



# YELLOWSTONE COUNTY NEWS

SOWING NEWS, REAPING HEADLINES

The Home of Sally Peterson

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## Homesteader Days concert draws good crowd



Craig Morgan left the stage Friday to sneak into the crowd to perform during the Homesteader Days concert. He was immediately surrounded by fans, some of who used the chance to snap selfies. (Jonathan McNiven photo)

by Judy Killen

**HOMESTEADER PARK** — From old favorites to a few new hits, Friday's Homesteader Days concert was pretty well-received.

So was the overall two-day celebration.

"I think it went pretty well," said Lion's Club member Lyle Hill. He hadn't seen final ticket sale figures from the Friday concert but said an average crowd turned out to see Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers and Craig Morgan, followed by the Bucky Beaver Ground Grippers.

"It was a pretty average crowd," Hill said. "We've had bigger. We've had smaller."

The concert prep and performance went smoothly, Hill said.

"Both bands were really great to work with," he said, "just down home country types."

And they were just good entertainers, he said, bringing the crowd in on well-

(Continued on page 6)

## HP alumni return home for All-Class Reunion

by Judy Killen

**HOMESTEADER PARK** — The All-Class Reunion for Huntley Project School was a chance for alumni to renew old friendships and forge new connections.

It was also organizer Carol Reiter's last hurrah, so to speak.

"I was glad for all those that came," Reiter said this week. She has been heading the reunions since 2000, when alumni voted to have an all-school reunion every five years.

"In 2000 we had a huge number," Reiter said. "That was the first one." Since

then, she has kept detailed records of who attended, their class years, their addresses so she can send invitations, and sometimes noted their deaths.

Looking ahead to the next reunion, which would in 2020 following the five-year plan, Reiter said, "In about 2018, if someone's interested, they can call me and get all this information and they'll have something to go by" to plan the next reunion.

"When I did 2000 I had to start from zero," she said. Now it's time "to let the next person that's interested do it."

Alumni from as far back as the Class of 1945 registered for the reunion, but Reiter acknowledged that not everyone listed a class year and not everyone registered — some just showed up as they attended Homesteader Days or just to tour the Huntley Project School, which was open to alumni Saturday afternoon.

"I think I counted 81" who registered, she said, and the Class of 1985 planned to tour the school, although they didn't as a class come to the reunion.

Some reunion events had a really good turnout, Reiter said, including the Saturday

afternoon meeting in the old schoolhouse to celebrate teachers past and current. Alumni packed the room, with people standing around the edges, she said.

Reiter hosted the event, asking people to remember their school days — and school buildings, many of which no longer exist since at one point there were as many as 19 grade schools on the Project, she said.

"A lot of them were way out North," she said. "There were no buses."

"It was really neat" shar-

(Continued on page 6)

## Lockwood safety plan given OK

by Evelyn Pyburn

**LOCKWOOD** — The Lockwood Non-Motorized Transportation Plan advanced one step further in the process of being officially adopted by the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC) as part of the county's master plan.

The plan, which has been developed through the Lockwood Pedestrian Safety District Board, will be presented to the PCC at its regular meeting next Tuesday at noon at the County Commissioners' Conference Room on the fourth floor of the Yellowstone County Courthouse.

(Continued on page 5)



The Huntley Project Museum honored longtime supporter Jerrol "Shorty" Mueller with its entry of an antique fire truck in the Homesteader Days parade Saturday morning. Bill Kraske drives the truck with passenger Ray Beltran. Mueller, who belonged to many local organizations, passed away last winter and was remembered at his memorial service at the Pleasantview Cemetery in Ballantine earlier that day. (Jonathan McNiven photo)

## WBYC hunts for pipe leaks

by Judy Killen

**WORDEN** — The Worden Ballantine Yellowstone County water and sewer district has decided to spend \$19,950 to determine whether the district's water and sewer pipes are leaking to begin any repairs the system needs.

District board members voted Monday to hire Chad Hanson of Great West Engineering, a Billings firm. Hanson told the board his company will check the undergrounds pipes later this summer and again during the winter to determine whether groundwater is seeping into the system.

The district will also pay Great West another \$2,500 to generate current maps for the statewide 811 "one-call" system for locating utility rights of way.

Hanson said the study

(Continued on page 9)

## Clark Days celebrates 209 years

**POMPEYS PILLAR** — This year's Clark Days celebration will be held on July 25, the 209th anniversary of William Clark's visit to Pompeys Pillar. Clark Days commemorates William Clark's stop at the site on his trip

down the Yellowstone River as part of the exploration of the Louisiana Purchase by the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Events include a guided nature and bird walk; pancake breakfast; "Clark's Re-

turn;" family activities, reenactments, & demonstrations; entertainment by cowboy poets; Native American cultural presentations; violin playing and a chance to meet Seaman

(Continued on page 7)

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**Guest editorial-** Legislature catches Bullock's billion dollar error

by Senator Jennifer Fielder

**Checks and balances exposes huge errors in governor's financial accounts**

Earlier this year, your State Legislature made several attempts to implement transparency and accountability measures that would put greater controls on state spending. One of our major goals was to allow Montanans and their elected representatives to keep a closer eye on where the money comes from, where it goes, what strings are attached, and allow citizens to weigh in BEFORE it is spent.

Our efforts to increase transparency and accountability in the state budget were met with surprising resistance from the democrat side of the aisle in synch with the executive branch headed by Democrat Gov. Steve Bullock. As a result, most of the Transparency Legislation was killed in the legislative process, and the little bit that did survive was ultimately vetoed by Gov. Bullock.

The importance of checks and balances between branches of government became abundantly clear when a recent legislative audit of the executive branch uncovered 125 significant accounting errors in the budget administered by Gov. Bullock.

Major errors revealing the Bullock Administration's financial mismanagement included:

- Misstatement of Mon-

tana's infrastructure liabilities by \$1 billion.

- Misrepresentation of natural resource grants and contributions by \$445 million.
- Incorrect accounting for hundreds of millions of dollars in expenses.
- Failure to report \$62 million in bonds.
- Missed transfers of nearly \$48 million.

Even the major Montana media that typically favors Bullock's side of the political spectrum blasted the governor and his administration for mismanaging Montanan's hard earned tax dollars. Here is what they said:

Billings Gazette – "Take responsibility for terrible state budget"

"This wasn't just a single accidental oversight. Instead, the problems are deep -- 125 errors and lack of internal controls. Sadly, those controls, had they been in place, according to the audit division, could have caught these problems earlier. In other words, there weren't even controls in place to catch problems."

"The State of Montana's finances aren't as rosy as we once imagined, and the same people [Gov. Bullock's budget staff] who may have contributed to the mess may be the ones ultimately charged with cleaning it up."

"For his part, Gov. Steve Bullock called it 'completely unacceptable.' Wouldn't it make more sense to do a little deeper digging on how the problems happened? Granted,

that is hard when folks like Villa [Gov. Bullock's budget director] are a part of the governor's own administration. A deeper investigation might be politically uncomfortable [for the governor and his staff]."

"The question remains: How members of his staff are being held responsible for such shoddy results?"

Montana Standard – "Audit of state administration disturbing, unacceptable"

"The audit conducted by Hunthausen's staff [on behalf of the Legislature] revealed some 125 errors in accounting for the state government's finances. And while [Gov. Bullock's] state budget director Dan Villa characterized some of the errors as simple clerical issues, the overall picture should be disturbing to every Montana taxpayer."

"Villa told the Associated Press, 'It's not misappropriating funds or hiding money.' We would respectfully point out that, given the nature of the errors in oversight, it is all but impossible to know if Villa is correct in that assertion."

"Bottom line: The state's finances are being accounted for in an unbelievably slipshod manner."

Rather than acknowledge the seriousness of the prob-

lem the Bullock administration initially downplayed the incompetence. Bullock's budget director, Dan Villa, admitted that "three zeros had been left off the figures." But he generally brushed off the 125 errors as a "fluke" and "simple." After nearly a week of silence, Bullock finally acknowledged the debacle was "unacceptable."

It is impossible to say how many million-dollar errors and poor decisions could be prevented if we had a governor who would genuinely work with the people's representatives in the legislature toward more open and accountable financial operations. Gov. Bullock has often pontificated about transparency and fi-

nanial responsibility, but his actions don't compute.

If you would like details on the Transparency Legislation we attempted to pass and voting records of those who opposed, it please email me at Sen.Jennifer.Fielder@mt.gov, or write me at P.O. Box 2558 Thompson Falls, MT 59873. You can visit my website anytime at www.JenniferFielder.us.

Sen. Jennifer Fielder  
Montana State Senate - District 7

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## HAPPY DAY! SHEPHERD DAY!

We want to wish a  
Happy Birthday or  
Happy Anniversary to:

Friday July 17  
Wayne Bomar, Mike Hofmann  
Mr. & Mrs. Rob McCann  
Georgia Clark

Saturday July 18  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Pollert  
Dave Shanks  
Mr. & Mrs. Cody Houska  
Stuart Andersen  
Christina Damjanovich

Sunday July 19  
Jalyn Ingle, Jesse Hodges  
Kayleen Goggins

Monday July 20  
Jordan Houska, Daniel Huffman  
James Rooney  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Wolske  
Mr. & Mrs. Butch McGraw  
Jeff Pipinich

Tuesday July 21  
Kate Whittle  
Denny Salvesson  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Murray  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hindley

Wednesday July 22  
Randy Mosher  
Mr. & Mrs. Chaz Duran

Thursday July 23  
Steven Dalke

Thanks to the Shepherd Lions Club for their calendar. To order a calendar or add a name, call Calendar Chairman April Beddes at 671-5960.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**FRIDAY, JULY 17**

- Bookmobile 11:30-1pm Worden Senior Center
- Bookmobile 1:30-2:30 pm Huntley Main Street
- Worden Senior Lunch, VFW Hall, 2445 Main Street
- Heights Senior Lunch, Hope United Methodist Church, 244 Wicks Lane

**MONDAY JULY 20**

- Custer Senior Lunch, 322 6th Street
- Huntley Project Eastern Star Meeting, Masonic Lodge, Worden, 7:30 p.m
- Huntley Project School Board Meeting, Board Room 6:30pm
- Heights Senior Lunch, Hope United Methodist Church, 244 Wicks Lane

**TUESDAY JULY 21**

- Lockwood Senior Lunch 1413 Rosebud Lane
- Huntley Project Museum Board Meeting, Board Room 7pm
- Heights Senior Lunch, Hope United Methodist Church, 244 Wicks Lane

**WEDNESDAY JULY 22**

- Shepherd Senior Lunch, Feedlot Steakhouse, 11:30 a.m
- Heights Senior Lunch, Hope United Methodist Church, 244 Wicks Lane
- Bookmobile 11:30-1pm Shepherd Senior Meal Site, Feedlot Steakhouse

**THURSDAY JULY 23**

- Custer Senior Lunch, 322 6th Street
- Lockwood Senior Lunch 1413 Rosebud Lane
- Bookmobile 11:30-2pm Custer Senior Center
- Bookmobile 3:00-4:00pm Pompey's Pillar
- Heights Senior Lunch, Hope United Methodist Church, 244 Wicks Lane
- Lockwood Steering Committee Meeting, School Board Rm, 7pm

**SATURDAY JULY 25**

- Clark Days at Pompey's Pillar Monument (See this weeks' schedule in paper)

- Huntley Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Friday at 7 p.m. at Huntley United Methodist Church. AA Hotline 657-0776

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# The Outdoors

by Carl Wolf

Ever heard the expression, “the bee’s knees?” It means nothing, actually, but was probably coined in the 1920s when it was fashionable to use nonsense terms to denote excellence. Later phrases like “cool” and “bad” are similar expressions, meaning something is really good. However, the bees themselves may have started up the phrase when it was discovered they take pollen from flowers and stick it on their “knees” until they build up enough for a return to the hive. The pollen is taken off their knees and used in the hive to make honey, cells for depositing the young until they grow and feeding their young – called

larvae.

Elmer Kemble had a “bee’s knees” experience recently when a swarm showed up in his yard. Swarming is the process by which a new honey bee colony is created when the old queen bee leaves her present colony, taking with her about 60 percent of the worker bees. Elmer was right to be alarmed as swarms can contain thousands to tens of thousands of bees. Swarming usually happens in the spring within a 2-3 week period. It is the natural way



Female flicker suet feeding. (Wolf photo)

of reproduction for honey bee colonies when the original colony reproduces one or more new colonies.

What happens is the worker bees create “queen cups” during the year, and when swarming time begins, the queen lays eggs in the queen cups where new queens are raised. Then she leaves with most of the worker bees and temporarily makes a nearby swarm while 20-50 scout bees are sent out to find a suitable

new nest location. Swarming is simply a nearby short stopping place and usually lasts for only a couple of days.

Bees are extremely useful (all 20,000-plus species) for pollination and with some bees for making honey and beeswax. They are found everywhere in the world, except Antarctica, where there are insect pollinated flowering plants. They are adapted for feeding on nectar (for energy) and pollen (for protein) with most pollen used as food for feeding their larvae. Many crops are dependent on bees for pollination, but since bees have been declining all over the country, the commercial crops have become more ex-

pensive to raise because bees have to be brought in from somewhere else.

Many bee species have “pollen baskets” on their hind legs, which are a flattened section with incurving hairs to hold the pollen until they return to the hive or nest. If you look closely at a busy bee, you can see a small or sometimes fairly large glob of pollen at their rear but on the hind legs. The largest known species of bee is over one and a half inches long.

More on some critter? wardenwolf@nemont.net or 967-2365.

## Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

There is an article in the August 2015 issue of Glamour, which should be required reading for all parents of middle school-age children.

In the Real Life section, page 118, the story is about sextortion, how people on social media intimidate, threaten and blackmail children into sexually explicit photos.

In a society where sexual pleasure has such a high priority, there can be TMI, too early in life. Some children are not ready, physically or mentally, for such activity. If any such activity is performed under duress, threat or force, the resulting trauma could affect them for life.

Be leery of unsolicited “friends” or contacts of a questionable nature. Rather than social media, maybe try face-to-face contact, or eye-to-eye contact.

Lauris Byxbe  
Pompeys Pillar

Dear Editor,

The 12th annual Golf Scramble sponsored by the Custer Community and School Support Foundation was held on Saturday, July 11th at the Pryor Creek Golf Course. Seventeen teams enjoyed a steak meal and vied for the top prizes and many fabulous flag prizes. Winners of the Low Gross jackets were Brad Hoffman, Joel Stott, Payton Stott, and Jerry Thompson. Low Net jackets were won by Rick Powell, Ross Powell, Dave Powell and Mike Tomm.

The CC & SSF holds two

major fund raisers every year: the Golf Scramble in July and a Holiday Dinner-Dance the first weekend in December. Monies collected are used for scholarships for Custer graduates, project support for our community park, leadership training for our students, equipment purchase for the CHS Music and Vo-Ag programs, as well as many other community projects and events.

Marynell Perrin  
Custer, MT

Dear Editor,

I want to say thank you for everyone who came and helped make the 2015 All Class Reunion a huge success. Many enjoyed the museum and the community buildings. The one-room schoolhouse was filled and many had to stand.

It was precious the things that were shared. Those attending go back to 1940 and many were from out of state. It was wonderful to see so many come and share their memories; and they were so glad they came.

The records I have go back

to 1916. The next one (perhaps you) to do the next All-Class reunion will discover people, and perhaps past relatives, you did not even know. You will have so much fun.

I have enjoyed the part I’ve had in doing the All-Class Reunions.

Again, thank you.  
Carol Reiter  
Worden

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**Valley Weather & River Almanac**  
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	High/Low	Rain/Snow (") 24 hr		High/Low	Last Year High/Low	
30	96/58	.Tr/.00"	102 (1990)/43 (1995)	98/58	72/50	.00/.00"
01	95/57	.00/.00"	100(1990)/46 (1972)	99/64	77/50	.00/.00"
02	85/63	.00/.00"	100 (1936)/42 (1955)	92/69	84/44	.03/.00"
03	93/59	.00/.00"	101 (1961)/47 (1972)	85/66	90/50	.04/.00"
04	99/62	.00/.00"	106 (1937)/41 (1972)	93/55	95/57	.00/.00"
05	76/63	.04/.00"	104 (1981)/46 (1959)	100/57	96/57	.00/.00"
06	74/65	.Tr/.00"	104 (2007)/47 (1958)	66/62	94/52	.00/.00"

-Valley Weather Almanac supplied by John Pulasky  
and [www.sarc.montana.edu/wx](http://www.sarc.montana.edu/wx)

River data from the U.S. Geological  
Survey ([waterdata.usgs.gov](http://waterdata.usgs.gov))

# Little Britches National Finals on tap for three Yellowstone County youth

HUNTLEY — Three young rodeo contestants from Yellowstone County are heading to the national finals of the Little Britches Rodeo in Pueblo, Colo. They leave Friday for the rodeo, which runs July 20-25.

This is the first year since 2011 that Montana will send contestants to the national finals and the first year since

the 1970s that a Little Britches franchise has operated in Montana.

Kids competed in a series of eight rodeos over three weekends at Miller's Horse Palace in Laurel. About 60 rodeo contestants from four states competed, and had around 60 kids participate from 4 states. Many rodeo sponsors, like Rob Erickson

with Western Ranch Supply, started out as Little Britches members.

Carter Howell, 9, qualified as a Little Wrangler (ages 5-9) in four events. She is currently ranked 20th in the National Little Wranglers All Around standings and competed in rodeos Montana, South Dakota Wyoming, and Colorado.

Chase Howell, 6 just managed to qualify for nationals

in the flag racing event. The Howells are from Huntley and Robert and Jami Howell are their parents.

Alex Nelson of Worden, the son of John and Wendy Nelson, qualified on his last junior bull ride. He had to make four qualified rides and only had eight chances on junior bulls from the Mountain State Junior Bullriding Association in Colorado.

Kelly McDaniel from For-

syth will also represent Montana in barrels, poles, trail and goat tying.

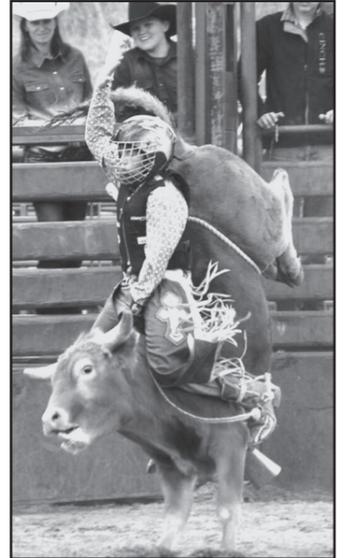
Josie Robbins and Madelyn Eddleman from Yellowstone County also qualified for the rodeo finals, but aren't going this year.



Chase Howell and his horse, Peanut, will compete in flag racing in the Little Britches National Finals. (Courtesy photo)



Carter Howell and her horse, Fancy, compete in flag racing at a Little Britches Rodeo earlier this year. (WE Photographics photo)



Alex Nelson qualified for the Little Britches national finals rodeo as a junior bull rider. (Wendy Nelson photo)

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surveys show that many students are already in compliance with the new law," said Jim Murphy, chief of the DPHHS Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Bureau. "Parents may just need to check their child's immunization status and provide an update to the school."

Students in 7th -12th grades will also be required to have one dose of pertussis (whooping cough) containing vaccine. In previous years, only a Td, or tetanus/diphtheria, shot was required. The new law adds the pertussis component.

As long as a student has received at least one vaccine in the required series, that student may qualify for a conditional attendance as allowed by current regulations. A conditional attendance provision allows the student to stay in school while they finish the required shots.

The changes to the law were made to bring Montana's immunization requirements more in line with the most current immunization recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP). Of note, Montana was the only state that did not require the varicella series and one of five not requiring a pertussis booster at middle school for attendance.

Additionally, the new requirements are intended to reduce the incidence of diseases like chickenpox and whooping cough both in school settings and in the community. Montana's rates for both of these diseases are typically higher than any other state in the region.

DPHHS encourages parents to talk to their family physician or local health department should they have questions about whether or not their child has the necessary shots for school.

# Football returns to Lockwood School District this year

by Evelyn Pyburn

LOCKWOOD — Lockwood School is getting ready for the new school year, which will see the resurrection of the school's football program. A football coach was hired by the Board of Trustees on Wednesday evening, at their regular monthly meeting, and they accepted the generous donation of a scoreboard.

Other items of business involved the approval of, and filling of three administrative staff positions, including a school nurse and an assistant nurse, and a "floating" secretary. They are also adding an assistant technology

coordinator to staff.

A special meeting was set for reviewing the budget, school lunch costs were adjusted, the PTA reported on fundraising efforts for Lion's Lair 2.0 (please see related story) and school policies were reviewed and tweaked — it was a busy meeting dealing with a full agenda.

Over the past few years, Lockwood School has been contracting with RiverStone Health (the publicly funded City County Health Department) for a school nurse. But, looking at another increase in cost this year, and a total contract for \$80,000, the

board decided they could do better. For just slightly more than \$80,000 they are hiring a nurse and a nurse's assistant. Demands on the school nurse have been increasing to a degree that she has been "stretched thin," and an assistant is needed, said Superintendent Tobin Novasio.

In advertising for applicants to fill the position the board said they were pleased that Kristen Bonner, who, as an employee of RiverStone has been serving as Lockwood's school nurse, applied for the position. "It was a no-brainer," said Board Chairwoman Sue Vinton. They hired Bonner on

a 185-day contract for \$35,520 plus 80 percent for family health insurance. The average cost of health insurance per employee at Lockwood is about \$7500, annually.

The board also approved hiring an assistant for Bonner, and will advertise the position with wage and hours to be determined by experience and the interest of the applicant.

Novasio advised the board to act upon the assumption that the two positions will actually be more than \$80,000 but there is a good chance it will be less, since some of the costs will be reimbursed

by Medicaid since some students qualify for assistance. However, the process of making application for Medicaid benefits will consume some of the time of the assistant — or of someone. Novasio said that he has no idea how much that financial reimbursement might be, because RiverStone — a public entity whose records are supposed to be open to the public — has refused to divulge that information to Lockwood School.

The board also approved hiring Lisa Moser as a floating secretary. She will work eight hours a day covering for secretaries on lunch or who are absent, as well as performing a myriad of other duties, which includes coordinating and scheduling over 600 meetings which are held each year among teachers, administrators and parents. She will also cover the bus radio in the afternoon, and help with research necessary in applying

(Continued on page 8)

## Lockwood Safety Plan...

(Continued from page 1)

The PCC is the final authority in regard to most transportation and land use issues in the county and for the City of Billings. It is composed of a representative of the Board of County Commissioners, a representative of the Council for the City of Billings, the Chairman of the Planning Board and District Manager for the Department of Transportation. Non-voting members include representatives of the Montana Department of Transportation and the Federal Department of Transportation, who usually monitor the meetings via phone.

In presenting the draft on behalf of the district, Jolene Riech of Peaks to Plains Design, with whom the district contracted to develop the plan, said that Lockwood could be classified as a Class 2 City, comparable to Laurel or Livingston. She said their research showed that the community "is growing in population and they are growing younger." Chuck Strum with Interstate Engineering Inc. has also been consulting in the planning for Lockwood's Pedestrian Safety District.

Over the past 10 years there have been 10 crash events in Lockwood, said Riech, involving 12 serious injuries and one death. Less than 2 percent of Lockwood has sidewalks, said Riech, noting that "the community's infrastructure needs are a mile long."

The emergence of the safety district resulted from the community's concern about pedestrian safety in Lockwood, especially for children.

Said Nic Talmarck, chairman of the district's board, in testifying before county commissioners on Tuesday, "the reason we are here is because people died." In talking about Lockwood's infrastructure needs, he said, "It's a mess, but people have really come together."

Lockwood voters supported the creation of the district, which imposes an annual 10 percent mill levy on property owners, collecting \$212,697 each year for the purpose of building streets and lights for Lockwood.

County Commissioners have advanced internal loans to the Pedestrian Safety District so that they can start projects right away, rather than having to wait for the accumulation of tax revenues. The loans will be paid off over time with the money generated by the 10 mill levy.

Besides installing street lights in several areas throughout Lockwood, especially at school bus stops, the district board had hoped to have begun building a sidewalk this summer along Highway 87. The lone bid they received, however, was higher than anticipated and was rejected by the board and county commissioners.

Talmark said that the board has decided to re-issue the request for bids, lengthening the schedule for completion to either the fall or spring, and asking for bid alternates to better gauge what they can afford to do. Talmark said that the board had been anxious to get the project completed to

demonstrate the success of the district to the public, but he said, the board's timeline is not as important as making sure the district gets the best value for its money. Talmark said that he believes bids will also be lower because contractors are looking at a slower season, and perhaps more companies will bid.

Riech noted that as the district has pursued the first priority projects, Lockwood property owners, when approached regarding right of way issues, "have been more than supportive."

Don Reed, a Lockwood citizen who has been very active in the community, and vocal about what he sees as a lack of interest by county commissioners in addressing Lockwood problems, commented on the importance of the non-motorized transportation plan, saying that it is a beginning, just as the creation of the district is a beginning

— although a minimal beginning. He said he believes that the commissioners have done as little as they possibly can in response to Lockwood's needs.

Despite the results of a survey that indicated some Lockwood residents would be willing to pay as much as 30 mills in support of a safety district, the commissioners created a district that imposes only 10 mills, he said. Reed also said that he will always believe that the commissioners made the district as large as they did to include property owners who they thought would vote against it. But, "Surprise," he said, they voted for it.

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# Homesteader Days ...

(Continued from page 1)

known songs, joking and keeping people engaged.

"You can tell they've done it before," Hill said.

Concert organizers dodged a bullet Friday when storm moved through the area, bringing gusty winds. Hill said they were ready for rain if it came.

"We had all kinds of tarps" to cover the musical equipment if it rained, he said. Luckily, rain skipped Homesteader Park, but the wind knocked a branch about 6 inches in diameter out of a tree that barely missed the sound board when it fell.

"We came close to not having a concert," Hill said.

Hill asked people who took

concert photos to post them to the Lions Club page on Facebook and to check out the club's website, [hplionsclub.org](http://hplionsclub.org), for more information.

Saturday events seemed to go smoothly, Hill said, with family-friendly events through the day that wrapped up with fireworks at dusk.

The third annual greased pig race was canceled after only two teams entered. Hill said Lions Club members want to keep it going, and are brainstorming ways to get more teams on line for next year. The event had 10 teams the first year and five teams last year, he said.

"We'll have it back again next year, I hope," Hill said.



Members of the Huntley Project Class of 1954 ride in Saturday's Homesteader Days parade, (Jonathan McNiven photo)



Leroy Gabel throws candy to onlookers as the Class of 1965 passes by during the Homesteader Days parade on Saturday morning. Alan Zahller is at right. (Jonathan McNiven photo)



Flanked by members of the Al-Bedoo Shrine Black Horse Patrol, the Class of 1955 enjoys Saturday's Homesteader Days parade. (Jonathan McNiven photo)

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## All-class reunion ...

(Continued from page 1)

ing memories, she said. At one point, Herman Bliss of the Class of 1947, who now lives in Redondo Beach, California, recognized a classmate sitting "across the aisle three desks back" in the old school house.

"They were so surprised to see each other," she said.

Linda Sindelar Kemp, who now lives in Richland, Washington, recalled a teacher encouraging girls to join the boys in playing marbles. To this day, Kemp said keeps her jar of marbles on her counter

because "maybe somebody is going to want to come play with them," Reiter said.

Many alumni recalled "different teachers they had, first grade, second grade" on up. Reiter said.

The day concluded with a dance in Homesteader Hall.

## Lockwood PTA halfway to building new Lion's Lair 2.0

by Evelyn Pyburn

LOCKWOOD — Members of the Lockwood PTA reported to the Lockwood School Board this week that they have raised about half the funds necessary to rebuild a playground area called Lion's Lair 2.0. The previous one had to be razed because it had become a safety hazard for children. Private contributions are being raised to rebuild the play area, which will then be administered by Lockwood School.

Currently the PTA, through a number of fundraisers, has raised \$109,000 of the estimated \$230,000 cost of building the new playground.

Coming fundraising events include a barbeque and silent action with live music at the Second Shift, this Friday, July 17, 6 p.m.; a golf tournament on Peter Yegen Jr. Golf Course, Aug. 21; and a Fun Run on Sept. 12.

Board members addressed what was explained to be occasional questions about whether the playground, when completed and turned

over to Lockwood School, would be open to the public. One board member was amused, wondering when anything at Lockwood School is really closed to the public.

The playground would be closed to public access during school hours, but outside school hours it will be open, but people will have to park in the elementary school parking lot. The school has plans to build a fence but the purpose of the fence is to keep people from parking on a road that is too narrow for parking and as a buffer for the nearby residential area.

Part of the benefit of requiring parking in the elementary school parking lot is that video cameras will be able to monitor who is coming and going. It will make the playground a safer place and reduce vandalism. Also motion-activated lights will curb the use of the playground as a place to hang out by teenagers at night. Law enforcement will readily know that someone is there at night if the lights are on.

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## Shepherd alum Conard graduates from Air Force basic training

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS – Air Force Airman 1st Class Alyssa N. Conard graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied

science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Conard is the daughter of Harvey Conard and Mary Bondurant and stepdaughter of Marion Bondurant of Billings; granddaughter of Laverna Conard of Billings; and niece of Peggy Conard of Shepherd. She is also the sister of Erika Conard.

She graduated in 2008 from Shepherd High School and earned a bachelor's degree in 2012 from Montana State University-Billings.



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## Clark Days at Pompeys Pillar Rock ...

(Continued from page 1)

the Dog, who was a member of the expedition.

Evening activities include a campfire and ghost stories.

The Saturday night of Clark Days is the only night

of the year when overnight camping is allowed at the Pillar. The Bureau of Land Management has park rangers on duty at the visitor center to assist campers.

Clark Days is sponsored jointly by the Bureau of Land Management and the Friends of Pompeys Pillar. Daily admission fees apply.

### HAPPY HUNTLEY DAY!

HUNTLEY PROJECT

We want to wish a Happy Birthday or Happy Anniversary to:

**Friday July 17**  
Randy Fricks, Elle Beard  
Haylie Oberlander,  
Kira K& Thomas Harding  
Clint Trask

**Saturday July 18**  
Shauna Euell  
Nova Ahenakew  
Clint Trask, Joy Howard  
Dan & Phyllis Witzel

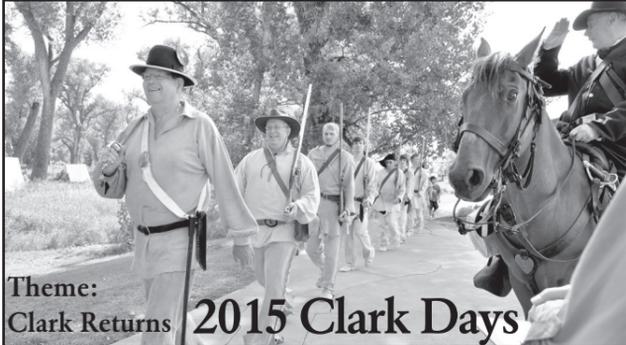
**Sunday July 19**  
Dick & Sharon Keller  
Ty Harden  
Laurie Sundstrom

**Tuesday July 21**  
Cliff Holmes  
Shelbie Oblander

**Wednesday July 22**  
Rebecca Mahan  
Robert Bender  
Christopher Remington  
Jon Susott, Jaxen Dean

**Thursday July 23**  
Hannah Grace Grimm  
Alan Zahller, Golda Fox

Thanks to the Huntley Project Lions & Lionesses for their calendar. To purchase a complete calendar, contact Helen Toogood at 967-4581.



Cal Eggum Photo

**Theme: Clark Returns 2015 Clark Days**

**Saturday, July 25**

- Guided Nature & Bird Walk
- Cowboy Poetry, Clark's Return
- Presentations & Campfire ghost stories at dusk
- Native American Cultural Presentations

- Pancake Breakfast
- Information and Food Vendors
- Historical Demonstrations
- Interpretive Tours




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## Clark Days

Saturday July 25  
*'Clark Returns'*  
*Schedule of Events*

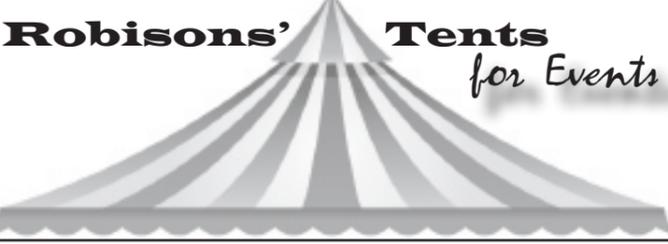
7:00am	Guided Nature & Bird Walk
7:00am – 10:00am	Pancake Breakfast
9:00 am	Clark's Return
9:30am – 4:00pm	Family Activities, Reenactments, & Demonstrations
10:00am – 11:00am	Cowboy Poets (Main Stage)
11:00am – 12:00pm	Native American Cultural Presentation (Main Stage)
12:00pm – 12:30pm	Violin Playing (Main Stage)
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Cowboy Poets (Main Stage)
1:30pm – 3:00pm	Native American Cultural Presentation (Main Stage)
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Meet Seaman the Dog (Log Cabin)
4:10pm – 5:10pm	Interactive History of Clark on the Yellowstone (Log Cabin)
5:15pm – 6:15pm	What Ever Happened to Baby Pomp? (Log Cabin)
6:30pm	Lighting of the Camp Fire and Ghost Stories

**Pompeys Pillar National Monument**  
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### Notice to residents

within the Worden-Ballantine Yellowstone County Water & Sewer District Boundaries. 3 board members for the WBYC Water & Sewer District are up for election. Anyone intersted in running for the board must contact the Yellowstone County Elections Department to get the appropriate forms to fill out. Forms must be submitted to Yellowstone County Election Department by August 20, 2015.

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The trophy wife and I recently made a quick supply run to Billings and because it was a nice summer evening we stopped at a nearby tap room to enjoy a beverage. This meant we never returned home until the ungodly hour of nearly nine o'clock. Rather than putting on my sleepers and going straight to bed, I put on my irrigating boots and set a couple dams while Druann watered the flowers on the patio. As I walked back in the house Druann asked, "Who pulled into the driveway?"

I looked and didn't see anyone in the driveway or over at my hangar, so I suggested a summer driver must have been "driving the countryside, discovered their error and then drove back to the main road." It happens frequently.

"No," the trophy wife shot back. "They came up the driveway twice."

"Well, that is odd," I thought. I waited a few minutes, but still no car appeared. Curious, I fired up my four-wheeler and slowly rolled towards my hangar. I crossed the Cove Ditch while gazing toward my shooting range, thinking the vehicle might have been an acquaintance headed out for some plink-

ing. Nothing. Once over the bridge, I looked toward the hangar and there, concealed behind the willow patch, were two cars parked head-to-tail. Both were small, boxy SUVs of similar color; hence the illusion one car had motored up our driveway twice. I approached, unsure what I would find, as I could see no occupants in either car. Suddenly, there was activity in the back seat of the first car, but at a distance of 50 feet, the tinted windows occluded my view. As I rolled up, the rear door on the driver's side flew open and a young man sprang from inside. I suspect he must have had military training because he snapped to attention while frantically tucking in his shirt. As you never get a second chance to make a good first impression, he wanted to be at his best.

"Can I help you with something?" I offered.

"Uh... no," he stammered while continuing to straighten his attire. "I am from out of state and was looking for... uh... a farmer friend's place."

"Oh, really... what farmer are you looking for?" I asked, having tended critters on nearly every farm in the valley. Being helpful is just my nature.

He bent over, stuck his

head back into the car to consult the other occupant and returned mumbling the name "Calhoun."

"I've lived in these parts three decades and I don't recognize that name." I answered. "Do you have an address?"

He stuck his head back in the rear seat, emerged with

a not-so-smart phone and explained, "I am not getting a good Internet signal here, but I think it is 3865 Saddleback."

"That's it, blame it on Siri," I wanted to say, but ever the Good Samaritan, I said, "You missed Saddleback two roads back. Head south, then turn west about 100 yards after

you hit the pavement."

Ignoring the rear seat occupant so as to protect her virtue, I fired up my four-wheeler, turned around and headed home. The moral of my story is this: If you ever lose your farmer, look in the back seat of your girlfriend's car. Apparently, farmers like to hide there.

## Lockwood school ...

(Continued from page 5)

for grants for the school. With one year experience, Moser was hired at \$13.99 an hour.

Explaining that they try to keep the cost of school lunch as low as possible, Laurie Noonkester, District Clerk, reported that the only increase in lunch costs this year will be a 5-cent increase for middle school students. Breakfast and elementary school lunches will remain the same at \$2.65. In past years meal costs have been edging upward at the rate of about 10 cents a year, said Noonkester.

The board voted to change school policy regarding pay for holidays, to bring it into alignment with what had become school district practice. When holidays fall on a Saturday or Sunday, the school district has been pay-

ing employees a paid holiday, which has generally come to be expected in the work-a-day world, he said. But, he discovered that school policy specifically stated that they would not pay for holidays that fall on weekends. Novasio recommended that they change policy to support the practice, since it is already factored into the budget.

After discussion in which it was revealed that state law and OPI regulations were also in conflict, the board decided to change the policy to support the practice; as board member Kat Luhman summed up, "We know we won't get sued for paying it."

The issue of avoiding lawsuits brought another item to the agenda. Novasio wanted to get approval to thank Zoe Bible Church for the donation of a scoreboard for the football field, which is valued at \$5,500. He said he wanted to thank "the members of Zoe Bible Church" in wording on the scoreboard and wanted to make sure that was acceptable to the board since it might generate some push back from someone concerned about recognizing a church on school property. He noted that one member of the board is also a member of the church and he didn't want there to appear to be some kind of conflict of interest.

The board said that the church deserved to be recognized for their donation and approved doing so on the score board. Vinton stated, "This is a community school and we have churches in our community, and this is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together."

Luhman said that if anyone believes the school is showing favoritism they can be shown a list of items that the school needs and invited to make a donation for which they, too, will be publicly thanked.

She asked if there was a list of things that the school needed should a business or organization want to donate something. Novasio demonstrated a long list rattling off such things as improvements to Sturdevant Gym and softball fields, fencing, dug outs, bleachers for the football field and a metal building for concession sales, storage and restrooms. They need a soccer field, track field and a practice field for football and

soccer. And, that just involves the needs for athletics, said Novasio. The list gets even longer when one considers all the other needs of other disciplines at school.

The discussion also included some ideas about how they plan to help fund football. One of those ideas includes asking businesses or groups to "adopt a football player." The activity fee to play football will be \$135. They hope to build a scholarship fund to pay the fee for students who cannot afford it.

John Nielsen was named as football coach, whose challenge it will be to restart the football team for Lockwood. Nielsen said that he has a number of people who will serve as assistant coaches.

The board also hired new teachers Kelsey Amini and Adora Henderson for the 2015-16 school year.

The board also approved continuing its current pre-kindergarten program by taking advantage of what Novasio called a loophole in law that will allow the school to continue to receive funding for the program by changing what they call it to "Kindergarten Readiness" program. The board adopted the Montana School Board Association's recommended policy - 3100 "chool Enrollment Age Waiver - which will allow the school to enroll 4-year olds and qualify for funding. The recent state Legislature rejected a pre-kindergarten program because of costs and because it would be compete with the private sector which offers a wide range of options for early education, not least of which are day care centers.

Novasio said that Lockwood plans to extend its program to a full year, which means they will get half ANB state funding for each student enrolled.

The special budget session of the board will be held at 5 p.m. on Aug. 18, which will be followed by a special meeting to adopt the budget. The next regular meeting of Lockwood School Board will be at 6 p.m. Aug. 11.

The board ended the meeting in closed session to deal with a student discipline issue, which Novasio said involved a Lockwood student who committed a crime.

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*We reserve the right to edit letters.*

# Obituary

Clarence Alden Wiberg "Lucky", 82, of Billings/Shepherd left his place on earth on July 11, 2015. He was born September 22, 1932 in Minneapolis, MN to Ingrid Johanna Borg and Alden Clarence Wiberg. At the age of 6 his mother passed away and his Aunt Thresa and Uncle Gunder Linge raised him bringing him to Billings on a family move for employment.



Clarence Alden Wiberg

It was in Billings where he met the love of his life Leona Elsie Love. They married on February 6, 1952 and shared 63+ amazing years together. Through this union they had two children daughter Deb and son Doug.

Lucky attended Broadwater School, Lincoln Middle School and Billing's Senior High School. He was a veteran of the Korean War and proud of his duty as a cook at the Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver. With these cooking skills he also later became the first male cook for ST Vincent's Hospital as well as owning with his wife the KFC-Jolly Boy Drive-In, Lucky's Chick Inn and Fountain Drive-In.

He was active with Civil

Air Patrol starting as an avid member and working his way up to Major, providing a family environment for the foreign exchange cadets and contributing CAP services for Search and Rescue. His drive to always succeed and love to entrepreneur lead him to many various new labor trades. Many of those included salesman for American Tobacco (here dubbed his nickname Lucky) & International Diamond Corp., traveling salesman for Lipton, bringing Wonder Bread to Billings, partnering in Barter Bank & Automatic Vending Services, purchasing the 17 Club, CEO of Bastian Wells and Security Officer & Stallman for Montana State Fair.

His love for building provided the ability to build his two beautiful homes in the Heights, additions to their Shepherd home and the development of the Crossroads Shopping Mall. His many skills and interests included building, woodworking, landscaping, traveling, gemology,

gold mining, and multiple home projects & developments as well as so much more. Lucky was a "Jack of all Trades" and "A Master of Many".

He is survived by his wife Lee Wiberg, of Billings. Their children Deb Wiberg, of Billings, and Doug (Judy) Wiberg, of Shepherd. 4 grandchildren; Cristi Breshears, of Billings, Ross (Tara May) Breshears, of Billings, Bryce (Danni Pedersen) Wiberg, of Shepherd, and Chad Wiberg, of Shepherd. As well as 8 great grand-children; Tyson Lennick, Rylan Lennick, Kayla Breshears, Mark May, Royce May and Dazalyn May, of Billings, Brynlee Wiberg and Braesyn Wiberg, of Shepherd. His half-brother Ken (Sharon) Wyberg, of Minneapolis, and nephew Bryan (Lisa Steidl) Wyberg, of Minnesota. Also many more family members in Minnesota and Montana.

He is preceded in death by his parents Ingrid, Thresa, Alden and Gunder. As well as many other family members.

A gathering of family and friends for a Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. July 26TH at Heights Family Funeral Home & Crematory (733 West Wicks Lane in Billings, MT).

Arrangements are by

Heights Family Funeral Home & Crematory. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.heightsfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.heightsfamilyfuneralhome.com) through "Our Families."

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## WBYC search ...

(Continued from page 1)

is often referred to as an "I and I," since the work will determine whether inflow and infiltration is affecting the water and sewer system. Inflow is water that gets into pipes through manhole covers or other openings, often from melting snow, Hanson said. Infiltration is groundwater that seeps into underground sewer pipes and is sent through the wastewater treatment plant, "so you're treating groundwater instead of waste water," Hanson said. That unnecessarily increases operation costs.

District operators think most of the leaks are in the northern part of Worden, so "that's where we'll probably start," Hanson said. The Worden Ballantine Yellowstone County water and sewer district has about 325 hookups in the Worden and

Ballantine communities.

"It's quite a large system for the two towns," Hanson said.

Hanson will report the summer and winter findings separately, he said, so the board can act as soon as an idea is formed of where the leaks are.

"We won't wait until we're done," he said. "After the August field work we'll have a real good idea" where to start.

Hanson said the separate project of update One Call maps will ensure the district is contacted when utility work is done that could affect its system. The \$2,500

will pay to have the district's current maps converted to the One Call format. Anyone who plan to dig is required to call One Call by dialing 811 to locate underground utility lines before work begins.

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used washer for sale, \$100 OBO, 1993 Nissan Pathfinder, good engine, needs TLC work, \$600, 1998 Chevy van, runs but needs work, \$500 OBO Call 672-5941 for more info.

### OFFICE PRODUCTION

Yellowstone County News is accepting applications for a Production Specialist position. Requires organizing the weekly newspaper as well as creating ads for customers. Requirements include advanced communication and computer skills in programs such as InDesign, Photoshop, Microsoft Word & Excel. The position is part-time, 25-30 hours per week. Pay DOE, submit applications in person or email Jonathan@yellowstone-countynews.com or call 406-672-5941.



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 Phone #: 406-875-2293 Ask for Rick

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# Sheriff's Report ...

(Continued from page 12)

arrested Louis Lee Messerly Jr., 54, of Dodson, for alleged driving while under the influence, first offense.

## Partner or family member assault

\* After an investigation in the 7000 block of Shepherd Road, a deputy arrested James Brent Gremaux, 24, for alleged partner or family member assault, first offense.

## Legal Notices

### Request for Bid REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Huntley Project Irrigation District (HPID) is requesting statements of qualifications from engineering firms to provide engineering services. The work could include but is not limited to the following areas of service:

- Irrigation Infrastructure Design
- Inventory & Assessment
- Surveying
- Construction Administration
- GIS Mapping
- Planning
- Grant Writing/Funding

The engineering firm would perform normal civil and structural engineering functions for HPID as directed by the HPID Manager and/or HPID Board. The firm would provide engineering services necessary for preliminary engineering studies, preliminary and final design, contractor bidding procedures, inspection and construction engineering, and grant writing and administration.

The engineering firm would perform these services on an as-needed basis for a period of five (5) years beginning on the date the HPID and the selected engineering firm signs a contract for provision of these services. Services to be provided may include but would not be limited to:

- Preparing preliminary engineering studies and reports;
- Providing grant writing services;
- Surveying;
- Preparing preliminary and final engineering design and obtaining approval of appropriate state and federal agencies;
- Preparing construction bid packages and supervising the bid advertising, tabulation, and award process, including preparing the advertisements for bid solicitation, conducting the bid opening, and issuing the notice to proceed;
- Providing construction administration;
- Submitting certified "as-built" drawings; and
- Preparing operation and maintenance (O&M) manuals.

A detailed Request for Qualifications is available from the Huntley Project Irrigation District at the HPID office or by contacting Liz Freeman @ 406-967-3400 or Todd Wilson @ 406-672-5248. All responses to the Request for Proposal must be received by the Huntley Project Irrigation District no later than 3:00 PM on August 6, 2015 at the following address:

Huntley Project Irrigation District  
2291 2nd Street West  
P.O. Box 61  
Ballantine, MT 59006  
ATTN: Todd Wilson  
hpidmanager@nemont.net

Finalists may or may not be interviewed based on an evaluation of written responses. All factors considering the award of the contract will be made to the most qualified offeror(s) whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the HPID.

7/17, 7/24, 2015  
MNXALP

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\* A sheriff's deputy investigated a report of a disturbance in the 2700 block of Old Hardin Road on July 9 as a possible partner or family member assault case, but no arrests were made.

\* On July 9, a deputy investigated a report of a disturbance in the 1000 block of Orchard Lane as a possible partner or family member assault case, but the suspect was not at the scene and no arrests had been made.

In compliance with Montana Public Service regulations, Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative herein provides notice that it provides local telephone service in the Custer and Musselshell Telephone exchanges in Montana for the rate of \$16.00 per month for residential service and \$24.80 per month for business service.

Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative complies with Federal and Montana regulations related to the provision of telephone service to low-income subscribers. For further information on the telephone services available through Mid-Rivers and the rates charges, please call Mid-Rivers telephone Cooperative toll free at 1-800-452-2288.

7/17, 2015  
MNXALP

### AUDIT PUBLICATION STATEMENT:

An audit of the affairs of Custer School District #15, Yellowstone County, Custer, Montana 59024, has been conducted by Strom & Associates, PC. The audit covered the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. The audit also covered the extracurricular fund for pupil functions, which is included in the financial statements of the District.

Section 2-7-521, MCA, requires that this publication concerning the audit report include a statement that such report is on file in its entirety and open to public inspection at the School Clerk's office, and that the District will send a copy of the audit report to any interested person upon request.

7/17, 7/24, 2015  
MNXALP

The Lockwood, Pioneer, Shepherd, Huntley Project, Hysham and Custer Schools will soon destroy Special Education/Speech-Language therapy records of former students who have been out of school for at least five (5) years. Former students may contact the Eastern Yellowstone Special Services Cooperative at 252-4022 and leave a message within sixty (60) calendar days if they wish to review the files or obtain copies of the information contained in them. Messages will be answered in the fall.

The information to be destroyed shall not include data collected on a routine basis, which is maintained on all school children (such as the student's name, address, telephone number, grade level completed, and year completed). The data to be destroyed shall include information collected for identification, location, evaluation, and other items directly related to Special Education Services which the student had received from the district.

Parents of students still in school, but not in Special Education for at least five (5) years, may also request that their children's records be destroyed. Parents of these students also have the right to inspect the Special Education records and obtain copies of any of the information contained in those records before they are destroyed.

Persons having questions about this process or those parents wishing to request that their children's files be destroyed may contact their local school for assistance.

7/17, 2015  
MNXALP

Montana Thirteenth Judicial District Court, Yellowstone County  
In the Matter of the Name Change of Clairissa K. Barnes, Clairissa K. Barnes, Petitioner.

Cause No. DV-15-0770  
Judge Mary Jane Knisely  
Notice of Hearing on Name Change.  
This is notice that Petitioner has asked the District Court for a change of name from Clairissa Kay Barnes to Clairissa Kay Albrecht. The hearing will be on August 27, 2015 at 9 a.m. The hearing will be at the Courthouse in Yellowstone County.  
Dated this 25th day of June, 2015.  
s/s Kristie Lee Boelter  
Clerk of District Court

7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31 2015  
MNXALP

## Criminal mischief

A deputy investigated a report that tires had been slashed on a vehicle or vehicles in the 2600 block of Old Hardin Road on July 10.

## Suspicious person

On July 9, a deputy investigated a report that a suspicious person had entered a residence in the 3400 block of Duck Creek Road on July 8.

## Lost/found property

A sheriff's deputy received a pistol that was found near

the westbound ramp of Interstate 90 at mile marker 446 in the Billings area on July 8.

According to the report, the pistol, which was not identified, was photographed and placed in a secure evidence facility.

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# Local grain harvest begins



Steve Oblander combines winter wheat near the Ballantine Cemetery on July 9. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service Montana Field Office, the 'winter wheat harvest has begun weeks ahead of normal due to warmer than normal spring conditions.' As the harvest begins, 20 percent of the winter wheat crop is rated excellent and about 68 percent of the state's crop is rated good or fair. (Jonathan McNiven photo)



Barley pours into a cart as a combine driven by grower John Mahan harvests a field on Gabel Farms adjacent to the MillerCoors elevator just east of Huntley. (Jonathan McNiven photo)

## Monday Morning Sheriff's Report

### Theft from motor vehicle

\* A woman reported to the Yellowstone County sheriff's department that a Honda Invention 3000 generator had been stolen from a vehicle parked at Riverfront Park on July 9.

No suspects had been identified, according to the report.

\* Assorted tools and a tool box were reported stolen from a pickup in the 5500 block of Hay Meadow Drive in Shepherd.

According to the report, missing items include a Klein tape measure and screwdriver set, miscellaneous adjustable wrenches, a Husky 200-piece tool set, a Husky tool box, a DeWalt grinder, an 18 volt tool set, five batteries and a charger and 20 music CDs.

### Assault

\* A sheriff's deputy investigated a report of an assault in which one person allegedly attacked another with a knife in the 300 block of Garden Avenue in south Billings on July 11.

Neither the victim nor the suspect were identified in the report and no one had been arrested.

\* A sheriff's deputy investigated a report of an assault in the 5700 block of Camas Prairie Trail near Laurel on July 9. According to the report, a victim supplied information about a possible suspect, but no one had been arrested when the report was filed.

### Theft

\* A sheriff's deputy investigated the theft of copper wire and miscellaneous brass from two 5-gallon buckets on July 11.

The sheriff's report said the theft occurred in the 8700 block of Grand Avenue west of Billings. Two potential suspects had been identified, according to the report, but no arrests had been made.

\* A deputy investigated the theft of a part from the end gate or grain gate of a triple axle end dump trailer on Challis Lane in the Lockwood area on July 9.

\* A number of items were reported stolen from the 3500 block of Second Street South on July 11. According to the sheriff's report, a potential suspect had been identified but had not been arrested. The missing items include a shovel and two rakes, an orange and silver folding ladder, clothing and a leather jacket.

### Driving under the influence

\* After investigating a call from another driver, a sheriff's deputy arrested Wade Alan Rowe, 28, of Billings for alleged driving while under the influence, second offense, at 12:31 a.m. July 11 at Wise Lane and South Frontage Road in west Billings.

\* After an investigation following a traffic stop on Highway 312 in the Worden area at 1:11 a.m. July 11, a deputy

(Continued on page 11)

## Amended subdivision regs dovetail with state, federal laws

BILLINGS — Yellowstone County has adopted an amendment to the county subdivision regulations which will bring them into alignment with State regulations and local flood plain administration.

Wyeth Friday of the Planning Department explained that Yellowstone County Subdivision Regulations had prohibited any development

in all areas of the flood plain, including the area designated as "fringe." But the Planning Department came to realize that State law allows potential for development in the fringe flood plain areas if the developer goes through the flood plain hearing process.

The changed regulations will now allow the same process of developers in Yellowstone County.

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