

# YELLOWSTONE COUNTY NEWS

SOWING NEWS, REAPING HEADLINES



The Home of Wes & Rene Lindeen

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The playground for the Shepherd Community Center is taking shape. Concrete footers for the building, seen behind the playground, were poured in late May. Next, ground will be leveled to prepare for landscaping. Organizers plan a fundraiser in September and just received some funds from Yellowstone County commissioners. (Jonathan McNiven photo)

## Shepherd Community Center gets \$50,000 boost

*by Evelyn Pyburn*  
SHEPHERD – The Shepherd Community Center project will be receiving a total of \$50,000 in contributions from Yellowstone County to help pay off the debt incurred for the Community Center’s new building.  
On Tuesday, the Yellowstone County Commissioners

acted to move the first installment of the donation forward into the current fiscal year, rather than next year, since the Center has already made the purchase.  
Construction has begun on the site in Shepherd.  
The county will contribute \$30,000 this fiscal year, and an additional \$5,000 each

year for four years thereafter from the PILT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) fund, which is monies paid to the county on federal lands in lieu of taxes by the federal government.  
County Commissioners also stipulated that they would like an annual report and documentation about how the loan is being paid off.

## Ballots for jail mill levy due Tuesday

*By Evelyn Pyburn*  
BILLINGS – Mail ballots are in the hands of Yellowstone County voters regarding a proposed levy increase to help fund the building and on-going maintenance of the Yellowstone County Detention Facility. Voters must return them by 5 p.m. on Election Day, next Tuesday, June 9.

About 40 percent of the ballots, which were mailed on May 20, had been returned as of press time, which is a normal rate of return, according to County Elections Officer Bret Rutherford. His department mailed out 64,365 ballots, of which some 24,500 had been returned. Rutherford said that he expects the total return will be over 50 percent come Tuesday.

The ballot issue asks for an annual safety levy increase of up to six mills to help fund a proposed \$7 million, 100-bed addition at the jail for women inmates, as well as provide for a number of other major updates and renovations to the aging facility. The expansion will require an addition of eight new staff people, which the levy increase will

also help fund. The mill levy will continue to provide for on-going maintenance of the jail in the future. The proposal does not set the levy at six mills, but allows county commissioners to determine the levy needed on an annual basis and to set it up to a maximum of six mills.

There hasn’t been a lot of public fanfare about the levy proposal. As County Commissioner Jim Reno said in passing the resolution, the public will not see some “big glossy campaign” in support of the mill levy request because “we can’t do that; but we have a smart electorate.” And, he said, “We will live with the results.”

The county has been struggling with the issue of an over-crowded jail for a number of years. The original facility, built to accommodate 100 inmates in 1985, now deals with daily populations of between 450 and 550 inmates. County officials are concerned that current conditions at the jail could lead to a human rights lawsuit that could be even more costly to

Continued on page 7)

## Two new members join Lockwood school board

*By Evelyn Pyburn*  
LOCKWOOD – The Lockwood School Board interviewed, last Tuesday, three candidates applying to fill the positions of two board members who resigned their positions. One of the candidates, former board member Tim Sather, was chosen to fill one vacated position. Vicki

Krause was chosen to fill the second position.  
Michelle Gomez, a newcomer to the Lockwood community, also applied.  
Board members urged Gomez to try again to become a board member, because there is always a shortage of people interested in serving on the board.  
Both board members selected to fill the vacant positions will have to run for election to those positions next spring.  
The two new board members were administered the oath of office shortly after  
(Continued on page 5)

## Cookouts kick off for summer



Pappy’s Cowboy Cookouts started summer tours and Western adventures as of Memorial Day weekend. So far, 41 tours are scheduled with more to pick up during the summers. The Cowboy Cookouts consist of a hearty chuckwagon meal, steak, cowboy beans, fry bread, with all the fixin’s ending with a cowboy concert around the campfire, as shown above. From tourists to local business groups, there’s something for everyone in the Western adventures. (Jonathan McNiven photo)

**Area wide garage sales this week on back page!**

Change Service Requested



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 8 4 2 3 2

# McNiven's Meanderings

By Jonathan D. McNiven

**Meander means: 1. To follow a winding and turning course: 2. To move aimlessly and idly without fixed direction. 3. A circuitous journey or excursion; ramble. Often used in the plural. 4. An ornamental pattern of winding or intertwining lines, used in art and architecture.**



So I'm writing my Meanderings today Monday due to a rain delay at my son's baseball game here in Hardin. Yes, I have to write and work even when I'm not working! Anyhow, enough of my problems, Let's talk about someone else's problem and since it's a baseball game, it's a fitting time to talk about the Huntley Project Little League.

But first, I experienced something last week at another baseball game in Worden that I don't think I've personally seen before at Hansen Park. Last week, with bases loaded and the game tied in the last inning, Brandon Geck hit a grand slam home run to win the baseball game. The significant part of the game was that Huntley Project came from behind to tie the game in the last inning and then to win. I'm not sure if I've seen anyone from Huntley Project hit a home run out of that field but then to do it and win all in one hit was impressive

to see. I've seen home runs hit by other teams but not by HP.

Secondly, the HP 11-12 majors baseball team did not win one game last year, so winning a good number of games this year is new for them and one can tell they are having a lot more fun playing when there is success.

Thirdly, the team did not have a coach and manager in place until right before the real games started so there was not much time to practice. Also, HP basically scrambled to get enough kids to play. Then to put a clincher on the whole season was that four kids that played the years before (who also were the pitchers for the team) did not play so all the time invested in them went to waste.

I'm sure there were a number of reasons for the lack of success last year, but I'll just name a couple. 1. HP did not have enough fields for kids to practice (and still don't as Shepherd has about 6 fields and Lockwood has

about 7 fields total) as there are other games being played on them by other HP teams. Currently, HP Little League has 2 fields and the seniors field was broken up to use for tee ball and softball. 2. Late start to the HP Little League program. 3. Lack of adult leadership in the program. 4. Lack of skills and experience among the kids. (there were some kids that had never played baseball before at any level). And lastly, I'm sure my efforts of trying to help coach late in the season didn't help it any. (j/k) Anyhow, one can imagine the frustration for the program and kids.

However, that is not the case this year. I've seen a lot of changes for the better, however, some problems and challenges still exist. I'm glad that Marla Cole stepped up to the plate (literally) to be the Huntley Project Little League President as the previous organization was dwindling in support and

excitement. I'm sure Anthony Hust did a good job before but it appeared to be a challenge for him in getting back out to the Huntley Project area for meetings and such since he moved to Billings but kudos to Anthony for all he did for the program.

This year, the HP Little League had fundraisers, hit-a-thons, clean-up days and more which involved the kids, parents and community. Parents volunteered for umpiring, coaching, managing and also actively participated before the season in making it a success so kudos to all those parents who put in many hours to help make the program a success.

However, one challenge HP Little League still has is that they are limited on the number of fields they have. Technically, I don't really call it two fields but let's say that it's insufficient for

their needs today. In fact, I remember (back in the early 90's when I played baseball at Huntley Project) that we had two fields then and we still have the same amount of fields today. Something needs to happen so that the kids can practice and have fields to play on. In fact, due to the senior's team field being broken up, the senior's team does not even have a home field in Worden to play and every game they play is away. This year, it was reported that Huntley Project had the most kids come out for baseball than ever before at about 141 kids. I believe Huntley Project today has about 9 or 10 baseball teams from softball, tee-ball, minors and majors teams.

Here's the challenge: I would love to support a community fundraising project

(Continued from page 8)

## YCN Yellowstone County News

**Let the people know the facts, and the country will be safe.**  
— Abraham Lincoln

**Yellowstone County News**  
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## HAPPY DAY! SHEPHERD DAY!

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

Friday June 5  
Candace Walter, Tim Halvorson  
Mr. & Mrs Russell Mosher  
Kim Duggan, Jimmi Myhre  
Mr. & Mrs. Justin Staman  
Kimberly Duggan,  
Brandy Williams, Lucas Haaland  
Mr. & Mrs. J.D. Pollock

Saturday June 6  
Jeff Wilson, Dave Nation  
Claire Denise Houska  
Benny Carlson, JT Reynolds  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Gullett  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hass  
Trampus Williams

Sunday June 7  
Amy Wilson, Christian Dalke  
Debbie McDonald  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Orelup

Tuesday June 9  
Martin Matovich (M)  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Mayes  
Alexander Garcia

Wednesday June 10  
Byron Snider, Larry Willson  
Glenn Clark, Denise Hennelly  
Mr. & Mrs John Pasco  
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Reed  
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Radden  
Mr. & Mrs. D. Shannon

Thursday June 11  
Scott L. Smith  
Kevin Stanina, Brock Jimison

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, JUNE 5**

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

**MONDAY JUNE 8**

- Custer Senior Lunch, 322 6th Street
- Huntley Water District Board Meeting 7pm @ YVEC
- Shepherd Lions Club Meeting, Feedlot Steakhouse, 7pm
- Heights Senior Lunch, Hope United Methodist Church, 244 Wicks Lane
- Worden- Ballantine Water & Sewer District Meeting, @6:30pm District Office

**TUESDAY JUNE 9**

- Lockwood Senior Lunch 1413 Rosebud Lane
- Lockwood School Board Meeting, Board Room 7pm
- Heights Senior Lunch, Hope United Methodist Church, 244 Wicks Lane
- Huntley Project Lions Club Meeting, Homesteader Hall, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 10**

- Shepherd School Board Meeting- 6:30pm @ board room
- Shepherd Senior Lunch, Feedlot Steakhouse, 11:30 a.m.
- Heights Senior Lunch, Hope United Methodist Church, 244 Wicks Lane
- Huntley Project Masonic Lodge Meeting, Masonic Lodge, Worden, 7:30 p.m.
- Lockwood Water & Sewer District Board Meeting, District Office 7pm

**THURSDAY JUNE 11**

- Custer Senior Lunch, 322 6th Street
- Lockwood Senior Lunch 1413 Rosebud Lane
- Heights Senior Lunch, Hope United Methodist Church, 244 Wicks Lane
- Huntley Project Irrigation District Meeting, District Office, Ballantine, 7:30 pm
- Shepherd PTO Meeting, Kid Corral Childcare & Learning Center, 6:30 pm

• 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

First, thanks to folks who send requests for critters to highlight in this column. Second, some bird quiz questions so you will have a better understanding about birds (and maybe this author).

OK, the quiz. When you look up in the sky and see a big, long "V" of Canada geese flying overhead, why is one side always longer than the other? Answers below – but another question. What species of bird is called a filalou? Or which bird is known as a mugwump?

This time of spring it's about robins. Some folks think robins are vibrotactile. I was not sure what it meant, either, so I sat out in front of the shop and watched robins feeding. Sure enough, they appeared to find prey by hop-

ping across the lawn, stopping, and then cocking their heads from side to side. Next they made a dart for something with their long yellow bills and usually came up with a worm. Well, sort of. The worms often were still well into the ground and wanting to stay there but the robins would tug and pull just like a cowboy after heeling a calf until the worm popped free.

Seems robins can actually hear foody things underground just by listening or through being vibrotactile



Female robin (gray head) taking a bath. Momma robin with three hungry kids. (Carl Wolf photos.)



they can detect prey from their vibrations in the ground that sends signals to their rpbons' feet. About 40 percent of their food is worms, grubs, caterpillars, and grasshoppers, so any way they can locate them keeps their tummy full of protein. The other 60 percent of their diet is usually fruits and berries. Sometimes they eat berries that

are fermenting and get drunk enough to fall down when walking around.

After red-wing black-birds, scientists consider robins the most numerous birds in the world (300-350

million). They are found just about everywhere in America and Canada down to central Mexico. Migration may or may not take place since they are quite adaptable. We see tens of thousands during the Christmas Bird Count in our area. One of the earliest nesters, they start sometimes in February and may make

six, seven or eight nests until they finally get a family going. Bright blue eggs are often found scattered around where they live because raiders like grackles and magpies steal the eggs or brown-headed cowbirds lay their eggs in the robins' nest.

OK, the quiz answers are: longer side of "V" when geese are flying is because – there are more geese on that side! The filalou is a bird that feeds on such things as peppers then flies backwards to cool its fanny. Now for the cool – the mugwump is common among bird watchers who describe any bird they cannot identify sitting on a power line with its head on one side and rear on the other. Want to know more about a special critter? Call 967-2365 or wordenwolf@nemont.net.

## Letters to the editor

### Dear Editor:

To whoever stole the two Group 31 batteries off my welder:

Does that make you feel really proud of yourself, or yourselves, if there were two of you? Stealing from an elderly disabled person must make you real proud. You came prepared. People like you are the lowest form of life there is. As a lowlife you are actually right down there at the deepest depth of the ocean wallowing around in all that nice smelly whale excrement. You can't get any lower than that.

You brought your tools, at least a 1/2 inch and a 9/16 wrench, to unbolt the battery hold-down on the welder and remove the battery cables so you could get the batteries off the welder. That tells me you planned the theft. It tells me a few other things too.

I notice that at some time prior to your taking the batteries off the welder you also got three other batteries I had stored away behind my propane tank blind. I know of

other area people's batteries you recently stole.

I will thank you for leaving the black LED flashlight by the hitch of my welder. It will serve as a souvenir to remind me of the kind of person or persons you are. I don't know if the fingerprints that were on it were useable, if they were I'm sure the sheriff will let you know. They dusted for finger prints on the welder's fuel tank too.

When the time is right I'll put new batteries on my welder so that I can get my welding done. If you come for them too, I will have a nice little surprise for waiting for you. It won't be ice cream and apple pie, but you'll really like it.

Come judgment day, God will have another great surprise for you and whoever else was helping you.

Mike Rogers  
Worden

### Dear Editor,

Come join us for our annual Shepherd Jamboree on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015. It will be hosted by the Shepherd Lions Club at the Community Center site. Our fundraising events will include a live auction, vendor tables, children's games and lunch. Events begin at 11 a.m. and run through mid-afternoon.

The proceeds will be applied to the Shepherd Community Center fund. Good news! By the time the Jamboree takes place, a building structure with bathrooms will be in position, as well as a new playground system! The Community Center building will be available to the entire community and will provide a facility for youth groups (4-H, Scouts, schools groups, etc.) and the general public for receptions, anniversaries, etc., as well as an activity area for the Shepherd Senior Citizen Group.

Much progress has been made in recent years at the Community Center site

thanks to our generous donors, Jamboree attendees and many community members. A pavilion with electricity has been built, a sprinkler

system put in and grass and trees have also been planted!! The sand volleyball court

(Continued on page 8)

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26	73/47	.40/.00"	95 (1936)/33 (1975)	74/42	85/52	.01/.00"
27	67/51	.05/.00"	91 (1969)/35 (1954)	68/49	76/54	.38/.00"
28	69/49	.42/.00"	91 (1958)/27 (1947)	68/48	87/52	.Tr/.00"
29	62/46	.Tr/.00"	94 (2003)/35 (1959)	64/47	75/58	.40/.00"
30	76/47	.Tr/.00"	95 (1984)/36 (1982)	77/45	78/46	.01/.00"
31	83/52	.Tr/.00"	92 (1940)/32 (1982)	84/48	72/48	.01/.00"
01	83/57	.20/.00"	92 (1977)/32 (1951)	72/56	68/47	.01/.00"

BILLINGS (elev. 3,567 feet) Experiment Station, HUNTLEY (elev. 2,990')

YELLOWSTONERIVER- NOT UPDATED YET AT BILLINGS

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

-Valley Weather Almanac supplied by John Pulasky and www.sarc.montana.edu/wx  
 River data from the U.S. Geological Survey (waterdata.usgs.gov)

# Four local teens headed to national finals rodeo in Iowa

by Judy Killen

**HUNTLEY** – Four local junior high students are headed for the National Junior High Rodeo after big wins at the Montana state finals over the weekend.

They will compete at the national finals June 21-27 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Tristan Hoffman, who just finished eighth grade at Huntley Project Schools, won the state title in boys breakaway roping and placed fourth in boys goat tying to qualify in two events.

Bella Fossum, a seventh grader at Shepherd Schools, is the state champion in girls goat tying.

HP student Kyle Schaff placed fourth in boys breakaway roping to qualify in that event.

And Cheyanne Carl of



**Cheyenne Carl**

Ballantine, who just finished seventh grade at HP, placed second in barrel racing.

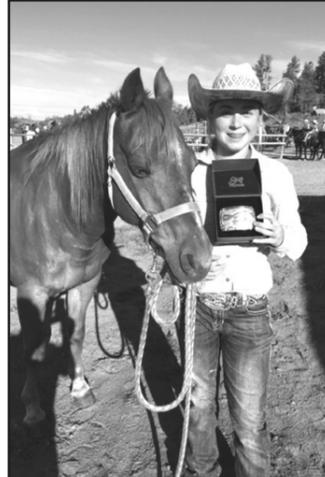
Linda Cady-Hoffman, Tristan's mother, said the rodeo will be a huge change from competing in Montana.



**Tristan Hoffman**

"Just getting there is a big deal," she said. Noting the two event winners, "that's cool that there's two state champions right there," she said.

More than 1,000 junior



**Bella Fossum**

high students will compete in the 11th annual rodeo. Cady-Hoffman said rodeo officials recommend reserving a golf cart to get around the Iowa state fairgrounds, which are huge. The horses are housed



**Kyle Schaff**

in a barn that can hold 600 head, she said.

"So it's a really big venue," she said.

And day after day of competition could stress the kids and the livestock, she said.

"This will be a test of their endurance," Cady-Hoffman said. "It's game on."

Contestants have a chance to win a share of \$75,000 prize money and more than \$100,000 in college scholarship funds.

## Sheriff's Report...

(Continued from page 8)

on May 22. According to the report, the missing items include an AM-FM CD player, a knife, winter camping jackets and a sleeping bag.

### Alcohol violation

A deputy responding to a report of a party where minors were drinking alcohol at 0:22 p.m. May 31 at the Old Washington Bridge in the 3600 block of Frontage Road found approximately 20 juveniles in the park after hours.

According to the report, one juvenile younger than

18, who was not identified, was cited for minor in possession with a notice to appear in court.

### Suspicious activity

A sheriff's deputy responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 500 block of Steve Street in Lockwood at 11:35 p.m. May 30. A person there requested area checks, the report said.

### Attempted escape

Sheriff's deputies responded to the Yellowstone County Detention Facility on King Avenue East at 10:07 a.m. May 30 to a report of an inmate attempting to escape.

The report said the inmate was not able to exit the building.

### Burglary

A burglary on South Eighth Road in the Huntley area was reported at 11:42 p.m. May 23. The report said several items were missing including cash and change and assorted jewelry.

### Forgery

Sheriff's deputies began an investigation into a report of two people cashing counterfeit checks in the 2400 block of Main Street in Worden on

May 29.

### Partner or family member assaults

\* Sheriff's deputies investigated a disturbance possibly linked to a partner or family member assault in the 7800 block of Lewis Avenue west of Billings on May 24. The report listed no arrests but said the case had been referred to the Yellowstone County Attorney's office.

\* Deputies investigated a report of an assault in the 4000 block of T Bar J Way in Lockwood on May 25. A woman was treated for injuries at a hospital and released, according to the report, but no arrests were made.

### Animal bite, quarantine

\* The sheriff's department received a complaint from a woman who said she was bitten by a dog bite in the 2200 block of Highway 87 East on May 23. The dog was quarantined.

\* An animal control officer investigated a report of a cat bite in the 500 block of Finley Circle on May 24. The cat was quarantined, according to the report.

### Theft

Sheriff's deputies investigated the theft of two long boards from Two Moon Park at Bench Boulevard at 6:36 p.m. May 25.

According to the report, one board is a wooden van der Banwede with scratches and an alien sticker. The other is black with a pot plant decoration and red, yellow and green pain. No suspect information was available.

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# The Fifth Column

by Brad Molnar

BILLINGS—At an OutPost staff meeting my editor mentioned my coverage of the Republican Lincoln-Reagan Day Banquet, and said he assumed I would cover the Harry S. Truman Democratic Dinner.

I announced that I was visiting press, and they gave me my nametag, into which I inserted my OutPost business card. Upon entering I saw many old friends: John Gibson, with whom I had served on the Public Lands Access Association; State Auditor Monica Lindeen, with whom I served in the Legislature; former Mayor Chuck Tooley, with whom I attended several functions, Rep. Robyn Driscoll, who used to compute my business taxes and I put together her original campaign ads.

I sat at a table with new friends and fiddled with my camera. State Representative and Democratic Central Committee Chairman Kelly McCarthy asked me to step out to the hall. He asked me what I was doing there and that he knew I was a Republican legislator. I informed him that was 15 years ago and I was here as “press.” He asked if David (the editor) knew I was there. I said he did but it made no difference as the event was open to the public. He retorted that the public had to pay. I said that I paid for my beer but would not donate to the Democrat Party and at the Republican function I had paid just the cost of the meal since I felt it was wrong for an unbiased press

## Lockwood School Board...

(Continued from page 1)

their selection and were quickly engaged as the board continued to other business.

The Lockwood Board must enter into negotiations with a newly formed union at Lockwood School, the Lockwood Paraprofessionals Association. Katherine Luhman, Tim Sather and Sue Vinton will serve on the negotiations committee.

The board also approved Superintendent Tobin Novasio’s recommendation to name Don Christmas as the

school’s Title IX coordinator. As coordinator, he will oversee gender equity issues, which Novasio said public schools are encountering more frequently. Because of that, it is recommended that schools have someone serve as coordinator in order to make sure the school is adhering to new guidelines and keeping records on complaints.

The board also approved the Middle School Handbook. Aaron Smith was also named as new Spanish teacher.

to be active in the politics they cover. He asked for David’s phone number so he could verify. I told him to look it up and walked back toward my table. He said he would take me at my word until he could verify. I asked if he were going to ask the reporter from the Billings Gazette or the staff from Q2 how they voted. I have not been treated this way since, I think, 2001, when the Billings OutPost and the Laurel Outlook covered my expenses to attend the Montana Democratic State Convention in Helena. Then Executive Director of the Democratic Party, Brad Martin, tried to bar me from entering the event. It got very tense. I went in there, too. Gathering at the Crowne Plaza’s banquet facility, about 300 energized Democrats attended their 29th Annual Harry S. Truman Democratic Dinner. Office holders, wannabe office holders, and former office holders joined the rank and file. Many surmised this was a record number for an off-year election cycle and certainly larger than most similar events. It was about double the attendance at the similar Republican event the previous weekend (Billings OutPost May 7). According to Pamela Ellis, secretary of the Yellowstone County Democratic Central Committee, the reason for the turnout was that “The committee organized early, had a website, Facebook page and direct mailings.” Others credited, “We worked hard at selling tickets.”

The excitement was generated from a recent string of legislative victories engineered from a solid minority position. Every speaker referenced the victories: Medicaid Expansion, the Confederated Kootenai Salish Tribe Water Compact and the so-called Dark Money Bill. The close-but-no-cigar award went to the infrastructure bill, which died by the same one-vote margin most of their victories were achieved by.

Darrin Old Coyote, chairman of the Crow Nation, thanked the Democratic legislators for bringing home the Medicaid Expansion Bill and stated that it was due the Crow Nation because when the modification of the boundaries of the Crow tribe took place, the cost of medical care for the tribe would be paid for by the relinquishing of reservation land. However, according to Old Coyote, the Bureau of Indian Affairs didn’t see it that way and had been reducing medical coverage so now less than 45 percent of the tribe is covered. Therefore the expanded Medicaid coverage was necessary to augment the loss of federal dollars. His heartfelt thank you was greeted with sincere applause.

His discussion of current energy issues was less well-received. “Washington, D.C. says we need to take coal out of the energy portfolio.” Sounding more like Congressman Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, he said, “We are not going to power America with renewables.”

Chairman Old Coyote continued, “We need to invest in carbon capture technologies. We want to be a part of the

U.S. economies but D.C. says we should not.”

This did not generate any applause. But when Chairman Old Coyote ended with, “If you are a Democrat seeking public office, ‘Welcome to Indian Country,’” he received a standing ovation.

A common theme throughout the event was the denouncement of “Dark Money.” A statement from Sen. Jon

Tester, D-Montana, said in part, “I stand with you as I work to keep dark money out of politics.” In the Jan. 2, 2013 OutPost, referencing the \$4.2 million in dark dollars that kept him in the race until a razor thin victory, Tester said of the dark money group Montana Hunters and Anglers, “... they were helpful,” and that he was “glad the outside groups

(Continued on page 10)

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Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>  
No story hour Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>  
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**You are invited to “A Taste of Nepal” with Pastor Babu Varghese**

Pastor Babu Varghese, director and founder of Blessed Children’s Home in Nepal, will be speaking at Billings Vineyard Church (2376 Main, next to Bull Mountain Grille, in Billings) on Sunday, June 7th. EquipNepal, a locally-based ministry, has worked with Babu for almost 15 years. It is a blessing to be able to welcome him here on his first trip to the USA! He and his wife, Sabitri, have been working with the oppressed, widowed and fatherless (Isaiah 1:17) in Nepal for over 20 years. Currently, they care for more than 50 children at Blessed Children’s Home, and run the Nepal Evangelical Mission and Nepal Evangelical Seminary.

Babu will give a short introduction during BVC’s worship service (10 a.m.) on the 7th, followed by a reception in The Rooted Café. Join us later that afternoon from 4-6pm for more detailed information about what Babu is doing in Nepal, including a report on the recent earthquake and its aftermath. We will also enjoy a “Taste of Nepal” with Nepali food, music and interactive displays. This event is open to the public, so feel free to invite your friends and family. RSVP required for A Taste of Nepal so that we may better plan for food (Call BVC at 259-VINE or email Janis Viren at [jev@equipnepal.org](mailto:jev@equipnepal.org) by Saturday, June 6). Jaymasi! (JAY-mah-see, a Christian Nepali greeting meaning “Victory in the Messiah”)

For more information about EquipNepal, follow us on Facebook ([www.Facebook.com/equipnepal](http://www.Facebook.com/equipnepal)) or check out our website ([www.EquipNepal.org](http://www.EquipNepal.org)).



## State Fund restitution ...

(Continued from page 6)

ing another medical evaluation that he couldn't lift anything heavier than a gallon of milk and that his wife took care of him because he couldn't be left alone.

However, investigators from the Montana Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation and Montana State Fund learned in 2013 that Christensen was actively engaged in construction, including walking up and down a ladder several times, lifting pieces of lumber, stacking lumber and throwing lumber. Last year, the state's investigators visited homeowners who had

hired Christensen for construction work, and learned that he owned a business named B & C Construction, which he advertised on Facebook.

Investigators also learned that Christensen had been paid over \$202,000 for work he had completed as a subcontractor in Utah from 2010-2013. The state's investigators also discovered that Christensen had applied for four other work comp claims in Utah between 1987 and 1989.

"This case sends a clear message that we will find and prosecute anyone who defrauds Montana's workers' compensation system, no matter where you live," said Attorney Gen-

eral Tim Fox. "My thanks to Assistant Attorney General Mary Cochenour, Division of Criminal Investigation Agent Tony Poppler, and the staff at Montana State Fund for their thorough and tenacious efforts on behalf of Montana's employers and employees."

Laurence Hubbard, president of Montana State Fund, noted that the Christensen case involves one of the highest claimant fraud restitution amounts in recent history.

"Workers' compensation fraud is theft, plain and simple. It hurts all businesses paying into the system, so it is vital that we prosecute these cases vigorously," Hubbard said. "We ap-

preciate the collaborative work between Montana State Fund and the Montana Department

of Justice that enables us to preserve benefit funds for injured workers who truly need them."

## Bids come in high for jail security system

By Evelyn Pyburn

BILLINGS — Bids to upgrade the security system at Yellowstone County Detention Facility came in higher than anticipated.

Yellowstone County Commissioners opened six bids on Tuesday to upgrade the Security Electronic System and to do remodeling of the control room at the county jail.

The base bids ranged from \$949,000 to \$1,145,000 — all considerably more than the \$770,000 estimates, according to county purchasing agent Steve Krogstad.

Krogstad said that the bids will be reviewed and the Sheriff's Department will have to reevaluate its budget for the project.

Sheriff Mike Linder ex-

plained that the 30-year-old system currently in place is frequently failing and it's becoming increasingly difficult to get replacement parts.

The proposed new system would be an electronic system operated with touch screen computers, as opposed to toggle switches, he said.

The new system could be expanded as needed.

## Jail ballots ...

(Continued from page 1)

the county.

In addressing public perceptions about what contributes to the high jail population, Commissioner Bill Kennedy explained that the jail does not take many out-of-county inmates, because there is not room for them. On any given day there are fewer than 10 inmates from outside the county housed at the jail. Also, people with misdemeanor charges haven't been placed in jail "for years." And county officials are pursuing every avenue possible to divert misdemeanor and non-violent defendants out of

jail, he said.

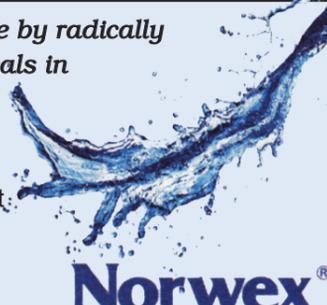
The impact of the six mills, if fully levied, will be \$8.10 on a \$100,000 home and \$16.20 on a \$200,000 home, to be assessed annually. The numbers differ slightly from those on the ballot because of a retroactive change in law enacted by the recent state Legislature. The law became effective too late to reprint the ballots, so a slip of paper was included with each ballot explaining the change, and notices were published in local newspapers.

County Commissioners are awaiting the outcome of the election to determine how to

set next year's budget. They will not build the new addition if there is not adequate funding to maintain and staff it, commissioners have said.

Combining money in the county budget and using internal loans, county officials have the \$7 million that is estimated the new pod will cost. Besides the addition, the jail also needs extensive updating to its HVAC system, kitchen and laundry and security system, and its roof needs to be replaced within five years.

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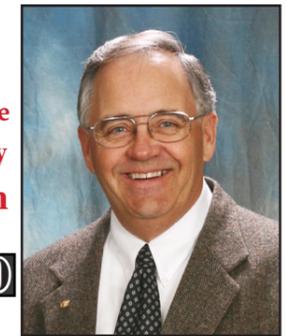


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**WHAT HAPPENS IN THE GARAGE STAYS IN THE GARAGE**

# Monday Morning Sheriff's Report

## Stolen vehicle

A Yellowstone County sheriff's deputy investigate the theft of a beige 1986 Honda Accord on May 29.

According to the report, the car was parked at the closed Liberty Fuel station at 12 Mile Road and Highway 312. It was stolen between 1:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. May 29.

## Possession of marijuana

\* After a traffic stop in the 2500 block of First Avenue North at 12:12 a.m. May 31, deputies arrested Tyler Medicinehorse, 57, no town given, for alleged possession of marijuana.

\* Damon Lyle McCune of Shepherd was cited for alleged possession of marijuana and alleged criminal

possession of marijuana on May 24 after an investigation at Highway 312 and 12 Mile Road.

## Pursuit, vehicle or foot

Sheriff's deputies pursued a car in which a suspect had fled after a dispute at a gas station in the 1000 block of Highway 87 East at 5:50 a.m. May 31.

According to the report, the driver did not stop when deputies attempted a traffic stop. A "pursuit ensued, ending in termination," according to the report. There were no arrests.

## Recovered stolen vehicles

\* A sheriff's deputy responding to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1300 block of Elkhorn Drive in Laurel on May 29 discovered the vehicle was reported stolen from Billings. The car was towed for safekeeping and its owner was notified, according to the report.

\*A deputy on patrol observed a gray 2000 Chevrolet Malibu without a license plate on the side of the road at South Frontage Road and Orchard Lane in south Billings at 12:23 a.m. June 1.

According to the report, the vehicle had been reported stolen. The owner was notified and retrieved it, according to the report. The ignition had been punched and damage was reported to the gear shift.

\* A Dodge vehicle found in the 1100 block of Arlington Drive at 2:16 p.m. May 25 was found to be listed as stolen from within the Billings city limits. A report said the vehicle was recovered.

## Criminal mischief

After deputies investigated a report of a disturbance in the 8200 block of Beas Lane in Shepherd at 11:44 a.m. May 25, William Joseph Williams of Shepherd was cited for alleged criminal mischief with damage of less than \$1,500. The report said a window in a home valued at \$50 was damaged.

## Deceptive practices

Deputies investigated a report of deceptive practices involving a credit care that occurred in April. The report said the case was assigned for

further investigation.

## Theft from vehicle

\* Two semi-truck batteries valued at \$300 were reported stolen from the 2400 block of North 15th Road in Worden on May 29.

The batteries were stolen from a generator trailer, according to the report. There were no suspects.

\* An unknown suspect broke into a parked vehicle in the 8900 block of Kautzman Road on May 23. According to the sheriff's report, missing items included bear spray, a Kershaw knife, sunglasses, a Smith and Wesson 916T firearm, a driver's license and credit cards.

\* A deputy investigating a report of theft on May 29 in the 2400 block of Old Hardin Road determined that although a lock had been cut off a cargo trailer, nothing else had been stolen.

\* Several items were reported stolen from a Nash bumper trailer parked in the 7100 block of Grand Avenue

(Continued on page 4)



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## Meanderings ...

(Continued from page 2)

for the Huntley Project Little League to acquire about 4 or 5 more baseball fields (right in the same area).

Since the tradition of the name being Hansen Park, I'd love to figure out how more land can be acquired for the HP Little League in order to expand the name and area of

"Hansen Park" to be called "Hansen Park Complex"! Or am I just spinning my wheels because no one with adjacent land to Hansen Park is willing to talk and be open to the idea?

See you in the paper  
JDM

# THE GOOD NEWS



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## THANK YOU

The Senior Class of 2015 and their parents would like to thank the following individuals and businesses (and those we have missed) for their support of the 2015 Huntley Project Senior Non-Alcoholic Graduation Party (SNAP). The party would not have been possible without their help and donations. Thank you!

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| CARBONES PIZZA                           | TOWN & COUNTRY LANES          |
| AGRI-LEASING                             | ADECCO                        |
| CLASS OF 2015 PARENTS                    | WESTERN MARKETING             |

THANK YOU....THANK YOU....THANK YOU....THANK YOU

# Weekly Ramblings by Krayton Kerns - Branding Time

Late spring marks branding time for country folk and because it is labor intensive, neighbors help neighbors. If you do not lend a hand, the volunteers at your branding will dwindle until your crew becomes you, your trophy wife and a calf table. Branding then takes most of May. Unless you have a trophy wife, plan on pushing calves into the calf table yourself, so it is far easier to help others.

Even though the specific procedures varies between brandings, most crowd the herd into a small corral before cutting nearly all cows back out to pasture. Several mommas are left with the calves to calm those frightened by all the odd sights and new sounds. Also, trying to rope the very last of 250 calves makes for great television, but it is not particularly beneficial for the calf. Leav-

ing a dozen or so cows in the pen provides the cover for a good cowboy to ease behind the last calf, toss a loop and jerk his slack before the calf sees it is coming.

Regardless of our best efforts, branding is stressful to the calf. Since the break of dawn they have been chased by strange cowboys wearing new hats and shiny belt buckles. Once corralled, they mill around confused by the stench of burning hair and bloody disinfectant. Their fear builds as they watch herd mates being roped and dragged through the smoke. You would think rather than just wait their turn, a freedom loving group of calves would charge the branding pot. After all, humans and horses also fear fire, so the panic created by a tumbling propane tank just might allow an escape. They never do, instead choosing to cower

among the remaining cows hoping they are roped last and this brings me to my point.

Attention Democrat and progressive Republican landowners: What in the world were you thinking? In spite of repeated warnings from people like me, you voted for massive government, apparently fooled by the illusion of utopia's unlimited freebies. Figuratively, after being corralled you blatantly ignored the early warning signs of the momma cows being cut from the herd. The roar of the smoking branding pot did not scare you, because you elected this ruling class, so these are your guys. Surprise! On Wednesday, May 27, 2015, White House rancher Barack Obama used the EPA to hand down a decree assuming federal control of all surface waters. Quicker than an emasculator slicing

through a spermatic cord, every landowner's water rights were revoked and here is how it looks in feedlot USA.

Thursday morning I was fertility testing bulls in the mud; the blessings of a recent rain. There floating in a puddle in front of the squeeze chute were six aged fly tags. As these tags contain insecticide residue and are immersed in water which could flow downstream to the High Ditch leading to the Yellowstone River, this is a violation of this new Clean Water Rule. Should the ruling class decide this particular landowner needs re-education, fines could be levied based upon said landowner's religious or political beliefs. I am so disgusted. If there ever was a group of calves worthy of being roped, dragged and branded, it is the folks who voted for the progressive agenda, but unfortunately,

we are all in the same corral and will suffer the same fate. If you wheat farmers on the arid plains do not see how this affects you, smile and say, "sage grouse." You are next! Americans should be alarmed when a single citizen loses a property right, but patriots should panic and crash the branding pot when it happens to millions in a single blow.

Had enough yet?

**Rent the Sign  
in Worden**

\$25/week/side  
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Community Club  
Call Don Dvorak  
**670-7731**

## Letters continued...

(Continued from page 3)

and horseshoe pits are in place and available to all, as well as a sidewalk from the parking lot to the Pavilion. The Community Center has seen activities such as, but not limited to, the Shepherd Lions Easter Egg hunt and Halloween Pit Stop, a picnic site for the Shepherd Seniors, a campsite for a Girl Scout troop and various

graduation events.

We are asking for your help with the 2015 Jamboree this September.

As the Community Center develops, the Jamboree will continue to take place in order to fund the building as well as ongoing maintenance of the entire site from the ground up. Donation items for the auction and/or door prizes are welcome as well as cash donations. As part of our thank you, your name will be included on the Donor list publicized at the Jamboree and also in the Yellowstone County News following the

September event.

Any consideration that you may offer is greatly appreciated and will assist in helping to maintain this awesome Community Center site for our area! The Shepherd Lions have graciously volunteered to host the Jamboree and may be reached through either of the following contacts: Rebecca Beddes at 406-855-5875 or Russ Christoferson at 406-671-8205.

Your contribution will be deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. The Shepherd Community Center is a 501c3 non-profit organi-

zation. A receipt is available upon request.

With our utmost thanks,

Matthew Beddes  
Shepherd Lions Club President

Robert Fritz  
Shepherd Community Center President

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HUNTLEY PROJECT

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

Friday June 5  
Heather Palmer  
Jim & Mary Knapp

Saturday June 6  
Greg Muller, Violet Balzer  
Amanda Jarrett, Jennifer Miller  
Brooke Manning, Corbin Vogel  
Cliff & Linda Holmes  
Allen & Lucinda Propp  
Adam & Edie Vogel  
Ron & Donna Schrank  
Nikolas & Lauren Sian

Sunday June 7  
David Buys, Nicole Norton  
Seth & Amanda Hanson

Monday June 8  
Josh Darity, Logan Long  
Stacey Pewonka, Lucinda Propp

Tuesday June 9  
Joshua Mueller, Julie Fisher

Wednesday June 10  
Theresa DeVries  
Alexander Black  
Jennifer Ewen, Jake Lindberg

Thursday June 11  
Lyle & Kathy Hill  
Larry & Annegret Sherrod

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

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- STATE LAW** says it is unlawful for help wanted ads to advertise specifically for marital status, sex or age. To comply with the law, we cannot accept help wanted ads which contain "young," "single," "married," "man," and "wife," etc. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.
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House For Sale, 2440 4th St in Worden, MT. Call 406-690-9101. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, Very Nice!

Tow EZ Car Dolly, Perfect condition, will carry car with inside dimension of 42.5 inches and outside dimension of 70 inches. Light grey color, \$700.50 Call Stan at 373-6912

### SERVICES OFFERED

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Ditchrider needed. Duties include ensuring the delivery of irrigation water to landowners during the irrigation season. Year-round position. During the off season will work on system maintenance. Must live within the Huntley Project Irrigation District which runs from Huntley Montana past Pompeys Pillar. Drug free work place must pass pre-employment drug test. EEOC Send resume tohp07@nemont.net or call Liz for an application. 967-3400

### FOR RENT

Mobile Home Space- Quiet park in Worden, MT. Water/ sewer included in rent. call 794-4909.

1 Completely Furnished apartment. \$800 plus deposit, All Utilities paid, in Worden, Call 272-1519 or 698-2736.

1 unfurnished bedroom apartment. \$625 monthly plus deposit. all utilities paid, in Worden, Call 272-1519 or 698-2736.

## Dem dinner ...

(Continued from page 5)

jumped in."

The speakers must have been counting on a sympathetic press because dark money allegations and facts permeate the Democratic Party as much as they do the Republican Party. The charges against Gov. Bullock have languished on politically appointed Commissioner of Political Practices Jonathan Motl's desk. Those charges stem from activities of the Hilltop Policy Solutions dark money ego Montana Hunters and Anglers Pac and his campaign for governor. According to Mediatrackers, Democratic Executive Director Nancy Keenan was special council to Hilltop. Reprs. Virginia Court and Margie MacDonald, both of Billings, were slated to receive honors, but did not attend. Both have been recently shown to be supported by dark money.

House Democratic Minority Leader Chuck Hunter, D-Helena, demonstrated a leadership skill level not seen since the 1990s when Speaker John Mercer, R-Polson, led the super minority Republicans to strong long-term majorities in both Houses.

Much of the doom and divisiveness evident at

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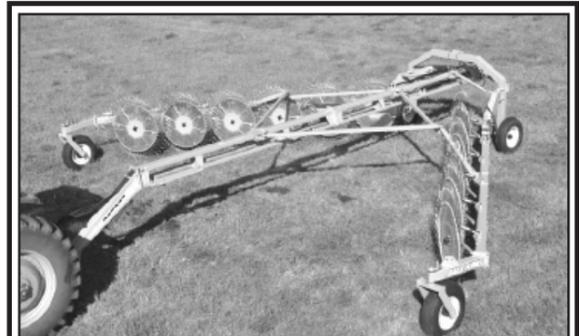
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Yellowstone County," he said referencing Rep. Tom Richmond, R-Huntley and Sen. Taylor Brown, R-Billings.

Bullock said that the demise of the infrastructure bill at Republican hands kept him from working on the critical Laurel water intake project. (Fact: the Laurel water intake project was never in the infrastructure bill. Bullock did not appear to be up for compromise on the legislation.) Rep. Kelly

McCarthy, D-Billings said in his remarks that he tried to amend in the Laurel project but the amendment failed 30-70. We can assume Bullock was aware.

Bullock got the last word when he closed with, "We must defeat Attorney General Tim Fox. We must elect a Democratic House and Democratic Senate. Look what we accomplished as a minority. Imagine what we can do with a majority."

# Obituary

Walter Ervin Sundstrom, 77, of Nisland, S.D., died May 26, 2015, at Rapid City Regional Hospital.

Walt was born May 12, 1938, in Belle Fourche, S.D., to Charles and Eulalia (Owen) Sundstrom. Walt grew up in Mud Butte, graduating



Walter Ervin Sundstrom

from high school in Newell.

Walt was a member of the I.B.E.W., and traveled several

states doing power line-man work. In his spare time he could be found fishing, hunting or collecting rocks.

He will be sorely missed by his sons, Blaine (Laurie) Sundstrom of Billings, Mont., Charles Sundstrom of Huntley, Mont., Guy (Aloa) Sundstrom of Worden, Mont.; four grandsons: Justin, Cole, Trey and Isaac; one granddaughter, Isabelle; two great-grandchildren, Aus-

tin and Gabriella; and several nieces and nephews.

Walt was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers; four sisters and other extended family and friends.

A celebration of life was held at the Herrmann Park in Belle Fourche, S.D. on May 3, 2015.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).

## Ask T-Rae



T. Rae

Do you have any questions for our Ask T-Rae Section? If so, email your questions and inquires to [info@yellowstonecountynews.com](mailto:info@yellowstonecountynews.com) and we'll have T-Rae answer it in the next 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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### Legal Notice

#### Notice of Foreclosure sale

Pursuant to MCA 70-6-420 Notice is hereby given of a foreclosure sale to be held at Five Corners Storage 5647 Chicago Circle, Billings on Monday June 15th for the following storage units, # D-18 Miller, #D3 Bouton, #B4 Mastrud and Fladland unit # A8. Personal property to be sold for cash only. All bids will be sealed and opened at a later date. Minimum bid \$300

5/29, 6/5  
 2015 MNAXLP

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# Community Wide GARAGE SALES JUNE 5 - 6 - 7

## BALLANTINE

**GARAGE SALE**  
Sts. Cyril & Methodist  
Church, Corner of South  
16th & East I Roads,  
Fri. June 5, 3-5pm,  
Sat, June 6, 8-1pm in  
Ballantine.

**MULTI-FAMILY  
GARAGE SALE**  
Friday & Saturday June  
5 & 6, 8am-5pm  
Dryer, BBQer's, Water  
Fountain, Household  
goods and much more!  
2532 S. 22nd Rd  
in Ballantine

**MULTI-FAMILY  
GARAGE SALE**  
FRI JUNE 5 8AM-3PM  
SAT JUNE 6 8AM-3PM  
1621 Birch St in  
Ballantine, Items for  
Men, Women and Kids

**MULTI-FAMILY  
GARAGE SALE**  
FRI JUNE 5 9AM-6PM  
SAT JUNE 6 9AM-???  
HARVEY KUCKS  
2279 RD 16 SOUTH,  
BALLANTINE

**GARAGE SALE**  
Friday & Saturday June  
5 & 6, 8am-4pm  
1679 Birch St in  
Ballantine,  
Saturday is Half price  
sales

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**MULTI-FAMILY  
GARAGE SALE**  
Emmanuel Luther-  
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Sat June 6 8-3pm  
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of Good stuff!

## WORDEN

**FAMILY GARAGE SALE**  
Sat June 6 9am-5pm,  
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