



The Valley Voice

Belt Public Schools



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Homecoming 2024

Homecoming Week in Belt was a smashing success for the Huskies as school continued with the added excitement of dress-up days, additional activities, and a full slate of games in which the boys and girls emerged with conference victories.

The traditional class competition for the Spirit Stick was front and center throughout the week. The seniors, not surprisingly, walked away with the big prize as they won the dress-up days title, the Homecoming Olympics, the pep rally dance competition, and the Spirit Roar. The Class of '25 ended up with 83.5 points on the week, outdistancing the juniors by nearly twenty points.

The juniors presented the best float and came close in the Olympics to garner 2nd place while the sophomores gave them a run for their money, finished just a couple points behind. The freshmen class rode the caboose on the train, but had a great time and are ready for a strong showing next year.

The teams were also successful, as the Lady Husky volleyball team swept Cascade in 3 sets on the hard-

wood and the football squad took control of the Northern C Division with a resounding win over the Fort Benton Longhorns.

The big moment of the week came at halftime of the football game when Homecoming Royalty was announced. The candidates for the crowns included: Addee Hoffmann, Ella Faulkner, and Gracie Thiel-Watson. The boys' candidates were Mac Hedstrom, Hans Bumgarner, Eli Bodner, and Declan Bergstrom.

Last fall's King Johnny Tingey and last spring's prom queen Eliza Tingey were on hand to crown Thiel-Watson and Bergstrom king and queen as royalty for the class.

It was a great week of fun, and this last week has been decidedly less eventful as students and staff settle back into the regular routine.



Husky Football

Over the past two weeks, the Huskies have earned massive victories over highly-ranked opponents. The Maroon and Gold stomped the #3 ranked (at the time) Fort Benton Longhorns and #3 ranked (at the time) Ennis Mustangs.

After a fun day of float building and a parade, the boys had completed all of the homecoming activities and had their focus on the rivals standing right in front of them, the Fort Benton Longhorns.

The Huskies started off hot with senior Luke Highfill forcing a fumble that was recovered by junior Slater Lords on the opening drive. On the next play, Lords received the pass from senior quarterback Declan Bergstrom from 23 yards out to put the first score on the board. The rest of the first quarter was filled with suffocating defense from the Dawgs. Senior Mac Hedstrom earned himself a sack along with Highfill, and senior Rylan Davison forced another (Cont. pg. 2)



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Husky Football *(Cont.)*

fumble from the Horns that was recovered by junior Tucker LaPlaunt.

Bergstrom opened the 2nd quarter with a stripe down the middle of the field to Lords from 15 yards out for the duo's second score. Then Blake Waldner intercepted the Longhorn's pass which set up another Bergstrom touch-down pass, this time to junior Dawson Cook from 23 yards. Then Davison recorded a sack of his own followed by Bergstrom snagging an interception. The half ended with Bergstrom launching a floater that was hauled in by Davison for his fourth touchdown pass of the half.

The Maroon and Gold continued their dominance in the third quarter as Bergstrom tossed the screen pass to Cook who had an entourage escorting him into the endzone from 54 yards away. Highfill then forced another fumble which was recovered by sophomore Teaghan Triplett. Highfill followed up by powering a run through the line from 3 yards away. Highfill then earned himself another sack alongside D-lineman Landin Schraner. Bergstrom finished the quarter by dodging and weaving his way through the defense en route to a 50 yard touchdown run.

The Longhorns managed to work down to the Huskies' goal line, but Lords intercepted the pass in the endzone and ran it back the entire length of the field for the Pick-six. After this it was the young pups who went in and bled the rest of the clock out. When the final horn sounded, the scoreboard read 56-18 in favor of the home team.

The next week, the Huskies faced yet another #3 ranked oppo-

nent, this one being the Ennis Mustangs, a rematch of last year's semi final matchup. Davison started the game off hot by corralling the Mustangs quarterback for a sack and forcing a punt. The Huskies offense started off shaky with an early turnover, but the Mustangs were unable to capitalize off the mistake. The Huskies responded by Bergstrom dumping a short pass to Davison who made a defender miss and outran the rest to the defense for 45 yards, finishing in the endzone to start the scoring. Ennis then mishandled the handoff and Hedstrom would fall on the ball giving possession back to the Dawgs. Lords found himself behind the defense on the next drive and Bergstrom would air out a deep ball for him, which was received for another long touchdown. On the Huskies ensuing offensive drive, Waldner took the pitch from Bergstrom 45 yards to the house.

Bergstrom started the second quarter by uncorking yet another deep ball, this time to Waldner for a 25-yard score. Highfill punched in a short run for a score and then Ennis would answer back right before the end of the half, making the score 38-6

The Huskies made a statement coming out of halftime as Bergstrom flicked a screen to Cook who proceeded to torch the defense for a 65-yard touchdown. Ennis ended up getting backed up onto their own goal line on their next drive and an errant snap resulted in a safety and two points for the Dawgs. Waldner got another pitch from Bergstrom and tiptoed the sideline for 34-yards, resulting in his third touchdown of the game. Senior linebacker Walker Maki finished the quarter by nabbing an interception of his own.

The final quarter was filled with defense as no team was able to put points on the board. The Husk-

ies defense impressed as they ended the game with back-to-back goal line stands. The final one resulted in a deflection that was intercepted by LaPlaunt. When the clock hit all zeros, the score read 54-12 for another statement win by the Huskies.

The JV also won a pair in the past couple weeks, their first of which being a road contest in Fort Benton. Sophomore quarterback Grahm Halley found freshman Bryce Backus for the early touch-down followed by sophomore Greyson Garza tacking on the two point conversion to put the boys up 8-0. Garza scored twice and freshman quarterback Michael Gaylord ran a touchdown in to propel the Huskies to a close 28-20 victory.

The most recent contest was again on the road, this time against the Shelby Coyotes. Freshman Emmitt Anderson got the scoring going early with a short touchdown scamper. There was an abundance of scoring as Anderson, Gaylord, Garza, Triplett, and Cliff Pethel all scored touchdowns as the Huskies stomped the Coyotes 58-6.

The middle school also competed in two contests during this time. The first was a home match against Fort Benton. After trailing 6-0 at halftime, 8th grade quarterback Kale Stroop got the Huskies on the board by running in a touchdown. Late in the fourth quarter, Stroop found 7th grader Garrett Remington in the endzone to seal the game 14-6.

The Huskies now boast a 4-0 record (3-0 in conference). Tomorrow night, the Huskies travel to Cascade to take on the Badgers at 7:00 p.m. The game will be aired on KMON Radio 560 am, kmon.com, and on the KMON app. Next week, the boys will be playing Choteau for the Divisional Championship, which will also be broadcasted on KMON.

By: Rylan Davison

Fort Benton	-	6	-	12	18
Belt	6	22	22	6	56
Ennis	-	6	6	-	12
Belt	24	14	16	-	54

Husky Cheer

Belt Valley High School has incredible pep and spirit for the teams. All of the community members and students coming to the games truly helps the Huskies come back with a victory. The pep band, student section, and especially the cheerleaders certainly help give the school some light. The most important people keeping the cheer team together are the real spirit raisers.

Andrea Visocan, an English teacher here at BVHS, is the head coach of the team. This is Mrs. Visocan's seventh year of coaching the Husky cheerleaders. The program over time has grown and evolved greatly. She thought that homecoming was a lot of fun this year and can't wait for the tournament season.

Mrs. Visocan coached middle school competitive cheer back in her hometown of Georgia but she prefers the spirit cheer program because it is focused on cheer and crowd involvement. She cheered in both middle school and high school but did not attempt to cheer in college because she did not have the tumbling skills needed for the University of Georgia.

Visocan states "I enjoy all aspects of coaching cheerleading ... making memories, building skills,

and building confidence." The Belt Cheerleaders used to attend Cheer-Fest which is a competition that takes place in Lewistown before Mrs. Visocan's coaching time. The state of Montana does not classify cheer as a competitive sport and the Belt would need the school board to approve a change of policy, give the team proper insurance, and purchase more equipment. "BVHS cheerleading is a great way for students to get involved and promote school spirit." -Andrea Visocan

Mrs. Visocan could always use some more help in the coaching department so Christa Phillips stepped in this year to lend a hand. Phillips has always loved cheer but has never coached it before so she decided to help coach this year. She is most looking forward to tournaments, creating memories, and traveling to different schools. Phillips cheered in all four years of high school but the team didn't do nearly as much as the cheerleaders do now. She graduated in 2005 from Belt, and her favorite part about cheer is the school spirit and getting the crowd fired up. "We have a really good group of girls this year and the older girls are positive and amazing influencers to the underclassmen." -Christa Phillips

These coaches will continue

to guide this incredible team of cheerleaders through the rest of the football, volleyball, and basketball seasons. The cheerleaders will be cheering at all of the home varsity games except for Saturday, September 21st at a volleyball game against Sunburst. They also go to tournaments when they arrive but only volleyball and basketball.

To support the Belt Huskies the student section, pep band, and any community members who want to participate dress up in different themes. Each game night has a different yet lively theme. This fall season there are only 2 home football games left that include October 25th against Rocky Boy which the theme is camo and October 12th against Harlem with a theme of Pink Out. Volleyball also has a game on the 12th with the same theme as the football game. Volleyball also has home games on September 21st against Sunburst and September 25th against Great Falls Central Catholic. The themes for those two nights are PJ Night and Hawaiian night.

Come cheer on the football, volleyball, pep band and cheer team at the next fall games. Thanks to the coaches for their work and the community for their support.

By: Brooklyn Phillips

Cross-Country

As the season comes to an end and the weather is starting to turn colder the Huskies are getting ready to complete what they have started to be a good season so far. With all this rain that came through these last couple of weeks they have had to get used to running being wet and cold. They have had two meets prior from the last edition in both Havre and in Lewistown.

All the Huskies performed above expectations at both meets with the Havre meet making a lot of

new personal best from the runners. From the boys side they took 6th place as a team with Grahm Halley placing 20th with a time of 20:34 and behind him was Cade McCoy coming in at 29th with a time of 20:54. On the girls side the girls had an impressive showing placing 4th with some good time by the team. Vannie Urick took 6th place with a time of 22:10 and coming in after Urick was Dezirae Goodman in 26th and Morgan Heitzman 27th.

The team's next showing will be the Mountain West Classic

which will be a great meet for the team to improve on what has already been an impressive year. This meet will be taking place at the University of Montana Golf Course in Missoula on Saturday September, 28th.

The venue in Missoula will also host the state Cross Country meet. The state competition is set for Saturday, October 26th. Last year Belt's boys finished in 8th place while the Lady Huskies ended up 4th.

By: Grahm Halley

Enrollment

Belt Valley High School is currently a class C school. Last year's senior class had 24 kids who left and the incoming freshman class had 23 students. This year there is a pretty small senior class comprising only 17 students. Once they graduate, kindergarten through next year's seniors will all range anywhere from 25 to 30 students.

There is consistent growth, which presents a few challenges along with opportunities. Previously, Belt has allowed out-of-district students to come to the school but this year they are no longer accepting students from outside of the district. This is primarily to maintain a positive student to teacher ratio and create consistent class sizes.

Enrollments are fluctuating all around, which impacts interscholastic competitions. The

MHSA classifies divisions by school enrollment. To be considered an AA school there has to be more than 801 students enrolled.

The biggest AA school in Montana is Billings West with 2208 students. To qualify as an A school there has to be between 301 and 800 students enrolled. The biggest A school is Columbia Falls with 687 students enrolled. The second to smallest schools are B schools which means that there have to be 101 to 300 students. The biggest B school is Sidney with 337 students enrolled.

Lastly, to be considered a C school, there has to be 1 to 100 students enrolled. The biggest C school is a tie between Box Elder and Forsyth with 100 students enrolled.

Every year the class districts

change but not by very much, and often a school might remain in a classification that isn't exactly within the numbers for a variety of reasons. The majority of the time the number balances out to the same amount of students in high school as there were last year, and Belt's enrollment will probably remain in Class C for some time with around 100 kids most years for the foreseeable future.

Many of the students here in Belt like having smaller classes as it allows them to have more one-on-one time with the teacher and it will enable them to get more help when they need it. Having smaller classes helps the kids focus more with fewer distractions around them, causing them to not get the work done that needs to be completed.

By: Taylee Fox

Worlds of Work

Worlds of Work is a chance for students all across the country to find a job that suits them well, so they can make it into a career. Careers are often a long term job that people make a living off of. The event prepares students with a few ideas of what they can do after they graduate. On Tuesday, Belt's sophomore class was escorted to Great Falls by the school counselor Mrs. Gliko to take part in the event at the U. of Providence.

At the beginning of the fair students went into a lecture hall and were given a bag with water and a brochure. Students then were put into 5 groups and rotated through 4 zones. The first zone was about Agriculture, food and resources, Architecture and construction, and modern manufacturing. Many kids liked this zone because it had a lot of machinery and welding stands.

There were 2 booths that students were drawn to the most. The first booth was the booth with an excavator and dump truck simu-

lator with controls that the students got to play with.

The second stand the students found most interesting was the welding stands. Zone 2 was about Arts, Tech and Communication, Business management and admin, Finance, Hospitality and tourism, and Information Technology.

A fan favorite booth of zone 2 was the baseball booth. The baseball booth had a batting cage with a machine that shot out ping pong balls to hit. Zone 3 was about government work like policemen, firefighters, and soldiers. A favorite part of this zone was the U.S. Air Force and the policemen. The students were allowed to climb into the helicopters and look around the helicopters the Air Force had to offer. The Air Force also had a stand where you could put on body armor and bomb suits. The FBI had a station to teach kids what it's like being an FBI agent.

The policemen had a fingerprint booth where students could go

through the process of fingerprinting for fun. They also had a station where the kids could be put into handcuffs.

Zone 4 was a lot about Education training, Health science, Human Services, and Stem. For example they had a station where kids could spin a wheel and whatever it lands on they would have to try out. The wheel had things like being a nurse on it. They had a station where students could learn how to swaddle. Another fan favorite was a station that had a carpet with a road and obstacles on it where students would have to walk through to show the effects of how alcohol can impair your driving abilities.

Benefis Hospital had a lot of groups of people at the job fair showing kids a glimpse of what it is like being a doctor and nurse. A group of nurses had a station where students could get into scrubs and put on gloves to see what it is like being in surgery.

By: Keaton Borger

Lady Husky Volleyball

Over the past two weeks the Lady Huskies competed in a slew of games against Augusta, Dutton/Brady, North Toole Co. (Sunburst), and Great Falls Central Catholic. The Ladies were able to come out with big victories in all of these contests and started to get their momentum going for the season.

The first match was a road game up in Augusta versus the Elks. The first set was controlled by the Huskies as strong hitting up front by the likes of seniors Addee Hoffmann and Eliza Tinger, alongside sophomores Sidney Paulson and Hope Maki forced a slew of errors from the Lady Elks. The second set was more of the same as the Huskies relentless offense was too much for the Elks to handle. Junior Olivia Moran and sophomore Ashton Pasha got their games going in the second. Pair that with excellent back-line play from sophomores Destinee and Dezirae Goodman and junior McKenzie Pogany and the Ladies coasted to another set victory. The whole unit was gelling throughout the whole contest and the Maroon and Gold shut down the Elks in the final set. The girls left Augusta with a 3-set sweep: 25-16, 25-8, and 25-6.

The Lady Huskies traveled down to Dutton to face the Dutton/

Brady Diamondbacks the following week. The Lady Husky defense came out strong as senior Ella Faulkner sent a Diamondback attack right back where it came from to start a run. Powerful hitting up front from Tingey and Paulson propelled the Ladies to a victory in the first set.

Great setting from juniors Emerson Hoerner and Aaliyah Gaylord set up big plays for the Ladies to finish in the second set. Pasha, Moran, and freshman Bella Gama helped lead the team to a 15-0 start in the penultimate set. The D-Backs made a small run, but the Lady Huskies overpowered them and won the second set.

The girls rode the wave of momentum that they had gained and made quick work of Dutton/Brady in the third. The Lady Huskies left with another road sweep 25-8, 25-12, and 25-4.

The next game was a home contest against Sunburst, where Belt's defense dominated on the way to a 3 set victory.

The JV also got in a group of games during this time against DGSG, Dutton/Brady, and GFCC. The first game of the bunch was at home against the DGSG Bearcats. The first set was close, but the girls were able to band together to narrowly escape with a first set victory 25-16. A pair of runs helped propel the girls to a 25-13 win in the second set. The third and final set was all controlled by the Lady Huskies. The girls finished with a 15-7 win in the third set and swept the Bearcats at home.

The next game was against the Dutton/Brady Lady Diamondbacks in Dutton. The girls came out on an early run and were able to match any other run that the Diamondbacks threw their way. The Lady Huskies took the first set 25-14. The second set was more of the

same as a late Dutton/Brady run was cut short by a pair of scores that finished the set with a 25-16 Belt victory. The final set saw points alternate for a little bit but a small run pushed the Lady Huskies past the Lady Diamondbacks for yet another series sweep.

The middle school also played against the recently mentioned opponents starting with the DGSG Lady Bearcats. The first set was a very solid defensive set for the Lady Huskies as they held DGSG to just 11 points. The second set was even better as the strong defense transitioned into easy offense for the 25-10 victory and series sweep.

The next game was at Dutton versus the Diamondbacks. The first set was close, but a pair of kills gave the Lady Huskies a 1-0 set lead 25-16. The second set was controlled completely by the Lady Huskies as they finished the set 15-7 and earned another sweep.

The next contest was at home against Sunburst. The game was close at first with both teams trading points until a massive run by the Lady Huskies gave them enough momentum to end up blowing by the Lady Refiners in the first set 25-11. The defense from the Maroon and Gold in the second set was impeccable as it allowed 17 unanswered points for the Huskies as they took the second set 25-8. The ladies started the third set hot but a late run by Sunburst made it a little close. Luckily, the girls were able to put them away and complete the sweep 15-9.

The Lady Huskies now sit at 6-2 and will travel over to Simms tomorrow night to play the Tigers. This also marks the halfway point of the regular season, and the girls look to be catching their stride at the right time.

By: Rylan Davison



Senior Spotlight

Every week in school the seniors get closer to graduating and moving on into their new lives. The class of 2025 will be throwing their caps up in the air next May to celebrate their new accomplishment of graduating. The Raynesford boys, Eli Bodner and Mac Hedstrom are both a great addition to the senior class of 2025.

Bodner has been attending Belt for eight years now and has shared some information about his high school years. Bodner has participated in many extracurricular activities throughout his eight years enrolled in Belt School.



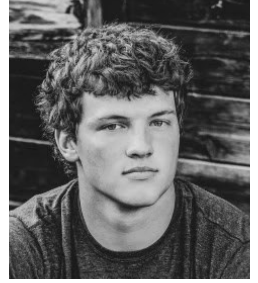
For sports Bodner has been a part of the Football and Track teams. Other

extracurricular activities that Bodner has participated in are FFA, Youth Leadership, 4-H and DECA. Bodner says that his fondest memories from his high school years are homecoming week and football with the boys. After high school, Bodner is planning to go to MSU and pursue a construction engineering degree career with that he plans to become a construction engineer.

Next up is Mac Hedstrom! After high school he plans on going to either MSU in Bozeman or Montana Tech in Butte. Hedstrom hasn't decided on which field he wants to go into but he definitely wants to do something along the lines of engineering. Hedstrom states, "There are many places I can work in engineering." Hedstrom says that he has many fond memories from high school but playing football with his buddies and taking bus rides are at

the top.

Hedstrom is very involved in Belt school doing many sports and extracurricular activities. He is a part of the football and track teams, while also being a part of FFA, DECA, 4-H and Youth Leadership. Hedstrom has been enrolled in belt school for 13 years, he states, "I started my adventure in pre-k which was 13 years ago."



Eli Bodner and Mac Hedstrom are making the most of their final months of high school and plan to make a lot more memories before spring. Make sure to wish them the best of luck their new adventures and journeys into life!

By: Taylee Fox

National Honor Society

National Honor Society is a student leadership organization that covers the entire country. It recognizes the best student leaders in the classrooms and communities across the land.

The Belt chapter of National Honor Society is run by Mrs. Remington. Sophomores, juniors, seniors. The NHS Belt chapter does many things for the school and community and Mrs. Remington is proud to help the kids reach their full potential. The belt chapter currently has total of seven students who are fulfilling their potential.

NHS provides kids with knowledge on how to use their time and commitment to things like school. The NHS program in the Belt has taken on many worthwhile projects; for example for several years students have run a recycling program in the school for excess paper. This helps cut down on waste, and helps students and teach-

ers take a moment to think about environmental issues in general.

NHS also helps out students who don't have a lot of food at home by bringing Belt its own chapter of Coles Pantry.

Cole's Pantry is a Montana nonprofit association founded in Billings in 2010. It helps bridge the gap for over 35,000 Montana kids who are short on something as basic as food.

Cole's Pantry feeds kids all across the Montana area to ensure no kid goes famished. The program exceeded what was simply expected to do and became a massive statewide accomplishment. Coles Pantry was created by Fallon Pelican. Fallon wanted to create a charitable organization after her brother, who had passed away in a serious horseback riding accident. Schools quickly picked it up to help feed hungry kids who didn't get enough food at home as is, now over 40

Montana schools use coles pantry.

Since Cole's Pantry is a nonprofit, what is donated goes right back into the program to help feed the kids.

The best way to help Montana children is to donate to the program so that kids don't go to bed hungry. The best things to donate to the program are food and money. Over 20,000 plus dollars have been donated to the program. If your area needs more money you can apply for a grant on the website. More information on the program is at: <https://colespantryinc.com/>

Those are just a couple of the ways that the Belt chapter of the National Honor Society makes a positive difference in the community. Congratulations and thanks to Mrs. Remington for her tireless efforts on behalf of the students at Belt high School in the classroom and beyond.

By: Keaton Borger

New Tech

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a set of technologies that enable computers to perform a variety of advanced tasks. How AI works is by stimulating human intelligence through the use of data and computational power. The goal is to make machines or software to perform tasks that typically require humans to run them.

Some things that AI can do can be either small or big. They can do simple daily tasks recognizing patterns, solving problems, and making decisions. Some bigger things that AI can do is it can deploy computer systems to learn, reason, and solve problems using a larger database. AI is mostly used for automating tasks, analyzing data, and enhancing making decisions. AI can take in and process a lot of information which humans normally can't do.

AI is neither good nor bad. AI can be used for learning new things and helping people when they need it but it can also be abused and used for harmful situations depending on how it is developed and used. It is important to make sure to approach AI with caution and responsibility regarding your situation and use the tool responsibly.

AI is used in many different situations in the world today. For

example, AI is used in the medical field. AI can read X-rays, MRIs, and CT scans to help healthcare workers with a quick and easy diagnosis. There are also much smaller things that AI can be used for. Some of the simplest daily tasks like voice assistants, solving problems, and face recognition to unlock any mobile phone. AI has helped improve productivity, healthcare, and an increase to education.

Many of the teachers here in Belt are using AI to show students how one task can be done. For example, Mr. Koontz has been using AI in his history classes to show students how to organize essays for better, more complete writing. As he says, "The ethical use of AI is amazing! You need to be careful how you use it, but it can save literally dozens of hours each week performing many tasks that we used to have to do ourselves. It is also adaptable to multiple learning styles and can really enhance the education process. Like most things, there is a potential downside, but I think it's just far too powerful to ignore."

Some students say that there are good and bad things about AI. Some enjoy using it to learn how to do new things. These students say that AI needs to be used for learn-

ing and not cheating because that is a problem that can occur. Students also say that they have used AI to help them conquer harder tasks such as writing essays and explaining math problems. These students use AI to help understand their problems and not for AI to do it for them.

There are many platforms of AI that can be used for both children and adults. There are plenty of free platforms that can be used. Chat Gpt is one very popular AI website that can be used for many different things. Chat Gpt is the largest learned language model in human history of artificial intelligence with around 175 billion ML parameters. Chatgpt can be used for more than just human conversations. Some things that people have used this website for is to check for bugs in code and code computer programs. Chat Gpt is also free to use and is allowed for everyone.

OpenAI is a platform that is best used for research-based ideas and models. OpenAI is an advanced video model that has garnered attention to create detailed video clips from text descriptions.

It's worth a look, and it's certainly not going away. Most people are looking at it for the first time, but probably not the last.

By: Taylee Fox

New Student

In this issue the voice is proud to welcome yet another new Belt Husky sixth grader Linden Aikins. As we head into the first quarter midterm Aikins is excited to



make new friends, competing in a variety of sports, and getting to start a new chapter in her life with

her family and friends.

Aikins grew up in Shelby Montana and is now in the Belt. Her hometown is home to agriculture and oil. This summer Aikins went to the lake, swam for a swim team, visited her family, and went camping. She has four siblings and 4 step siblings but loves them all so very much. She is going to miss her new friends but is looking forward to making new friends within the community.

In her free time she likes to

ride horses, play sports, or go to the river/lake. She enjoys hanging out with friends after school, drawing at home, baking, and as all of her other siblings have said, riding dirt bikes, and four wheelers when time allows..

In the coming issues of the *Voice* there will be a string of introductions with some of Belt's new elementary students, a third grader, a first grader, and lastly a new kindergartner.

By: Cacellia Durbin

Hometown Heroes

A hometown hero is someone willing to go out of their way to do great things in their community. As Belt has many heroes Lisa Watson and Gene Cantley are spotlighted in this article. Lisa Watson is a mom, nurse, and a Nationally Registered EMT for Belt Volunteer Ambulance. Watson and Cantley are both knowledgeable people who are very successful in what they do. Cantley is a hard-working man who tries to give back to the community when it needs help.

To earn an EMT license one has to go to an EMT class and once you have completed that class you are now ready to submit to the national registry to take the test. Now once the test is passed one can apply for licensure. License renewal requires 40 hours of continuing education every two years. This is part of the biannual renewal process for Montana licensure, which also requires a licensing fee.

Watson was an EMT in Great Falls but when one community that she was close to got sick she realized she missed helping the community when they were at their worst. Watson was an OBGYN nurse for 18 years and is still a

nurse. Cantley said that his attention was caught when he joined the Belt Rural Fire in 2003 and started hearing EMS calls go unanswered. Cantley also enjoys patient care because he loves to help people and transport them to a place where they can get better help. Jim Dawson was his inspiration because he was so devoted to helping others when they needed more help.

Watson has served before but has been back for more than two years with Belt Ambulance. She loves being able to assist people in emergencies and it gives you an adrenaline rush. Watson said, "It is really rewarding to give back to the community and possibly travelers so if anyone wants to come see what we are all about they should come by the station and fill out paperwork to do a ride along."

There are some requirements such as you have to be 18 years of age and half to take an EMR class or higher.



Belt Volunteer Ambulance. Just got a new ambulance to stay up to date with vehicle rotation.

The current first responding ambulance will go back up and a new one will be used as the main vehicle for duty. The old one will be sold to some other deserving rural ambulance service in need. EMS is struggling to keep volunteers so if anyone is thinking they want to join contact either Lisa Watson or Gene Cantley.

To volunteer contact Gene at 406-788-0752 at any time of the day. They are looking for volunteers mainly during the day but any volunteer would be amazing.

By: Cacellia Durbin

College Fair

Last week, the juniors and seniors attended the College Fair that is held every year. Colleges from all over the country gather in the University of Providence Gymnasium to give information and even a little persuasion towards the students that attend. The schools that show up are from all over the district from all different classes. Schools like Great Falls High, Cascade, Fort Benton, etc. all schedule one to two hour blocks for their students to visit as many colleges as possible.

High school tries to prepare students for the future like college, but there is obvious information

that teachers can't provide. Representatives from the colleges help students with the main questions like expenses, living quarters, and class schedules, just to name a few.

The colleges that send representatives cover pretty much every option that a high school student could think of. Anything from engineering schools to art schools, and anywhere from Washington to Florida all show out. Even Military Branches like the Army and Coast Guard come out to provide options after high school.

On average, around two-thirds of graduates from Belt attend College. Of that percent, about

roughly 30% graduate from their colleges. This fair has proven very useful as a majority of students who attend college formulate their plans and ideas from these types of activities.

The event usually goes over well for most of the students, especially the senior classes as the shadow of college and the real world start coming at a pretty rapid pace. This fair opened some doors and even shut a few to make their future plans a little more sound. It was a worthwhile look at education beyond the walls of Belt Valley high School.

By: Rylan Davison

August Principal's Report

The elementary summer reading program "Team USA-Paris Olympics" was held on seven Tuesday mornings in the library with Mrs. Meissner. The average attendance of the students was around 40 students per week, as well as two National Honor Society (NHS) volunteers. Besides reading and learning about the Olympics, sports and traditions, students investigated STEM activities that replicated Olympic activities.

Mrs. Visocan and Mrs. Meissner also sponsored a book club for the high school students

over the summer. The books covered genres that included fantasy, realistic fiction, and psychological thrillers/mysteries and were followed up with discussion periods. All participants have requested that the book club continue.

Elementary Summer School, which was led by Ms. Holley, concluded with 16 students in 1st-4th grade completing all four weeks of educational enrichment. Each week consisted of a different STEM theme that culminated in a hands-on or field trip activity.

Thanks goes out to Mrs.

Meissner, Ms. Maus, Ms. Ratliff, and Ms. Cousins who helped out at different times during summer school, as well as Mrs. Theresa Elam for providing lunches.

A new phone policy has been put into effect in the school. The rule makes it so students will have to place their phones in a phone holder or some type of spot that the teacher chooses to prevent cell phone usage during class time. Students are still allowed to use them if given permission or are between class periods and lunch.

By: Rylan Davison

Facility Upgrades

There have been some important improvements to Belt School of late.

The elementary wing got new tile over the summer. The tile had been looking worse and worse which would also make it difficult for the janitors to clean. Over the past three years they have worked hard on getting new flooring in the classrooms all throughout the school. When all of the elementary

classrooms' floors were updated they moved to the hall and decided to replace the floor.

The new tile is way better quality than the old one and it is easier to clean and maintain. The school hopes that the flooring will last a long time. This flooring was installed by Pierce Flooring, and has added a bright new appearance to the grade school.

Belt is also getting three

new AED units. They have had one AED for several years now and they are finally getting one in the foyer entrance in the elementary and one in the science wing on the north end of the high school. There will be one in the crows nest for fall and spring sports as well. These AEDs were donated by Great Falls Fire and Rescue who were upgrading to new machines.

By: Holter Bumgarner

Where Are They Now?

Madisyn Lords, a 2021 Belt Valley High School graduate with Down Syndrome, is now starting a new chapter in her life. Lords attended Belt from 5th grade through her senior year. Before transferring to Belt she went to Shelby. Once she entered high school she took an extreme liking to cheerleading and choir. Even after high school Lords continued showing up at Belt games to support the Huskies! After graduating high school she worked at Benefis in Great Falls in the outpatient surgery registration area.

Currently Lords is attending college in Union Grove, Wisconsin at Shepherds College. Shep-

herds College is a college for students with developmental or intellectual disabilities. One of the slogans used for is "When you learn in an environment designed specifically for you, you thrive."

There are three occupational majors which include horticulture program, technology program and culinary arts program. Graduates of Shepherds College also leave the college with a complete re-

sume. This post-secondary school also accepts students of any color, nationality, race, and or ethnic origin. The online version of Shepherds college will help students on a path to

personal development, faith and journey, workplace readiness, and life skills. The staff to student ratio is 1:8 with a \$4 million scholarship and 82% gainful employment rate. Lords loves all of the walking she does on campus and one class in particular stands out for her, "Mr. William's faith class is good." - Madisyn Lords

For more information contact Shepherds College at 262-878-5620 or visit shepherdscollege.edu. The college also has social media accounts for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The community of Belt is proud of the hard work Madisyn has put in and wishes her all the luck in her academic and professional future.

By: Brooklyn Phillips



Birthdays		
10/8	Gunner Wood	K
10/6	Genevieve Noland	1
10/3	Teagan Keaster	5
10/6	Linden Aikens	6
10/3	Paisley Lindeman	6
10/8	Natalie Finco	7
10/6	Tatum Enos	8
10/2	Landon Hansen	8
10/1	Landon LaQue	10
10/6	Cliff Pethel	10

All Aboard!

Belt School is planning an educational trip to Spain in the year 2026 as part of EF Tours. Any students in current grades 8 through 11 are eligible who will be enrolled in high school Spanish classes.

It promises to be a great adventure that will provide a lifetime of memories for all who participate.

A list of parent email addresses is needed by October 4th in order to receive more information as the project develops. A parent meeting is tentatively planned for October 15th to gauge interest.

A sign-up sheet is available in the Spanish Room. For more information, contact Mrs. P. Maki at the school: pmaki@beltschool.net

Calendar of Events		
9/27	4:00 pm 4:00 pm	HS V-Ball Belt @ Simms MS Football @ Cascade
9/28	9:00 am 10:00 am 7:00 pm	HS V-Ball Showcase @ Choteau HS/MS Cross Country @ Missoula HS V Football @ Cascade
9/29	8:00 am	Sluice Box Park Clean-Up
9/30	4:30 pm 4:30 pm	JV Football Cascade @ Belt 6 th Grade Football Belt @ Cascade
10/1	6:00 pm	HS "C" V-Ball Centerville @ Belt
10/2	All Day	MT Tech Trade Days-Butte
10/3	6:00 pm	HS V-Ball Belt @ Valier
10/4	3:00 pm 4:30 pm 7:00 pm	HS Cross Country @ Great Falls MS Football Belt @ Choteau HS V Football @ Choteau
10/7	4:30 pm 4:30 pm	JV Football Choteau @ Belt 6 th Grade Football Belt @ Fort Benton
10/8	7:30 am	Picture Retakes
10/9	1:00 pm	Hearing Screening
10/10	6:00 pm 12:00 pm	HS V-Ball Belt @ Cascade HS Cross Country @ Helena

October Fact:

From the Old Farmer's Almanac...October originally earned its name due to the fact that it was the eighth month in the Roman Calendar. But when a couple Roman emperors (Julius Caesar and Caesar Augustus) decided they need to each have a month named after themselves.

The name stuck, despite the fact that it's now the tenth month of the Gregorian Calendar that has been in use since 1582. Perhaps it should be called Dectober?

Belt Senior Center-Important Dates

- October 3rd 9:00-11:30 a.m. Vaccination Clinic-Bring your insurance card
- October 8th 6:00 p.m. Bingo Night-\$4.00 per participant (4 cards)...bring snacks to share if you want
- October 16th 11:00 a.m. Lunch & Learn-Megan McCoy will introduce the crowd to Chair Yoga
- Mondays & Thursdays Pilates Exercise beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- Tuesdays (weekly) Transportation to Great Falls...Departure 9:00 to 9:30...Return early afternoon
- Monday thru Friday Coffee Club 8:00 a.m.-11:00 A.M.
- Mondays Cards 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Games rotate..."65", "Cribbage", "Hand and Foot"

Belt Senior Center Menu

Monday 9/30
Something Really
Good!

Monday 10/7
Salad
Cajun Chicken Alfredo Pasta
Cupcakes

Wednesday 10/3
Honey Glazed Pork Roast
Potatoes & Veggies
Fruit

Wednesday 10/9
Panzanella Salad
Ham & Potatoes Au Gratin
Brownies

Thursday 10/4
Sweet & Sour Meatballs
Rice & Ice Cream

Thursday 10/10
Roasted Chicken & Veggies
Maple-Walnut Potato Skins
Apple Sauce