

The Valley Voice

December 21st,
2016



Issue #9

We're on the Web

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

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Facility Improvements

Community members, staff, and students have been awaiting further announcements about the beginning of the architecture for the remodeling of Belt Public School. On September 15th, ballots were mailed out to every resident in the Belt district, and voters decided the future direction of Belt Public Schools with regard to facility upgrades. After the votes were cast on October 4th, both initiatives for the high school and grade school passed, therefore the bond was launched and construction plans began. The administration wants to provide the community with as much information as possible, so any questions can be discussed with the School Board and Administration.

The primary modifications that the bond will fund include the enlargement of elementary classrooms, which would allow kindergarten and preschool to move to the main building, and the construction of a multi-purpose room that will benefit athletic practices, theatrical productions, music concerts, and community members that exercise at the school. Another concern is the security of the school. There will also be consideration for creating a more secure entry process into the building.

Remodeling and construction will take time, but with patience and hard work the design team and facilities committee are beginning the

task of creating blueprints. Once the blueprints are completed, the bid process will begin and the Valley Voice will provide updated layout photographs. At this time, the school is contracting with CTE, an architectural firm, but will be looking for a contractor to finish the bid process in the near future. From an optimistic view, the school and its faculty hope that the building will undergo construction by the summer of 2017.

Although the Board of Trustees makes the final calls, Mrs. Prody and Mr. Paulson have greatly contributed to the cause, and they're involved in the majority of planning and decisions. The administration and School Board encourages the facilities

(Cont. pg. 10)

Winter Concert Blown Away

Last night the annual winter school concert was slated for the Belt Gymnasium, but Mother Nature had other ideas. While winds speeds around Belt did not reach the 80 mile per hour mark predicted for the Front Range, it blew hard enough to knock out the power in Belt for nearly an hour. The power outage resulted in the postponement of musical event.

The concert will be rescheduled and the Voice will provide that information to the public when available.

Director Gabe Nordquist was disappointed at the turn of bad luck but was philosophical about it, "Conditions like that are beyond our control so there's not much use worrying about at this point. It goes with living

where we do."

The loss of power left IT specialist Eldon Burgess with some chores this morning getting the school network back up and running, but by about 6:30 a.m. everything was up to speed.

The weather in North Central Montana has to remind everyone once in a while who is really in charge. Last night was one of those times.

Make a Wish Foundation

Vonn Peters, a recipient of the Make-A-Wish Foundation had the opportunity to make a trip down to Disney World in Orlando, FL. Vonn has Cystic Fibrosis.. The two main fundraisers the Belt Community takes a part of is the horseshoe tournament and the walk for a cure in Missoula. These fundraisers are a great way to raise money for a cure.



Mother Shiloh Peters brought the Make-A-Wish Foundation to the Valley. Peters wants the little ones to help make a difference. Every year, children across the country will write letters to Santa and Macy's will donate \$1.00 to Make-A-Wish Foundation for every letter they receive. Macy's has one day a year that the letters

are worth \$2.00. This year, that day was on December 9th. The letters from the Belt Community were collected December 8th. The letters were collected early so they can make it to Helena on December 9th for the donation of \$2.00. Kathleen Prody, the superintendent, collected a total of 428 letters! This is a fantastic amount that the community has raised. This year, Macy's will donate up to 1 million for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. "Last year, Make-A-Wish granted more than 14,800 wishes. That's the most ever granted in one year." With major fundraisers like the Letters to Santa helps a child's wish come true. The Belt School would like to thank the Peters family for bringing this to the Belt Valley. This fundraiser is a great way for the children to make a difference in other kids' lives.

By: Kara Neal

Calendar of Events

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



JV Basketball

The JV squads started their year off in Shelby two weeks ago. They then competed against Winnett/Grass Range and Centerville over the past weekend. The boys' team is under the leadership of Coaches Megan Graham and Tony Cooper. The girls' team is coached by Suzy Maki and Renzi Horton.

The boys kicked off their season with a game against Malta's JV. The Huskies fell 27-59, but found out what they needed to work on. Freshman, Hunter Vogl led the team with 11 points.

The next day they competed against the Libby Loggers. With the game tied after the second and third quarter, Belt finished the game strong and pulled out a 52-45 win. Antonio Heaton accumulated a whopping 23 points on the night, while Brayden Haugrose notched 12. Last Friday, the Huskies rallied against the Winnett/Grass Range Rams. They over

powered the Rams with a score of 55-22. Vogl grasped 16 points on the night. The next day, Centerville ventured to Belt to play the Huskies. The home team easily defeated their competition 63-22. Vogl once again led Belt in scoring with 20 points.

On the 10th of December, the ladies were matched up against the Malta M-Ettes. They defeated their competition with a score of 46-37. Shelby Paulson led Belt with 18 points, while Kolby Pimperton finished with 12. The next day, Loyola was the next team to face off against the Huskies. Belt's speed was no match for the opposing team as they powered over Loyola with a score of 50-6. Pimperton accumulated 12 points on the night, while Brooke Schraner earned 10. On the 16th, the Huskies took a bus ride to Winnett to compete

against the Winnett/Grass Range Rams. The Huskies beat WGR with a score of 16-4 in a half game. Adelle Meissner accounted for 5 points to lead the Huskies to a win. The next day, the Centerville Miners were at the Dawg House to meet up with the ladies. The home team sent the Miners digging their way back home after a 67-5 win. Emma Six notched 15 points, while Pimperton hoarded in 13.

Both the Husky teams have been very successful so far. They hope to continue those winning ways. The JV teams are gaining experience for their years to come at Belt High. Tomorrow both squads will travel to Winifred to cross paths with the Roy/Winifred Outlaws.

By: Kerstyn Pimperton

New Year's Resolution

Everyone always says that time flies as a person grows older, and sadly, it's very true. It seems that the year of 2016 had just begun yesterday, and yet, it's spiraling into 2017 at the speed of the Millennial Falcon. Many people are excited to begin a new year, and some people look at New Years as a fresh start, or a clean slate. This is a great way to look at the New Year because it's good to let the past go, and people have an opportunity to establish new goals and birth a positive attitude. Most people create a few goals of improvement for the year, and they call it a New Year's Resolution.

The year of 2016 was an extremely eventful 365 days. This past year has been full of occurrences, beginning with the leap year on February 28th, which led to the 50th Super Bowl between the North Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos, Denver with the win. In April, Queen Elizabeth celebrated her 90th birthday, and the Summer Olympics took place

in Brazil. The fall of 2016 was also an extremely busy season. In September, millions of Americans upgraded their cell phones to the iPhone 7, which is considered to be



the best version of the iPhone yet. The New York Marathon took place in early November, and Belt Public School and the community of Belt are proud to announce that Megan Graham, Belt's high school math teacher, participated in this national marathon. Go, Mrs. Graham! The Valley Voice is positive that the month of December will also hold memorable events, but many people personally, or subconsciously, concluded the year

with the Election of 2016, which ended in Donald J. Trump's favor.

There are so many things that happened this year that weren't listed above, and hopefully everyone looks at 2016 as a good year and as a year of learning and growing. When a person stops and thinks about where they were at this time last year, many people would say that they've come a long ways, learned new things, and they're eager to begin a new year. With a New Year hopefully comes new, positive things, and everyone should make an attempt at creating new goals that will benefit their kick off to the New Year.

Also, the Valley Voice would like to remind people to please set up a designated driver before going out on New Year's to ensure the safety of everyone celebrating the holiday.

By: Morgan Davis

Wrestling

Because of a lack of numbers, the wrestling team last year didn't wrestle a single match that season due to injuries. "It's been really cool coming back from an injury like this and dominating. I'm excited to make it all the way this year," Nolan Myrstol says. Things are looking up, as the wrestling team added four new athletes to wrestle this season.

The 2016-17 season has only just begun and the team has only participated in two meets so far. Belt wrestling captain, Nolan Myrstol, says, "We're looking pretty good this year, were going to use these next couple weeks to work on

our trouble spots." The first meet was a warm up for the Huskies, allowing the new athletes to get used to the environment of the sport. In that first match Brandon Wall was the only one to place, receiving 4th place. Belt's second match was held on December 15th in Fort Benton and the boys did much better this time. This tournament was the JV Holiday Classic, a large meet before the holidays. Brandon Wall and Brayden Marks were the only two to participate in this meet because of Myrstol and Andrew Stice's uneasy stomachs. Wall placed 3rd in the 132 weight

group. Marks unfortunately lost out in the double elimination bracket.

The boys get a long break before their next tournament on January 6th-7th hosted by the Cutbank Wolves. This two day tournament has a large bracket for the wrestlers to climb their way to the top. One week later the Huskies will trek to Choteau on the 13th-14th for another meet. Until then, the boys will be practicing so they can take their next tournament.

By: Alison Stoker

Bowling Scores

Week 11Men's High Game

Charlie Lindeman	217
Brian Neill	202
Neil Sweeney	189

Men's Series

Charlie Lindeman	553
Brian Neill	518
Mike Esop	492

Women's High Game

Sandy Francom	191
Patti Sweeney	188
Lisa Urick	174

Women's Series

Sandy Francom	517
Lisa Urick	504
Patti Sweeney	502

Week 12Men's High Game

Matt Lewis	221
John Larson	206
Bill Romero	203

Men's Series

Bill Romero	574
Brian Neill	530
Neil Sweeney	498

Women's High Game

Sandy Francom	201
Polly Pimperton	161
Patti Sweeney	159

Women's Series

Sandy Francom	506
Patti Sweeney	457
Polly Pimperton	434

Week 13Men's High Game

John Larson	200
Charlie Lindeman, Matt Antonich	181
Drew Koffler	180

Men's Series

John Larson	506
Dave Anderson	501
Charlie Lindeman	500

Women's High Game-

Denise Puppe	168
Freedom Cousins	166
Lisa Urick	161

Women's Series

Lisa Urick	439
Patti Sweeney	416
Polly Pimperton	410

Scholarship Deadlines

Scholarship	Due Date	Value	Requirements	More info.
KFC Colonel's Scholars	Dec. 30 th	Up to \$20,000	-2.75 GPA -Attend an in-state school -Financial need	www.kfcscholars.org -Application online or call 1-866-KFC-7240
Montana Jaycee Foundation Scholarship	Jan. 9 th	\$1,000		www.mtjcisenate.org or www.usjcisenate.org
Great Falls Exchange Club Youth of the Month	Jan. 12 th	\$100, \$1000	-Senior class member chosen by faculty committee	-Application-counselor -Nominee must write essay and present before Exchange Club.
Gates Millennium Scholarship	Jan. 13 th		3.3 GPA	http://www.gmsp.org/
Washington Crossing Foundation Scholarship	Jan. 15 th	\$1,000 - \$7,500	-Planning careers in gov. service	www.gwcf.org
Youth Serve Montana Scholarship	Jan. 31 st	\$1,000	Completed 100 hours of volunteer service in the past 12 months, scholarship funds must be used in the upcoming year	http://serve.mt.gov/youth-servemontana/ -Application, acceptance into one of Montana's Campus Compact members institutions
NROTC Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps	Jan. 31 st	Varies	-2.5 GPA -At least 30 semester hours -No more than 120 semester hours	http://www.nrotc.navy.mil/scholarships.html

Belt High School seniors are searching for scholarships to dig up as much money as possible to pay for their college tuition. College tuition has been tremendously increasing so Belt counselor, Jill Gliko, presented the Class of 2017 with a list of scholarships. This issue will include all scholarships with deadlines in December and January. In upcoming issues, there will be scholarship deadlines that will be due that month as well as the following month.

Scholarships are very important to fill out as a high school senior. Because the cost of college keeps increasing every year, it's tough to be able to afford such extreme numbers. Applying for as many scholarships as possible is really in the best interests of high school seniors. Obtaining scholarships can also help pay off students loans earlier. The more scholarships that a student applies for, the less student debt they'll have after they're done with school.

By: Alison Stoker

Where Are They Now?

This week the Valley Voice will be featuring three more graduates from the Class of 2016. These scholars are Danielle Adams, Olivia McCafferty, and Matthew Metrione.

Soon after graduation, Danielle Adams pursued her dream of going on a mission to spread the gospel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter

Day Saints.

Adams is the fourth in her family to leave on to a mission, following her parents and two elder brothers Aaron and Cayden.

Adams left for her mission in the beginning of June, just after her high

school graduation. Her return date is expected to be around November/December of 2018. Adams is serving in the Tallahassee, Florida mission which allows her to trek to parts of Georgia and Alabama. She is currently in Troy, Alabama serving at Troy University. Adams has a restricted contact schedule with her family. Every Saturday she is able to email her family and she will be able to call home on Christmas and Mother's Day. Troy Adams, Danielle's father, says "Danielle is absolutely loving her mission and has a great attitude about life in general." Her family truly misses her. Troy says, "I miss her, but I'm glad she is choosing to serve her Savior Jesus Christ during this part of her life." He adds, "I'm very proud of her and how she leads her life." Everybody from Belt is always asking ques-



tions about Danielle's mission so the Voice is very happy to update the community.

Olivia McCafferty is attending University of Montana this year studying wildlife biology.

McCafferty plans on changing her major to pursue a career in counseling; she will get a bachelors in elementary education and then get a degree in counseling. McCafferty adds some advice that "it is perfectly fine to change your mind and be

confused about what you're doing because secretly, most people in college are too." She adds, "It's all about figuring out what you do and don't like!" This woman is really enjoying school so far because she is involved in so many things. McCafferty is participating in intramural volleyball, bas-



ketball, and soccer. She mentions that it isn't the same as her high school experiences and she misses her previous teams. This student is surprised at how hard college actually is. She laughs at how many

people showed up to the wrong classes on the first day of school.

McCafferty is enjoying University of Montana and she can't wait to see how much she will learn and progress in the next four years.

Montana State University is happy to add Matt Metrione as a Belt High School graduate. Metrione is really enjoying college so far.



He says, "It has been an interesting change, but I like it." Metrione is studying Construction Engineering Technology. This is a difficult range of study but Metrione is conquering his courses. Contrary to what his previous classmate, Olivia McCafferty, noted, Metrione is surprised about the leisure he has in college. He also mentions that there is so much more diversity at MSU than in Belt. Metrione is not participating on the MSU football team, but his friends on the field say it is a full time job and a whole different level of athletics. This athlete still makes sure to stay involved in sports by participating in many intramural sports. Metrione is happy with his decision to attend MSU and he is looking forward to meeting new people and getting his degree.

The next issue of the Valley Voice will highlight three more students from the Class of 2016. These students include Zak Anderson, McKenzie Fritz, and Johanna Stinson.

By: Alison Stoker

Senior Spotlight

This week's Senior Spotlight is going to hone in on seniors Harry Green and Emily Highfill. Both of these students are excited for their lives after graduation and the rest of their high school journey.

Harry Green moved to Belt when he was in the 4th grade from Boise, Idaho. Ever since he moved here, Green has done nothing but excel in not only academics, but extracurriculars as well. He has participated in football, basketball, and track all three years in middle school and all four years in



high school. This past year, however, he decided to be a part of the cross country team at the school and did exceptionally well at state. He claims that one of his favorite moments from high school was winning the basketball state championship his sophomore year in 2015. Just like everyone else, Green is going to miss his friends, but one other thing he is going to miss is the community involvement. He states that the support from the community is just unbelievable. He loves that the community is involved with all aspects of the school and is more than elated to have been a

part of that experience since he moved to Belt. One of his worst memories, however, was getting in trouble with Mrs. Kolar at the school. He was riding on the hood of Tristan Cumming's (2015 graduate) truck in the school parking lot and Mrs. Kolar caught them. Green says that he felt very guilty afterwards and never wants to let Mrs. Kolar down again. After graduation, Green plans on attending school, most likely Montana State University, in order to major in pre-med. After getting his bachelor's degree he plans on going to graduate school, possibly studying human medicine. One fun fact that he would like every to know about is that "I love taking long walks on the beach."

Emily Highfill moved to Belt in the 8th grade from Great Falls. She, like Green, has been very school involved since her move in the 8th grade. She has been committed to the drama department for five years, journalism for two years, and golf for three years. A lot of her teachers



and peers claim that she has grown a lot as a person these past couple years and that she is bright spirit to be around. One of Highfill's greatest memories was performing the play year after year and messing around with her friends backstage. She also really enjoyed attending the football games with her friends and cheering on the huskies (especially this year since the team made it to the playoffs). However, the worst memory that Highfill claims to have is when Jessica Williamson, former head of the music department, moved away last year. Highfill says that their last concert with her was very heartfelt and that it will be a memory never forgotten. Friends will always be missed, however, she will also miss the humor that was constant in Mr. Ross's classes throughout the years. After graduation, Highfill plans on working for a year to earn some money in order to attend college. She thinks she wants to go to Bozeman for college, however, that, as well as her major, is still up in the air. One fun fact about her is that she is sucker for peanut butter.

Next issue's Senior Spotlight will focus on Kassie Hoyer and Adrianna Irvine.

By: Isabelle Newman

Gingerbread Houses

Mrs. Visocan's 4th grade class recently set the Christmas spirit by building gingerbread houses. The students each used fun and unique styles for their gingerbread houses. All of these ranged from Minecraft buildings all the way to traditional Hansel and Gretel houses. Many parents came to help and join their 4th grade students with this joyful activity. It took approximately



two hours for the students to finish their wondrous houses but every

minute was worth the while. Luckily amazing faculty and staff were there to help out with the project. There were even a few high school students that helped out with making the time spectacular for each kid and parent. With all to the joy and music filling the environment everyone had a blast.

By: Abby Marchington

Honor Band and Choir

On Monday November 28th four music students from Belt: Seniors Kali Duncan and Adrianna Irvine, Freshman Charity Highfill, and Sophomore Grace Davison, traveled to Shelby along with Music Teacher Mr. Gabriel Nordquist and Chaperon Mrs. Sandra Irvine for two days to perform in the 2016 North Central Honor Band and Choir along with over 125 other students from 24 other schools. These four students are a few of many that auditioned and were accepted to participate in the concert.

Sophomore Makayla O'Neil (Soprano I) was also accepted, but was unable to attend the gala event due to illness.

Irvine (clarinet I and II) was the only student from Belt to play in the band, while Duncan (Alto II), Highfill (Soprano II) and Davison

(Alto I) sang in the choir. This year, the choir, conducted by Mrs. Lynn Ryan, a vocal director at CMR High School, sang four songs: "I'se the B'y", a Newfoundland Folksong arranged by Robert Swift. Peze Kafé, a traditional Haitian song ar-



ranged by Sten Källman. There Is Faint Music, words by Nancy Buckley and music by Dan Forrest. And Wavin' Flag by Somali-Canadian singer K'naan arranged by Joel Forth.

Under the direction of Mrs. Alicia Lipscomb the band per-

formed four songs as well: Marche Diabolique by Brian Balmages. Reminiscence, a beautiful piece of music by Bill Calhoun. Andromeda, a piece by Mark Williams that contains many solo parts for eager musicians, and the final song of the night Earth Dance, a piece by Michael Sweeney that uses an array of instruments and mesmerizing melodies to imitate a rain-storm.

"It was a lot of fun and I'm glad that I got the opportunity to meet other music students as well." says Irvine "Put face in the space and remember that fat cats get dirty after every bath. That kids, is how you music." She quotes Mrs. Lipscomb. Highfill also enjoyed the trip, "It was fun getting to meet new people and make friends with others who like singing as much as I do." All in all the musicians that went had a great time, and are looking forward to auditioning again next year.

By: Kali Duncan

Each year around Christmas approximately 31% of accidents around the world involve alcohol. Many people don't realize it but whenever someone drinks and drives they are putting the lives of everyone around them at risk. These accidents don't just impact the people who were wounded, killed, or involved in the accidents. They affect the families of the people that were involved in the accident. There are plenty of ways to prevent these fatalities and/or accidents. Make sure to have a sober, designated driver before you decide to go out and drink. Another way to avoid an accident is to not drink at all. Think about it before hand and make sure you have a plan.

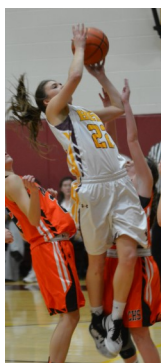
DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

This message brought to you by your
Cascade DUI Task Force



Girls' Basketball

Basketball season tipped off for the lady Huskies on December 9th and 10th. Belt competed in Shelby two weeks ago for their pre-season tournament where they fell to Malta but defeated Libby. Their first conference games were played on the 16th and 17th against Winnett/Grass Range and Centerville. Tomorrow the Huskies will meet up with Roy/Winifred in Winifred.



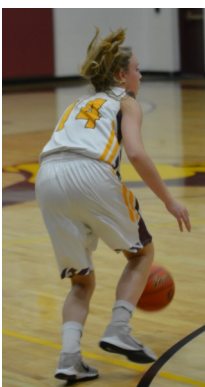
In Belt's first game, they were matched up against the two time defending Class B champs, the Malta M-Ettes. In the first quarter, the game was within one and two points until the last three minutes when Malta made a run against the Huskies. By the end of the first, the Huskies were down 7-15. The second period didn't get any better for Belt as time went on. Griz commit Sophia Stiles from Malta proved herself capable of going D-1, scoring nearly all of the M-Ette's points. Malta continued to force turnovers against the younger Husky team for points. Heading into the locker rooms, Malta led the Huskies 33-15.

After the half time meetings, the Huskies showed some life by coming within 10 points of the M-Ettes, but just couldn't close the gap. After the final horn blew, the ladies were defeated 38-32. Although the Huskies didn't get the outcome they were hoping for, the Huskies had two individuals score in double digits. Kerstyn Pimperton accumulated 14 points while Dani Urick completed a double-double with 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Huskies.

The next game of the tournament was a different story for Belt as the ladies competed against the Libby Loggers. Coming back with a vengeance, in the first quarter, the Huskies

jumped out to a quick start on the Loggers forcing turnovers on the inexperienced guards. The ladies had a comfortable lead of 18-7 heading into the second. The following period only expanded Belt's advantage by even more. The Huskies outscored their opponent 21-6. Libby couldn't decide whether or not to guard the ladies in zone or man because either one didn't seem to bother them. By the end of the second, Belt led Libby 39-13.

In the third stanza, Belt continued to push the tempo against the Loggers adding to their growing margin. Once again they outscored their competition 14-10. Almost every Husky player to set foot on the court scored for Huskies, making it hard for the opposing team to guard them. After the third, Belt's advantage was at 53-23. The final eight minutes of the game were just as conclusive as the first 24 when the Huskies showed their true colors. The Loggers couldn't keep up



with running Huskies as they fell 30-62. The Huskies once again had two players score in double digits. Pimperton led Belt with 18 points while Urick notched 17 to grasp the win.

On the 16th, the ladies took a long, cold road trip to Winnett to compete against the Winnett/Grass Range Rams. In the first stanza, Belt scored 11 points, while WGR knocked down 7. The Huskies put the real pressure on in the second period, scoring 17 points to the Ram's 12. After 16 minutes, the Huskies accumulated a 28-19 lead.

In the third, the Huskies

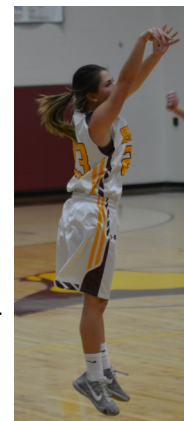
went on a huge run against the opposing team. The Huskies outscored WGR 19 to 3. This made the score 47-22. Those were the last points that the Rams would score for the rest of the night. After the final quarter, the Huskies found themselves on the right end of a 55-22 final. Urick led Belt with 17 points, followed by Pimperton with 12.

The next day, the Centerville Miners trekked to Belt to compete against the Huskies. After unnecessary turnovers in the first quarter, Belt finally got it rolling creating themselves a 10-3 lead. In the next quarter, the Huskies outscored the Miners 15 to 6, making their lead grow to 25-9.

After the 10 minute half, the home team continued to run their game. In the third, Belt notched 18 points, while the Miners only reached 10, making the margin 43-19, Belt. In the final minutes of the game, the Husky reserves finished off the game against Centerville. And when the time ran out, Belt defeated the Miners 57-36. With 16 points on the night, Urick led the Huskies in scoring, followed by Pimperton with 12.

Tomorrow, the ladies will journey to Winifred to compete against the Winifred/Roy Outlaws. Overall, their record stands at 3-1, but conference wise, the Huskies have an undefeated record of 2-0. The girls hope to continue their winning ways in the weeks to come.

By: Kerstyn Pimperton



Boys' Basketball

The boys' basketball squad kicked off their season with a win against the Florence/Carlton Falcons, but fell to the Libby Loggers in overtime. They won both of their conference games against Winnett/Grass Range and Centerville last weekend.

The competition against the Falcons was a great way for the Huskies to begin their season. In the first quarter, the Huskies held a five point lead with a score of 16-11. But the second stanza is where the Huskies looked unstoppable. Belt outscored Florence 25-8 adding to their growing margin. After the first half, the Huskies had a comfy lead of 41-19.

In the third, Belt continued to push the tempo to extend their lead. The boys' steady lineup was no match for the taller Falcon team. By the end of the third period, the score was 60-28. By the end of the contest, Belt won their first game with a score of 74-35. The Huskies had four athletes score in double digits. Trey Heitzman led the pack with 16, while Jess Bodner accumulated 15 on the night.

The next day, the Huskies competed against the Libby Loggers. In the first, the Huskies jumped out to an early lead of 15-5. Libby continued to stick close to Belt in the following



quarter, never letting the Dawgs pull completely away. By the end of the second stanza, Belt had a lead of 23-16.

After the half time meetings, Belt and



Libby both scored 12 points in the third to maintain the margin at 35-28. The fourth quarter is when the action became interesting. Belt suffered a cold hand, while the Loggers sustained the opposite. A long three pointer from Libby with 26 seconds left put them ahead of Belt for the first time in the competition. With 5 seconds left, Bodner was fouled and drained two clutch free throws to send it into overtime with dueling scores of 43 each.

In overtime, fouls caught up with Bodner and Heitzman, forcing them from the game. Momentum from the fourth quarter continued to help the Loggers and when the horn blew to end the game, Libby defeat-

ed the Huskies 54-50. Jar-en Maki scored 20 points for Belt, and Keagan Stroop added 15.

On Friday, the Huskies travelled to Winnett to compete in a very physical game against the Winnett/Grass Range Rams. The Huskies jumped out to an early lead in the first quarter. They notched 19, while the Rams trailed with 8. The second period was just as impressive as the first. Belt outscored WGR 21 to 10 making their lead 40-18 after two.

Belt continued to push the tempo in the third stanza. The Rams could not get passed the high pressure defense that Coach Kyle Paulson applies on their competition. Heading into the final eight minutes, Belt held a 53-24 lead. In the fourth, the Rams could not close the gap the Huskies created. After it was all said and done, the Huskies completed a 70-28 win to their record. Bodner led the Huskies in points with 17, followed by Maki with 13.

On December 17th, the Huskies were paired up with the

Centerville Miners at home. On Belt's end of the court, the basket seemed to have a cap on the top as they could not hit a shot creating



themselves a hole in the first half. After the first quarter, Belt suffered an 8-15 deficit. In the second, they began to get a little bit more mo-

mentum heading into the locker room by cutting the margin to 16-24, Centerville on top.

After a stern talk from Coach Paulson, the boys came out on fire on both defense and offense. The Huskies only allowed two third quarter points to be scored for Centerville, while they notched 23 points. This put the score at 39-24 after three. In the



fourth, the Huskies continued to put pressure on the young Miner guards forcing turnovers that transferred into points for the home team. After 32 minutes of competition, the Huskies found themselves on the right end of a 50-31 final. Heitzman and Maki led the

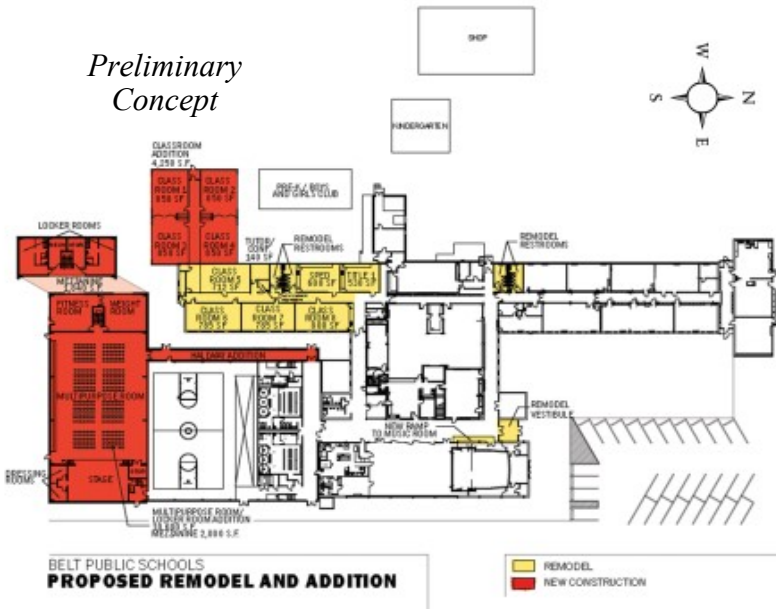
Huskies in points with 12 and 10, respectively.

After four games in the bag, the boys have a winning record of 3-1. Conference wise, their record stands at 2-0. Tomorrow a road trip to Winifred will hopefully add yet another win to that record.

By: Kerstyn Pimperton

Improvements (Cont.)

committee, staff, parents, students, and community members to participate in the process by attending the public meeting on January 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. This is a committee meeting rather than a public input meeting, but all community members are welcome to attend. Public input will be encouraged at a future date. Mrs. Prody elaborated on how much these changes will benefit Belt Public Schools by adding, “Elementary students will benefit directly with larger, more learner friendly classrooms that



from the addition of the multipurpose room for activities K-12. A prime example is providing space for the elementary recess when the weather does not allow outside play.” Any further questions and concerns can be answered by contacting Kathleen Prody at 406-277-3351 or by addressing a Board member. Future plans, changes, and meetings will be announced in upcoming issues of the Valley Voice to keep the public informed.

better meet the instructional needs of today’s students. All students will benefit

leaving Voice to keep the public informed.

By: Morgan Davis

Little Christmas Dancers

This past Sunday, December 18th, elementary students performed at the Belt Community Church. These students have been practicing for a few months with the help of Darci Darlington and Charity Highfill. The dancers touched the audience’s heart at the Community Church performing the song, *Christmas Shoes*. The next night, on Monday, the little ones performed in the Pavilion. There were more dances performed by the students, solo dances, and songs sung by the Highfills. The night was finished

off with the dancers entertaining the audience with summersaults and cart wheels. After the great performance hosted by Darlington, the dancers began a snowball fight with the audience. One dancer, Ariana Bergos, said, “The performance was really exciting and I really loved the snowball fight.” Bergos’ favorite dance was the snowflake dance as the dancers handled umbrellas covered with snowflakes. It was hard for her to choose her favorite dance as she loved them all.

Darlington teaches dance and gymnastics to the little ones in the Belt Community every Monday. Dance begins right after school, following gymnastics afterwards. Darlington keeps herself busy every Monday to teach the students amazing skills. Darlington also receives some help from freshman students who have been in her class. Darlington has done a great job preparing the little ones for their holiday performances.

By: Kara Neal

Holiday Message from Belt Staff

The Belt Staff would like to wish the Belt School, community, family, and friends a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. With this being the last day of school before break, all students and staff are more than ready to celebrate the holiday’s with their family and friends and take a break from school. The students will

be released today at 3:30 p.m. after school. Unfortunately, it’s not a half day, but it all pays off in the end when the kiddos can get out of school earlier in May. Semester has also been changed to January 16th, so finals will be held the 10th and 12th. This means that high schoolers will have a split final, one on

Tuesday and one on Thursday. The Wednesday in-between is a half day so students will get another day to recuperate and retain the information needed for their second day exams. Enjoy a safe and happy holidays season!

By: Isabelle Newman

Christmas Caroling

The annual Christmas Caroling has been rescheduled due to weather conditions. It was scheduled for last Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Hoyer didn't want the students to get frost bite so he decided

that December 21st (tonight) would be a better night to carol. Everything will be the same as what was said in the last issue. Everyone will meet at the Catholic Church tonight at 6:00 p.m. and carol for an hour or

so before they eat. Keep a look out down the streets for the carolers who will be spreading the Christmas cheer in the Belt Community tonight.

By: Kara Neal

UGF Science Days

Last week on Thursday Renzi Horton, Belt High School science teacher, took the junior and senior science classes to the UGF science days. This was the second year that Mrs. Horton took the students to UGF to learn about all types of sciences and get involved in the labs. The students were grouped with many others from schools near Great Falls and they were sent to different stations of science. This ranged from botany, chemistry, zoology, and exercise science. UGF made sure to relate these studies to sports in which many of the students are involved.

The botany section allowed students to walk around the green houses and observe the fish and their food that they grow throughout the year. This station was very interesting because of the odd foods the fish eat in order to survive in their small habitats at UGF. Next the students gathered around the math tables and used their skills to decode equations. The next station that the students visited was the ecology room. The ecologist

discussed her job as an animal trapper that attaches collars to wild animals in order to track their movement across the state. This job keeps humans safe because they keep the wolves and harmful animals away from civilization but they also improve the population of near endangered species.

The biology and exercise memory stations were the most fun for the students because of the activities they did. The biology section had the students swish yellow Gatorade in their mouths then spit it out to see their cheek cells. They inserted their cells under a microscope and observed the shape and color of their cells. It was interesting so see the many variations of cells from different students. The exercise memory section was very fun and very tiring. In this station, students sat at a table and took a memory quiz: they looked at a paper for one minute, trying to memorize the order of items, then sit for 30 seconds without looking at the

paper, and then wrote down what they remembered from the sheet for a minute. This tested their memory skills. Then the students were randomly given either a red or a white chip. The students with the white chips ran for eight minutes while the students with the red chip played card games. After these few minutes of exercise and games, the students were rounded up again to take another memory test, using the same routine. The study proved that the students that exercised received the best scores on the memory test. This result showed that exercise aids in memory.

The students that attended science days were happy with their experience and the juniors are hoping to attend the event next year. Mrs. Horton hopes to get involved in this activity again for the future years because of the amazing things UGF teaches the students.

By: Alison Stoker

Lend a Hand

Volunteering takes a big part of America whether people do it if they want to or have to. It's a great way for a person to make a difference whether it is big or small. Even though they don't get paid, they receive the satisfaction of making someone's day. In Montana, a person can do about anything to volunteer. One of the major benefits of volunteering is the impact on the communi-

ty. Recently, Youth Leadership has been volunteering more than usual compared to the past school years. It's been great to see all of the students who want to help make a difference in the community. The members will continue to be involved in any opportunity to volunteer. A person does not just have to be a part of Youth Leadership to make a difference in the communi-

ty. The Senior Citizen Center has one volunteer right now, but will be losing her next semester. If anyone is willing to volunteer to wash dishes in the afternoon, stop by or call: 277-3861. Volunteering is one of the most rewarding things a person can get involved in. There is nothing better than making someone's day.

By: Kara Neal

Hunting Trophies

Name: Tucker Johnson

Type: Mule deer

Range: 280-300 yards

Weapon: .308 Winchester

Area: No Tell 'em Creek

Score: 5 by 5

Highlights: Biggest buck Tucker has ever shot.



Name: Keagan Stroop

Type: Mule deer

Range: 150 yards

Weapon: .306 Winchester

Area: Maki's driveway

Score: 7 by 8 or 160

Highlights: Keagan's biggest buck yet.



Name: Cash Muretta

Type: Mule deer

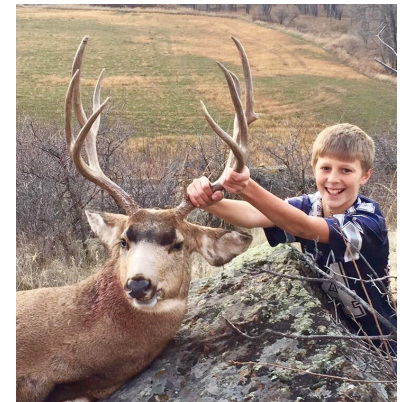
Range: 160 yards

Weapon: .223 Remington

Area: Armington

Score: 4 by 6

Highlights: This was Cash's biggest buck.



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