

Defying the odds



(Pioneer photo by Chelsa Nickell)
Susie Phares, Callie Phares and primary caretaker Brittany Phares, her sister, sit on the front porch at Callie's home, reminiscing on fond memories ahead of Callie's 30th birthday, June 30.

Local woman survives disability through family and community

By Chelsa Nickell
Pioneer Reporter

Take her home and love her for as long as she may be here. Those are the words that no parent wants to hear from a doctor when it comes to their newborn child, but these were the words that Susie and Dave Phares heard when it came to their newborn daughter Callie. Callie was born in 1991 with cerebral palsy, as well as cord damage, caused by a lack of oxygen to Callie's brain throughout the course of the pregnancy that would go on to cause additional brain damage. "When Callie was born the doctors said her umbilical cord looked like an electrical wire," said Susie. "The doctors couldn't find any reason for the cord damage and told us that sometimes these things just happen."

With the idea that Callie would not be around long, the family took her home and braced themselves for the worst possible scenario. However, the worst never came and almost 30 years later they are still loving the baby they were told would probably not make it.

Callie, who is completely dependent on her family for

all her basic needs, lives at home with her mom, dad and primary caregiver Brittany, who is also her older sister. Brittany became a Certified Respiratory Therapist 11 years ago so that she could stay home with Callie and provide the care she required. However, the whole family, including older siblings Chris, Elizabeth and Dani, all play active roles in providing care, companionship and love for Callie.

"We looked at everything differently growing up regarding having a sibling who suffered from multiple health issues," said Elizabeth. "I think we all learned compassion at young ages because of Callie."

Considered to be a good judge of character, Callie is non-verbal and wheelchair-bound, but that does not stop her from getting around or letting you know when she may want or need something.

"Callie can't tell us when something may be wrong," said Elizabeth. "We have learned to watch her gestures for cues on what she may need or want."

Though unable to walk, Callie has a full range of motion and has perfected the art of the roll. She maneuvers all

over the home by rolling around on the ground to get to where she wants to go, including mom and dad's bedroom in the middle of the night to catch up on some cartoons.

"This is her house for sure," laughed Brittany. "We just live here with her."

The family has made sure that Callie has had as normal of a life as she could have by involving and including her in most everything.

She graduated from Sweet Grass High School in 2010, has gone on family trips, been a bridesmaid in her sister Elizabeth's wedding, participated in the Special Olympics, plays with her nieces and nephews, is boy crazy and loves watching television and going to baseball/softball games, which her mom says is her favorite pastime.

Not only did Callie find the support she would need to thrive with her family, but the Sweet Grass community has stepped up numerous times throughout the years to help the family out when they may have required it, whether it was helping financially or emotionally.

"Big Timber has always been there to help us out," said Susie. "They were my shoul-

der to cry on as well as my support system when I needed it."

Now the family is getting ready to celebrate Callie and all her accomplishments as she turns the big 30 on June 30, by having a pool party along with a cake smash. The family's new goal for Callie has been to save up for and purchase a Duet Wheelchair Bicycle Tandem PLUS, which costs roughly \$7,000. This wheelchair bike provides a comfortable natural positioning for the rider and easy pedaling for the caretaker, making for fun family rides which are perfect for Callie who loves to go on walks.

The family wants everyone to know that they should not feel intimidated by Callie's wheelchair or her disabilities.

"Don't be afraid to ask us questions about Callie or be afraid to talk to her," said Brittany. "She is probably the nicest of us Phares and enjoys when people talk to her."

So, if you happen to be out at Sweet Grass Fest this Saturday, Callie will be there along with her family with balloons tied to her chair. Stop and say hi and wish the young lady who has defied so many odds a happy birthday.

Big Timber city weighs changes to garbage rates

By Iain Woessner
Pioneer Editor

The Big Timber City Commission met Monday night to discuss increasing garbage rates at the Big Timber Transfer Station, with rates now based upon the garbage's weight, a change in metric that will bring both increases and decreases to how much people pay to off load their waste.

With preliminary budget discussions ongoing, no formal proposal or motion was made at the City Commission meeting regarding an increase in transfer site garbage rates, but Chad Bouer, municipal manager with Republic Services for the entire state of Montana, was present to offer rate recommendations intended to help bring the solid waste disposal arm of the city into a more financially solvent state, as well as establish more consistent pricing for dumping.

"Right now it's, we don't want to call it a 'free-for-all', but it is," Bouer said. "It could be \$5, it could be \$25, it could be \$150 depending on what you're bringing."

Bouer suggested that they offer a flat minimum rate of \$20 for up to 1,000 pounds of trash; a \$40 rate per ton after that. Construction materials would be charged \$60 per ton, whereas "oddball" items, which include mattresses and couches

and garbage, as these entities are funded through "enterprise" funding, which means they have to maintain their own bottom lines.

"We have the water as an enterprise fund, the sewer as an enterprise fund and the garbage as an enterprise fund, meaning they are totally separate businesses in and of themselves," Nadine Stosich, clerk and treasurer for the City of Big Timber, said. "But the garbage budget for years has been losing money."

Whereas water and sewage perform well on their own, Big Timber's transfer site has suffered from a baroque method of calculating garbage rates, where garbage was charged by the cubic yard. In short, the weight and volume of garbage mattered only inasmuch as it contributed to the measurable length of the incoming garbage, a length which Stosich said was determined primarily by eyeball estimation.

"It was all kind of guesswork, nobody was out there measuring," She said. "That's how they've had to do it for years and years."

Under the current system, for instance, a one-ton van laden with garbage would be charged \$80 for household trash and \$176 for construction, based on an estimated length of four yards. Under the new proposal, the rate would be based on the actual weight of the van, which would reduce both prices considerably. For those who dispose of odds-and-ends at the site, or their own garbage bags, the proposed change would see their rate go up, as any weight below 1000 pounds would still be charged a flat \$20 rate, as opposed to currently, where a single garbage bag is charged \$5, the same as a discarded mattress or couch.

Council members brought up concerns that a sudden spike in prices could encourage littering and dumping. Several solutions were bounced around, including proposing new city ordinances to punish illegal dumping or staggering the rate changes over the course of three years.

No formal motion was made, as the new changes first require the completion of a new scale, currently being built at the Big Timber Transfer Site.

"Third week of July, they are going to set the scale," Bouer said. "We're hoping by the third week of July it'll be up and running and we'll be able to play around with it for a couple weeks ... get people trained on it, make sure it's working the way it should be working."

Local brewery wins people's choice award

By Iain Woessner
Pioneer Editor

When Nathan Eggebrecht showed up to interview for the position of brewmaster at the soon-to-open Crazy Peak Brewery, he hadn't had time to prepare a written resume.

"It was the night before and I thought 'well, I'm not going to type up a whole resume, but I'm home-brewing and I was submitting beers to competitions,'" Eggebrecht recalled. "So I put six of my beers into a six pack, so when I showed up I said 'So I didn't have time to write a resume, but I brought a liquid resume for you.'"

Needless to say, Eggebrecht got the job, and for about



(Pioneer photo by Iain Woessner)
Nathan Eggebrecht performs tests on his latest batch of beer at Crazy Peak Brewing Co.

a year-and-a-half now he's been putting his own spin on the craft brew scene, concocting unique infusions and flavors of beer right here in Big Timber. Now, Crazy Peak

Brewery – and Eggebrecht – have had their first taste of greater success, as they were awarded the People's Choice Award at the Stillwater Brewfest in Columbus, edging out seven other breweries to win the hearts of hundreds of attendees.

"You could bring out up to four beers, we had our honey-bee porter, we had the Cucumber Goze," Eggebrecht said. "That was the first keg I blew, I think that was our most popular beer that festival."

The Cucumber Goze represents just a slice of Eggebrecht's approach to brewing, a blend of tradition and innovation.

"It's a traditional German

sour beer," Eggebrecht explained. "The river that flows through (a) certain town ... it has a high saline content, so when you brew that beer, you brew it with salt and it's also traditional to put coriander in there, and I thought that kind of flavor profile would pair well with cucumbers, so I infused it with fresh cucumber, so we have the Cucumber Goza on tap here."

Eggebrecht grew up in Billings, but went to San Diego to attend college. It was there, in 2005, in the epicenter of the craft brew movement that'd sweep the nation by storm, that he developed his love of the taste and craft of craft beer.

When he at last returned home to Montana, he quickly found himself brewing his own beer in pursuit of flavors he'd come to love.

"(Montana has) an awesome craft brew scene ... but there were still a few styles, especially like a really heavy West Coast IPA I couldn't find," Eggebrecht said. "So I decided to just start brewing myself. I got a starter kit, a homebrew kit for Christmas... and whipped up my first batch New Year's Day (2017) and have been brewing ever since then."

Eventually pursuing a brewing certificate through Montana State University, Eggebrecht came to sharpen his

WEEKLY HIGH
100° F
WEEKLY LOW
53° F
Weather 9



Mayor Candidates

Meet the three who seeking the mayorship of the city of Big Timber 7

Kill Kare Klub anniversary
The Kill Kare Klub celebrates 111 years of companionship and fun 3

Fire Update
Get the latest info on the Red Draw fire and it's current status 10

See Brewer, Page 2

8 06605 93406 49

Town & Country FOODS

100% EMPLOYEE OWNED AD EFFECTIVE JUNE 24 - JUNE 30, 2021 100% EMPLOYEE OWNED

 EASTERN MT MEAT BEEF LONDON BROIL \$3⁴⁹ LB	 12 PK LA CROIX SPARKLING WATER \$2⁹⁹ 12 PACK 120Z CANS	 CHOBANI GREEK YOGURT 77¢ 50Z	
 FRESH CALIFORNIA PEACHES \$1³⁹ LB	E.I.S., ODELL OR SMIRNOFF \$6⁹⁹ 6PK BUD LIGHT, COORS LIGHT OR MILLER LITE \$2¹⁹ 30PK	ALAMOS WINES \$6⁹⁹ 750 ML SUTTER HOME \$3⁹⁹ 750 ML ROLLING ROCK \$9⁹⁹ 18PK	
U.S. NO. 1 RED OR BLACK PLUMS \$1⁶⁹ LB NEW CROP WASHINGTON SWEET RED CHERRIES \$2⁴⁹ LB	DELI SLICED DAILY'S HONEY HAM \$4⁹⁹ LB BONE IN PORK SPARERIBS \$3⁴⁹ LB	BAKERY FRESH BROWNIES \$2⁵⁰ PANS FOR NATHAN'S FAMOUS BEEF FRANKS \$2⁸⁹ 12OZ	
WHEAT MT BAGELS OR ENGLISH MUFFINS \$1⁹⁹ 6CT TILLAMOOK PREMIUM ICE CREAM \$2⁸⁸ 48OZ			 FOOD CLUB CHUNKY OR CREAMY PEANUT BUTTER \$4⁵⁰ 16OZ FOR

2 Bozeman Locations, 219 N 19th & 1611 S 11th • Belgrade & Livingston

While Supplies Last - Quantities may be Limited - Store hours 7am-10pm daily

check us out on Facebook & www.work4tncfoods.com



BALANCE TRANSFER PROMOTION

Sky FCU is offering 0.00%
Promo APR* on balance
transfers for 18 months.

Offer available to all Sky FCU members and new
members who have a Sky Visa® Credit Card.
A balance transfer fee of 3% does apply.

BIG TIMBER • LIVINGSTON • BOZEMAN • BELGRADE

1-800-445-3328 | SKYFCU.ORG



Federally Insured by NCUA



Disclosure
*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Limited time offer. Offer valid on balance transfers from non-Sky FCU credit cards or loans. A balance transfer fee of 3.00% of the amount for each balance transfer will be charged. The Promotional rate begins at time of your first balance transfer and lasts for 18 months. The promotion applies to new and existing Sky FCU Visa® Credit Cardholders. After the promotional period for qualified balance transfers, finance charges are imposed from the transaction date and will continue to accrue until paid in full, the standard APR on your Sky FCU Visa® Credit Card will apply to the remaining balance. Other restrictions apply. Ask a Sky FCU representative for full details.

OBITUARY

Dale A. Olson

May 17, 1946 — May 29, 2021



Montana & Wyoming
mourn the loss of a husband,
dad, brother, friend, true out-
doors-man, and so much
more as Dale A. Olson hung
up his earthly spurs Satur-
day, May 29, 2021 at the age
of 75 following a short illness
with Covid19.

Dale was born May 17, 1946 in Tracy, Minnesota to Leonard and Minnie (Lohrbach) Olson. He was the youngest of 9 children. Dale grew up on the family farm north of Walnut Grove and completed his schooling through 12th grade from Walnut Grove Senior High School. While in MN he met and married his first wife Susan Neumann in 1965. From that union they had two children, Travis and Lynette. During that time he worked for various farmers, Control Data, and 3M. In 1978 he moved out to MT. It was there that he met and married Carolyn Zimdars in

1982. Together they had two children, Daniel and Kerrine. Dale worked for the Labors Union 1686 highway construction in MT & WY as well as working at the Cenex refinery in Laurel, MT. In 1998 he retired from the Labors Union and began work with many farmers in the Powell and Cody, WY area producing and shipping alfalfa hay for the racehorse industry. He and his wife later ran their own haying business, Olson Custom Haying for several years. After doing some other odds and ends jobs he then fully retired and was able to focus his time and energy more fully on the things he loved, family, horses, guns, outdoors.

Dale was always active and enjoyed the outdoors. He was always planning his next adventure. In his younger years he enjoyed going to mountain man rendezvous. He did black powder shooting, canoeing, as well as being an avid hunter and gun collector. He loved to go hiking with his family and whether it be on horse or on foot he loved reaching new destinations. His love of the mountains and horses lead him to join Back Country Horsemen. There he helped clear trails, plan new trails, and go on many rides with friends across MT and WY.

Dale was a member of the NRA, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and Weapons Collectors of MT, WY, CO, ND, and SD. He also served on the boards of; Bennett Creek Church, Beartooth Back Country Horsemen, as well as serving as president

of the Shoshone Back Country Horsemen.

Faith and family were very important to Dale. He raised his children to know Christ and lived his life showing love, humility, and genuineness. He would always make you feel welcome and would help anyone in need. His gentle and caring nature and kind and welcoming smile will be truly missed.

He loved spending time with his grandchildren. Going camping, chopping wood, riding horses, he enjoyed being part of their lives. He would often look around and say how truly blessed and thankful he was. Though he never got the chance to meet his great-grandchildren he cherished each of them.

Dale is preceded in death by parents, Leonard and Minnie; brothers and sisters, Everett, Grace, Robert, Genevieve, Edmund, and Galen. He is survived by first wife, Sue, wife, Carol; children, Travis (Lisa), Lynette, Daniel (Balea), Kerrine (Ryan); sister Bonnie, brother Larry (Judy); 8 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and many of his great friends. His memorial service will be held June 26th, 2021 at 2pm at Bennett Creek Church 11 Rd 8WC Clark, WY.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Back Country Horsemen (Shoshone or Beartooth), Shiloh Technical Institute, or any organization near and dear to your heart. To view the tribute page or share condolences, visit: www.Franzen-Davis.com

DEATH NOTICE



Marcella Elizabeth Bernathy, 96, of Gardiner, Montana, passed away Monday, May 24, 2021. A memorial service will be held Thursday, July 1, 2021, 11:00 A.M., at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 910 McLeod Street, in Big Timber, Montana. Franzen-Davis Funeral Home and Crematory has assisted with arrangements. To view the tribute page or leave condolences, visit: www.franzen-davis.com

Water low in Smith River

By Pioneer Staff

GREAT FALLS - Historically low water flows on the Smith River are making for extremely difficult floating conditions for permit holders. As of Friday afternoon June 18, streamflow at the Eagle Creek gauge measured a flow of 116 cubic feet per second (CFS). The long-term median flow for this date is 532 CFS, and the previous low flow ever recorded in the 29-year history of the gauge was 187 CFS, recorded in 2001.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks does not close the river due to low flows, but those who drew a permit to float the river should be aware that they will encounter difficult to nearly impossible floating conditions at present water levels, and in light of that many permit holders are choosing to cancel their float for this year.

“Our normal recommendations for suitable river levels for floating are 350 cfs for drift boats, 250 cfs for rafts, and 150 cfs for canoes and kayaks,” said Colin Maas, FWP Park Manager for the Smith River. “Floating at lower levels may still be possible but is much more dependent upon a group’s equipment load, paddling and rowing skills, and their ability to read the water. And at these low flows, even travelling light, floaters will find that its necessary to get out and drag their boats down numerous lengthy gravel bars.”



*Happy 90th
Birthday
We love you,
Linda, Sandy,
Susan, Jim & Sally
and Families*

Celebration of Life

For

Rick Henthorn

“Big Daddy”

Join Friends and Family

Saturday, June 26, 2021

Overland Golf Course

3:30—5:30

BBQ at Clubhouse



Lorraine Valgamore, Julie Sanders, Selma Gibby and Alice Laubach are all dues-paying members of the 111-year-old Kill Kare Klub.

(Pioneer photo by Iain Woessner)

Kill Kare Klub celebrates 111 years of conversation and community

By Iain Woessner
Pioneer Editor

After 111 years, the Kill Kare Klub, a social club originally founded by and for the ranch wives and country women who raised families along the Yellowstone River, still boasts roughly 20 dues-paying members, continuing a tradition and pastime that's been a part of this region for generations.

"I was reading in the book, the first lady who came up with the idea, that's what she was looking for: social life," Alice Laubach, one of the current members of the Klub, said.

"Well, they were going by horse and buggy then," Lorraine Valgamore pointed out.

Indeed, the Klub itself has seen a span of incredible technological change, from a pre-automobile agrarian landscape to a post-atomic present. The Klub has survived multiple world wars, economic depressions — and most recently, a prolonged hiatus due to COVID-19.

After halting meetings March of 2020, the Klub hasn't convened properly until May 2021. Though some of the members kept in touch via phone calls or other means, most don't make use of social media.

"Some of them I didn't hear from for a whole year," Valgamore recalled.

"We were glad to see everybody," Julie Sanders said. "There were about four conversations going on at once."

The Klub initially was limited to just individuals who lived along the Yellowstone, but as the area has grown and changed, admittance to the Klub — which is still by invite-only — expanded to

include more far-flung members. They even boast a dues-paying member who lives in Phoenix, Arizona.

But while no single member can speak to the span of all 111 years, many have lasting memories of the Klub and its many monthly gatherings over an impressive span of decades. Even those who have only been members for a short stretch of the Klub's lifespan can trace their connections to the Klub as far back as their childhoods, and stretching further into the lives of their mothers.

"I didn't join until after I quit working ... it's been about 20 years," Selma Gibby said. "I remember when mom was there though, she'd go. Boy, she didn't miss it unless she had to. That was the only outlet you had, they were with a bunch of kids so (she could) get away from 'em for a bit. She really enjoyed that, she tried to get us to join as soon as we got married, but we had too much other things going on."

At various points Klub members can recall incidents where women would brave snow and rain and all manner of foul weather just to gather. And even when it was just a couple or a handful, a Klub meeting was a Klub meeting.

"We used to go to different homes for Christmas parties and see how elaborately they were decorated, exchange gifts," Sanders said. "I think maybe that was one of things (I remember most fondly)."

While technology has made it easier than ever to connect in ways the Klub's original founders couldn't even imagine, the Klub's history of personal, in-person visits has forged lasting memories in its members, even today.

"You always looked forward to going, and I always felt that I had to do something that same day, so it'd make my day worthwhile," Laubach said. "But as for special memories? I think they were all special."

Children under-vaccinated in MT

By Keila Szpaller
The Daily Montanan

Children in Montana get vaccinated at a lower rate than those in the nation as a whole — just 62 percent of those in the Treasure State complete the recommended vaccination series compared to 71 percent nationally, according to the University of Montana.

A new study from the Missoula flagship looks at why.

Sophia Newcomer, lead researcher at UM on the study conducted in partnership with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, said the team wanted to know if under-vaccination was due to accessibility or to parental hesitation.

"We found out the answer is both," Newcomer said Monday.

But the researchers evaluated the data with a map of Montana.

"If we can figure out what areas in Montana are having each of those types of issues, we can then work on programs and interventions to address the root causes of under-vaccination," said Newcomer, with the UM Center for Population Health Research.

In its report on the study, UM said the project is the first "spatial scan analysis" to identify clusters of under-vaccinated children and evaluate whether the reason is due to social or geographic barriers. UM noted the study was published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine and cited the low vaccination rate in Montana, also noting just 38 percent of children receive vaccinations on time.

A second study is still preliminary and will be submitted for publication this summer, and the map identifying "hot spots" hasn't been peer reviewed and isn't public, Newcomer said. However, an analysis of the hot spots shows the reasons for under-vaccination differ by location.

"The barriers to timely childhood vaccination look very different when you're looking at western or eastern Montana," said Newcomer, assistant professor with the UM School of Public and Community Health Sciences.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that by age 2, children receive vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; polio; measles, mumps and rubella; hepatitis B; varicella; Hemophilus influenzae type b; and pneumococcal disease, according to the report from UM.

On the western side of the state, the hurdle to vaccination is likely parental hesitancy, Newcomer said. In that case, the research shows pockets where children have some of the recommended vaccines by 2 years old, but not all of the ones in the series, indicating skepticism. Also, she said, children may have their vaccinations spread out in a way that's not recommended. Generally, she said, the finding in this area tracks with the already known high prevalence of religious exemptions for vaccinations for children in public schools.

On the eastern side of the state? Newcomer said the data indicate children aren't getting all their vaccinations

because of barriers to accessing immunization services. In those cases, children may have started taking all their vaccines, but may not have finished the series.

The different findings point to the need for different approaches to move the dial.

"Fundamentally, solutions to address those two problems are very different," Newcomer said.

Where barriers exist, the fix might be making sure enough immunization providers are available, and also making sure families know they need to return to complete the series, she said. Where parental hesitancy exists, she said, solutions might involve working with nurses and providers on effective conversations and social media programs that build trust around vaccines.

In the UM report, Rain Freeman, UM's epidemiology specialist and the project's data manager, said national Vaccines for Children Program data showed a substantial decrease in routine, pediatric vaccine orders at the beginning of the pandemic. She said making sure children are vaccinated on time is crucial to preventing diseases and noted measles needs a 95 percent vaccination rate for herd immunity.

"The problem is if vaccination rates for these preventable diseases dip too far below the estimated thresholds for herd immunity, we're worried that we could have multiple epidemics or outbreaks occurring as social interaction becomes a little more normal," she said in the report from UM.

MADISON RIVER
PROPANE
SUMMER FILL IS HERE!!!
Save big this summer
Save \$0.40 in June
Save \$0.30 in July
Save \$0.20 in August
Call (406)322-5757
to schedule your fill today

Rocky Mountain Design Interiors
FURNITURE & INTERIOR DESIGN
CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY • LEATHER • RECLINERS
601 W. Park Street • LIVINGSTON, MT 59047
406.222.6262 • Hours: M-F 9-5
4020 Valley Commons • BOZEMAN, MT 59715
406.582.9300 • Hours: M-F 10-5, Sat. 12-4
www.rockymountainindesign.com

All Washed Up, LLC
(406) 222-1125 • allwashedupllc.shipley@gmail.com
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL WINDOW CLEANING

LHO
LIVINGSTON HOME OUTFITTERS
Your local mattress store!
Good Nights. Great Mornings.

THERAPEDIC
124 South Main Street, Livingston
406.222.5635
Free Local Delivery
0% Financing

B-T RODEO
BIG TIMBER, MONTANA
98th Year!
Tickets available at the Gate

Friday, June 25, 2021
Gate Opens 5:45 pm
Bozeman Saddelites 6:45 pm
Grand Entry: 7 pm

Saturday, June 26, 2021
Gate Opens 4:45 pm
Bozeman Saddelites 5:45 pm
Grand Entry: 6 pm

Concessions and Beer Garden open 1 hour prior to rodeos!
Concessions Provided by:
Doric Lodge #53

Early Bird tickets for sale at **The Fort** until 10 pm Thurs. for Fri. Perf., and available until 11 pm for Sat. Perf.
Also available to purchase online at: www.eventbrite.com
close Thurs. 12 am for Fri. Perf., and Fri. at 12 am for Sat. Perf.

OPINION

The true value of honesty

By Iain Woessner
Pioneer Editor

It seems today it's hard to know what's true anymore. Everyone's opinion is an immovable object, and any contradicting opinion an unstoppable force. We find ourselves clashing and crashing into one another, dueling gospels, too stubborn or too confident to budge even one inch. We are not ye of little faith — perhaps just the opposite, we are zealous in our conviction to our convictions.

Worse still, too few people are willing to be honest about their ignorance. To say "I don't know" seems a sign of weakness now moreso than any time I've known. We're not willing to open ourselves up to being wrong — it's a vulnerability we can't bear to expose. I'm no less guilty than anyone else. I do, however, believe strongly in taking responsibility when errors are made. When a newspaper makes a mistake, it's supposed to print a correction. It's not a sign of weakness, it is the same as anything else we're supposed to print: a statement of fact.

Facts are funny things, and the truth is like a campfire — it can keep you alive in the darkest of times, but if you're not careful with it, you could spark an all-consuming inferno. Perhaps that's why some call them "truth bombs."

Still, if made to choose, I'd rather deal with an honest man than any other. I'd rather taste a bitter truth than a sweet lie, for the sweetness of deceit rots the soul, like too much sugar rots a tooth. Medicine is bitter, and it is often what saves us from death and misery. In this spirit, I appreciate what I have found in the character of the people I have met in my admittedly short time here in Sweet Grass County. Where so many parts of this nation seem adverse to an abundance of honesty, here I've found plenty of people who have no hesitation to speak their mind, to tell me their truth.

Truth is a powerful pillar of the American mythology. George Washington famously



Iain Woessner
Pioneer Editor

"could not tell a lie", in an admittedly openly fictional account of his childhood. Superman fought for truth, as well as justice — and of course, the "American Way". These myths are not falsehoods, though they may be works of fiction. These are fundamental threads which weave the common culture of this nation, where a man is free to pursue their own truth, their own justice and their own way, as they wish.

That's what I appreciate the most about places like Big Timber and its inhabitants. This is a choice cut of America, a time capsule that yet contains the echoes of "the West", where a man's word was his bond, where a handshake was as good as ink in sealing a deal. In my line of work, truth is justice and both serve to pave the American way, where a free press is guaranteed by the most implacable, most absolute law of the land.

A free society must be an honest society. It must be honest

when it is right, and it must be honest when it is wrong. We have a responsibility to each other, to be honest, even when we know to do so will bring us discomfort or even pain. The newspaper has an even greater responsibility to be honest. If we are dishonest, then we cannot be trusted to tell your truth, to convey your story accurately, honestly and clearly. Fake news is no news at all — it is at best a comforting lie, and at worst a conniving manipulation.

Still, none of us are perfect. Man is not a flawless creation, and so to be honest takes work, discipline — and inevitably, all of us will fail, at least once or twice. Acknowledging that inevitable failure is the first step. I will do my best to always be the first to admit when I am wrong, with just as much confidence as I'm willing to hold to when I know I'm right. They say a liar has a silver tongue, but I believe an honest word is worth its weight in gold — though I don't think that's the true value of honesty.

The value of honesty is in the freedom it brings — for is it not said, that the truth shall set you free?

Letter to the editor

Editor:

I bemoan the fact that Big Timber does not have a United Methodist Church. There are lots of good churches here but I have been nurtured in the Methodist tradition for over 70 years and it is ingrained. Now I am fairly certain that God doesn't care whether you are Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, or Catholic as long as you know that Jesus is your Savior (you are a Jesus follower). And whether you are a "dunker" or a "sprinkler" most likely is inconsequential to the Lord. But I wonder whether other Christians would admit that you get comfortable in the way the Gospel is presented in a certain tradition.

John Wesley, the Methodist Church founder, started the church by meeting in small groups (maybe 6-12 people) that read the Bible together, prayed together, supported each other, and held each other accountable. That still happens in some Methodist churches today, especially bigger ones. The large church that my wife and I attend when we are in Ohio has small group meet-

ings that they call life groups. They are not intended to supplant Sunday worship but are a means by which to stay connected to the church. One can certainly get lost in the crowd when there is 300 to 400 folks at each service in a large church!

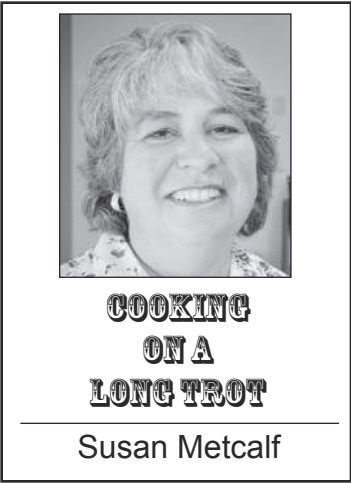
My intent with this message is to see if there is any interest in a small group meeting in Big Timber. You wouldn't need to have a Methodist background to consider this. All you need is a desire to grow your faith in a more intimate setting. In Ohio, we meet in a person's home on Sunday evenings. There are 10 to 12 of us and we are all seniors. I do believe that the demographics of a group are important since you may relate better if you all have similar concerns, interests, and are on about the same spot in your faith journeys. (There are many life groups in this Methodist Church eg. some with young parents and others parenting teens.)

--Kim Waterfall,
Big Timber

Father's Day Cooking Column

As I sit here today on Father's Day, I find it hard to believe that my father would have turned 102 this July. He has been gone for 24 years, but he still lives large in my memory. He was one of those people with the classic cowboy look, and that look landed him on the front of the Montana map tipping his hat during the 80's. During that time, he would be approached by tourists to have him sign their maps. The name of the photographer was identified as Harley Hettick, so when he would sign Glen Roberts, they would question if he was the right guy. We began jokingly calling him Harley Hettick, so he considered just signing Harley Hettick to avoid lengthy explanations.

My dad was a God-fearing Christian man, but he spoke in the cowboy vernacular. He was 40 years old when I was born, because he just did not get around to having a family until he had done 40 years of living. Sometimes I feel cheated out of time with him because of that decision he made to postpone fatherhood, which was not as fashionable then as it is now. Nevertheless, both my sister Jane and I claim that we grew up thinking our names were Dammit. We grew up on Sun Canyon Lodge, a guest ranch out of Augusta, Montana, so we didn't see him much from mid-June until the end of hunting season, because he pretty much lived in the Bob Marshall Wilderness during that time of year. When he would be home, of course we were always underfoot. It became a big joke that the only communication we had with him for six months of the year was



COOKING
ON A
LONG TROT

Susan Metcalf

when he would say, "Get out of the way, Dammit."

As soon as he decided I was old enough, he started taking me on packtrips where he tried to teach me everything from camp cooking to throwing a diamond hitch. I cannot throw a diamond hitch, but I do adhere to his philosophy on camp cooking, which was, "When it is brown it's cooking; when it's black, it's done, Dammit."

One time when I was 12, he and I had dropped a camp and were coming empty out of Pretty Prairie on the South Fork of the Sun River. He pulled his horse up and said, "I've got to take a couple dynamite pills (which is what he called his nitroglycerin tablets for his heart condition), because there's an elephant sitting on my chest." The dynamite pills must have worked, because after 20 long minutes of lying beside the trail, he sat up and announced that we were going on to Klick's K Bar L Ranch. I left him at the head of Gibson Lake with Dick Klick, who would take him by

boat and truck down to our ranch.

I had 14 miles to go, so the string and I started trotting around corners and loping on the straight stretches. That speed is hard on the pig-tails that hold a pack string together. Finally I got tired of fixing popped pigtails, so I just tied up all the halter ropes, got in the front, and stayed there. When we reached the ranch gate, I fixed all the pigtails, so I could ride in properly. It was drizzling, so I was wearing a poncho rain slicker that spooked my horse when I tried to swing my leg over him. He threw a fit, and I would have fallen off except the poncho was stuck over the saddle horn. Since he couldn't get rid of me and he was pretty tired, he gave up and let me get seated again, but of course my string had gone on to the barn without me. Dad was being helped into a van for a ride to the hospital when I rode up. He said, "It's customary to lead your string in, Dammit!"

Coming from him, I understood that to be loosely translated as, "I am so glad you made it. I am proud of you."

My father and mother bickered constantly. It was mostly a form of recreation for them, and they rarely missed an opportunity to dig at each other. One time, my sister Jane had Dad loaded in the bucket of one of those turned around Farmhand loaders. She was lifting him up so he could do some work on a shed roof, but she got the loader in the wrong gear and ran into the shed. He calmly stepped up on top of the shed after his wild ride in the bucket, looked down at

her, and said, "Dammit, you drive just like your mother!"

In his later years, Dad loved driving his Percheron-cross buckskins, Buck and Ginger, which he bought as weanlings. By the time they were two, they were ready to be hitched to the wagon. Mother watched our preparations for their first hitch and lent support with phrases like, "Those horses are going to kill all three of you!"

Nevertheless, Dad pointed the wagon uphill, put me in the wagon with a trip rope on Buck, and Jane snubbed Ginger to her saddle horse. Dad let the brake off and clucked. The wagon rolled and rumbled, and the colts sprang forward in a two turbo horsepower lunge. I tripped Buck as Jane jerked Ginger up short.

Dad calmly explained that we would have to let them go a little bit. We nodded, so he tried it again. I tripped Buck, Jane jerked Ginger up, and Dad sputtered, "Dammit, you two knuckleheads have to let them go a little or we will never get out of sight of the old lady!"

We buried my dad on the family ranch up the coulee from the log house he built just two miles from the one room sod roofed cabin where he was born in 1919 eleven miles southeast of Musselshell, Montana. I like to think he is still watching out for us. I only have 37 years worth of memories of him, but I cherish them. If your father is still alive, I hope you skipped the ties and cordless drills and went out and made memories together!

If you love to cook out-

doors, here are some fun ideas to try with either a campfire or charcoal.

Cedar Plank Salmon

2 lbs. fresh salmon fillets
1 C. sour cream
1/2 C. melted butter
4 cloves pressed garlic
Alpine Touch or other seasoned salt to taste
dill to taste (optional)

Don't buy expensive cedar planks in the barbecue aisle. Go to your local hardware store and ask if they will give you some scrap cedar to make planks that will fit the size of your barbecue. Soak the planks in water for several hours. You may have to weight them down with cans from the pantry. Skin the salmon with a sharp knife and place on the soaked board. Mix the sour cream, melted butter, pressed garlic, seasoned salt, and dill together and spread on top of the salmon. Cook over medium hot grill until salmon flakes (approximately 20 minutes). Do not turn it, but you may tent it loosely with foil. The board will char, which gives the smoked flavor. Note: For a sweet teriyaki salmon glaze, mix brown sugar with soy sauce until it is "spreadable". Marinate the salmon in this mixture, and then bake it over the salmon filets on the plank as it cooks.

Dutch Oven Parmesan Potatoes

3 lbs. red potatoes, scrubbed and chopped bite sized
1/2 C. melted butter

several cloves of pressed garlic to taste
2/3 C. Parmesan cheese, divided
seasoned salt to taste
parsley flakes (optional)

Melt butter in 12-inch Dutch oven or 9x13 baking pan. Coat chopped potatoes with butter. Mix 1/3 C. cheese, garlic, and seasoning and stir into potatoes. Cook in the oven for one hour at 350 degrees. Just before serving, top with shredded Parmesan or other cheese of your choice. To cook outside with briquettes and a 12 inch Dutch oven, arrange 8 coals on the bottom and 17 on the top. Cook for 45 minutes to an hour, rotating the lid and oven every 15 minutes.

Lazy Dutch Oven Cobbler

1 large and one regular sized can of sliced peaches with syrup

1 pkg. yellow or white cake mix
ground cinnamon and nutmeg to taste
1.5 sticks butter

In a 12-inch Dutch oven, dump peaches in the bottom. Sprinkle liberally with cinnamon and nutmeg. Pour dry cake mix over top of peaches and spices. Cut 1.5 sticks of butter into pats and dot them on top of the cake mix. Bake in the Dutch oven with 15 coals on the bottom and 10 on the top for about 45 minutes or until done. Remember to rotate the oven and lid every 15 minutes. Serve warm with fresh whipped cream. If you want to bake it in the range oven, use a 9 X 13 pan and bake at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes.

Extremism hurts credibility

By Bob Brown
Guest Columnist

I think it was the 1977 Montana Republican state convention, and the speaker standing before the delegates was newly elected Congressman Ron Marlenee. Facing criticism from some of the hard right element of his party regarding his personal life, Marlenee was as dynamic and defiant as I ever saw him.

He told the party faithful that if they elected him to get back the Panama Canal, they had elected the wrong man. He said if they had elected him to get prayer back into public schools, that would not be his priority, nor would getting the U.S. out of the United Nations. But if we wanted a fighter for the interests of Montana's rural farmers and ranchers or for our state's mineral and timber resources and the Montana jobs those resources represented, then we had elected the right representative.

Sometimes working with his colleague Democrat Pat Williams, Marlenee went on to make good on his promise as his "no nonsense" record proved in his subsequent sixteen years in Congress. He was a conservative coalition builder, a realist, not a radical.

Our state with its small population and vast remoteness has been vulnerable to exploitation by powerful interests for our entire history. It has been our continual challenge to protect the interests of Montanans in the management of our vast natural bounty. Meeting that challenge was pretty much Marlenee's sole focus.

Understandably, the Marlenee record was not always popular with everyone, particularly conservationists. One of his laugh lines was that the only result he could see coming from the extinction of grizzly bears was that "we'd be up to our a** in huckleberries."

In looking back, our state has been served by some great

Republicans. Governor Joe Dixon forced the controlling mining interests to begin paying taxes. Governor Sam Ford's program of public road building "got Montana out of the mud." Both proved vital to the progress of our state. Jeanette Rankin was a leading figure in the nation's most consequential mass movement which resulted in the right to vote for half our population.

Now comes another newcomer to represent Montana in the recently ransacked hallowed halls of our nation's capitol. Freshman Congressman Matt Rosendale, unlike Marlenee, has revealed that he will indeed be an ideologue. In fact, he has shown himself to be so far on the fringes of the minority that he has the distinction of being one of only six members of either house of Congress to oppose BOTH the Congressional GOLD Medal awards to the Capitol police protectors who lost their lives defending the US Capitol AND a federal holiday to commemo-

rate the anniversary of the end of slavery.

Rosendale stands out even among these hardest of the hardcore Republican ideologues because he's the only one not from the Deep South. Voting as he did, Rosendale cancelled out the vote of his very conservative Montana colleague Senator Steve Daines.

Early impressions can be long lasting. By exposing himself as an extremist as he makes his first impression as a member of Congress, Rosendale has carelessly diminished his credibility to do his real job to represent the real people of Montana.

The conspiratorial radicalism typified by Rosendale's extremism is not conservative. He has purposely chosen to be part of a small cult on the radical fringe of our system. He has time to atone but we know that he won't. He will continue to be who he is. All Montanans, Democrats and Republicans, deserve better.

THE BIG TIMBER PIONEER

105 W. SECOND AVE. — P.O. Box 830
BIG TIMBER, MT 59011

(406) 932-5298 • Fax: (406) 932-4931

WWW.BIGTIMBERPIONEER.NET

Editor:
Iain Woessner
editor@bigtimberpioneer.net

Reporter:
Chelsa Nickell
news@bigtimberpioneer.net

Advertising Manager:
Holly Staples
ads@bigtimberpioneer.net

Office Manager:
Chelsa Nickell
classifieds@bigtimberpioneer.net

The Big Timber Pioneer (USPS0559-6000) is published every Thursday by Pioneer Publishing Company, Big Timber, MT.

Periodicals postage paid at Big Timber, MT.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Timber Pioneer
105 W. Second Ave. P.O. Box 830 Big Timber, MT 59011.

Yearly subscription rates: Sweet Grass County, Reed Point
and Springdale - \$49. Montana - \$56. USA - \$66.
Inquire for Foreign, First Class rates.

ESTABLISHED IN 1887 OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF
BIG TIMBER AND SWEET GRASS COUNTY, MONTANA

Dusting off the old ones

Each week, a Pioneer reporter digs through old issues of The Pioneer to find interesting stories to illuminate Sweet Grass County's past. Here are this week's findings.

YELLOWSTONE PARK OPENS WITH DR. HILL AS SPEAKER More Than Two Thousand Listen to Address.

98 years ago - 1923

Livingston Enterprise: Under the canopy of a clear sky and with an assemblage of more than 2,000 persons congregated to hear John Wesley Hill, DD., LL. D., personal representative of President Warren G. Harding and Dr. Work, secretary of the interior, the orator of the day, Yellowstone National park was officially opened at 11:55 Wednesday morning. With the city of Gardiner dressed in holiday-attire, every store front trimmed for the occasion, with the town closed so far as the transaction of business was concerned, people from within the park augmented the representation from the country-

side, and to this number was added the great trainload of people carried by the Northern Pacific, who carried in the heaviest first day traffic ever ushered through the gates of the national playground. A stand conveniently situated to the speakers' platform for the location of motion picture operators representing the Pathc, World and International' News reels, that will carry to the pcopleof the nation "close- ups" of the greatest event at the Gardiner arch since the unveiling and dedication ceremonies over which' Px'esident Theodore Roosevelt presided.

An escort of rangers of the park service met the private car carrying Dr. Hill and his

party and escorted them to the speakers' stand. A big yellow car, the use of which was provided by Mr. William Nichols of the Yellowstone Park Hotel company, carried the honor guest and his party to the platform where as they alighted the click, click, click of the movie camera photographed the activities of the opening exercises.

Dr. Hill was introduced by Horace M. Albright, superintendent of the park, presenting a masterful address appropriate to the occasion. The audience, said to be the largest since the ceremonies by President Roosevelt, were seated in cars, and with standing room at a premium on the level roadway that forms the

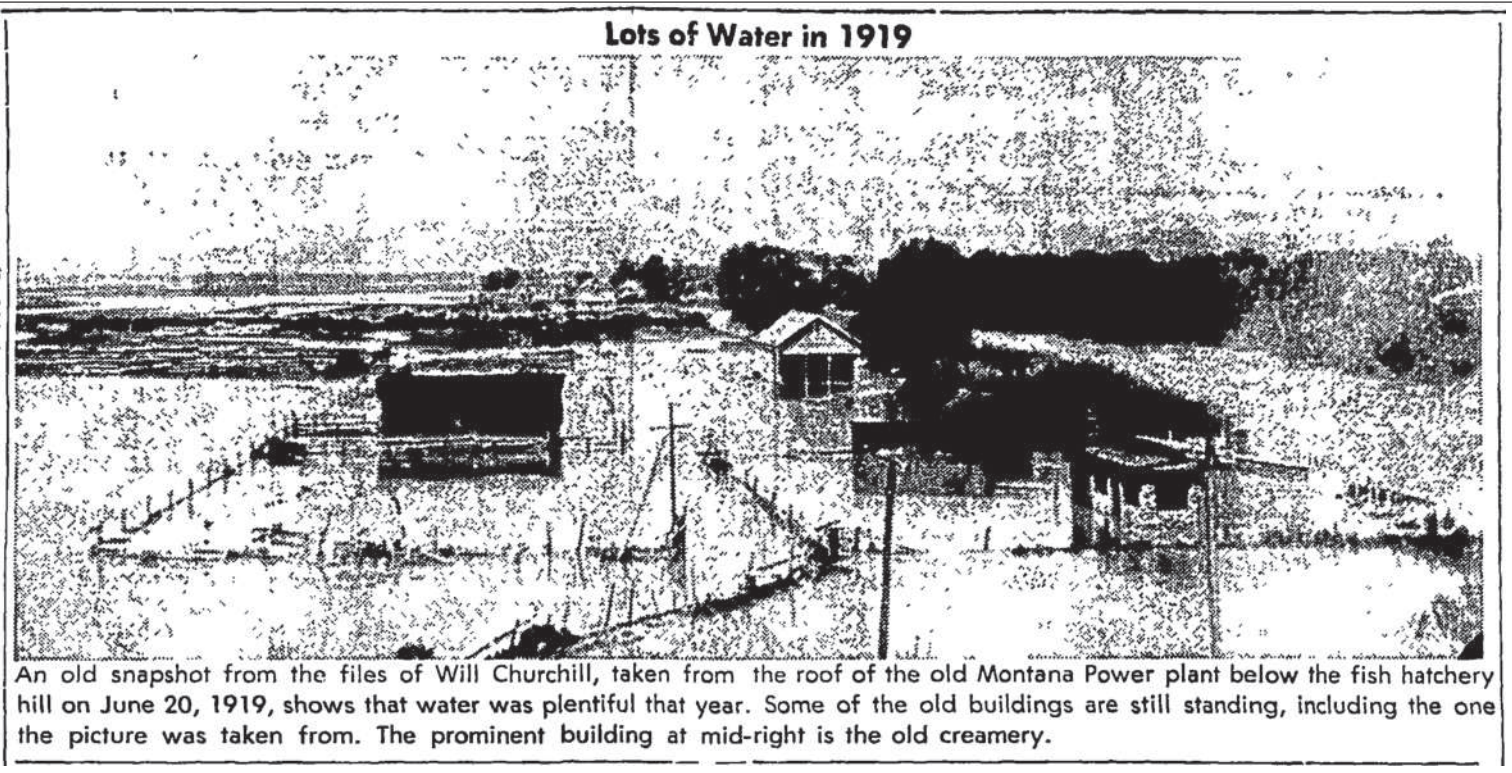
approach to the arch, many found it necessary to climb to the walls near the entrance, where they listened for nearly an hour to a speech that was rich in its reference to the beauties of the pai'k, with a fervent appeal for the preservation of the natural resources within the park as yet untouched by a commercial hand.

Seated on the speakers' platform were: Dr. and Mrs. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Benson, St. Paul; Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Smith and Judge John W. Mcl- drum, United Slates commissioner of Yellowstone park.

The first car to enter was a Ford from Graffton, Minn., occupied by Arthur W. Pierson, Milton Pierson and Axel

Bucldand, an automobile camping party cn route to the coast. The second car to enter was**" a Dodge from Salt Lake City, Utah, occupied by Abel Paulsen and W. P. Monson, business men of that city, who came via Butte to see the park.

The pre-season travel to the park has been the greatest in its history. During the period from June 1 to 19 inclusive 757 cars carrying 2,719 passengers entered the park, compared with 577 cars carrying 1,764 passengers during the same period last year. The total pre- season travel this year consists of 3,794 persons compared with 3,203 persons last year.



An old snapshot from the files of Will Churchill, taken from the roof of the old Montana Power plant below the fish hatchery hill on June 20, 1919, shows that water was plentiful that year. Some of the old buildings are still standing, including the one the picture was taken from. The prominent building at mid-right is the old creamery.

TRAVEL PROMOTION FILM TO BE SHOWN

From 1966
Gov. Tim Babcock will present a new travel promotion film produced by the Montana Chamber of Commerce to citizens of Montana at a premiere showing in Helena Friday, June 24, it was announced today by Chamber President Donald G. Ulrioh of Butte.

The premiere will be staged at the Big Sky Room at the Holiday Motel at 3 p. m. Ulrich said, andhe voiced a welcome to all interested Montanans to attend. "Montana — Big Fish, Big Sky Country" is the second film produced and photographed by William H. "Bill" Browning, travel promotion manager of the State Chamber. It is nar-

rated by Ken Niles of Hollywood, former national network announcer George Armstrong of Great Falls was technical assistant. Niles will be present in person and will speak.

Browning calls it "Montana's only promotional fishing film." It will be available for organizational and TV showing in Montana and throughout the U. S.

A previous film has been seen by an estimated audience totaling over 4,000,000.

Besides portrayal of all types of fishing, an added feature is a section on general travel highlights and attractions of the Big Sky Country.

Big Timber & Sweet Grass County

EVENTS

AA Meetings: 8 p.m., Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., Sat., Big Timber Lutheran Church

NA Group: 8 p.m., every Thurs. & Sat., Big Timber Lutheran Church

Al-Anon Meetings: Sun., 7 p.m. at Reed Point Evangelical Church

And 12 p.m. Fridays at Big Timber Evangelical Church

American Legion Post #19: First Wed.

Big Timber City Council: First and Third Mon.

Big Timber Fire Dept. Meeting: Second Wed.

Big Timber Fire Dept. Drill: Fourth Wed.

Big Timber Lions Club: Second & Fourth Tues. of the month

Big Timber Rifle and Pistol Club: First Wed.

Big Timber Grade School: Second Wed., 7:00 p.m. BTGS Library

Big Timber Woman's Club: First Mon.

Chamber of Commerce: Second Wed., noon, The Grand

Conservation District Meeting: Second Mon., 5 p.m., USDA bldg.

Cottonwood Resource Council: First Thurs., 5 p.m., Library

Doric Masonic Lodge: First and Third Tues., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Board Meeting: First Thurs., 7 p.m., Extension Office

Golf Course Board: Second Mon

Grief Support Group: Second Wed., noon, Lutheran Church

Hearts & Hands Hospice Board: Second Tues.

Hoe & Hope Garden Club: Fourth Mon., except Jan. and Aug.

Men's Breakfast & Grief Support: Second Wed., 8:30 a.m.

Overeaters Anonymous: Sat., 10 a.m., debhsteps@yahoo.com

Pioneer Medical Center Board: First Thurs., 5 p.m.

Sheriff's Reserve Officers: Second Thurs.

Sweet Grass County Ambulance: Second and Fourth Mon., 5:30 p.m.

Sweet Grass Chamber: Last Tuesday, 5:30- 7:00 p.m. Mar-May Workforce Workshops, 932-5131

Sweet Grass County Farm Bureau: First Monday, Melville & Big Timber, more info: 537-4481

Sweet Grass County Patriots: Second Sun.

Sweet Grass Right To Life: Third Thurs., Nov, Jan, Mar, May, July & Sept. 932-4599 for more info.

Sweet Grass County Search and Rescue: Third Sunday

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MEETINGS

Notice

Per city code 7-3-7, vegetation over 8" in height must be removed from all properties by July 1st of each year, to mitigate fire hazards. After June 30th, the city will cut non-conforming properties at \$100.00 Per hour. Resulting charges will either be billed to property owners, or added to the tax bill for that property.

— Big Timber City Council

“At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if ever it reaches us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide.”

— Abraham Lincoln

SGCCI / SWEETGRASSROOTS.ORG

Oze MOTOR CO. PROPANE SALES AND SERVICE

Locally owned and operated

(406) 932-5323 • 119 E. First Ave.

VOYA FINANCIAL ADVISORS

VOYA

Joe Todisco • 209 McLeod St. • Big Timber (406) 932-4499 jtodisco@voyafa.com

Would you like your business or organization represented here? Call to reserve this space. (406) 932-5298

Sponsored By:

COTTONWOOD RESOURCE COUNCIL

cottonwoodrc@gmail.com

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Let your voice be heard: We always welcome Letters to the Editor at editor@bigtimberpioneer.net

All Washed Up, LLC

(406) 222-1125 • allwashedupllc.shipley@gmail.com

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL WINDOW CLEANING

Three vie for Big Timber mayoral seat

By Chelsa Nickell
Pioneer Reporter

Sweet Grass County residents will be taking to the polls this September 14 to elect a new mayor into office. This year voters will have three candidates that they will have to choose from Greg DeBoer, Lucas Lee and Lee Andreas.

Greg DeBoer

Greg DeBoer is 59, married with three kids and is the owner of Crazy Mountain Chiropractic here in Big Timber. DeBoer has been a resident of Sweet Grass County for the past five years but has had his business located here and commuted to Big Timber for nine years before moving here. DeBoer has been a chiropractor for the past 35 years.

Why do you want to be mayor?

I have been on the chamber board for many years. My goal is to try to get the city, county and chamber all rowing in the same direction. There is a disconnect in these entities and it would be nice to have them all working in the same direction.

What sets you apart from other candidates?

I have been self-employed for the past 35 years, so I understand when things need doing that you need to get them done. I feel I know the community and people in general. I am always accessible and willing to listen and work with people on whatever issues may come up.

What do think should or could be done about Big Timber's housing issues?

I feel we need to broaden our scope on this issue. There is grant money that is available that we could apply for that could help, or the county could look into partnering with different businesses or individuals who may want to invest their money here in Sweet Grass. We could discuss developing property on the west end of town that could have different types of housing that would cover the spectrum on income brackets for individuals. We need to work with the county on this matter because unfortunately, the problem is not going to go away. Almost all small towns in Montana, especially along the I-90 corridor are experiencing this problem with housing. The goal would be to have the city and the county working together to address this growing issue.

What would be your immediate priorities if elected as mayor?

I think immediate priorities would be the maintenance of the roads, water, sewage and the water treatment plant to be maintained. The goal would be to keep things running efficiently and effectively.

What should the city be

focused on for the next four years?

I want to put the pride back in civic and keep partisan politics out of governance. We need to stop talking about things and instead if it is a good idea let's just move forward and make the decision to do it. We need to work on town beautification projects, bringing in more small businesses and properly repairing and maintaining the roads so that we are not having to repair them as often. The basic infrastructure of Big Timber needs to be maintained properly and in a timely fashion.

Do you have any plans for campaigning?

I plan on being at the Sweet Grass Festival this upcoming weekend as well as I am always at the chamber meetings if anyone would like to come and talk to me.

Lee Andreas

Lee Andreas is a fairly new resident of Big Timber, having moved here two and a half years ago after living in Gallatin Valley for 40 years. He is not currently married but he is raising and has full custody of his 12-year-old grandson. He is self-employed and owns a construction business that is in Bozeman, but that he one day hopes to move to Sweet Grass County.

Why do you want to be mayor?

I think that with my previous 30 years of experience being self-employed and having employees that work for me I can help the city of Big Timber progress into the future.

What sets you apart from other candidates?

I think that I am both personable and understanding when it comes to dealing with people. I have been on the planning board in West Yellowstone and on the city council in Keri, ID for 10 years which gives me experience with working on different councils.

What do think should or could be done about Big Timber's housing issues?

I think Montana in general has seen huge population growth. The city needs to focus on affordable housing while trying to keep the local residents in mind. The town could look into what could be done about some of the existing buildings in town that are abandoned, like the Madhatter. I have considered purchasing and restoring this building and have met with the current owners to discuss it. I thought that the upstairs could be renovated into two separate apartments and then in the main bar could be turned into a café.

What would be your immediate priorities if elected as mayor?

I think the first thing I would do is to go around to the local business and introduce myself. Next, I would want to go to all the different



Pioneer Photo by Justin Post

Big Timber City Hall will soon have a new mayor at the helm. The election will be held on September 14 and will see three new faces vying for the title.

city agencies and speak with them to find out what they need and what needs improving. We could research different grants that are available to help bring in small businesses for more jobs. I do not want to change Big Timber, but we do need to keep up with the times.

What should the city be focused on for the next four years?

We need to focus on Main St. and bring business into town, more housing to accommodate the growing population and whatever other issues that currently need to be addressed. The roads and sidewalks in town need improvement and this falls under the city to try to find out what can be done. It should not take as long as it does for some of the road or sidewalk improvements, so this is where we question whether we need a wage increase or more manpower to help.

Do you have any plans for campaigning?

I plan on putting signs up in yards and going door to door to talk to individuals and get a feel for what they think are the biggest issues or concerns with the city. I

will be at various events like Sweet Grass Fest so that people can come and talk with me.

Lucas Lee

Lucas Lee is a single 32-year-old who works from home doing laser engraving on metal and wood. He was born in Livingston and moved to Big Timber two years. Lucas's parents have been residents of Big Timber since 2014.

Why do you want to be mayor?

I keep hearing people around town complaining about politics and I thought I should run for mayor and see if I could help. Big Timber needs to grow but keep the core values of a small town and old America.

What sets you apart from other candidates?

Besides probably being the youngest, I think I have a good head on my shoulders. I have lived in a handful of other states and cities and have seen what works and

what does not. I might be young, but I have Big Timber's best interests at heart. I am ready to get busy and address the needs of the citizens and businesses of my community. I am very pro-constitution and the second amendment.

What do think should or could be done about Big Timber's housing issues?

That is a very loaded tricky question. I think that there would have to be spacing and investors involved without it turning into a rent spike-like what is happening in Bozeman. The city would need to annex more property from the county, as well as be able to afford to put in all the utilities that go along with new housing. The city could look at different government grants or any grants that are available for cities. With the cost of building materials spiking, those things will need to be taken into factor.

What would be your immediate priorities if elected as mayor?

I think finding a viable solution for housing and infrastructure would be my priorities. There are basic repairs that need to be

addressed and fixed instead of just complaining about it.

What should the city be focused on for the next four years?

I think that the city needs to focus on roads and the life span of the materials that are being used so that we are not having to replace things as often. I think that we need to try to get the Amtrak Train to come to Big Timber. It is an affordable mode of transportation and the number of people that it will bring to the community will boost the economy. I want to work closely with the local businesses and community members to make sure I am hearing all their voices and meeting their needs.

Do you have any plans for campaigning?

I plan on talking to people individually and you can always call my cell phone at 406-930-7044 anytime that you may have any questions for me. I will be setting up signs, going to different community events and trying to set up times that I can go and talk to businesses. I want people to know that a vote for Lucas Lee is a vote for you and me.



The public is invited to join the class of '70 & '71 — '50 & '51st class reunions for visiting.

June 27th, starting at 12 noon at the Dugout.

Sissy Plants Don't



Make The Cut!

At Blake Nursery we take plant hardiness seriously, so all purchases here are time tested and receive our stamp of approval. Sissy plants don't make the cut!

Ph. 932-4195
Hrs: Mon.-Sat. 9-5:30
Closed Sunday



BLAKE NURSERY

North of Big Timber on Otter Cr. Rd.

www.blakenursery.com

 Find us on Facebook



Mortgage Loan Officer

Join us in Big Timber. We are looking for a motivated individual, who enjoys interacting with people to join our lending team.

If you enjoy working with people, have a passion for Real Estate, and helping people find solutions, this could be for you!

Expectations: The right person has an outgoing personality, is an effective communicator, possesses great customer service skills, has strong analytical and decision-making skills, and can pass the NMLS exam (Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System). More information on the NMLS exam can be found here <https://banking.mt.gov/mlo>.

Benefits: Paid time off, paid holidays, 100% paid health insurance, competitive pay, and a generous retirement plan.

To apply email your resume to hr@ctznsbank.com.

*Passing a criminal background check and credit check is required for employment.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



CLASSIFIEDS

HAVE YOUR GARAGE SALE, RENTALS, ITEMS FOR SALE, JOB LISTINGS AND OTHER CLASSIFIEDS ALSO FEATURED ON THE BIG TIMBER PIONEER WEBSITE, WWW.BIGTIMBERPIONEER.NET, FOR A \$4 FLAT RATE

CALL: (406) 932-5298 • EMAIL: ADS@BIGTIMBERPIONEER.NET • STOP IN: 105 W. SECOND AVE. • #NEWSWITHOUTPAPER

ESTATE SALE

LIVING ESTATE SALE 400 West Fourth Ave. Friday & Saturday, June 25&26th. Guns, cowboy gear, fishing tackle, antiques, hand saw collection, vise, tools and much more. Cash sale only. 37p

GARAGE SALE

HAVING A GARAGE SALE? Let the town know with a classified ad at 40 cents per word. Make sure you get a good turnout. Call us at 406-932-5298. 25ufn

FOR RENT

B & J STORAGE, two locations. Call 406-932-1101. 45ufn

TRYING TO FIND THE PERFECT RENTER? Advertise your rental property in the Big Timber Pioneer. Call 406-932-5298 or email ads@bigtimberpioneer.net. 4f

NOTICES

BIG TIMBER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK — Open noon - 4 p.m., all non-holiday Mondays and only on the first and last Friday. All non-perishable food items can be dropped off at churches, the Carnegie Library, County Annex and at the Big Timber Pioneer. We need Canned Chili, Canned Stew, Canned Pineapple and Evaporated Milk. We will now allow indoor shopping, limiting numbers within the store. All who shop in the store must have their mouth and nose covered. Thank you, Food Bank Volunteers.

10ufn
TUSCANO MACHINE IS HIRING a part-time (20 - 30 hours/week) Machine Shop Maintenance/Custodian to help with shop cleaning, upkeep, and organization. Email julie@tuscanomachine.com or call 406.823.0174 for more information. 37-39c

MASON'S HELPER NEEDED for work in Big Timber and East Bozeman. \$15 per hour to start, apprenticeship available. 406-930-3421, 406-932-6566 37-38p

DISTRIBUTION/BINDERY POSITION — Immediate opening for full or part-time bindery and distribution person at The Livingston Enterprise. We will train on operating bindery equipment, daytime shift. Some driving of

company delivery vehicles – valid driver's license required. Full-time position eligible for full company benefits, including health insurance, paid vacation etc. Salary negotiable, depending on experience. Interested contact Jim Janikula, The Livingston Enterprise, 401 South Main, to submit an application. 44ufn

LEGAL

MONTANA SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, SWEET GRASS COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RONALD M. TERENCE, Deceased. Probate No. DP-21-11 **NOTICE TO CREDITORS** IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed as personal representative of the above-named estate. All persons

having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be either mailed to Elaine Allestad, the Personal Representative, return receipt requested, c/o Jim Lippert Attorney at Law, P.C., P.O. Box 1636, Big Timber, MT 59011, or filed with the Clerk of the above-named Court. Dated this 18th day of June, 2021. Elaine Allestad, Sweet Grass County Public Administrator, P.O. Box 1636, Big Timber, MT 59011. Publish: June 24, and July 1 and 8, 2021 MNAXLP

MONTANA SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, SWEET GRASS COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BARBARA O. TERENCE, Deceased.

Probate No. DP-21-12 **NOTICE TO CREDITORS** IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed as personal representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be either mailed to Elaine Allestad, the Personal Representative, return receipt requested, c/o Jim Lippert Attorney at Law, P.C., P.O. Box 1636, Big Timber, MT 59011, or filed with the Clerk of the above-named Court. Dated this 18th day of June, 2021. Elaine Allestad, Sweet Grass County Public Administrator, P.O. Box 1636, Big Timber, MT 59011. Publish: June 24, and July 1 and 8, 2021 MNAXLP

Business & Professional Directory

RON RUE
Appliance Service Technician
406.930.1136
P.O. BOX 863 • BIG TIMBER
Rue Appliance Repair

Save money with an upgrade to more efficient, cleaner heating.
Ask us how.
Serving all of your heating needs since 1975.
"Your source for warmth."
GEERING CO.
Hearth & Home
(406) 252-2068
3823 Montana Ave., Billings, MT
geeringco.com

Having the right coverage is key to your peace of mind.
Key Insurance
100 McLeod Street
Big Timber, MT 59011
(406) 932-4014
• Home
• Auto
• Ranch
• Business

BILLINGS MONUMENT CO.
Proudly serving the Billings area with all your cemetery and memorial needs since 1896.
(406) 245-3391
1-800-498-3319
3823 Montana Ave.
Billings, MT 59101

YELLOWSTONE FENCE
John Stosich • Owner
406.925.9343
IMPROVING OUR LANDSCAPES—ONE POST AT A TIME
E-mail: jstosich72@gmail.com

CLASSIFIEDS
A cartoon character holding a newspaper with the word 'CLASSIFIEDS' on it.

CROSSWINDS HEATING & COOLING
* Residential * Commercial * Sheet Metal
* Heating * Cooling * Refrigeration
Ben Selensky (406) 932-5760
NATE CERT #7917631 MT BOILER ENGINEER#004072

CRAZY MOUNTAIN PEST CONTROL
General rodent and pest control for your business or home.
Amy Thomas Gano
406-930-0717
PO Box 651
Big Timber, MT 59011
crazymountainpestcontrol.mt@gmail.com
Family owned and operated, licensed and insured

CRAZYMANS GARAGE
Aaron Whipperman
406.932.6057
775.315.9505 cell
BIG TIMBER, MT
Servicing all small engine needs, residential & commercial.

YELLOWSTONE TREE CARE
(406) 932-5581
Trimming • Removals • Spraying
Stump Grinding • Diagnosis and Treatment
Fully Insured
Commercial Liability • State fund
State Licensed and Registered
Alan Gilbert
RM-0571A

BECKY TODISCO
HEALTH, MEDICARE AND LIFE INSURANCE
(406) 932-4499 • (406) 930-1880
BECKY@VOYAFA.COM

Ruthie Johnson REAL ESTATE
Here to help you with all of your real estate needs!
406.930.1022 call/text
Ruthie@RuthieJohnsonRealEstate.com
RuthieJohnsonRealEstate.com
A down to earth agent selling big sky dreams

SWEET GRASS TITLE COMPANY
"Only Locally Owned and Operated Title Company"
Complete Title and Closing Services
Mineral Reports
Abstracts
Serving Our Community Since 1917
118 W. First Ave. • P.O. Box 1067
Big Timber, MT 59011
(406) 932-4888

Blue Bird Roofing
Jason Palm
OWNER
(406) 209-3493
(406) 932-6077
Serving Big Timber and surrounding communities
Free estimates!
EMAIL: bluebirdroofing@hotmail.com

LAVERELL'S SEPTIC
We do the "Poo"
In business since 1993
Pumping your tank every 3-5 years is good maintenance.
CALL: (406) 932-4047
CALL/TEXT: (406) 930-1725
EMAIL: frank.laverell@gmail.com

A cartoon character holding a newspaper with the word 'CLASSIFIEDS' on it.

Recreational Marijuana Growing Consultant
Michael Shirley
206.851.5295
Servicing Sweet Grass County

ESTATE SALE Antiques & Uniques
Now Open Thur-Fri-Sat
Weather & Health Permitting or
By Appt. 406 537-2333 or
907-419-8801 See us online at
SeniorEstateSale.com

NEW SPRING HOURS:
Wed thru Fri 10-4 & Sat 9-3
Unique Designer
Mother's Day Baskets
Consignments & Vendors Wanted!
Free Antique, Book, & Doll Appraisals!
907-491-8801 Text Messages
406-537-2333 Leave Message.
Located on Front & Hart Street
4 Suites of Excellent Inventory by 20
Local Vendors & Consignment Items

A cartoon character holding a newspaper with the word 'CLASSIFIEDS' on it.

DON'T MISS OUT ON WHAT'S HAPPENING.
SUBSCRIBE TO THE BIG TIMBER PIONEER FOR NEWS OF YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND YOUR COMMUNITY.
LOCAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE \$49 A YEAR. ELSEWHERE IN MONTANA \$56 A YEAR. ACROSS THE NATION \$66 A YEAR.
CALL US AT (406) 932-5298 TO ORDER YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TODAY OR SEND US A CHECK AT P.O. BOX 830, BIG TIMBER, MT 59011.
THE BIG TIMBER PIONEER

Statewide Classified Advertising

NOTICE

OUTDOOR ANTIQUE MARKET. Over an acre of antiques and collectibles from many vendors. Sunday, July 11, 9-5 at Virgelle, Montana 1-800-426-2926 or www.Virgelle-Montana.com

Get your message out to a wider audience. Reach 187,146 homes and nearly 431,000 readers with a

statewide classified ad in 70 Montana newspapers, from Wolf Point to Whitefish, Miles City to Missoula, for \$149 for your 25 word ad. At this price, the cost amounts to \$2.23 per newspaper. Additional words are just \$4.30 each. Contact us at The Big Timber Pioneer, (406) 932-5298, to see how an ad can work for you.

ATTENTION TAXPAYERS

2021 PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES DUE

Personal Property Taxes are due Wednesday, June 30th, by 5:00 pm . Unless paid by this date, the amount payable is delinquent and draws interest at the rate of 5/6 of 1% a month from and after the delinquency until paid and 2% must be added to the delinquent taxes as a penalty. (MCA 15-16-101)

Payments can be mailed to the Sweet Grass County Treasurer at PO Box 888, Big Timber, MT 59011. Office hours are from 8 am to 5 pm Monday-Friday located at 115 W 5th Ave, Big Timber, MT. A drop box is also located at this address for your convenience.
www.sweetgrasscountygov.com.

Questions? Please contact the Sweet Grass County Treasurer's Office at 406-932-5151

HOLLY HATCH LCSW
PSYCHOTHERAPIST AND
CERTIFIED KRIPALU
YOGA INSTRUCTOR

Treating: Depression,
Anxiety, Post Traumatic
Stress, Weight Issues and
Sleep Problems

Adults, Couples and Adolescents
Most insurances accepted.

(406) 932-6025

Selling something?

email ads@bigtimberpioneer.net

Big Timber Village
Apartments

Now accepting
applications.

Rental rates based on 30%
of income for 62+
or disabled,
regardless of age.

1 - Bdrm, 1- Bath
Coin op. laundry on site
City services paid
Off-street parking

Call: (406) 932-6253
TDD 1-800-545-1833, Ext. 291

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider

Switch to DISH

Better TV from \$52.99/mo.

Faster Internet from \$49.99/mo.

Offer ends 7/16/21. Internet not provided by DISH. Requires additional purchase of OTA antenna. Restrictions apply.

Eagle Satellite

Call us today!
800-386-7222

dish
Premier Local Retailer

ATTENTION TAXPAYERS

NOTICE OF PENDING ATTACHEMNT OF A TAX LIEN
(MCA 15-17-122)

On Monday, August 2, 2021, by 5:00pm, the Sweet Grass County Treasurer will attach a property tax lien to property on which the 2020 taxes are delinquent. The delinquent taxes, including penalties, interest and costs are a lien upon the property and that unless delinquent taxes, penalties, interest, and costs are paid prior to August 2, 2021 a tax lien will be attached and may be assigned to a third party.

A complete list of all property on which taxes are delinquent is on file in the office of the Sweet Grass County treasurer and is open to public inspection and examination on Monday thru Friday from 8am to 5pm.

For further information please contact the Sweet Grass County Treasurer at 115 W 5th Ave or by mail to PO Box 888, Big Timber, MT 59011 or call 406-932-5151.
www.sweetgrasscountygov.com.

Questions? Please contact the Sweet Grass County Treasurer's Office at 406-932-5151

WANTED

Customer Support Specialist

HIRING NOW!

US: A fun, fast-growing online global company with a great customer support team looking for someone to join us as a customer-oriented service representative. This person will help our customers create and host successful raffles and events, provide product/services information and resolve any emerging problems that our clients might face with accuracy and efficiency through a multitude of communication channels.

YOU: Someone who is looking to make a difference with our customers, and our company with:

- Proven customer support experience or experience as a client service representative

- Be able to demonstrate our services to customers and show them the options and features

- A professional manner and a demonstrated commitment to providing excellent customer service

- Ability to multi-task, prioritize, and manage time effectively and always follow-through

- Good computer and internet skills

- Demonstrated ability to effectively resolve customer issues/complaints, with empathy and patience

- Strong written and verbal communication skills

- The ability to be a good team player, someone who will contribute positively to the team environment

The position requires 40+ hours per week; 8 hour per day shifts, Monday- Friday, with some overtime and some weekend work for projects

Hourly pay: \$14 per hour DOE.

Email application to:
bperry@eventgroove.com

WWW.EVENTGROOVE

ONLINE TICKET PRINTING LEADER

Hook your customers... advertise.

Contact
ads@bigtimberpioneer.net
or (406) 932-5298
to place your ad today.

Don't let your future customers get away.

2021 SEASON

52 years of Bringing Live Theatre to Northeastern Montana

FORT PECK
Summer Theatre

You're A Good Man
Charlie Brown
June 25 – August 13
additional selected Saturday Matinees

Ed Asner in
GOD HELP US
July 2 – July 4

The Spitfire Grill
July 9 – August 8

Baskerville!
July 16 – August 15

Terms of Endearment
August 20 – September 5

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT
www.fortpecktheatre.org

SHOW TIMES
Fridays and Saturdays 7:30 p.m. • Sundays 4:00 p.m.
Check our website to view the new rotating schedule in July & August.

fortpecktheatre.org or call 406-526-9943
FPST will be practicing social distancing and safety protocols

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Let your voice be heard:

We always welcome
Letters to the Editor at
editor@bigtimberpioneer.net

Yard sale season is here!

Get the word out to our readers with an eye-catching ad!

Call (406) 932-5298 to get started today!

THEY WON'T GO UNLESS THEY KNOW.

THE BIG TIMBER PIONEER

DOES THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAVE YOU STRUGGLING TO PAY RENT OR UTILITIES?

HELP IS HERE.

IT'S EASY TO APPLY!

HOUSING.MT.GOV

MONTANA HOUSING

Montana Emergency Rental Assistance

406.841.2840

LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST*

Thursday 6/24	Friday 6/25	Saturday 6/25	Sunday 6/26	Monday 6/27	Tuesday 6/28	Wednesday 6/29
83/53	75/55	80/57	85/56	92/59	97/63	100/64
Sunrise: 5:30 a.m.	Sunrise: 5:31 a.m.	Sunrise: 5:31 a.m.	Sunrise: 5:32 a.m.	Sunrise: 5:32 a.m.	Sunrise: 5:33 a.m.	Sunrise: 5:33 a.m.
Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Sunny
Sunset: 9:14 p.m.	Sunset: 9:14 p.m.	Sunset: 9:14 p.m.	Sunset: 9:14 p.m.	Sunset: 9:14 p.m.	Sunset: 9:14 p.m.	Sunset: 9:13 p.m.
Rain Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear

Source: The Weather Channel *Forecast as of Wednesday A.M. - subject to change.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Sound of thunder

5 "Pardon me"

9 Bottle tops

13 Scowl

14 Ready for picking

15 Let happen

17 Part of ABM

18 Anagram for "tide"

19 Justice symbol

20 U.S.N. clerk

22 One with a will

24 Annual event in Boston

26 Something to strike

27 Biblical song

29 Spanish wool

31 31-day mo.

32 Smallest pup

34 Forgivable

38 Apparel

40 Hyatt hotel brand

41 Cover completely

42 Shopper's haven

43 Cone bearer

44 Radio noise

46 Give the slip to

48 Squabble

51 Hit man's accessory

53 Vitamin A source

55 Deck out

58 Cell terminal

59 Harmon of "NCIS" fame

61 Icy precipitation

62 Great Plains grazer

63 Malarial fever

64 Molecule part

65 Monetary unit

66 Must have

67 Reply to "Shall we?"

DOWN

1 Like some pigeons

2 Solitary

3 Type of firearm

4 1996 Richard Gere film, "___ Fear"

5 Sports complex

6 Stayed out of sight

7 "The Man", for Stan Musial

8 Celestial streaker

9 Playbill listing

10 "The Untouchables" gangster

11 Greek philosopher

12 Recital pieces

16 "While You ___ Sleeping"

21 Recliner part

23 Whine

25 Crime-fighting quartet led by Leo

27 Sweat source

28 Read

30 SPCA concern

33 Discomfort

35 Make very angry

36 Kind of rock

37 Orpheus's instrument

39 Ice Age mammal

40 Santa Anita event

42 Car buyer's concern

45 Scarecrow's pal

47 1987 film, "___ Weapon"

48 Wound cover

49 Freak out

50 Popped up

52 Ready to skinny-dip

54 It may be pitched

56 Free-for-all

57 Shade trees

60 Wish undone

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

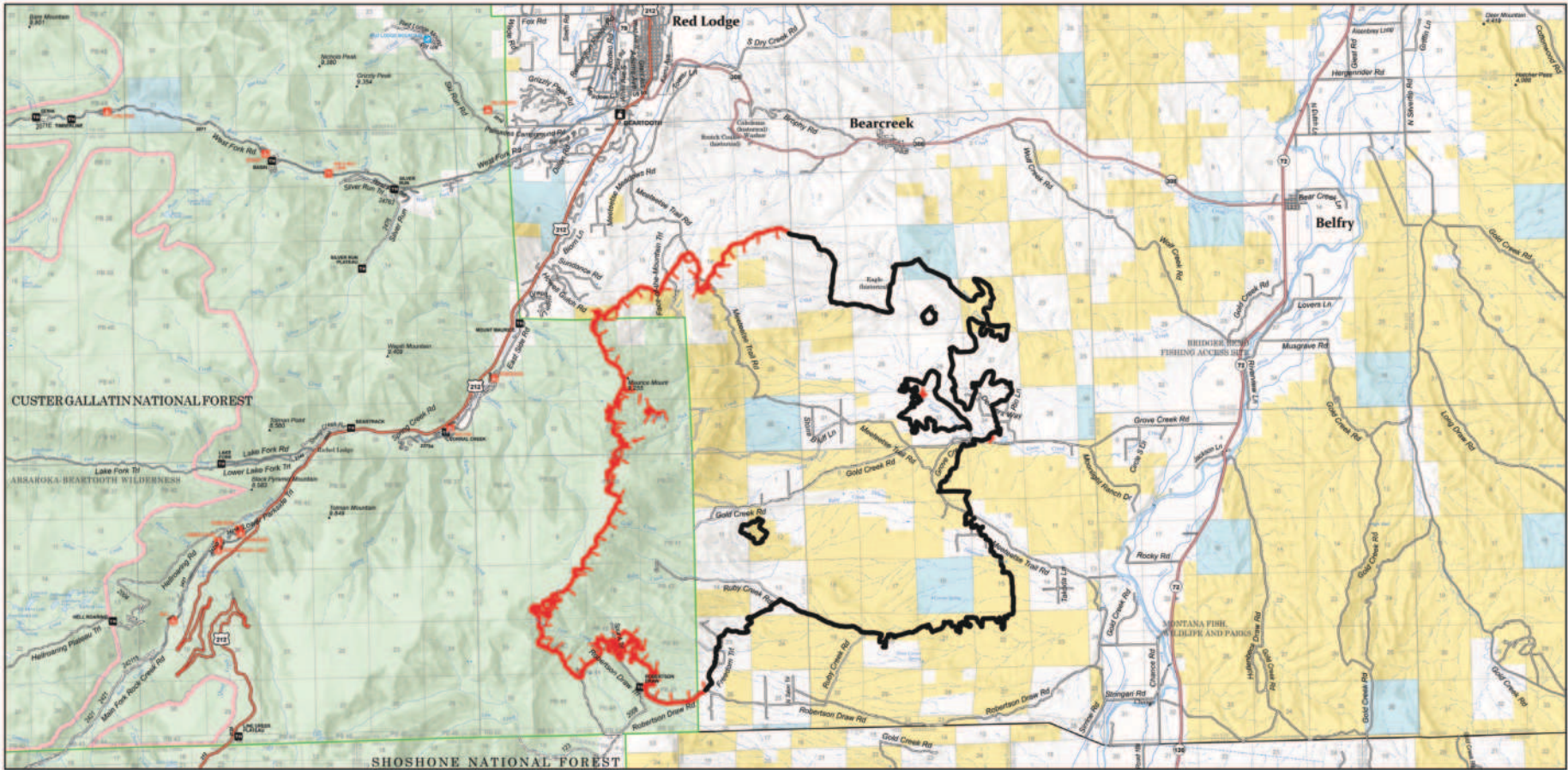
D	A	B	S	A	B	B	A	A	C	R	E	S
A	S	I	A	B	L	O	W	C	H	U	M	P
D	E	R	N	S	A	N	A	N	T	O	N	I
S	A	D	D	L	E	S	O	R	E	L	O	R
C	A	I	N	E	E	X	P	E	N	S	E	
C	H	A	L	E	T	I	N	T	E	R		
L	U	G	D	I	A	N	E	T	I	P	S	Y
A	L	E	C	A	N	G	S	T	C	O	H	O
N	A	S	A	L	N	O	S	E	Y	W	I	G
	R	O	B	O	T	C	E	D	A	R		
A	C	R	O	B	A	T	C	E	D	A	R	
M	O	O	T	S	A	L	A	M	A	N	D	E
I	N	T	E	R	S	T	A	T	E	D	I	M
S	C	O	N	E	E	V	E	N	A	V	I	D
S	H	R	E	D	D	A	R	T	L	E	T	O

Robertson Draw fire near Red Lodge 53 percent contained

By Pioneer Staff

Current Status: Yesterday, smoke was still evident on the south side of the fire where a burnout operation had been done on Monday to reduce unburned fuel ahead of the fire. Crews were on site to monitor fire conditions while interior pockets burned with no threat to the containment lines. The eastern side of the fire remained in patrol status with the main work needing to be done in an Aspen grove to mop up hot spots. Mop up involves searching for areas or pockets of heat and cooling those areas with water or soil to secure the edge of the fire. Firefighters continued to work on containment lines and a contingency line on the northwest side. The contingency line is being tied into the East Side Road near Highway 212. On the west side the Fire Use module and Helicopter module finished constructing a fuel break from the north end of the Line Creek Plateau north towards Mt. Maurice. These crews also started searching for hot spots along the fire's edge on Mt. Maurice. The structure protection group finished their work on structure assessments and planning.

Planned Actions: On the east side of the fire crews will continue to patrol for any areas of heat along the containment line. Crews will focus efforts on the creek draw that has a pocket of aspen trees which is holding heat. On the northwest side crews will continue to construct the contingency fire line between the fire area and the East Side Road and



work direct on fire line farther up the slope. Prep work of clearing vegetation along the East Side Road will be started including chipping woody debris and hauling it away. On the south side firefighters will continue to mop up the containment line along the area where the burnout was completed. Smoke might continue to be seen from this area. The crews on the west side of the fire will be brought back from the plateau due to the forecasted thunderstorm and lightning activity. The structure protection group will be

available for initial response to any new fires in the area. The weather conditions have shifted towards a hot and dry pattern across the region for this week and into next week. A weak cold front is predicted to move through the fire area this afternoon which may generate some small thunderstorms with lightning. Very little precipitation is expected with this system.

Evacuation Warnings: Evacuation Warnings remain in effect for the areas located south of Red Lodge and east of US Highway 212. The

North and South Grove Creek Road, Gold Creek Road, Ruby Creek Road, Meeteetse Trail, and Robertson Draw Road are closed to general public use. It is recommended that all area residents have a household evacuation plan ready. Please remain vigilant and be aware of the fire situation and your surroundings.

Closures: All the Custer Gallatin National Forest System lands south of Point of Rocks in the Rock Creek drainage are closed under a Forest Closure Order. This includes trailheads, camp-

grounds, dispersed camping areas, and the USDA Forest Service Recreation Residences in Corral Creek, Spring Creek, Snow Creek, and Sheep Creek. This is in addition to the Closure Area encompassing the Line Creek Plateau. The Beartooth Highway (US Hwy 212) remains open.

A Closure Order is also in effect on all Bureau of Land Management lands lying West of State Highway 72, South of State Highway 308, and East of US Highway 212 in Carbon County.

Temporary Flight Restriction

(TFR): A TFR is in place for air space over the Robertson Draw Fire (FDC 1/7695) to provide a safe environment for firefighting aircraft operating in the area. Remember that temporary flight restrictions also apply to unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones. If you fly, we can't!

Primary and Cooperating Agencies: USFS, DNRC, BLM, Carbon County Sheriff's Office, DES, and Road Department, Red Lodge Fire District, and Belfry Fire District.

Southern Montana passenger rail gets Tester's backing

By Jason Bacaj
Yellowstone Newspaper

The effort to restore long-distance passenger rail service to southern Montana took another step forward last week.

Sen. Jon Tester attached an amendment that provides \$15 million to study restoration of discontinued long-distance passenger rail routes to the Surface Transportation Invest-

ment Act of 2021. The amendment passed the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee with bipartisan support, and now moves to the full Senate for a vote as part of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act.

"Although additional steps remain before the bill lands on the president's desk, this is a foundational first step toward a truly national vision of long-distance passenger rail," said Dave Strohmaier, chairman of the Big Sky

Passenger Rail Authority, in a release touting the amendment.

The bill still has to pass votes in the Senate and House of Representatives before it reaches President Joe Biden to get signed into law.

The BSPRA is a partnership of 13 counties across Montana formally established in December 2020 to preserve and improve abandoned rail service for agriculture, industrial and passenger traffic.

Tester's amendment followed a week of virtual meetings between members of Congress, congressional staff, BSPRA and the Greater Northwest Working Group, an assemblage of passenger rail advocacy groups and supporters from across the Northwest.

Tester did not respond by press time to a phone call for comment.

The studies will focus in part on former routes in the rural West like the North Coast Hiawatha — which ran

between Seattle and Chicago through southern Montana, and was discontinued in 1979 — and the Pioneer route, which ran from Seattle to Chicago via eastern Oregon and southern Idaho and was discontinued in 1997.

Tester's amendment would require a report to be presented to the Senate Commerce Committee after two years of study, with recommendations of which routes to restore.

SPECIALIZING IN POST FRAME BUILDINGS



Agricultural Buildings

50x80x16	70x120x16
60x100x16	80x152x16

CUSTOM SIZES & OPTIONS AVAILABLE “WE BUILD TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS”

Call for your free estimate
Toll Free:
1-855-MQS Barn
(677-2276)



Serving Select Regions of:
Montana, Idaho and Washington
[For detailed service areas,
please visit our website]
www.mqs barn.com