being able to play alongside some of her best friends. After graduation, Irvine plans on going to Montana State University in order to pursue a major in Special Education, however, she says that both of those decisions are subject to change. A fun fact about Irvine that she would like everyone to know is that she can lick her elbow, even though it's been said to be impossible.

Next issue's senior spotlights will highlight Emily Langston and Jaren Maki.

**By: Isabelle Newman**

## Winter Driving

Driving is one of the most exciting responsibilities to look forward to as students grow older and gain their independence. While many students take Drivers Ed during the spring, earning their license when it's still warm, other kids struggle with the challenge of passing their drivers test during the winter. Whether a student already has their license or they're working on earning it, it is extremely important to know how to maneuver their car in winter weather conditions.

In the beautiful state of Montana, it is crucial to be aware of road conditions and it's essential to know how to handle the car with fast, controlled reflexes. The most common reason for winter car accidents is the fact that the driver didn't know their car, and they were unsure of what to do in that certain situation. It is extremely important to get familiar with the car before getting behind the wheel, and an easy way to do this is by practicing in a vacant parking lot. This is the best way to ensure everyone's safety, other drivers and the

driver themselves, and it also provides an opportunity to practice stopping, turning, and correcting the car. One of the biggest concerns when driving on ice or snow is overcorrection of the car. The most accidents occur when the driver turns the steering wheel too quickly, attempting to straighten the car, when the nose of the vehicle begins sliding to the left or right. This can result in uncontrollable spinning or rolling, which can lead to fatal circumstances. Knowing how to manage the car in the snow and making smart decisions about when to drive is very important to responsible, safe driving, but sometimes people don't have a choice due to their job, school, or other travel reasons. While it can be dangerous to travel in bad weather, there are some things people can do in case of an emergency or accident. Most people have a winter emergency kit in their car that includes: First Aid Kit, extra boots, hats, and gloves, a blanket, a candle for heat, one shovel and a bag of cat litter, jumper ca-

bles, a spare tire, flares in case of an emergency, and a bottle of water and a jar of peanut butter just in case the driver was to be stranded. It seems like a lot to carry in the car all winter long, but these materials could make a life or death difference in case of an emergency.

Winter driving can be terrifying and annoying, but there are many ways to prepare for the weather and any emergencies that may occur. While there are ways to prevent accidents, it is still important to be aware of weather forecasts, and having a plan for travel (to and back from the destination, and a place to stay in case of being stranded) is essential for the driver's and their passengers' safety. Heed the winter emergency kit advice, and keep these tips in mind when traveling. Belt Public School works hard to keep their students safe, so buckle up and abide by winter weather laws, and maybe slow down a little bit.

**By: Morgan Davis**

## JV Basketball

The past two weeks both JV teams competed against Roy/Winifred, Fairfield, and Tri-Cities. They played Highwood/Geraldine yesterday night and will host Denton/Geyser/Stanford tomorrow. The JV girls' game will start at 2:00 p.m. followed by JV boys.

Under the leadership of Coach Megan Graham, the boys' JV squad continued to grow as a team by defeating Roy/Winifred and Tri-Cities. When matched up with the bigger class B team, the Fairfield Eagles, the Huskies were exposed to things needing some work. In the game against the Outlaws, Belt defeated their competition by a score of 46-31. Brayden Haugrose earned 11 points on the night, while Hunter Vogl notched 9.

Against Fairfield, the Belt boys were shocked by the athleticism of the Eagles. They fell to the Eagles 36-75. Vogl led Belt in scoring with 11 points. The next day, the Huskies competed against the Tri-Cities Titans. Belt defeated the Titans 43-23. Vogl accumulated 12 points throughout the game.

The Lady Huskies remain dominant by keeping their undefeated record intact as Suzy Maki coaches through the games. They defeated Roy/Winifred, Fairfield, and Tri-Cities the past two weeks. Belt overpowered Roy/Winifred with a score of 41-17. Morgan Cooper and Adelle Meissner both acquired 9 points in their victory. The class B team was still no match

for the superior Belt squad. They defeated their competition with a score of 40-31. Meissner led Belt with 11 points. Against Tri-Cities, the team only played a half game. Regardless of the time, the Huskies beat the Titans with a score of 26-10. Kolby Pimperton notched 8 to lead Belt to a victory.

Yesterday, both JV teams defeated the co-op team of Highwood and Geraldine. Tonight the younger Huskies tangle with GFHS' freshman squads, and tomorrow the Huskies will be matched up with DGS. Tip off time for the JV games will start at 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Varsity games will follow the JV games.

**By: Kerstyn Pimperton**

## Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>

Many people throughout the world are superstitious about bad luck or bad karma. This can mean crossing the path of a black cat, walking underneath a ladder, or suffering from paraskavedekatriaphobic, fear of Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Most people believe, or have heard of, the misfortune and bad luck that occurs on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, and some people truly suffer from the fear of this day. While some people find the number 13 unlucky or unjust, others find it uplifting and actually embrace it.

Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> occurs twice in 2017, once on January 13<sup>th</sup> and again on October 13<sup>th</sup>. While almost everyone is aware of the 'unlucky' day, half of them don't even know where the fear of this originated from. Truly, there is no right answer, but it is believed to be unlucky for a number of reasons.

Some people believe that it's unlucky due to events such as: Philip IV of France arrested the Knights Templar in 1307, 13 was considered to be an odd, unlucky number, or an outlier when compared to 12 – a number of completeness, and many

people are weary due to the fact that 13 women are required to create a witches coven.

While all of these ideas could be true, the most commonly believed reason for the fear of the thirteenth relates directly back to the Bible. It was believed that 13 men attended the Last Supper, and the 13<sup>th</sup> man to sit down, Judas, ended up betraying Jesus in the end. Many stories and theories contribute towards the fear of Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, but there isn't a clear or direct answer.

Most people are superstitious when it comes to Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, but others accept 13 as just another number and some people, like Mr. Koontz, believe that it is actually lucky. Some people may think that the number 13 another number in the system, and they may pay no attention to the worrisome people who are frantic about Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Other people believe that 13 is a lucky number because they feel bad for it, yes, people feel bad for a number. As stated above, people

considered the number 12 to be complete, and when the number 13 followed some people called it unlucky. People that argue against the fear of the number 13 are compassionate towards the number because they can directly relate to the number. This proves that even if someone is an outsider, it's okay to bring them in.

The Valley Voice is excited to publish on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, and the reporters, editors, and Mr. Koontz look forward to the Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> feedback. Best of luck to everyone who will be out and about that day. Paraskavedekatriaphobic sounds funny, but is no joke, and many Americans struggle with the symptoms (shortness of breath, excessive sweating, and nausea) and struggles of the phobia.

There are many different treatment centers and help options that are here to aid people with this fear, and a good website to visit for Phobia Fear Release is [fear-release.com](http://fear-release.com).

**By: Morgan Davis**

Not many people know this, but 1/3 of car accidents with a teen driver involve alcohol. This means that more than 50 teens die each year from driving while intoxicated. So if you are a teen that drinks don't make the matter worse by driving when you have been drinking. When you are drinking a driving you're putting the lives of everyone around you in your hands. This advice is obviously good true for adults as well, but teens, develop good habits now...

*Don't Drink and Drive!*

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This message brought to you by your  
Cascade DUI Task Force



## Girls Basketball

The Lady Husky basketball team continues to show their dominance in the 8-C Conference after defeating Roy/Winifred and Tri-Cities. Belt also competed against their class B rival, Fairfield.

Before the holiday break, the Huskies trekked to Winifred to compete against the Roy/Winifred Outlaws. Although the Huskies were undersized, they did not show any resilience after claiming an early lead of 22-3 in the first quarter. In the second stanza, the ladies' momentum continued to grow as they extended their lead to 39-8.



After the first halftime meetings, Belt allowed two points to be scored against them in the third to put the score at 49-10. In the final period, the Huskies rested their first stringers and

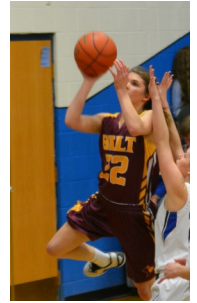
allowed the younger players more minutes. When the last seconds ticked down to zero, Belt was awarded with a 54-22 victory. Dani Urick led the Huskies in scoring with 17, followed by Kerstyn Pimperton who notched 11.

After weeks of preparation, the Lady Huskies were ready for the Fairfield Eagles last week on Thursday. The first quarter was close for the two rivals. A one point game took place in the first, ending at 10-9, Belt. But in the second, the ladies found their stride taking a 10 point lead at 23-13 heading into the locker rooms.

In the third, a drought hit both teams as the Huskies only scored six points to Fairfield's two making Belt's lead 29-15. In the final stanza, Fairfield cut the margin to nine before Belt went on a run to end the game with a score of 37-23. Urick accumulated 20 points on the night to lead the Huskies to a win.

Last week on Friday, the Huskies travelled to Moore to rally against the Tri-Cities Titans. In the first quarter, the Ladies clasped the lead with a score of 12-8. In the second, Belt went on a huge run notching 18 points to the Titans' six. This made the Huskies' lead 30-14. Forced turnovers in the first half for Belt gave the opposing team some hope as they capitalized after the error.

The Huskies' momentum from the first half continued to drive their play in the third. Belt went on a 19-3 run before heading into the final eight minutes of the game. After three, Belt's lead was at a whopping 49-17. In the fourth, the Huskies finished what they started by claiming a victory with a score of 61-22. The Ladies proved to be dominant in this competition as nearly every single girl on the roster scored, making it hard for other teams to guard. Urick earned 16 points on the night, followed by Morgan Cooper with 13.



The girls get three games in a row at home this week. Last night, the Lady Huskies handled the Highwood/Geraldine Rivals by a score 82-21. Tonight the team will face off against Great Falls High's JV team. Tip off time is set for 6:00 p.m. Tomorrow night, the Ladies will host the Denton/Geyser/Stanford Bearcats.

The girls' varsity game will be starting at 5:00 p.m.

**By: Kerstyn Pimperton**

Belt	10	13	6	8	<b>37</b>
Fairfield	9	4	2	8	<b>23</b>

Belt	22	10	10	5	<b>54</b>
Roy/Winifred	3	5	2	12	<b>22</b>

Belt	12	18	19	12	<b>61</b>
Tri-Cities	8	6	3	5	<b>22</b>

## Purple Heart (Cont.)

Dickison's family and the community are very proud of him and appreciate the sacrifices he has made for this country. There are many people that are con-



sidered heroes across the country such as celebrities, musicians, and actors. However, a person does not have to look far from the Valley to see that they have local heroes who are out there risking their lives.

**By: Kara Neal**





## Boys Basketball

Before the break, the Husky basketball squad competed against the



Roy/Winifred Outlaws on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the New Year, the Huskies were matched up with class B powerhouse, Fairfield, and the Tri-Cities Titans.

After a three hour bus ride to Winifred, the boys were ready for action against the Outlaws. In the first quarter, the Huskies jumped out to an early lead of 16-3. In the second, Roy/Winifred

a victory to their record with a score of 55-14. Jaren Maki had a total of 24 points, while Jess Bodner earned 12.

The boys' team competed against Class B competition on Thursday of last week. Although they didn't win, Coach Kyle Paulson found key things that his team needs to work on. In the first, the Huskies fell behind with a score of 10-17. But in the second stanza, the boys found stride coming within striking distance before the half. The score was recorded at 22-25.

Momentum from the second quarter continued to push Belt forward as they caught up to their competition with a score of 45-46.

In the fourth, the Eagles pulled through defeating the Huskies with a score of 71-60. Maki accumu-

lated 27 points against the Eagles, followed by Harry Green with 12.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of the New Year, a road trip to Moore resulted in a Husky victory against the Tri-Cities Titans. With vengeance from the night before, the Huskies came out on fire, forcing turnovers, resulting in points. In the first, Belt grasped the early lead of 19-2. By the second quarter, Belt continued to push

the tempo. Heading into the locker room, Belt enjoyed a com-

Belt	10	12	23	15	<b>60</b>
Fairfield	17	8	21	16	<b>71</b>

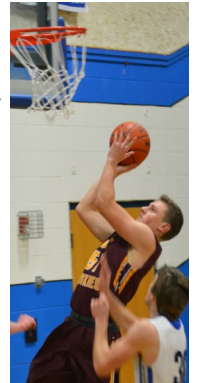
fortable lead of 31-17.

In the third, Belt went on a 23-6 run against the Titans. This run added to the Husky margin, making the score 54-23 heading into the fourth. In the final stanza, Belt overwhelmed Tri-Cities with a score of 67-39. Trey Heitzman led Belt in scoring with 14 points, while Bodner added 12.

Last night, the Huskies defeated Highwood/Geraldine at home with a score of 70-49. Tonight they host Great Falls High's JV in Belt team following the girls' game which starts at 6:00 p.m. Tomorrow night the Huskies will face off

against the Denton/Geysler/Stanford Bearcats. That game will also be in Belt. Tip off time will follow the girls' game that will begin at 5:00 p.m.

**By: Kerstyn Pimperton**



Belt	16	4	21	14	<b>55</b>
Roy/Winifred	3	4	7	-	<b>14</b>

adjusted to Belt's offense only allowing them to score four points, but they struggled to score on the other side. After 16 minutes of play, the score was 20-7, Belt.

In the third stanza, the Huskies came out on fire. They outscored their competition 21-7 to add to their growing margin. Heading into the fourth, Belt held a steady lead of 41-14. In the last period, the Huskies allowed no points to be scored against them, while they notched 14. And when the time clocked out, Belt added

Belt	19	12	23	13	<b>67</b>
Tri-Cities	2	15	6	16	<b>39</b>

## Calendar of Events

Jan. 13-14<sup>th</sup>-Wrestling @Chateau  
 Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>-BBall @Belt (Boys: JV-3:30 p.m. Var-6:20pm Girls: JV-2:00pm Var-5:00pm)  
 Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>- End of quarter 2 (report cards)  
 Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>-Wrestling @Fort Benton  
 Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>- K-2<sup>nd</sup> ski day

Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>-Wrestling @Highwood  
 Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>-BBall @Belt (Boys: JV-4:30pm Var-6:30pm Girls: JV-3:00pm Var-6:00pm)  
 Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>-BBall @ (Boys: JV-3:30pm Var-6:30pm Girls: JV-2:00pm Var-5:00pm)  
 Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>-Wrestling @GFCC  
 Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>- 6-8<sup>th</sup> ski day  
 Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>- Child Find

Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>-BBall @Belt (Boys: JV-4:30pm Var-7:30pm Girls: JV-3:00pm Var-6:00pm)  
 Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>-BBall @CMR (Boys: JV-4:30pm Var-3:30pm Girls: Var-2:00pm)  
 Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>- Ice fishing for 7<sup>th</sup> grade  
 Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>-BBall @Belt (Boys: JV-4:30pm Var-7:30pm Girls: JV-3:00pm Var-6:00pm)

## Little Lady Huskies

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

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. Attending basketball camp at such a young age can



also help develop not only their basketball skills at an early age, but dedication and compromising skills.

Parents may register the morning of the camp, but their child won't receive a t-shirt until later. To get a form, the office at Belt School has many. All of the proceeds will go towards the Lady Husky Basketball fund to help offset tournament costs.

**By: Kerstyn Pimperton**

## Follow-Up Christmas Caroling

The Christmas Caroling has finally taken place on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. It took a while for the event to happen because of the chilly weather. The wait was worth it as the students had a jolly time spreading Christmas cheer in the Belt community. The students gath-

ered at the Catholic Church at 6:00 p.m. and filled up two trailers. It took about an hour for the students to reach almost every neighborhood in the valley. Afterwards, the students charged towards the Catholic Church with their empty stomachs searching for the delicious food that

was prepared for them. The students had more than a joyfully time spending the evening with their friends and spreading cheer. Christmas Caroling was a success once again and the community is looking forward to next year.

**By: Kara Neal**

## Sam Sweeney (Cont.)

which he conducted in Gaziantep, Turkey. He shared that Gaziantep, the city in which he lived, is known as an underground meeting hub for the ISIS terrorist group, but the violent group carries out their acts in other countries and cities. His main goal was to monitor and manage the governmental development and provide input and improvements on the function of the system, with the help of a team of 8 other colleagues.

Spending time on the East Coast of the Mediterranean Sea has showed him many new situations and cultures. One of the main things he noticed when being over seas was that there a great many connections between home and this exotic, new world. While many people automatically think of terrorists, gun shots, and bombs overwhelming that side of the world, Sweeney learned that people are very similar. No matter what culture, skin color,

race, or geographical position a person is in, most people wish for the same things: for their children to be fed and educated, to be healthy and happy, and to live a successful, enjoyable lifestyle.

"I think it's (Sam's job) so cool because it helps people in America change their vision of the Islamic world by showing that innocent people are also suffering in those countries just like we do, even Muslims, too." Javi Infantes Lobo, one of Belt Public School's foreign

exchange students.

The community of Belt, MT, Sweeney's former teachers, and people who have supported him throughout his whole life are proud to say Sam Sweeney is originally from their town. Sam is a perfect role model for students who are in need of motivation because it proves that anyone can be anything they want, no matter where they're from, if they set their mind to it and work hard to achieve those goals.

Mr. Sweeney was kind enough to present his job and what he does every day to the students in Coach Graham's history class, and Belt Public School, the students, and Coach Graham greatly appreciate it. The Valley Voice and Mr. Koontz would also like to thank him for his time and his contribution.

**By: Morgan Davis**

Belt Community Church Daycare  
Help Wanted!

Do you love children? If so, go lend a hand at the Belt Community Church Daycare. Give a call at: 277-4438



## Senior Citizens

The seniors have been having a splendid time at the Senior Center. They are enjoying their weekly get-togethers five days a week. They continue to have coffee Monday thru Friday in the mornings. Their afternoon meals are served Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The delicious meals, prepared by Toleena O-Leary, with help from Rosie Peters provides nutrition and another opportunity for comradery.

On Mondays, after the seniors have finished their meals, they play a friendly game of Bingo. On Thursdays, the seniors play cards after lunch. On Mondays and

Thursdays, members participate in Pilates, and any member is welcome to join. The seniors love to keep themselves busy with morning activities, meals, and afternoon activities. They have so much excitement going over at the Senior Center that many people have joined. The Senior Citizen Center has a total of 75-80 members.

Towards the end of December, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders from the Belt School Elementary went over to the Center for a visit. The children read to the seniors and sang Christmas Carols. While the children entertained the seniors, they were able to enjoy their ham and

sweet potato meal. It's always great to see the kiddos going around and making someone's day.

The seniors have been receiving great help from O-Leary, Peters, and Kara Neal. As Betty Warehime, one of the members of the Senior Center, wanted to add, "Our thanks to Kara for volunteering to wash dishes after each meal for the past four months, we enjoyed her smile." Unfortunately, Neal won't be able to volunteer next semester, so if anyone would like to lend a hand to their local seniors, call 277-3861.

**By: Kara Neal**

## The Best Gift Ever

The Christmas Holiday is all about giving. The best gift you could ever give your child would be to discourage alcohol and drug use and encourage a clean sober life. Why? Because more than 1/4 of Montana youth begin drinking before age 13. The damage alcohol and drugs do to a child's undeveloped brain is astounding! Serious damage to the long and short term growth processes occurs that directly impacts learning and memory function. Continued use of alcohol or drugs leads to all kinds of physical and social problems as well.

Believe it or not, parental disapproval of underage drinking is the number one reason that children choose not to drink alcohol. More than 80% of children say parents are the leading influence in their decision to drink or not. As a parent, sit down with your child and discuss what your acceptable family behavior is. It is important that our youth know what our expectations are of them. To not fall into the seemingly Montana social norm of drinking will do nothing but benefit your child and family as a whole.

So, this year along with giving gifts to delight your children give them some of your time and talk to them about something that will change their life for the better; the message that drug and alcohol usage is not something that will be tolerated.

Since writing the above Letter to the Editor, I found some very interesting information regarding the perception we Montanans have in regards to alcohol consumption and youth. In 2015, an Alcohol Perception Survey in Montana was conducted and the results were produced for the Chemical Dependency Bureau and Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. A telephone survey was conducted to assess the perceptions and attitudes of Montanans 18 and older regarding alcohol use in their communities. A sample size of 800 useable responses was achieved representing a cross-section of Montana residents. The report had a staggering amount of information in it, but what caught my eye dealt with our children. An

explanation for why relatively few Montanans perceive underage drinking as a problem is that youth drinking is often considered as "just a part of growing up". When asked, 37% of female respondents saw underage drinking as *always or sometimes* a part of growing up compared to 47% of male respondents. When asked, 61% of American Indian respondents saw underage drinking as *always or sometimes* a part of growing up while 42% of white respondents felt the same. Therein lies the problem! As parents or as adults without children, we all need to instill in our younger generation the draw backs of alcohol use.

Discuss with them the negative life altering impact alcohol use carries with it whether it be mentally, physically or financially. If we are serious about lowering our state's impaired driving rates, it is true we need to first begin by changing the culture of our future generations.

**By: Jerry Kelley  
DUI Coordinator**

Games	Inspirational Quotes												
<p>Mystery Kid: Which high school student do these eyes belong to? (Hint: They belong to the class of 2018.)</p>  <p>Match Up: In October of 2016, the high school students participated in the class Olympics for homecoming week. Match their winning event to the class. (Some classes have more than one event that they won.)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Relay Race</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tug of War</td> <td>Freshmen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dodge ball</td> <td>Sophomores</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quiz Game</td> <td>Juniors</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Floats</td> <td>Seniors</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Husky Howl</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Relay Race		Tug of War	Freshmen	Dodge ball	Sophomores	Quiz Game	Juniors	Floats	Seniors	Husky Howl		<p>Now that hunting season is over, so are hunting trophies. However, a new year has started which means that it's a fresh start for everybody. Here are a couple quotes to start off the New Year and keep an optimistic view for the rest of 2017.</p> <p>“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson</p> <p>“To have the kind of year you want to have, something has to happen that you can't explain why it happened. Something has to happen that you can't coach.”- Bobby Bowden</p> <p>“For last year's words belong to last year's language/ And next year's words await another voice. / And to make an end is to make a beginning.”- Little Gidding</p> <p>Now that the New Year has officially begun, it's time to set new goals, work at them, and pursue them with greatness. It's the time for a change, an optimistic one at that. It's time to start a new beginning.</p>
Relay Race													
Tug of War	Freshmen												
Dodge ball	Sophomores												
Quiz Game	Juniors												
Floats	Seniors												
Husky Howl													

Valley Voice  
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