



Wheels of Harmony tour
Trio of Indigenous performers brings opera, cultural music to students

See **HARMONY** Page 3 ▶

CHOTEAU ACANTHA

SERVING TETON COUNTY SINCE 1894

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ALICE IN WONDERLAND JR.
Choteau's All-School musical on stage April 26, 27 and 28

See **MUSICAL** Page 7 ▶

Primary change proposed

By Melody Martinsen

Acantha editor

Promoters of two constitutional initiatives — CI-126 and CI-127 — earlier this month urged Choteau citizens to support the proposed primary voting changes as a way of restoring more power to voters and lessening the grip of political parties on candidates.

Chairman of the Teton County Republican Central Committee Chris Hindoiien of Choteau, Republican state Rep. Ross Fitzgerald of Fairfield, former Teton County Commissioner Mary Sexton (a Choteau Democrat), former Republican state Rep. Rob Cook of Conrad and Ted Kronebusch of Conrad, the chairman of the Pondera County Republican Central Committee, hosted a town hall meeting on the initiatives on April 3 at the Choteau Pavilion. All are members of the Montanans for Election Reform Action Fund.

About 16 people — not counting speakers and reporters — listened to Hindoiien, Cook, Sexton and Kronebusch explain why they are supporting the drive to collect 60,359 registered

voters' signatures to get the two measures on the Nov. 5 general election ballot.

In Montana's primary elections, voters must elect to vote one party's ballot. CI-126 would amend the state Constitution to change the primary election to an open ballot which would list all the candidates for each office.

Candidates could list a party affiliation, but a candidate would not be required to be nominated by a political party. Citizens would vote for their preferred candidate, and the top four candidates for each office would advance to the general election. The change would apply to elections for governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, superintendent of public instruction, state representative and senator and U.S. representative and senator.

CI-127 would require the winning candidate to receive a majority of votes (more than 50% cast) to win in the general election. The Montana Legislature would be charged with passing a bill to determine how a majority win would be calculated if no candidate received a majority of the votes. Some options

See **INITIATIVES**, Page 2 ▶



Acantha photo by Melody Martinsen

Former Republican state legislator Rob Cook, who grew up in Choteau and lives in Conrad, talks about Constitutional Initiatives 126 and 127 with Choteau residents who attended the Montanans for Election Reform Fund's town hall meeting in Choteau on April 3.



Acantha photos by Melody Martinsen

Children and adults learned how to deploy bear spray during a Teton Bear Smart workshop on April 21 at the Weatherbeater Arena in Choteau.

Bear smart 101

Teton Bear Aware offers class on bear spray, electric fencing

By Melody Martinsen

Acantha editor

About 40 people from grade schoolers to senior citizens on April 21 learned how to deploy bear spray and how electric fences can be used to protect livestock and more from grizzlies at Teton Bear Smart's second public education event this year.

Teton Bear Smart hosted the 90-minute program at the Weatherbeater Arena in Choteau with help from Montana State University Extension in Teton County, Teton County 4-H, Montana Fish Wildlife Parks, U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, Sun River Electric Cooperative and AgWest Farm Credit.

Anne Carlson of Choteau, a wildlife biologist who is a member Teton Bear Smart, and MSU Extension Agent Jenn Swanson welcomed participants. Carl-

son said Teton Bear Smart is a loosely organized group working with state and federal agencies to help people safely live, recreate and work in grizzly bear country.

She encouraged people to look at the exhibits, including a grizzly bear hide and casts of paw prints, to pick up educational literature and to buy raffle tickets for prizes. The main prizes, however, 80 eight-ounce cans of EPA-certified bear spray, were free to everyone who learned to deploy the spray.

Since the Bear Smart group formed in Choteau in 2023, Carlson said, its members have applied for grants to fund education and conflict prevention programs. The group received a \$3,500 grant to work with farmers and Choteau High School shop students, who will weld reinforcements onto grain bid doors to help make them bear resistant since grizzlies enjoy munching on harvested

See **BEARS**, Page 12 ▶



USDA Wildlife Services conflict prevention specialist Chrissy Lambert explains how the new electric fence enclosing the barn and pen where the 4-Hers house swine and lambs during the fair will protect the animals.

Tourism grant

CAPA will apply for up to \$2.5 million in pilot grant funds

By Melody Martinsen

Acantha editor

The Choteau Area Port Authority is applying for a Pilot Community Tourism Grant, a state-funded opportunity authorized by the 2023 Montana Legislature's Senate Bill 540.

This grant of up to \$2.5 million per applicant is designed to help communities over five years "build tourism in a manageable, sustainable way [that] can stimulate and diversify the local economy, protect and enhance local resources and foster community pride without compromising the qualities that make the community so special," according to the application form. "The PCTG program aims to elevate communities across the state, increase their economic vibrancy by improving their appeal as visitor destinations and to improve their resilience as a destination through enhancing and diversifying tourism-related assets and infrastructure."

The state has \$20 million to award to seven communities during the first round, and this year's application cycle is for under-served communities. The largest eight communities in Montana are not eligible to apply.

The application is due April 30 and the CAPA is working with Kara Maplethorpe with the Heart of the Rockies Initiative and community coordinator Brian Colesworthy to craft the application. In March, CAPA and collaborators held a Zoom meeting to work through the grant, followed by the CAPA regular meeting on March 28.

The CAPA board, appointed by the City Council, works on economic development efforts with community partners. Board members are Chairwoman Mary Sexton, Vice Chairman Blair Patton, Steve Dogiakos, Lisa Haas and Reese Hunter.

Tom Frownfelder, the city of Choteau finance officer, serves as the board secretary/treasurer and the board contracts with Colesworthy as a community coordinator. Colesworthy is also the Teton County planner and the secretary/treasurer of the Chamber

See **GRANT**, Page 14 ▶

Leadership change

County advertising for road and bridge superintendent

By Melody Martinsen

Acantha editor

The Teton County Commissioners on April 19 began advertising for a new Road and Bridge Department superintendent after an April 17 special meeting that was mostly closed to the public to address a "personnel matter" related to Road and Bridge Superintendent Alan Gagne.

The commissioners on Monday in an email statement to the Acantha said, "We are advertising for a road superintendent. In the interim, Steve Tomschin, the assistant superintendent, will run the crew and can be reached at 406-466-2671."

Gagne on Monday told the Acantha that he did not have any comment at this time.

Gagne attended the April 17 meeting along with commissioners Dick Snellman, Joe Dellwo and Sam Carlson, Clerk and Recorder Paula Jaconetty and, on speaker phone, Michele Puiggari, a Missoula attorney who specializes in human resources consulting and employment issues.

About two dozen county residents also attended the meeting.

After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Snellman said the commissioner's called the meeting at Gagne's request, and asked Gagne whether he wished to have the meeting open to the public or closed.

Citing his right to privacy, Gagne asked for the meeting to be closed. No one objected to the closure though several of the citizens

See **COUNTY**, Page 2 ▶

CHOTEAU ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE REVIEW

Not much consensus on codes

By Melody Martinsen

Acantha editor

The city of Choteau held informational meetings in January, March and April on proposed revisions to the animal control ordinance and has heard different opinions and priorities from different groups of citizens at every meeting.

Choteau Mayor Chris Hindoiien and City Councilmember Heather McCartney-Duty, who has been crafting the revisions, said they will review all the suggestions — some of which include conflicting views — and come up with wording for a new ordinance that will go to the city attorney for review and then will be presented to city residents at a formal public hearing in June. The city animal ordinance spells

out under what conditions and regulations city residents can have dogs, chickens, ducks, turkeys, cats, horses, mules, donkeys, cattle, sheep and goats.

Most of the laws apply to dogs — just as most of the complaints the mayor and city office receive arise from dogs: barking dogs, dogs at large, dogs off leashes, dogs pooping in people's yards, dogs attacking other dogs or livestock, dogs biting people — all of which are violations of the city code.

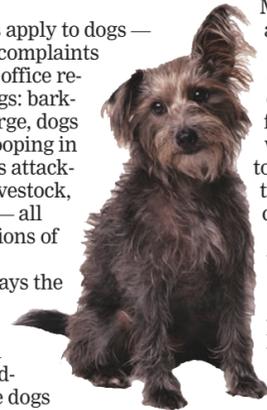
The ordinance says the city shall appoint a city animal control officer and will operate an impoundment facility where dogs

and other animals will be kept after seizure and only released when fines and fees are paid.

The problem with these codes, Mayor Chris Hindoiien said at the first meeting, is that the city does not have a designated animal control officer or an impoundment facility. He said the city is working to revise the codes to better reflect the priorities and values of today's city residents.

Hindoiien, along with council members McCartney-Duty, Sara Cocco and Polly Cunningham, have welcomed community members to the Pavilion to share what they like

See **DOGS**, Page 2 ▶



Change would apply to state, fed offices

INITIATIVES: Proponents are gathering signatures

◀ FROM Page 1

include holding run-off elections or using ranked-choice voting (also called an instant run-off). In ranked-choice voting, voters indicate on their ballot their first, second, third and fourth preferences, and those rankings are used to calculate a majority winner. "I think it's time for a change," Hindoi said. In Montana, just 6% of voters get 88% of legislative seats elected. "That's a huge number," he said.

CI-126, he said, would give voters a chance to consider more candidates, a longer time to get to know candidates and would give the rest of Montana, the other 94%, a chance to have a real voice in electing state officials.

Sexton said 20 years ago more people voted for the person rather than the party in Montana, but that practice is changing. "I really believe we need more choice," she said.

An open primary with the top four advancing would mitigate against more extremist candidates from any party getting elected and would bring more power to centrist candidates, she said, adding, "This brings us back more to the center, which is a dirty word for some folks on both sides of the aisle."

"I think both of these

working together [CI-126 and CI-127] is a Montana solution ... This is something we believe that will work for Montana," she said.

Kronebusch said, "The reason I'm involved in this is that I sat on the executive committee of the Montana Republican Party. I was part of a number of decisions and votes that told you people who you were going to vote for," he said. "Imagine an electoral system that allows you to vote for the person."

Cook walked voters through a series of slides, explaining how the two amendments would change the Montana Constitution.

Cook, who grew up in Choteau and served in the Legislature for eight years, asked those attending to raise their hands if they were happy with the way the U.S. Congress is being run. No one raised a hand, and Cook said, "I have yet to see a hand raised across Montana."

Cook said Montanans for Election Reform want to improve representation, increase competition and reduce divisiveness. The group wants to protect voters' right to have the freedom to choose who they vote for in every race in the primary and general elections, he said.

He said 47% of Montana

voters identify as independent, but the primary election process requires them to vote on party's ballot. That leads to low primary turnouts (only 39% of voters in the last primary participated) and empowers extremists in both parties to nominate their candidates.

Further, he said, semi-closed primaries are particularly vulnerable to the influence of money as candidates spend money on just 10% of the voters in the primary.

"When you wonder why your representative or senator doesn't care about what you think, it's because they don't have to," he said, adding, they have to care about the 10% of the voters who are highly polarized and very agenda-oriented.

In the U.S. Congress, 8% of voters are responsible for electing 83% of the U.S. House seats. In his state House races, Cook said, 1,500 voters out of 10,000 chose him to be their representative.

Voters asked questions about how this change has affected voter turnout in other states and about the cost of run-off elections, and at least one expressed skepticism that the proposed amendments are designed to empower Democrats over Republicans.

Cook said voter change

in states where this system is now being used is slow to improve primary turnout but has given voters in general elections more candidates to consider.

Voter Heather McCartney-Duty of Choteau said as a member of Generation X she is excited at the prospect of these constitutional amendments, saying she would love the opportunity to pick the best person for the job regardless of party affiliation.

"I also think this will encourage younger people to get into politics," she said. "I also see this as creating entry points for the next generation of politicians."

Hindoi agreed, saying, "It's going to engage those who currently are not engaged who feel they are disenfranchised, that their vote doesn't matter."

Everywhere he speaks, Cook said, he tells voters he is a Republican and CI-126 is not a plot to give more control to either party.

"To change that dynamic, we would have to change the make-up of the constituency, and there's nothing in these initiatives that would change the demographic," he said. "It doesn't help either party; it helps you, the voter ... This takes away the power of the parties to be king makers."

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Choteau High School Drama Department Presents
the Choteau K-12 student musical ...

Alice in Wonderland JR.

Disney

Friday and Saturday,
April 26 & 27 at 7 p.m.
Sunday, April 28 at 3 p.m.
CHS Auditorium

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(Activity passes will be accepted)

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Alice in Wonderland JR. features Disney favorites such as "The Golden Afternoon," "The Unbirthday Song," and "Painting the Roses Red." Whether this is your first experience with Alice or your hundredth, you'll fall in love all over again with this timeless story of adventure, imagination, and pure fun!

Council seeks to revise animal code

DOGS: Ordinance language will come out for public hearing in June

◀ FROM Page 1

and don't like about the dog ordinance. Meetings were held on Jan. 31, March 6 and April 10.

The 19 people attending the first meeting identified priorities going forward, including clear identification of who is in charge of enforcement; cultivating positive and civil neighborhood relationships; defining what is reasonable and unreasonable dog behavior; changing penalties from criminal offenses to civil offenses; and making sure public health is protected by having city and county coordination on rabies vaccines for pets.

At the second meeting on March 6, a mostly different group of people worked through McCartney-Duty's first draft, which broadly retained most of the existing code but deleted all sections regarding a pound or impoundment fees and added

new sections on chickens, fines and complaint resolution.

One key change added verbiage to the "nuisance" definition, saying that a dog is considered a nuisance if it inflicts "persistent noise through nonstop barking (10 minutes or more)." Dogs are also considered nuisances if they endanger the health or repose of other people by being at large or damaging property or urinating or defecating on property other than that of their owners.

This draft would have created consequences, for example, for nuisance barking (consistent for 10 minutes or longer as documented by recording by the complainant or witnesses) of: first offense, purchase and use of a bark collar of the owner's choice; \$100 for second offense; eviction of offending animal from the city for the third offense.

The first draft would have

required dog owners to keep their dogs on leashes when not on their own property.

The draft also would have required all dogs and cats to be vaccinated for rabies and spayed or neutered. There would no longer be a requirement for pet owners to license their dogs or cats, but the ordinance would limit the number of animals people could have on their property to just two of any kind except for chickens.

At the third meeting on April 10, nine community members attended and worked through the first draft — asking McCartney-Duty to revise or eliminate much of the new language.

Emily Stockard objected to the requirement for all dogs to be on leashes when not on their owner's property, saying that someone like herself, a dog trainer, can exercise verbal control that makes a leash unnecessary. Susan Hillstrom suggested adding e-collars as a manner of control.

McCartney-Duty said she would look into how other communities regulate support dog trainers.

Ben and Tracy Crater said they thought more people would comply with a leash law if the sheriff's deputies would just let people know they have to keep their dogs on leashes, and they objected to the whole town "being punished" for a few irresponsible dog owners.

Councilwoman McCartney-Duty's brother, Matt McCartney, wanted to see wholesale deletions in the ordinance, saying that it seemed like a lot of verbiage to address the problems of a few people. Less than 1% of Choteau's population files dog complaints, he said.

Matt McCartney and others objected to the requirement that all pets be spayed or neutered and that the number of pets per home be limited to two of each species. He also said the fines needed to be higher, but enforcement actions should not include ejecting a pet from the city limits.

McCartney-Duty took all the comments under advisement. She said citizens can still submit comments and may email or mail them to the Choteau City Office.

Personnel matter

COUNTY: Supt. job open until filled

◀ FROM Page 1

who attended asked to speak before the closed meeting began. Puiggari told them that they did not have a right to speak on an employment matter.

Snellman then determined that Gagne's right to privacy outweighed the public's right to know, and members of the public left to wait outside in the hallway. The closed session lasted about 30 minutes, and the commissioners then adjourned without taking a vote and without taking any public comment.

On April 19, the county placed the advertisement in the Acantha for a full-time road and bridge superintendent.

The superintendent's job requires a thorough knowledge of state and federal regulations, education and experience equivalent to a high school diploma or GED and three years of progressively responsible experience in engineering, management, construction, heavy equipment operation or related work experience. Compensation for the non-union job will be \$50,000 to \$55,000, depending on experience. The position will be open until filled.

The county also placed an advertisement for a new secretary for the Road Department and is continuing to ad-

vertise for two full-time road grader operators.

The county commissioners hired Gagne in 2019 to oversee a budget of more than \$1,636,656 (now) and about 12 full-time employees who maintain 1,470 miles of gravel road and about 30 miles of paved roads in the county.

Under Gagne, the Road Department saw staff turnover, and the county agreed in June 2021 to settle a discrimination complaint Road Department office manager Rhea Brutosky brought against the county for a one-time payment of \$25,000 in a "voluntary no-fault resolution agreement."

County road maintenance is historically a sore spot for rural residents, and commissioners through the years have fielded complaints no matter who was the road and bridge superintendent. During Gagne's tenure, as others', complaints about road conditions have come in from throughout the county, and several county residents have attended commissioners' meetings to present their concerns, primarily about grading and snow removal.

The commissioners' special meeting April 17 was held after Gagne had a heated exchange with them over the opening of bids for the sale of surplus Road Department equipment on April 4.

DEADLINES

NEWS: Friday at 1 p.m.

All news articles, photos, letters to the editor and all other non-advertising material, must be submitted by **Friday at 1 p.m.**, except articles concerning weekend events, which will be accepted until **9 a.m. Monday**.

ADVERTISING: Monday at 12 p.m.

All display advertisements and classified advertisements must be submitted by **Monday at 1 p.m.** for publication in the next newspaper. The deadline for canceling advertisements is also **Monday at 1 p.m.**

EMAIL ADDRESS

The Acantha welcomes articles and advertisements submitted via email to: acantha@3rivers.net or tetonads@3rivers.net.

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Acantha photo by Jeff Martinsen

Coloratura soprano Sage DiPalma of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, sings "Je Veux Vivre," translated from French to "I Want to Live," from the French composer Charles Gonoud's "Romeo et Juliette."

Haunting notes

"Wheels of Harmony" tour rolls through

By Melody Martinsen

Acantha editor

A few lucky Montana schoolchildren this spring heard the haunting notes of a Native American flute, a soaring soprano performance from "Romeo et Juliette," and the powerful Cherokee hymn, "One Drop of Blood," echoing with the pain and loss of the Trail of Tears, during performances of Opera Montana's "Wheels of Harmony" tour.

"Mitakuye oyasin" — "we are all related" in the Lakota language — was the message the three Wheels of Harmony performers Sage DiPalma, Cruise Berry and Mark Billy brought to students in schools in Choteau, Bozeman, Fish-tail, Nye, Luther, Lame Deer, Victor, Polson, Kalispell, Belgrade, Helena and Cascade.

"As we are utilizing music to connect to people, it's important to know that most everyone listens to and enjoys music and that is a great reminder that we are all connected," DiPalma said during an interview with the

Acantha after the group's performance for Choteau elementary and junior high students on March 21.

This was the second year Opera Montana (formerly Intermountain Opera) has offered the Wheels of Harmony to public schools for Indian Education for All programming. The goals of the tour are to expose as many students as possible to Indigenous music and culture, including opera; to engage students in meaningful discussion about tribal nations; and to encourage students to consider music performance as an option in their life.

Susan Miller, general director of Opera Montana, said in an interview with the Acantha that the inspiration for the Wheels of Harmony tour grew out of the Circle of Resilience concert, featuring Indigenous performers during the pandemic. The first tour lasted two weeks in the 2022-23 school year and this year's tour expanded to three weeks.

Miller said she has heard

from schools that the tour is succeeding in conveying the message that Native Americans are not stereotypical people living in the past. "They are modern humans doing all sorts of things in the modern world. They are composing and making new art all the time," she said.

The performers for this year's tour were Berry a Chickasaw composer and pianist from Oklahoma and now Los Angeles, California; Billy, a Choctaw baritone opera singer who plays many instruments including Native flute and clarinet, from Oklahoma and now Minneapolis, Minnesota; and DiPalma of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a Cherokee coloratura soprano opera singer.

Miller said she hopes for future years of "Wheels of Harmony" to be able to recruit Indigenous performers from Montana tribal nations.

During their performance in the Choteau High School auditorium, the musicians welcomed children, saying hello in three languages: "ha-

lite" in Choctaw, "chokma" in Chickasaw and "osiyo" in Cherokee. They started with a sacred smudging of the musicians and the instruments with dried white sage, and invited the children to sing the Lakota "Four Directions" song and the Cherokee Water Song "Wichita do ya."

They introduced the children to opera, talking about the art form — telling stories through music and acting — drawing on Billy's work as a baritone and DiPalma's as a coloratura soprano. They talked with the children about music composition through Berry's experience as a composer.

Playing a Native flute crafted from cedar by an Arizona artisan, Billy performed "On-nahinli Taloa," which means "Morning Song" in Choctaw, and was composed by Charles Shadle, a contemporary Choctaw composer. He asked students to close their eyes as they listened and imagine the sounds they might hear early in the morning.

See **HARMONY, Page 6** ▶

OFAS offers scholarships

A nonprofit organization based in Choteau offers scholarships for low-income families to engage in enrichment activities such as swimming or music lessons, 4-H or Scouts, art classes, workshops, yoga, fitness programs and summer camps and more.

Opportunities for All Scholarship Inc. was formed in July 2009 and has awarded many scholarships to eligible children and adults through the years, said OFAS President Melody Martinsen. In 2023, the organization awarded 12 scholarships totaling \$2,070. In 2022, OFAS approved 22 scholarships totaling \$4,805, and in 2021, the program gave out 33 scholarships totaling \$7,190.

Any child or adult whose family qualifies for the national Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program, SNAP, TANF, SSI or Medicaid or whose household income falls below 185% of the federal poverty level are eligible for OFAS scholarships. A household of two people with an annual income of \$36,482 or a household of four people with a yearly income of \$45,991 would qualify, for example.

Also, families experiencing a sudden and unexpect-

ed financial hardship — loss of a spouse, dissolution of a marriage, illness, loss of income — are eligible upon review and action by the board.

Scholarships are typically for such things as registration fees for classes, programs or activities or tuition for pre-school. Scholarships are not given for durable goods like musical instruments, except in extenuating circumstances approved by the board. College tuition for full-time students and daycare fees are also not eligible.

"Choteau and area organizations offer many great enrichment activities from art classes at Choteau Arts to swimming lessons at the Choteau Lions Pool or fitness classes at the Curly Willow studio, for example," Martinsen said. "We don't want to see any child or adult denied the opportunity to take part in these activities because of financial constraints. Enrichment activities open doors to future success, and OFAS wants to make sure everyone gets a chance to open those doors."

Scholarships are limited to Teton County residents and to \$300 per person or \$600 per family in a calendar year, in most cases. Funds are disbursed directly to the provider

See **OFAS, Page 12** ▶



Courtesy photo

Members of the Choteau Lions Club celebrate and honor longtime member Stan Rathman's 65 years of service at John Henry's restaurant on April 15. Those pictured are, from left, front row: George Anderson Jr, Stan Rathman and Mary Morzinski; back row: Scot Sessions, Bob Graves, Bill Hill, Sherwin Smith and Levi Warehime.

Curry ties up jail guard, grabs guns

By Nancy Thornton

Acantha reporter

Knoxville County's famous prisoner Harvey Logan, alias Kid Curry, used his cunning and familiarity with the Tennessee jail's routine to escape on June 27, 1903, as this tale continues.

Logan's attorneys had told him two weeks earlier that his appeal of a guilty verdict by a Knoxville jury had been denied by an appeals court and although the defense attorneys had some angles to pursue, it was likely that Logan would be taken to an Ohio penitentiary as soon as the local judge resented him. Logan had been convicted of passing, possessing and forging signatures on stolen bank notes (a form of paper currency) taken in July 1901 from a safe in a train car near Malta, Montana.

Jail guard Frank Irwin told authorities what happened after he turned his back on Logan to peer out a window and the local newspapers printed the story in dramatic detail.

"The next thing he realized was that the back of his head was bumped against the iron bars of the cage where Logan

was confined, and a wire tightened about his throat.

"I've got you, and I will kill you if you make a sound. I'll choke you to death!"

Irwin says that these are the words heard from Logan.

"Frank, I don't want to kill you, but with me it's a case of life and death and I don't care which. It's all right so long as you do what I tell you, but it will be all wrong with you if you make a sound."

"I'm going to get out of this place. You may see my dead body stretched out here in the next five minutes, but I have got nothing against you and don't want to kill you; so do as I tell you," the Journal and Tribune reported Logan saying.

"Irwin was then made to turn around, still with the wire about his neck, so he states, and made to place his hands through the bars to Logan, who still grasping the noose or lasso with one hand, took one of the guard's hands in the same hand which held the lasso, and Logan, with his other hand and by the aid of his teeth, tied the other hand of the guard to the iron bars.

"The other hand of the

guard was then also tied to the bars, and when both hands had been secured, Logan removed the lasso from the neck of his prisoner and inspected the knots which he had tied in the pieces of rope about the guard's hands. These pieces of rope he had cut from his hammock in his cell.

"Cautioning his prisoner to remain quiet he hastened to the bathroom nearby and procured a long stick, made by several sticks joined together by pieces of string. On this stick was a sort of a hook, made from the rusty iron rim or hoop from a bucket.

"With this pole, he hastened to the north end of his cage, and poking the nine-foot pole through the bars in a westerly direction, hooked up a pasteboard shoebox containing the two loaded revolvers kept by the guards at the corner of the row of cells.

"It required but a minute to drag this box to within his reach, and in a very few seconds, Logan had the revolvers in his possession and breathed a breath of confidence for the first time since his incarceration more than a year and a half ago. He real-



ized that a visit from the jailer was about due, and decided to wait for Jailer Bell's coming. He told his prisoner, Irwin, that he intended to kill Bell if the jailer showed the least disobedience to his orders.

"The bound guard begged Logan not to take the life of the jailer, declaring that Bell had nothing against him. Logan again declared that he was determined to escape even though he had to give up his life and take other lives in the attempt. He grew impatient at waiting for the jailer, and rapped on the bars for him, this being a signal used by the prisoners when they want water, food or medicine. Jailer Bell heard the noise.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE ELECTION CANCELLATION

WHEREAS, the number of candidates filing a Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy for the open trustee position on the Bynum School Board of Trustees, District No. 12, Teton County, State of Montana is equal to or less than the number of positions to be elected, the trustee election is not necessary.

THEREFORE, the necessary 30 day notice is hereby given that the Bynum School District No. 12, Teton County, State of Montana, Trustee Election is cancelled.

Dated this 8th day of April 2024.

/s/ Stacia Coverdell, Clerk
Bynum School District No. 12

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LETTERS FROM READERS

Statements on wells clarified

In my letter to the editor published on April 17 in the Choteau Acantha and Cut Bank Pioneer Press, I need to clarify statements I made to ensure there are no misunderstandings. First, “Class 5 permits are more stringent than Class II,” was stated in the Conrad Independent Observer by the reporter. Again, that statement is false. Second, “This is the most environmentally sound way of disposing the water,” was stated by the permit applicant and well operator. Again, that statement is false.

My response was, “Treat your wastewater onsite. Don’t use 100,000 trucks to haul it to the Rocky Mountain Front for pumping into an aquifer that serves millions with drinking water.” To be 100% accurate, I should have said, “This wastewater belongs to Montana Renewables. What is environmentally sound about using 100,000 diesel tankers to haul 630,000,000 gallons of wastewater from the refinery almost 100 miles north for delivery on the Rocky Mountain Front to injection wells that will pump this wastewater into the Madison Aquifer, an EPA-identified underground source of drinking water?”

The US Geologic Survey states that, “The Madison aquifer underlies Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. It is an important water resource in the northern plains states where surface water supplies are limited and population is increasing. A growing population in western Montana may soon result in development of the Madison aquifer as a water supply.” It serves millions of people, livestock and wildlife.

Lastly, I asked, “Why trust anyone whose endorsement or approval is all that stands in the way of someone else making millions, and your water being ruined?” My comment, “Trust us to uncover and expose your lies,” refers to anyone’s lies.

Angela Otero
P.O. Box 591, Valier

Editor’s note: Because of an editing mistake, the location of the Jan. 3 hearing in Otero’s April 17 letter was given incorrectly. The hearing was held in Valier, not Conrad.

Llew Jones deserves your vote

Voters of Montana House District 18, this June you will have an opportunity to support one of your own as he seeks reelection as your representative, Llew Jones. Jones has lived his entire life in north-central Montana, ranching, farming, raising great kids and running successful businesses. While Representative Jones has been highly successful in his own right, he has always served as a champion for the rest of us.

Conrad High School was one of the first in the state to be able to offer vocational education for our students to be able to pursue their dreams before they even graduated high school. That would not have been a reality if not for Jones. He spent much time and effort advocating for those vocational opportunities at local community meetings and in the Legislature. He determinedly argued for local control of those educational decisions. There is no doubt that Jones’ efforts have positively impacted our children’s future.

The agriculture community is especially grateful for Jones’s work in the vocational education sector. I serve as the president of the Montana Farm Bureau Federation, Montana’s largest general agriculture organization, representing nearly 20,000 members - families of ranchers, farmers and ag-related businesses. Jones has worked hard to represent this industry, both in the areas of vocational education opportunities at the local level and in the areas of sound agriculture and business policy. He is the recipient of Farm Bureau’s Gold and Silver Windmill awards, given to honor his dedication to rural Montana communities and agriculture through his legislative leadership and action.

I have personally known and worked with Jones for more than 35 years. He’s coached many of our children along with his own and helped them all be better adults. I’ve never known him to make a decision that hasn’t been vetted for every possible outcome. While his talents and expertise would have benefited many other places, he chose to stay where he was born and raised after he completed his college education. Jones has always been a passionate advocate for the communities he represents, does business and lives in. Please join me in voting for Jones, representative, House District 18.

Cynthia “Cyndi” Johnson
23073 Solliid Road, Conrad

Support Sen. Jon Tester

Tim Sheehy wants you to vote for him instead of Jon Tester, our current U.S. senator. He tells us, among other attributes, that he is a “war hero, job creator, philanthropist” but most importantly, a Navy Seal. Poor Tester— he the lowly workin’ stiff farmer/rancher without a lot of notches in his gun stock who has represented the interests of all Montanans for years and run a successful business in the meantime.

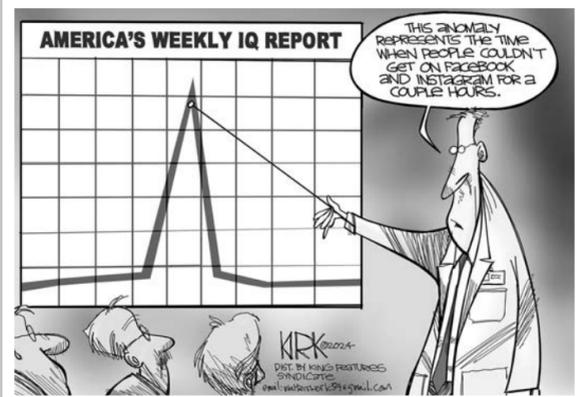
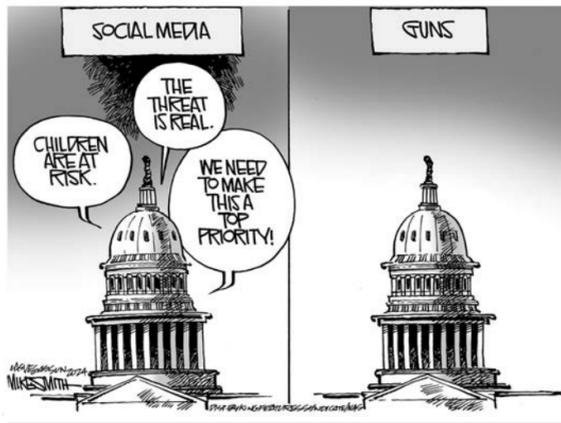
It’s not clear to me why knowing 36 ways to kill another human being qualifies someone to be a U.S. senator, but Sheehy thinks that might be important, along with his business acumen. But wait, a report he filed with the Security and Exchange Commission says his company could fail to meet its financial obligations in the coming year. I wish him well in that effort, but it does little to build confidence in his skills as the savvy business man, a prerequisite of a well-turned-out Republican candidate.

Navy Seals wanting public office abound in Montana. Recall Congressman Ryan Zinke, a Seal who recently expressed his frustration at being unable to “take out”— that’s Seal jargon for “kill”— political opponents. This is the same Zinke who managed to get himself resigned as Secretary of the Interior after shenanigans so smelly that even his boss, Donald Trump, couldn’t find much good to say about him.

So, if you want your U.S. senator to be a former snake eater skilled in the art of war, Tim’s your man. He’s the guy that has told us that he is a liar — that the fib was for a noble cause — leaving us to wonder which version of how he came to have a bullet in his arm is true.

But if the senator who has done one fine job of looking after his constituents and his state for years meets your needs as well as your belief that there are alternatives to a gun when confronted with a problem, then please give Tester your support and your vote.

Dale Ostrom
P.O. Box 72, Choteau



MORE LETTERS FROM READERS

Invest in Choteau schools

Our school is worth investing in. The school has been living within its budget, but it has come at a cost in low teacher salaries, poor teacher recruitment and administrative turnover. Our school needs to thrive within its means and that is going to take additional investment from all of us.

Our school is worth investing in. It is the life blood of our community. The investment will average less than \$60 a year per household. We need our school to thrive for families to stay and to come. We have new opportunities to recruit families with remote work and we need a great school to do that.

We have so much to celebrate as a community. First and foremost, the level of commitment we have to band together to make this a great place to live. Let’s vote to fund our school in to the future. Please join me in voting for both school levies on May 7.

(I recognize that property tax bills have increased. Some budgets may be tight. If you need help with your property taxes, there are resources available for low-income households, disabled veterans and elderly homeowners. Contact the Montana Department of Revenue for more information.)

Karli Clark Johnson
P.O. Box 456, Choteau

Don’t let water be poisoned

The “Save the Front” time line seems to be precisely at the point of where the incessant publicized stream of back-patting and awards has reduced to a slow trickle and pitter-patter. The spotlights have anti-climatically dimmed. The micro-brewed-fueled party is over. The bellies are swollen. The comrades are boosted. At last, the sounds of western-blue-grass-variant pluckings are less available for recycled-plastic clothed people to overdose upon. For the stated purposes of preserving “heritage” — whether for local best interest or not — past legislation has dispensed federal edict.

Nowadays, beneath what at glance may appear a perfect postcard image of the beloved “Front,” below ground preparations are well underway for what many consider a federally mandated assault via high-pressure injected delivery of industrial byproduct. Yesterday’s intrepid modern day “Johnny Muirs” and “Bobby Marshalls” however, seem little where present.

The composition of such alien fluids is still unknown to the public, despite continued efforts by Pondera County officials to obtain actual data from both government Environmental Polluting Agencies and at least one industrial manufacturer, namely, Montana Renewables.

Local concerns abound. Class V permitting of the now Class II wells means more “Green New Deal” executive-order-driven dumping-ground-arrangements. Many under the false pretense of “sustainability.” Blackfeet representatives have expressed concerns.

Privatized gains, socialized losses and Super Fund sites come to mind to many locals concerned with the delivery of contaminants through a fresh water aquifer, an aquifer vital to both the perpetuation and preservation of a rich history of farming and ranching. Apparently absent is any disaster plan, nor provisions for disaster relief.

To some observers the recent and much publicized litigation against a major airline for alleged “greenwashing” fraud seems similar. Many wonder just how “sustainable” airline fuel producer Montana Renewables’ practices really are. Other locals, while supporting Montana Renewables’ efforts, demand they “act with integrity” and deal with their waste responsibly, on their site, and keep it out of the Rocky Mountain Front freshwater aquifers.

Befuddling is the seeming negligence and abdication by the Montana government, members of which may have deliberately designed and constructed a virtual pipeline from a Great Falls refinery to the Rocky Mountain Front, via the permitting of an industrial operation, without any wastewater plan in place. Smell special interests anyone?

The hermetic axiom, “as above, so below,” writ large in Montana: chemtrails above; airline fuel byproduct below. Montanans facing increasing burdens from both government and outsider “do-gooder” manipulators understandably feel caught in a pincher movement.

Klauss Schwabb of the World Economic Forum has famously boasted of “penetrating governments.” Really, it was only a matter of time before the globalist strangle-hold-hands would be felt constricting the neck of “The Last Best Place.”

Do not stand by idle to only witness a raping. Big Sky Country needn’t be an anti-human Chem-Sky Country. Our waters needn’t be poison. Respect Pondera County; respect the Blackfeet; respect the entire Front. Montana, say no to the polluters. Remember: Cosmic change begins at home. Now is time.

Nate White
P.O. Box 74, Augusta

Hear Teton County voices

Posted on the Acantha website on April 15, there was going to be a special commissioners’ meeting for a personal matter. Dick Snellman, a county commissioner, told a resident that the public was going to have time to give a three-minute speech about their concerns. News of this action spread like wildfire throughout the county where the public could finally take all their matters to the table regarding how the commissioners and Road and Bridge Superintendent Alan Gagne were handling the county roads and their tax money. On April 18, close to 25 Teton County residents showed up to give their speech and display their photos of demolished roads. But then the meeting was hindered when the county commissioners closed the meeting. Citizens wanted their voices heard loud and clear, but they were denied entry to express their feelings.

In April of last year, my wife (Jamie) and I were at the county commissioners’ meeting, stressing to them about how unpleased we were with the deteriorated county roads. I also stressed strongly to Snellman the rudeness and bad behavior we witnessed of their county shop superintendent in person or over the phone several times. Gagne promised at the last April 2023 commissioners’ meeting that he would gravel 10th Lane Northwest and rebuild Second Lane Northeast, which has never had gravel in over 50 years.

This county road is the closest road from our house to the school bus stop. But Snellman and Gagne insisted that my wife needs to travel an extra 16 miles a day on county roads out of her way to get our children to a different school bus route because they haven’t had the funds. Snellman has backed up Gagne at all costs, ignoring the facts, concerns and behavior that has been in writing or over the phone from hundreds of citizens. Why did the public waste their time and their money to be there to voice their opinions, only to be turned away?

This whole situation makes me sick. Gagne’s character of behavior was stressed many times over the years and you mainly Dick Snellman have backed him up tooth and nail even putting pressure on the tax-paying people that complained that we are the problem and are the liars. Where has the commonsense gone even in our elected county commissioners to listen to the citizens’ cries for help? You commissioners have created these consistent deplorable problems with Gagne now you all need to step up to the plate and fix the situation yourselves. The citizens in Teton County have spoken far too many times and have not been heard by the elected officials that we have put into office. Enough is enough. Fix the problems and hear the Teton County voices.

Shanun Rammell
P.O. Box 1294, Choteau

Keep city website local

I am writing to voice my concern about the city of Choteau’s decision to move the city’s website hosting to a faceless corporation and away from a homegrown business. This decision is particularly concerning given the emphasis our elected officials put on support of our local businesses and local collaboration.

For many years, my business, Steve Dee Designs, has not only provided free web design and hosting services to the city but has also donated and deeply discounted these services for local nonprofits, including the Montana Dinosaur Center, the Choteau Chamber of Commerce, the Choteau Lions Club and Friends of the Choteau Dog Park. I am committed to enriching our community through technical expertise and personalized service and that commitment reflects the spirit of mutual support that I have endeavored to uphold, particularly during my tenure as president of the Chamber of Commerce and on the Choteau City Council.

The choice to overlook local expertise in favor of a faceless out-of-state company does not align with our city leaders’ public dedication to “shopping local” and supporting homegrown businesses.

Local businesses are the backbone of Choteau’s economy and the fabric of our community life. When we choose to support local businesses, we invest in more than just services; we invest in relationships and a shared future. With that in mind, I strongly urge our city officials to adopt a policy of using local businesses before considering out-of-town vendors. Additionally, I hope the city will reconsider its decision and reopen the bidding process to include local firms for the city’s website. This approach will not only harness the specialized skills and commitment of Choteau’s own residents but will also reinforce the commitment to supporting the local businesses.

It is time for the actions of our local government to align with the values it claims. Let us truly practice what we preach and demonstrate a genuine commitment to supporting the local businesses that do so much to support our community.

Steve Dogiakos
P.O. Box 631, Choteau

Obituaries

Anna G. Waldner

Proud grandma

Loving wife, mother and proud grandmother, Anna G. Waldner, 65, of Birch Creek Colony at Valier died April 24, 2024.

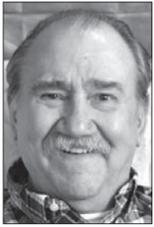
She was born on June 29, 1958.

No task was too big for her to tackle. She had lots of hobbies and her flowers were one of her favorites. She loved digging in her flower bed. Her grandchildren were her pride and joy. She will be forever remembered and missed.

She is survived by her husband, George Waldner; her children, Walter (Lisa), Gideon (Laura), Kathleen (Ken), Justin (Marianne) and George; her grandchildren, Julie, Clark and Wyatt; her siblings, Dorothy (Gary), Phillip (Debbie), George (Esther) and Ruth; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Curt Miller

Army veteran



Retired aircraft mechanic Curt William Miller, 71, of Fairfield died on April 5, 2024, with his wife, Lillian, by his side at Benefis Peace Hospice in Great Falls, after being diagnosed with cancer on Jan. 1.

Curt was born in Spokane, Washington, on Oct. 25, 1952, to Lois A. (White) and Fredrick Miller. He was raised in Billings, and after graduating from high school, he joined the U.S. Army and served from 1971 to 1975. He attended college at the North Dakota State School of Science from 1976 to 1978 where he completed a degree in machine tooling.

Following that, he moved to Florida and was an aircraft engine mechanic where he worked for several companies who regarded him as a most valuable employee. He was very accomplished in his rebuilding of aircraft engines and became the chief inspector at the end of his career. Curt was proud of his work and reported that he had put 609 aircrafts into the air without any complications.

Curt moved to Montana to be closer to family in 1991 and enjoyed motorcycling, fishing and hunting with his friends. After suffering a stroke in 2021, he moved to Front Range Assisted Living in Fairfield and enjoyed entertaining others with his great sense of humor. He met Lillian Alfson in 2022 and they were married on Nov. 11, 2023.

Curt was preceded in death by his father, Fredrick Miller, and his brother, Eric Miller.

He is survived by his wife, Lillian Alfson of Fairfield; mother, Lois (White) Miller of Augusta; brother, Bernie (Mary) Miller of Colorado Springs, Colorado; sisters, Christine (Chuck) Jones Fenner of Fairfield and Colleen Phillips of Smithville, Missouri.

No formal service will be held. Condolences for the family may be shared online at www.SchniderFuneralHome.com.

Chauna Lee

Loved music



Mother, grandmother and great grandmother Chauna Cecile (Freeburg) Lee, 83, of Choteau died April 11, 2024, in Great Falls from natural causes.

She will be interred at the Great Falls Mausoleum with her mother on April 26, 2024, at 2 p.m.

Chauna was born Sept. 21, 1940, in Helena to the Francis W. and Cecelia C. Freeburg.

She worked at various jobs throughout her life including as a clerk with the Cascade County Motor Vehicle Department, Cascade County Sheriff's Department, U.S. Postal Service in Ulm and CICOSTA Credit Union and finished her career at Montana Credit Union.

Chauna was living at Skyline Lodge in Choteau, where she was close to her daughter, Tammy Hindoien. She enjoyed playing card games, listening to music and such with the fellow residents. Her family said they have only love and appreciate for the Skyline residents and staff.

She is survived by her daughters, Tammy (Chris) Hindoien of Choteau and Cathy Jenkins and Melanie Edmonds, both of Great Falls; son, Tom (Brigit) Edmonds of Great Falls; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her younger brother, James Freeburg.

Frontier Funeral Home in Choteau is handling arrangements.

Alice Camphouse

Retired homemaker



Retired Fairfield bench area homemaker Alice Joy Tyler Camphouse, 88, died April 17, 2024.

Her funeral service will be April 27 at 10 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Sun River.

She was born Oct. 29, 1935, to Dan and Theo Tyler in Poplar, Idaho. She attended school in Ririe, Idaho.

She married Hal Stanley Camphouse on Dec. 24, 1952. Together they had seven children: Iris Joy (died of crib death), Dena (Paul) Moss, Fred Camphouse, Rhea (Brian) Brutosky of Choteau, Ben (Sheny) Camphouse, Kieth (Lori) Camphouse, and Cristina (Roy) Hannah. They farmed, ranched and raised a family along the Fairfield bench area in Montana.

Alice was talented. She could sew, knit, crochet and garden, along with swathing, baling and being a farm-hand veterinarian. She was

blessed with many brothers and sisters, grandkids, great grandkids, nieces and nephews whom she loved with her whole heart. In fact, she loved most people and adopted many, calling them her kids or grandkids. She never met a stranger, was friendly to everyone, and the gift of gab being her secret weapon.

After her husband's death, she became active in a church singles program, again making friends to young and old. On Nov. 9, 2006, she married Robert Hollar. Together they enjoyed fishing, car rides, and playing cards with their friends.

She will be missed by the many people who loved her.

Nancy Lund

Retired teacher



Retired teacher Nancy Kay (Young) Lund, 67, of Bozeman, who always knew how to make people feel right at home, loved her children and her family, died April 16, 2024.

Nancy was born on Nov. 8, 1956, to Blenton "Gordon" and Eileen (Anderson) Young of Augusta. The ranching couple had planned on her being born in November to align with the rancher's "pay-day." Nancy was their second child following the eldest boy, Mark. Nancy enjoyed being the younger child for a brief three years before the family welcomed a daughter, Robin.

Nancy took on the identity of the "middle child" for the rest of her life, championing all kids sandwiched between oldest and youngest siblings. With her brother Mark to drive her on dusty gravel roads and run the ranch, and her sister Robin to be her protector from all cats and an in-room confidant, she found home.

Home to Nancy was Augusta, a place where you could spend a whole day before checking your watch, a happy place filled with love, beauty, nature and community. In Augusta, she discovered all the joys of small-town life. At her small country school, she made lifelong friends. At home, her family was extensive, and always around coming to the ranch for family dinners and summer trips. The Young Family Ranch hosted many visitors and the review was always the same: they all love the ranch.

Nancy graduated from Augusta High School in 1975. She then received a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Montana State University-Billings (to her it would always be Eastern Montana College). While she loved school, she loved the friends she made at college even more. Her lifelong friends were made and kept, forged in fire by a cruise taken even though Nancy was terrified of water and getting her feet dirty.

Nancy found her first post-college job in Highwood, another small town, where as a single gal, she passionately taught, became the High-

wood Mountaineers' various sporting teams' number one fan, and made more lifelong friends.

Nancy then found her way to Bozeman to pursue her master's degree in business. In Bozeman, she made more lifelong friends. Nancy met John Lund at The Cannery where she spotted him across the bar playing a poker machine. They both struck it big, falling in love quickly and deeply. They were married on July 1, 1994, surrounded by family. Every niece and nephew took part in the wedding as Nancy took the role of aunt very seriously.

Nancy and John welcomed their daughter Carissa on Feb. 26, 1995, and their son, Gunnar, on Oct. 15, 1997. Her absolute pride and joy were her children. She loved them with all her might and was a kind, loving, proud and devoted mother.

When they were youngsters, the children would ask Nancy for stories of her childhood, whether this was to prolong bedtime or out of genuine curiosity varied night to night. Nancy would begin her story by saying, "When I was young, I was a Young. Time for bed." Tucking her kids into bed, she would kiss them goodnight and tell them she loved them.

That love extended to her many nieces and nephews — all whom she treasured and celebrated often. Nancy loved sports and especially supporting her kids, and nieces and nephews in their accolades. She traveled many a mile to cheer them on, taking great pride in their accomplishments. It didn't matter whether the roads were terrible or the weather for a track meet was rainy and cold, she could be found cheering loudly from the stands, never bothered by the elements.

Nancy never met a stranger and was sure she could find common ground or at least a shared person, place or interest to tie them together. She had a gift of putting words to paper and wrote many touching stories, letters, cards and obituaries.

Nancy was a tremendous daughter, sister, wife, aunt and mother, even most exceptional. See **OBITUARIES, Page 6**



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Get your Choteau Lions Club Hunter Gun Raffle Tickets!

The Choteau Lions Club is now selling "Hunter Gun-a-Month-Giveaway Raffle" tickets. Proceeds from this raffle are to be used to help finish the new Choteau tennis/pickleball/basketball courts as well as supporting the pool and other civic projects. Six quality hunting rifles and six quality hunting shotguns will be given away monthly beginning in June. Also a Bonus Rifle will be given away in the 13th monthly draw. This 13th bonus drawing will be for an I.H.C. M1 Grand .30-06 rifle, C.M.P's Expert Grade, with a new barrel and stock. Monthly winners will also have the choice of \$500 cash instead of a firearm. Must be 18 years of age to purchase tickets.

Tickets are \$25 each or six for \$100

13 guns to be given away monthly beginning in June 2024.

For more information and to purchase tickets, go to <https://choteaulions.club> or call Don at (406) 590-3538 or Clayton at (406) 466-2412.

Get yours today!

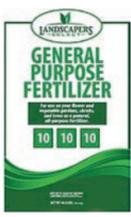
The Choteau Lions appreciate the interest and past support for this raffle project. This support has been very important for funding and maintaining community facilities that make Choteau a special place to live and visit.



Spring is here!

Lawn fertilizer SALE!

Is your lawn and garden looking tired and shabby? If so, then now is the time to rejuvenate the soil and plants to produce the beautiful landscape you desire.

		
Lazer Weed & Feed, 26-0-3 5,000 sq. ft. - \$16.49	Ironite, 1-0-1, Deep Green Lawn 5,000 sq. ft. - \$22.49	
		
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TRUTHFUL TALES FROM TELLA HAVE YOU HEARD?

By Botella "Bo" Rudolph

Columnist



Here are some jokes I got from Gary Betcher. Why did the rooster go to KFC? Answer: He wanted to see a chicken strip. What do the Eiffel tower and a tick have in common? They are both parasites. Please tell Mr. Betcher you liked his jokes.

Old people slang for: "It's time to go." Let's rock 'n roll; Let's skedaddle; Let's get the heck outta Dodge; Time to hit the road (sometimes Jack is at the end); Let's blow this popsicle stand; Let's hightail it outta here; Let's get this show on the road.

Q: What did the horse say after it tripped? A: Help! I've fallen and I can't giddyup!

Q: What do you call a well-balanced horse? A: Stable.

Q: What do you call an angry carrot? A: A steamed veggie.

Q: Where do polar bears keep their money? A: In a snowbank.

Q: How do you make an egg-roll? A: You push it!

Q: Why did the bicycle fall over? A: Because it was two tired.

Q: What did the triangle say to the circle? A: You're pointless.

Q: Why was Cinderella so bad at soccer? A: She kept running away from the ball!

Q: What do lawyers wear to court? A: Lawsuits.

Q: What do elves learn in school? A: The elf-abet.

Q: Where was King David's temple located? A: Beside his ear.

Q: What did one toilet say to another? A: You look flushed.

Q: What lights up a soccer stadium? A: A soccer match.

Q: What does corn say when it gets a compliment? A: Aw, shucks!

Q: What's the difference between a poorly dressed man on a tricycle and a well-dressed man on a bicycle? A: Attire.

Q: What do sprinters eat before they race? A: Nothing. They fast.

Q: What has more lives than a cat? A: A frog because it croaks every day.

Q: Why shouldn't you use a broken pencil? A: Because it's pointless.

Q: What do you call a pig that practices karate? A: A pork chop.

RIP, boiling water; you will be mist. I ordered a chicken and an egg online. I'll let you know what comes first.

Things to celebrate: April 24: National Bucket List Day. April 25: National Plumbers Day, National Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day, National Telephone Day, School Bus Drivers' Day. April 26: Administrative Professionals Day, Arbor Day, Denim Day, International Guide Dog Day, National

Audubon Day, National Kids and Pets Day, National Pretzel Day. April 27: National Gummi Bear Day, National Independent Bookstore Day, National Tell a Story Day. April 28: National Blueberry Pie Day. April 29: International Astronomy Day, International Dance Day, National Zipper Day, World Veterinary Day. April 30: International Jazz Day, National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day, National Oatmeal Cookie Day, National Raisin Day, Passover ends.

May 1 is May Day. It is a European festival of ancient origins marking the beginning of summer halfway between the spring equinox and summer solstice. Festivities may also be held the night before, known as May Eve. When I was a kid, we left May Day baskets on the doors of friends and neighbors. They were usually filled with flowers or treats.

Words of wisdom: Don't buy anything with Velcro. It's a total rip off.

DUTTON • FAIRFIELD • POWER Senior Center Menu

The senior citizen centers at Dutton, Fairfield and Power offer meals for seniors and others wishing to eat. The suggested meal prices are \$5 for those 60 and older and \$6 for those younger than 60.

Meals are served select Mondays at 6 p.m. and Tuesdays through Friday at noon at the Dutton Senior Center; at noon Monday through Friday at the Fairfield Drop-In Center; and on Tuesday through Thursday and an evening meal a couple times a month at the Whistle Stop Senior Center in Power.

To eat at a center, contact the cooks by 9 a.m. of the day you plan to eat at: Dutton, 406-476-3291; Fairfield, 406-467-2574; and Power, 406-463-2440.

Dutton: April 24, beef

hash, salad and fruit cobbler; April 25, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots and cake; April 26, liver and onions, corn salad and brownie; April 29, pork ribs dinner with lane cake; April 30, Monte Cristo sandwiches, fries and fruit salad; May 1, chicken Chow Mein, egg rolls, salad and fruit.

Fairfield: April 24, grill ham and cheese hoagie chips; April 25, sweet and sour chicken over rice and egg rolls; April 26, pork ribs, boiled potatoes and vegetable; April 29, turkey, pastrami loaded sub sandwich, chips and fruit; April 30, hamburger steak with mushroom gravy, boiled potatoes and vegetable.

Power: April 24, chicken pot pie; April 25, breakfast for lunch.

Obituaries

◀ FROM Page 5

tionally, a friend. Nancy made friends wherever she went and she cared deeply for them. The community of love, kindness, and fellowship Nancy has built will be one of her most terrific legacies. Her family asks that people honor her memory by cherishing the people in their life: get lunch with a friend, send a birthday card to a cousin, ask a stranger where they are from, remember this world is a bit of a small town and Nancy would want everyone to feel welcomed.

She was preceded in death by her niece Courtney Bieroth.

She is survived by her husband, John Lund; her children Carissa Lund and Gun-

nar Lund of Bozeman; her brother Mark (Julie) Young and their children Chase (Emilee) Young and their children Anders, Wesley, and Bennett, Rhett (Hailey) Young and their children Sawyer, Koda, and Bennett, and Britta (Hunter) Ritter; and her sister Robin (Del) Bieroth and their son Ty (Britney) Bieroth and their children Maddox, Maddon and Maggie.

A memorial service was April 19 at Springhill Presbyterian Church at Belgrade. Burial was April 20 at the Augusta Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to St. Jude Children's Hospital and the Bozeman Cancer Center.

Arrangements were handled by Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service of Bozeman.

Indigenous artists share cultural songs

HARMONY: 3-week outreach tour wrapped up in March

◀ FROM Page 3

Children shared that they heard, in the flute song, moose calls, wolves howling, birds singing and the sounds of water rushing in rivers.

DiPalma said her heritage includes Cherokee on her mother's side and Italian on her father's side, and she began studying voice when she was just 8. She is now exploring her Cherokee roots and how that history ties into her music today. She performed "Je Veux Vivre," translated from French to "I Want to Live," from the French composer Charles Gonoud's "Romeo et Juliette."

"Opera is very big voices, very dramatic, kind of comical, ridiculous," she said.

DiPalma asked students to sing their best high and low notes and to try to hear the feelings evoked by the song even though they couldn't understand the words. People can choose love and joy and life or they can choose death and destruction, she said, telling students, what they would hear in this song.

Billy said the song he sang, "One Drop of Blood," was composed by Kiegan Ryan, a 21-year-old cellist and Cherokee composer from Broken

Arrow, Oklahoma. The song is based on a traditional hymn that has been passed down orally from generation to generation.

The 10,000 Indigenous peoples from the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek and Seminole tribes in southern and south-eastern United States sang this hymn as they were pushed off their land and forced, by President Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act of 1830, to travel 1,000 miles to the Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma. Thousands died on this trail.

After the song, Billy asked children what they felt, and some of those who answered said they felt deep despair.

Berry told them about his work as an Indigenous composer and his responsibility to capture strong emotion in sound as he writes music. Music can be happy or sad or many other emotions, he said, and each person may respond differently to a song. "The thing about music is that it can be different to all of you as well," he said.

The musicians also talked about cultural appropriation, which occurs when someone takes an action, custom or style from a group to which they do not belong and then

fails to acknowledge the source of the material. Dressing up as an Indian for Halloween is an example, he said.

He asked the kids if they had ever heard the counting song, "Ten Little Indians," which objectifies people, and introduced them to an Indigenous song written to take back that which was stolen. This song, the "Appropriations Aria," was written by Marion Newman, a mezzo soprano and composer who is Kwagwiltuh and Stó:lo First Nations. Her song features individual people from the Métis, Inuit, Ojibwe, Iroquois, Tsimshian, Mi'kmaq and Stó:lo Nations and talks about what each does.

DiPalma said she loves that the composer took an old song which literally counted people and made a new song in which people count as individuals.

After the program during an interview, the performers said they hope the program helped children see Indigenous people as individuals and sparked interest in pursuing music-related careers.

DiPalma said the tour emphasizes "the importance of connecting with children who are impressionable because they are the ones who make the decisions on policy in the

future."

"It's about building respect early on," she said.

Billy said he grew up in a small community and wasn't exposed to classical music and opera, but was involved in school music programs. "I know that music has saved my life a few times and I want to share that with everyone," he said. He wasn't good at academics, but he was the best musician at his school and his music led him to college and his career.

Berry said he grew up in a multicultural community but lived in a very rural place in Oklahoma where his family raised sheep. As he performs, he said, he watches children's faces as they respond to the music. Their performances might be the moment in which a child decides to pursue music. He still remembers as a fourth grader going on a school trip to see a musical play and how that inspired him. "I have hope for these kids to have these moments so I think that what the three of us do is so very important," he said.

Billy agreed, saying, "A very important part of what we do is showing students to dream of what you want to do and you can probably do it."

CHOTEAU SENIOR CITIZENS

By Mona VanDeRiet

Columnist



Happy and blessed week to all. There was a fabric swap held at the center which was very successful. All of the

remaining articles were donated to the Cellarama thrift store. If you are a crafter, sewer or quilter, we probably have what you need. We like to see the center being used for different types of events. Don't forget to consider us for future plans.

Denny Dellwo entertained us all on April 17. His music tells stories, brings up memories and makes you want to tap your foot. Also, a large amount of beautiful jewelry was donated and is on display. The jewelry is priced differently and displayed in the glass case as you walk in the door. The best time to buy that specific jewelry will be between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. I traveled across the mountains to Missoula again last week. The moisture, sunshine and longer days have made for signs of spring and summer. I never tire of that

beautiful drive.

The Mother's Day raffle is going strong. You have a little over a week to get your name in the jar before the May 6 drawing. The gifts include so many things any mother any age will enjoy.

The menu for the week is: April 24, breakfast banana splits, meat and eggs; April 25, chef salad and dessert; April 26, ham dinner; April 29, cook's choice; April 30, German dinner; May 1, chili nachos and dessert. Please call 406-466-2121 by 9:30 a.m. for your dine-in or take-out meal.

Put a smile on someone's face every day and have an above-average week.

CHOTEAU WEATHER				
Date	High	Low	Prec	
April 15	72	40	.00	
April 16	60	36	.00	
April 17	48	25	.00	
April 18	37	18	.00	
April 19	35	15	.00	
April 20	50	11	.00	
April 21	60	11	.00	
Total prec. for April			.43	

Coming Events & Meetings

WIC

The Teton County Health Department offers the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting on the last Tuesday of each month (April 30, May 1 and May 2), with in-person appointments in Choteau and some remote and hybrid options available. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, contact Mandy Naylor at 406-466-2562.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

CAPA

The Choteau Area Port Authority meeting will be held April 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Choteau City office or via video conference. Agenda items include, approval of March meeting minutes and financial report, updates on assistance agencies and program grants, reports from community coordinator and marketing, discuss community calendar and Reimagine Rural Grant and the Yoga Festival in Choteau May 31-June 2. For additional

information or how to join the meeting contact Mary Sexton, 406-590-2751.

DB talent show

The Little DiamondBacks Daycare will present its annual talent show on April 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Dutton/Brady Public Schools auditorium. The community is encouraged to come and enjoy the talent of DBPS students.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

TASGA

The Teton Antique Steam and Gas Association will meet April 28 at 2 p.m. at the Choteau Depot meeting room on the Teton Antique Steam & Gas Threshing Association grounds. For more information contact, 406-466-5409.

EXTENSION

The Teton County 4-H Communications Day is set for April 27 at the Choteau Baptist Church starting at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to the Extension Office by April 19. All are welcome to this public event.

WEEKLY

MONDAY

Lego Club, 3:45-4:45, Choteau/Teton Public Library.
Alcoholics Anonymous, 7 p.m., Choteau Trinity Lutheran Church.

TUESDAY

Choteau Driver Exam Station will be open from 9:15 a.m. to noon and 1-3:30 p.m. in the basement of the Teton County Courthouse. (Please note that the elevator at the courthouse is out of commission for several weeks.) Call 1-406-444-1772 or go online to www.dojmt.gov/driving for an appointment. The DOJ changes hours with no notice to the newspaper, so please call before going to verify the hours.

WEDNESDAY

Office of Public Assistance is available for walk-in appointments from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the basement of the Teton County Courthouse. For additional information, call the Teton County Health Department at 406-466-2562. (Please

note that the elevator at the courthouse is out of commission for several weeks.)

Running group meets at 6 p.m. at the four-way stop on Main Avenue North for a 3-mile run, weather permitting. Everyone welcome. For more information, text or call 406-590-1644.

THURSDAY

Story Hour, 10-11 a.m., Choteau/Teton Public Library.
Narcotics Anonymous, 7 p.m., Choteau Trinity Lutheran Church. For more information, contact Shannan Gray at 406-564-6228.

FRIDAY

Choteau Driver Exam Station will be open from 9:15 a.m. to noon and 1-3:30 p.m. in the basement of the Teton County Courthouse. (Please note that the elevator at the courthouse is out of commission for several weeks.) Call 1-406-444-1772 or go online to www.dojmt.gov/driving for an appointment. The Montana Department of Justice changes hours with no notice to the newspaper, so please call before going to verify the hours.

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KING CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS	1 "House" actor Omar	5 Nick and Nora's dog	9 Mountain pass	12 Mend socks	13 - to differ!"	14 Flamenco cheer	15 Marmaduke, for one	17 Allow	18 Realm	19 Protuberances	21 French article	22 Filled fully	24 Gear teeth	27 Understood	28 Hoodwink	31 Scary cry	32 Flying saucer	33 Perch	34 Attempt	36 Knock	37 School support orgs.	38 Object (to)	40 Battery size	41 Ibsen's Gabler	43 Golfer Sorenstam	47 Land in la mer	48 Bruce Springsteen hit	51 JFK regulator	52 "Her" actress Rooney	9 Pricey powder	10 Sheltered favorites	16 Three, in Rome	20 British ref. work	22 To date	23 Perched on	24 "NCIS" ailer	25 Sound of delight	26 Bargain	27 Mentor	29 Zadora of "Hairspray"	30 Roswell visitors	35 Slugger Williams	37 Bamboo eaters	39 Molten rock	40 Some	41 LP player	42 Israeli airline	43 Basra resident	44 Shakespeare villain	45 Actress Sedgwick	46 Pronto	49 - -di-dah	50 Mouths (Lat.)
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CHOTEAU SCHOOL PLAY APRIL 26-28

“Alice in Wonderland Jr.” on stage

Choteau Public Schools will present Disney’s “Alice in Wonderland Jr.,” an hour-long all-school musical, on Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27, at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, April 28, at 3 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Activity tickets will be accepted. For those without activity tickets, admission is \$6 for students and \$7 for adults.

Practice started in mid-February with the core cast, comprised of sixth-through 12th graders. “They have been busy learning the dialogue, songs and choreography,” Director Cody Marney said. Marney added the goal this year was to have the core cast solid on their performances to make the transition with adding elementary students easier.

In mid-April 48 students from the kindergarten through fifth grade joined the cast. Rose Carlson, who offers music instruction in the elementary school, has been working on music with the elementary students for their spring lessons but also to give them a jump on the performance. The elementary students will fill out the Wonderland cast as flowers, trees, party guests and royal cards.

“We are excited to involve the elementary students again and expand their knowledge of the theater,” Marney said. “It has been in-

credible to involve Rose Carlson and her music program, Julie Shepherd and Faith Shepherd with choreography, and a really fun set installation spearheaded by Chuck and Jami Gameon using elementary art.”

“Rachel Olson and I are looking forward to bringing the love of theater to a younger group of students and have greatly enjoyed the talent and willingness to learn while working with the core cast,” Marney said.

“My entire philosophy working with the students in speech and drama and the musical has always been rooted in creating a space for students to be their authentic self and be free to express themselves through performing,” Marney said. “I appreciate that Choteau Schools has allowed me to incorporate the elementary and junior high students, if even for a short time.”

The play invites the audience to fall down the rabbit hole with Alice as she navigates the curious world of Wonderland on her journey of self-discovery. Along her adventure, Alice will encounter the ever-tardy White Rabbit, the grinning Cheshire Cat, a cool Caterpillar, the wacky Mad Hatter, a temperamental Queen, and many more beloved Wonderland characters in this charming updated

retelling of the classic Lewis Carroll stories.

Members of the core cast and their roles are: Savannah Stanek, Alice; Eric Stuber-Huapaya, Caterpillar; Addi Christensen, Cheshire Cat 1; Nayeli Smith, Cheshire Cat two; Zelah Darlington, Cheshire Cat three; Dawson Wright, Dodo Bird; Leila Marquette, Zabrielle Merja, Bella Williams, Sam Newmiller, Analyse Stott and Lexie Stanek as flowers; Ella Birkeland, Mad Hatter; Lexie Stanek, March Hare; Tori Newmiller, Queen of Hearts; Lily Carlson, small Alice; Andrew Major, Tweedle Dee; and Zabrielle Merja, Tweedle Dum; Madysen Adams, White Rabbit; Deshawn Thompson as both Doorknob and King of Hearts; Ella Birkeland and Eric Stuber-Huapaya, as friend one and two; Tori Newmiller, Mathilda; and Andrew Major, Leila Marquette and Iliana Darlington, Royal Cards.

Assisting with the production were: the set, Marney and Olson designed the concept; Marney and Tom Frownfelder, set; Olson and Bonnie Griffis, painting; Debbie Stokes, made the mushroom; Chase Stanek and Brooke Richins; costume, Olson, Stokes, Susie Ewinger, Jane Hartman, Terri Boom. Vicki Wombacher and Hannah Martin.



Choteau elementary student Lily Carlson plays the part of “Small Alice” in the school play.



Madysen Adams plays the White Rabbit in “Alice in Wonderland Jr.”

Adapted especially for young performers, the musical includes favorite songs from the Disney canon, such as “I’m Late,” “The Unbirthday Song” and “Painting the Roses Red,” in addition to



Savannah Stanek is cast as Alice in Disney’s “Alice in Wonderland Jr.” which will be performed April 26, 27 and 28.



Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee are played by Zabrielle Merja and Andrew Major.

music from the 2010 Tim Burton live-action film. Marney said, whether this is your first experience with Alice or your hundredth, you’ll lose your head (and heart) for “Alice in Wonderland Jr.”



Playing Cheshire Cats are Addi Christensen, Nayeli Smith and Zelah Darlington.



Tori Newmiller is the Queen of Hearts in the Disney “Alice in Wonderland, Jr.” production.

Musicians perform at district

By Austin Shaw

Acantha reporter

The Choteau, Fairfield, Power and Dutton/Brady High School music students finished the district music festival with numerous students receiving superior and excellent ratings from the judges. The students who earned superior ratings on will participate at the state music festival in Helena on May 3-4.

Choteau is taking five students in vocal solos, two in instrumental solos, three in instrumental ensembles and three in vocal ensembles.

At the large group events on April 11 at the University of Providence, the CHS band and choir both earned superior ratings in prepared and sight-reading events

During the small group performances on April 12 at C.M. Russell High School, Eric Steuber-Huapaya, Ruby Herman, Zoey Tobar, Addy Young and Abby Zickefoose all received excellent ratings from their vocal solos. Ella Birkeland (flute) and Zabrielle Merja (clarinet) received superior solo ratings, and Kenny Quillan (trumpet) earned an excellent rating.

The following received superior ratings in instrumental ensembles: Sigrid Birkeland and Tanner Walton, saxophone duet; Kyria Alzheimer and Sigrid Birkeland, clarinet and saxophone duet; and Kyria Alzheimer, Ella and Sigrid Birkeland, Madison Irons, Eleanor Seroy and Tanner Walton, The Hodgepole.

The groups earning excellent ratings were: Kyria Alzheimer and Eleanor Seroy, clarinet duet; Addison Christensen and Zabrielle Merja, flute and clarinet duet; and Rocky Allaire, Cali Armstrong, Sigrid Birkeland, Ava Gunderson, Madison Irons, Olivia Lightner, Abram Martin, Karson Thomas and Tanner Walton, The Saxophones.

Three of the vocal ensembles received superior ratings: Cali Armstrong, Violet Bechtold, Skyler Buckman, Lilly Foster, Lily Heiberg, Ruby Herman, Kylie Kovatch, Zoey Tobar, Addy Young and Abby Zickefoose, CHS Women; Payson Allaire, Kruz Daley, Nathan Gunderson, Nick Miller, Alex Rippenburg and Eric Steuber-Huapaya, CHS Men; and Skylar Buckman, Kruz Daley, Lilly Foster, Nathan Gunderson, Lily

Heiberg, Ruby Herman, Eric Steuber-Huapaya, Zoey Tobar and Abby Zickefoose, honor choir.

Three other ensembles earned excellent ratings: Kruz Daley and Nathan Gunderson, vocal duet; Nathan Gunderson and Zoey Tobar, vocal duet; and Lilly Foster, Eric Steuber-Huapaya and Addy Young, vocal trio.

Field is Robyn Mathison and Myles Allen to the state festival. The band received a superior rating on its performance and sight reading and the choir received an excellent. Mathison earned a superior rating in a vocal solo and Allen in a piano solo.

The following received excellent ratings in their performances: Kadence Blanchet and Derek Pearson, vocal duet; Shane Donnelly, alto sax solo; Emilee Lear, vocal solo; Isaiah Talton, trumpet solo; Madi Hatch, horn solo; and Saber Allen, piano solo. Myles and Saber Allen also accompanied fellow students on the piano.

Power’s band and choir both received superior ratings at the group performances. The small ensemble performances earned 10 superior ratings and six excellent.

Those who received superior ratings and qualified for the state festival were: Rebekah Wall, alto saxophone solo; Millicent Floyd, soprano solo; Grace Toeckes, soprano solo; Millicent Floyd, Grace Toeckes and Mikayla Toeckes, vocal trio; Power High School Singers, large vocal ensemble; Kinlie Neuman and Violet Rehm, vocal duet; Kinlie Neuman, soprano solo; Power Girls Ensemble, large vocal ensemble; Millicent Floyd and Lillian Orellana, vocal duet; and Jackson Taylor, tenor solo.

Those who received excellent ratings were: Alex Brandt, snare solo; Lillian Orellana, soprano solo; Maggie and Millicent Floyd, vocal duet; Lillian Orellana and Mikayla Toeckes, trombone duet; Magdalyn Floyd, alto saxophone solo; and Jackson Taylor and Nicholas Bench, vocal duet.

Dutton/Brady’s high school band ensemble earned a superior rating. The women’s choir earned an excellent rating.

The students who earned superiors were: Martha Klaus, clarinet and vocal solos; and Aidan Reeve, high brass solo.

Undefeated weekend

By Austin Shaw

Acantha reporter

The Conrad-Choteau High School softball team swept the competition at the Conrad Invitational tournament on April 20. The girls defeated Cut Bank, 10-6, and Shelby, 16-1, en route to the undefeated weekend.

The Cowdaws answered Cut Bank’s first-inning scores with three runs of their own. Tessa Brownell led off with a single, stole second base, and scored later on a wild pitch. Sierra Dockter followed with a walk and was driven in by a two-run home run by Evangelene Denzer.

“The Cowdaws added four more in the second on a three-run homer by Denzer to take a 7-1 lead,” head coach Tyson Anderson

said. “Cut Bank scored two in the top of the inning but Presley Naylor singled and scored to give the Cowdaws an 8-3 lead. Conrad-Choteau scored runs in the fifth and sixth while Cut Bank scored two in the fifth and one in the seventh to round out the scoring.”

Denzer was the winning pitcher after striking out six.

In the game against Shelby, Denzer threw a complete game one-hitter as the Cowdaws defeated the Coyotes.

“The Cowdaws scored 11 runs in the first inning and never looked back en route to the victory,” Anderson said. “Denzer struck out six in three innings. The win evens the Cowdaws’ record at 4-4 overall and 3-2 in conference play.”

The co-op will travel to Worden for the Huntley tournament on April 26-27.

Choteau to host

By Austin Shaw

Acantha reporter

The Choteau High School golf team had multiple golfers break the century stroke mark at a tournament at Fort Benton on April 15 and four more at Conrad on April 20. Junior Kellen Meyer led the Bulldogs on both days, shooting an 81 in Fort Benton and a 76 in Conrad.

“The golfers keep playing well and improving,” head coach John Shepherd said. “Fort Benton is a tough course and is tough to score on. It brought out the best in the kids.”

Maddox Hofstad followed Meyer with 84 strokes and Kael Meyer shot an 89 during the tournament. Colin Trahan finished the tournament with 92 strokes and Parker Naylor closed the boys scoring with 102 strokes.

Olivia Lightner led the girls team with 117 strokes and Peyton Passmore followed with 120. Zoey Tobar and Violet Bechtold finished the girls scoring with 123 strokes each.

“It was chilly in Con-

rad,” Shepherd said. “The kids all had good scores and it was a good experience for everyone.”

Kael Meyer shot an 89 behind Kellen’s 76 at Conrad on April 20. Willie Lightner and Hofstad followed with 93 and 94 strokes, respectively. Hunter Lohman shot a 110 and Kale Gunderson finished with a 113. Kyle Haas recorded 116 strokes and Jacob Passmore followed, posting a 117. Levi Field wrapped the boys scoring with 117 strokes.

Olivia Lightner finished the tournament with 116 strokes and Passmore recorded 121 strokes on the girls side. Zoey Tobar finished the Bulldogs’ scoring with a 115.

The Bulldogs will host their Class C tournament on April 26 and the Class B tournament on April 27 at the Choteau Country Club. Some golfers will compete in Shelby on April 29.

“We will have quite a few teams at the Class C tournament,” the coach said. “We could be maxed out at 72 golfers. The Class B tournament will include the teams from around the area and will probably have around 50 golfers.”

Tennis team to play in Conrad

By Vonnice Jacobson

Acantha reporter

The Choteau High School tennis team will compete in the pre-divisional tournament in Conrad Saturday.

“In a blink of an eye we will be playing in the divisional tournament,” said head coach Carla May. “This weekend’s tournament will be good test for the team and will help us get ready for the post season play.”

May said for most Choteau players this will be their first tournament. “We have played a lot of matches, but they have mostly been in a dual format,” she added. The pre-divisional tournament is played via a bracket and will be double elimination. “It could be a short day for some players and longer for others,” May said.

At the pre-divisional tournament, the Bulldogs will play against Conrad, Great Falls Central and Cut Bank. Because of travel distance, Choteau will not play against the teams the Bulldogs will face at divisional. Choteau is in the Western Division this

season along with Mission, St. Ignatius, Superior and Troy and the Chester-Joplin-Inverness boys’ team. “The five hours each way to play teams in our division is a longways to go to play for four or five hours,” May said.

May does not believe it will matter whether Choteau plays against the teams coming to Conrad or those in Choteau’s division as the competition is going to be good. “The teams from the Western Division are some of the strongest in the state,” May said.

This week the coaches are hoping the weather cooperates for five good practices with at least four outdoors. May wants to see her players work more on strategy. At this stage of the season, players need to spend less time on the basic mechanics of the game and concentrate on those keys needed to come out on top during tough points and games. “It can mean the difference between winning points and matches down the stretch,” May said.

The team competed April 20 in the Sing and Swing meet hosted by Simms and held in

Great Falls. Choteau played duals against Townsend and Great Falls Central Catholic. “Because of the weather we choose not to attend the Friday,” May said, adding it was cooler on Saturday but much better than the day before.

The team welcomed two new players last week, Ava Gunderson and Myra Long.

Gunderson is very athletic noted May and despite having not played tennis before was quick to pick up the concepts and got better each match. Gunderson played both singles and doubles in Great Falls. Long also is new to the sport and teamed up with Madysyn Duffner for doubles. She too improved with each match and had a great deal of support from Duffner. Duffner is a great kid, May said, adding, “She is coachable and works well with teammates.”

Kylie Kovatch is settling in nicely playing singles. “She knows her strengths, one of those being her ground stroke,” May said. “What she is learning now is to mix it up and not use her weapons on every point, keeping her opponents off balance.”

Harlee Trahan played both doubles and singles. Having played mostly doubles, she is now learning to cover the whole court which is useful even when she is playing doubles, May said. “She is also working on her mental game and buckling down to win those tough points.”

Kruz Daley, Asher Clayton and Noah Bradbury took the courts for Choteau in Great Falls. Daley did well playing in both single and double matches, May said. “He is coming along and improving with each match.”

The same can be said for both Clayton and Bradbury. “Clayton has been in some tough matches and competes to the very end often with the points going in his favor,” May said. “Noah has played mostly doubles and is working on when to take risks.”

Both Kovatch and Daley are suffering shoulder injuries that isn’t make it a little more difficult to play. The team was short players for the science Olympiad and this week they will be down a few who are in the school play.

CHOTEAU SCHOOL LUNCH

All meals served with milk and salad bar

- April 25 — Breakfast: Fruit muffin. Lunch: Goulash.
- April 26 — Breakfast: Cold cereal. Lunch: Pizza.
- April 29 — Breakfast: French toast. Lunch: Chuckwagon dinner.
- April 30 — Breakfast: Ham and cheese biscuit Lunch: Tacos.
- May 1 — Breakfast: Sausage and egg muffin. Lunch: Chicken Alfredo.

CHS to host Twilight Track meet

By Vonnie Jacobson

Acantha reporter

Cross fingers and maybe even your toes that the weather holds and the Choteau Twilight track meet will go off without a hitch on April 25 after having been postponed on April 18 because of winter-like weather.

The meet will start at 2 p.m. with field events and running will begin at 3 p.m. Callee Peebles, Choteau High School head track coach, said the same 18 teams that committed to the original Twilight Meet were invited to the rescheduled meet. "As of Sunday evening, 14 teams are slated to attend," Peebles said.

"We could always use help with timing at the finish line and anyone willing or interested in helping run or work a field event," Peebles said. Those interested are encouraged to reach out the Peebles or CHS Athletic Director John Shepherd at 406-466-5303.

The team is also scheduled for the Mustang Invite in Great Falls on April 27 and the Top 8 meet in Great Falls on April 30.

In practice this week, the team will focus on getting

some tough workouts completed and starting to fine tune the fundamentals in specific events. Prepping for two home meets (high school on Thursday and junior high on Friday) always brings a little more work, also, Peebles said.

On April 20, the track team competed at the Manhattan Christian meet held at Gallatin High School in Bozeman. "After having to postpone our home Twilight meet and other events being canceled in the area, it was great to be able to attend a meet on Saturday," Peebles said. "The temperature was chilly in the morning, but the sun was shining all day, which led to some great running conditions."

The coaches were pleased with how the team competed at another large meet, with the boys placing sixth overall out of 20 teams and the girls placing 10th.

Peebles said it was great to see several personal records hit again. "We are noticing progress in their conditioning and training each week," she said.

"A few individual highlights include first-place finishers senior Percy Bechtold in the pole vault and junior

Wyatt Yeager in the 3,200-meter with a PR. Yeager also earned a PR in the 800 and ran a leg on the 4x400m relay team that hit a season's best time.

Senior Roan Stott joined Bechtold for a 1-2 combo finish in the pole vault. "It's been fun watching them work hard and push each other each day in practice, with the help of volunteer coaches Blair Patton and Jeremy Laisnez," Peebles said.

According to Peebles, Dax Yeager also had a big day, placing third in the javelin and hitting PRs in both javelin and shot put.

For the girls, freshman Natalie Hodgskiss and senior Theresia Mohr (exchange student from Austria) placed fifth and sixth respectively in the 3,200, both hitting PR times. "Hodgskiss also placed sixth in the 1,600 and ran a strong leg on both placing relay teams," Peebles said.

The girls 4x400m relay team consisting of Hodgskiss, Lily Heiberg, Mohr and Sigrid Birkeland placed third with a season's best time, shaving five seconds off their previous best. Heiberg placed third in the high jump.

STATISTICS
Manhattan Christian meet
Choteau boys
Connor Lohman — 42. 100, 13.11; 36. 200, 27.20; 25. long jump, 16.8.
Dax Yeager — 15. shot put, 35.1; 8. discus, 109.1; 3. javelin, 153.10.
Gus Johnson — 14. 200, 25.16.
Jakob Kelley — 57. 100, 13.91; 39. 200, 28.22; 40. shot put, 27.9; 33. javelin, 110.2.
Karson Thomas — 11. long jump, 17.8.
Kesston Thomas — 28. 100, 12.77; 24. 200, 26.46; 28. shot put, 31.10.
10. javelin, 129.9.
Nathan Gunderson — 27. 100, 12.74; 18. 200, 25.43.
Percy Bechtold — 27. shot put, 32.2; 1. pole vault, 11.6.
Roan Stott — 3. pole vault, 11.
Rusch Yeager — 12. 1600, 5:04.56; 15. javelin, 122.3; 8. high jump, 5.6.
Wyatt Yeager — 10. 800, 2:14.92; 1. 3200, 10:37.82.
Boys relays — 6. 4x100, 47.63 (Johnson, Lohman, Karson Thomas, Gunderson); 9. 4x400, 3:56.89 (R. Yeager, W. Yeager, Gunderson, Karson Thomas.)

Choteau girls
Ella Birkeland — 25. 800, 3:30.98.
Lily Heiberg — 15. shot put, 27.75; 3. high jump, 4-8.
Natalie Hodgskiss — 6. 1600, 5:55.07; 5. 3200, 12:40.31.
Nike Vrangborn — 29. shot put, 24-3.25; 7. high jump, 3-10; 46. long jump, 11-8.
Olivia Jamison — 34. shot put, 23.1; 21. discus, 74.8;
Sigrid Birkeland — 18. 400, 1:11.02; 8. pole vault, 6.6.
Theresia Mohr — 6. 3200, 12:45.99.
Zabrielle Merja — 46. shot put, 18-10.5; 46. discus, 53.5; 51. long jump, 9.11.
Girls relays — 10. 4x100, 57.49 (Brangborn, S. Birkeland, Ava Gunderson, Hodgskiss); 3. 4x400, 4:29.23 (Heiberg, S. Birkeland, Mohr, Hodgskiss.)

Local teams compete at Principal's Cup

By Austin Shaw

Acantha reporter

The Choteau and Fairfield high school Principal's Cup teams competed in the annual regional event at Simms High School on March 22. Both teams fought hard in the Jeopardy-style competition and gained valuable experience and enjoyed some friendly entertainment during the afternoon events.

Every school in attendance was allowed two teams of five participants. Each team included one student from every high school grade level, and the fifth student, a "wild card" who could come from any of the four grades.

CHS sent two teams to the competition. The team members included: Chase Stanek, Robert Lesofski, Tori Newmiller, Kenny Quillan, Kellen Meyer, Kale Gunderson, Natalie Hodgskiss, Kyria Alzheimer and Addison Christensen.

After losing its first match

to Fairfield, the first CHS team won the next two battles before being eliminated by Havre. The second team lost out in two matches. Lesofski, Meyer, Stanek and Christensen all received certificates for placing in the top 10 in their grade level.

Students competing in the Principal's Cup took a test before the event to determine individual high scores for each grade level and to send teams into a double-elimination bracket.

The first team included: Ashyr Tweet, Madi Hatch, Thomas Stott, Lyndsy Phillips and Maya Wilson. The other team featured: Colter Dowdy, Marty Larson, Robyn Mathison, Kail Bouma and Riley Harrell.

The brackets are split to individual and team competitions with 20-minute rounds. FHS Principal Paul Wilson said the individual rounds were held in classrooms while the team rounds were in the gymnasium. C.M.

Russell High School is usually the favorite to win the Principal's Cup every year. The Rustlers were upset in the first round but won every matchup in the double-elimination setup to take first place. CMR needed to beat Lewistown twice to win the cup and succeeded.

Wilson said the Eagles won the first-round match but lost in the second round and were eliminated in the next. Last year, Fairfield won the Principal's Cup, a rare feat for a Class B school. Wilson said this year's team members worked hard, did their best and had a lot of fun throughout the day. He said it's always great to see these students get recognized for their hard work and unique skills.

"I hope the kids gained some confidence," Wilson said. "They had the opportunity to learn about teamwork. Everyone can be valuable on the team because they are skilled in different categories

and abilities. Not everyone is strong in the same areas and it takes all five to succeed. Everyone can be valuable in their own way."



Photo courtesy of Kelly Martin

PROM ROYALTY

Preston Tyler and Mia Reiding, Dutton-Brady High School seniors, were crowned the 2024 prom king and queen at the April 13 prom in the school gymnasium.

FAIRFIELD GOLF, TENNIS AND TRACK RESULTS

Golf — Conrad Invitational
Fairfield boys: Devin Lonner, 106; Tucker Gulick, 121.

Fairfield girls: 9. Emma Schenk, 108; 12. Rylie Schenk, 113; 15. Emilee Lear, 117.

Tennis — Fairfield in Great Falls Townsend dual

Singles — Maya Wilson def. Kira Young, 6-2, 6-2; McKenzie Swenson def. Callie Gentry, 6-2, 6-3; Kaylie Bender def. Bryleigh Erikson, 7-6 (13-11); Macie Jergenson def. Harper Wolfram, 6-4, 2-6, (7-6).

Doubles — Kamree Pearson/Taylee Pearson def. Liz Collins/Emily Bird, 2-6, 2-6; Kameron Lidstone/Kamber Bedner def. Carsyn O'Dell/Chloe Flynn, 6-3, 6-4.

Fort Benton dual

Singles — Lidstone def. Hanna Bach, 7-6, 4-6; Kaylee Bender def. Maddie Doney, 6-4, 6-3; T. Pearson def. Kailyn, 6-3, 4-6 (10-7); Regan Giles def. by Katie Cline, 0-6; Jergenson def. Allie MacDonald, 6-3.

Doubles — Wilson/Swenson def. Vaughn/Aloas, 6-2; Kamber Bender/Keira Bender def. Zoe Donner/Paetyn, 3-6, 6-2 (10-6).

Wolf Point dual

Singles — Wilson def. Goldberg, 6-2, 6-2; Swenson def. Grayhawk, 6-0, 6-3; Kaylie Bender def. Melborne, 6-3, 6-2; Kamber Bender def. Vilavuz, 6-4

(7-6); Jergensen def. Sanchez, 6-2, 6-2. Doubles — K. Pearson/T. Pearson def. by Johnson/Miller, 6-7, 4-6; Lindstrom/ Kiera Bender def. Graham/Rodenberg, 4-6, 6-4 (7-5); Kody Warden/Reagan Giles def. by Grayhawk/Goldberg, 5-6, 3-6; Kamber Bender/Macie Jergenson def. Melborne/Vilavuz, 6-2, 6-3.

Track — Seeley-Swan Invite in Missoula

Fairfield boys

100 — 8. Myles Allen, 11.75; 16. Ryder Carper, 11.99; 46. Brady Huhn, 12.75; 51. McCoy Banner, 12.81; 63. Robert Preston, 13.05.

200 — 33. Huhn, 25.86; 35. Payton Swensen, 25.93; 53. Colter Kline, 27.06; 57. Bryce Hooper, 27.58; 63. Taylor Swensen, 28.21.

400 — 3. M. Allen, 53.15; 19. Ashyr Tweet, 57.35; 35. Kline, 1:01.15; 46. Isaiah Talton, 1:03.72.

800 — 18. Talton, 2:26.39; 24. Kline, 2:28.44.

1600 — 12. Hooper, 5:02.94; 41. Thomas Stott, 6:26.87.

3200 — 4. Tweet, 10:36.16.

110 hurdles — 8. Saber Allen, 17.41.

300 hurdles — 3. R. Carper, 43.84; 10. S. Allen, 45.96; 20. Cardell Rosenkrance, 50.16.

4x100 relay — 14. P. Swensen, Preston, R. Carper and Banner, 48.73.

4x400 relay — 7. M. Allen, S. Allen,

P. Swensen and Hooper, 3:48.71.

Shot put — 26. Blake Pearson, 36-01; 59. Jominique Evans, 30-07; 63. Caden Leverage, 30-03.50; 84. Marty Larson, 24-00.50; 86. Weston Murphy, 23-02.

Discus — 12. Pearson, 111-04; 23. Evans, 103-09; 77. Leverage, 75-05.50; 88. Murphy, 61-02; 91. Larson, 57-11.

Javelin — 30. Banner, 115-04; 31. P. Swensen, 114-06; 37. S. Allen, 111-00; 81. Stott, 65-01; 85. Talton, 53-11.

High jump — 21. Rosenkrance, 5-02.

Pole vault — 16. Evans, 9-00.

Long jump — 25. M. Allen, 17-04; 38. Banner, 16-04.50; 75. S. Allen, 11-03.

Triple jump — 7. M. Allen, 38-04; 35. Rosenkrance, 30-04; 38. T. Swensen, 29-10.50.

Fairfield girls
100 — 52. Sienna Kline, 15.95.
200 — 3. Natalie Harrell, 27.54; 24. Aubrey Schubarth, 30.53; 25. Dakota Davis, 30.55; 44. Kline, 32.70.

400 — 13. Davis, 1:08.13; 16. Shienne McNary, 1:08.94; 21. Schubarth, 1:10.23.

800 — 5. McNary, 2:47.86; 11. Aundra Passmore, 2:52.73.

100 hurdles — 7. Guerna Becker, 17.46.

300 hurdles — 4. Becker, 50.58.

4x100 relay — 9. Kenzie Allen, Becker, Kline and Harrell, 55.19.

4x400 relay — 6. McNary, Pass-

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned Clerk of Augusta School District No. 45, Lewis and Clark County, State of Montana that the Annual School Election will be held on Tuesday, May 7th, 2024, by mail ballot. Ballots may be returned to the following locations, at the following times:

Location Prior to Election Day: Augusta School District, 410 Broadway Street, Augusta, MT 59410 and **Hours:** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday- Friday.

Location on Election Day: Augusta School District, 410 Broadway Street, Augusta, MT 59410 and **Hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Electors will consider the following issues at the election:
• 2 (Two) Trustee(s) to be elected for a three (3) year term.
• Mill levy proposition to finance the school's Elementary General Fund.

A qualified registered elector who will be absent from the district during the time the election is being conducted may: a) vote in person in the election administrator's office as soon as the ballots are available and until noon the day before the ballots are scheduled to be mailed; b) make a written request, signed by the applicant and addressed to the election administrator, that the ballot be mailed to an address other than the address that appears on the registration card. The district clerk/election administrator's office is located at: Augusta School District, 410 Broadway Street, Augusta, MT 59410.

If you miss this regular registration deadline (30 days prior to the election), you may still register for the election by showing up at the county election office by noon on the day before election day. The late registration certificate may be exchanged for a ballot at the school election administrator's office until the close of polls on election day. The county election office is located at:

316 N Park, Rm 168, Helena, MT 59623.

A late registrant may obtain a ballot on Election Day at the following location:

Augusta School District, 410 Broadway Street, Augusta, MT 59410.

DATED this 4th day of April, 2024
/s/ Jamie Fuller
District Clerk: Jamie Fuller

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The irrigation season will start approximately the middle to late May, and it will extend until our usable water storage in Gibson and Pishkun Reservoirs has been exhausted. Hopefully moisture conditions improve throughout the summer. If you need an official notification on GID letterhead for your crop insurance provider, please stop by the GID office.

On behalf of the GID Board,
Erling A. Juel, P.E., District Manager

Incumbent Diekhans seeks new term

By Melody Martinsen

Acantha editor

Kelsy Diekhans is one of five candidates seeking two three-year terms on the Power School Board this month. Power is conducting a mail ballot election for the trustee race. School business manager and board Clerk Elaine Seymour sent out about 417 ballots to voters on April 18. Voters must return those ballots to the school by no later than 8 p.m. on May 7. The school will be open until 8 p.m. on election day to accommodate voters who want to drop their ballots off. Those planning to mail in their ballots should give ample time for the mail to get to the school as any ballots received after 8 p.m. on May 7 cannot be counted.

Seymour's election judges will hand count ballots and she will issue unofficial results as soon as the tallies are completed after 8 p.m. Readers should watch the Choteau Acantha's website at www.choteauacantha.com for unofficial results.

The candidates seeking

election are Diekhans, who is the incumbent, and newcomers Cristin Widhalm, Brandon Neuman and Michael Heinen, whose names will appear on the ballot, and Mike Woodhouse, who filed after the deadline as a write-in candidate. Incumbent board member Carla Pfeifle is not seeking reelection.

The Acantha sent candidate questionnaires to all five candidates and initially received responses from Neuman, Heinen and Woodhouse, whose answers were printed in the April 17 edition of the newspaper. Diekhans responded last week and her response is printed here. Widhalm has not responded.

Diekhans, whose maiden name is Burgmaier, lives at 831 19th Lane NE, Power, and has lived in the Power school district most of her life. She spent the first 18 years in the district while growing up and



Diekhans

later moved back, having now lived in the district for the past 13 years and 31 years total.

She attended Power Elementary and High School, graduating in 1997, and then attended Montana State University-Northern at Havre, where she earned a bachelor's degree in biology with a chemistry minor. She is a certified clinical lab scientist and works as an information systems laboratory analyst.

She has served two three-year terms on the Power school board and is the organizational leader for the Power 4-H Club.

"The school district is the heart of our community, and I care deeply about the health and well-being of the students and staff who make it a great place to learn," Diekhans said in the questionnaire, explaining why she is seeking office.

"When making decisions, I keep in mind everyone who is affected which include our students, staff, community and taxpayers," she said.

If reelected, Diekhans said she would love to change some of the mindset in this

area that students need to attend a larger school in order to have more opportunities. "Our school gives our students a plethora of chances to get involved in a variety of things," she said. "Power produces well-rounded young adults with a strong education and a foundation to become successful."

Her main priority for Power Public Schools is remaining true to the schools' slogan: "Small School, Big Education."

She said the school system has many rewarding projects happening including the Farm-to-School program and the Big Pirate Little Pirate program. "Our staff work extremely hard to provide fun and educational projects. As a trustee, I always support these chances for student experiences," she said.

"After serving as a trustee in our district for the last two terms (six years), I have gained an immense amount of knowledge that I will use to continue to help our students receive the best education possible."

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HL Ventures hired to drill city well

By Melody Martinsen

Acantha editor

The Choteau City Council on April 16 awarded a \$48,950 contract for drilling a new water well to HL Ventures LLC of Fairfield, operated by Sonny and Rory Fellers.

HL Ventures was the lower of two bidders for the project which includes mobilization, drilling the well, steel well casing, a stainless-steel wire wrapped screen, well development and testing, well completion and test well abandonment. The new well will be drilled on property the city has purchased from the Ramaker family.

Aquasource Drilling LLC of Great Falls, operated by Tyrel Hlavnicka, bid the project at \$79,000.

Collette Anderson of Helena, Great West Engineering's municipal business unit manager, said she reviewed both quotes, spoke with the companies and recommended going with the low bidder.

Choteau Public Works Director Colin Lightner said he trusts both contractors and recommended going with the lower bid as well.

The Council unanimously approved awarding the contract to HL Ventures. Anderson said she would get a "notice to proceed" prepared to send to the company, authorizing it to start the project, which is the first step in the second phase of the city's water system improvement project. The second phase includes drilling the new well, linking the new well into the city's water system, replacing

the city's two smaller water tanks with one large tank and extending water service to some 147 unserved Choteau homes and nine businesses, if funding is available. The total cost on the two-phase project is \$15,960,000.

The Council heard Levi Warehime, the city's certified wastewater treatment plant operator, has also received his certification as a municipal water system operator.

Lightner reported that he has paused water meter installation after several installed last fall froze and broke during the winter and another one is not worked properly. Lightner said the city may have gotten a bad batch and the one not reporting correctly is under warranty. Damage by freezing is not included under the warranty.

City Finance Officer Tom Frownfelder said the crew has installed 254 out of 710 new meters. Mayor Chris Hindoien said Mike Maples, the former PWD, researched these meters and talked with other towns using them, who told him they worked well.

Lightner said the installation will resume as soon as the crew can manage. One difficulty the crew has faced, he said, is reluctance by homeowners to allow the crew into homes to install the meters.

In March, the city pumped 4,059,180 gallons of water, of which, 32.4% was lost through leaking lines.

Lightner said the city crew is gearing up to chip-seal streets disturbed by the first phase of the water project last year starting on June 19. The

crew has been maintaining streets and grading alleys.

Hindoien said he has heard several compliments on the city's new recycling station south of the Choteau Dog Park. The city has put out compost, free for the taking, at the recycling station.

Councilman Stewart Merja, who is now attending Teton Bear Smart meetings, asked about bear-proof garbage cans for high-risk areas on the western side of town or along Spring Creek. He said he would like to work with Lightner on this project.

Lightner, however, said the bear-proof containers may be prohibitively expensive and difficult to handle. A large garbage truck that could empty such containers would likely be too big to operate in the alleys, where people put out their garbage containers for collection. He said to his knowledge no bear has ever gotten into city garbage cans.

Councilwoman Heather McCartney-Duty suggested looking into what Big Sky did recently to convert to bear-proof garbage cans.

The council welcomed Wendy Yeager, the new deputy clerk in the City Office, and heard from Councilwoman Sara Coccoli that the city's Arbor Day observance will be on April 26 at 10:30 a.m. This will be the city's 20th year as a Tree City USA.

The council also:

- Appointed Charles Hlavac to a new two-year term on the Teton Airport Commission.
- Reviewed the city judge's March report, showing six cases filed and the city prose-

cutor's report showing 16 cases filed, including two animal complaints.

- Set the next Council meeting for April 30 at 5:30 p.m.
- Approved \$89,171 in claims for April.
- Reviewed one building permit issued in March to Toby and Mandy Naylor for a new home at 71 Airport Road.

Card of Thanks

The family of Tom Cross wish to thank all who sent cards, brought food, gave hugs and put us in their thoughts and prayers. Tom had lots of friends and will be missed by all.

Sincerely,
 Cindy and Jesse Cross

Bridal Registry

Michaela Lightner & Patrick Franque
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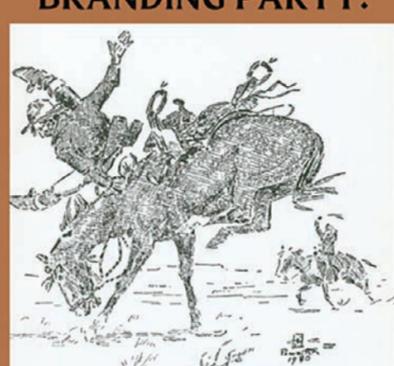


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Three Years Janelle Campbell Melissa DeBruycker Ryan DeBruycker Luke Diekhans Coy Egbert Katie Egbert Loraine Meyer	Seven Years Kelly DeBruycker	13 Years Marla Holmquist	23 Years Cathy Campbell
Four Years Kristen Martinez Carli Neal Heidi Pearson Chelsea Yeager	Eight Years Leane Hodgskiss Hillary Killorn Lauren Long	14 Years Susan Snyder	34 Years Linda J Rice
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Wearley to retire after 40 years at CHS

By Melody Martinsen

Acantha editor

The combined Choteau High School and Elementary School boards on April 9 acknowledged the resignation of long-time agriculture-education teacher Milford Wearley who is retiring at the end of the school year, having mentored more than 1,000 students through ag classes and FFA.

In the past 75 years, the Choteau school system has only had two agriculture-education teachers: Robert Nauck, who taught there for 35 years, and Wearley who succeeded him and is completing his 40th year.

"It's been quite an honor," Wearley said at the board meeting, adding that he may have recruited his replacement as he has a candidate who is just finishing his bachelor's degree and wants to visit Choteau to explore working here.

Wearley has taught a full schedule of high school and junior high classes for students and serves as the adviser for the FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter, routinely taking FFA members to competitions and state and national conventions.

Sammi Denning, who job-shared teaching third grade, and elementary behavioral intervention specialist Garret Yeager are also resigning at the end of the school year. Choteau Elementary Principal Rachel Christensen said she will move sixth-grade teacher Leela Beck to Denning's half-time position for the 2024-25 school year as Beck, who is expecting her first child, has requested.

The board hired Randi Hart of Sheridan as a new BIS to replace Yeager. She will start for the 2024-25 school year at \$15 an hour. The board hired new teacher Jessica Brierly to teach one section of kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year, starting at the base salary of \$31,579. Brierly

worked in the elementary as a BIS substitute while Yeager was student teaching. She will replace Alexis McWilliams who will move from kindergarten to second grade for the coming school year.

Christensen and Secondary Principal Matthew Cornelius requested the board consider hiring a new special education teacher for grades six through nine. They said the system's two special education teachers, Tori Pletan and Bryce Watterud, have caseloads of 30 and 27 children, respectively, which is much higher than the caseload for area schools. A third teacher would reduce caseloads to 13 for Pletan, 17 for the new teacher and 13 for Watterud. The board took the request under advisement.

The board approved advertising to fill the agriculture-education and sixth-grade positions. In other personnel action, the board renewed teaching contracts for all tenured and non-tenured teachers for the 2024-25 school year and approved coaching assignments for fall and winter seasons and extracurricular assignments for the 2024-25 school year.

Open for the 2024-25 school year are the high school football head and assistant coach positions, and the FFA, FCCLA and one of two National Honor Society adviser positions.

The board also renewed health insurance coverage through the Montana Unified School Trust (MUST). Business manager Patty Mellinger said the premiums for the three different plans offered will increase for the 2024-25 school year 6% to 14%. The school district shares the cost of the monthly premium with the employees. The Choteau Education Association has requested to negotiate the split on the premium costs. The union and the board signed a two-year agreement in 2023, setting salaries for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years, but

the union reserved the right to open collective bargaining for insurance for the second year of the contract.

Superintendent Matt Genger reported that the school system has applied for a \$2.4 million Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, a grant program offered through the state but funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce emissions. The school would use this grant funding, if approved, to replace the school system's boilers and controls and make cooling and ventilation upgrades.

Genger said he plans to reach out to Riverside Construction of Missoula, which is doing the U.S. Highway 89 rebuild just north of Choteau, to see what it would cost to pave portions of the school parking lots. He said paving the area where buses load and unload behind the high school gym would make keeping the gym entrance clean easier. Paving the front parking lot used by staff and the public would be another priority.

Inbody Farms Excavation, Genger said, has given the school a quote of \$9,147.52 to grade and compact the gravel in the teacher and student parking lots at the high school.

In his report, Cornelius said he is continuing to work on re-starting a gifted and talented program. He is also working with the science teachers to make sure the curriculum is meeting required standards and there are no gaps. He said he will do this same review with teachers of all core classes in the 2024-25 school year.

He is also working with the Office of Public Instruction to put a Multi-tiered Systems of Support program in effect for 7-12 students. This program is similar to the Response to Intervention program used in the elementary and provides struggling students the help

they need for success.

In the public comment section, parent Bre Lobdell asked the board to put on the next agenda a discussion of eighth graders playing high school sports. The way the junior high and high school sports seasons are scheduled, she said, girls have to play two seasons at once and attend multiple practices per day. The schedule for boys sports does not require that. "Right now, our girls are at a disadvantage, and I think it should be reconsidered," she said.

After the meeting, she said other school districts have avoided this problem by realigning their junior high sports schedules.

Board member Joe Haas has led an effort over the past year to establish a strategic planning process for the school system. His committee made up of board members, administrators, teachers and parents to look at current and future needs throughout the school system presented a slide show on its work to-date.

The broad areas in which the committee has established goals, deliverables and timelines are: student success, elevating the teaching profession, community/parent engagement and infrastructure. Specific subcommittees have been established to work through these goals so that the process happens systematically and will stay in place even though personnel may change.

In other action, the board: •Renewed the school system's membership in the Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative, paying dues and professional development fees of \$8,819.

•Renewed the cooperative agreement with Conrad High School for another three years for girls softball.

•Hired Chad Peebles as a high school assistant track coach.

The Choteau Lions Club would like to congratulate
Lida Holst of Conrad
on winning the April Trip-of-the-Month drawing!

Drawing winners have their choice of a \$2,500 trip voucher to anywhere they want or \$1,000 cash, or \$800 cash + \$400 Choteau Bucks!

~ A benefit for the Choteau Lions Swimming Pool ~

\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP
FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS STUDYING JOURNALISM OR RELATED FIELDS

Eligible applicants must be residents of Montana who are graduating from an accredited high school in the spring of 2024. They must plan to enroll in a journalism (print, broadcast, multimedia) or journalism-related field of study at an accredited college, university or vocational-technical school. Journalism-related fields would include, but are not limited to, graphic design, photography/visual arts, sales/marketing, business administration, English, communications, and public relations. Preference will be given to applicants who plan to attend Montana post-secondary institutions.

SCAN TO APPLY OR GET MORE INFO

www.mtnewspapers.com/montana-newspaper-foundation/mnt-journalism-scholarship#

MONTANA FARMERS UNION

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PRODUCERS OVER POLITICS

TETON COUNTY Sheriff's docket

- April 15**
- 7:06 a.m., Montana Highway Patrol and deputies were advised of Dutton resident that reported hitting a deer.
 - 8:26 a.m., Choteau resident requested to speak with a deputy.
 - 6:28 p.m., Choteau resident reported an individual at a bar who was not supposed to be there.
- April 16**
- 10:22 a.m., a counselor in Butte requested a welfare check on a Dutton resident.
 - 4:59 p.m., deputy spoke with a Choteau resident who requested help with a tenant he could not contact.
 - 5:42 p.m., Choteau ambulance responded to a medical emergency at 114 Eighth Ave. SW and transported a patient to Benefis Teton Medical Center.
 - 8:58 p.m., deputies were advised of a driver spinning out at the Bellview Cut-Across and Teton Canyon Road, almost causing an accident.
- April 17**

- 10:15 a.m., individual no longer living in county reported items missing from her room.
 - 1:56 p.m., Choteau resident requested an ambulance for her father who had fallen in Great Falls.
 - 4:34 p.m., Choteau ambulance transferred a patient from BTMC to Benefis East in Great Falls.
 - 4:42 p.m., Cascade dispatch received a report from an individual in Great Falls who was called by a child in Fairfield who was home alone with his 7-year-old brother. Dispatch made attempts to contact the father.
 - 9:11 p.m., deputies responded to report of an individual trying to harm herself.
- April 18**
- 12:17 a.m., Dutton Volunteer Fire Department and ambulance responded to request for a lift assist. The patient refused transport.
 - 7:45 a.m., Choteau resident reported an issue with another individual.
 - 3:01 p.m., Choteau resident
- See **DOCKET, Page 11** ▶

MONTANA LIVESTOCK AUCTION

SpringTime
CLASSIC
FEEDER SALE
Friday, May 3

Upcoming Feature Sales

- TUESDAY, APRIL 23** Regular + Special STOCK COW / PAIR Sale
- TUESDAY, MAY 14** Regular + Special STOCK COW / PAIR Sale
- TUESDAY, JUNE 4** Regular + Special PAIR Sale
- TUESDAY, JUNE 18** Special DRY COW & BULL Sale

Expecting 2000+ Head!

Regular Sales
TUESDAYS

Consign early!
Visit our website to view the pre-sale cattle listings!

Contacts

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Cassidy Brunner, Office Mgr (406) 788-3467
Daryn Cederberg, Rep (406) 560-0960
Ty Murray, Yard Mgr (406) 491-6192

Office
(406) 782-1884

Box 125 Ramsay, MT 59748
www.MontanaLivestockAuction.com

Arbor Day Proclamation

April 26, 2024, has been declared Arbor Day in the City of Choteau.

Join us for a Tree Planting ceremony at **10 am, Friday, April 26 at 22 First St. N.W.** The city will also be presented with a plaque from the Arbor Day Foundation for 20 years of participation.

Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, the holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chris Hindoien, Mayor of the City of Choteau, do hereby proclaim April 26, 2024, as Arbor Day in the City of Choteau, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and **FURTHER**, I urge all citizens to plant and care for trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

DATED, this 26th day of April in the year 2024.
/s/ Chris Hindoien, Mayor

DeBruycker bull sale

The 40th annual DeBruycker Charolais Bull Sale, held in Great Falls on April 6, sold 567 bulls with the highest selling bull, Lot 52, sired by DC/BHD Master E2537 P/S, going for \$41,000 to Stars and Stripes Synd of College Station, Texas.



Photo courtesy Kiley Judisch

These bulls are among 567 sold on April 6 at the 40th annual DeBruycker Charolais bull sale.

McMurry, 15 bulls; Larry Otley, 14 bulls; and Robert Stotts, 13 bulls.

Bulls were sold to ranchers in 22 states and Canada. Eighty-one long yearling bulls sold for an average cost of \$6,867.28, and 486 yearling bulls sold for an average cost of \$5,793.21. The overall average selling price for 567 bulls was \$5,946.65.

The top-selling sire groups were: Seven DC/MD Sharkson H1359 at \$9,071.43; 16 DC/CRJ Rooster H3118 P at \$8,890.63; six DC/IDJ Lincoln J217 P at \$8,125; eight DC/CRJ Vision G30 P at \$8,125; 13 DC/BHD Master E2537 at \$7,937.50; eight DC/BHD Heleus G58 P/S at \$7,843.75; eight DC Incubus J2231 P at \$7,718.75; 13 DC/IDJ Titan H129 P at \$7,230.77; 18 DC/CRJ Tank E108 P at \$6,833.33; 21 DC/BHD Shazam G3220 at \$6,737.50; 40 DC/CJC Sugar Daddy G1118 P at \$6,650; seven DC/CJC Symbols Fury H962 P at \$6,428.57; 13 DC/CJC Atomic G966 at \$6,340.91; 34 DC/BHD Metaboss E899 P at \$6,330.65; 10 DC/IDJ Mars G1241 P TW at \$6,175; 12 DC/BHD Metaboss E899 P at \$5,020.83; 16 DC/BHD Zorro E2526 P/S ET at \$5,883.33; 14 DC/BHD Flash ET at \$5,812.50; 17 DC/BHD Bugatti E2533 PET at \$5,812.50.

The sale served lunch to more than 100 people during the event and many other buyers were on the Superior Livestock online bidding platform.

Kerry Clift bought the second-highest selling bull for \$20,000, Lot 124, sired by DC/CRJ Rooster H3118 P.

Other high-selling bulls were: Lot 185 (sired by DC Incubus J2231 P), \$18,000, Wade Beck, Lang, Saskatchewan; Lot 295 (sired by DC/BHD Shazam G3220 PET), \$17,000, BK Charolais, Choteau; Lot 101 (sired by DC/JDJ Titan H129 P), \$16,000, Brandon Beutler, Eureka, South Dakota; Lot 195 (sired by DC/CRJ Vision G30 P), \$15,500, Robert Stotts, Hennessey, Oklahoma; Lot 239 (sired by DC/BHD Heleus G58 P/S), \$15,000, Mike Roster, Spencer, South Dakota; Lot 127 (sired by DC/CRJ Rooster H3118 P), \$15,000, Sparrow Ranch, Vanscoy, Saskatchewan.

Top volume buyers were: Lavaca Cattle Ranch, 90 bulls; Wellman Ranch, 64 bulls; Ensign Ranches, 32 bulls; Howard Wehrman, 15 bulls; John Hagenbarth, 15 bulls; Robert

TWENTY QUESTIONS

What is Montana doing to add to climate-change?

By Heidi Harting-Rex and Rosie Ferguson

Guest columnists

What is Montana doing to contribute to climate-change?

In the recent Held v. Montana case, 16 plaintiffs sued Montana because of the state's reluctance to uphold citizens' constitutional guarantee to a clean and healthy environment. Throughout the trial, various expert witnesses collectively presented a picture of the significant impact Montana's fossil fuel policy has on global greenhouse gas emissions.

To understand Montana's contribution to emissions globally, Peter Erickson, a climate change policy researcher with the Stockholm Environmental Institute in Seattle, Washington, offered testimony. According to Erickson, Montana ranks sixth in the United States on a per capita basis for carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. This is because of the state's abundance of fossil fuels, the majority of which are exported. Erickson said Montana "is the lynchpin of the fossil fuels economy within the North American region."

To arrive at cumulative amounts of CO2 emissions, Erickson analyzed extraction, transportation, processing and consumption of coal, oil

and gas. He then translated that data into a CO2-equivalent figure to help standardize the measurements, since each emission type affects the atmosphere differently.

His numbers from 2019 — the latest date all data was available — show that companies in Montana extracted 70 million tons of fossil fuels, transported and processed 80 million tons and consumed 32 million tons. Montana's emissions amounted to 166 million tons of CO2 in 2019.

It can be difficult to understand the severity of these emissions if we look at Montana's data alone. A comparison shared from Erickson will help: Our state population is 1.1 million. However, we emit the same amount as Argentina (population 47 million), the Netherlands (18 million) and Pakistan (248 million).

The total is high in part because of Montana's active coal mines. Not only does coal burning support nearly half of our state's energy production (42% in 2022), we also ship much of our coal out of state and overseas.

Montana is also home to more than 5,000 oil and 6,000 gas wells. In the last 15 years, there was an increase in permits for both well types because of fracking.

To explain how Montana legislation impacts these

permits, the co-director of the Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC), Anne Hedges, testified at the trial. Hedges shared that permits for fossil fuels are regulated by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), through the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) established in 1970. The original design of MEPA was to have agencies analyze the environmental impacts of permits and consider alternatives. In 2011 the Legislature limited MEPA, shifting its scope to focus on impacts within Montana alone, and not on a regional, national or global scale.

At the trial, the DEQ mirrored Hedges' assessment. Chris Dorrington, the director, and Sonja Nowakowski, the air, energy and mining division administrator, both ex-

plained that the agency cannot deny, given an application in compliance with the law, any fossil fuels permit based on greenhouse gas emissions or consideration of climate change impact.

Montana is a big state with a smaller population and abundant energy potential. Our natural reserves of fossil fuels are notable and our capacity for renewable energy is also tremendous. Our legislative decisions, in terms of climate change, impact Montana as well as the world.

In coming articles, we'll cover more details about the trial plus Montana's recently released Pollution Reduction Plan.

Twenty Questions is a series by Heidi Harting-Rex, a Choteau resident and avid climate change reader, and Rosie Ferguson, a graduate of the University of Montana Journalism School. More information can be found at www.twentyquestions.com.

DOCKET: Teton County sheriff's docket

◀ FROM Page 10

reported daughter was suicidal and requested a welfare check.

• 4:30 p.m., Choteau resident reported a hit and run on April 12 at a Main Avenue business.

• 6:19 p.m., Fairfield resident reported his son found a case containing cell phones and other items near Power.

• 7:02 p.m., Dutton resident requested a lift assist and was taken by ambulance to Benefis.

• 8:33 p.m., driver reported a calf in the borrow pit on U.S Highway 89 near Choteau.

• 9:25 p.m., Choteau ambulance responded to medical emergency at Skyline Lodge. The patient refused transported.

• 10:30 p.m., caller reported a dead animal on the side of Interstate 15 and a vehicle in the ditch. Deputy gave two people a courtesy ride.

April 19

• 12:21 a.m., MHP, Choteau deputies, VFD and an ambulance responded to a single vehicle crash on U.S Highway 89 outside Choteau. The patient refused transport. A tow truck was called to the scene.

• 2:30 p.m., witnesses reported a semi-truck hauling grain that drove through the stop sign on Secondary Highway 220 and 20th Road Northwest. The report resulted in the motorist being issued a citation for stop sign violation.

• 2:43 p.m., motorist reported a vehicle off the road in a bad spot

location on Secondary Highway 431 and Second Road Northeast.

• 5:55 p.m., dispatcher notified the owner of two horses that were reported to be out of the pasture and walking down Sherman Lane in Choteau.

April 20

• 9:45 a.m., Sheriff's Office was informed of barrels that appear to have been taken out of a construction site along U.S. Highway 89 and a fence that is down and three cows on the loose.

• 10:08 a.m., dispatcher notified the owner of a cow that was reported to be wandering on Secondary Highway 221.

• 10:43 a.m., family members requested a deputy check on the

welfare of their brother in Choteau who has medical issues and can't be reached.

• 2:20 p.m., deputy requested to help with a family matter in Dutton.

• 2:21 p.m., Choteau resident reported an individual smoking a pipe outside of a retail store.

• 5:50 p.m., Dutton ambulance responded to a medical emergency at 16 Central Ave. S. and requested Mercy Flight for transport to Great Falls.

April 21

• 8:04 a.m. deputy took care of a wounded deer in the median on Interstate 15.

• 4:26 p.m., deputy spoke with Power resident regarding a parenting plan.

Choteau United Methodist Church's

Trash & Treasure SALE

ODDS 'N ENDS ITEMS BAKE SALE

Saturday, May 4
from 8 a.m.-11 a.m.
in the United Methodist Church Basement,
12 1st St. N.W., Choteau

HAPPY FEET AND HANDS

Foot Care Clinic

at the
Choteau Senior Center
2nd Monday of the month
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Clinic provided by
Tonya Imlay, CNA

Call Tonya at (406) 899-8390 to schedule appointments.

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APRIL 27TH | 9AM-3PM

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40 x 60 x 12 | \$45,900

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www.MQSBARN.com

Lions Club selling gun raffle tickets

The Choteau Lions Club is selling “Hunter Gun-a-Month-Giveaway Raffle” tickets. Proceeds will help finish the new tennis/pickleball/basketball courts and support the Lions Swimming Pool and other civic projects.

Tickets cost \$25 each or \$100 for six tickets. Six rifles and six shotguns will be given away monthly beginning in June. Also a bonus rifle, an I.H.C. M1 Grand .30-06 rifle, C.M.P.’s Expert Grade, with a new barrel and stock, will be given away in the 13th monthly draw.

Winners will also have the choice of \$500 instead of a firearm. People must be 18 years of age to purchase tickets. Project information, a list of the guns and tickets are available from any Lions Club member or online at <https://choteaulions.club>. Raffle committee members Don Rogers at 406-590-3538 and Clayton Ketcham at 406-466-2412 are available for questions or tickets. Buck’s Sporting Goods and Teton Firearms of Choteau will be providing the firearms to the Lions Club and will complete BATF background checks for each winner.



BAND SHELL SIGN

Courtesy photo

Choteau Lions Club members Dave Zion, Clayton Ketcham, Tom Rogers and Dan Rogers pose on April 11 with the Choteau Band Shell commemorative sign, on the east side of the Choteau Pavilion. The sign recognizes the Lions Club for making the band shell a reality and thanks all who helped with its construction and financing.

Instructors emphasize conflict prevention

BEARS: FWP, USDA, USFWS help with workshop

◀ FROM Page 1

grain in the fall.

Earlier this year, the group hosted a “Grizzly Bear Trivia” educational program at Copper Creek Coffee.

FWP grizzly bear management specialist Chad White, technician Ali Marschner and US Fish and Wildlife Services grizzly bear conflict specialist Amber Kornak taught the bear spray class.

Using canisters of inert spray — lacking the capsaicin pepper oil active ingredient — they showed how to practice reaching for spray, flipping off the safety and then depressing the button to spray in a short burst, aimed at the ground in semi-circle in front of them.

The range of spray depends on the brand and size of the canister, White said. The canisters offered at the class had an effective range of 30 feet and five to seven seconds of spray time.

White said that the “spookiness of the spray” coming out of the canister can give a bear pause. “They hear it fired, they react and then they get hit,” he said.

White emphasized that bear spray should be used as a self-defense tool and should be carried in an easily accessible place whenever people are working or recreating in bear country. Marschner said she carries her spray when she is out walking in Choteau or out working on ranches or public lands.

She said the spray should not be stored outside in the winter. The canisters are also sensitive to heat and can go off if left in hot cars — making a mess that totals the vehicle. Bear spray can be safely stored in cars if it is insulated and kept out of direct sunlight, she said.

Bear spray irritates the mouth and nasal passages of bears that encounter it, typically making them run away. Marschner said she would deploy her bear spray on any bear that is within 30 feet of her, whether it was charging or stationary. She said she always carries a back-up can as well and won’t re-use a can she has deployed.

White said people should know the expiration dates on the cans as the aerosol accel-

erant leaks out over time.

Almost everyone at the workshop took part in the training exercise, turning around to deploy their spray as a wooden grizzly bear cut-out on wheels hurtled at them.

Swanson said she was inspired to work with FWP and USDA Wildlife Services to make sure that the 80 hogs and 20 lambs housed in an outdoor pen on the east side of the Weatherbeater Arena, right next to Spring Creek, remain safe during the 4-H Fair every June in Choteau.

She collaborated with White, Marschner and USDA Wildlife Services conflict prevention specialist Chrissy Lambert to install electric fencing on the metal fence that encloses the hog and lamb barn.

Lambert and White talked about how these fences are used to deter bears and how they differ from fences used to keep cattle or other livestock in a field. Grizzly-bear deterrent fences are typically at least five strands, alternating hot and ground, with space of only eight inches between

each strand.

They are fueled by low-impedance chargers that deliver a painful shock to a bear’s nose, but won’t start a fire or cause a heart attack. The fences typically are charged with a minimum of 7,000 volts of output while 9,500 is preferred and is what runs through the fence at the Weatherbeater.

White said bears are single-experience learners, and once they have been shocked on the nose by an electric fence, they will avoid repeating the experience. Electric fences can be used to protect livestock, yards, bee hives, fruit orchards, chicken coops and more. White said FWP has funding available to help cost-share building electric fences for rural residents.

Lambert said the retail cost of materials for the fence at the Weatherbeater (if most supplies hadn’t been donated by Margo Supplies) was \$1,500.

Swanson said the fence won’t be on during the daytime when people at the fair, but will be on at night when there are animals in the pens.



Acantha photo by Melody Martinsen

SMOKE ELSER PROGRAM

Arnold “Smoke” Elser, a veteran backcountry outfitter, and collaborator Eva-Maria Maggi spoke to about 30 area residents about their new book, “Hush of the Land: A Lifetime in the Bob Marshall Wilderness,” on Sunday at the Choteau/Teton Public Library in an event sponsored by the Choteau Friends of the Library.

GOLF LEAGUE REMINDER

Men’s League Starting
Monday League, May 6,
Wednesday League, May 8.
Both start at 6 p.m.

Sign-up deadline is May 3.
Call the Choteau Country Club
at (406) 466-2020.



Want to advertise your business, club or organization?
We have Hole Sponsor advertising available!
Call the clubhouse to get yours today!

Teton County POSITION OPENING

OPPORTUNITY! Teton County is accepting applications for one (1) full time Road & Bridge Superintendent. The Road and Bridge Superintendent manages and directs all aspects of the Road and Bridge Department to ensure quality services are provided according to applicable policies and procedures. Duties include implementing departmental goals; overseeing the design and reconstruction of existing roads and bridges; supervising road maintenance projects; and maintaining roads, bridges and other County facilities as assigned. Duties also include administering the department budget, pursuing and administering grants, prescribing the times and places for all work to be done on county roads, performing the other statutory requirements set forth for the County Road Superintendents and additional duties as required. Physical demands include but not limited to walking, sitting, talking, driving and ability to hear. The job requires a thorough knowledge of State and Federal regulations. The job requires education and experience equivalent to high school diploma or GED and three (3) years of progressively responsible experience in engineering, management, construction, heavy equipment operation or related work experience. The applicant must possess valid Montana Driver’s License. This Road and Bridge Superintendent is a non-union position.

For a complete job description and the Teton County Job Application please contact the Teton County Clerk and Recorder’s Office at 406-466-2693, Teton County Road Shop at 406-466-2671 or email a request for applications to pjacconety@tetoncountymt.gov or lcrd@tetoncountymt.gov. Applicants must provide a copy of their current Montana drivers’ license, a complete resume and a completed County Job Application. Yearly compensation will range from \$50,000 to \$55,000 depending on experience. The completed application may be submitted by email. The position will remain open until filled. Applications will be mailed to: Teton County Clerk and Recorder, Box 610, Choteau, MT 59422 or may be dropped off at the Teton County Clerk and Recorder’s office at 1 Main Ave. S, Choteau, MT 59422.

Teton County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Scholarships help pay for activities, lessons

OFAS: Nonprofit welcomes applications

◀ FROM Page 3

of the enrichment activity, who must be approved as a vendor/provider by the board in advance. Scholarships are given on a first-come, first-served basis as funds are available.

Applications are available at the Choteau Acantha and at the Choteau/Teton Public Library. Applicants must apply for the scholarships before paying for the event as retroactive scholarships are

not approved. OFAS raises money through membership dues, direct donations and fundraisers, including the annual Lights of Love during the holiday season, when people purchase lights for \$10 each to be lit on a Christmas tree in honor or memory of loved ones.

“We would love to see more people in our community join OFAS as dues-paying members and help spread the word about this program,” Martinsen said. “Anyone who is

interested in becoming a member or giving a tax-deductible donation to help fund our mission is welcome to call me or board Vice President Marsha Hinch for more information.”

Martinsen can be reached at the Acantha at 406-466-2403 and Hinch can be reached at home at 406-466-5393.

Membership in the nonprofit organization is open to everyone and the membership year started on March 1. Dues are \$5 for full-time students, \$15 for individuals, \$50 for

contributing members, \$100 for supporting members, \$500 for benefactor members and \$1,000 or more for endowment members. Membership forms are also available at the Acantha.

Donations and membership dues can be sent to: OFAS, P.O. Box 1134, Choteau MT 59422. Contact board members Martinsen, Hinch, Secretary Tami Hirschfeld, Treasurer Jennie Garramon, Dru Hanson, Eva Anseth or Stewart Merja for more information.

Legal Notices

LAW OFFICE OF MEGHAN LULF SUTTON, MEGHAN LULF SUTTON, 410 Central Avenue, Suite 306, P.O. Box 533, Great Falls, MT 59403, Ph: (406) 771-7477, Fax: (406) 315-3473, meghan@suttonlawmt.com, Attorney for Petitioners

MONTANA NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, TETON COUNTY
Cause No.: DA-24-003
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF (A.A.R.G.) Minor Child.
DAKOTA DUFFEY-HANCOCK and BAYLEE DUFFEY-HANCOCK, Petitioners, v.
JESSIE GENETZKY, Father, and
VICTORIA DUFFEY, Mother.
THE STATE OF MONTANA SENDS GREETINGS TO THE RESPONDENTS: VICTORIA DUFFEY and JESSIE GENETZKY.
YOU, THE RESPONDENTS, ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Verified Joint Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and for Adoption in this action which is filed in the office of the Clerk of the above-named Court, and to file your answer and serve a copy of your answer upon the Petitioners within twenty-one days after the date of the last publication hereof. If you fail to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Petition.
Dated this 26th day of March, 2024.
CLERK OF COURT
By: /s/ Lisa J. Sinton, Clerk

3 Pubs.: April 10, 17 and 24, 2024
MNAXLP

Fax: (406) 315-3473, meghan@suttonlawmt.com, Attorney for Petitioners

MONTANA NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, TETON COUNTY
Cause No.: DA-24-001
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
IN RE THE MATTER OF: (D.D.-H.) Minor Child.
by DAKOTA DUFFEY-HANCOCK, birth father, and BAYLEE DUFFEY-HANCOCK, step-mother, Petitioners, v.
VICTORIA DUFFEY, Mother.
THE STATE OF MONTANA SENDS GREETINGS TO THE RESPONDENTS: VICTORIA DUFFEY.
YOU, THE RESPONDENT, ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Verified Joint Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and for Adoption by Step-Parent in this action which is filed in the office of the Clerk of the above-named Court, and to file your answer and serve a copy of your answer upon the Petitioners within twenty-one days after the date of the last publication hereof. If you fail to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Petition.
Dated this 26th day of March, 2024.
CLERK OF COURT
By: /s/ Lisa J. Sinton, Clerk

3 Pubs.: April 10, 17 and 24, 2024
MNAXLP

LAW OFFICE OF MEGHAN LULF SUTTON, MEGHAN LULF SUTTON, 410 Central Avenue, Suite 306, P.O. Box 533, Great Falls, MT 59403, Ph: (406) 771-7477, Fax: (406) 315-3473, meghan@suttonlawmt.com, Attorney for Petitioners

MONTANA NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, TETON COUNTY
Cause No.: DA-24-002
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: (J.J.B.) Minor Child.
DAKOTA DUFFEY-HANCOCK, and BAYLEE DUFFEY-HANCOCK, Petitioners, v.
JOSIAH BURKE and AUSTIN FREEMAN, Fathers/Putative FATHERS, and VICTORIA DUFFEY, Mother.
THE STATE OF MONTANA SENDS GREETINGS TO THE RESPONDENTS: VICTORIA DUFFEY and JOSIAH BURKE and AUSTIN FREEMAN.
YOU, THE RESPONDENTS, ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Verified Joint Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and for Adoption in this action which is filed in the office of the Clerk of the above-named Court, and to file your answer and serve a copy of your answer upon the Petitioners within twenty-one days after the date of the last publication hereof. If you fail to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Petition.
Dated this 26th day of March, 2024.
CLERK OF COURT
By: /s/ Lisa J. Sinton, Clerk

3 Pubs.: April 10, 17 and 24, 2024
MNAXLP

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO PROTEST ISSUANCE OF ONE NEW Montana Retail On-Premises Consumption Beer and Wine License
BRETT AND BRANDI PARTNERSHIP LLC (Brandi Holmes and Brett Lindquist, Owner(s)) has applied for one new Montana Retail On-Premises Consumption Beer and Wine License No. 31-436-8301-301 to be operated at COZY CORNER, 402 Central Ave, Fairfield, Teton County. The public may protest this license transfer in accordance with the law.
Who can protest this transfer? Protests will be accepted from residents of the county of the proposed location Teton County, residents of adjoining Montana counties, and residents of adjoining counties in another state if the criteria in 16-4-207(4)(d),

Montana Code Annotated (MCA), are met.
What information must be included? Protest letters must be legible and contain (1) the protestor’s full name, mailing address, and street address; (2) the license number 31-436-8301-301 and the applicant’s name BRETT AND BRANDI PARTNERSHIP LLC; (3) an indication that the letter is intended as a protest; (4) a description of the grounds for protesting; and (5) the protestor’s signature. A letter with multiple signatures will be considered one protest letter.
What are valid protest grounds? The protest may be based on the applicant’s qualifications listed in 16-4-401, MCA, or the grounds for denial of an application in 16-4-405, MCA. Examples of valid protest grounds include: (1) the applicant is unlikely to operate the establishment in compliance with the law; (2) the proposed location cannot be properly policed by local authorities; and (3) the welfare of the people in the vicinity of the proposed location will be adversely and seriously affected.
How are protests submitted? Protests must be postmarked to the Department of Revenue, Office of Dispute Resolution, P.O. Box 5805, Helena, Montana 59604-5805 on or before May 18, 2024.
What happens if the transfer is protested? Depending on the number of protests and the protest grounds, a public hearing will be held in Helena or Fairfield. All valid protestors will be notified of the hearing’s time, date and location. Hearings typically are scheduled within 90 days. A protestor’s hearing testimony is limited to the grounds in the protestor’s letter. Following the hearing, the Department of Revenue will notify the public whether the license transfer is approved or denied.
How can additional information be obtained? The cited MCA statutes are online at leg.mt.gov/bills/mca_toc/. Questions may be directed to Hunter Heffley, Compliance Specialist for the Department of Revenue’s Alcoholic Beverage Control Division, at 444-

4324 or Hunter.Heffley@mt.gov.
4 Pubs.: April 17, 24, May 1 and 8, 2024
MNAXLP

Notice of Close of Regular Voter Registration and Option for Late Registration
Notice is hereby given that regular registration for the Federal Primary Election(s) to be held on June 4, 2024, will close at 5:00 p.m., on May 6, 2024. Persons who wish to register or need to update registration information may do so by submitting a form for registration by mail or by appearing at the county election office during regular registration. If you have moved, please update your registration information by submitting a voter registration form indicating the voter’s current address.
After regular registration has closed, late registration is currently available at the county election office up until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Note: There is an active lawsuit regarding Montana’s late registration deadline and the deadline may be subject to change.
DATED this 10th day of April 2024.
/s/ Sarah Clarke,
Teton County
Election Administrator
3 Pubs.: April 10, 17 and 24, 2024
MNAXLP

Gregory A. Luinstra, Luinstra Law Office, 14 5th Street South, Great Falls, MT 59401, Telephone: (406) 761-4800, Facsimile: (406) 761-4804, Email: gluinstra@gfmlaw.com
Attorneys for Personal Representative.

MONTANA NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, TETON COUNTY
Cause No. DP-24-006
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Donald Gregory Hagen, aka Donald G. Hagen, Deceased.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having

claims against said deceased are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred.
Claims must either be mailed to **Diane Anderson**, Personal Representative, return receipt requested, at Luinstra Law Office, Attn: Greg Luinstra, 14 Fifth Street South, Great Falls, MT 59401, or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court.
DATED this 3rd day of April, 2024.
/s/ Diane Anderson
Diane Anderson,
Personal Representative
3 Pubs.: April 24, May 1 and 8, 2024
MNAXLP

LEGAL - FEDERAL PRIMARY ELECTION VOTERS
The Teton County Election Administrator will hold a public testing on Wednesday, May 8th from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Teton County Courthouse for the DS200 tabulating machine. Everyone is invited to attend the public testing for the tabulating machines.
The ES&S Model DS200 is a voter activated paper ballot counter and vote tabulator and will be used as a central count at the courthouse for absentee and poll ballots.
Voted ballots will be fed into the Model DS200 counter by the Official Count Board on June 4, 2024. When all ballots have been fed through the DS200, the machine will print out vote totals for the election.
The ES&S ExpressVote® Voter Assist Terminal technology allows voters with disabilities and other special needs to vote a ballot privately and independently. The ExpressVote® will also be tested on May 8, 2024, after the DS200 tabulator.
If you have any questions, please call 406-466-2693.
DATED this 24th day of April 2024.
/s/ Sarah Clarke,
Teton County Election
Administrator
2 Pubs.: April 24 and May 1, 2024
MNAXLP

Classified Ads

The easy and inexpensive way to: Buy • Sell • Trade • Hire • Announce • Communicate

Please check your classified ad for accuracy the first time it runs. We are responsible for only one incorrect insertion. The right to classify, revise, edit or reject any advertisement is reserved to the publisher. It is agreed that the Choteau Acantha is not to be held liable for errors in publication.

Employment

Employment: Teton County is accepting applications for a permanent part-time clerk in the Road Department. The position is part-time and hours may fluctuate between 20-30 hours per week and work hours can be flexible. Job will require oral and written communication skills, ability to work with the public, good at multi-tasking, experience with computers, and experience with Excel. Physical demands include lifting up to 35 pounds (greater with assistance), bending, prolonged sitting and other demands in an office setting. Rate of pay depends on experience. For a complete job description and the Teton County Job Application please contact the Teton County Clerk and Recorder's Office at 406-466-2693 or email request to pjacconetti@tetoncountymt.gov. The completed application may be submitted by email. Job position will be open until filled. Applications may be mailed to - Teton County Clerk and Recorder, Attention Road, Box 610, Choteau, MT 59422 or may be dropped off at the Teton County Clerk and Recorder's office at 1 Main Ave. S., Choteau, MT 59422. Teton County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 10-3tc

Employment: I NEED HELP WITH MOVING! 2-3 strong guys with a BIG truck (and trailer?) on April 30 and probably May 1. Excellent pay! Hannah, 435-210-4561. 9-2tp

Employment: JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN. Sun River Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for the position of Journeyman Lineman in the Fairfield, MT area. The position requires the ability to perform all responsibilities required of a Journeyman Lineman, including rubber gloving, construction and maintenance of electrical transmission, substation and distribution systems. Must have Journeyman Lineman certification, a valid Montana CDL, First Aid/CPR Card, and the ability to climb poles, operate bucket trucks, digger derricks, backhoe, and other equipment commonly used in the utility business. Applicant must pass pre-employment physical and drug and alcohol test prior to employment. Employees are required to live within a 30-minute response time to the Fairfield Headquarters. Full benefit package offered. Applications are available online at www.sunriverelectric.coop. For more information, contact Scott Steyee, Assistant Operations Manager, 406-467-2526. Please submit application and two letters of reference to Scott Steyee, Assistant Operations Manager; PO Box 309, Fairfield, MT 59436 or can be emailed to Scott Steyee; scotts@sunriverelectric.coop Deadline- Open until filled. 9-2tc

Lineman in the Conrad, MT area. The position requires the ability to perform all responsibilities required of a Journeyman Lineman, including rubber gloving, construction and maintenance of electrical transmission, substation and distribution systems. Must have Journeyman Lineman certification, a valid Montana CDL, First Aid/CPR Card, and the ability to climb poles, operate bucket trucks, digger derricks, backhoe, and other equipment commonly used in the utility business. Applicant must pass pre-employment physical and drug and alcohol test prior to employment. Employees are required to live within a 30-minute response time to the Conrad area. Full benefit package offered. Applications are available online at www.sunriverelectric.coop. For more information, contact Scott Steyee, Assistant Operations Manager, 406-467-2526. Please submit application and two letters of reference to Scott Steyee, Assistant Operations Manager; PO Box 309, Fairfield, MT 59436 or can be emailed to Scott Steyee; scotts@sunriverelectric.coop Deadline- Open until filled. 9-2tc

Employment: JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN. Sun River Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for the position of Journeyman Lineman in the Fairfield, MT area. The position requires the ability to perform all responsibilities required of a Journeyman Lineman, including rubber gloving, construction and maintenance of electrical transmission, substation and distribution systems. Must have Journeyman Lineman certification, a valid Montana CDL, First Aid/CPR Card, and the ability to climb poles, operate bucket trucks, digger derricks, backhoe, and other equipment commonly used in the utility business. Applicant must pass pre-employment physical and drug and alcohol test prior to employment. Employees are required to live within a 30-minute response time to the Fairfield Headquarters. Full benefit package offered. Applications are available online at www.sunriverelectric.coop. For more information, contact Scott Steyee, Assistant Operations Manager, 406-467-2526. Please submit application and two letters of reference to Scott Steyee, Assistant Operations Manager; PO Box 309, Fairfield, MT 59436 or can be emailed to Scott Steyee; scotts@sunriverelectric.coop Deadline- Open until filled. 9-2tc

Employment Opportunity

• Full-time yard position, Monday-Friday, 8 am-5:30 pm. Must be able to lift 100 pounds and capable of operating forklift (will train).

Old West Lumber
1 mile south of Choteau on Hwy. 89
Full Service Lumber Yard
(406) 466-3100

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Stage Stop Inn is taking applications for the following positions:

- Part-time Desk Clerk Attendant, 3-4 days per week, days TBD, \$12/hr. starting wage.
- Full-time Housekeeping position, work between 8 a.m.-3 p.m., weekends & weekdays, wage DOE.

Applicants should call (406) 466-5900 or stop by the Stage Stop Inn for more information, to fill out an application and set up an interview time.

STAGE STOP INN
1005 Main Avenue North
Choteau, MT 59422
(406) 466-5900

Buy Sell
Montana Real Estate
Current Listings:
3 Industrial lots, Choteau\$45,000
162 Hwy. 220, Lot 3\$92,685
162 Hwy. 220, Lot 2\$115,195
911 Main Ave. N.\$230,000
180+ acres, Choteau **SOLD**\$320,000
307 7th St. S.W. **PENDING** \$389,900

Check out our website for Cut Bank listings!
buynsellwithphyllis@gmail.com
BuynsellMTrealestate.com
Phyllis Bechtold: (406) 799-7222
Janette Arnold: (406) 590-2705
Chris Yamamoto (Cut Bank): (406) 229-5665
Choteau, Montana

Jim Bouma
406.590.5375
Jim@CMPMontana.com
Kami Bouma-Scott
406.590.3440
Kami@CMPMontana.com
www.CMPMontana.com

HOMES WITH ACREAGE
"NEW" Great mountain views, amazing landscaping, 2.4 acres, large open kitchen, 4 bed, 3.5 baths, bar and game area. 410 10th Ave. NE, Choteau\$625,000
RECREATION
"NEW" Great views of Ear Mountain and Rocky Mountain Front, unfinished 1,100 sq. ft. cabin and 14x20 shed on 2 acres, 47 Arrowleaf Loop Rd. ...\$295,000
COMMERCIAL
Log Cabin Restaurant, great business opportunity, all equipment included, 102 Main Ave. S.\$395,000
Great business opportunity Main Street Conrad. Constructed in 1996, 11,200 sq. ft. provides ample room for several businesses. Also includes 24x54 garage, 315 Main St., Conrad\$699,000

Garage Sales: Estate Sale, Friday, April 26, 3-6 & Saturday, April 27, 9-2. 29 1st Ave. S.W., Choteau. Sale in back, access from round about. Antique furniture & items, household, and much more. 10-1tc

Employment: Greyn Fertilizer is seeking seasonal/temporary class A CDL drivers for April and May. Pay depends on experience. Part-time or full-time available. 406-466-5357. 7-4tc

Employment: Full or part-time Truck Driver/Equipment Operator for concrete and gravel delivery. CDL preferred. Mechanical ability preferred. Pay DOE. RSI Concrete, 406-466-2058. 7-4tc

Employment: Two(2) positions. Teton County Weed District; seasonal spray crew/noxious weed management position opening. The position will require travel throughout the county spraying weeds, either by broadcast truck, pick-up truck, ATV/UTV or by hand. Other duties may include, maintaining weed equipment, vehicles and weed shop. Qualifications- Must possess current driver's license, must be eighteen years of age. Essential job duties include- noxious weed management, weed identification, successfully completing pesticide operator training, oral and written communication skills, ability to work with the public, being able to work independently and follow directions. Applicants must be capable of lifting a minimum of 50 pounds. Seasonal employment approx. May 1 through July 28, depending on position (some positions may begin approx. June 1 and there may also be some hours available in September). Approx. 30+ hours per week. Starting salary \$14.00 per hour. Teton County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. For complete job description and applications, please contact Mark Korte, Weed Coordinator 406-750-9509 or Jamie Smith Weed Dist. Administrator (MSU Extension office) at 406-466-2491. Positions will remain open until filled. 6-4tc

Employment: Bynum School District is seeking employment for an as-needed bus driver at Bynum School for the 2024-2025 school year for monthly field trips. Assistance with training is available. Please provide letter of interest, resume, and 3 letters of recommendation. Send to, Stacia Coverdell, Clerk, P.O. Box 766, Bynum, MT 59419 or email staciacm@gmail.com. Phone 206-856-5267. Pay DOE. Closing date, until filled. 6-4tc

Employment: EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY. Teton County Road/Bridge Department is accepting applications for 2 Full-Time Equipment Operator/Laborer in and around Fairfield. Jobs will require the employee to perform tasks in maintenance, construction, repair of road and bridge facilities, and operate medium and heavy-duty trucks, equipment and some mechanical duties. Position requires substantial physical involvement including lifting up to 100 pounds. Applicant will be required to have a high school diploma or equivalency certificate. Successful applicant will be subject to random drug and alcohol testing. Rate of pay will be per "Collective Bargaining Agreement". Applicants with current Class A CDL will start at \$22.94 per hour. Applicants without Class A CDL will start at \$18.35 per hour. Applicants must acquire within 90 days of employment a Montana Commercial Driver's license with required endorsements, and maintain said license during their employment. A job application and full job description are available at the Teton County Road Department at 406-466-2671, email at trcd@tetoncountymt.gov, or at the Teton County Courthouse. Submit application to the Teton County Road Department at 92 HWY 220, Choteau, MT 59422 or to PO Box 610, Choteau MT 59422. The position will be open until filled. For any questions, please contact Dick Snellman, County Commissioner at 406-466-2151. Teton County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 51-4tc

Employment: The Skyline Lodge has immediate full-time and part-time positions available in the kitchen and dining room. Please call 406-466-2062 or stop by for an application. 35-4tc

Garage Sales
Garage Sales: Saturday, May 4, 8 to 11 a.m., Choteau United Methodist Church Trash & Treasure and Bake Sale. 12 1st St. N.W., Donations welcome until May 2, 2024. No clothing or appliances please. For more info., call 406-466-2641. 10-2tc

BUYING OR SELLING?
Give me a call
(406) 289-0808
Lic. #108562
dustinyoungandcompany.com | andreagreyn@gmail.com
DUSTIN YOUNG & COMPANY
1100 Main Street, Suite 3
Great Falls, MT 59404
Andrea Greyn
REALTOR®
I'M YOUR Home Girl

406-466-2403
Deadline:
12:00 Noon Monday
tetonads@3rivers.net

Residential Rentals
Residential Rentals: Motel units by the week with kitchenettes. Call Gunther Motel 406-466-5444 and Big Sky Motel at 406-505-0286 or 406-466-5318 for more information. K08-29-24

Residential Rentals: Bucks Inc., 406-466-5102. www.johnbuck.com. 21-4tc

Residential Rentals: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal and State Fair Housing Acts, which make it illegal to advertise any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, marital status, age, and/or creed; or intention to make any such preferences, limitations or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, and pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To report discrimination in housing call Montana Fair Housing, inquiry@montanafairhousing.org, 406-782-2573, 800-929-2611, Montana Relay 711, FAX 406-782-2781, Web site www.montanafairhousing.org, 519 East Front Street, Butte, MT 59701. 48-4tc

Services
Services: Need a ride? Call Deb at Deb D-Livery, 406-590-2967. K06-26-24

ROXY Theatre
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, and SUNDAY
One show at 7 p.m.
April 26, 27 and 28
Arthur the King PG-13
Adventure/Family
Call (406) 466-2413 for recorded message. <https://choteauroxy.com>

CRITTER'S
HEATING & COOLING
• Heating & Cooling Install & Repair
• Commercial
• Residential
• New Construction
• Remodel
Christopher Lightner
(406) 450-0437
Licensed & Insured
christopher.lightner15@gmail.com

Neighbors Helping Neighbors
www.neighborshelping.org
Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a volunteer organization helping families connect to resources in Teton County.
Visit us online or call 466-3646 and leave a message to talk with a volunteer.
"WHEN YOU NEED A HAND UP!"

SPRAY FOAM INSULATION
SHOPS-BASEMENTS-ATTICS-FOUNDATIONS-CALVING BARNs
New Construction & Remodels Residential & Commercial
Doug Morgan 590-8336
Locally owned & operated
CALL FOR ESTIMATES!
We also specialize in building homes, remodels & concrete

Montana's Premier Electric
MPE Nik Lightner
590-8734
Commercial • Residential
New Construction • Remodel
Licensed and Insured
mtpremierelectric@yahoo.com

wic
TETON COUNTY
(406) 466-2562
FOOD. EDUCATION. SUPPORT.
If you're pregnant, a mom of an infant, or a caregiver or parent with a child under 5, you can get the right personalized support for you and your family. Appointments are available in-person and remotely.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Storage Rentals
Storage Rentals: Rocky Mtn. Land, LLC storage units, Junction Hwys 220/221, Choteau. 10'x12' units, call 406-590-3440. 48-4tc

Storage Rentals: Storage units for rent. Call 406-466-2930 after 6 p.m. or 406-466-2191, ask for Stuart. 3-4tc

Storage Rentals: Milwaukee Road Storage has storage units for rent at 25 1st St. S.E. Call 406-788-1597. K09-30-24

Legal Notices
LEGAL NOTICE
The Teton County Board of Commissioners seeks to appoint (1) member to the Teton County Cemetery District Board. The person must be in the Dutton area as Ron Rosholt is retiring from the board. For additional information or to be considered for the board position, please contact Richard "Dick" Snellman Commissioner, at 406-

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADS
\$149 will put your ad in 69 newspapers, reaching more than 420,000 readers. Call the Acantha, (406) 466-2403, for more information.

WANTED TO BUY: Old Car, Truck, Motorcycle, also old signs and license plates, gas station items or dealership items. Call 406-270-8630 any time. #100
Purebred Irish Wolfhound puppies. Beautiful colors. Exceed AKC standards. 9 weeks. Wolf Creek. Call Jim 406-936-9633. #101
Historic newspaper in Havre hiring for editor who leads by example, general assignment and sports reporters. Contact Joshua Wood at wood.saratogasun@gmail.com. #102
Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. Limited time offer - get \$50 off on any new account. Use code GIFT50. For more information, call 1-877-324-0193. #103
Connect to the best wireless home internet with EarthLink. Enjoy speeds from 5G and 4G LTE networks, no contracts, easy installation, and data plans up to 300 GB. Call 855-419-7978. #104

466-2151 or email Dick at rsnellman@tetoncountymt.gov. Please submit a letter of interest by 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

Dated this 10th day of April, 2024.
/s/ Richard Snellman, Chairman
Teton County Board of Commissioners

2 Pubs.: April 17 and 24, 2024
MNAXLP

LEGAL NOTICE
Tuesday, April 30th at 1:00 p.m. in the Teton County Annex, DNRC will provide information on how the Hydrology is calculated for the proposed Floodplain Project using USGS gauges. This is open to the public to attend.
Contact Planning Board Director Brian Colesworthy colesworthy@tetoncountymt.gov for a link to the meeting.
2 Pubs.: April 17 and 24, 2024
MNAXLP

AUDIT PUBLICATION STATEMENT
An audit of the affairs of Dutton/Brady School District #28C, Teton County, Dutton, Montana 59433, has been conducted by Strom & Associates, PC. The audit covered the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The audit also covered the Extracurricular Fund for pupil functions which is included in the financial statements of the District.
Section 2-7-521, MCA, requires that this publication concerning the audit include a statement that such report is on file in its entirety and open to public inspection at the School Clerk's office, and that the District will send a copy of the audit report to any interested person upon request.
1 Pub.: April 24, 2024
MNAXLP

Sudoku Answer

9	2	5	6	1	7	3	8	4
6	4	1	3	8	9	5	2	7
7	8	3	2	4	5	9	1	6
8	6	9	1	5	3	4	7	2
2	3	7	4	6	8	1	5	9
1	5	4	7	9	2	6	3	8
5	7	6	8	3	4	2	9	1
4	9	2	5	7	1	8	6	3
3	1	8	9	2	6	7	4	5

CHOTEAU ACTIVITIES INC.
Want to make a difference in someone's life?
Come join the Choteau Activities' family!
• Full-time position at Mountain View Group Home, Fri.-Tues., 3 p.m.-9 p.m.
• Part-time position at Main Avenue Group Home, Mon.-Thur., 3 p.m.-10 p.m.
Both positions are \$14/hour, once medication certified.
Competitive starting wage, vacation and sick leave benefits, travel stipend if applicable.
Stop by 109 Main Ave. N. for an application, or call Janet at (406) 466-5311, ext. 203. EOE.
Choices in Achieving Independence

2 Buck's Inc.
Check with a local Realtor first, even if the property you're interested in is listed with an out of town Realtor. Please keep your money in our town and schools.
LISTINGS:
775 1st St. S.W., lot\$60,000
60 SOLD S.W.\$154,900
71 SOLD e. N.W.\$190,000
33 SOLD S.W.\$260,000
20 SOLD e. N.E.\$260,000
20 SOLD e.NOW \$249,000
134 8th Ave. S.W.\$329,000
27 SOLD l. of Choteau\$467,685
90 SOLD lane\$549,900
17 10th Ave. N.E.\$550,000
35 Othala Lane\$595,000
www.northwest-national.com
209 Main Ave. North • Choteau
John: (406) 590-5109
Laura: (406) 799-5103

CLEARWATER
MONTANA PROPERTIES
107 Main Ave. N., Choteau, MT 59422
RESIDENTIAL
"NEW" Country Living in Farmington, 2 bed, 1 bath, 2 stall garage and chicken coops, 1901 W. 8th Lane NW ..\$195,000
3 bed, 2 bath home, oversized 2-stall garage, unfinished basement, 26 3rd Ave. NW\$325,000
"NEW" 3 bed, 2 bath home, fenced yard, large back deck and 4-stall garage, 203 11th Ave. NE, Choteau..... \$345,000
"NEW" Large 1.6-acre lot with fruit trees and bushes, 4 bed, 1.5 bath, stunning finishes, two large out buildings, 116 3rd Ave. NE ...\$375,000 Fully furnished 2010 log-built home, 30x40 heated shop, 1890s furnished with antiques homestead cabin. 305 Everett St., Dupuyer.....\$450,000

Crossword Answer

E	P	P	S	A	S	T	A	G	A	P	
D	A	R	N	I	B	E	G	O	L	E	
G	R	E	A	T	D	A	N	E	L	E	
E	M	P	I	R	E	N	O	D	E	S	
L	E	S	A	T	E	D					
C	O	G	S	G	O	T	D	U	P	E	
B	O	O	S	U	F	O	S	I	T		
S	H	O	T	R	A	P	P	T	A	S	
D	E	M	U	R	A						
H	E	D	D	A	C	A	N	N	I	K	
T	I	L	E	G	L	O	R	I	D	A	Y
F	A	A	M	A	R	A	A	G	R	A	
I	L	L	A	H	A	B	S	O	A	P	

Amber Waves
by Dave T. Phipps

OK, BESSY, MILKING TIME AGAIN...

GULP!

GEEZ, AT LEAST BUY ME DINNER FIRST.

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

	5		1		3			
	4		3					7
7				5		1		
8				5		4		
	3		4					9
1		4			2		3	
		6	8				9	
	9			7		8		
3					6			5

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦
♦♦ Moderate ♦♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!
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Draft outlines projects

GRANT: Deadline to submit is April 30

◀ FROM Page 1
of Commerce.
The grant, with a working title of "Choteau's Gateway to Discovery and Adventure," says that the community has actively pursued tourism and economic growth through initiatives like visitchoteau.com, the formation of a Business Tourism Improvement District (TBID) and CAPA's many grant applications and project leadership.

CAPA supports efforts to expand the local tourism economy through leveraging outdoor recreation, arts and heritage. It has supported the Front Range Yoga Festival, the Wild Wings spring waterfowl migration festival, Teton Pass Ski Area's reopening, a digital recreation map and various branding and marketing efforts.

The CAPA working group said the Montana Department of Commerce, administering the grant program, wants to see applications that build the tourism base for communities. Choteau is proposing seven projects that tie together to expand Choteau's offerings as a tourism destination and to show how year-round tourism can be sustained here.

The draft application, which was still undergoing editing through late April, identified these key projects: Montana Dinosaur Center enhancements, Old Trail Museum complex revitalization, upgrades to the Teton Weatherbeater Arena, overhauling the community's digital presence and marketing strategy, beautifying and enhancing Choteau's downtown, adding an annual summer concert series in the City Park and continuously identifying and developing additional tourism projects and marketing strategies.

"These initiatives collectively aim to enrich Choteau's cultural, recreational and educational landscapes, making our community a more enticing destination for visitors and enhancing the quality of life for residents," the draft application states.

The stakeholders involved in the grant application include CAPA as the applicant along with

the Choteau Chamber of Commerce, the Choteau TBID, Wild Wings spring migration festival, Montana Dinosaur Center, Old Trail Museum, Choteau Arts, the Choteau Lions Club, Teton County-Montana State University Extension and the Teton Weatherbeater Association

At the March 28 CAPA meeting, Sexton announced that CAPA has received a \$10,000 grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank and First Bank of Montana-Choteau. FHLB contributed \$7,500 and First Bank put in \$2,500.

Sexton said she wrote the grant after First Bank of Choteau President Lyle Hodgskiss encouraged CAPA to apply for the grant to assist with the administration of a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant CAPA has received to help low- to moderate-income homeowners renovate their aging homes to make them safer and more energy efficient.

The board approved renewing contracts with Colesworthy as community coordinator and Mari Morris of Augusta for marketing.

The board also discussed the need for a unified community calendar for Choteau — a need that arose through the MSU Extension's Reimaging Rural program last winter. The effort would involve creating a home for a digital community calendar available to community members to update with their events plus promotions for the calendar including posters, QR codes linking smart devices to the calendar and a leader board.

The calendar working group is recommending hiring the Choteau Acantha to host the calendar. In response, the Acantha has upgraded its online community calendar at www.choteauacantha.com to offer a digital home for the unified calendar. Any Acantha user can enter items into the calendar at no charge and the Acantha staff is entering all events it receives through press releases and advertisements. To see the calendar go to: <https://www.choteauacantha.com/calendar/>.

Banks give CAPA \$10,000 grant

First Bank of Montana, in partnership with Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, Iowa, (FHLB Des Moines), has awarded the Choteau Area Port Authority a \$10,000 grant from the FHLB Des Moines Member Impact Fund and First Bank of Montana.

FHLB Des Moines provides funding solutions and liquidity to more than 1,200 members to support mortgage lending, economic development and affordable housing in the communities they serve, according to a press release from the company. The Member Impact Fund provides \$3 for every \$1 of an eligible FHLB Des Moines member's grant donation to strengthen the ability of not-for-profits or government entities to serve the affordable housing or community development needs of their communities.

The Member Impact Fund awards are given in partnership with member financial institutions to communities in their districts to become more vibrant places to live and work. This is the second year that FHLB Des Moines offered the Member Impact Fund, designed for members to directly strengthen communities within targeted areas in their district.

First Bank of Montana's Branch President Lyle Hodgskiss said, "The Choteau Branch of First Bank of Montana is pleased to be able to support the Choteau Area Port Authority with this donation. The CAPA group has worked hard on a number of issues that need addressed in our community and these funds will assist them with their housing development program to improve primary residences in our community. It is really individuals that are committed to working through an organization such as CAPA that help to keep Choteau vibrant

and strong. Thank you to those who volunteer their time and skills, it is greatly appreciated."

The Choteau City Council created the Choteau Area Port Authority and appointed its five-member board to focus on economic development and community enhancement. Projects supported by the Port Authority include tourism branding and marketing, childcare, community infrastructure, recreation and housing.

Grant will be used to further the CAPA's housing development projects initiated in 2020. The CAPA has targeted both single family housing and multi-family housing as significant needs in the community through public meetings and a community assessment. The CAPA has received a federal/state Community Development Block Grant for single family housing and will use these Member Impact funds to continue development of multi-family housing.

First Bank of Montana, in partnership with the FHLB, donated \$420,000 to 13 non-profit organizations across central Montana. For this grant, First Bank donated \$2,500 and FHLB donated \$7,500.

In addition to First Bank of Montana's participation in this program, all Montana divisions of Glacier Bank, in partnership with the FHLB, donated \$2,048,600 to 100 non-profit organizations and government entities across the state of Montana.

Recipient organizations were selected based on the needs for grant funding to support capacity-building or working capital necessary to strengthen their ability to serve affordable housing or community development needs, including training, predevelopment assistance, management information systems or soft-



Acantha photo by Melody Martinsen

First Bank of Montana and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines in April granted the Choteau Area Port Authority a \$10,000 grant to provide support for CAPA's efforts to improve single-family and multi-family dwelling access in Choteau. Pictured from left, are: CAPA Chairwoman Mary Sexton, First Bank of Montana Choteau Branch President Lyle Hodgskiss, CAPA member Steve Dogiakos, First Bank of Montana Choteau Branch Vice President Karrie Crabtree and Amanda DeRosier, First Bank of Montana community development officer from Lewistown.

ware, strategic planning, market study or community needs assessment, and working capital.

Kris Williams, president and CEO of FHLB Des Moines, said, "We are thrilled to see grants from

our Member Impact Fund having a direct, positive impact on the communities in which our members help advance affordable housing and community development needs in a meaningful way."



Acantha photo by Melody Martinsen

WISEMAN HONORED

The Old Trail Museum honored outgoing board member Al Wiseman at a reception on April 21 at the Choteau Arts Studio & Gallery. Wiseman, 87, a Métis elder and skilled carpenter, is going off the board, having served as a member for more than 25 years. Wiseman said he joined the board at the invitation of Floyd DeRusha but also spent many years before that volunteering on museum projects. Over the years, he greatly enjoyed offering tours of the Old North Trail. He is still a member of the Choteau Senior Citizens Center board and plans to keep volunteering wherever his skills are needed.

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