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Governor visits Lewistown for second time in a week.



Outdoors | 13

Kids and trout learn about each other.

Demolition destruction is back, page 14.

COVERING CENTRAL MONTANA LIKE THE STARS

LEWISTOWN NEWS-ARGUS

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Fate of Central Montana Health District still up in the air



Health District Board Chairman Sandy Youngbauer (standing) points to information during the special board meeting Thursday. Commissioners (from left) Mike Goffena, Jeff Sell and Don Hajenga follow the discussion. Photo by Deb Hill

Decision rescheduled to August

By **DEB HILL** | News-Argus Managing Editor

Must the Central Montana Health District, a joint effort of six counties and one city, be reconfigured to put one of the counties or the city in charge and make the other members merely advisory?

That's the debate resulting from passage of House Bill 121, which contains language requiring a "local governing body" of elected officials oversee the District.

The Central Montana Health District, formed in 1973, is unlike any other health district in the state, as it is a partnership of multiple counties and the City of Lewistown. The six county commissioners (Fergus, Musselshell, Wheatland, Petroleum, Judith Basin and Golden Valley) and one city commissioner (Lewistown) who make up the Board of Health called for Thursday's special meeting after learning the recently approved House Bill 121 might change the way the district works.

After almost two hours of public comment on the situation and a brief discussion, the board voted to table the decision on reformatting the district to their Aug. 17 meeting.

Defining the problem

At issue is language in the bill that requires a governing body of elected officials to oversee the work of the health board. While many of the health board members feel the current board structure already satisfies the bill's requirements as all health board members are elected officials, several county attorneys present at Thursday's meeting offered a different point of view. The Board had already heard from Fergus County Attorney Kent Sipe at a prior meeting, but Sipe reiterated his opinion that change is required.

"Kent and I and other county attorneys have all reviewed HB 121," said Judith Basin County Attorney Heather Perry. "We agree that one of the counties [or the City of Lewistown] must agree to act as host. That [government] would then be the governing body of the health district and all the other health board members would become advisory to the governing body."

See Health | Page 5

Denton's 'oldest guy' recalls WWII journey across Europe

By **KATHERINE SEARS** | Reporter

"This was my wife's hometown. She wanted to live in her hometown."

Marion Wambach can retrace 96 years, and his journey to Denton effortlessly. Sitting next to piles of books, stacked neatly against the wall in his living room, Marion begins a near-century-old narrative in the shoes of a young man who ended up thousands of miles from his hometown of Poplar, Montana, shortly after wedding a Denton girl named Mary Todd.

"Oh, I've already read all those," Marion notes of the books, some written in German.

"I read it better than I speak it," he informs, "because I don't have the opportunity to speak it here. I spoke it a lot over there."

"Over there" is cities scattered across Europe. Marion recalls many he traveled through after being drafted into the Army during World War II, though some he learned long after the war.

"There was an awful lot of the time we didn't know what was going on," said Marion.

"I assume that was the reason – so if you were captured you didn't know anything."

Late 1944, Marion boarded the Queen Mary off the coast of Maryland with 17,000 other troops.

"It was during the Battle of the Bulge," said Marion. "It took us eight days to cross the Atlantic."

Upon arrival, troops boarded small boats bound for Glasgow, where they spent about three days with little to eat. From there, Marion traveled by train through Scotland and England before crossing the English Channel, which he recalled doing at night.

The next leg was disrupted while riding in boxcars aboard a train bound for Paris.

"I think a buzz bomb landed on the tracks and delayed us," Marion remembered. "A couple of us figured it'd be a good time to get a shave."

Marion traveled to a house nearby to ask for water and a shave, a request the residents granted.

"By the time we got done, the train was started up again and we ran like the dickens to get back on," recounted Marion.

See Wambach | Page 5



Marion Wambach, 96, stands outside his home at Denton, where he has lived since 1987. He grew up in Poplar and spent many years in Washington before moving back to his wife's hometown of Denton. Photo by Katherine Sears

Senator Daines gives tribute to Kathie Bailey's life

By **DEB HILL** | News-Argus Managing Editor

Senator Steve Daines was in Lewistown Friday to recognize the late Kathie Bailey by presenting a tribute to Bailey he had read into the Congressional Record.

At a short ceremony at the Snowy Mountain Development Corp. office on Main Street, Daines read the entire statement he has asked to be incorporated in the Record.

"It's my honor to be able to do this, to present the Congressional Record. This will be enshrined for eternity in the Record," Daines told the small crowd, including Kathie's husband Rod, assembled in the conference room.

"Kathie was an amazing woman…a caring wife, mother and grandmother. She was also active in public service," Daines said, going on to detail Bailey's service as the administrator of Colstrip and a Fergus County Commissioner for five years, among other positions she held.

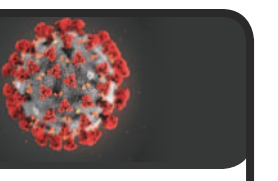
The statement Daines read explained the formation of Snowy Mountain Development Corp., an economic development organization for which Bailey served as Executive Director.

"Her staff lovingly called her Barracuda Bailey and the Tasmanian Devil," Daines said, explaining the passion that drove Bailey to build SMDC from a small, one-person organization to the multi-million dollar enterprise it is now.

See Daines | Page 5



Montana Senator Steve Daines reads a tribute to Kathie Bailey at the SMDC conference room Friday afternoon. Photo by Deb Hill



COVID-19 UPDATE

As of Friday, June 19, the total number of Montana COVID-19 cases since last March was 113,167, an increase of 406 from last week.

There were 509 active cases across the state, including 2 in Fergus County. There were 53 Montanans hospitalized with complications of COVID-19, and 1,651 have died.

Vaccination clinics are being held across Central Montana. In Fergus County, contact the County Nurses Office at 535-7433 or go online to mtreadyclinic.org.

Editor's note: With the decline of active cases, the News-Argus will report just once a week, in each Saturday paper, on the numbers.

USPS 311-120 | EDITOR@LEWISTOWNNEWS.COM | OBITUARIES: R. DONOVAN, J. JACOBSON, S. SCHINDLER, I. STOWER

Words of Thanks



Governor Greg Gianforte speaks to the audience during the VFW state convention, which was held in Lewistown this week. He spoke for about 20 minutes, thanking the veterans for their service and commending them for leading the vaccination efforts in the state.

Photo by Katherine Sears

Deadline nears for municipal candidates to declare

By DEB HILL
News-Argus Managing Editor

According to Fergus County Clerk and Recorder Janel Tucek, there is still time for candidates to file their paperwork to run for city elections in towns across the county. The deadline is Monday, June 21 at 5 p.m. Paperwork must be filed with the Clerk and Recorder if candidates want their names on the ballot.



So far, 25 candidates have filed for open positions on the Denton, Grass Range, Winifred and Lewistown councils. However, this is a provisional count as there may be others filing before the Monday deadline, and those who have filed have additional hurdles to clear.

Being on the list "does not mean that they will be on the ballot, as the [Office of Political Practices] has to certify them after I send in a letter to let them know who all I have declared," Tucek said.

So far no one has filed for any of the open positions in the town of Moore, although Tucek said it is sometimes hard to know what is open and what is not, due to turnover of town clerks and some confusion in record keeping.

The list of those who have filed with the Clerk and Recorders office as of Friday morning includes:

Denton:
4 year term:
Beau Carter
Gary Friesen
Jeri Fulbright
Stephenie Stolle
Thomas D. Wheeler

2 year term:
Roxann Miller
Maryann Seilstad
Mayor (4 year term): Joel D. Barber

Grass Range:
4 year term:
George A. Dengel
Thomas R. Delaney
Mayor (4 year term): Edward A. Geary

Winifred:
4 year term: Richard Scott Baker
Mayor (4 year term): Travis Willson

Lewistown:
4 year term Ward 1:
Robert S. Snyder
Katie Spika
Cody Vaughn
2 year term Ward 1:
Dean Allen
Richard Battrick
William F. Buck Sr.
Loraine M. Day
4 year term Ward 2:
Kurt McCaulay
Jake Rhoades
Ron J. Hrubes
4 year term Ward 3:
Alexzandra Dunnington
4 year term At Large:
KellyAnne Terry
Michael T. Byrne



Please join us
for a
Celebration of Life
for
Sie Schindler
Saturday, June 26, 2021
with burial at
Sunset Memorial Gardens at 1:00 p.m.
Line up at Cloyd Funeral Home
at 12:30 p.m.
Fellowship and refreshments
at Frank Day Park to follow.
Classic cars encouraged.
Please bring
lawn chairs.



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School Board addresses bond, expulsion

By MIRIAM CAMPAN | Reporter

The Lewistown Public Schools Board of Trustees held their regular board meeting this past Monday, and discussion centered on the upcoming bond election.

After a detailed presentation from Dan Semmens of Dorsey-Whitney and Bridget Eckstrom from DA Davidson, a lengthy discussion ensued amongst board members and public participants on the upcoming bond levy language, and whether 20, 25 or 30 years would be the best length of time for the bond.

Superintendent of Schools Thom Peck said, "In regards to the language on the bond levy, high priority items will appear first and will be a true reflection of the bond proposal emphasizing safety first."

The proposed $20,9000,000 bond will provide funds to address " . . . safety and environmental concerns, enhance learning environments, upgrade infrastructure, increase energy efficiency and address shifting enrollment considerations . . ."

Former Lewistown School Board Member John Carlson addressed the board with concerns over bond language and the need for specificity.

"The language has to be very specific, accounting for every dollar and plans for each building," Carlson said.

Semmens explained that delineation of funds for each school would be clearly identified in the upcoming bond proposal, with emphasis on controlled access entrance ways and ensuring Americans with Disability Act compliance to site improvements for each school building.

The board unanimously, and after careful consideration, decided to move ahead with a 20 year-term mill levy with a 2.5% fixed interest rate, the most economical for tax payers. The board will make the formal resolution for the bond election at the Aug. 9 meeting.

School attendance during COVID

Peck was pleased to report to the board the final attendance for the 2020-2021 school year.

He said, "In our K-12 schools, average daily attendance for the year was 93.5%, with our sophmore class being the highest at 95.55%, followed by sixth grade at 94.19% and eighth grade at 94.02%."

Rebekah Rhoades to be honored

Peck also announced that Rebekah Rhoades was awarded the 2021 Outstanding Business Official from the Montana Association of School Business Officials. Rhoades will receive the award at their annual conference on June 17.

Executive session-recommendation for expulsion

The board meeting concluded with an executive session regarding a student who was expelled for the first semester of the 2021-22 school year. The student must formally appear before the board to be considered for re-enrollment in the Lewistown Public School district after that first semester.

The next school board meeting is scheduled for July 12 at 6 p.m.

Construction Update: Eddies Corner – E and W

Please drive safely through the work zone – workers are regularly working alongside the roadway and shoulder. As drivers travel through the active work zone, please slow down, follow the posted speed limit and be on the lookout for construction workers. Highway patrol is actively patrolling the corridor.

Currently, workers are on-site between 7 am. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. The speed limit throughout the project ranges between 35 and 45 mph – it is always 35 mph when workers are alongside the road. Traffic is being routed onto a detour around the bridge construction.

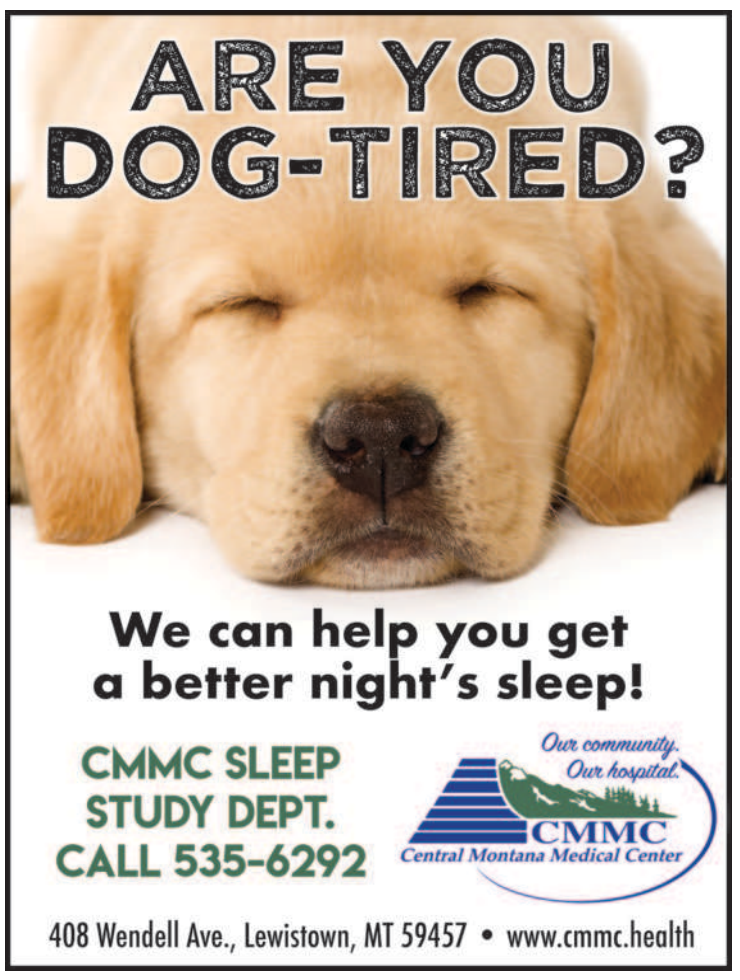
News Briefs

City Commission to discuss sewer rate increases

The Lewistown City Commission meets Monday, June 21 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center, 307 W. Watson Street. The Committee of the Whole meets at 6 p.m. for a discussion on sewer rate increases.

The Commission meets at 7 p.m. Items on the agenda include entering into an elevator maintenance contract for the Library, an MOU with the Department of Transportation for funding of the Kiwanis Park rest area, a public hearing followed by a resolution approving the fiscal year 2022 work plan and budget for the Tourism Business Improvement District, a resolution on an assessment to defray the cost of work for the Tourism Business Improvement District, a public hearing followed by a resolution to amend the 2020-2021 budget for the City and claims.

The meeting is open to the public. To attend by phone call (253) 215-8782 and use meeting ID number 848 627 5925, passcode 59457. To join by Zoom, go to https://zoom.us/j/8486275925?pwd=dTVGbndDK253ZUJLMjRuZX-U5QVpMdz09, same meeting ID and passcode.



Lewistown News-Argus 5-Day Forecast

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
Partly Cloudy	Showers Likely	Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy
Precip: 5%	Precip: 90%	Precip: 20%	Precip: 5%	Precip: 10%
10-20 mph W	10-15 mph NW	10 mph WNW	10 mph S	10 mph W
80 / 47	62 / 40	70 / 44	80 / 51	85 / 53

Lightning ignites Breaks fires Tuesday

By KATHERINE SEARS | Reporter

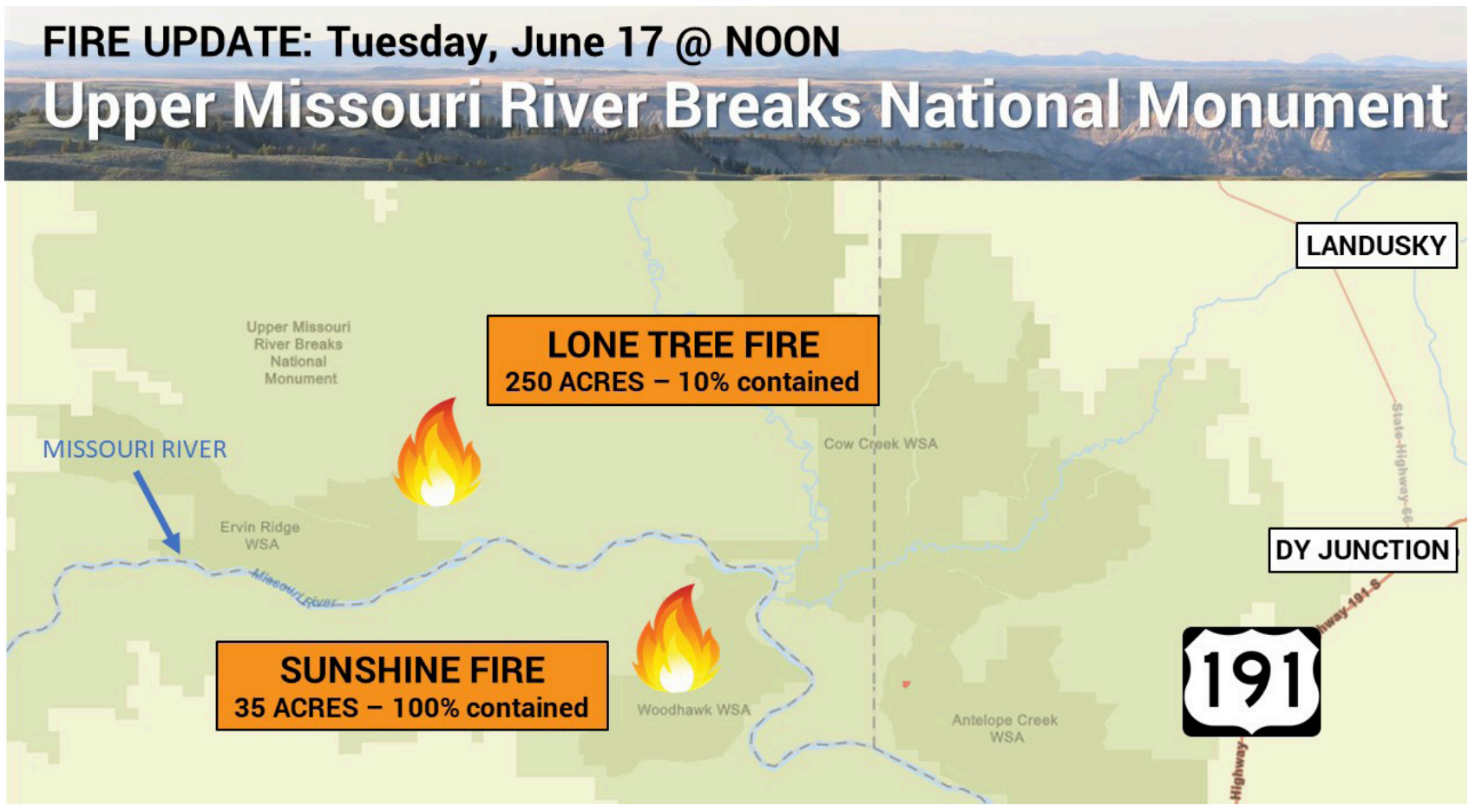
Two wildfires ignited Tuesday in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument during a busy fire week across the state.

Both fires were the result of lightning Monday night coupled with high temperatures Tuesday, according to Monument Manager Zane Fulbright. A Bureau of Land Management range specialist spotted the first fire, which became known as the Lone Tree Fire, north of the river in the Ervin Ridge Wilderness Study Area. The helicopter dispatched to survey the fire then spotted another, the Sunshine Fire, located south of the river in the Woodhawk Wilderness Study Area.

As of Thursday afternoon, the Lone Tree Fire was a reported 250 acres and 10% contained. An additional 20-person hand crew was assigned to the fire, which had not grown or moved over the previous 24 hours.

The Sunshine Fire remained at 35 acres Thursday and was considered fully contained, with a small group of firefighters on scene.

BLM and U.S. Forest Service engines responded, along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and volunteer firefighters. On Tuesday, an update posted to the BLM-Montana/Dakotas Facebook page stated a BLM helicopter was filling its bucket from the river near Woodhawk Recreation Area and the Nelson Homestead to help extinguish the Sunshine Fire.



As of Tuesday, the two lightning fires burning in the Breaks were barely contained. Since then, progress has been made.
Map courtesy of BLM

Safe Sitters in the making



Students in the Safe Sitter class practice adult rescue CPR last week. Over 960 students have become Safe Sitters in the 27 years Ann Tuss, CMMC Foundation manager, has been teaching the class. Some of those students are now parents themselves, and have been "family guests" at the Safe Sitter Class. These students learn real life skills including changing a diaper, extinguishing a fire, calling 911 dispatch, first aid, infant CPR and choking child, interviewing for a job, child behavior and sleep safety.
Photo courtesy of CMMC

Gov. Gianforte announces $17.3M more in ARPA funds for Montana cities, towns

Governor Greg Gianforte announced this week the disbursement of nearly $17.3 million in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to 42 cities and towns across the state.

"These ARPA funds will provide over 50 towns and cities with the authority to address their individual needs, from supporting those impacted by the pandemic to investing in their infrastructure needs," Gov. Greg Gianforte said.

Two Central Montana towns will receive the following funding amounts based on criteria outlined by the U.S. Department of Treasury:

Winnett: $23,628.14
Winifred: $24,905.33

Local governments typically serving a population under 50,000 are eligible for funding through the federal Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, and funding allocations are determined by population.

More information about the program may be found through guidance from the U.S. Department of Treasury: https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-fund/non-entitlement-units.

Lewistown TIF District Board will hold special meeting on Tuesday, June 22

Lewistown TIF District Board will be holding a special meeting on Tuesday, June 22 at 8 a.m. in the SMDC conference room or via Zoom. The reason for the special meeting is to hear applications from businesses on the 300 block looking to upgrade some utilities during the ongoing One Health construction. Public comment will be welcome.

Law Enforcement Blotter

Edited by MIRIAM CAMPAN

The following report was taken from information provided by the Central Montana Dispatch and does not represent the total scope of police or sheriff activities. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

June 1

• A 911 caller reported a vehicle rollover. A Fergus County deputy, Montana Highway Patrol and Lewistown ambulance responded. The driver was transported to the Fergus County detention center for DUI.

June 2

• A caller reported a flock of lambs at the Wheatland/Fergus county border. Central Montana dispatch contacted the owner of the lambs.

June 3

• A caller reported they saw individuals throw a shopping cart out onto the street. Officers located the individuals and had them return the shopping cart. The individuals were warned about their actions.

The following calls were recorded during the period of May 21 through June 2.

• One suspicious vehicle
• Three thefts
• Three threats
• One threat; harassment
• One traffic hazard; public works/utilities/DOT
• Three traffic non DUI
• 12 traffic stops
• One trespass
• Two vandalism; criminal mischief; criminal damage
• Two VIN inspection
• 11 welfare checks
• One Welfare check; request assistance
• Four Wildlife
• One youth in need of supervision

A closer look at law enforcement – accidental 911 calls – stay on the line

"911. Where is your emergency?" For over 50 years 911 dispatchers have coordinated emergency services in response to a call for help. With the days of rotary phones in the distant past, today's modern smart phones, with a jiggle or a poke, are enabled to dial for emergency assistance, whether warranted or not.

Each week Central Montana Dispatch receives what are called "accidental dials" or "911 hang-ups," with no one, on the other end of the phone to answer the question, "Where is your emergency?"

According to Chief of Police Justin Jenness these calls are a regular occurrence.

"If they hang up, our dispatch then has to try and re-contact the caller (for up to 15 to 20 minutes) to ensure everything is okay," said Jenness.

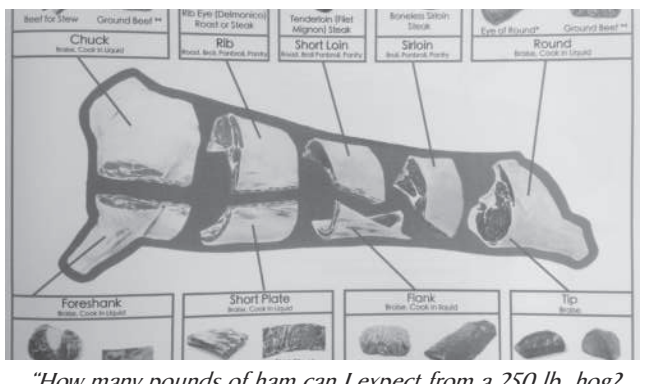
He added, "The Lewistown Police Department responds to all 911 hang up calls, even if the caller states everything is "ok," just to ensure there is not a problem. We do this due to the fact that we have had instances where the caller states everything is ok, and when officers arrive there is actually something happening, such as a domestic violence incident or some sort of altercation."

Jenness advises people to stay on the line and inform dispatch the call was accidental.

GRANDMA'S BLOOMERS GREENHOUSE
is CLOSING June 28.
We're having a plant sale
June 21 through 28.
Thank you all for a Great Season.
JoAnn Bergum
Located 10 miles North of Hilger on the Winifred Highway - 462-5655

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Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Your View

How many lives are saved by armed citizens?

Dear Editor,

After watching Democrat "60 Minutes," I feel so sorry for those who have lost loved ones— I can't imagine what they are going through.

I want to run out and buy an AR15 assault riffle and see how many people it will kill without a sick human pulling the trigger.

How many times have we heard a mother, family member, friend or neighbor say, after the shooting, that they knew there was a problem with this person?

I wonder, will "60 Minutes" have a program telling of how many lives have been saved by a sane armed citizen? I don't think so.

The NRA Freedom Magazine has stories each month of people who have saved lives because they were armed. These stories range from some dope trying to rob a convince store to home break-ins.

What about, a couple of years ago, the armed man in the church that saved how many lives? I didn't see a "60 Minutes" program on that.

Ted F. Murray
Lewistown

Keep your beer out of my space

Dear Editor,

I attended the Fair Board meeting on Tuesday, June 5 at the Trade Center to be a part of the public discussion on letting beer out of the Beer Gardens during this year's fair. I feel that the Fair Board had already made the decision to let beer all over the fair before the meeting.

The board members mentioned they had many conversations on the issue. My question to them is: were those many discussions just the fair board oligarchy, or were these where people from the public were there? I have only known about the decision to let beer out of the Beer Gardens for a couple weeks.

The meeting had two newspaper articles, two letters and five people from the community who were definitely against beer all over the fair grounds. There was one lady that did not specifically say she was against beer everywhere, but her suggestions were definitely to help limit and control it. There were two ladies for beer out of the Beer Gardens, but they were the Jaycees, so clearly a biased opinion.

In other words, there was zero support from the public at that meeting for turning beer loose all over the fair, and nine against it.

Here is my thought on alcohol. I am completely fine with you, for example, drinking. If I invite you to my home for a visit, I would find it appropriate if you brought your own alcohol into my home and drank in my home in front of my kids...that is fine. If you invite me to your home for a visit and you choose to drink in your home in front of my kids... that is fine. It is your home.

The problem is, the fairgrounds is a public space. Why do I have to have people walking around everywhere drinking beer in front of me and my kids? Why can't the beer stay in the Beer Gardens?

I am so tired of being "pushed" and having other peoples' preferences crammed down my throat. Same-sex so-called marriage, transgender, marijuana, alcohol...I do not care (particularly) what people do in the privacy of their own homes. It is when it is forced in my space that I am offended.

Christaleah T. Carlson
Lewistown

Voice your opinion...
Email to:
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lewistownnews.com

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Phone:
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800-879-5627
FAX: 535-3405
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Guest Opinion

Arntzen pledges to fight for waivers for schools meeting benchmarks

By CHRIS AVERILL

As required by the Biden Administration's U.S. Department of Education, the Montana Office of Public Instruction submitted its State Plan outlining how it will assist Montana schools in distributing and utilizing more than $382 million in COVID-19 relief funding from the American Recuse Plan Act. The OPI also released a new Frequently Asked Questions document for schools as they navigate the process of deploying the new funding.



Elsie Arntzen

"Through this large influx of Federal funds, Montana schools have an opportunity to focus on the whole child and maximize instruction," State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen said. "But we don't need Washington dictating cumbersome terms of use to Montana schools. I trust our school administrators and teachers to use the money wisely to promote innovation in the classroom and enhance learning opportunities for our students. Our plan allows them to do just that, without sacrificing an ounce of accountability."

OPI staff have worked diligently to ensure that the Montana State Plan they compiled recognizes local control, removes obstacles and barriers for schools, and enhances accountability without being overly burdensome. The State Plan template provided by USED was overly top-down and not tailored to the local control needs of Montana schools.

Earlier this spring, Arntzen submitted comments on USED's Interim Final Requirements, which lay out the agency's implementation strategy for the relevant sections of the ARP Act that appropriated funding to our nation's schools. Arntzen's comments were the only from any state educational agency nationwide that proposed solutions to fix the challenges embedded in the Interim Final Requirements.

If those issues remain uncorrected in the final rule, Arntzen will pursue a variety of waivers to help minimize the burden on our local educational agencies. These LEAs are required to produce two Federally mandated plans related to how they will spend their allocated dollars, and how they plan to bring students back to the classroom safely. However, the Federal rule "does not mandate that an LEA adopt the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] guidance, but only requires that the LEA describe in its plan the extent to which it has adopted the key prevention and mitigation strategies identified in the guidance."

"Many schools in Montana were open throughout all or much of the 2020-2021 school year, and have already returned students to school safely," Arntzen noted. "They should be afforded the opportunity to focus on other matters, and have a waiver instated for the requirement to update the plan every six months, with stakeholder input, until September 30, 2023."

Montana's State Plan received support from U.S. Senator Steve Daines and U.S. Representative Matt Rosendale, who wrote to USED Secretary Miguel Cardona urging him to approve the proposal in separate letters (Daines letter; Rosendale letter).

The ARP Act represents the third round of funding to come through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund. In previous rounds, Montana received more than $41,000,000 (ESSER I) and $170,000,000 (ESSER II). Through the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools, the state also received nearly $20 million for home and private schools. Two-thirds of the ESSER III funding has already been released to schools; once USED approves the State Plan submitted now, the OPI will be able to release the remaining one-third, or roughly $126 million.

Schools can access regularly updated ESSER resources, including guidance and information on weekly Q and A sessions, on the OPI's website at: http://opi.mt.gov/COVID-19-Information/ESSER.

Chris Averill is the communications director for OPI.

Replying to lawsuits against education legislation

By SCOT KERNS

Years ago these words meant something... from the Declaration of Independence, "But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security."

These words charged a body of not being able to claim the absolute right and/or control of a people without oversight, a la: "No taxation without representation." The lengthy list of plaintiffs that have joined to file lawsuits against Montana state lawmakers have evinced a similar design.

To claim sole power and authority for the public education of Montanans is blatantly unconstitutional. This unconstitutionality is true even using the poorly written Montana Constitution. See for further clarity the Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue decision that was made by the U.S. Supreme Court. Or the application that should happen to the Montana Constitution in light of Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia, Inc. v. Comer in Missouri from SCOTUS.

The power and authority for the governed comes from the people. "Deriving their just power from the consent of the governed" are again words that should mean something as from the U.S. Constitution.



Scot Kerns

Article X, Section 1, (3) in the Constitution of Montana, it states "The legislature shall provide a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools. The legislature may provide such other educational institutions, public libraries, and educational programs as it deems desirable."

Time after time, all I read is, that the "board of public education to exercise general supervision over the public school system and such other public educational institutions..." while failing to recognize the last part of that sentence that is not quoted is "...as may be assigned by law." "Assigned by law" matters, Lawmakers of Montana have that authority from the people, derived from the consent of the governed.

In the matter of the board or regents it likewise says, "The government and control of the Montana university system is vested in a board of regents of higher education which shall have full power, Responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the Montana university system and shall supervise and coordinate other public educational institutions assigned by law."

Key to this is that last part similarly "assigned by law." Time after time, lawsuit after lawsuit, there are attempts to take educational authority for our Montana schools away from the people and their representatives, to be usurped by the boards that set themselves up as a fourth branch of government. This cannot be allowed to happen.

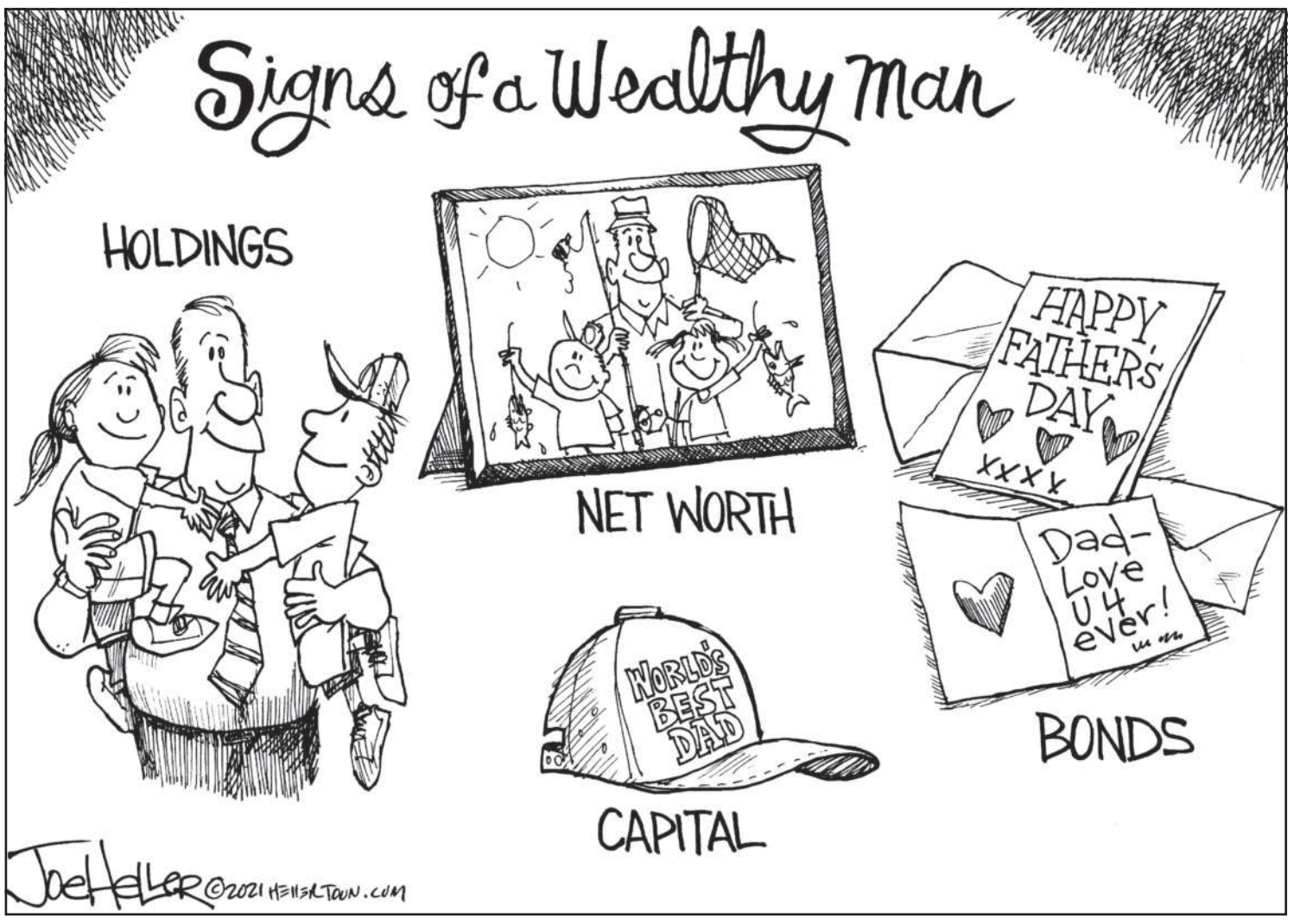
No longer can the legislature, for fear of lawsuits or making waves, continue to fund our educational institutions of the state without also ensuring that they provide a quality system of education. According to the Constitution of Montana, the legislature is the body that ultimately has been vested by the people with the responsibility of ensuring a system of education continues in such a way that it will develop the full educational potential of each person of the state.

The legislature, as lawmakers, is ultimately the body enabled to construct a "quality" system of education. According to the Constitution of Montana, the legislature is the body that has ultimately been vested by the people with responsibility of ensuring a system of education continues in such a way that it will develop the full educational potential of each person of the state. The lengthy list of plaintiffs that have joined to file lawsuits against Montana state lawmakers should recall the words of warning from Baron Acton that, "power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Lawmakers in Montana are held accountable to the people, and likewise the people will, at one point another, hold our educational institutions accountable. I, for one, would like a further explanation of why tuitions were raised at our Montana University schools promptly after the legislature funded them and their projects.

Accountability is the fundamental bedrock of any representative democracy. Have we gone so far that these words mean nothing? I certainly hope not.

Scot Kerns (R-Great Falls) is the representative for House District 23.



Wambach

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The group roared on to Belgium, where Marion remembers raiding any place that had food, among them, a bakery.

"We were hungry," he noted.

The weather also brought back strong memories.

"It was cold. Oh, it was cold. Miserable. Snow was deep," said Marion. "We didn't have sleeping bags, we only had two blankets."

During the Battle of the Bulge, poor weather conditions had given the Germans an advantage, leading to the most American casualties of any operation during the war. Soon after Marion arrived, the tables turned.

"The weather cleared and they pretty much decimated the German outfit," he recalled. "By the time I got to the front lines, the German forces got stopped and they had started to push them back."

Marion was assigned to the 563rd anti-aircraft weapons battalion, operating a .50 caliber machine gun mounted to a half-track during the operation.

"We crossed the Siegfried Line just south of Walchum," said Marion. "Prior to that, we probably had three or four gun positions."

Warming temperatures created a challenge in one particular position.

"It started to thaw and it was really a mess," said Marion. "You couldn't dig a hole to put your gun in. It was just a swamp."

Nearby, his unit found a pile of old crates, which they stacked and covered in mud to create an emplacement. They would usually stay in a position three or four days before moving on.

"One position I had was on the Ruhr River," said Marion. "I had my gun set up in a clearing up high above everything."

Marion recalled looking at the river below in the deep canyon, through thick timber where he stood.

"There was quite a bit of action, but it wasn't where I was at," said Marion. "That's where my driver got wounded – from one of our own shells."



Mary and Marion Wambach pose for a photo in Texas in 1944. The two spent the summer together there while Marion was assigned to instruct on the Browning .50 caliber machine gun, and Mary had the season off from teaching.

Photo courtesy of Marion Wambach

With a dog fight happening above, Marion said his driver stuck his head out the window to watch, and a shell came down on him.

"It didn't go off in the air like it was supposed to," said Marion. "He got a piece of shrapnel in his neck. He wouldn't have [gotten hurt] if he had his head inside like he was supposed to."

Aside from the driver, Marion recalled that time being quite uneventful, so much so that he chewed gum and paddled around on the dam for something to do.

"So I just played there," he added.

As Allied forces advanced on the Germans, Marion was sent to defend one of the last bridges standing over the Rhine River.

"We got the word to go to Remagen when the bridge was still up," Marion recalled. "Every outfit was headed there and we were one of the first to get there."

In a failed attempt to blow the bridge up, the Germans had only damaged part of the bridge.

"The bridge was already weakened and you couldn't take heavy equipment across it," said Marion. "Engineers were building pontoon bridges and that's where I was."

As the Germans deployed nearly every tactic to destroy the bridge, the Americans formed the largest concentration of anti-aircraft weapons during WWII.

"I had my gun set up on top of the bluff overlooking the whole thing," Marion recalled. "There was quite a bit of action; a lot of dog fights there. Word was the Germans were going to take the pontoon bridge out with frogmen."

The German Air Force would attempt to bomb the bridge at night, but American troops deployed umbrella fire, which Marion recalled as very effective.

"They set up what they called umbrella fire – it was a solid umbrella of fire," said Marion. "Nothing could get through that."

New to WWII, radar-controlled 90 mm anti-aircraft guns were more accurate than men.

"The third one always hit," Marion recalled of the 90 mm. "So we thought 'What's the waste of us using up our ammunition – let's let them do it,'" he laughed.

Over 10 days, Americans fortified a bridge, allowing them to unexpectedly advance on German forces.

"From there it was just trying to keep up with fleeing Germans," said Marion. "We actually didn't have to do a whole lot, we just had to keep up."

The last gun position he held was 70 miles from the Czech border, three weeks before the end of the war, and his unit was then deployed to patrol the town of Heberthausen.

"We tried to find the doctor that was in charge of the sterilization program," said Marion. "We waited, but he never showed up. We figured he made it to Argentina; that was just speculation on our part."

They moved on and Marion recalled getting a tour of a castle that was the site of gas chamber experiments.

"It was a place they had experimented with gassing people and burning them," said Marion. "There was a German doctor there in the basement and he took us through the whole thing."

His journey across Europe continued, and the unit became military police. Marion ended up a detachment commander until it was his time to go home.

"Eventually my number came up and I got to come home," said Marion.

From memory, he recited exact dates, including his draft date of May 17, 1943, and his discharge date, March 15, 1946.

There is no question he's thankful his duty ended as it did.

"I never had to shoot anybody, never had to kill anybody," said Marion. "It wasn't for lack of trying though," he laughed, citing divine intervention.

While taking a shift on the gun to give his crew a break, a German jet flew right at him, and he fired… twice.

"But it didn't fire, both times," said Marion. "I always wonder if there was a divine intervention there…I wasn't supposed to kill him. He was out of fuel and landing behind our lines."

Gratefulness in his voice, Marion went on, "The only opportunity I had to kill a man and the guns didn't fire…I'm happy about that."

Chosen for officer candidate school, Marion declined.

"I said 'No, sir. I want out,'" Marion recalled. "I would have ended up in Korea. We didn't know there would be another war."

"I did the best I could, but I didn't want to stay in there," he added.

Was he worried he might never get home?

"I never knew," Marion replied. "I always seemed to wind up doing a job over my pay grade," he joked.

Marion returned to Mary in Montana, and the couple reared six kids, mostly in Washington. In 1987, they returned to Mary's hometown of Denton. Married 58 years, Mary battled cancer nearly 40 of them.

"We bought this place here and Mary had 15 good years here in her hometown," said Marion. "And that was a blessing. We were pretty lucky in many respects."

Mary chose well in returning, as Marion enjoys life in Denton and still makes it out for weekday lunches at the Shade Tree Café.

"They look after me," said Marion of the residents. "I'm the oldest guy in town."

Health

« From Front Page

In response to a question about whether the board could just disregard the new wording and continue with business as usual, Sipe told the health board that following the law is the best approach.

"By statute, there must be a health district, although it does not have to be a multi-county district," Sipe said. "The district is currently insured through MACO [Montana Association of Counties]. They're not going to insure you if you are not following the law."

Another issue with the new language is health districts are no longer able to employ staff. The Central Montana Health District currently has six employees and one vacant position. Previous legislation listed hiring of employees as one of the duties of a health district, but HB 121 removed that language.

"They took out your ability to employ staff," said Perry. "When you study contract law you learn about changes by omission. It's a change by omission, but it's a substantial omission."

Board split on proposed solution

Putting the two changes together leads to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding drafted by Fergus County, approval of which requires Fergus County or one of the other health district members to be identified as the "host" government, with all Health District employees becoming employees of that host.

While the attorneys appeared united in their interpretation that HB121 does not allow the current health board to continue "as is," some of the health board members seemed to lean toward that option regardless.

"We are all elected officials and the bill language requires the governing body to be made up of elected officials, so it seems like the current board should meet the legislative requirements," said Don Hajenga of Judith Basin County.

Things did not get any more clear when Representative David Bedey (R – Hamilton), attending by phone, spoke to the health board. Bedey explained the intent of the wording in HB 121, which he sponsored. The idea, he said, was to ensure elected officials were the governing bodies for health districts.

"My advice is to reach out to MACO for legal advice," Bedey told the health board, "but I think you are in a sound position to continue doing business as you are."

However Sipe said if the law is challenged in court, the intent of the legislators may not be as important as the clarity of the wording, so Bedey's assertions may not help with the health board's dilemma.

Still undecided

After more discussion, health board chairman and Fergus County Commissioner Sandy Youngbauer put the proposed MOU to a vote. One after another, health board members said they would decline to sign the MOU as it is currently written, and asked for more time to discuss options with their respective commissions.

"Wheatland County has not had enough time to discuss this. Our county attorney could not be here today, but he feels we could continue on as we are because all of us are elected officials," said Commissioner Jeff Sell, adding he would not sign the MOU at this time.

"Until we get more information, I won't sign this MOU," said Judith Basin County Commissioner Don Hajenga. "This [health district] has been in existence for 51 years. What happens to the assets if we split it up?"

"The City needs more time to discuss options," said Lewistown Commissioner Loraine Day.

Youngbauer suggested the group continue the discussion at their Aug. 17 meeting, along with review of new bylaws and election of officers.

The board did vote to approve an audit of health district assets, in case members withdraw in the future and assets need to be divided.



Senator Daines (right) chats with Rod Bailey (center) and SMDC Acting Director Sara Hudson after reading the Congressional Record entry he wrote for former SMDC Director Kathie Bailey. Bailey passed away in May.

Photo by Deb Hill

Daines

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Ending with what he said was the most important part of Bailey's life, Daines said she was "shaped by God," adding the community lost a most accomplished and beloved member when Bailey passed away on May 14.

"I am grateful this will be in the Congressional Record for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and all those who will be here in the future, to read," he ended, handing a copy of the tribute bound in an embossed leather folder to Rod Bailey.

While in Lewistown, Daines also addressed the Veterans of Foreign Wars conference at the Yogo Inn. Earlier on Friday he visited with incident command at the Robertson Draw fire and spoke at the Montana Sheriff and Peace Officer Convention in Butte.



Lewistown Area Chamber of Commerce
2021 4th of July Parade Entry Form

Line up at 12:30 a.m. on 7th Ave. North
Parade at 1:00 p.m
Return by June 30, 2021

Name of Entry: _____

Contact person: _____ Phone: _____

Briefly describe your entry: _____

_____

_____

Please circle the category for your entry:

1. Commercial 2. Organizations 3. Individual/Political Office/Candidate
4. Animal/Mounted Group 5. Automotive/Tractor 6. Music

Waiver

The above named parade participants will hold the Lewistown Area Chamber of Commerce, the City of Lewistown, et.al., harmless from any damage, expense or liability arriving at any injury or damage to said participant, his agent, servants or employees or to the property of said participant. The participant hereby agrees to indemnify the Lewistown Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Lewistown, and Fergus County for any and all damages, claims or disbursements made for or on behalf of the participants.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail to or drop off
Lewistown Area Chamber of Commerce
408 NE Main St., Lewistown, MT 59457
For information on the events of July 4 or how to donate to the community fireworks and activites, go to: www.lewistownchamber.com.

OBITUARIES

Josephine "Jo" Komarek Jacobson

Josephine "Jo" Komarek Jacobson, 72, passed away Wednesday, June 9, 2021, in her residential home due to natural causes. A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. at the Eagles Club in Lewistown, Montana on Wednesday, June 23. Jo's wishes were to be cremated so there will be a private family spreading of ashes at a later date.



Jo was born in Lewistown, Montana on May 2, 1949, to Joe and Jessie (Brown) Komarek. She was raised on the family ranch and graduated from Roy High School in 1967. She went on to graduate from business school in Billings. In 1969, she married Jim Henderson and together had two children Jay and JoLynn. Jo enjoyed many years on the farm in Zurich, Montana raising her children, and having late night card parties, and girl time with some of her closest neighbors. Although Jo and Jim later divorced, they reconnected years later and grew their friendship over the love of their three grandchildren. In June of 2000, Jo married Basil Jacobson. She and Basil enjoyed spending time with their conjoined families and having Tuesday night dinners at Borries. Jo often hosted both sides of the family for Thanksgiving and Christmas. She was the glue that melded the two families together and will be greatly missed by them all.

When Jo moved to Great Falls, Montana, she got a job managing the Magic Manor Apartments, where she did everything from renting out the apartments to learning how to fix the boiler on her own. She did it all. Jo later became very active in the Great Falls community when she joined the Sunrise Lions Club. In 1998, she was made the first woman president for the Great Falls Lions Club. While being the president, she enjoyed working with the Four Seasons Arena to organize ticket taking and ushering for many events.

Jo was a very talented woman. She did everything from playing music to crocheting blankets and dolls. She learned to sew at an early age and made almost everything she wore. Her beadwork was another one of her talents. Jo crocheted many outfits for herself and blankets for each of her children and grandchildren. Jo had a strong love and talent for music. She taught herself to play the bass guitar because the band didn't need a piano player, and she wanted to be in the band Clear Sky with Cindy, Bill Pearce, and Jim. Over the years she played for many weddings and even opened for some top bands a time or two. In her later years, Jo loved watching Duster, her beloved dog, and her "babies," the neighborhood squirrels, play in the back yard. Helping Basil work on the old cars he had acquired and building a barn as she called it kept her busy. She loved her flowers and small garden she shared with the baby bunnies. Her talents really were something to be admired. She was an amazing woman and will be greatly missed.

Jo is survived by her loving husband, Basil Jacobson; sister, Rita Lovejoy; children, JoLynn Scarpholt (Bryon Bevis), Jay and Sue Henderson, Matt and Chris Jacobson, Doug and Amanda Jacobson, Jana and Marc Dorfman; grandchildren, Brianna and Cody Scarpholt, Colten Henderson, Gavin and Meghan Jacobson, Logan Jacobson, Eva and Jack Dorfman. She was preceded in death by her parents, Joe "Speed" and Jessie Komarek; brother, Dean Komarek; nephew, Charles Weasa; and granddaughter, Mariah Henderson.

Condolences for the family may be shared online at www.SchniderFuneralHome.com.

Irene E. Stower

Irene E. Stower, 102, of Great Falls and formerly of Lewistown, passed away at Goldstone Assisted Living in Great Falls, of natural causes, early Wednesday morning June 16, 2021. A complete obituary will be released when completed. The Cloyd Funeral Home is assisting the family. Condolences for the family may be posted online at www.cloydfuneralhome.com.

Sylvester W. 'Sie' Schindler

Sylvester W. "Sie" Schindler, 82, of Lewistown went to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, Nov. 16, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family. Graveside Memorial Services will be Saturday, June 26, 2021 at 1 p.m. in Central Montana Memorial Gardens. Cremation has taken place with the Cloyd Funeral Home assisting the family. A procession of cars, classic if you have one, will leave from the Cloyd Funeral Home at 12:30 p.m.

Friends are asked to make memorials to Camp Maiden, Judith Basin 4-H, Kiwanis Scholarship Fund or to the charity of their choice and they may be left with the Cloyd Funeral Home. Condolences for the family may be posted online at www.cloydfuneralhome.com.

Robert Isaac Donovan

Robert Isaac Donovan, age 76, passed away on Jan. 19, 2021, at St Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado.



Robert graduated from Fergus High School in 1962. Subsequently, he received a degree in chemistry and was highly regarded and published in the field of nuclear waste. He also found his true passion in mentoring others.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Roberta Donovan; father, Burt A. Donovan; sisters, Joyce Bolton and Mary Aronld-Ronish. He is survived by his daughter, Erin Maness; brother, James Donovan; sisters, Tricia Watson and Jeanne Donovan; two grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 25 at Hillcrest Lawn Memorial Chapel (1410 Thirteenth Steet South, Great Falls, Montana). Family and friends are welcome to a gathering at Gibson Park (400 Park Drive North, Great Falls, Montana) after the service. Condolences for the family may be shared online at www.SchniderFuneralHome.com.

Give a heartfelt thank you to friends and family after the loss of a loved one.

Call the News-Argus at 535-3401 for details.



Officials join forces to raise awareness about elder abuse

Number of elder abuse victims increased nearly 30% from 2018

Governor Greg Gianforte, Attorney General Austin Knudsen, Department of Public Health and Human Services Director Adam Meier, Mike Grove, president/CEO Bank of the Rockies and Michael Hagenlock of DPHHS Adult Protective Services joined together Tuesday, June 15 to raise awareness about elder abuse in Montana.

Governor Gianforte proclaimed June 15, as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

At the Bank of the Rockies, Governor Gianforte said elder abuse impacts thousands of Montanans each year, but there are resources available and prevention steps people can take to protect themselves and their loved ones.

"Cases of elder abuse are heartbreaking, and sadly, they're increasing," Governor Gianforte said. "I urge Montanans to report abuse, neglect, or exploitation to Adult Protective Services or law enforcement who can investigate the situation. Working together, we can bring criminals to justice and protect Montana's aging population."

Meier said elder abuse refers to intentional or negligent acts by a caregiver or trusted individual that cause harm to an older person. It takes many forms, including neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse, and financial exploitation. APS is an investigation unit designed to protect vulnerable adults, and provide protective services through support by local, county and state programs.



Gov. Gianforte

Meier said in 2020 a record number 4,500 Montanans were victims of elder abuse, an increase of nearly 30% since 2018. The investigations into these cases involved adults aged 60 and older and adults with disabilities age 18-59. The investigations were conducted by 32 APS investigators.

While neglect and self-neglect are both investigated and substantiated most often, financial exploitation is also on the rise nationally and in Montana. The average victim nationally loses $120,000 through financial exploitation.

Meier said in many cases, the person abusing, neglecting or exploiting the elderly is a person in a trust relationship to the older person such as spouse, child, or friend.

There are resources available to help. For example, to help prevent financial exploitation, Meir said it's crucial that individuals have their legal documents, such as estate planning and Powers of Attorney, prepared well ahead of a medical emergency and to share those documents with a trusted circle of family and friends.

"It's important that people have their legal documents in order well before they are needed, and to review them on a regular basis to ensure they are kept current," Meier said.

Meier offered the following suggestions:

• Review all of your legal documents, especially your estate planning documents with a legal professional.

• Make sure that you have valid, and protective Health and Financial Durable Powers of Attorney. Creating specific, limited and well-drafted documents can help protect you against financial exploitation and make it easier to honor your wishes, when you are not able to speak for yourself.

• Draft a detailed plan and communicate it with friends and family members. This is a vital step to prevent future abuse, as well as ease strain on your family and caregivers.

Estate planning documents should be reviewed periodically, but especially anytime there is a death of a named person, a divorce, a new decade passes, a new diagnosis is received or there is any significant decline in physical or mental well being.

Attorney General Knudsen said the Montana Department of Justice is committed to protecting seniors from exploitation and cracking down on people who abuse them.

"The people who prey on and take advantage of seniors are among the worst kind of criminals. Unfortunately, government lockdowns last year increased social isolation, a root cause of elder abuse, making seniors more vulnerable," Knudsen said. "Our Division of Criminal Investigation and Office of Consumer Protection are working to hold those who commit elder abuse accountable and keep Montana's older population safe."

Knudsen also encouraged Montanans to educate themselves to stay in touch with old friends, neighbors, and relatives; to educate themselves on the signs and be aware for the possibility of abuse; and to report it when they see it.

Grove said the bank industry has a specific role to play in the prevention of elder abuse. And, he said it's vital that this important issue is talked about and remains a focus. He also expressed the importance of continuing efforts to build partnerships both within the state's network of banks, and with other community partners.

"Awareness of this growing issue is critical to addressing elder abuse and fraud in Montana," Grove said. "Truly raising awareness can take place only when we begin talking about it, and we must normalize talking about it. These conversations are crucial."

Jenell Huff, Relationship Executive Community Outreach Coordinator for Bank of the Rockies said partnering with agencies such as AARP, APS, law enforcement and more ensures that this vulnerable population receives the assistance they need.

"The Bank of the Rockies conducts ongoing outreach to residents of all ages, encouraging open and honest discussion about elder abuse and fraud," Huff said.

She added the Bank of the Rockies currently trains staff at all levels to recognize the signs of fraud and abuse and continually seeks more ways to engage communities in the discussion.

Meier said in recent years DPHHS has increased efforts to raise more awareness about elder abuse in Montana communities and through new partnerships. One example includes a relatively new effort with the DOJ.

Now, elder abuse awareness training is provided to all new law enforcement officers at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy. Officers are trained on how to recognize and report adult maltreatment; identify the signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of at-risk adults; and receive information about criminal statutes and investigations related to elder abuse.

The number of referrals to APS from law enforcement is on pace in 2021 for a 50% increase.

"Law enforcement has been an excellent partner with DPHHS in addressing elder abuse," Meier said. "They are heavily involved in communities across Montana and have a tremendous amount of contact with this vulnerable population."

To report abuse, neglect or exploitation call APS intake at 1-844-277-9300 or go to www.aps.mt.gov.

Wreaths Across America honors DAR in their Remembrance Tree Program

National nonprofit Wreaths Across America, as part of its Veterans Remembrance Tree Program, dedicated a grove to Daughters of the American Revolution on the tip lands in Maine. The balsam fir trees in this grove will now hold the replica dog tags of thousands of veterans, all Revolutionary War-era ancestors of DAR members nationwide.

DAR is a is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children, and was founded in 1890. DAR members volunteer millions of service hours annually in their local communities including supporting active duty military personnel and assisting veteran patients, awarding thousands of dollars in scholarships and financial aid each year to students, and supporting schools for underserved children.

WAA established the Veterans Remembrance Tree Program as another way to remember and honor veterans. As Gold Star families visited the land in Columbia Falls, Maine, where the balsam tips are harvested each year to be made into the wreaths that are placed on veterans' graves, they found a sense of peace and tranquility from the land. The Remembrance Tree Program gives a living memorial to their loved one.

"As a DAR member myself, I can say that their mission of promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children, speaks to me deeply and aligns effortlessly with our own mission to Remember, Honor, Teach," said Karen Worcester, executive director of WAA. "DAR members around the country have long been part of the WAA family, supporting local efforts in every state."

DAR's President General Denise Doring VanBuren made the trip to Maine along with the Executive Committee of 11 National Officers to be there in person for the dedication of the DAR National Grove.

"Our National Society is pleased to sponsor the WAA educational exhibit that travels across the nation but we are especially proud that thousands of our members step forward to participate in their local ceremonies each year," said VanBuren. "Now, we have the privilege of knowing that some of those wreaths will be made from the memorial grove that honors our Revolutionary War patriots. As the descendants of America's first veterans, this is a partnership that resonates deeply with our mission."

DAR members across the country can contact WAA and give information on their loved one. WAA's dog tag machine allows the families of the veteran to customize their message for the tag, which will be placed on a tree that will become their living memorial to their loved one. The trees are kept in production and their balsam tips are harvested every three years and made into veterans' wreaths that are placed on headstones nationwide each December. It is free to participate in this program and individuals can fill out a form online to participate.

Other honorees of the WAA Remembrance Tree Program include:

Tiger Flight 739
Four Chaplains Tree
USS Iowa
Liberators Tree (Dedicated to U.S. military who liberated Luna Kauffman and her remaining family, and all those surviving the Holocaust)
Medal of Honor Remembrance Park
Law Enforcement
EOD Veterans (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)
Patriot Guard Riders

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will take place on Saturday, Dec. 18, at over 2,500 participating locations nationwide. Currently, nearly 700 DAR Chapters nationwide participate in the annual wreath-laying event at their local level. And they help share the mission to Remember, Honor, Teach, year-round.

CREEL FUNERAL HOME
Serving Central Montana Since 1902

June Donaldson

June Donaldson, 85
passed away October 10, 2020

MEMORIAL SERVICE
Joint Service for June & Harold
Denton Town Hall
Wed., June 23, 2021, 11:00 a.m.

MEMORIAL
Denton Ambulance Fund

Harold Donaldson

Harold Donaldson, 85
passed away April 30, 2020

Ralph & Kendra Mihlfeld
(406) 538-8755
601 W. Main St. • Lewistown, MT 59457
Express condolences at www.creelfuneralhome.com

Celebrate Dad.
Memories created with your father last a lifetime. Let's celebrate Dad this Father's Day and let him know just how special he is.

Cloyd Funeral Home & Cremation Service
209 Third Avenue North
406-538-8711 or 800-219-8711
www.cloydfuneralhome.com
R.J. "Dick" Brown
Funeral Director
"Serving Central Montana with Service Personal and Distinctive Since 1961"

Flower Power





The Creative Critters 4-H Club continues to serve the community. On June 6 members participated in the annual project of planting flowers at Eagles Manor to brighten the residents' summer.

Photo courtesy of David Curry

Home Buyer Education Class to be held July 12 and 13

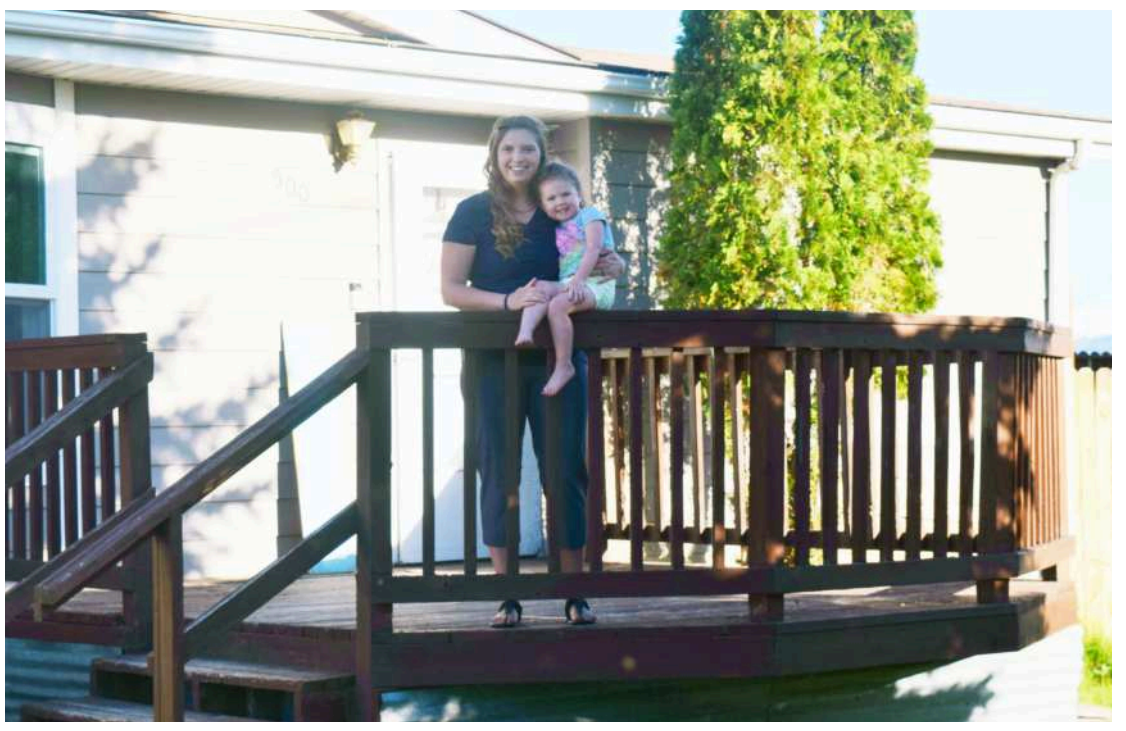
Would you like to buy a house, but are struggling to save for a down payment? Is your past credit affecting your ability to apply for a mortgage? Learn what it takes to become a homeowner by attending the next Homebuyer Education course, set for Mon.-Tues., July 12 and 13, 5-9 p.m. each evening at 507 West Main Street in the Snowy Mountain Development Corporation Conference Room in Lewistown.

By attending this course, you'll walk away with the tools to learn how to save $2,000 over the course of six months, how to improve your credit and how to determine your unique housing costs when buying a house.

Completion of the course results in a smarter, better borrower, and may help participants become eligible for down-payment assistance and low-interest mortgages. Each participant will receive course materials and a certificate upon course completion. Attendance at both evening classes for a total of eight hours of instruction is mandatory for certification.

The course is arranged through a partnership between NeighborWorks Montana and Snowy Mountain Development Corporation. Home-buyer education classes are funded in part by the Montana Board of Housing, US Housing and Urban Development Agency, Montana Department of Commerce, NeighborWorks Montana and philanthropic donors.

There is a $50 registration fee per household. Scholarships are available. For more information or to register for the class, please contact Cathy Barta, Homebuyer Educator, at the SMDC office in Lewistown at 535-2591 or email her at barta@snowymountaindevelopment.com.



Josy Eades, recent graduate of the First Time Homebuyers class, stands on the porch of her new house.

Photo courtesy of SMDC

Montana FFA applauds local grant and scholarship award recipients

On April 10, Montana FFA concluded the 91st annual State Convention hosted in Billings. This convention was nothing short of a success, thanks to students, advisors, and supporters. Blue jackets reconnected from every corner of the state. For some students, this was the first time in two years they interacted with other FFA members outside of their community.

Eight hands-on contests, four general sessions, career conversation seminars, a career panel, various workshops, and the company of special guests Artha Jonassaint, 2020-2021 National FFA Southern Region Vice President, and Dr. James Woodard, National FFA Advisor, were highlights of this year's State Convention.

"It's been almost two years now since we've had a State FFA Convention, so to be able to have workshops, or even just talk to another FFA member sitting next to you at the session, is something I know I'll never take for granted again," said Claire Standley, a junior from Missoula FFA.

The State Convention brought so many meaningful experiences to students across Big Sky Country, particularly for this year's award recipients. In 2020, the Montana FFA Foundation awarded over $100,000 in scholarships and grants to students and FFA chapters. This incredible achievement triples the amount of funding awarded in scholarships and grants just five years prior in 2015. These awards support students in attending leadership conferences, building their entrepreneurship projects, and providing STEM equipment to enhance Agricultural Education instruction in their schools.

Over 65 students were awarded scholarships for leadership growth, supervised agricultural experience development, or post-secondary education pursuits. Montana FFA applauds these outstanding members as they begin their college careers, create new work-based learning experiences, and commit to reaching leadership potential.

Supervised Agricultural Experience Grant recipients

Layton Geary, Grass Range
Jasmine Brinley, Grass Range

National FFA Convention and Expo

Holt Family Scholarship: Caden Seaholm, Grass Range
John Bliss Memorial Scholarship: Layton Tucek, Grass Range

College Scholarship recipients

MABA/MGEA Scholarship - James Taurman-Aldrich, Fergus of Lewistown

Leave A Legacy Scholarship recipients

Morgan Corean, Grass Range
Matthew Slivka, Winifred

These outstanding FFA members weren't the only spectacular people at the Annual Montana FFA Foundation Awards Session. The Montana FFA Foundation also awarded the Lee Boyer Lifetime Achievement Award to Mr. Bill Jimmerson and the Annual Friend of the Foundation Award to C and B Operations, Frontline Ag Solutions, and RDO Equipment Co. Both recipients of these awards share one common thing: vision.

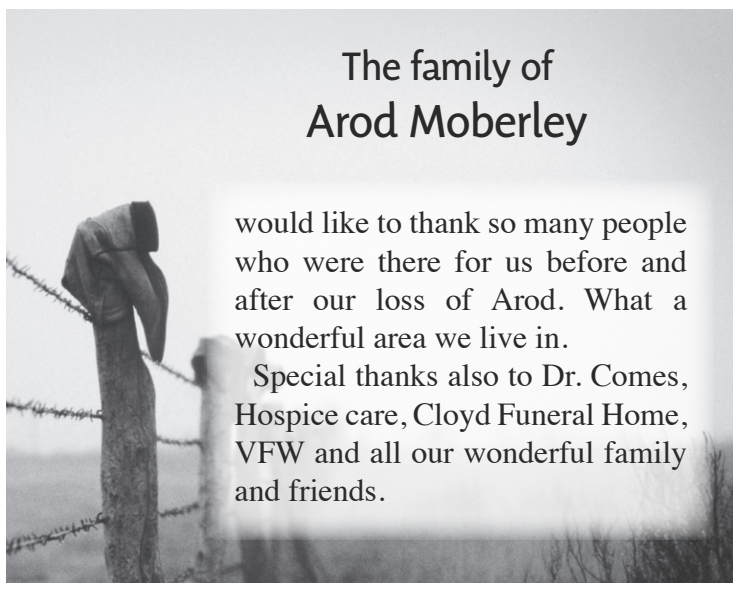
Mr. Jimmerson served as an FFA Advisor for 25 years, most of which were in Conrad. During this time, he introduced the Ag Sales Career Development Event, the Ag Issues Leadership Development Event, the Native American Indian Presentation, and organized the Foundation's first Extravaganza fundraiser. He subsequently served as State FFA Advisor for several years and held various leadership roles in the Montana FFA Foundation and the Montana FFA Alumni Association.

The 2021 Friend of the Foundation shares that vision for a stronger tomorrow because of investment of today. John Deere Dealers of Montana have been behind the Foundation since 2012 when they partnered with the Foundation to bring Montana FFA Students the John Deere Ag Expo, a three-day event with competitions, speakers, and the opportunity to develop leadership skills. In November of 2020, John Deere dealerships across the state stepped up to the plate and knocked a John Deere Ag Expo as we have never seen out of the park. These partners could have said no, but instead, they asked "how?" as the Montana FFA Foundation and local John Deere dealers provided the Annual John Deere Ag Expo to over 1,600 students in 98 chapters throughout Montana by supporting hands-on learning contests in 12 satellite locations from Antelope to Twin Bridges.

The Montana FFA Foundation supports 98 FFA chapters across the state of Montana, representing over 5,000 members. The Montana FFA Foundation's mission is to cultivate partnerships, promote awareness and secure resources to enhance Agricultural Education and the Montana FFA Association.

Pinochle winners for this week

The results of the pinochle tournament held Wednesday at the Legion Bar in Roy show the following winners: a split of first and second beween Wanda Kolstad and Irene Hrubes, and third was Wendy Overfield.



To the family and many friends of the late Don Rindal, we wish to extend our sincere thanks for your many kindnesses, and for the condolences and support we have received. We also send our gratitude and appreciation to Pastor Jed Cauffman, Cloyd Funeral Home, Roy School and community and Deb Phillips for helping with his memorial service.

– The Rindal Family

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Winnett ranching family honored with Stewardship Award

The Joe C. King and Sons Ranch was honored as the 2021 Environmental Stewardship Award winner on June 10, at the Montana Stockgrowers Association's midyear meeting in Lewistown. Each year, the ESAP award recognizes a Montana ranch that exemplifies environmental stewardship and demonstrates a commitment toward improved sustainability within the beef industry.

Joe C King and Sons Ranch is owned and operated by Chris and Gari King, their son, Jay King, and their daughter and son-in-law, Kylie and Mitch Thompson.

For the last 50 years, continuously improving grazing management has been a fundamental key in the ranch's sustainability efforts. Joe King, Chris's father, started those efforts in the 1970s when he sectioned off the ranch into five pastures to begin a rest-rotation grazing program.

"We have always felt that we saw significant improvements in our range quality that we attribute to our rotational grazing systems as opposed to season-long grazing in common that we had before," said Chris.

Since 2018, Chris and his son, Jay, added an additional pasture and pivoted to a deferred grazing program. In a deferred grazing system, all six pastures are grazed in a year instead of four pastures per year in the rest-rotation system. This means cattle are able to spend less time in each pasture.

Implementing a thoughtful and managed grazing system that rotates animals on a regular frequency allows plants to develop deeper roots, recover from grazing faster, and ultimately produce far more grass over the course of the season. This means the soil can store more carbon, allow for water to seep into the soil, and prevent run-off.

The ranch also has a very active and healthy population of sage grouse that enjoy the sagebrush prairie habitat cattle grazing provides. The area is also home to pronghorn, deer, and various birds including songbirds, pheasants, sharp-tail grouse, hawks, eagles and other birds of prey.



Chris and Gari King (center) accept their Environmental Stewardship Award at the recent Montana Stockgrowers Association midyear meeting in Lewistown. The Kings run a multi-generational ranch near Winnett.

Photos courtesy of MSGA



Cattle graze on the Joe C. King and Sons Ranch, where 50 years of grazing improvements have resulted in significantly better range quality, wildlife habitat and ranching success.

"If those birds are traditional to this habitat and they disappear, then it would concern me and make me re-evaluate what's going on there," said Chris. "But we do have a strong population of sage grouse here, and we have identified a number of other birds that are species of concerns to other groups."

The ranch's deferred grazing and cover crop systems have improved the rangeland, improved soil health and even turned hardpan ground into an area that is beneficial to livestock and wildlife alike.

Since its inception in 1991, the Environmental Stewardship Award Program has honored ranchers across the United States who implement practices the positively impact their land, livestock, wildlife, water and the ecological landscape as a whole.

To learn more about the Montana Environmental Stewardship Award Program, please visit mtbeeffoundation.org.

USDA to begin surveying cattle operations

In July, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service will survey approximately 1,700 cattle operations across the Mountain Regional states of Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, to provide an up-to-date measure of the United States cattle inventory.

"This information helps producers make timely, informed business decisions and plan for herd expansion or reduction. It also helps packers and government leaders evaluate expected slaughter volume for future months and determine potential supplies for export," said Bill Meyer, director, Mountain Regional Field Office. "Obtaining the current count of cattle will serve as an important decision-making tool for the entire agriculture industry."

During the first two weeks of July, Mountain Regional producers will have the opportunity to report their beef and dairy cattle inventories, calf crop, death loss, and cattle on feed information. To make it as easy as possible for producers to participate in the survey, NASS offers the option of responding via the Internet, telephone, or by mail.

As with all NASS surveys, the results of this survey will be available in aggregate form only, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. NASS will compile, analyze, and publish survey results in the Cattle report on July 23.

These and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications. For more information call the NASS Mountain Regional Field Office at (800) 392-3202.

Winter wheat conditions rated only 35% good to excellent

Scattered storms, high winds and hail were observed across Montana last week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Reporters noted several moisture events last week as well as an increase in grasshopper activity. Topsoil moisture conditions were 55% adequate to surplus. Subsoil moisture conditions were 51% adequate to surplus.

Barley emerged is almost complete, with an estimated 95% emerged. Winter wheat conditions were rated as 35% good to excellent, compared to 82% this time last year.

Central Montana Grain Market

Date	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat
June 18	5.95	7.42
June 17	5.90	7.37
June 16	6.07	7.40
June 15	5.95	7.15
June 14	6.18	7.25
June 11	6.24	7.35
June 10	6.31	7.47
June 9	6.09	7.24
June 8	6.26	7.47
June 7	6.24	7.75
June 4	6.25	7.70
June 3	6.08	7.55
June 2	6.21	5.57
June 1	6.21	7.33
May 31	No Market -- Holiday	

Prices are based on quality grades of 11.5 for w.w. and 14 for s.w.
Weekend prices tend to be set by Friday prices.
Price affected by quality.

Courtesy of Central Montana WIFE

Lewistown Precipitation

June 2021:	.80
Oct. 1, 2020 to Date:	7.28
2021 Year to Date:	5.23
Normal Oct. 1 to Date:	11.10
Normal Year to Date:	8.65
2020 Year to Date:	8.04

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USDA reminds producers to file crop acreage reports

Agricultural producers who have not yet completed their crop acreage reports after planting should make an appointment with their local Farm Service Agency office before the applicable deadline. July 15 is a major deadline for most crops, but acreage reporting deadlines vary by county and by crop.

"USDA offers a lot of programs to assist producers, but in order to receive many of these program benefits, you must file an accurate crop acreage report," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "Once planting is complete, call your local FSA county office to make an appointment."

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.

How to file a report

Producers can contact their FSA county office for acreage reporting deadlines that are specific to their county.

Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some USDA Service Centers are open to limited visitors. Producers should contact their Service Center to set up an in-person or phone appointment.

To file a crop acreage report, you will need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety.
- Intended use of the crop.
- Number of acres of the crop.
- Map with approximate boundaries for the crop.
- Planting date(s).
- Planting pattern, when applicable.
- Producer shares.
- Irrigation practice(s).
- Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable.
- Other information as required.

Acreage reporting details

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant but were unable to because of a natural disaster. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions, producers should call their FSA county office. To find their FSA county office, they should visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

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Lewistown Livestock Auction

Hello Central Montana and beyond! Our summer every-other-week schedule is in effect and we had a big turnout Tuesday for a Regular All-Class Cattle Sale - nearly 1,100 head came to town! 930 of that total head count were weigh-up cows and bulls, and that market was dollars higher than what we saw two weeks ago on our June 1st sale. Demand was noticeably higher on feeding-type cows in the 1200-1350# range, with a good number of those in the $70's up to $76. Fleshy cows weighing 1400#-plus were mostly $62-68, with a few higher outliers. There was good competition on lean cows going straight to slaughter, with a lot of them bringing somewhere in the $60's. 133 head of bulls sold with a similar story—higher all the way through! Over 70% of the slaughter bulls brought north of $90/cwt with a top of $108.50! We did sell a small package of black 2-year-old pairs on short notice for $1,360 - It goes without saying that the current weather pattern is at the forefront of all of our minds. We ended up with about 125 feeder cattle but mostly in small groups and singles. Most of the quality and quantity was in the 8-weight yearling heifers, which were pretty consistently in the $120-125 ballpark…about $1000/head. Please note, **WE ARE ON OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE WITH NO SALE TUESDAY, JUNE 22nd. We'll be back with a Cattle, Sheep & Horse Sale on June 29th!** Please check the website for updates. Thanks for bringing your business our way!

~ Kyle Shobe

Market Report from June 15, 2021

NAME	QTY	DESC	WT	BID
Moore Livestock, Two Dot	7	BLK-HFRTT	909	$112.00
Gilpatrick Ranch, Hilger	2	BLK-HFRTT	963	$107.00
Matthew Carrocia, Big Timber	4	MXD-HFRTT	888	$106.50
Clayton Kaiser, Geyser	6	BLK-HFRTT	996	$105.50
John Williams, Lewistown	1	BLK-HFRTT	1025	$105.00
Michael Smith, Shawmut	1	BLK-COW	1340	$76.00
Sara T Campbell, Hilger	7	BLK-COW	1308	$76.00
Skyhook Cattle Co, Roundup	1	BLK-COW	1270	$76.00
Wilks Ranch, Grass Range	7	BLK-COW	1286	$75.75
Moore Livestock, Two Dot	1	BLK-COW	1245	$75.50
Bing Schmitt, Stanford	10	BLK-COW	1316	$75.50
Chip Styer, Roy	5	BLK-COW	1211	$75.25
John McCray, Geyser	6	BLK-COW	1204	$74.00
Leroy Strand Estate, Geyser	2	RED-COW	1213	$74.00
Paul Mager, Garneill	1	BLK-COW	1215	$74.00
Bing Schmitt, Stanford	3	BLK-COW	1370	$73.50
Bob Sawyer, Hilger	9	BLK-COW	1268	$73.25
John O'Reilly, Roy	1	BLK-COW	1325	$73.00
Surprise Crk Hutterian, Stanford	4	BLK-COW	1226	$72.50
Oka Springs Ranch, Judith Gap	5	BLK-COW	1267	$72.50
Ron & Tracy Finlayson Geyser	1	BLK-BULL	1950	$108.50
Dylan Kinkelaar, Winifred	1	RED-BULL	2055	$106.00
Trent Goettlich, Hilger	4	BLK-BULL	2074	$104.00
Thompson Family Trust, Geyser	1	BLK-BULL	2265	$104.00
William Annala, Geyser	1	CHAR-BULL	2060	$103.50
Bob Sawyer, Hilger	2	CHAR-BULL	2240	$103.50
Lone Creek Cattle, Lincoln	1	MXD-BULL	2085	$102.50
Carl Fowler, Lewistown	3	MX-YRLG BULL	867	$124.00
Jason J Swanz, Judith Gap	6	BLK-YRLG BULL	884	$118.00
Jake Fulbright, Coffee Creek	14	BLK-HFR	802	$125.00
Sadie Johnson, Lewistown	1	BLK-HFR	860	$120.00

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Spotlight on Moore

Moore fifth graders consider the milestone of entering junior high

By DEB HILL
News-Argus Managing Editor

The cool thing about being a fifth grader at Moore Elementary School is that it is the gateway to sixth grade, part of the school's junior high and a big step up in terms of distinction.

While fifth grade has been fun, don't be mistaken—sixth grade offers way more "perks," at least according to the students.

Landyn Zeigler and Ben Cundiff were nearly at the end of their fifth grade year when interviewed, and they were already looking forward to the improvements in their situation that sixth grade will bring.

"Fifth graders go to lunch too early," said Ben.

"It's a problem because you get hungry later," said Landyn. "In sixth grade we will eat later."

There are, however, some aspects of fifth grade both boys will miss.

"In sixth grade there's no recess," said Landyn. "Also no popcorn pillow parties."

"I'll miss playing with the younger kids," said Ben. "We play games like color tag."

Shop class seems to be a favorite for all of this past year's fifth graders, and something else the boys will miss.

"You get to build steps," Ben explained.

"And door stops," Landyn added.

Reading is something both Landyn and Ben enjoy. Currently they are interested in a series of books, Tales of Gods, that feature Greek, Roman and Norse gods, among others.

"I like reading about the gods," Landyn said, adding he wasn't sure how closely the stories in the books follow the traditional stories of those ancient deities.

"It's a good idea to bring a book to all your classes," said Ben, who touted reading as one of his favorite pastimes.

That will probably hold true in sixth grade as well, he said. Of course, being sixth graders means they will be role models for the young students.

What advice do these soon-to-be "upper classmen" have for their junior colleagues?

"Be respectful to everyone," Landyn said.

"Don't talk back to the teacher," Ben added.

You can't go wrong following either piece of good advice.



Ben Cundiff (left) and Landyn Zeigler stand outside a school room at the Moore public school in mid-May. The boys say they will miss aspects of fifth grade when they return in the fall as sixth grade junior high students.
Photo by Deb Hill

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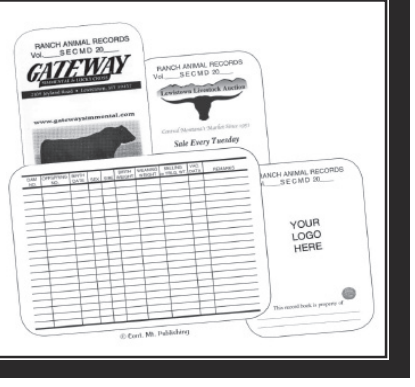
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UM students bring music education to rural schools

There are now 54 open, full-time jobs for music teachers in Montana listed on the Montana Office of Public Instruction jobs website.

The call for music educators comes from places like Fromberg, Belfry, Chester, Winnett and Box Elder, across nearly every school district, grade range and band room under the Big Sky.

Music educators are so badly needed in Montana that the Montana Rural Education Association reported that in the 2019-20 school year, 241 music positions were offered and 60 went unfilled.

"In almost every content area there's a shortage when it comes to rural schools, but the need for music educators across Montana is at a crisis level in rural and non-rural districts," said Dennis Parman, executive director of the MREA.

Parman credits wages, an increasing cost of living and licensing requirements as recruitment challenges, despite "school districts of any size wanting music programs for their students, parents and communities."

So, when a group of University of Montana music students visited the Montana State Legislature to advocate for rural music education outreach, they were funded on the spot.

"I remember the group needing very little money to meet their fundraising goals, and their presentation was just so compelling," Parman said.

The UM students proposed a program that connects rural schools with the transformative power of music called Rural Outreach And Music.

New UM School of Music alumni Rory Anderson, Skyler Genazzi, Connor Dennis and UM rising senior Alli High, all of whom are music education majors and ROAM members, packed up a sampling of wind and brass instruments last month and traveled to Alberton, Superior and Havre to visit K-12 students to share, and hopefully inspire, a love of music.

Together, the four future music teachers shared the light and airy notes of the flute, the bellowing of the sousaphone and trombone, and the melodic French horn as they played themes from popular movies, including "The Incredibles," "Frozen," "Up," "Jurassic Park" and "Monster's Inc."

"Bigger things sound lower and smaller things sound higher," instructed Genazzi, a music education major, who will teach pre-K through grade 12 general music for Alberton School District next year.

When the theme to "Harry Potter" was played, nearly every hand in the bleachers went up to guess the tune. The same for the "Imperial March" from "Star Wars." The gym's lighting fixtures began to shake as every foot in the bleachers stomped to accompany Queen's "We Will Rock You." Dennis sang a bit of Aaron Copland's "Zion's Walls" and played a sampling of Dvořák's "Largo" from Symphony No. 9, after explaining how the reed works on an oboe and why students should consider their voice as an instrument, too.



Skyler Genazzi, trumpet player and music educator, plays the trumpet for students in Alberton School as part of UM's ROAM program. Genazzi will teach general music in the school district next year, as Montana faces a crisis in filling vacant music education jobs across the state.

Photo courtesy of UM News Service

"Does anyone know what tool you need to have to play these instruments?" asked Anderson, from Missoula, who plans to teach music next year. "All you need is your own breath. That's why they're called the wind instruments; you're using your own wind," she said.

When the quartet demonstrated percussion with drumsticks on the bottom of 5-gallon buckets and showed how to remove a mouthpiece from the trumpet to sound like a bazooka, an Alberton fifth-grader asked how they "got so good at music."

"We practiced a lot," said High, a flute major at UM. "You don't get good at something unless you practice, but it was always fun for me because I met lots of friends in music and I got better little by little."

With funding support from the MREA and the Frank Foundation, ROAM is committed to delivering a sampling of music education to rural schools and students. MREA provides a rural scholars program, which offers a scholarship for student teachers to teach in one of the organization's member schools.

UM School of Music Director James Randall said the ROAM program is a great opportunity for UM music education students to give back and to share what they have learned with school districts around the state.

"For many of our students, it's also a chance to consider what teaching in a rural community would be like," he said. "So many of our students want to continue to live and work in Montana and we prepare them for the unique opportunities and challenges presented in rural school districts. ROAM offers them the opportunity to teach and learn at the same time."

Mica Clarkson, principal of Alberton School and UM education alumna, said she immediately said "yes" when ROAM offered to visit Alberton.

"Music is everything," Clarkson said. "It's creativity, history, analytical thinking and it's constructive to every part of your life," she said. "I look at music education as inspirational to every other subject. Kids need to be exposed to music."

Multiple studies have touted the profits of a music education for primary students. The benefits include an enhanced development of young minds and increased memory, focus, reasoning skills and confidence; as well as reduced anxiety and stress. Other studies have shown a direct correlation between music education and increased aptitude in math and science.

Dennis, of Great Falls, graduated last month with a double major in music education (trombone) and music performance (voice). Dennis had two job interviews during the Alberton visit, and he ran up during a break in the program to interview in the school's band room by telephone.

"It's exciting to have the job security in this field," he said. "The thing I'm most excited about is sharing my passion for music with students. I hope they'll take advantage of the music program at UM and end up where I am today. That's the goal."

EPA announces $500,000 for cleanup of contaminated brownfield sites

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is announcing $500,000 in supplemental funding to Snowy Mountain Development Corporation to clean up and redevelop contaminated brownfield properties in Central Montana.

SMDC is one of 27 awardees nationwide that has demonstrated success in using previously awarded Brownfields Revolving Loan Funding grants to clean up and redevelop brownfield sites. This investment is an important part of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to address environmental justice issues in underserved communities.

"EPA is providing supplemental funding to Snowy Mountain Development Corporation to complete more than a dozen projects that will revitalize blighted properties in central Montana communities," said Acting Regional Administrator Debra H. Thomas. "We are committed to helping central Montana communities sustain and increase the great progress they have already made to become stronger, healthier and more economically competitive."

SMDC and their Central Montana Brownfields Coalition will use the supplemental funding for cleanup loans and grants throughout 11 counties in central Montana, including Helena, Winnett, Roundup, Townsend and Lewistown. Projects include the Petroleum County Community Center in Winnett, which will serve as a community event center and senior center, the redevelopment of the Stockman Bar in Roundup for community beneficial reuse, and the expansion of an existing medical chiropractic facility in the Lewistown Annex in historic downtown Lewistown. Since 2012, the Coalition has used the Brownfields RLF to complete an impressive 39 loans and subgrants totaling over $3.4 million.

"SMDC is excited to receive the EPA Brownfields Supplemental Funding, which will allow us to strengthen our partnerships with EPA and Montana Department of Environmental Quality for the opportunity to see several important community development projects through completion," said SMDC Redevelopment Director Cathy Barta. "Cleanup and redevelopment of these properties may not have happened without the support of EPA, and SMDC is grateful to EPA for the opportunity to invest these critical funds into our local communities."

Brownfield RLF grants enable funding for communities to provide loans and sub-grants for cleanup activities at brownfield sites. When loans are repaid, the loan amount is returned into the fund and re-lent to other borrowers, providing an ongoing source of capital within a community.

To date, EPA's RLF grantees across the country have completed 794 cleanups and attracted approximately 48,000 jobs and $16.2 billion in public and private funding. The current supplemental funds will help communities keep the cleanup momentum going so that more cleanups can be completed. Each grantee will receive from $200,000 to $500,000.

Since 1995, EPA's Brownfields Program has provided nearly $1.6 billion in Brownfield Grants to assess and clean up contaminated properties and return blighted properties to productive reuse. To date, these brownfields investments have leveraged more than $34.5 billion in cleanup and redevelopment in communities across the country. Over the years, the relatively small investment of federal funding has leveraged, from both public and private sources, more than 176,800 jobs.

For more information on EPA's Revolving Loan Fund program: https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-revolving-loan-fund-rlf-grants.

For more information on EPA's Brownfields program at http://www.epa.gov/brownfields.

Governor issues Executive Order declaring disaster in five eastern counties

Governor Greg Gianforte issued an executive order Tuesday declaring a disaster in five eastern Montana counties: Dawson, Garfield, McCone, Richland, and Roosevelt.

"Recent severe thunderstorms downed power poles and lines in Eastern Montana, leaving too many residents without power. I appreciate the robust efforts the region's electric coops made to restore power to affected communities. Today's disaster declaration is a first step to help residents and electric coops in the area recover," Gianforte said. "The State of Montana is requesting federal disaster assistance on behalf of the impacted communities and the electric coops that serve them."

On June 10, a series of severe thunderstorms – with hail as large as 3 inches in diameter, recorded wind speeds of 70-90 mph, and winds up to 115 mph – caused damages to over 800 power poles and lines across the east central portion of Montana.

With the disaster declaration issued, the State of Montana will proceed with requesting federal disaster assistance on behalf of the affected counties and electric cooperatives.

'Welcome to Medicare' event coming soon

Learn about signing up for Medicare. Originally planned for April 7, this event has been moved to Wednesday, June 23.

Go to www.shiphelp.org to learn more. This virtual Medicare fair is for people turning 65 or joining Medicare because of a disability. Learn about Medicare and all its parts to assist you in your initial enrollment decisions. There is no cost to attend.

There will be national expert presenters on Medicare eligibility, enrollment, and coverage options. There will also be exhibitors from state health insurance assistance programs to answer your individual questions.



SUDOKU

The rules are simple. Fill in the grid so that every column, every row, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 only once.

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Level: Advanced

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9	2	7	4	3	8	1	5	6
6	4	9	7	5	1	8	3	2
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Local anglers reel in top spots at Fresno

By **KATHERINE SEARS** | Reporter

The Montana Walleye Circuit kicked off May 16 at Crooked Creek and teams most recently competed in the Fresno Challenge on Fresno Reservoir near Havre. Several local teams took a few of the top slots at Fresno, and Colby Tognetti of Lewistown is ranked fifth in overall individual standings so far this season.

Tognetti said he's fairly happy with his third year fishing the circuit, but knows there is still half the season to go.

"The big test is going to be next weekend at Canyon Ferry," said Tognetti. "We'll see if we can catch any fish. If we can be in the top five, then I'd be really happy."

Just behind Tognetti in the individual standings are Travis Scott and Kennie Williams, who are also partners on the circuit. They recently took seventh at Fresno with 18.88 pounds of walleye.

Other local teams competing at Fresno include Don Pyrah and Pat Slater who placed fifth overall with a total weight of 19.17 pounds. Colby Tognetti and Kyle Vine took 10th with 14.14 pounds of fish. In 11th place overall and third in the mixed couples category, Dan Peterson and Wendy Berg brought in a total weight of 16.79 pounds. Randy Snyder and Dave Snyder registered 9.2 pounds, taking the 38th slot.

Peterson said it's the first tournament the couple has fished together, but he has been fishing the circuit for five years. Although they didn't catch huge fish at Fresno, he was happy with the results.

"It was a positive experience," said Peterson. "The fish are smaller [at Fresno], they're not like at Fort Peck. You filter through a lot of 13, 14, 15-inch fish."

The top team of that tournament registered 24.76 pounds of walleye.

Many teams had a tough go at the Rock Creek tournament, which was held June 5-6 as part of the Fort Peck Circuit.



Wendy Berg presents a walleye while fishing the Montana Walleye Circuit this summer. She and Dan Peterson of Lewistown recently placed third in the mixed couples division at the Fresno Tournament, which was held near Havre last weekend.

Photo courtesy of Dan Peterson



Travis Scott of Harlowton and Kennie Williams of Lewistown pose for a smile after finishing in second place at the Rock Creek Tournament with 38.80 pounds of walleye.

Photo courtesy of Travis Scott

"The bite was horrible at Rock Creek," said Peterson.

"It was a pretty tough bite," said Kennie Williams. "I think they moved early and the numbers of fish just weren't there."

Tognetti said he only reeled in three walleye there in five days, which is uncharacteristic of his past 10 years fishing it.

"I've never seen it that bad and I don't know why," said Tognetti. "Just one of those years I guess."

It might be a tougher bite this year across the board, but anglers say it's hard to compare since last year was different in a number of ways. The Crooked Creek tournament was held in August last year, and COVID was also a factor in teams fishing.

"The biggest thing with Crooked Creek this year was getting the boats launched," said Williams.

Anglers had about two feet of water to launch boats in the Crooked Creek Marina, which was doable despite the challenge.

"Everything's down a little bit right now," said Williams. "Fresno was down about five feet from a full pool."

Anglers will be back on the water June 26-27 at Canyon Ferry and will finish the Montana Walleye Circuit out at Lake Elwell near Chester for the Tiber Tournament, held July 17-18. On the Fort Peck Circuit, the Governor's Cup will be held July 8-11 at Fork Peck and the Hell Creek Tournament will be July 24-25.

Montana Parks and Rec spending is 16th least per capita

While the travel and tourism industry took a major hit during the COVID-19 pandemic as more people elected to stay home and avoid travel, outdoor recreation has remained a bright spot.

Recent data from the Outdoor Industry Association showed a 2.4% point jump in total outdoor participation among Americans from 2019 to 2020. Outdoor activities of all types became an enticing alternative for people looking to get away from home while keeping their risk of spreading or contracting the coronavirus relatively low. The OIA data specifically estimated that 2020 saw 8.1 million more hikers, 7.9 million new campers, and 3.4 million additional freshwater fishers taking advantage of the great outdoors during COVID-19. This trend may also reflect larger shifts in people's lifestyle preferences, as COVID-19 has inspired many workers to leave dense urban areas for locations where outdoor space is more plentiful.

Interest in the outdoors is good news for state and local governments that fund parks and recreation. These governments invest in recreational sites not only for the health and leisure of their residents but also as an economic development tool. Studies have estimated that the outdoor recreation economy is responsible for more than 7 million U.S. jobs and close to $900 billion of consumer spending annually, generating roughly $60 billion in tax revenue for state and local governments.

These factors may help parks fare better when it comes to government funding than they did after the Great Recession. Following the last recession, state and local revenues were decimated nationwide, and parks and recreation became a target for budgetary cutbacks in many jurisdictions. During this time, total state and local spending on parks fell from an all-time peak of $48.5 billion in 2009 to $39.9 billion in 2013 (in inflation-adjusted 2018 dollars). Spending has resumed an upward trajectory since, but still has not returned to pre-recession heights, after adjusting for inflation.

Currently, overall spending on parks and recreation is led by states with larger populations and greater economic activity. California, Florida, New York, Illinois, and Texas are the biggest spenders, and they also represent the five largest economies and five of the top six largest populations. Per capita spending paints a different picture, as several states in the Midwest, including Illinois, North Dakota, and Minnesota, all rank among the top five in the country. Mountain states like Colorado, Nevada, and Wyoming also spend among the most per capita. For many of these leading states, investments in parks and recreation are an important tool for generating economic activity. Developing parks and recreational sites around the state's natural scenery helps bring in visitors and dollars to these states.

To find these locations, researchers at CLIQ analyzed data on state and local government finances from the U.S. Census Bureau and data on the outdoor recreation economy from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The researchers divided total parks and recreation spending in each state by the state's population to rank the states with the highest spending per capita. The research team also gathered data on outdoor recreation's economic effects, including the share of state GDP and the share of total state employment.

The analysis found that jobs in parks and recreation account for 4.5% of total employment in Montana. Each year, Montana invests about $111.4M into its parks and recreation areas, which amounts to $104 per resident. Out of all states, Montana is spending the 16th least on parks and recreation.

Here is a summary of the data for Montana:

Annual parks and recreation government spending per capita: $104

Total annual parks and recreation government spending: $111,387,000

Outdoor recreation share of state GDP: 4.7%

Outdoor recreation share of total employment: 4.5%

For reference, here are the statistics for the entire United States:

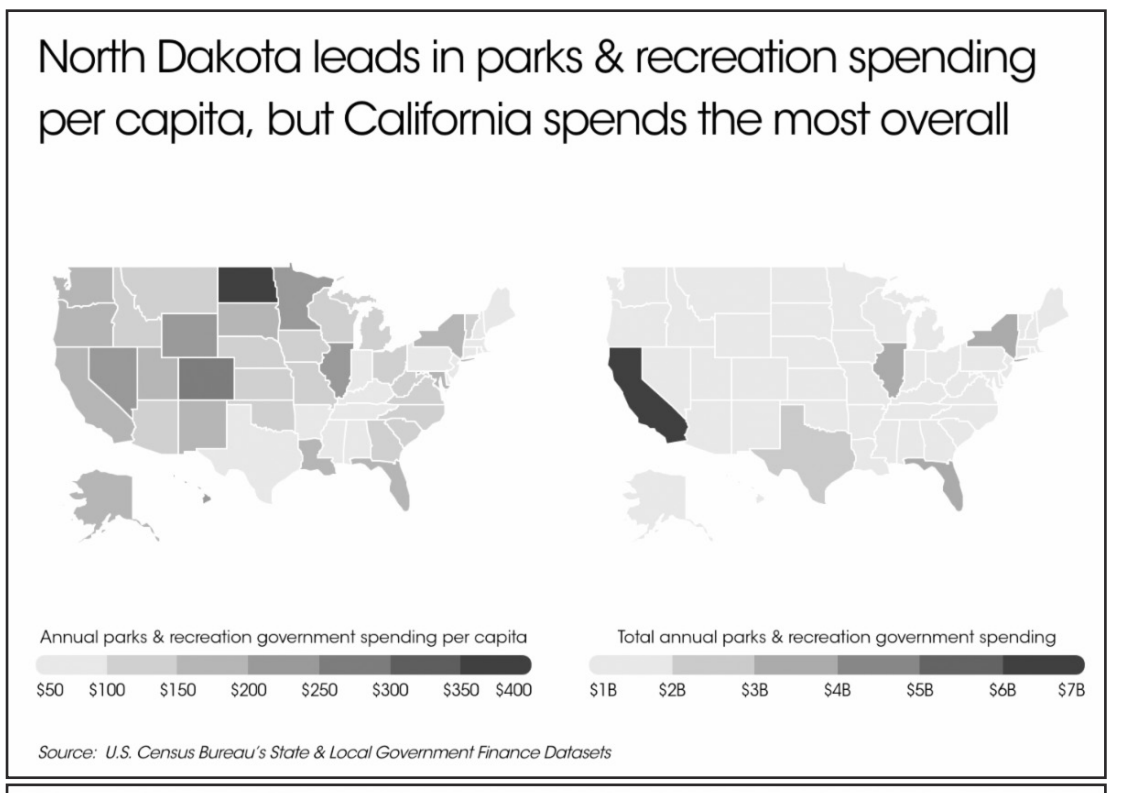
Annual parks and recreation government spending per capita: $139

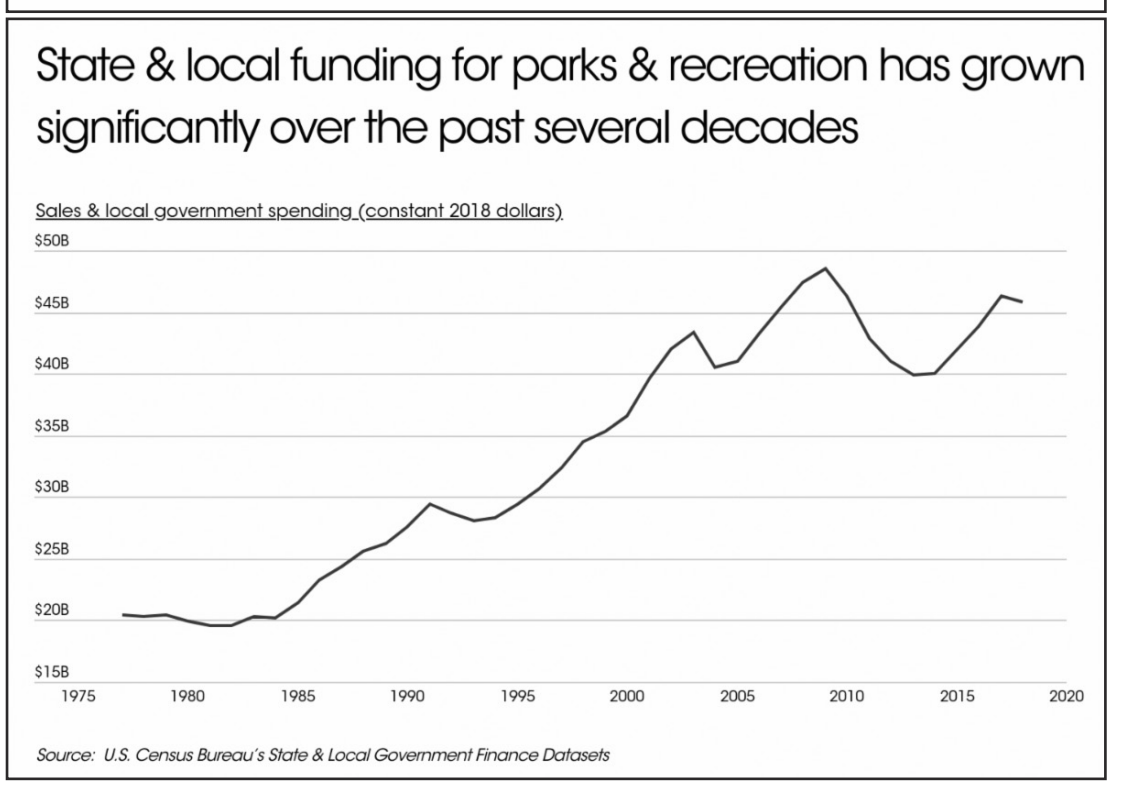
Total annual parks and recreation government spending: $45,767,313,000

Outdoor recreation share of state GDP: 2.1%

Outdoor recreation share of total employment: 2.5%

For more information, a detailed methodology, and complete results, you can find the original report on CLIQ's website: https://www.cliqproducts.com/blogs/news/states-spending-the-most-on-parks-and-recreation.





Trained at Trout



The instructor for the day camp was Montana Trout Unlimited's Bill Pfeiffer (left).
Photos courtesy of Candy Bowman



Students (above) at the Trout Unlimited fishing and conservation camp, held Sunday, June 13 at Brewery Flats show off their fishing gear. Students included Pheda Bell Trimble, Lucas Warila, Preston McGowan, Preston and Taurian Holman, Landen Williams, David Curry, Whit Brandon, and Olivia Haugen.

Students (below) learned about aquatic ecosystems and spent time in Spring Creek looking for invertebrates that provide food for trout. They also learned about fish ecology, the importance of clean water and watersheds, and fishing tips.



Montana osprey population on the increase

Wildlife management success story includes some conflict

The recovery of the osprey population, a raptor that returns from the south each spring to the western two thirds of Montana, is a success story that began almost 50 years ago when a widely used pesticide, DDT, was banned.

But this wildlife management success story comes with some conflict. Younger osprey in search of nesting sites to breed and hatch eggs will build nests on power poles, causing outages and putting the birds at risk of electrocution.

NorthWestern Energy crews were in Augusta in early June to install raptor nest deterrents on power poles, along with a nesting platform to encourage osprey to choose a safe nesting site.

"We don't know if historically osprey had been in the Augusta area or not, if the species is colonizing a new area in Montana or recolonizing," said NorthWestern Energy Biologist Marco Restani.

The new, or perhaps returning, Augusta-area winged residents built a nest on a power pole this spring just outside the substation serving the community. The nest caused a fire on the pole and falling nest debris damaged equipment and caused a power outage.

Osprey build nests by dropping sticks to their chosen site while in flight.

"Traditionally, they look for dead trees, snags, with the tops broken off for a nesting place," said Restani. "Power poles, especially those with cross arms, are often the choice of younger osprey looking to establish a new nesting site. It is dangerous for the birds and it is damaging to NorthWestern Energy's system."

Deterrents are PVC pipes that are secured above power poles' cross arms. When osprey drop sticks in flight on a power pole, the PVC pipe prevents them from hitting their target and the sticks fall to the ground. Five are now installed in the Augusta area, along with a raptor-nesting platform to encourage the birds to nest in the safe location.

NorthWestern Energy relies on customer reports of osprey or other raptors beginning to build nests on power poles and other equipment to proactively remove the sticks before nests are complete and eggs are laid.

"The public has been extremely helpful with this effort," Restani said.

Another threat to osprey, ravens and other avian species also requires action by the public. Unsecured baling twine picked up by birds and used in their nests has devastating, deadly consequences. The birds can get tangled in the twine and cannot escape.

This spring the male of a pair of osprey that nested on a platform near Whitehall died after its talons caught in part of a coil of baling twine the birds had picked up and used in their nest.

"It's really distressing to have this result," Restani said. "The crew called to remove the dead male said the female had abandoned the nest, which did have a couple of eggs in it."

Baling twine should be secured in a covered container and disposed of properly to prevent osprey or other birds from picking it up to use in nests.

The Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society has a Twine Collection and Recycling Site in the Laurel area. For more information on the project, go to https://yvaudubon.org/baling-twine-recycling/.





Demo derby returns to the Central Montana Fair

By MATTHEW STRISSEL
Sports Editor

After taking last year off due to COVID, the demolition derby at the Central Montana Fair is back on. The date is set for Saturday, July 31 at 6 p.m.

Tech check in will be from noon to 4 p.m., with the driver's meeting at 5 p.m. The Parade of Cars and national anthem will begin at 6 p.m.

This year brings back the annual Barrel Brawl – ATV barrel racing – for the second time. Four wheelers, motorcycles and side-by-sides will compete in races. Between heats of the demo derby, contestants will get a practice run for round one. In round two the contestants will be timed, with the fastest six and crowd favorite moving on. Round three will be the final run, with the fastest time winning. There is an entry fee, with CMDC contributing to the winning payout. There must be a minimum of six riders. If interested in competing, contact Dylan Kelly at 366-5161 to pre-register.

For the demolition derby, the entry fee is $50 per car, which includes the driver and two pit passes. No additional pit passes will be available, and no one under the age of 16 will be allowed in the pits for any reason.

All cars will be impounded after inspection and drivers will not be allowed to work on their car while it is impounded. Drivers should be ready to run before tech in.

During each heat, drivers must make a hit, under power, at least once every two minutes. Whether active, stalled or stuck, drivers have two minutes. Sandbagging or teaming is not allowed. If the last two cars in the championship heat are stuck, they may be pulled apart and restart the heat.

As a staple of the Central Montana Fair for many years, derby drivers are ready to get back in the action for a carnage-fueled Saturday night.



Three drivers in the 2019 demolition derby at the Central Montana Fair run into each other at the same time in front of the crowd.

Photos by Matthew Strissel



A bumper lies on the ground in the midst of the chaos of the demolition derby from two years ago.



Two drivers with red flags showing they are still active in the demolition derby try to knock each other out of the competition.

Sports Calendar

(subject to change)

Saturday, June 19

- Redbirds A at Gjerde tournament vs. Mead Panthers, 6 p.m.; vs. Bitterroot Bucks, 8:30 p.m.
- Redbirds B at Bozeman Bucks, 1 p.m.
- Sea Lions swim meet in Glasgow, all day.
- BGM races at the Fergus County Fairgrounds, 6 p.m.
- Lewistown Soccer Club U19, U16 and U14 at the Classic Cup in Livingston. U19 vs. Miles City, 8 a.m. and vs. Red Lodge, 4 p.m.; U16 vs. Frenchtown, 10 a.m. and vs. Sidney, 4 p.m.; U14 vs. Kootenai, noon, and vs. Miles City, 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 20

- Redbirds A at Gjerde tournament, position/time TBD.
- Redbirds B at Sheridan Troopers, 1 p.m.

Monday, June 21

- Big Spring wrestling camp for Force 10 wrestling at Fergus High School begins, all day.

Tuesday, June 22

- Redbirds A at Great Falls Chargers, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 24

- Redbirds A at tournament in Miles City begins, all day.

Friday, June 25

- Redbirds B at home tournament begins, all day.

Charity Golf Classic set for June 25, 26

By FRANK THOMPSON

The 17th annual Lewistown Charity Golf Classic had Kinsey Irvin of Lewistown at three and Sean Benson of Billings at two. Fathers Scott and Peter began the long and arduous journey to provide proficiency and reward for their children in golf, including mental, emotional and life rewards.

Golf was hard and frustrating, yet most times fun. Irvin is entering her fourth and final year at MSU-Billings. She received golf and scholastic scholarships, success on the golf team, plus a GPA of 4.0 will serve her well in her post graduate education in clinical psychology.

Benson earned both scholastic and golf scholarships at Montana Tech and finished in four years with a GPA of 3.8 and a degree in mechanical engineering. He led and reestablished the golf team to



national contention, including an individual Frontier Conference championship.

Each sports figure with the tournament can trace the same path, with many achieving success on national sports teams, such as the Ron Heller of the NFL, Greg Smith of the NHL and Murray Brunwell. Some started late in life. Ken Sipes retired from IBM and worked tirelessly. Ken Sipes achieved PGA pro status and golf pro stints at Lewistown, Red Lodge and Highlands. Shaking his head, the Yellowstone Golf Pro said, "I have never seen anyone hit so many practice balls."

This year's other sport figures include Dudley Beard, a PGA pro; Scott Breen, a Billings sports commentator; Casey Conlon, a sports reporter; Rick Fuzesy a golf teaching pro; Renzi Lee-Lakehills, a golf pro; Wayne Little from the Golf Mini Tour; Bill Mitchell a golf teaching pro; and Keithon Walter of Pine Meadows Golf. We thank them for their donated time.

The Charity Golf Tourney will surpass $200,000 in charitable giving in its 17th year , with local youth sports receiving the benefits.We could not operate without the tremendous support from local businesses. This year's event will be held on June 25 and 26. Inquiries can be directed to Keithon Walter at 538-7075.

Civic Center Calendar

(may be subject to change)

June 21 – June 27

OPEN GYMS:	
Monday	8:30–noon, 1:15–6:50 p.m.
Tuesday	8:30–noon, 1:15–6:50 p.m.
Wednesday	8:30–noon, 1:15–6:50 p.m.
Thursday	8:30–noon, 1:15–6:50 p.m.
Friday	8:30–noon, 1:15–6:50 p.m.
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed
Pickleball	Mon.–Fri., 8:30–10:30 a.m. (if bad weather)
Farm in the Dell	Mon. 6 p.m.
HEMA	Wed., 6–7:50 p.m.
Noon Rec.	Mon.–Fri., noon–1 p.m.
Walk and Jog	Mon.–Fri., 7–8:30 a.m.
Pilates	Mon. noon, Tues.–Thurs., 5:30 p.m.
Strong Women	Tues., Thurs. noon–1 p.m.

The Farmer's Market will be starting soon at Symmes Park.

Swimming pool weekend hours for open swim will be 1–6 p.m. Pool phone number for any questions is 535-4503.

Enjoy your summer, get out and recreate!





On this day in sports history

1846: First officially recognized baseball game, played by Cartwright Rules. New York Nines defeat Knickerbockers, 23-1, at Hoboken, New Jersey.

1922: Paavo "Flying Finn" Nurmi runs a world record 5,000-meter run in 14:28.2.

1936: German boxer Max Schmeling KOs up-and-coming American heavyweight Joe Louis in 12 rounds at Yankee Stadium.

1943: NFL's Philadelphia Eagles and Pittsburgh Steelers merge to one team, then dissolves on Dec. 5.

1946: The first televised sports/boxing spectacular. Joe Louis KOs Billy Conn.

1999: In the Stanley Cup final, the Dallas Stars defeat the Buffalo Sabres, 2-1, in triple overtime for a 4-2 series win. Brett Hull clinches the series with the infamous "no goal" ruling.

2000: In the NBA finals, the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Indiana Pacers, 116-111, in game six to win the franchise's first championship in 12 years.

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Looking for a new home or property in Central Montana?
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Farm Land

830 ACRES OF FARM LAND - Located 16 miles NE of Denton on the Everson Road, this area is known for its excellent soils and productivity. Wildlife and hunting are prevalent with big game and birds taking advantage of the late season forage from both wheat fields and the native rangeland. *Call Keith!* ..**$1,498,000**

435+/- ACRES ON SALT CREEK ROAD - Located 18 miles NW of Hilger on Salt Creek Road, this great parcel offers some gentle rolling terrain including 391+/- tillable acres (127+/- in alfalfa mix) and 43.8 acres in grass. Accessible by county road. No improvements, no perimeter fence, no current water wells and all mineral rights are included in the sale. *Call Jayson!* **$696,000**

Vacant Land - Building Opportunities

MAIDEN CANYON ACREAGE - 78+/- acres in the Judith Hills borders BLM, providing access to hunters, horseback & hikers to public land. Mule Deer & elk frequent the property. *Call Kathy!*.....**$306,000** PENDING

7.67 AC JUST OUTSIDE LEWISTOWN - Just 2 miles from town, property offers multiple building sites. Quiet with great mtn views. *Call Dave!*.....**$57,500**

HANOVER JUNCTION COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT - Power, telephone and natural gas available. 4 lots available! *Call Dave!*.....**Starting at $53,500**

MEADOWBROOK SUBDIVISION - Electricity and telephone in place. Seller financing available. 3 lots available! *Call Kathy!*.....**Starting at $68,500**

WHISPERING RIDGE SUBDIVISION - Electricity, natural gas and telephone available. Mountain views. 15 lots available! *Call Kathy!*.....**Starting at $53,500**

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2160 RED HILL RD - $425,000 - Location is everything! Check out this country home 14 miles from Lewistown. 3 bedroom/2 bathroom 1995 double wide with a 16' x 20' addition boasting an amazing wood stove. There is a 40' x 112' x 19' shop with a 15' x 20' door, an Amish-built storage shed, and 2-car carport on approximately 14 acres. The beautiful Snowy Mountains are out your front door and East Fork Reservoir is viewed from the back. Take your paddle boards, kayaks, and fishing poles to the reservoir or view plenty of wildlife from your home, such as bear, deer, elk, and moose. Roof, siding, windows, and some flooring were replaced in 2020.





602 7th Ave N - $179,900 - This is your opportunity to own and finish renovating this craftsman style home. Prepare meals in the updated kitchen and serve them in the beautiful dining room. Relax in the living room in front of the fireplace or out on the open front porch. There are 3 bedrooms upstairs with a full bath. Large rec room in the basement, along with new heat, pex plumbing, and hot water heater.



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Cheri Pallett, Realtor ®/Transaction Coordinator
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Vacant Land

*__112 FIRST AVE N–__ 9,000 sq ft commercial lot, busy downtown intersection, great visibility. **PRICE REDUCED TO $149,000.** Call Joe.

*__CASINO CREEK HIGHLANDS -__ 2 lots, public water & sewer, paved, beautiful mountain views. **$39,000** each. Call Joe.

*__BIG SKY LN–__ Beautiful views, build your dream home on top of the hill overlooking Lewistown Valley. 6.5 acres. **$57,000.** Call Kylie.

*__CASTLE RIDGE SUB-__ Four lots available, city water, septic needed, natural gas & electricity at sites, 1+ acre lot sizes. **$49,000+.** Call Joe.

*__5+ ACRES MEADOWLARK LN–__ Close to town, stellar home site, distant mountain views. **$49,900.** Call Larry.

*__STONEWOOD FARMS–__ 2+ acre lots, 3 available, city water & sewer, paved roads. **$49,000+.** Call Joe.

*__PAR 5 LOT-__ 3+ acres, next to golf course, timber covered, covenants & restrictions apply. **$79,000.** Call Joe.

*__12 ACRES TIMBER TRACTS RD-__ Private, timbered, has a couple of excellent building sites. **$89,000.** Call Joe.

*__EAGLE RIDGE ESTATES-__ 10+ acre lots, near East Fork, mtn views, covenants & restrictions apply. **$103,800+** Call Joe.

Residential

*__209 W EVELYN ST–__ Single level 3 bdrm home, updated kitchen and bath, master bedroom and bath, fenced in yard with mother in law quarters. **$249,000.** Call Joe.

*__FOUNTAIN TERRACE #409–__ 2 bdrm 1 bath condo, bedrooms are la[SALE PENDING] water, garbage, exterior included in HOA fee. **PRICE REDUCED TO $150,000.** Call Anita.

*__104 FLUORITE–__ Nice 2 bdrm, 2 bath home, open concept, many updates, full finished basement, sprinkler system. **$329,000.** Call Joe.

*__401 7TH AVE S #103-__ 2 bedroom, 1 bath Condo, large windows, side by side laundry, nice kitchen, updated paint, close to front door. **$199,000.** Call Joe.

*__779 AIRPORT RD–__ Tiny house, 216 sq ft, built 2018, sleeps 5, no real estate. **$42,000.** Call Joe.

*__921 TRUCK BYPASS–__ ZONED COMMERCIAL!! Well maintained 3 bdrm home, 1 car garage, new water line, meter. **$175,000.** Call Kylie.

*__320 W BLVD–__ 3 bdrm, 1 bath historic [SALE PENDING] se to down[SALE PENDING] fenced yard. **$115,000.** Call Kylie.

*__1589 GOLDEN EAGLE–__ Not built yet, 5 bdrm, 3 bath home, 2 car garage, 10,000 sq ft lot. **$349,000.** Call Joe.

*__1588 GOLDEN EAGLE–__ Not built yet, 3 bdrm, 2 bath home, 2 car garage, 10,000 sq ft lot. **$319,000.** Call Joe.

*__808 W JANEAUX–__ 3 bdrm, 1 ½ bath home, corner lot, close to downtown, **$149,000.** Call Joe.

Homes with Acreage

*__77187 US HWY 87–__ No restrictions, 9+ Acres, 5 bdrm [SALE PENDING], 2 car garag[SALE PENDING] fenced in pasture, close to town. **$329,000.** Call Joe.

Commercial

*__523 W MAIN ST–__ Excellent income opportunity, car wash with 6 bays, main street office space – rented $600 per month, water softener salt storage. **$239,000.** Call Joe.

*__510-516 W PINE S-__ COMPLETELY UPDATED DUPLEX UNITS!! Each unit ha[SALE PENDING] oversized, insulated garage comes with each unit, 4 total units. **$1,200,000.** Call Kylie.

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Joe Irish, Broker/Owner, 350-3006, Anita Songer, Broker, 350-0686
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Current Listings

__15+ ACRE BUILDING LOT-__ 10 MILES EAST OF LEWISTOWN WITH [SOLD] ACCESS AND BORDERS 640 ACRES OF STATE LAND. **$90,000** – CALL TOM

__2 LARGE SHOP BUILDINGS IN THE LEWISTOWN HEIGHTS:__ BOTH ARE 32[SALE PENDING] IS AN EXTRA LOT THAT GOE[SALE PENDING] THEM. CAN BE PURCHASED SEPARATELY. **$250,000 FOR THE PACKAGE.** CALL TOM

__FOUNTAIN TERRACE CONDO-__ 1 bedroom unit overlooking the city[SALE PENDING] ready. **$120,000** Call [SALE PENDING]

__NEW- 607 4TH AVE S -__ 3 bed home with updated kitchen and ni[SALE PENDING] Listed by Meghan

__424 W BOULEVARD-__ 4 bed 2 bath updated throughout with great features inside and out. Detached garage, fenced yard, gazebo and more. List price **$274,000** listing agent Meghan Brandon

__109 3RD ST NE, MOORE MT-__ This 3 bed 2 bath single-wide is on a [SALE PENDING] the lovely town of Moore MT. Selling AS- IS for just **$39,900** call Meghan

__1019 4TH AVE. SOUTH-__ Well-maintained 2 bedroom home on a cor[SALE PENDING]ment and a single car, attached, garage. **$150,000.** Call Tom for an appointment.

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BOHEMIAN CORNER- Convenience store, gas pumps, and some restaurant equipment with lots of potential. Includes furniture, fixtures & equipment. **PRICE REDUCED TO $129,000.** Call Rick to set up an appointment.

SHOP AND/OR RETAIL SPACE- This 3 bay shop building is in an excellent location on the Truck By Pass. Currently used as retail and office space. Many possibilities. Includes a separate 768 sq ft warehouse building with concrete floor. The large lot accommodates off-street parking. **1009 4th Ave North. $250,000.** Call Rick.

HISTORIC AUTO DEALERSHIP BUILDING with 16,500 sq ft of shop/office/retail space on main floor and 13,500 sq ft of shop/support area in basement. Both floors are accessible by automobiles. Excellent location close to downtown with numerous possibilities. **$600,000.** An additional 20,000 sq ft paved parking area is available across the street for another $125,000. Call Rick at 350-5162 for details.

RICK DYCK, BROKER/OWNER
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CONDOMINIUMS

LEWISTOWN'S PREMIER CONDO- Large kitchen and dining area, 2 1/2 baths, 2 bedrooms, office, craft room, living room with gas fireplace, laundry room, storage room, and mechanical room. Hickory hardwood floors, knotty alder cabinets and trim, new anderson windows, built in waterfall, private deck and shared patio. Many other amenities including its own hot water boiler for heat and hot water, air conditioning, water softener and central vacuum. Also includes large private storage area, and 2 1/2 car insulated garage. **$379,000.** Call Rick today, must see to appreciate.

ACREAGES

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME when you retire in Lewistown, MT. Fabulous tracts from 2.6 to 4.5 acres with excellent views bordering Pine Meadows Golf Course. Underground power, telephone & natural gas to each lot. **$70,000+.** Call Rick for details.

SECLUDED MOUNTAIN PARADISE surrounded by BLM land on all sides. 626 deeded acres **in the Judith Mountains** with Whisky Creek meandering through the property. Includes an off grid cabin built in 1998 with coped englemann spruce logs on a concrete foundation with 1320 sq ft on main floor and a 540 sq ft loft. Excellent hunting property. Legal but limited access on a 2 track trail. **$1,500,000.**

LOOK YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!
LEWISTOWN NEWS-ARGUS
CALL 535-3401 TODAY!!!

★ Help Wanted

★ Help Wanted

★ Announcements

OPEN AGAIN- THE TARP AND CANVAS Shop, Monday- Friday, 8:30a.m. till Tee Time, 406-350-0949.

★ Announcements

THE CENTRAL MONTANA SHUTTLE PROVIDES RIDES to Billings EVERY Tuesday and Great Falls every Thursday. WE HAVE LOWERED OUR ROUND-TRIP PRICES TO $30.00. We will get you there on time and stay until you are ready. Origin to destination service. EVERYONE is welcome and encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful service. The shuttle is equipped to serve the needs of the elderly, semi-ambulatory, wheelchair confined, and transit dependent public. The shuttle also provides rides in town Monday through Friday 7am to 5pm. Please call 24 hours in advance 406-535-7486 for more information and to book your seat.

★ Lost & Found

FOUND KEY FOB WITH HOUSE KEY on Spring Street. Call 406-535-3401 or stop by 521 W Main to identify.

LOST- WIRE RIM GLASSES ON walking trails early Wednesday morning. 701-770-9540.

★ Help Wanted

CENTRAL MONTANA HEALTH DISTRICT HAS A permanent, exempt/ non-exempt, full time or part-time opening for a Public Health Emergency Response Deputy. Starting wage is $17-$20/ hour DOE. County benefits included. Please apply at Lewistown Job Service, email assistant@co.fergus.mt.us or call (406)535-5119.

★ Help Wanted

AIDE POSITION AVAILABLE AT AYERS ELEMENTARY School 3 hours per school day. $14.00 per hour. Letter of application, resume, and three letter of recommendation required. The successful candidate must consent to and pass a fingerprint criminal background check. Position open until filled.
Send applications to Rhonda Long, Fergus Co. Supt. of Schools, 712 W Main, Suite 104, Lewistown, MT 59457. Telephone 535-3136.

CARPENTERS, ROOFERS, LABORERS WANTED FOR residential new home construction, remodeling and roofing. $15- 50 per hour. Retirement and health benefits available. 406-366-1531.

CASE MANAGEMENT
The Mental Health Center is recruiting for a part-time case manager to work in the Lewistown office providing case management services for individuals with mental illness. Prefer Bachelor's degree in a human services field with at least one year of full-time experience in a mental health setting. Requires excellent verbal and written communication skills, with ability to do detailed paperwork utilizing an electronic medical record system. Must have a valid driver's license and a working knowledge of community services.
To apply, please go to our website at www.mhcbillings.org and click on "Careers". The application form must be completed in its entirety for consideration. There is also an "Invitation to Self Identify Form". Address application materials to:
Human Resources, Mental Health Center, P.O. Box 219, Billings, MT 59103

EDDIES CORNER IS NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS for a part-time/ full-time server. Eddies Corner pays a competitive, merit-based wage. Please call Joe at 406-350-2423 to inquire about this position.

ELEMENTARY TEACHING POSITION. Ayers Elementary School Teacher for Grades K-7 approximately 7 students or the 2021-2022 school year. Salary $30,000 with a $1000 signing bonus. Letter of application/ resume/ placement file/ transcript/ copy of current Montana Teachers License are required and three letters of recommendation. The successful candidate must consent to and pass a fingerprint criminal background check. Please send to Rhonda Long, Fergus County Superintendent of Schools, 712 West Main Street, Suite 104, Lewistown, MT 59457. Telephone: 406-535-3136. Fax: 406-535-2819. Open until filled.

LBM PIZZA HAS OPENINGS FOR ALL SHIFTS. Apply in person at 630 NE Main Street between 9- 11 or 2- 4.

★ Help Wanted

HOUSEKEEPER
The Calvert Hotel has an immediate opening for a Housekeeper. This position is part-time, 25- 30 hours a week. Must be able to work some weekends. Shifts are usually 4- 6 hours and are in the morning starting at 8:30 am.
Job consists of cleaning hotel rooms according to specific standards. We pride ourselves on our cleanliness and our customer service. Work with head housekeeper in stocking housekeeping supplies, stripping rooms, and delivering clean linen and amenities to guest rooms. Other tasks may be assigned including the tending of laundry machines on three floors– cleaning and drying sheets, blankets, pillow cases, towels, and robes. Sort, fold and stock clean linen according to procedure.
Skills required: Have a pleasant demeanor, a neat appearance (a uniform will be provided), and ability to get along with guests and co-workers. Must be timely and dependable. Job requires constant standing, walking, bending, lifting (30 pounds or more), carrying, stretching, moving and climbing stairs. Applicants must be capable of working independently without constant supervision and guidance. Training is of course provided.
Pay is $13/ hour. Please call 406-535-5411 with questions. To apply, send or drop off a resume with references to The Calvert Hotel, 216 7th Avenue South, Lewistown, MT 59457.

EXTENSION AGENT, AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES and 4-H/ Youth Development, Fergus County, full time, Lewistown, MT. Will provide leadership and educational programming in agriculture and natural resources management, along with 4-H/ youth development and community and economic development. Bachelor's degree required. For complete information and application procedures, www.msuextension.org, click on "Careers." Screening begins July 16, 2021. Equal opportunity employer, veterans/ disabled.

FERGUS COUNTY HAS A SHORT-TERM, full-time opening for an Office Clerk in the Fair Office. Starting Wage $13.00-$16.00/ hr DOE. Details and application at Lewistown Job Service, or email assistant@co.fergus.mt.us, or call (406)535-5119.

FERGUS COUNTY HAS A SHORT-TERM, full-time opening for Groundskeeper/ Maintenance/ Custodian in the Facilities Department. Starting Wage $13.00- $16.00/ hr DOE. Details and application at Lewistown Job Service, or email assistant@co.fergus.mt.us, or call (406)535-5119.

R.S.D. Inc./Snowy Mountain Industries is hiring:

R.S.D. Inc. proudly provides services to people with disabilities in Billings, Hardin, Lewistown and Red Lodge. The mission of R.S.D. Inc. is to encourage, support and assist each person with disabilities whom we serve to make choices in his/her life and expand his/her opportunities for growth and personal development.

-MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
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To apply contact Shari at 132 Wunderlin Lewistown, MT 59457, or call 406-538-5130. Positions open until filled. RSD, Inc. is an EOE, providing reasonable accommodations as needed, and a drug free workplace.

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▲ **LAB**
MLS/MLT Generalist, Full-time
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▲ **MED/SURG**
Ward Clerk/CNA openings, Full-time- $1,500 sign on bonus

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▲ **REHAB SERVICES**
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▲ **SURGICAL SERVICES/OR**
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- ❒ **NURSE AIDE NIGHT SHIFT SUPERVISOR- 16.56 -19.87/hr**
  - 1 Full-time + differential + benefits
- ❒ **PHYSICIAN ROUNDING NURSE- 31.50 to 34.85/hr**
  - 1 Full-time + benefits
- ❒ **FOOD SERVICE - 11.00/hr**
  - 1 Part-time + benefits
- ❒ **CERTIFIED NURSE AIDE - 14.50/hr**
  - Full-time and part-time, variable shifts available. Must be certified in the State of Montana
- ❒ **LAUNDRY – 10.95/hr**
  - 1 Part-time, plus benefits
- ❒ **CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY SPECIALIST 27.84 to 33.41/hr**
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These positions include benefits, such as: vacation pay, sick leave, paid holidays and INCREDIBLE EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS: HEALTH INSURANCE & RETIREMENT PACKAGE

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★ Help Wanted

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For details visit Job Service or Http://statecareers.mt.gov/

American Welding & Gas, Inc. has an immediate opening for a Part-Time Counter Representative in our Lewistown, MT location.

This position has the primary responsibility of assisting customers with purchasing and ordering products focusing on gases and welding/industrial supplies. Duties will also include maintaining hardgoods, receiving and inventory control.

American Welding & Gas is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action employer and will consider all qualified applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, protected veteran status, or disability status.



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★ Help Wanted

FERGUS COUNTY IS HIRING A ROAD CREW MEMBER. This position is full-time, permanent, year-round and requires a CDL (or the ability to obtain a CDL). Starting wage is $16.00/ hour with full County benefits included. Please apply at Lewistown Job Service or email assistant@co.fergus.mt.us or call (406)535-3126.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR - HAIRDRESSER AT MMHNCC. 1 day/ week. This position would be ideal for someone who is retired and would like a little extra income or only wants to work one day/ week. Call Lori at 406-535-6935.

INTERNAL MEDICINE PHYSICIAN: CMMC, a Lewistown, MT based hospital is seeking an internal medicine physician. Responsibilities include: Diagnose and treat diseases and injuries of the human internal organ systems; examine patients for symptoms of organic or congenital disorders and determine nature and extent of injury or disorder, referring to diagnostic images and tests, and using medical instruments and equipment; prescribe medication and recommend dietary and activity program, as indicated by diagnosis; refer patients to medical specialist when indicated.
Minimum Requirements: Graduate of medical school, successful completion of a residency in internal medicine. Presently licensed or eligible in the State of Montana and board certified in internal medicine or able to obtain within one year.
Respondents must be presently eligible for permanent employment in the United States.
Qualified applicants, mail resumes to: Central Montana Medical Center, 408 Wendell Avenue, Lewistown, MT 59457, Attn: Torie Poser

THE LEWISTOWN NEWS-ARGUS HAS AN IMMEDIATE opening for a part-time Circulation position, approximately 30 hrs/ week.
The successful candidate should have good customer service and communication skills and enjoy working with the public.
Primary duties of the position include working with customers on their subscriptions, keeping accounts updated, developing circulation promotions,
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Please stop by the News-Argus at 521 W. Main Street to apply.
For more information, contact Jacques Rutten at 535-3401 or publisher@lewistownnews.com.

RECONDITIONING TECHNICIAN (DETAILER) AT CENTRAL CITY Auto West. Full-time and part-time $9- 12 per hour DOE. Call 406-538-9426 for more info or stop by at 63 W. Frontage Rd, Lewistown.

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★ Help Wanted

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 fundraisers, raffles, events, including give demos of our fundraising site. They will also 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 and fundraiser support.
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www.eventgroove.com
Please email bperry@eventgroove.com for an application or with any questions.

WINNETT PUBLIC SCHOOL IS LOOKING FOR a 1.0 FTE elementary teacher for the 21-22 school year. This teacher will move between classrooms and may include some art, library, and in-classroom support. The successful candidate(s) must have proof of licensure or ability to obtain, and pass a fingerprint background check.
Please send letter of interest and resume to Superintendent Lindsey Wilkerson, PO Box 167, Winnett, MT 59087 or email wilkerson@winnettschool.org.

THE HOBSON SCHOOL IS TAKING APPLICATIONS for a 5th Grade Teacher. Please contact the Hobson School Office at 423-5483 for more information and an application.

★ Help Wanted

THE HOBSON SCHOOL IS TAKING APPLICATIONS for assistant cook. Position will begin August 23. Please contact the Hobson Office at 406-423-5483 for an application.

WINIFRED SCHOOL DISTRICT #115 HAS AN OPENING FOR:
Elementary Teacher and Paraprofessional. Housing Available, and Health Insurance.
OPEN UNTIL FILLED
PLEASE CONTACT SUPERINTENDENT CHAD FORDYCE AT 406-462-5420.

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★ Rentals

MOBILE HOME SPACES FOR RENT. Lot rent $262/ month, 3 free months with a move in. Please call Mountain Acres Mobile Home Park Office. 406-538-7591.

QUALITY, AFFORDABLE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL UNITS. 1 bedrooms available starting at $375/ month. King Rentals (formally K&S Rentals) serving Lewistown for 37 years. Call 406-350-1617.

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★ Homes for Rent

2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, SINGLE-WIDE TRAILER- $600/ month, $600 deposit, water and garbage included. Application required. 406-538-9426.

★ Lots & Acreage

(3) 5.26 ACRE MOUNTAIN VIEW LOTS for sale. Already septic approved. Located just south of the Elks club on Fawn Dr. 406-380-0005.

★ Office/Storage

10X10 STORAGE UNITS FOR RENT, 406-538-9631.

3K STORAGE HAS UNITS AVAILABLE. 406-535-3330.

★ Office/Storage

GROUND FLOOR OFFICE SUITE FOR RENT- Two large private offices and a conference room/ work room. Private entry- Janeaux St. Call 406-350-0622.

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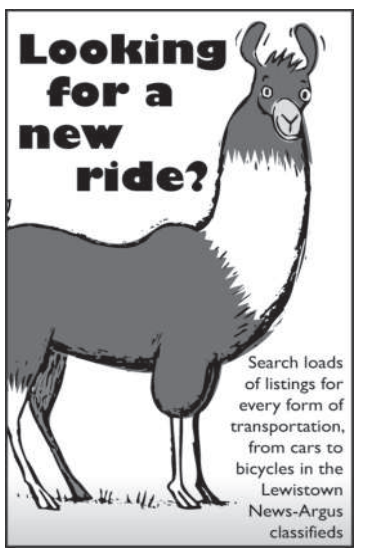
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Judge: Jon A. Oldenburg

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named Estate. All persons having claims against the said Deceased are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must either be mailed to Mary Sue Long, the Personal Representative, return receipt requested, at Towe, Ball, Mackey, Sommerfeld & Turner, P.O. Box 30457, Billings, Montana 59107 or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court.

DATED this 26th day of April, 2021.

/s/ Mary Sue Long, MARY SUE LONG
TOWE, BALL, MACKEY, SOMMERFELD & TURNER, PLLP
By: /s/ Jeff A. Turner, JEFF A. TURNER, ESQ.
(Publish: June 12, 19 & 26, 2021)
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MSU announces partnership with Simms for new line of fishing apparel

Under a new licensing agreement for the Trout U brand, the MSU Bookstore will begin offering Simms apparel.

Known as Trout U for its proximity to premier angling and its leadership in fisheries research and education, Montana State University has now teamed up with fly fishing industry leader Simms to offer a new line of apparel.

Under a licensing agreement for the Trout U brand, which MSU trademarked in 2007 to represent the multifaceted ways the native fish is integrated into university life, Bozeman-based Simms will begin making Trout U hats and shirts, including products made of the company's performance Bugstopper and Solarflex fabrics.

"Students come from all around the country to fish our Blue Ribbon rivers and conduct hands-on fisheries research," said Julie Kipfer, MSU's director of marketing. "This partnership with Simms is one more way that MSU students and their families can connect with that experience while showing their Montana State pride."

In recent years, MSU students with majors ranging from ecology to engineering have worked with faculty to study fish behavior, map streambeds and design fish-passage structures, all with an aim of improving native fish habitat on iconic rivers such as the Big Hole and Yellowstone. MSU has a history of working with agencies such as Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks on fisheries issues such as whirling disease management. And the MSU Library is home to the Trout and Salmonid Collection, part of an MSU effort to create the world's largest and most comprehensive research center for trout-related information.

Simms, which relocated to the Bozeman area in 1993, developed a reputation for high-quality, innovative products after developing the first-ever breathable waders, which it still makes at its Bozeman facility. The company designs and manufactures a variety of fly-fishing products and has more than 180 employees.

"Simms is very excited about our partnership with MSU on Trout U. This partnership gives us an opportunity to deepen our roots with MSU community members who are passionate about angling and our home waters," said Trevor Walz, sales manager at Simms. "Our local waters are vital, not only to our business and the local economy but also to the health and well-being of thousands upon thousands who utilize the incredible resources we are so fortunate to have in our own backyard."

The Simms Trout U products will be sold at the MSU Bookstore. Like other MSU-branded merchandise, sales of these products generate royalties for MSU. According to Kipfer, MSU hopes to expand distribution to other retail outlets in the future.

"We're always looking for ways to strategically partner with local manufacturers to bring in products whose sales can help lower the cost of course materials for MSU students," said Chad Schreier, MSU Bookstore CEO. "This is a core component of our mission, and we are excited to expand the already popular line of Simms products to include the new Trout U line for all members of the MSU community."

For more information about Trout U, visit: https://www.montana.edu/bobcatspirit/troutu/, or see: https://www.msubookstore.org/outdoor/trout-u.



Julie Kipfer, Director of Marketing at MSU, wears Trout U gear.

Photo courtesy of MSU

USDA to begin payments for producers impacted by 2018 and 2019 natural disasters

More than $1 billion in payments will be released over the next several weeks starting June 15 for agricultural producers with approved applications for the Quality Loss Adjustment Program and for producers who have already received payments through the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus. These U.S. Department of Agriculture programs provide disaster assistance to producers who suffered losses to 2018 and 2019 natural disasters.

Producers weathered some significant natural disasters in 2018 and 2019, and USDA's Farm Service Agency provided support for crop value and production losses through QLA and crop quantity losses through WHIP+.

"From massive floods to winter storms, and from extreme drought to excess moisture, natural disaster events in 2018 and 2019 were exceptionally catastrophic for agricultural producers nationwide, many suffered the impacts of multiple events in not just one but both years," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "FSA staff worked tirelessly for many months to develop and implement comprehensive disaster programs that meet the varying and unique needs of a large cross-section of U.S. production agriculture. QLA and the second round of WHIP+ assistance will provide much-needed assistance to help producers offset significant financial loss."

QLA payments

QLA provides assistance to crop and forage producers who suffered a quality loss due to qualifying natural disasters occurring in 2018 or 2019. FSA will begin issuing payments to producers on June 15. FSA accepted applications from Jan. 6 to April 9. Based on these QLA applications, producers will receive 100% of the calculated assistance under QLA.

For each crop year, 2018, 2019 and 2020, the maximum amount that a person or legal entity may receive, directly or indirectly, is $125,000. Payments made to a joint operation (including a general partnership or joint venture) will not exceed $125,000, multiplied by the number of persons and legal entities that comprise the ownership of the joint operation. A person or legal entity is ineligible for QLA payment if the person's or legal entity's average Adjusted Gross Income exceeds $900,000, unless at least 75% is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities.

Second WHIP+ Payments

WHIP+ provides payments to producers to offset production losses due to hurricanes, wildfires, and other qualifying natural disasters that occurred in 2018 and 2019. WHIP+ covered losses of crops, trees, bushes and vines that occurred as a result of those disaster events.

Producers who applied for and have received their first WHIP+ payment can expect to receive the second payment beginning in mid-June for eligible crop losses. Due to budget constraints, producers received an initial WHIP+ payment for 2019 crop losses equal to 50% of the calculated payment. This second payment will be equal to 40% of the calculated payment for a total 90% WHIP+ program payment. This second round of WHIP+ payments are expected to exceed $700 million. A third round of payments may be issued if sufficient funds become available. Producers with 2018 crop losses have already been compensated at 100%.

Future Insurance Coverage Requirements

All producers receiving QLA Program and WHIP+ payments are required to purchase federal crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage for the next two available crop years at the 60% coverage level or higher. If eligible, QLA participants may meet the insurance purchase requirement by purchasing Whole-Farm Revenue Protection coverage offered through USDA's Risk Management Agency.

USDA offers a comprehensive portfolio of disaster assistance programs. On farmers.gov, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Farm Loan Discovery Tool can help producers and landowners determine all program or loan options available for disaster recovery assistance. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent. For FSA and NRCS programs, they should contact their local USDA Service Center.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.



Montana Cooperative Development tour coming to Lewistown

MCDC will host community conversations on cooperative business in Lewistown on Thursday, June 24, and Friday, June 25.

The Montana Cooperative Development Center is touring the state throughout the summer and will be making a stop in Lewistown Thursday, June 24, and Friday, June 25. MCDC and Snowy Mountain Development Corporation are partnering to provide two opportunities for community members to learn about cooperatives and the discussion how the cooperative business model can be a solution to some of the issues in your community.

The first community conversation will be on June 24 at 5:30 p.m. in the Snowy Mountain Development Corporation conference room. MCDC Executive Director Tracy McIntyre and MCDC Program Director Davey Madison will host a casual conversation about cooperatives and their impact on your community, providing information on the cooperative business model and how it might be a solution for your town. The discussion will cover cooperative basics, emerging cooperative models, and Montana's cooperative impact.

The second community conversation will be on June 25 at 10 a.m. in the Snowy Mountain Development Corporation conference room. This discussion will focus on cooperative childcare models, and all interested providers, parents, and community members are encouraged to attend. If you cannot attend in person, a zoom option will be provided. Go to www.mcdc.coop/upcoming-events to sign up

MCDC is the statewide economic development organization for cooperatives and serves all 56 counties and seven reservations. MCDC develops new cooperatives in all industries and works with existing cooperatives through the Montana Council of Cooperatives.

The event is free and open to all. For more information, please contact Carly Wheatley at wheatley@snowymountaindevelopment.com or Davey at davey@mcdc.coop.

Skunk tests positive for rabies in Big Horn County

On Tuesday, June 15, the Montana Department of Livestock received confirmation of the third case of terrestrial (non-bat) rabies in the state this year. The rabies-infected skunk was in Big Horn County and was submitted for testing after it was found acting aggressively toward an individual near their home.

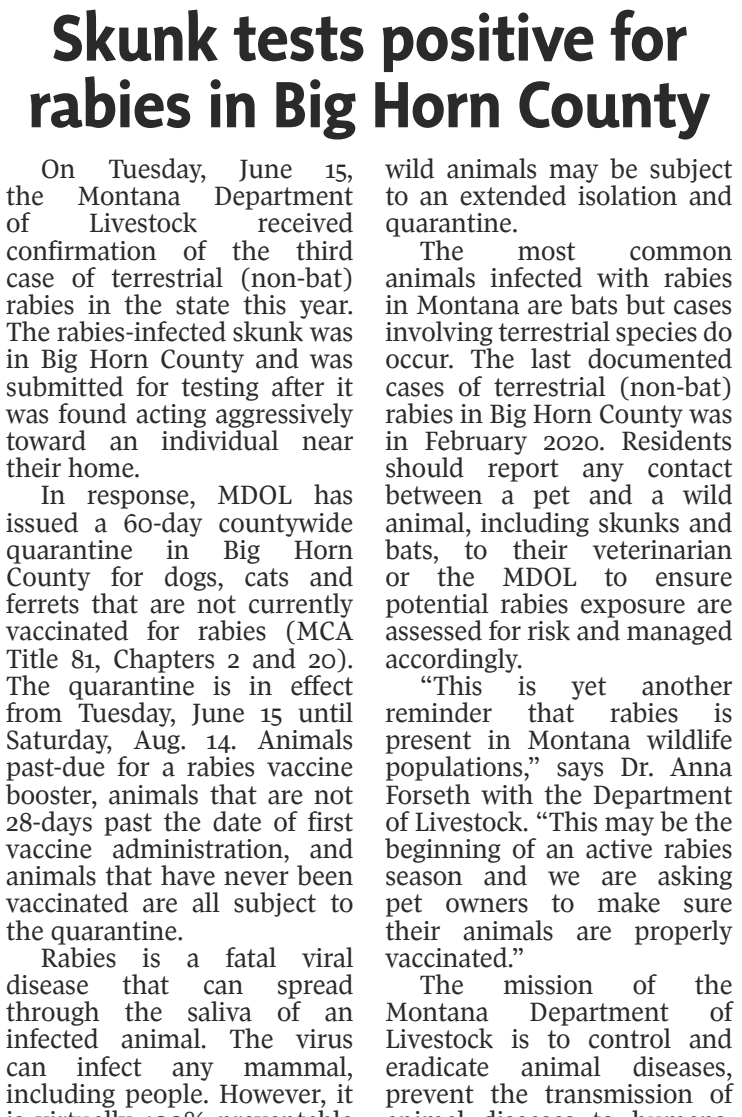
In response, MDOL has issued a 60-day countywide quarantine in Big Horn County for dogs, cats and ferrets that are not currently vaccinated for rabies (MCA Title 81, Chapters 2 and 20). The quarantine is in effect from Tuesday, June 15 until Saturday, Aug. 14. Animals past-due for a rabies vaccine booster, animals that are not 28-days past the date of first vaccine administration, and animals that have never been vaccinated are all subject to the quarantine.

Rabies is a fatal viral disease that can spread through the saliva of an infected animal. The virus can infect any mammal, including people. However, it is virtually 100% preventable in domestic animals through the administration of rabies vaccine. Non-vaccinated animals that are exposed to rabid or potentially rabid wild animals may be subject to an extended isolation and quarantine.

The most common animals infected with rabies in Montana are bats but cases involving terrestrial species do occur. The last documented cases of terrestrial (non-bat) rabies in Big Horn County was in February 2020. Residents should report any contact between a pet and a wild animal, including skunks and bats, to their veterinarian or the MDOL to ensure potential rabies exposure are assessed for risk and managed accordingly.

"This is yet another reminder that rabies is present in Montana wildlife populations," says Dr. Anna Forseth with the Department of Livestock. "This may be the beginning of an active rabies season and we are asking pet owners to make sure their animals are properly vaccinated."

The mission of the Montana Department of Livestock is to control and eradicate animal diseases, prevent the transmission of animal diseases to humans, and to protect the livestock industry from theft and predatory animals. For more information on the MDOL, visit www.liv.mt.gov.



Stockgrowers pack the house in Lewistown for 137th midyear meeting

The Montana Stockgrowers Association wrapped up its 137th MidYear Meeting on Friday, June 11 in Lewistown, Montana. The event hosted over 150 attendees who gathered for three days of education, policy, fellowship and fun.

Governor Greg Gianforte opened the event at the Opening General Session and gave attendees updates on the 67th Montana Legislature and the Red Tape Task Force, among other priorities of the governor's office. Also in attendance, NCBA's President-Elect Don Schiefelbein shared updates from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

The Joe C King and Sons Ranch, owned by Chris and Gari King out of Winnett, Montana, were announced as the 2021 Montana Environmental Stewardship Program winner for their work in grazing management. Each year, the ESAP award recognizes a Montana ranch that exemplifies environmental stewardship and demonstrates a commitment toward improved sustainability within the beef industry.

The evening followed with the Sunset After Party Banquet and Dance hosted at the Eagles Club where the Montana Stockgrowers Foundation held an auction and raffle. Proceeds raised by MSF help ensure the future of Montana's cattle industry through producer and public education, and promotion of MSGA programs. Attendees also had a bit of fun as the Bent Willows took the stage and provided the music for the dance.

Friday morning started with a bang as Zoe Ann Stoltz, Reference Historian for the Montana Historical Society, gave an engaging presentation on the history of Montana brands. The crowd also heard from Ethan Wilfore, of the Department of Livestock as he gave an update on the ongoing brand rerecord.

The morning session closed with MSGA member, Ed Lord, announcing the donation of his "C Hanging U" brand to MSF, which will be auctioned off virtually from June to November. Those interested in acquiring the brand can text 'mtbrand' to 843-606-5995 to start bidding.

During Closing General Session, Karen Budd Falen packed the house and gave an enlightening presentation on the Biden Administration's 30 by 30 Initiative and what ranchers can expect in the coming years.

The MidYear Meeting is one of two meetings that is held to set association policy that guides the Association through the year. While the main focus of the meeting is for the setting of interim policy, MSGA also uses the meeting as a networking opportunity for the MSGA membership.

For more information on MSGA or the MidYear Meeting, visit www.mtbeef.org.

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Tip of the Week

Did you know?

According to the World Health Organization, males are more likely to be involved in road traffic crashes than females. The WHO notes that 73 percent of all road traffic deaths occur among young males under the age of 25. In addition, male drivers under the age of 25 are nearly three times as likely to be killed in road traffic crashes as female drivers under 25. The WHO acknowledges that various factors can increase drivers' risk of being involved in road traffic crashes, and distracted driving may be one of the biggest threats facing today's young drivers. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute notes that, in 2017, 40 percent of high school students reported texting or emailing while driving in the 30 days prior to being surveyed. Parents also may unknowingly contribute to teens' distracted driving, as the CHPRI notes that teen drivers receive more calls from their parents while driving than any other group of motorists.



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