

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY NEWS

SOWING NEWS, REAPING HEADLINES



The Home of Mark & Maryann Morgenstern

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Team roper Clay Tryan makes swing through 'home' state

by Judy Killen

WORDEN — Clay Tryan is in town.

News like that spreads fast in Tryan's hometown. He came to town on Monday morning and by noon the



Clay Tryan, shown here at practice on Monday on Road 8, leads the PRCA team roping standings heading into the July 4th weekend. (Jonathan McNiven photo)

newspaper staff showed up to watch him practice in his Road 8 arena.

The 36-year-old team roper has competed in PRCA rodeos for half his life, and as of this week is in first place in team roping as a header with \$66,815.

Tryan, a header, was tuning up for a weekend run at the Livingston Roundup July 2-4.

"It's good to come home," he said. A Montana native now based in Texas, he likes to travel through the state. Bobbi, his wife of 11 years, and children were with him at the practice arena.

Tryan has already won three world titles. He and his partner, heeler Jade Corkill, have a good shot at another title this year at the National Finals Rodeo, he said. The ropers in second place are about \$20,000 behind, so this weekend gives him a

(Continued on page 5)



Clay Tryan, world champion team roper, at right, practices team roping Monday with heeler Matt Prindle, at left. Clay's father Dennis Tryan, at center, released the steer and watches the ropers. (Jonathan McNiven photo)

More than a fluke: Sen. Taylor Brown wants 'concerning' audit problems fixed

by Judy Killen

HELENA — An audit of Montana finances that showed several major accounting errors and omissions likely won't harm the state's financial rating.

The audit of last year's finances submitted by the state Department of Administration revealed 125 errors in the form of misstatements and omissions, including a \$1 billion overstatement of how much infrastructure had depreciated.

Legislative audit officials told lawmakers last week the problems had the potential to downgrade Montana's high rating, which would make it more expensive for the state to borrow money.

Sen. Taylor Brown, R-Huntley, has served on the Legislature's Interim Audit Committee for seven years.

"I have never seen an audit in that period of time that was as concerning as this one," he said. The state's basic financial information was

not reported for nearly a year after the end of the past fiscal year and it's hard to manage the state's finances without that information, he said.

"I don't think I've ever seen two adverse opinions," Brown said. But he's encouraged that Moody's Investors Service told the Associated Press on Tuesday that Montana's audit report was not a credit concern.

"To me that is the big

(Continued on page 6)



A paramedic team from American Medical Response tends to two men who were injured on Monday. Fire Chief Carl Midgley of the Worden Volunteer Fire Department said a branch fell on a scissors lift, which fell about 30 feet to the ground, injuring both men. (Jonathan McNiven photo)

Investigators still gathering evidence in Huntley fire

by Judy Killen

HUNTLEY — The investigation into the June 29 fire that destroyed two mobile homes in Huntley continues, with detectives from the Yellowstone County sheriff's department interviewing witnesses in Huntley this week.

Detective Frank Fritz said on Wednesday that he hasn't heard from the State Crime Lab about the evidence he sent there in the aftermath of the fire.

The properties on Minecha Avenue have been released to the owners, so they can clean up after the fire that destroyed two homes and dam-

aged a third. Two people were injured on Monday when a branch from a tree they were cutting down at the site fell on a scissors lift, causing it to fall to the ground, according to Carl Midgley, chief of the Worden Volunteer Fire Department.

Midgley said one of the men fell about 30 feet from the lift to the ground, while the other stayed on the lift as it fell. Both were transported by ambulance to a Billings hospital.

With the fire "still under investigation," Fritz said he welcomed any information from witnesses.



People who own properties along Pleasant Hollow Trail sign a petition indicating their support of forming a Rural Special Improvement District to generate money to repair the gravel road, which was damaged by flooding on June 10. (Judy Killen photo)

Pleasant Hollow residents try to fix problems with their road

by Judy Killen

SHEPHERD — Property owners along Pleasant Hollow Trail are trying to decide how to pay for repairs after a June 10 storm washed out portions of the gravel road.

About 45 people met Monday night to discuss their options.

Tim Miller, director of the

Yellowstone County public works department, told the crowd that they could petition the Yellowstone County Commissioners to accept the road in the county road system — it's currently a private road — but that the road would have to be rebuilt to county specifications before it would be accepted.

Once the road is in the county system, property owners could create a Rural Special Improvement District, which would create an account into which all property owners would pay into a fund that could pay for both the construction of the road to

(Continued on page 4)

Change Service Requested



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Guest Editorial

by Senator Dee Brown

The financial audit for the State of Montana revealed some disturbing problems today in front of the Legislative Audit Committee in Helena. The audit detailed that the Department of Administration does not have adequate internal controls to ensure accuracy of our finances, nor are they properly reviewed or issued in a timely fashion.

Some of the examples include: transportation ex-

penses overstated by about \$220 million, capital grants and contributions for Natural Resources understated by \$445 million and transfers of about \$47.8 million which were omitted entirely.

The hundreds of millions of dollars not accounted for properly are huge red flags for anyone reading the audit, but the one that made my eyes bulge was the overstatement of approximately

\$1 billion of accumulated depreciation related to infrastructure. Yes, that's with a 'b' as in billion.

The errors have been rectified but why did they happen in the first place? An internal set of controls would have shown the weaknesses in the system before the auditors ever knocked on the door.

In my fourteen years on Audit this is the first time the financials for Montana shouts of incompetency within the department. It is especially worrisome when so much money is at stake.

How long would the bean counters in your business last with financial audits revealing these problems? Committee members asked department officials many pointed questions because of our concerns. Director of Administration, Sheila Hogan, stated, "I am embarrassed." Even the governor's budget director, Dan Villa assured us, "This is a fluke, not a pattern."

The financial audit for the state is a BIG deal. It is the document used by bond rat-

ers to give us the best credit rating so that Montana can borrow money at the lowest rate possible. It would be similar to you taking your credit score to your local bank for a loan. The lower the score, the higher the interest.

This report also plays an important part in decisions made by the legislature during session. Without accurate numbers there may be more/less money to use on programs to benefit taxpayers.

How likely are we to stay with an AA+ rating when this report exposes glaring errors in our accounting system? Time will tell on this issue. Budget director Villa assured us that they are taking every needed step, reasonable and unreasonable, to make sure this doesn't happen again'.

Chairman Randy Brodehl from Kalispell reminded the directors that the 'trust me' statement by Director Hogan takes a long time to heal. He encouraged them to bend over backward to again build the trust.

In the meantime, legislative oversight will be in place to assure that we correct the problems. We simply can't afford to have these ongoing errors when the taxpayers are picking up the bills. They deserve better than this audit shows.

Dee Brown, SD2
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YCN Yellowstone County News

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— Abraham Lincoln

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NEW RENEW

NAME _____
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

SHEPHERD DAY!

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

July 3
Wyatt M. Beddes

July 4
Sean Pritchard
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Grandpre
Jennifer Sexton
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Green

July 5
Rachel Jones
Zachary Hinkle

July 6
Tim Quanbeck, Skeet Kern
Roman Zugacz
Wes Fisk, Mary Lee Dewing

July 7
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Martinson
Mikelle Bayle
Mr. & Mrs. Bud Ruoff
Mark Steffes, Chandler Ingle
Mr. K& Mrs. Dale Halland
Felix Belmontez III

July 8
Debra Dalke, Brent Schwab
Ritchie Westberg
Laurie Murray
Mr. & Mrs. Marty Dewing
Mr. & Mrs. Darren Donnes
Margaret Dvorak, Heidi Hample

July 9
Anthony Cossitt
Mr. & Mrs. Jake Kading
Mindy Topel, Madison Hinkle

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 3

- Worden Senior Lunch, VFW Hall, 2445 Main Street
- Heights Senior Lunch, Hope United Methodist Church, 244 Wicks Lane
- Montana State Parks Fire Safety Talk @ Chief Plenty Coups State Park 1-3pm

SATURDAY JULY 4

- 4th of July – Independence Day - Holiday
- Wrangler WTRC Team Roping Championship Event @ Blue Cat Arena in Huntley, 10 am all day

SUNDAY JULY 5

- Wrangler WTRC Team Roping Championship Event @ Blue Cat Arena in Huntley, 10 am all day

MONDAY JULY 6

- Custer Senior Lunch, 322 6th Street
- Worden Fire Department Meeting, Fire Hall, Main Street, 7 p.m
- Shepherd Volunteer Fire Department Meeting, Fire Station 1, 7 p.m.
- Heights Senior Lunch, Hope United Methodist Church, 244 Wicks Lane
- Lockwood PTA Meeting, Lockwood School Board Room, 6pm

TUESDAY JULY 7

- Lockwood Senior Lunch 1413 Rosebud Lane
- American Legion Post III Meeting, YVEC Hospitality Room, Huntley, 7 p.m.
- Heights Senior Lunch, Hope United Methodist Church, 244 Wicks Lane
- Huntley Project Lioness Club Meeting, Homesteader Hall, Huntley, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY JULY 8

- Lockwood Fire Board Meeting, Fire Station, 7 p.m.
- 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
- Bookmobile 2-3:30pm Brush Meadow Apartments, 1203 Lake Elmo Road,

THURSDAY JULY 9

- Custer Senior Lunch, 322 6th Street
- Lockwood Senior Lunch 1413 Rosebud Lane
- Bookmobile 11:30-2pm Custer Senior Center
- Bookmobile 3:00-4:00 pm Pompey's Pillar
- Heights Senior Lunch, Hope United Methodist Church, 244 Wicks Lane
- Huntley Project Irrigation District Meeting, District Office, Ballantine, 7:30 p.m.

• 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

Is bigger better? You kind of have to wonder, especially when both things are side by side in the outdoors. Take dandelions, for example. We all know and some of us love the beautiful, yellow dandelion flowers that seem to be everywhere each spring.

Birds, cows, horses love to eat them while humans enjoy seeing their bright flowers and others turn them into wine or other good things to eat.

Then there are folks who just hate to see the bright yellow flowers in their lawn and usually make some big box store richer by buying all kinds of poisons to kill them off (but not the grass! Never the

grass!) So when the dandelions appear, the pace is frantic to do something about them until they disappear. But do they go away? Nope, they just have those pretty flowers turn into a white ball of seed clusters that blow all over and start the cycle of life once again.

The plants we call dandelions are about an inch in diameter, maybe a little larger in some cases, when in the seed stage. Whole fields of alfalfa (lawns, too) turn white



Gigantic dandelion compared to a baseball hate.

with the masses of the golf ball looking seed clusters. The wind or some kid blowing on them spreads the seeds far and wide. Next time you drive one of our country roads or even 312 to the Heights look alongside and notice the many GIANT DANDELIONS growing

all over.

The giants look just like the regular dandelions when at the seed cluster stage except the white balls are nearly three times larger. The zillion seeds are still gossamer light and the wind blows them

everywhere, too. For some reason, folks do not seem to notice the giant dandelions, just the smaller ones.

Speaking of giant and regular size, ever looked closely at the difference between turkey and chicken eggs? Well, maybe you should. The brilliant white chicken eggs we are familiar with are usually about two inches long and maybe an inch and a quarter wide. These are not giants no matter what the package says. Sure there are the bigger ones and double yokes and so on, but put a chicken



Chicken eggs compared to turkey eggs

egg next to a turkey egg and you quickly notice how much larger they are.

Turkey eggs are mostly white, with some speckling scattered around one end, so I see from some Mayzie and Taelin Manning showed me. They look just like some wild ones I found recently down by the Yellowstone River. The speckling helps camouflage the eggs when momma is out shopping for bugs. So omelet for omelet, why don't we have more turkey eggs than we do in our grocery stores? Somebody ask Mike Reiter about that down at Project Merc. Want to know more about something in the outdoors? 967-2365, wordenwolf@nemont.net.

Fireworks stolen from 2 stands

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY — Thieves targeted two rural fireworks stands over the weekend.

According to reports from the Yellowstone County sheriff's office, a man reported on Saturday morning that two of his fireworks stands had been burglarized.

Someone broke a latch with a crowbar at a fireworks stand at Firth Street and North Frontage Road in Lockwood, according to a sheriff's report. About \$700 worth of fireworks and explosives were stolen.

The other burglary occurred at a fireworks stand west of Billings at Hesper and Shiloh Road.

Fireworks banned on Forest Service, BLM public land

BILLINGS — Recent hot, dry weather in many locations has resulted in increased fire danger.

The use and possession of fireworks, exploding targets and luminaries with open flame are prohibited on lands administered by the BLM, Forest Service and other federal agencies.

If you build a campfire or use a charcoal grill, remember to put it completely out after use. Avoid driving or riding through tall, dry grass, as hot exhaust systems and tailpipes can easily start a fire. Please check that the spark arrestor on chainsaws and other equipment is attached and working before use.

The report from that burglary said the fireworks stand there was vandalized and fireworks were stolen.

No suspects were identified in either theft, according to the report.

Happy 50th Anniversary



Duck & Donna Hultgren July 3, 1965

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Custer All-School Reunion Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, JULY 3RD

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM: REGISTRATION, SCHOOL TOURS, AND VISITING AT CHS
6:00 PM: ALUMNI CO-ED BASKETBALL GAME & ALUMNI PEP BAND AT THE GYM

8:00 PM: AFTER HOURS PARTY AT CUSTER GENERAL

SATURDAY, JULY 4TH

8:00 AM: COUGAR RUN/WALK 5K OUTSIDE CHS
11:00 AM: BED RACES ON MAIN STREET
12:00 PM - PARADE ON MAIN STREET

1:00 PM - LUNCH BANQUET WITH COORDINATING PROGRAM AT THE GYM
SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT THE PARK:

LEVI'S DINNER, GAMES AND SOME FRIENDLY COMPETITIVE EVENTS.
6:00 PM - LEVI HEIN WILL BE GRILLING HAMBURGERS AT THE PARK
8:00 PM - STREET DANCE AT DENNY'S JUNCTION CITY SALOON, FEATURING EXIT 53

10:00 PM (APPROXIMATELY) - FIREWORKS!!!

SUNDAY, JULY 5TH

11:00 AM - NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH SERVICE AT THE CUSTER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SEE YOU ALL THERE!



Valley Weather & River Almanac

WEEK OF June 9 - June 15, 2015

BILLINGS (elev. 3,567 feet)

Experiment Station, HUNTLEY (elev. 2,990')

Date	Temps		Record Hi/Low for date	Temps		Rain/Snow (") 24 hr
	High/Low	Rain/Snow (") 24 hr		High/Low	Last Year High/Low	
23	86/58	.00/.00"	104 (1988)/43 (1960)	78/51	78/55	.00/.00"
24	79/57	.Tr/.00"	101(1936)/41 (1953)	87/55	81/47	.00/.00"
25	82/63	.01/.00"	101 (1988)/42 (1958)	81/57	83/54	.03/.00"
26	93/59	.00/.00"	102 (1988)41 (1989)	82/61	77/54	.04/.00"
27	95/62	.00/.00"	102 (1936)/38 (1951)	93/53	73/57	.00/.00"
28	98/63	.01/.00"	102 (1966)/41 (1951)	96/56	75/55	.00/.00"
29	98/65	.Tr/.00"	105 (1984)/42 (1947)	94/58	78/48	.00/.00"



YELLOWSTONE RIVER - NOT UPDATED YET AT BILLINGS

Height (Feet)	Flow (CFS)	80-year mean flow
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Not updated at this time.

River data from the U.S. Geological Survey (waterdata.usgs.gov)

-Valley Weather Almanac supplied by John Pulasky and www.sarc.montana.edu/wx

County Shorts

by Evelyn Pyburn

Parks closed

Two county parks located on the rims above Billings will be closed over the Independence Day Weekend, July 3 and 4. The parks will be reopened on July 5. The county has cooperated, over the years, with the practice of the City of Billings to close public access to all city-owned and other public areas on the rims in order to minimize the risk of fires caused by the igniting of fireworks, explained Emergency Services Direct Duane Winslow. The parks are Phipps Park off Zimmerman Trail and Two Moon Park along the Yellowstone River.

Road abandoned to make way

A resolution to abandon an unused dedicated county road called Sleeper Lane was approved by Yellowstone County Commissioners on Tuesday. The road, which had previously been dedicated as part of an undeveloped plat in Lockwood, was never built and serves no public purpose, concluded

a board of examiners that considered the request. The petition was requested by current property owner Mark Bretz, owner of Bretz RV. The petitioner is required to file an amended plat of Cole Acreage Tracts and Johnston Subdivision First Filing to reflect the change. The property is proposed as the future new location for Bretz RV which is currently located at 2220 Old Hardin Road.

Security System for Jail

The county awarded the bid to upgrade the security electronic system at the Yellowstone County Detention Facility to Diamond Construction, Inc. County Commissioners explained that since the mill levy request which would have built an addition to the jail failed, they are shifting some of the funds that would have helped

finance that to updating the current security system. Six bids for the security system were received, and all were substantially more than the \$770,000 estimate, by about \$300,000 according to County Finance Director Kevan Bryan. Bryan explained how funds were going to have to be shifted from other areas in the budget to cover the unanticipated higher cost. Part of the funding will come from PILT (federal payment in lieu of taxes), and also applied will be "asset forfeiture" funds collected by the county which amount to about \$279,000. There is no choice but to make the update to the 30-year-old security system currently in place, according to Sheriff Mike Linder. Commissioner Bill Kennedy explained that there is a public misconception about the availability of funds to the county for the

jail. While the county had anticipated being able to use some reserves to build the proposed \$7 million addition, most of the funds were to come from internal loans which would be paid back with mill levy revenue if it had passed. "We never had several millions set aside for the jail," he said.

Health insurance goes up

Levitt Group, the county's health insurance advisor, recommended that the county increase insurance premiums paid by employees by 10 percent, but county commissioners opted to hold the increase in abeyance until January 1, 2016. They opted instead a moderate six percent increase paying for the difference out of health insurance reserves. In January the additional four percent would kick in for a total

of ten percent, but employees who participate in the wellness incentive blood screening in the fall would not have to pay the four percent. They would be credited that as an incentive to "take an active role in their health care and help manage the cost of benefits over the long term." That amounts to a savings of \$15 per pay period, according to Human Resources Director Dwight Vigness. The 10 percent increase resulted from four large dollar claims experienced by the group in FY14, ranging from \$100,000 to \$299,000 and 15 large dollar claims from \$50,000 to \$99,999.

Day of recognition

July 2 was proclaimed by Yellowstone County Commissioners as Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Day.

Happy 65th Anniversary

Cornelius and Barbara Kautzman were married on June 19, 1950 in Mott, North Dakota. They reside in Ballantine, Montana. They celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with their children and grandchildren at the Windmill. They have 4 children; Debbie and James Dorn; Hardin, Montana; Scott and Cheryl Kautzman; Livingston, Montana; Jed and Chavon Kautzman; Billings, Montana; Michele and James Reiter; Billings, Montana. They have 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.



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Shepherd road meeting ...

(Continued from page 1)

county standards and its ongoing maintenance, Miller said.

At least 60 percent of affected landowners would have to approve the district before it could be created, Miller said.

Miller said he had spoken to county officials who had told him the road would probably be accepted into the county road system if it seemed likely that creation of a RSID was imminent.

He estimated it would cost about \$100 to \$150 per property owner to maintain a gravel road, which he called "kind of an average for what we see."

He said the property owners would need an engineer's estimate of the cost to repair the road.

Miller said he'd looked at the road and there's "a substantial amount of work to be done," including widening some areas and creating shoulders. He's "not sure" about a hill on the east end of the road, which is steep. People in the crowd said the hill is too steep for school district standards and is excluded from school bus routes.

"It looks like there's room to work there," Miller said. Most stretches of the road have room for wider traffic lanes and shoulders, they just haven't been built yet.

From the audience, Carol Reiman asked whether the group needs to complete a title search of affected properties along the road.

Miller said that wouldn't be required, since owners can be identified through county records. Reiman said an earlier effort to create a similar district failed by 12 votes. But since that time, more homes have been built on lots that were vacant and the vote may turn out differently, she said.

Organizer Pat Thomas said the group would meet again to discuss the options for working on the road, but no date has been set yet.

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HAPPY HUNTLEY PROJECT DAY!

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

July 3

Amelia Calsbeek, Barbara Felton
Robert A. Eldred III
Ronald & Janet Anderson
Melisha Williams, Jason Miller
Brian & Shanna Zier
Henry & Diane Greene

July 4

Mason Bender

July 5

Embrie Davenport
Kameron Ewen
Cheri Dorko
Elizabeth Bearden
Melissa & Shawn Bearden

July 6

Heather Troutman
Jo Jo Sundstrom
Holly Ketterling

July 7

Jeff & Tammy Jensen

July 8

Issaha Aplin, Devyn Laux
Laura Sherrodd, Jeremy Johnson
Bruce Brisbin, Robert Lile
Jeff & Velvet Hartwick

July 9

Isaac Wayne Sundstrom
Maridee Hargis, Alex Fauver
Roger & Valarie Bender
Karin Hargis, Diane Greene

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

Montanans split over reaction to Supreme Court health care ruling

HUNTLEY — Last week's Supreme Court ruling that upheld the Affordable Care Act drew immediate reaction from Montana political leaders.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-3 on June 25 to reject a challenge to the health care act, also known as ObamaCare. The case, King v. Burwell, 14-114, involved subsidies on ObamaCare health plans offered on state exchanges.

Republican Sen. Steve Daines was disappointed by the high court's ruling.

"ObamaCare is a poorly written law that is failing the American people," Daines said. "I'll continue working to repeal this failed law and replace it with Montana-driven solutions that increase access to affordable care for all Montanans and put patients first."

But Sen. Jon Tester hailed

the decision, which he said would help "tens of thousands of Montanans."

"Access to affordable health insurance is critical to the health of our families and communities, Tester said. "Today's decision allows over 40,000 Montanans to keep the insurance they have purchased. The Affordable Care Act is not perfect, but dismantling it without a plan to fix it is reckless, and today the Supreme Court recognized that."

Rep. Ryan Zinke, a Republican, said, "American families deserve a health care system that works; and that means it has to be affordable and accessible, while still preserving a high quality of care and innovation."

Zinke said a true health care system should transcend politics.

"Taking care of our neighbors and staying healthy

should not be a partisan issue," he said. "We all agree there will need to be some level of help for folks who face difficult situations, but ObamaCare simply does not work for the vast majority. Let's work together on health care solutions that truly lower costs, expand coverage, and protect the doctor-patient relationship. It's what Montana families deserve."

Gov. Steve Bullock supported the ruling.

"This is a welcome decision," Bullock said, "as I do everything I can to ensure all Montanans have access to affordable health care. Forty thousand Montanans can now be sure they will not lose their health insurance or have their taxes increased in order to maintain coverage."

The health care act pro-

(Continued on page 9)

World champion team roper ...

(Continued from page 1)

good shot to earn more and increase his lead.

On the other hand, competitors could earn a lot more and decrease his lead, he said.

Tryan was running several horses on Monday during his 90-degree practice session.

"It takes four pretty good ones" to compete on the PRCA circuit, he said. "I have four horses that I could compete on, on the road."

His horses become "almost part of the family," he said. "I've only had to retire a few." One he gave to a girl who wanted to learn how to ride, he said.

Tryan grew up in a rodeo family. His dad, Dennis, was the first team roper from Montana to compete in the NFR in 1984, and his two

brothers are also currently on the PRCA circuit.

Tryan and other rodeo standouts, like all-around cowboy Trevor Brazille, are continuing work on forming the Elite Rodeo Association, similar to the Professional Bull Riders in that it guarantees top stars in rodeo will appear at certain events. Currently, PRCA rodeos may not feature the big names and fans want to know who they are going to see when they buy a ticket, Tryan said.

"It's coming along," he said. "I hope it changes rodeo for the better."

Retirement is a long way off, since he thinks he can compete well into his 40s, but he's already wondering what to do when he leaves full-time professional rodeo.

"I'll probably have to own a business or two," he said. "I have one of those brains that never stops working."

For somebody just starting out, he said, "it's hard to get involved if your family isn't."

But anyone can succeed at rodeo with enough passion, he said.

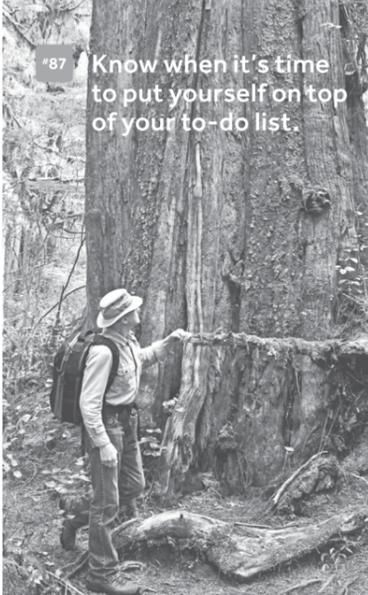
"Practice day and night until you get it figured out," Tryan said. "If you don't love it, you'll never make the cut. But it could be your hobby."



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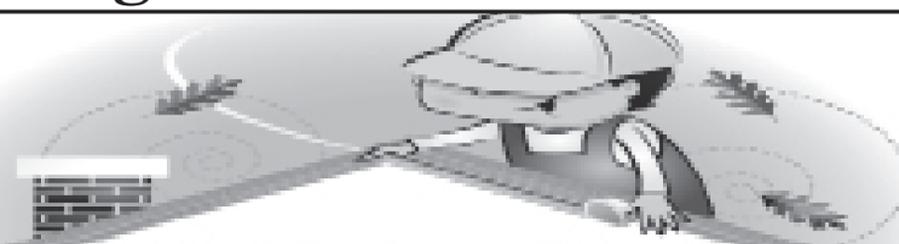
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Jeff Essmann elected chairman of the Montana GOP



Jeff Essmann

HELENA — Jeff Essmann of Billings has been elected chairman of the Montana Republican Party.

Delegates to the Montana Republican Party's Officers' Nominating Convention elected Essmann on June 26.

"It is truly an honor to be elected as your next chairman," Essmann said. "I am ready to listen and to get to work to advance our cause and elect more Republicans to statewide office."

Essmann replaces former Chairman Will Deschamps. Dan Happel also sought the post.

"I want to thank former Chairman Will Deschamps for his selfless service and Dan Happel for his commitment to our party," Essmann said. "I look forward to working with them both as we come together to grow the party and build on our success. Now is the time to unite as we work to make 2016 and beyond better for our cause and for Montana."

Essmann has spent more than 35 years in Republican politics. He has served as the chairman of the Yellowstone County Republican Central Committee and in the Montana Legislature. In 2010, Essmann, as chairman of the Montana Republican Legislative Campaign Committee, helped build a team that elected 28 Republican state senators and 68 Republican state House members.

In 2011, Essmann was elected by his peers to serve

as Majority Leader in the Montana Senate, and in 2013 he was elected president of the Montana Senate. Essmann currently serves the Billings area in the Montana House of Representatives.

"Over the last several weeks I have been listening to Republicans across Montana about how we can grow the party and make our organization stronger," Essmann said. "As chairman, I pledge to be open, honest, and accountable to every member of our party and to listen, communicate, and work with every person who supports our cause. We

have a lot of work to do between now and the 2016 elections. The time for action is now and I am ready to get to work."

Essmann has laid out a series of proposals to help strengthen the Montana Republican Party, including

- Focusing on candidate recruitment to field credible, principled Republican candidates up-and-down the ballot;
- Making fundraising a priority so the MTGOP has the resources needed to help Republican candidates and organizations;
- Reorganizing MTGOP operations and convening a stra-

tegic advisory team to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the MTGOP, solicit advice from across the party, and build an action plan for 2016;

- Establishing a Young Leadership Group of younger Montana Republicans to lead the effort to engage their peers;
- Providing regular and frequent updates to Montana Republicans so they can learn more about the party's activities and how they can get involved.

Editors note: Please see related story on page 9.

Unacceptable state audit ...

(Continued from page 1)

thing," Brown said, "that we not lose our bond rating."

Moody's has rated Montana as Aa1 stable.

Taylor said the audit, as full of errors as it was, is in the past and he believes the problems will be corrected.

"This is really concerning, but it is an anomaly," Brown said he wanted to tell Montanans. "A one-time problem."

He said officials who said they were "mortified" by the audit findings and called the errors "a fluke" had underestimated the problem.

"It's not exactly a fluke," he said. "It's too big to be a fluke."

"The point is, there were people there" who failed to provide basic information that would keep state finances on an even keel, he said. As members of the Audit Committee, "we re-

resent you" as taxpayers, he said. "We're going to fix the problem."

Gov. Steve Bullock released a statement on Tuesday that said the audit unveiled "unacceptable" problems.

"The process that unfolded in the state's audit is completely unacceptable to me," Bullock said. "My administration understands very clearly that my number one priority is to keep our fiscal strength the envy of the rest of the country. We have put steps in place to ensure that remains the case."

Attached to Bullock's statement was a letter from Sheila Hogan, director of the Department of Administration, that outlines steps taken to ensure better accounting methods, such as hiring an internal auditor and contracting with an external

accounting firm "to evaluate and test the strength of these enhanced agency accountability standards."

Asked whether someone would lose a job because of the faulty audit, Brown said "I don't think (so), now, because I think that already happened."

Brown was referring to Julie Feldman Financial Services Division state accountant, who left the department in late April or early May and now is employed by the Montana Board of Investments. State officials have not said if anyone has been fired.

In her letter, Hogan said one of the issues was a lack of experience due to a 100 percent turnover rate of the six-person accounting staff during the time last year's financial report was compiled.

On Wednesday, Mike Wessler, Bullock's deputy communications director, said the 100 percent turnover refers to the fact that over the past two years all six employees in the audit division left and were replaced.

"It's not like we fired 700 people or something," Wessler said, but "because of such turnover we lost a lot of experience."

Brown said he doesn't think all six people left the department "because of this audit. I think some of them moved on to other things."

Editors note: Please see Senator Dee Brown's guest editorial on page 2 regarding the sloppy state audit.

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Signs of excellence

by Judy Killen
Jonathan McNiven photos
WORDEN – School build-
ings at Huntley Project

Schools are sporting new
signs at entrance doors.
The signs were designed
and constructed by students



in the school's ag and weld-
ing classes, Superintendent
Wes Coy said, and now mark
entrances to the elementary,
junior high and high school at
the Worden campus.

"They turned out really
good," said Coy. "We got them
up for graduation, so every-
body saw them."

Blue Body and Paint in
Lockwood – operated by a
Huntley Project alumnus –
donated paint and powder
coat for the signs, Coy said,
but all the work was done by
students under the direction
of teachers Rob Yates and
Shelia Schenk.

Students used skills
learned in welding, painting,
mechanics and metal work
classes. Coy said they used
a plasma cutter to create the
signs.



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TEEN DANCE | from 9:00 PM till 1:00 AM
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Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage gets mixed reaction

HUNTLEY — Montana's representatives in Washington, D.C., are split on last week's Supreme Court decision that same-sex marriage bans are unconstitutional.

Democratic Sen. Jon Tester issued a statement applauding the June 26 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in Obergefell v. Hodges et al.

The justices voted 5-4. Same-sex couples already can marry in 36 states and

the District of Columbia. The court's 5-4 ruling means the remaining 14 states will have to stop enforcing their same-sex marriage bans.

The outcome is the culmination of two decades of Supreme Court litigation over gay rights and marriage.

"The rights and freedoms of every married couple are now protected regardless of what state they live in," Sen. Jon Tester, D-Montana,

said. "All couples should have the same rights to happiness and protections under the law that my wife Sharla and I enjoy."

But Sen. Steve Daines, a Republican, said the ruling defied the will of Montanans. "The court is overriding the will of the people of Montana and numerous other states that have defined marriage as between one man and one woman," Daines said. I

believe marriage is between one man and one woman."

Daines added that Montana voters approved Initiative 96 in 2004, which amended the Montana Constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman.

The Supreme Court ruling counteracts votes by Montanans and other states, he said.

Gov. Steve Bullock supported the ruling.

"This ruling protects the right of all Montanans to marry the person they love," Bullock said in a release, "and moves our state and nation closer to the promise of freedom, dignity, and equality that they were founded upon. All people, regardless of their sexual orientation, should have the opportunity to make a good life for themselves and their families."



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Sheriffs Report ...

(Continued from page 12)

edly choked his brother, who passed out.

Driving while under the influence

* Deputies arrested two people after an investigation in the 3400 block of Old Hardin Road in Lockwood at 8:18 p.m. on June 27.

According to the report, Patrick Sean Wulff was arrested for alleged driving while under the influence of alcohol, first offense.

Amanda Mollie Hewett, 32, was arrested and charged with obstructing a peace officer for an alleged incident involving a knife and alleged

criminal mischief, both misdemeanors. Hewett remained in jail at presstime, where records indicated an additional charge of misdemeanor contempt of court had been added.

* After a traffic stop at 2:02 a.m. June 28, Sean Allan Spitzer was arrested for alleged driving while under the influence of alcohol, first offense.

Motor vehicle theft

Deputies investigated a report that a gold 1992 Toyota Corolla with a dent in the driver's side front fender had been stolen from the 1900 block of Mallowney Lane in south Billings at 8:34 a.m. June 28.

According to the report, the victim had information about a suspect, but that person had not been located.

Criminal mischief

* A deputy investigated a report that a property owner had found a bullet hole in an aboveground swimming pool in the 1200 block of 74th

Street West on June 28.

No suspects had been identified.

* A deputy investigated a report that a vehicle had been shot with a BB gun in the 1600 block of Mary Street on June 28. No suspects had been identified.

Animal bite

A woman reported that she had been bitten and scratched by a stray cat that she tried to help at Old Hardin Road and Highway 87 on June 28. The victim was treated at Billings Clinic, according to the report, but may need treatment for potential rabies infection if the cat cannot be found.

Lost/found property

A man turned in two license plates he found at a car wash in the 300 block of S. 27th Street in Billings on June 28.

According to the report, the license plates will be stored in evidence, tagged as belonging to the registered owners.

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Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

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Fire & Rescue

WEEK OF JUNE 21 — JUNE 27

Shepherd:

- 1 Vehicle fire
- 1 Mutual aid structure fire
- 4 Medical calls

Worden:

- 4 Emergency medical calls
- 1 Grass fire

Lockwood:

- 3 Investigate
- 1 Assist physically disabled
- 1 Assistance, Other
- 3 Provide advanced life support
- 2 Provide first aid & check for injuries
- 1 Extinguishment by fire service personnel.

Happel and Deschamps join MTGOP leadership team

HELENA — Jeff Essmann, newly elected chairman of the Montana Republican Party, has tapped the other two contenders for the post for his leadership team.

Essmann selected Dan Happel to serve as MTGOP finance chairman and Will Deschamps as chairman of the newly formed Republican Speakers

Committee.

"I am excited to have Dan and Will on our team as we come together for the 2016 elections and continue to build on our success," said Essmann. "Dan, Will and I are ready to get to work and with their support we are going to have a stronger and more unified Montana Republican Party."

"Dan brings 45 years of busi-

ness experience, enthusiasm, and a commitment to the MTGOP that makes him an essential figure in the party as we work together to raise the resources we need to help our candidates and organization do their job."

"Will's six years of selfless leadership as chairman of the MTGOP makes him the ideal appointment to get the Republi-

can Speakers Committee off the ground as we work to provide organizations with speakers who are interested in hearing about Republican viewpoints and solutions to the issues of the day."

Essmann said both men will also be responsible for recruiting volunteers "from across our party. By working together, we can share our conservative principles and advance our policies to make 2016 and beyond better

for our cause and for Montana," said Essmann.

Happel will be responsible for growing the relationship and earning the support and confidence of the grassroots community of Montana Republicans to ensure our organization is well funded, prepared and ready to win. Deschamps will work closely with local organizations and provide them with speakers to discuss Republican viewpoints impacting Montanans.

Legal Notices

NOTICE!
 2015 MOBILE HOME TAXES HAVE NOW BEEN MAILED OUT
 The 2015 First half mobile Home tax payments are due in the Yellowstone County Treasurer's office by 5:00 pm or postmarked by July 31, 2015. August 1, 2015 Interest will be assessed at the rate of 5/6 of 1% per month until paid and 2% Penalty the day the taxes become delinquent.
 2015 second half tax payments are due in the County Treasurer's office by 5:00 pm or postmarked September 30, 2015. October 1, 2015 Interest will be assessed at the rate of 5/6 of 1% per month until paid and a 2% Penalty the day taxes become delinquent.
 Taxes may be paid at the Yellowstone County Courthouse between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
 Monday - Friday, Room 108.
 Taxes may be mailed to "Yellowstone County Treasurer" PO Box 35010, Billings, MT 59107. Please include your tax stub or tax code # with your payment.
 Online payments are accepted on our website www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/Treasurer/taxes/paytaxes.asp. There is a 2.5% fee for the use of Credit/Debit cards. There is no fee for the E-Check payment option, however it will only process current payments.

Thank You,
 Sherry Long
 Yellowstone County Treasurer

7/3, 2015
 MNAXLP

Montana Thirteenth Judicial District Court, Yellowstone County
 In the Matter of the Name Change of Madelyn Shae Lees, Allison Spiering, Petitioner.
 Cause No. DV-15-0710
 Judge Rod Souza
 Notice of Hearing on Name Change of Minor Child.
 This is notice that Petitioner has asked the District Court for a change of name from Madelyn Shae Lees to Madelyn Shae Spiering. The hearing will be on July 30, 2015 at 9 a.m. The hearing will be at the Courthouse in Yellowstone County.
 Dated this 9th day of June, 2015.
 s/s Kristie Lee Boelter
 Clerk of District Court

6/12, 6/19, 6/26, 7/3, 2015
 MNAXLP

ObamaCare ...

(Continued from page 5)

vides financial aid to millions of low- and middle-income Americans to help pay for insurance premiums regardless of where they live. The court's action was the second major victory in three years for President Barack Obama in politically charged Supreme Court tests of the law. House Speaker John

Boehner of Ohio said Republicans, who have voted more than 50 times to undo the law, will "continue our efforts to repeal the law and replace it with patient-centered solutions that meet the needs of seniors, small business owners, and middle-class families."

Worden-Ballantine Water & Sewer District 2014 Annual Water Quality Report ...

(Continued from page 1)

properly; take used motor oil to a recycling center. Volunteer in your community. Find a watershed or wellhead protection organization in your community and volunteer to help. If there are no active groups, consider starting one. Use EPA's Adopt Your Watershed to locate groups in your community, or visit the Watershed Information Network's How to Start a Watershed Team. Organize a storm drain stenciling project with your local government or water supplier. Stencil a message next to the street drain reminding people "Dump No Waste - Drains to River" or "Protect Your Water." Produce and distribute a flyer for households to remind residents that storm drains dump directly into your local water body.

Additional Information for Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your public water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these

substances are generally not harmful in our drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year

of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year, or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of our data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that

might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Additional Information for Nitrate

Nitrate measured as nitrogen in drinking water at 10 parts per million is a health risk for infants under 6 months of age. High levels can cause "blue baby" syndrome which is like oxygen starvation. Nitrate levels fluctuate seasonally, sometimes rising very quickly for short periods of time. Ground water tends to have significant nitrates+nitrites more so than surface water.

Important Drinking Water Definitions

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

TT: Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other

requirements which a water system must follow.

Variations and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

MRDLG: Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants. MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MNR MNR: Monitored Not Regulated

ND: Not detected
 For more information please contact: Richard Miller, 2440 Main Street, Worden, MT. 59088 967-2550

This report was generated by the water lab, Billings, MT. May 2015 Permission is granted to reproduce the entire report.

This report can be found in its original format on the Huntley Project community website at www.huntleyproject.net and click on the Worden-Ballantine Yellowstone County Water & Sewer District webpage at <http://www.huntleyproject.net/worden-ballantine-water-sewer/>

Water Quality Data Table							
Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCLTT or MRDL	Your Water	Range Low - High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Sources
Disinfectants & Disinfection By Products							
(There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contamination)							
TTHMs Total Trihalomethanes(ppb)	NA	80	20	17.3-17.3	2014	No	By products of drinking water disinfection
Haloacetic Acids HAAS (ppb)	NA	60	10	8.2-8.2	2014	No	By products of drinking water chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Arsenic(ppb)	0	10	2.5	2.1-2.5	2013	No	Erosion, run off orchards, glass,electronics
Barium(ppm)	2	2	0.55	0.23-0.055	2013	No	Discharge drilling, and metal refineries
Fluoride(ppm)	4	4	0.47	0-0.47	2013	No	erosion, water additive discharge fertilizer and aluminum factors
Nitrate as nitrogen (ppm)	10	10	7.0	2.2-6.8	2013	No	Run off from fertilizer use, Septic tank leaching Sewage, Natural erosion.
Microbiological Contaminants							
Total Coliforms(positive samples per month)	0	1	0	NA	2014	No	Naturally present in the environment
Contaminants MCLG AL Your Water Sample Date # Samples Exceeding AL Exceeds AL Typical Source							
Lead-action level at consumers taps(ppb)	0	15	5.5	2012	0	No	Household plumbing
Copper-action level at consumers taps(ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.254	2012	0	No	Household plumbing

Term Definition
 ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
 ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
 NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system.

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 Brad Hoffman 856-4194 or
 Jeff Keller 856-4272

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Job Classification: Full-time
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Location: Pompeys Pillar
Pay: \$12/hr
Phone #: 406-875-2293 Ask for Rick

UGC is currently accepting interested candidates for an Elevator Operator. This position is for a dedicated, trustworthy, hard-working individual who is looking for a chance to prove they can learn new task, advance, and take any and all responsibility for their safe work behavior and the safety of their coworkers. Task include grain receiving, storage handling, drying, blending, and loading of grain: monitoring stored grain conditions: maintaining and cleaning green facilities and equipment to provide a safe environment. Grain Elevator Operators will be cross trained to perform a variety of task. This position will maintain a positive and forth right attitude that promotes teamwork.

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Must be able to work in tight and confined spaces: walk, climb, kneel, lift, grip, grasp, push and pull various equipment. May require working at significant heights with requisite balance and equilibrium.

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Worden-Ballantine Yellowstone County Water & Sewer District - 2014 Annual Water Quality Report

2440 Main Street Worden, MT. 59088 PWS 00022

Is my water safe? We are pleased to present this year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Do I need to take special precautions? Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from? Our system draws water from a ground water spring and a single well both located in the Worden area. The water is chlorinated before entering the distribution system. Source water assessment and its availability A source water assessment plan may be available from MDEQ

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water? Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity: microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the

result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

How can I get involved?

Should you wish more information concerning our water, you may wish to attend our regularly scheduled meetings held every month on the second Monday at 7:30PM. Meetings are located at 2440 Main Street in Worden.

Description of Water Treatment Process

Your water is treated by disinfection. Disinfection involves the addition of chlorine or other disinfectant to kill dangerous bacteria and microorganisms that may be in the water. Disinfection is considered to be one of the major public health advances of the 20th century.

Water Conservation Tips

Did you know that the average U.S. household uses approximately 400 gallons of water per day or 100 gallons per person per day? Luckily, there are many low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve water. Small changes can make a big difference - try one today and soon it will become second nature.

•Take short showers - a 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water compared to up to 50 gallons for a bath.

•Shut off water while brushing your teeth, washing your hair and shaving and save up to 500 gallons a month.

•Use a water-efficient shower-

head. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.

•Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

•Water plants only when necessary.

•Fix leaky toilets and faucets. Faucet washers are inexpensive and take only a few minutes to replace. To check your toilet for a leak, place a few drops of food coloring in the tank and wait. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

•Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered. Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it and during the cooler parts of the day to reduce evaporation.

•Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely.

Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!

•Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for more information.

(Continued on page 9)

Ask T-Rae



T. Rae

Do you have any questions for our Ask T-Rae Section? If so, email your questions and inquiries to info@yellowstonecountynews.com and we'll have T. Rae to answer it in the coming weeks section of the Yellowstone County News.

T. Rae is a licensed mortician, certified grief recovery specialist and owner of Heights Family Funeral Home and Cremation & Funeral Gallery in Billings.

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Monday Morning Sheriff's Report

Possession of marijuana marijuana.

After investigating a disturbance in the 1900 block of Canary Avenue in the Lockwood area at 7 p.m. June 26, deputies cited Genie Allen Lyman of Billings for alleged possession or paraphernalia and alleged possession of

Traffic citations

After a traffic stop for allegedly driving with expired license plates at Coburn Road and Rosebud Lane in the Lockwood area, at 10:42 p.m. June 26, deputies cited Odon Perez Jr. of San Antonio, Texas, for several alleged traffic offenses and an unspecified, outstanding warrant.

Criminal mischief

At 11:24 p.m. June 26, a sheriff's deputy responded to a complaint that someone had let horses out of a pen in the 3200 block of Moser Dome Road south of Laurel.

According to the report, the deputy found vandalism to the property but no suspects had been identified.

Disturbance

* Sheriff's deputies investigated a report of a disturbance in the 800 block of Yellowstone River Road at 12:50 a.m. on June 27.

According to the report, the alleged victim refused to cooperate with deputies. No arrests were made.

* Sheriff's deputies investigated a report of a disturbance in the 1800 block of Sunrise Avenue in Lockwood at 7:13 p.m. June 27.

According to the report, the parties involved were separated for the night and no one was arrested or cited.

Assault

* Deputies investigated a "cold" assault, interviewing an alleged victim at a Billings hospital at 2:31 a.m. June 27.

The suspect was not in the area, according to the report.

* Deputies investigating a report of an assault in the 2200 block of Highway 87 East at 4:17 a.m. June 27 arrested Justin James Jawort for aggravated assault. The report said Jawort alleg-

(Continued on page 8)

FOURTH ANNUAL Wrangler WTRC Team Roping Championships

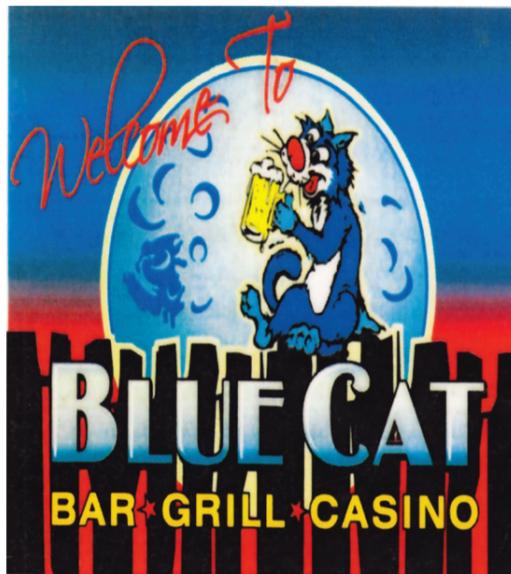
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