



**P. 3: LEADERSHIP**  
CHANGES COMING FOR  
BASIN SCHOOL



**P. 9: MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
PANTHERS COLLECT  
WRESTLING HARDWARE



**P. 10: FOR BOULDER**  
CHURCHES, MORE THAN  
A SPRING CLEANING

# THE MONITOR

\$2.00

SERVING THE FUTURE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

VOLUME CXIX - No. 29

(USPS 061-680)  
104 West Centennial • P. O. Box 66 • Boulder, Montana 59632

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

## Growing opposition to revocation of Roadless Rule

By PIPER HEATH  
Reporter

An energized crowd filled an auditorium at Helena's Holter Museum Friday to discuss a federal proposal to rescind the Roadless Rule, which protects 1.39 million acres of Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest – and more than four times that amount across the state.

"I live in the middle of this beautiful country, and part of what makes it wonderful is the roadless, wild nature of it," said Hank Hudson, a Montana City resident who was among Friday's approximately 75 attendees. "Right now it's an important time where decisions are be-

ing made about how much roadless land we'll have, and I think we need every bit that we have."

Approved in 2001, the Roadless Rule seeks to establish inventoried roadless areas that bar road building and timber harvesting. Over the course of the rule's drafting, the Forest Service held more than 600 public meetings nationwide, including 34 in Montana.

Today the rule covers 30% of all U.S. Forest Service land, or 60 million acres, and 37% of USFS land in Montana, or 6.4 million acres. In June, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Forest Service, announced plans to rescind the rule, with Agriculture

Secretary Brooke Rollins asserting that the change would reduce wildfire risk, remove burdensome regulations and ensure productive forests.

With a final decision expected in late 2026, the Forest Service has failed to schedule a single public meeting to discuss the proposed rescission – despite 99% of the 625,000 public comments submitted last fall opposing the move.

The Montana Public Lands Defense Coalition, made up of Wild Montana, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Trout Unlimited and other advocacy groups, stepped in to fill the gap, organizing seven public meetings in Montana, with the last held at Holter. Just under 1,000

Montanans attended across all seven meetings, according to Alex Blackmer, senior communications manager for Wild Montana. [The coalition plans to submit transcripts from all seven meetings to the USFS during the comment period for its draft environmental impact statement, expected in April.]

Three panelists – Bill Avey, Ben Rigby and Jim Handcroft – detailed why they believed the rule should remain in place. Avey spent the last 10 years of his 40-year Forest Service career as HLCNF supervisor. When the rule took effect in 2001, he explained, the Forest Service's

Continued on Page 6

### St. Patrick's feast



A snowstorm dampened turn-out, but the Boulder-Bull Mountain Fire Companies' annual corned beef fundraiser drew a hardy crew of supporters to the fire hall and the Boulder Basin Senior Center for traditional Irish fare. And David Kosola, right, helped clean up the remains. Fire Company board member Cory Kirsch thanked those who braved the weather, those who didn't but sent donations, and the volunteers who cooked and served: "We had a great crew that worked very hard that day!" (Photos by Ester Kirsch and Chris Morgan)

## City proposes sharp increases for water rates

By KEITH HAMMONDS  
Publisher

Boulder property owners are set to see sharply higher water and sewer rates beginning in May following the City Council's approval Monday of the first increases in over a decade.

Under the proposed rate increases, which will be aired at a public hearing Apr. 20 before going into effect, most residential customers will pay \$56.16 per month for water service, up 64% from the current rate. Monthly sewer charges will increase by \$8, or 15%, to \$55.84.

"This is the cost of running a water system," the City's bond counsel, Nathan Bilyeu, told the Council as it considered the new rates. The City last raised water rates in 2009, and sewer charges in 2014. But "inflation is happening, and you have to be updating your systems."

The higher charges reflect both factors. The City's operating expenses for its water system in 2025 were \$18,090 above revenue, a function of higher costs for labor, chemicals and other inputs, according to City Administrator Brian Bullock.

In addition, the City plans to take on \$1.8 million of debt to complete the financing of its \$7.6 million in ongoing water system improvements. That

Continued on Page 10

## Boulder school principal set to depart

By DAVID LEPEKA  
Editor

In the wake of persistent reports of student bullying and a mishandled teacher absence, the Boulder Elementary school board voted last week to allow Principal David Jamison's contract to expire at the end of the school year.

Following a wave of Facebook comments questioning Jamison's capabilities, the possible renewal of his contract emerged as a key agenda item at the March 10 board meeting. Superintendent David Selvig recommended renewal, according to MTN News, but the board, after hearing parents' comments during a closed session, voted against it.

Several parents and guardians of Boulder Elementary students, some of whom chose to remain anonymous, detailed an array of interactions with Jamison, currently in his second year as principal, that left them frustrated, concerned and worried about their children's education.

Jeremiah Anderson, the father of a Boulder Elementary sixth grader, sent *The Monitor* a detailed statement

Continued on Page 5

## Valley rancher eyes faux beaver dam

By ELIZA DUBOSE  
Reporter

The last couple of summers a crucial water-retaining slough at Trudy Dawson's Boulder Valley ranch has run dry early, forcing her cattle to return from grazing before she'd finished the seasonal hay baling.

"That was awful," Dawson said on a recent afternoon, recalling watching her herd lap up stale water. "I just knew something's got to change."

Jefferson County has been in a drought since the early 2000s, and in each of the last six years has at some point been classified as facing severe drought, according to the National Integrated Drought Information System. In January, the U.S. Department of Agriculture declared the county a primary natural disaster area, enabling ranchers to apply for emergency loans.

Whether the result of an extended dry spell, climate change, increased area demand, some unknown factor or all of the above, Dawson is certain the amount of available water has dropped considerably since her family homesteaded the valley in 1882.

Seeking a regenerative solution, she reached out to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to request one of the agency's top nature-inspired fixes: Beaver dam analogs (BDAs) are simple, man-made structures meant to mimic the function of real beaver dams by slowing water's passage through streams, reducing erosion and potentially raising the water table.



State Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials and others inspect Trudy Dawson's ranch on March 4.

On March 4, two FWP officials and other water and wildlife experts visited Dawson's ranch, and three others in the Valley, to assess the properties for BDAs. FWP wildlife biologist Torrey Ritter explained that BDAs can reverse incision, which is when water surges through, eroding the bed and carving a deep gully that keeps the stream from flooding and recharging aquifers.

"That's kind of one of the biggest signals we look for," he said. "Are we actually starting to see a balancing out of erosion and deposition along the entire stream section that we're working on? Alongside that, you'll start to see native vegetation come in."

Continued on Page 5

**OUR MISSION:** *The Monitor serves the people of Jefferson County, Montana, reflecting their reality, informing their ambitions, and helping them navigate their shared future. It endeavors to provide authoritative, fact-based reporting that surfaces and explains issues at the heart of our community — exploring both urgent challenges and the responses to those challenges. It will hold power to account by demanding transparency, investigating wrongdoing, and revealing how what's broken could be fixed. The Monitor fairly represents a diverse range of perspective, not beholden to one path or another or to any politicians, political parties, or special interests.*

## Public Meetings

### JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR BOARD Wednesday, March 25, 7 pm - Volunteer Hall Zoom: Meeting ID 838 5517 2348 - Passcode: 858287

- Minutes. Old Business. New Business.
- Updates: Special presentations; budget and/or treasurer report; Grounds update/Caretakers; Rodeo Club; 4-H; Advertising & publicity; Judges & volunteers; Vendors; Entertainment; Fair book and/or fair entry; Fair schedule; Parking/clean-up/recycling; Junior Fair Board member; Food auction; Kids' rodeo; Stick horse; Hunt in the hay
- Public comment

Jefferson County Fair • August 20-23, 2026

### PARKS, TRAILS, & RECREATION COMMISSION MONDAY, MARCH 23, 6:30-8:30 PM

JEFFERSON COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER'S OFFICE  
Zoom: MEETING ID 671-828-8589. Phone: 1-669-900-9128

**Public Comment; Correspondence/Communication; Minutes**  
**Guest speaker**  
**Regional Parks, Trails, Recreation Updates**  
**New Business:**  
a. Discuss recommendation to Jefferson County Commissioners to send grant support letter for Trail Maintenance Machine to be used by Citizens For Balanced Use  
b. Discuss and decide on a recommendation to Jefferson County Commissioners to update the board creation resolution  
**Old Business:** Public Education Program; Events; Piedmont Wetlands Project - Update; Saddle Mountain/Rattlesnake Butte update; Continental Divide Trail; Quantify Recreation Activities in Jefferson County; CIP - Capital Improvement Plan update  
**Other Business**  
Set next meeting date: Apr. 27, 2026

### CLANCY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT Wednesday, March 25 - 6:30 p.m. - 3 N. Main St.

**Reports:** Great West Engineering  
**Old Business:** Water rights  
**Regular Business:** Invoice approvals  
**New Business:**  
• Discuss & decide on land acquisition or permanent easement  
• Discuss & decide on reviewing bids and awarding public well drilling contract  
**Announcements/Correspondence; Public comment; Next meeting**

## COUNTY COMMISSION

Mar. 24, 2026 - Clerk & Recorder meeting room  
zoom.com/join, Meeting ID 671-828-8589

**9:00** Sheriff Bargaining Unit negotiation  
Claims approval  
**12:00** Recess for lunch. **Re-convene at 1:30 p.m.**  
Pledge of Allegiance; Minutes; Reports; Correspondence; Calendar review; Commission reports; Opportunity for public comment  
**Items for Commissioners action or review:**  
**Subdivision review:**  
• SH Land LLC - Agricultural covenant revocation request for Tract 4 of COS 293474  
**Time-specific:**  
**1:45** MSU Extension program update  
**Non-time-specific:**  
• Lori Ladas - RMDC - presentation of 2026-2027 CSBG Work Plan  
• Emergency Management mutual aid partner introduction  
• Sign update to Great West Task Order #9 - County Line subdivision maintenance  
• Appoint board member  
Website: <http://jeffersoncounty-mt.gov>

## BOULDER AREA EVENTS CALENDAR

### MARCH

**20 MONITOR MEET-UP.** 6-7 pm, Montana City Library. Come tell us what stories you'd like to see in *The Monitor*, and what we can be doing better.

**20 CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCREENING.** 10 am-12 pm, Boulder Elementary School. Free for children 3-5 within Boulder Elementary School District.

**21 SEED STARTING 101,** 1-3 pm, Volunteer Hall, Fairgrounds. \$10; take home planted seed tray. RSVP (406) 225-3164.



**24 STORYTIME,** 11 am, Boulder Community Library. "Bugs"

**26 SENIOR FOOD PROGRAM,** 1 to 1:30 pm, Boulder Senior Center. Free food for income-qualified people 60 and over.

**APRIL 1 BOULDER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.** 5 pm, Boulder City Hall.

**04 COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT,** 10 am, T'ings Tavern, Jefferson City



**04 EASTER EGG HUNT,** 12 pm, County fairgrounds. Sponsored by the Boulder Kiwanis.

**05 BOULDER TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BTAC).** 8 am, City Hall.

### ONGOING

**LOCAL TRANSPORT SERVICES.** Mon-Fri, 8 am to 4 pm, based on driver availability. 24-hour advance reservation required: (877) 287-3156.

**JEFFCO FOOD SHARE:** Second Thursday of each month, noon to 2 pm, Boulder Life Church. Food at no charge for in-need families & individuals.



To list an event, call 225-3821 or email [info@boulder-monitor.com](mailto:info@boulder-monitor.com)

### Boulder-Basin Senior Citizens: Dinner Club Menu

Information: 437-2701  
Suggested donation for 60+: \$5  
Under 60: \$10 required fee

**THURSDAY: Mar. 19**  
Parmesan chicken; brown rice; beans; cauliflower; peaches; jello



**TUESDAY: Mar. 24**  
Swedish meatballs; rice pilaf; green peas; beets; fruit salad

**WEDNESDAY: Mar. 25**  
BBQ pork ribs; baked beans; cole slaw; whole grain roll; applesauce

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MYRNA LOY

**LEAVING A MARK: A COMEDY SHOW ABOUT SCARS**  
by Ophira Eisenberg  
FRIDAY, MAR 20  
7:30 PM

**TORD GUSTAVSEN TRIO**  
ATMOSPHERIC SCANDINAVIAN JAZZ  
WEDNESDAY, MAR 25  
7:30 PM

**ONE FOR THE FOXES**  
CONTEMPORARY IRISH & AMERICAN FOLK  
THURSDAY, APRIL 2  
7:30 PM

**BIRIBÁ UNION**  
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## WHO TO CONTACT IN GOVERNMENT

All listings are accurate as of time of publication

FEDERAL	STATE	JEFFERSON COUNTY (cont.)	CITY OF BOULDER
<b>U.S. Senator</b> Steve Daines (202) 224-2651; (406) 443-3189  Tim Sheehy (202) 224-2644; (406) 441-1069  <b>U.S. Representative</b> Troy Downing (202) 225-3211; (406) 502-1435  <b>Helena-Lewis &amp; Clark National Forest</b> Supervisor's Office: (406) 449-5201  <b>Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest</b> Supervisor's Office: (406) 683-3900  <b>U.S. Bureau of Land Management</b> Western Montana District Office (406) 533-7600	<b>State Senator</b> Becky Beard, SD-38 becky.beard@legmt.gov (406) 479-3048  <b>State Representative</b> Mark Reinschmidt, HD-75 mark.reinschmidt@legmt.gov  <b>JEFFERSON COUNTY</b> <b>County Commission</b> Dan Hagerty dhagerty@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov (406) 225-4025. Cell: (406) 565-3162  Cory Kirsch ckirsch@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov (406) 225-4028. Cell: 949-3346	<b>County Commission</b> Craig Doolittle cdoolittle@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov (406) 225-4026; Cell: (406) 949-8187  <b>Clerk &amp; Recorder</b> Ginger Kunz gkunz@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov (406) 225-4020  <b>Treasurer</b> Terri Kunz tkunz@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov (406) 225-4100  <b>Sheriff</b> Tom Grimsrud tgrimsrud@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov (406) 225-4075	<b>Mayor: Rusty Giulio</b> rsgulio@hotmail.com  <b>City Council</b> Drew Dawson, president ddawson@cityofbouldermt.com  Tim Graff tgraff@bresnan.net  Patricia Lewis radon.gal@gmail.com  Bear Taylor mtnomad2015@gmail.com  <b>City administrator</b> Brian Bullock cityadministrator@cityofbouldermt.com (406) 225-3381

## JEFFERSON COUNTY WEATHER FORECAST

	WEDNESDAY Mar. 18	THURSDAY 19	FRIDAY 20	SATURDAY 21	SUNDAY 22	MONDAY 23
<b>BOULDER</b>	PARTLY SUNNY HIGH 65° LOW 42°	MOSTLY SUNNY 68° 45°	PARTLY SUNNY 68° 47°	PARTLY SUNNY 54° 31°	PARTLY SUNNY 54° 30°	PARTLY SUNNY 56° 35°
<b>CLANCY/MT CITY</b>	PARTLY SUNNY HIGH 65° LOW 44°	PARTLY SUNNY 65° 47°	PARTLY SUNNY 69° 48°	PARTLY SUNNY 54° 31°	MOSTLY SUNNY 54° 31°	PARTLY SUNNY 56° 34°
<b>WHITEHALL</b>	PARTLY SUNNY HIGH 72° LOW 42°	PARTLY SUNNY 74° 45°	PARTLY SUNNY 74° 48°	PARTLY SUNNY 63° 33°	PARTLY SUNNY 60° 33°	PARTLY SUNNY 61° 39°

GET THE LATEST FORECAST ONLINE AT [BOULDER-MONITOR.COM/WEATHER](http://BOULDER-MONITOR.COM/WEATHER)

# COUNTY

## More turnover at Basin's shuttered school

By DAVID LEPESKA  
Editor

Basin Elementary school board chair Shannon Phillips plans to step down from the post in May, citing an increasingly full workload.

"A few months ago I accepted a new job position and it has taken more time and effort than I anticipated," Phillips told The Monitor. "I feel like my not being able to devote my full time and attention to the school re-opening is a disservice to them."

The longest-serving trustee, Phillips has been on the school board since 2020, following her military service, and board chair since 2021. Since Basin Elementary entered non-operational status in June, she has worked to keep the board and community volunteers focused on returning to operational status.

Phillips announced her decision at the school board's March 10 meeting. "My one word response was, 'Wow,'" said fellow board member Scott Brock. "I didn't expect that."

Phillips decided last May to run for another term as chair and won by acclamation, starting her new term in January. After her final meeting in early May, the board will begin its search for a new trustee to serve out her term, which runs through the

end of 2028.

Once DeDe Rhodes replaces trustee Terry Heaton in May, Brock, who joined the board in 2024, will be the sole board member with more than a few weeks' experience. With school clerk Britton Mann leaving last September and Superintendent Sarah Eyer departing at the end of the year, four of the school's five top posts are set to change over a 16-month period.

If the board fails to quickly find and name a replacement for Phillips, it could carry on for a time with only two members. "It's operated that way in the past for a while. You just need a quorum present" to hold a meeting and take votes, Brock said. "It's not ideal, but it can be done."

Continuing its efforts to reopen in September, the school board has prepared a list of questions and hopes to interview by next week two teacher candidates, one who lives in Butte and another in Jackson, MT. The next school board meeting is set for April 7.

The next month, Heaton will step down, new trustee Rhodes will be sworn-in, and Phillips will chair her final board meeting.

"I am grateful to have had the privilege of being a part of the Basin School Board for the past six years," Phillips said in an email, adding that she felt en-



Basin Elementary is working to return to operational status next school year. If that happens, it will be under new leadership.

couraged about what was ahead. "Many people have worked tirelessly towards the goal of Basin School being operational."

Last week, the school board submitted the required paperwork to reopen the school to the state Office of Public Instruction

for preliminary review. "We're doing it early to let them look it over and let us know everything's correct and in order," said Brock. "We've still got time."

Basin Elementary's deadline to submit its full application for reopening to OPI is June 1.

## AROUND THE COUNTY

### Eco-coalition seeks data center details

An environmental coalition last week filed a motion challenging the state Public Service Commission decision to withhold data center information at the request of NorthWestern Energy.

The group, which includes the nonprofits Earthjustice, Butte Watchdogs for Environmental Justice, Helena Interfaith Climate Advocates, and the Montana Environmental Information Center, argued that NWE has shown no evidence that the relevant data center information qualifies as trade secrets, according to the *Daily Montanan*.

The PSC's protective order, issued in December, covers two data centers planned for Butte, one by Sabey and another by Atlas Power. The order could in the future potentially cover the power plant and data center proposed in Jefferson County.

### Montana Tunnels hearing reset

Montana Tunnels Mining Inc., whose failed mine outside Jefferson City has been the object of multiple legal actions, will appear in Montana's Fifth Judicial District Court on Thursday for the first hearing in a legal action brought by the state's Department of Environmental Quality and Jefferson County.

The hearing, postponed from Feb. 4 at Montana Tunnels' request, will take on the county's motion asking the court to appoint a receiver to oversee the mine property's liquidation and environmental reclamation.

### Boulder forms July 4 committee

Boulder's City Council voted Monday to organize a Celebrations Committee to plan Fourth of July festivities marking the country's 250th birthday this summer. The new committee is seeking additional members to organize a kid-friendly event in Veterans Park.

## Dave's to turn lanes into roller rink

Dave's 32 Oz. owner Michael Tolley is open to new ideas, so when a patron recently presented an intriguing proposal for the space that used to hold six bowling alleys, he jumped on board.

"Somebody said 'I'd like to put my roller skates on and go out there and enjoy'," Tolley recalled. "I was like, why not."

Within days, the Main Street bar owner was talking to contractors, buying roller and in-line skates online and crafting an Everything Boulder Montana Facebook post that attracted more than 50 uniformly favorable comments in a week.

"Excellent idea!" said Boulder resident Dustin Gosman. "Could have some DJ's and Disco Themed Nights?! Lots of potential."

Nicole Tuffield also chimed in with support. "My girls skate and rollerblade at the skate park, so they would love this!"

Others suggested roller derby, sock hops, and kid-friendly events. "Would definitely be a good local option for family-friendly fun," said James Shaw, "as long as it's not too small."

That could be an issue. Tolley estimates his available space at 60' by 80', while the average

indoor U.S. skating rink is 80' by 160', or 15,000 sq ft.

"It is smaller than that, but so is Boulder," he said. "We're not going to have 100 kids out there."

Tolley, who has already redone the bar's menu, turned the bowling lanes into a dance floor and installed a mechanical bull, envisioned lock-in sleepovers for kids' birthday parties and supervised child skating times.

"Basically it's sort of a babysitter for the summer," he said. "Mom just drops the kid off."

Workers have already begun the initial prep work for the rink,

according to Tolley, who expected a quote from his contractor this week. He plans to have the roller rink up and running by April, which is also when he hopes to change the bar's name to Whiskey Heaven.

— David Lepeska



There used to be a bowling alley here. Coming soon: Roller skating.

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**WEDNESDAY**  
6:00 pm Services

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(406) 442-8080

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**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD**

**Pastor Gideon Pullmann**  
(402) 243-3185  
Sunday Service 10:30 am  
Wednesday Class 6:30 pm

**LIFE CHURCH**

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**Wednesday Service:** 6:30pm  
**Young Adult Gathering:** Sundays, 2 pm  
**Youth:** Tuesdays, 6:30 pm  
**60+:** 4th Friday of the month, 6 pm  
**Phone:** 406.417.8150  
LifeChurchBoulder.org

## CROSSWORD: Plants

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

1. Canvas primer
6. Chlorofluorocarbon, acr.
9. Heroin, slang
13. Poetic although
14. Indochinese language
15. Part of a whole
16. Like certain suspects
17. Rainbow, e.g.
18. Not mainstream, as in art
19. \*Coast \_\_\_\_, world's tallest tree
21. \*Vanilla-producing plant
23. Classic film production company, acr.
24. \_\_\_\_ in the neck
25. \_\_\_\_ the season!
28. Ready and eager
30. "Reader's \_\_\_\_" magazine
35. "Do \_\_\_\_ others..."
37. Rubber bulb on an old bike
39. "Lord of the Flies" shell
40. Bear's den
41. \*Colorful daisy-like bloom
43. \*The corpse flower emits a foul one
44. Spouse's parent
46. EU money
47. Unadulterated
48. Fish food unit
50. Karl of politics
52. Between NE and E

53. Fat Man or Little Boy
55. Major time period
57. \*Fastest-growing plant
60. \*Coffea \_\_\_\_ a.k.a. coffee plant
64. Dam
65. Slovenly abode
67. More painful
68. Change the Constitution
69. Old Man's turf, according to Hemingway
70. Black tie one
71. Shakespeare, a.k.a. \_\_\_\_ of Avon
72. Kum Ba follower
73. What defense does, after presenting

**DOWN**

1. India's wild ox
2. Something \_\_\_\_
3. Poker variety
4. Medieval oboe
5. Study of bird eggs
6. Armor-\_\_\_\_
7. Distant
8. Cold-weather drink
9. Hyperbolic sine
10. Ghana money
11. Battery fluid, e.g.
12. "Wow!"
15. Alfresco meal
20. Nebraska's largest city
22. Antonym of keep

24. Throw out of kilter
25. \*It once was more valuable than gold
26. Absurd
27. Static picture
29. \*U. S. national flower
31. Gwyneth Paltrow's brand
32. Empower
33. Open disrespect
34. \*Leaves of \_\_\_\_, let them be
36. Non-written exam
38. Infamous Roman tyrant
42. Space exploration vehicle
45. Like duck's foot
49. Likewise
51. Pencil tip
54. \*Covered with sphagnum
56. Beyond's partner
57. Pulpit predecessor
58. Affirm with confidence
59. Darn a sock, e.g.
60. Nursemaid, in India
61. Wraths
62. One-tenth of a dime
63. Liberal pursuits
64. Blood testing site
66. \*Camellia sinensis drink

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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For crossword puzzle solution, see page 8

# OPINION

## Montana is not a server farm



Over 80 people turned out for a March 4 data center event in Helena hosted by the Montana Environmental Information Center and Upper Missouri Waterkeeper. (Photo by Upper Missouri Riverkeeper)

By REILLY NEILL

Montana doesn't need more data centers. Period. Our state built its economy on clean water, public lands, agriculture, local businesses, and responsible resource development.

If more data centers come to Montana, they need to pay the full cost of the infrastructure they require. They must not drive up electric rates for existing customers or make a call on our water.

At a minimum, a three-year moratorium on data centers statewide would allow elected officials to assess the issue. Like proposals for centers across the state, the potential Thunderhead power plant and data center in Jefferson County raises serious concerns about what this new industry will demand from the community.

Large-scale data centers require massive amounts of electricity and water to cool servers and maintain constant operations. Without fair compensation and careful

planning, this industry has the potential to displace both communities and productive agricultural land.

When outside corporations profit from extracting our resources, Montana deserves lasting public and economic benefits. In 1975, Montana adopted a major coal severance tax. The Montana Constitution requires that at least 50% of coal severance tax revenue be dedicated to a permanent trust fund.

Data centers should meet this standard first. Proposed centers across the state are already requesting massive amounts of electricity and raising concerns about the water consumption required to cool server facilities.

Montana may be well positioned on the electrical grid for potential development but our water resources are already allocated and scarce. The amount of water needed to cool more data centers planned across Montana will bankrupt our wells.

Mining, timber, energy, and water projects shaped

Montana's history. We've learned hard lessons from past resource development, so we demand reclamation laws, fair taxation, and environmental protections. We understand what happens when corporations extract value and leave the public with wasted resources and devastated economies.

Counties and rural electric cooperatives will live with the consequences of data center development long after developers leave. Montana already knows how to balance economic development with resource protection. Our laws and traditions reflect a clear expectation.

Development must benefit Montana first. Montanans welcome responsible investment. We don't welcome projects that shift costs onto farmers, ranchers, and working families.

*Reilly Neil is running as a Democrat for the Montana U.S. Senate seat currently held by Republican Steve Daines.*

## A rocky start for independent's Senate campaign

By JESSE JAMES MULLEN

I first learned then-University of Montana President Seth Bodnar was seriously considering an independent run for U.S. Senate like many politically active or journalist-adjacent people: a text.

"u c the text from Tester" a friend asked, referencing the former U.S. Senator's now-infamous anti-Democrat, pro-Bodnar rant, which filled inboxes like a toxic and invasive yellow-flowered fireweed.

Having only met Bodnar once, I turned to my girlfriend, a 25-year resident of Missoula who recently relocated to Butte. "Did you see Seth Bodnar might run for U.S. Senate?" I asked.

"Why? Nobody likes him," she replied. Turns out, not an uncommon response. In Tester's "the Democratic party was poison" text, he argued that Bodnar's success relied on one element: "I fully know to win anybody has to run a near flawless race."

In the days that followed, calls for Bodnar to resign as UMT president proliferated on social media and in the voicemail boxes of the University Board of Regents. An unfortunate slip of the tongue by a Bodnar representative to a Montana Free Press reporter all but confirmed Bodnar's intentions. And rather than embrace the moment, Bodnar's team hid him away, refusing to address questions regarding his potential campaign.

A PAC associated with Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen rolled out an attack ad against Bodnar, fueling speculation that the Senate run is little

more than a vanity project by a potential rival for a future governor's race.

Old stories resurfaced on social media, reviving allegations of sex discrimination by Bodnar, and claims that he told women to smile more, blocked advancement opportunities for middle-aged and

Running independently, he was unlikely to surpass 20 percent of the total vote, and he'd do considerable damage to Democratic chances in the western congressional race and competitive legislative races across the state.

Bodnar held firm and, on the last day



Seth Bodnar

older women, and commented on their weight or attractiveness affecting their ability to speak publicly on topics within their areas of expertise.

Within Democratic circles, party officials said the electoral math doesn't work. He doesn't have a plausible path to victory as an independent. If he enters the Democratic primary, he'll at least have a chance to compete for the nomination.

of filing, jumped into the race as an Independent.

Hours later, Daines dropped out. Having successfully avoided what he had described as "top-tier" opponents, he was retiring, leaving the race in the hands of the relatively unknown Republican, Kurt Alme.

By filing as an Independent, Bodnar all but ensured a GOP win. Bodnar is the candidate and deserves the blame. But if this

failure to launch feels familiar, it might be due to his choice of advisors. Bodnar's team is stocked with Washington, D.C. insiders who played significant roles in Jon Tester's 2024 loss to Tim Sheehy and Steve Bullock's 2020 loss to Daines.

It's also a team closely tied to the established Washington, D.C. money machine and Sen. Chuck Schumer's staff. Schumer seems to have a knack for meddling in races where he doesn't belong while setting back progressive priorities, most recently, supporting Andrew Cuomo, another "independent" candidate with a history of sex discrimination allegations.

The "flawless race" Tester hoped Bodnar might run is gone, replaced by a decadent, consultant-driven candidacy built to raise money, if not persuade actual Montanans. Bodnar will have his money and endorsements from D.C. insiders, with help from the properly maligned D.C. elites whom former Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer describes as the "consultant industrial complex."

But much like 2024, where Jon Tester outraised Sen. Sheehy, Seth Bodnar's path ends in failure. Consultants will not save him and D.C. validation doesn't mean jack, 2,000 miles away in the tight-knit communities of rural Montana. Let's just hope he doesn't drag anyone else down with him.

*Jesse James Mullen, the owner of Mullen Newspapers, is chair of the Powell County Democratic Central Committee and was the 2024 Democratic Party nominee for Secretary of State.*

# THE MONITOR

SERVING THE FUTURE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

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# COUNTY

## Election-year primer: How to vote, and who's running

By GINGER KUNZ

Jefferson County voters, election season is approaching, and I'd like to share important information to help ensure



your voting experience goes smoothly. If you read nothing else, please read this.

Check your voter registration status at voterportal.mt.gov. Or visit the Jefferson County

Elections Office at 102 South Monroe, Boulder (406-225-4020). If you are not yet registered to vote, please do so as early as possible.

### Important Reminders

New legislation requires absentee voters to provide both a signature and year of birth on the affirmation envelope. Missing either will result in a rejected ballot and additional follow-up paperwork. Track your ballot at voterportal.mt.gov.

Please mail absentee ballots as early as

possible. For the Federal Primary, mail them at least 7 days before Election Day. Ballots may also be dropped off at the Elections Office before and on Election Day or any county polling place on Election Day.

If you would like to become an absentee voter—or prefer to switch back to voting at the polls—please contact the Elections Office. If you are unsure of your current absentee status, visit voterportal.mt.gov.

### Upcoming Elections

**Tuesday, May 5: School Elections**

Ballots will be mailed to active registered voters in the following districts on April 17, 2026. Ballots must be received in the Election Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Candidates and ballot issues include:

- Cardwell School District #16 trustee: Justin Carey, Asheli A. Racicot and a General Fund levy
- Jefferson High School District #1 3-year at-large trustee: two declared write-in candidates
- Whitehall High School District #2, Cardwell trustee: Questa Edwards, Ryan

Patrick

- Montana City School: General Fund levy and Technology Fund levy

Note: Clancy School will also hold an election, administered by the School District clerk.

Close of regular voter registration is Monday, Apr. 6. After this date, registration must be done in person at the Elections Office. Check your registration status at voterportal.mt.gov.

**Tuesday, June 2: Federal Primary Election**

- Absentee ballots available in person starting Monday, May 4
- Absentee ballots mailed to active absentee voters on Friday, May 8
- Close of regular registration: Monday, May 4
- Late registration is available in person except:
  - No registration on Monday, June 1
  - No registration after 12 p.m. on Election Day, June 2

The Elections Office will be open Saturday, May 30, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for late registration. Again, check your voter

status at voterportal.mt.gov.

### County Elections

There will be no County offices on the Primary ballot; Non-partisan primary elections are unnecessary when there are fewer than four candidates in at least half of the county races. County offices will appear on the General Election ballot for Nov. 3, 2026. Candidates who have filed include:

- County Commissioner District 2: Cory Kirsch and Richard Rhodes
- County Clerk & Recorder/Assessor/Surveyor: Ginger Kunz
- County Sheriff/Coroner: Tom Grimsrud, David Kosola, Tom Voigt
- County Attorney/Public Administrator: Steven Haddon
- County Superintendent of Schools: Dori Stule
- County Treasurer: Terri Kunz
- Justice of the Peace: Steve Andersen
- Please continue to watch *The Monitor* and *Whitehall Ledger* for official election notices.

Ginger Kunz is Jefferson County Clerk & Recorder and Election Administrator.

## Boulder Elementary principal set to depart

Continued from Page 1

outlining the questionable oversight that prompted her and his wife to withdraw their son from the school last October.

After his son faced bullying and defended himself after asking his attacker to stop, Anderson said Jamison told him that his son is violent and likes to fight. "My son has never started a physical altercation and has always tried to resolve conflicts with words first," he explained.

Later, after his son told him he was failing some subjects, Anderson took screenshots of his grades on the online platform Infinite Campus and reached out to his teacher to ask how they might help their son succeed.

The teacher told them their son was doing fine and there was nothing to worry about. When Anderson again checked Infinite Campus, he found that his son's test scores, some from 2-3 months prior, had been changed to higher scores.

"Because we had documented his grades beforehand, we could clearly see the differences," Anderson wrote. "As parents, we believe grades should accurately reflect a student's performance and that families should be informed when changes occur. Transparency is essential so parents can provide support at home when needed."

After seeking to raise these

issues with Jamison and Selvig and receiving no response, Anderson and his wife pulled their son out of Boulder Elementary and began homeschooling him.

As The Monitor reported in January, school administrators failed to inform parents when the 4th-grade teacher left on maternity leave last fall or that student grades were not being updated on Infinity Campus.

George Glueckert recalled his 4th-grade daughter Jessa being forced to update her parents on what was happening at the school, including her grades. "It's incompetence," he said.

During the 2024-25 school year, after an older student bullied their then-third-grade daughter, Glueckert and his wife met with Jamison and felt they'd had a productive conversation. Two days later, according to Glueckert, his wife witnessed Jessa being bullied again by the same girl and went into the school to speak to Jamison.

"He admitted to my wife that he never talked to the bully. He didn't do anything about it," said Glueckert. "He has no business being a principal. He has failed this community and he has failed the students of this school."

The guardian of two middle schoolers recounted how a school bully pulled down one of her boy's pants and underwear in front of many of his classmates last fall. "I called the

principal about this," she said. "He said he would look into it, but never called me back."

The guardian thought about filing charges against the bully with the police, but decided against it. Soon after that, she faced another incident with that same bully. "He started saying gross sexual things in the lunchroom to" her other boy, the woman recalled. "I called the principal and again nothing. He never even got back to me."

Around that time, the guardian stopped attending school board meetings. "There's no point in going," she said. "The principal's not going to do anything. I'm not going to waste my time."

Just before Christmas break, the same bully pulled down the pants of another student, a fellow 8th-grader, in the school locker room. That student responded by punching the bully in the side of the head, knocking him down.

After that incident, Jamison called to inform the guardian of the student who had punched the bully that he planned to suspend the student. She went in to speak to him, making sure the school counselor attended their meeting.

"I told him my grandson has a right to defend himself against a filthy perverted act and he'd done what I told him to do, defend himself," said the guardian, adding that this had been the second such incident between her grandson and the bully.

"The counselor said that when a child is exposed like that it can do permanent damage. The principal kind of changed his mind after that," she recalled, adding that Jamison decided against the suspension.

The bully has since been barred from entering the locker room while other students are changing. The guardian felt Jamison addressed the situation appropriately in the end, but not initially.

"And he let this go on for two years in the school," she added. "I think it would be good if he found something he's better at than being a principal."

Neither Selvig nor Jamison responded to The Monitor's requests for comment. Reminded that Selvig had advised parents with concerns to come to the school and talk to him, rather than send an email, Glueckert felt this aligned with his level of commitment.

"I think he's lazy, doing the minimal to keep his job," said Glueckert, who added that he had called Selvig to discuss his daughter being bullied and never heard back. "I think the school board is starting to feel the heat from parents and his contract might be next...He is just as much of a let-down as Mr. Jamison."

Multiple parents made a point to mention the school's excellent faculty and make clear that the performance of the principal and superintendent did not reflect the quality of their educators.

"Boulder Elementary is filled with wonderful teachers and they are being held back by the two men in charge. It's really a shame," said Glueckert, naming several faculty members. "They are excellent teachers who are rooted here in Boulder and committed to the school."

The issue, parents and guardians seemed to agree, is that the current principal and superintendent seemed to have fostered a fraught and difficult environment.

"Schools should be places where children feel safe, supported, and encouraged to learn... When issues arise—as they inevitably will—the responsibility lies with leadership to ensure they are handled professionally and fairly," Anderson wrote.

"My family fully intends for our son to return to Boulder Elementary next year. However, that decision depends on meaningful change," he added. "We believe the school can once again provide the positive environment it once had, but only if steps are taken to restore trust and accountability."

The guardian of the two middle schoolers thought moving on from Jamison was likely the right move, adding "it depends who we get to replace him."

Whoever Boulder Elementary hires to replace the departing Jamison will be its fifth principal over a period of seven school years.

## Rancher eyes faux beaver dams

Continued from Page 1

These human-made dams rely on much the same materials as nature's furry engineers: wooden posts pounded upright into a creek bed, with flexible willow branches woven between them and caked with mud and sediment. Some BDAs aim to entice beavers into the area, while others seek mainly environmental benefits.

They've become the go-to fix for an array of non-profits, environmental advocates, and state and federal officials, and increasingly popular among ranchers as a cost-effective way to combat reduced water flow. A 2018 article in *Science* magazine described BDAs as "perhaps the fastest-growing stream restoration technique in the U.S. West."

After watching the decline of a key stream nearly a decade ago, for instance, Idaho rancher Jay Wilde built 19 BDAs and released five beavers nearby and the next summer the stream stayed wet two months longer, irrigating his grazing meadows, the *Science* article reported.

Ritter cautioned that the structures are not a regenerative

panacea. "The actual process of restoring a stream is very complicated, and it goes way, way beyond just building a BDA," he said. "You have to do a lot of that work yourself, if there's not going to be beavers there."

The data is mixed, with some research finding that BDA impacts tend to fall short of real beaver dams. But a 2021 Wyoming study concluded that, in the short-term, "BDAs can be successfully used as a stream restoration practice to reduce stream bank erosion."

This underscores the temptation to embrace a quick win. In Ritter's experience, planning, building and sustainably maintaining an impactful BDA can take 15 years.

"It looks really good in the before and after pictures," he said. "But again, if the natural processes aren't fixed to sustain that system, after we stop going in there as humans, it's all going to be temporary, and it's not going to lead to a restored system."

Ritter is unsure of the Boulder Valley's readiness for beaver reintegration. To help along that process, Dawson plans to deal



A beaver dam analog. (Photo by Paige Perry)

with a conifer encroachment near her streams and potentially replace them with willows, which make for ideal beaver food.

Dawson is determined to set up BDAs on her property, with or without the help of beavers. Forging ahead on the FWP dam, she's begun the permitting process and hopes to start building in the next few months. It's unlikely to immediately fix her dry slough, but over time it could boost the water table and keep her cattle out grazing longer.

"I don't know if I'm doing the right thing," said Dawson. "But you can't keep doing the same thing."

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# REGION

## Growing opposition to revocation of Roadless Rule

Continued from Page 1

380,000-mile road maintenance backlog would have cost \$8.4 billion to fulfill.

Today the USFS oversees just 265,000 miles of roads, according to Avey, and yet the backlog remains largely unaddressed, a problem not helped by the administration's laying off of USFS workers last year.

Avey pushed back on the USDA claim that the rule hampers fire response. He cited USFS research showing that human-caused fires are three times more likely to start near roads than in roadless areas.

And to protect area homes in 2018, he approved a hot saw fire break through roadless areas south of Fletcher Pass. The process required two phone calls to conservation groups and approval from the regional forester. "There was no delay in fire response due to the Roadless Rule," he said.

He said the rule could use some revisions – including delegating to district rangers, rather than regional foresters, the authority to put mechanized equipment into roadless areas for fire response – but that outright rescission is not the answer.

"In my experience, the Roadless Rule doesn't pose an insurmountable barrier for making good land management decisions," Avey said. "I do not believe the Roadless Rule should be repealed."

Rigby, executive director of Montana Rural Water Systems and a Helena city commissioner, explained how roadless areas improve drinking water quality. The EPA has identified more than 3,400 towns and 60 million Americans whose drinking water is cleansed by roadless areas: for every 10% of a given area covered in forest, water treatment requires 20% fewer chemicals.

The Ten Mile watershed, which supplies much of Helena's drinking water, is fed by snow-melt from nearby mountains that avoids roads and human development. "That snow touches nothing else besides that mountain,

that watershed, before it comes to your home," Rigby said. "It doesn't get any more pure when it comes down that hill."

Handcroft, a consulting forester with Forestation and member of the Big Elk Divide Restoration Committee and the Elkhorn Working Group, pointed out that HLCNF roadless areas provide a critical wildlife linkage between Glacier and Yellowstone national parks.

He also questioned the stated rationale for revocation. The administration says the rule blocks wildfire management and timber production, but the federal purpose-and-need statement for rescission points to energy production.

"The oil and gas industry wants desperately to have access to...those areas to develop," Handcroft said.

More than a dozen attendees spoke once the floor opened for testimony, with Nichol Phillips of Citizens for Balanced Use the lone voice in favor of rescission. Environmental protections would remain in place without the rule, she argued, pointing to the Endangered Species and Clean Water acts.

"For more than two decades, the Roadless Rule has imposed a one-size-fits-all restriction on nearly 6 million acres of national forest lands," Phillips said, calling for its revocation. "This would allow local forests to make those decisions, which is where they should be."

Timber forester Nick Horn asserted that building roads into most roadless areas is economically unfeasible, explaining that his industry seeks more flexibility along the wildland-urban interface, not the opening up of backcountry areas. "We don't want to see the Roadless Rule rescinded," he said. "We just want common sense management."

Helena resident Kiley Voss laid out for the crowd a near future in which wildlife had gone extinct and a stroll through Yellowstone National Park – free of bears, wolves, bison, elk and birds – had become an eerily silent experience. The vision, as detailed in the



Ben Rigby, executive director of Montana Rural Water Systems, speaks at a Mar. 13 gathering hosted by Montana Public Lands Defense Coalition. (Piper Heath/The Monitor)

2020 novel Migrations, brought into focus for her what Montana has already lost and what could disappear with revocation.

"In these roadless areas, you can actually hear birds," she said in an interview. "Water in a river sounds loud because there's nothing else louder than it. That's something we've lost, and not a lot of people talk about."

Hudson, a hunter and angler

who has lived in Montana City since 1985, said the roadless lands that remain represent a small fraction of what once existed, and future generations deserve a say in what happens to them.

"The next generations – our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren – have a right to make the decisions about this land," he said. "We don't have to be the final arbiters."

He said the push to rescind the rule felt top-down, and that top-down decisions are rarely well received in Montana. He closed his testimony with a quote he could not attribute, but said he had written down years earlier.

"Celebrate restraint as an expression of our freedom," Hudson read. "Celebrate the rare ability to leave a place as we found it."

## Sharp hikes for City water rates

Continued from Page 1

25-year bond will require annual principal and interest payments of \$146,270.

Making those debt service payments and bridging the operating deficit will cost residential customers about \$18 per month. In addition, the City will introduce a \$4 monthly increase to cover anticipated inflation, making a total increase of \$22.

Property owners with larger water pipes will pay proportionately more. A typical Main Street business, for example, will see their monthly bill increase from \$61.15 to \$100.53.

The more modest sewer rate increase primarily reflects higher operating and maintenance expenses. Energy costs for wastewater treatment have increased 23% in four years, according to Bullock; and lab and monitoring expenses are 18 times what they were in 2021

– a function mostly of a state regulatory change that increased the frequency of testing.

Officials said the rate increases will bring Boulder in line with comparable communities. "We've been well below the state average for a while," Bullock said.

A 2023 Department of Natural Resource Conservation survey indicated an average Montana water rate of \$52.46, which is expected to rise to \$60 this year. Bilyeu noted that smaller towns typically face higher per-user costs, since their fixed infrastructural expense is spread across fewer property owners.

The City faces another pressure to increase rates, Bullock said: State grants and loans for water and sewer infrastructure often depend in part on evidence that customers are paying their share. "Everything I've read says that if you want to be competitive for that funding, they

want to see that we're charging above the minimum," he said.

The Montana Department of Commerce has established target rates that municipalities should charge property owners for water and sewer service, based on household income. The current target minimum is 2.3% of a community's median household income.

Boulder's median income in 2023 was \$61,250, which works out to target rates of \$71.46 for water and \$45.94 for sewer. That totals \$117.40 a month, slightly higher than the City's proposed total rate of \$112. The Council's public hearing on the higher rates will take place Apr. 20 at 5:30 p.m., at City Hall.

In addition, the City Council on Monday began early discussions on a possible wastewater treatment upgrade to address expected population growth. That initiative, which is just in the initial planning stage, could eventually necessitate a further rate increase.

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

To be sold for cash at a Trustee's Sale on July 8, 2026, at 02:00 PM outside the North entrance to the Jefferson County Courthouse, 202 West Centennial Avenue, Boulder, MT, the following described real property situated in Jefferson County, State of Montana:

The described real estate situated in the City or Town of Whitehall, County of Jefferson and State of Montana, to wit: A parcel of land in the SE/4 of Section 26, Township 2 North, Range 5 West, P.M.M., more particularly described as follows: Commencing from a quarter section center, brass cap, common to Section 26 and 35; thence north 00 degrees 10 minutes 18.8 seconds west on the north-south mid section line a distance of 1303.338 feet; thence south 83 degrees 27 minutes 31.7 seconds east a distance of 905.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence first course, north 00 degrees 13 minutes 05.2 feet west a distance of 989.742 feet to a point, said point is on the southerly right of way line of Interstate Highway 90; thence second course, south 73 degrees 20 minutes 52.7 seconds east on said right of way line and distance of 532.324 feet; thence third course, south 00 degrees 01 minutes 22.0 seconds east a distance of 895.197 feet; thence fourth course north 83 degrees 27 minutes 31.7 seconds west a distance of 510.000 feet to the point of beginning.

More correctly described as:

The described real estate situated in the City or Town of Whitehall, County of Jefferson and State of Montana, to wit: A parcel of land in the SE/4 of Section 26, Township 2 North, Range 5 West, P.M.M., more particularly described as follows: Commencing from a quarter section corner, brass cap, common to section 26 and 35; thence north 00 degrees 10 minutes 18.8 seconds west on the north-south mid section line a distance of 1303.338 feet; thence south 83 degrees 27 minutes 31.7 seconds east a distance of 905.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence first course, north 00 degrees 13 minutes 05.2 feet west a distance of 989.742 feet to a point, said point is on the southerly right of

way line of Interstate Highway 90; thence second course, south 73 degrees 20 minutes 52.7 seconds east on said right of way line and distance of 532.324 feet; thence third course, south 00 degrees 01 minutes 22.0 seconds east a distance of 895.197 feet; thence fourth course north 83 degrees 27 minutes 31.7 seconds west a distance of 510.000 feet to the point of beginning.

Also Known As:

Parcel No. 10 of Certificate of Survey Number 101239, Folio 54B, located in the SE1/4 of Section 26, Township 2 North, Range 5 West, P.M.M., Jefferson County, Montana.

More commonly known as 30 McCloud Estates, Whitehall, MT 59759. John P. Raisor and Margy A. Raisor, as Grantors, conveyed said real property to Finiti Title, LLC, as Trustee, to secure an obligation owed to CitiFinancial Inc., by Deed of Trust on July 29, 2008, and filed for record in the records of the County Clerk and Recorder in Jefferson County, State of Montana, on August 7, 2008 as Instrument No. 230462, and corrected pursuant to the Affidavit filed for record on July 21, 2025, as Instrument No. 291609 of Official Records.

The Deed of Trust was assigned for value as follows:

Assignee: CitiFinancial Servicing LLC  
Assignment Dated: May 27, 2016  
Assignment Recorded: May 27, 2016  
Assignment Recording Information: as Instrument No. 259256

Assignee: Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC  
Assignment Dated: July 14, 2016  
Assignment Recorded: July 14, 2016  
Assignment Recording Information: as Instrument No. 259749

Assignee: US Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the IGL00 Series V Trust  
Assignment Dated: July 20, 2022  
Assignment Recorded: October 4, 2022  
Assignment Recording Information: as Instrument No. 284028

Assignee: US Bank Trust National Association as Trustee of the Treehouse Series V Trust  
Assignment Dated: September 22, 2022

Assignment Recorded: October 4, 2022  
Assignment Recording Information: as Instrument No. 284029

All in the records of the County Clerk and Recorder for Jefferson County, Montana.

Jason J. Henderson is the Successor Trustee pursuant to a Substitution of Trustee recorded in the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Jefferson County, State of Montana, on February 5, 2026 as Instrument No. 293469, at Page 2, of Official Records.

The Beneficiary has declared a default in the terms of said Deed of Trust due to the Grantor(s) failure to make monthly payments beginning May 1, 2025, and each month subsequent, which monthly installments would have been applied on the principal and interest due on said obligation and other charges against the property or loan. By reason of said default, the Beneficiary has declared all sums owing on the obligation secured by said Trust Deed immediately due and payable. The total amount due on this obligation is the principal sum of \$60,442.23, interest in the sum of \$5,309.54, escrow advances of \$781.68, other amounts due and payable in the amount of \$378.75 for a total amount owing of \$66,912.20, plus accruing interest, late charges, and other fees and costs that may be incurred or advanced.

The Beneficiary anticipates and may disburse such amounts as may be required to preserve and protect the property and for real property taxes that may become due or delinquent, unless such amounts of taxes are paid by the Grantor. If such amounts are paid by the Beneficiary, the amounts or taxes will be added to the obligations secured by the Deed of Trust. Other expenses to be charged against the proceeds of this sale include the Trustee's fees and attorney's fees, costs and expenses of the sale, and late charges, if any.

Beneficiary has elected and has directed the Trustee to sell the above described property to satisfy the obligation.

The sale is a public sale and any person, including the Beneficiary, ex-

cepting only the Trustee, may bid at the sale. The bid price must be paid immediately upon the close of bidding in cash or cash equivalents (valid money orders, certified checks or cashier's checks). The conveyance will be made by Trustee's Deed, without any representation or warranty, including warranty of title, express or implied, as the sale is made strictly on an as-is, where-is basis, without limitation, the sale is being made subject to all existing conditions, if any, of lead paint, mold or other environmental or health hazards. The sale purchaser shall be entitled to possession of the property on the 10th day following the sale.

The Grantor, successor in interest to the Grantor, or any other person having an interest in the property, has the right, at any time prior to the Trustee's Sale, to pay to the Beneficiary, or the successor in interest to the Beneficiary, the entire amount then due under the Deed of Trust and the obligation secured thereby (including costs and expenses actually incurred and attorney's fees) other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred and by curing any other default complained of herein that is capable of being cured by tendering the performance required under the obligation or to cure the default, by

paying all costs and expenses actually incurred in enforcing the obligation and Deed of Trust with Successor Trustee's and attorney's fees. In the event that all defaults are cured the foreclosure will be dismissed and the foreclosure sale will be canceled.

The scheduled Trustee's Sale may be postponed by public proclamation up to 15 days for any reason. In the event of a bankruptcy filing, the sale may be postponed by the Trustee for up to 120 days by public proclamation at least every 30 days.

If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Successor Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Dated this 25th day of February, 2026.

Jason J. Henderson, Substitute Trustee

38 2nd Avenue East, Dickinson, ND 58601. Telephone: 801-355-2886. Office Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5 pm (MST)

File No. MT22984

Legal 26-020 Published in The Monitor March 18 & 25 and April 1, 2026

MNAXLP

#### NOTICE OF CLOSE REGULAR REGISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that regular registration for All School District Elections to be held on May 5, 2026, will close at 5:00 p.m., on April 6, 2026.

\*NOTE: If you miss this regular registration deadline, you may still register for the election by showing up at the county election office up to and including on election day.

All active and inactive electors are entitled to vote at said election. Inactive electors may reactivate by appearing at the polling place to vote, by requesting an absentee ballot in any election, or by notifying the County Election Administrator in writing of the elector's current residence in the county.

Persons who wish to register and who are not presently registered may do so by requesting a form for registration by mail or by appearing before the County Election Administrator.

If you have moved, it is necessary to have your registration transferred to your present address.

DATED this 9th day of March 2025.

Ginger Kunz, Jefferson County Election Administrator

Legal 26-024 Published in The Monitor March 18 & 25 and April 1, 2026

MNAXLP

# SAVVY SENIOR

## What happens if you die without a will (and how not to)

Dear Savvy Senior,

I've put off making a will for years. What actually happens to my money and property if I die without one?

--Getting Old



Jim Miller

Dear Getting,

If you die without a will, your assets will be distributed according to the laws of your state, known as intestacy laws. These laws determine who inherits your

property and financial accounts when there's no will or trust. Since rules vary from state to state, it's important to check the specifics where you live.

A helpful starting point is heirbase.com, which offers Intestacy Evaluators for 37 states. You enter your household information and see how your estate might be distributed. If your state isn't included, Nolo has a useful state-by-state intestate succession guide at nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/intestate-succession.

In the meantime, here is a general overview of what can happen, depending on your family situation.

**Married with children:** When a married

person with children dies without a will, all property, investments and financial accounts that are "jointly owned" automatically goes to the surviving co-owner without going through probate, which is the legal process that distributes a deceased person's assets.

But for all other separately owned property or individual financial accounts, the laws of most states award one-third to one-half to the surviving spouse, while

*If you die without a will, your assets will be distributed according to the laws of your state, known as intestacy laws, which vary from state to state.*

the rest goes to the children.

**Married with no children:** Some states award the entire estate to the surviving spouse, or everything up to a certain amount (for example the first \$100,000). But many other states award only one-third to one-half of the decedent's separately owned assets to the surviving spouse, with the remainder generally going to the deceased person's parents, or if the parents are dead, to brothers and sisters.

Jointly owned property, investments, financial accounts, or community property automatically goes to the surviving

co-owner.

**Single with children:** All state laws provide that the entire estate goes to the children, in equal shares. If an adult child of the decedent has died, then that child's children (the decedent's grandchildren) split their parent's share.

**Single with no children or grandchildren:** In this situation, most state laws favor the deceased person's parents. If both parents are deceased, many states

divide the property among the brothers and sisters, or if they are not living, their children (your nieces and nephews). If there are none of them, it goes to the next of kin, and if there is no living family, the state takes it.

### Make a Will

To ensure your assets go to those you want to receive them, you need to create a will or trust. If you have a simple estate and an uncomplicated family situation, there are do-it-yourself resources that can help you create all these documents for very little money.

Some top-rated options include the Quicken WillMaker & Trust (willmaker.com, \$109) and Trust & Will (trustandwill.com, \$199). Or, if that's more than you're willing to pay, you can make your will for free at freewill.com or doyourownwill.com.

If, however, you want or need assistance or if you have a complicated financial situation, blended family or have considerable assets, you should hire an attorney. An experienced attorney can make sure you cover all your bases, which can help avoid family confusion and squabbles after you're gone.

Costs will vary depending on where you live, but you can expect to pay anywhere between \$200 and \$1,000 for a will.

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (naela.org) and the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (actec.org) websites are good resources that have directories to help you find someone in your area.

If money is tight, check with your state's bar association (findlegalhelp.org) to find low-cost legal help in your area. Or call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 for a referral.

Send your questions or comments to [questions@savvysenior.org](mailto:questions@savvysenior.org), or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Find a job. Rent an apartment. Sell your car. Classified advertising gets it done.

Ads in this section cost \$10 for the first 15 words, then 10 cents per word. Advertising must be received by 5 p.m. Friday to appear in the following week's paper. All must be prepaid unless otherwise arranged prior to advertising. Accounts which require billing will be charged an additional \$2 per billing. The **Monitor** reserves the right to edit or reject any ads. **To place ads:** Go to <https://www.boulder-monitor.com/place-an-ad/> Or email [ads@boulder-monitor.com](mailto:ads@boulder-monitor.com); call (406) 225-3821; or deliver to the **Monitor's** office at 104 W. Centennial.

### HELP WANTED

### LEGAL NOTICES

**NOW HIRING**  
Hostess • Line cooks  
Dishwashers

Apply in person at  
#1 Jackson Creek Rd.  
Montana City, MT 59634  
[www.montanacitygrill.com](http://www.montanacitygrill.com)

5 min. south of Helena on I-15 at the Montana City exit

**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**  
(9-1-1, LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE, AND MEDICAL DISPATCHER)  
The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office is currently accepting applications for a fulltime Communications Officer (Dispatch/9-1-1) position. The position will be located at the Law and Justice Center in Boulder Montana. Communications Officers play a critical role in public safety and Law Enforcement.

Communications Officers strive to make a positive impact on our small community. As a Communications Officer for Jefferson County, you will receive excellent training, benefits, and have potential for advancement.

Communications Officers operate communications equipment 24/7/365, answer emergency & non-emergency calls from the general public, and dispatches the appropriate Law, Fire and EMS units using Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

- 18 Years of age
- High School Diploma
- Must have or be able to obtain a Montana Driver's License
- This position requires the ability to speak English clearly
- Must be of good moral character with no criminal record. A background investigation, criminal history and pre-

employment testing will be conducted

**QUALIFICATIONS:**  
• Prior Law Enforcement and computer experience preferred but not required  
• Must successfully complete 14-week in-house training (to begin on first day of work).

• Must successfully complete POST Public Safety Telecommunication course within one year of hire.

• Ability to type accurately at a minimum 25 wpm.

• Be able to read and interpret maps and have an adequate knowledge of the geography of Jefferson County.

• Must be willing and able to do shift work to include nights, weekends, holidays, on-call and occasional overtime.

• Must be willing to work well with others in a confined area for long periods of time without leaving the facility.

Beginning wage: \$23.42 / HR  
Position open until filled

Applications may be obtained at the Jefferson County Dispatch Center or the Jefferson County Website at <https://www.jeffersoncountysheriffmt.gov/employment> (Sheriff's Office Application Form) or at the Sheriff's Office located at 110 S Washington St Boulder, MT.

For a full job description or if you have questions, please contact Human Resources, Kellie Doherty at

406-225-4010 or Sheriff Tom Grimsrud at 406-225-4075  
Incomplete application materials will not be processed.

### JEFFERSON COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT COLLECTION SITE ATTENDANTS

The Jefferson County Solid Waste Department is seeking seasonal/on-call site attendants to cover shifts at the various collection sites for the summer seasons. These positions will assist the public with solid waste, screen for hazardous waste, writes invoices for charges and record data. Must be able to perform manual labor and lift a maximum of 75 pounds routinely. Must be able to work in adverse weather and available for call-outs. Startingsalaryis\$19.98/perhour. Countyapplicationsareavailablefrom Solid Waste District at 406-225-4159 or Kellie Doherty, HR, PO Box H, Boulder, MT 59632 or call (406) 225-4010, or visit our web-site on on-line application at [www.jeffersoncountymt.gov](http://www.jeffersoncountymt.gov). Incomplete applications materials will not be processed. Jefferson County may use the following factors to determine whether an applicant meets the qualifications for this position: review of application materials, past work performance, reference checks and structured oral interview. Jefferson County is an equal opportunity employer.

### FOR RENT

**ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT**  
Small one bedroom apartment for rent \$400.00 month plus \$400.00 deposit. No Pets Please!!! Call (406)933-8371.

**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 1 & 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS,** all utilities paid. Subsidies available. Applicants must qualify for Section 8. Managed by RMDC Property Management Services. Big Boulder Housing, 438-5611.  
TDD/TTY number: 800-223-3131

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF TRUSTEES' SALE

To be sold for cash at Trustee's Sale, on the 30th day of April, 2026, at 11:00 o'clock a.m., Mountain Standard Time or Mountain Daylight Time, whichever is in effect, at the steps of the Jefferson County Courthouse, 201 W. Centennial; Boulder, Montana 59632, the following described Real property, in the County of Jefferson, State of Montana, to wit:

Tract No. 43 of Jardine Forest Park No. 3, Certificate of Survey No. 149566, Folio 340C, located in County of Jefferson, State of Montana.

Tyson Thompson, as Grantor, conveyed said Real property to American Land & Title Company, with its principal office at 1800 W Koch Street,

Ste. 1; Bozeman, MT 59715, as Trustee, to secure an obligation owed to Grasslands Federal Credit Union, a credit union, 320 Main Street, P.O. Box 79; Circle, MT 59215-0079, as Beneficiary, as evidenced by a Deed of Trust, dated the 9th day of August, 2021, recorded under Document No. 279800, records of Jefferson County, Montana.

Ronald D. Allie, an attorney at law; PO Box 20417; Billings, Montana 59104, was named as Successor Trustee to American Land & Title Company, by an instrument entitled Appointment of Successor Trustee, dated the 31st day of July, 2025 and signed by the Beneficiary.

Tyson Thompson has defaulted in the performance of said Deed of Trust, between the Grantor and Grasslands Federal Credit Union, 320 Main Street, P.O. Box 79; Circle, MT 59215-0079, by his failure to pay monthly installments due on the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. There is now due and owing on said Deed of Trust, as of the 17th day of December, 2025, the principal sum of \$53,018.04; interest in the sum of \$1,760.49, with interest accruing at the annual percentage rate of 4.00%, according to the terms of the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust and late charges due of \$194.56, for overdue payments, with late charges accruing according to the terms of the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. Other costs and expenses to be charged against the cost of sale are all unpaid balances, including taxes and insurance, together with all necessary expenses, which may be incurred in collection, including reasonable attorney fees and all costs, fees and expenses, including costs of a foreclosure report, advertising and recording expense and any other costs of conducting the sale.

THE SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE, AT THE DIRECTION OF THE BENEFICIARY, HEREBY ELECTS TO SELL THE PROPERTY TO SATISFY THE AFOREMENTIONED OBLIGATIONS.

This sale is a public sale and any person, including beneficiary, excepting only the Successor Trustee may bid at the sale. The bid price must be paid in cash. The conveyance will be made by Trustee's Deed. The sale purchaser shall be entitled to possession of the property on the 10th day following the sale.

The Grantor, Successor in Interest to the Grantor or any other person having interest in the aforesaid property, at any time prior to the Trustee's Sale, may pay to the Beneficiary or the Successor in interest to the Beneficiary the entire amount then due under the Deed of Trust and the obligation secured thereby (including costs and expenses actually incurred and attorney fees) other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred and thereby cure the default theretofore existing.

Others who have an interest in the property are:  
Terri Kunz, Treasurer

Jefferson County Treasurer's Office  
P.O. Box H  
Boulder, MT 59632

Vigilante Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1049  
Dillon, MT 59725-1049

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT SAID DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM YOU WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
Dated this 23rd day of December, 2025.

Allie Law Firm  
PO Box 20417  
Billings, MT 59104  
/s/ Ronald D. Allie, Successor Trustee

State of Montana, County of Yellowstone

On this 23rd day of December, 2025, before me, a Notary Public of said State, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared Ronald D. Allie, Successor Trustee, known to me to be the person, whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me, that he executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal on the date first above written in this acknowledgment.

/s/ Heather Lyn Shult  
Notary Public for the State of Montana  
Residing at Billings, Montana  
My commission expires 01-12-2029

Legal 26-018 Published in **The Monitor** March 11, 18 & 25, 2026 MNAXLP

Kallie Dale  
Dale & Van Horn Law, PLLC  
900 N. Montana Ave., Ste B3  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406) 502-1015 ext. 3  
[kd@dalevanhornlaw.com](mailto:kd@dalevanhornlaw.com)  
Attorneys for Personal Representative MONTANA FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, JEFFERSON COUNTY

In the matter of the Estate of: James Lawrence Murphy, Deceased. Probate No. DP-22-2026-0000009-II

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Claims must be mailed to Patricia Knapp, Personal Representative, return receipt requested c/o Dale & Van Horn Law, 900 N. Montana Ave. Ste. B3, Helena, MT 59601, or filed with the Clerk of the above Court. DATED this 10th day of March, 2026. By: /s/ Patricia Knapp, Personal Representative  
c/o Dale & Van Horn Law  
900 N. Montana Ave Ste B3  
Helena, MT 59601

Legal 26-022 Published in **The Monitor** March 18 & 25 and April 1, 2026 MNAXLP

## STATEWIDE ADVERTISING

**EXTENSION AGENT** – Agriculture, Natural Resources and Horticulture in Richland County, Sidney, MT. Full time. Exciting job with lots of autonomy! Will develop, implement and evaluate Extension programming in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Horticulture. Complete information and to apply: [www.montana.edu/extension/careers](http://www.montana.edu/extension/careers). Equal Opportunity Employer, Veterans/Disabled

**K-8 TEACHER**, 2026-2027 school year. Mountain View Elementary. Starting bonus, competitive salary. Call 406-336-2638 or email [jerryhofer73@gmail.com](mailto:jerryhofer73@gmail.com).

**PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR** May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 855-762-1508

**GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES!** Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-901-2620 today!

**SAFE STEP.** North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-601-2865

**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

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Scott M. Svee  
Jackson, Murdo & Grant, P.C.  
203 N. Ewing Street  
Helena, MT 59601  
Tel. (406) 513-1119  
Fax: (406) 443-7033  
Email: ssvee@jmgattorneys.com  
support@jmgattorneys.com  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

County, Montana.  
Witness my hand and seal of said court, this 23rd day of February, 2026.  
Deanna Brulla  
Clerk of District Court  
/s/ Kathy Stein, deputy clerk

**Legal 26-016** Published in **The Monitor** March 4, 11 & 18 2026 MNAXLP

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Debra Eagle Bear, as the Beneficiary, and Michelle K. Ostrye, the Successor Trustee, under that Montana Trust Indenture dated March 29, 2024 and described herein (referred to in this notice as the "Trust Indenture"), have elected to sell the real property described in this notice on August 21, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the Jefferson County Courthouse at 201 W. Centennial Avenue, Boulder, Montana 59632, and on the terms described in this notice, in order to satisfy the obligations described in this notice, pursuant to the terms of the Trust Indenture and the provisions of the Small Tract Financing Act, Mont. Code Ann. §§ 71-1-301 et seq.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST INDENTURE:**

Description and Date: Montana Trust Indenture dated March 29, 2024  
Grantors: Evan Andrew Austin and Bailey Michelle Bliss  
Original Trustee: Helena Abstract and Title Company of Helena, Montana  
Successor Trustee: Michelle K. Ostrye, Attorney at Law  
Beneficiary: Debra Eagle Bear  
Recording Information: Recorded March 29, 2024, Document No. 287849, Records of Jefferson County, Montana

**DESCRIPTION OF THE REAL PROPERTY COVERED BY THE TRUST INDENTURE AND WHICH WILL BE SOLD AT THE TRUSTEE'S SALE:**

All of Grantors' right, title, and interest in and to the following described real property located in Jefferson County, State of Montana, together with all buildings, fixtures and improvements thereon and all water rights, rights-of-way, tenements, hereditaments, privileges and appurtenances thereunto bellowing owned as of March 29, 2024 or thereafter acquired, however, evidenced, used or

enjoyed with the property or belonging to the same:

Gold Bug Mining Claim M. S. No. 8026 in Section 6, Township 2 North, Range 6 West, Jefferson County, Montana.

Commonly known as Camp Caroline Road, Whitehall, MT 59759  
Geocode: 51-1098-06-3-01-01-0000

RECORDING REFERENCE: Recorded March 29, 2024, Document No. 287849, Records of Jefferson County, Montana

**OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE TRUST INDENTURE:**

Substitution of Trustee, appointing Michelle K. Ostrye as trustee in the place of Helena Abstract and Title Company of Helena, Montana recorded March 9, 2026, in the records of the office of the Clerk and Recorder of Jefferson County, Montana, Document No. 293786.

**DEFAULT FOR WHICH THE FORECLOSURE IS MADE:**

The grantors have defaulted on the terms of said Trust Indenture and the corresponding Montana Trust Indenture Note in that they have failed to make the payments when due.

**AMOUNTS OWED ON THE OBLIGATIONS SECURED BY THE TRUST INDENTURE as of March 10, 2026:**

Principal (including taxes) \$132,787.68  
Interest: \$2,764.89  
Fees and Charges: \$342.50  
Total due as of March 10, 2026: \$135,895.07

Interest continues to accrue. In addition, the Grantors are obligated to pay the expenses of this sale, which include the Beneficiary's costs and expenses advanced to preserve and protect the real property; insurance; real property taxes, and all penalties and interest relating to real property taxes that may become due or are delinquent; Beneficiary's costs and attorney fees; and the Successor Trustee's costs and fees. If such amounts are paid by the Beneficiary, they will be added to the obligation secured by the Trust Indenture.

**THE TRUSTEE'S OR BENEFICIARY'S ELECTION TO SELL THE PROPERTY TO SATISFY THE OBLIGATION:**

The Beneficiary has elected as has directed the Successor Trustee to sell the above-described real property to satisfy the obligation.

**DATE, PLACE, and TIME OF SALE:**  
Date and time of sale: August 21, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

Place: Front steps of the Jefferson County Courthouse at 201 W. Centennial Avenue, Boulder, Montana 59632

The sale is a public sale and any person, including the Beneficiary, excepting only the Trustee, may bid at the sale. The bid price must be paid in cash at the time of sale. The conveyance will be made by Trustee's Deed. The sale purchaser shall be entitled to possession of the property on the 10th day following the sale.

DATED this 10th day of March 2026.  
Michelle K. Ostrye, Successor Trustee  
Silverman Law Office, PLLC  
1745 S. 19th Avenue, Ste. 200  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
(406) 582-8855

STATE OF MONTANA  
County of Gallatin  
On the 10th day of March, 2026, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public for the State of Montana, personally appeared Michelle K. Ostrye, and personally known to me to be the person who executed the within instrument and acknowledged that she executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and notarial seal the day and year first above written.  
/s/ Arika Schnur Ling  
Noraty Public

**Legal 26-021** Published in **The Monitor** March 18 & 25 and April 1, 2026 MNAXLP

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEES' SALE**

To be sold for cash at Trustee's Sale, on the 30th day of April, 2026, at 11:30 o'clock a.m., Mountain Standard Time or Mountain Daylight Time, whichever is in effect, at the steps of the Jefferson County Courthouse, 201 W. Centennial; Boulder, Montana 59632, the following described Real property, in the County of Jefferson, State of Montana, to wit:

Tract No. 43 of Jardine Forest Park No. 3, Certificate of Survey Number 149566, Folio 340C, Jefferson County, Montana.

Tyson Thompson, as Grantor, conveyed said Real property to American Land & Title Company, with its principal office at 1800 W Koch Street, Ste. 1; Bozeman, MT 59715, as Trustee, to secure an obligation owed to Grasslands Federal Credit Union, a credit union, 320 Main Street, P.O. Box 79; Circle, MT 59215-0079, as Beneficiary, as evidenced by a Deed of Trust, dated the 13th day of December, 2024, recorded under Document No. 289985, records of Jefferson County, Montana.

Ronald D. Allie, an attorney at law; PO Box 20417; Billings, Montana 59104, was named as Successor Trustee to American Land & Title Company, by an instrument entitled Appointment of Successor Trustee, dated the 31st day of July, 2025 and signed by the Beneficiary.

Tyson Thompson has defaulted in the performance of said Deed of Trust, between the Grantor and Grasslands Federal Credit Union, 320 Main Street, P.O. Box 79; Circle, MT 59215-0079, by his failure to pay monthly installments due on the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. There is now due and owing on said Deed of Trust, as of the 17th day of December, 2025, the principal sum of \$29,650.72; interest in the sum of \$1,786.67, with interest accruing at the annual percentage rate of 10.50%, according to the terms of the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust and late charges due of \$170.00, for overdue payments, with late charges accruing according to the terms of the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. Other costs and expenses to be charged against the cost of sale are all unpaid balances, including taxes and insurance, together with all necessary expenses, which may be incurred in collection, including reasonable attorney fees and all costs, fees and expenses, including costs of a foreclosure report, advertising and recording expense and any other costs of conducting the sale.

**THE SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE, AT THE DIRECTION OF THE BENEFICIARY, HEREBY ELECTS TO SELL THE PROPERTY TO SATISFY THE FOREMENTIONED OBLIGATIONS.**

This sale is a public sale and any person, including beneficiary, excepting only the Successor Trustee may bid at the sale. The bid price must be paid in cash. The conveyance will be made by Trustee's Deed. The sale purchaser shall be entitled to possession of the property on the 10th day following the sale.

The Grantor, Successor in Interest

to the Grantor or any other person having interest in the aforesaid property, at any time prior to the Trustee's Sale, may pay to the Beneficiary or the Successor in interest to the Beneficiary the entire amount then due under the Deed of Trust and the obligation secured thereby (including costs and expenses actually incurred and attorney fees) other than such portion of the principal as would not then be due had no default occurred and thereby cure the default theretofore existing.

Others who have an interest in the property are:

Terri Kunz, Treasurer  
Jefferson County Treasurer's Office  
P.O. Box H  
Boulder, MT 59632

Vigilante Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1049  
Dillon, MT 59725-1049

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT SAID DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM YOU WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Dated this 23rd day of December, 2025.  
Allie Law Firm  
PO Box 20417  
Billings, MT 59104  
/s/ Ronald D. Allie, Successor Trustee

State of Montana, County of Yellowstone

On this 23rd day of December, 2025, before me, a Notary Public of said State, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared Ronald D. Allie, Successor Trustee, known to me to be the person, whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me, that he executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal on the date first above written in this acknowledgment.

/s/ Heather Lyn Shult  
Notary Public for the State of Montana  
Residing at Billings, Montana  
My commission expires 01-12-2029

**Legal 26-019** Published in **The Monitor** March 11, 18 & 25, 2026 MNAXLP

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF BOULDER PLANNING BOARD MEETING (Public Hearing) FOR A PROPOSED ANNEXATION**

Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch (YBGR) has submitted a request to annex two (2) existing lots outside of the City. The lots are 9.34 acres combined. They contain multiple existing public and institutional buildings and a proposed new group home measuring 4,889.50 sq. ft. The lots are located off of Highway 69 as you are leaving town headed South. The lots can legally be described as Lots 3 and 4 of the South Campus Minor Subdivision, (SOUTH CAMPUS MINOR SUB, S33, T06 N, R04 W, Lots 3 and 4) Jefferson County, Montana. The addresses of the properties are 97 and 105 Venture Way. The project is being reviewed under the City's Annexation Policy. The proposed zoning designation would be Public and Institutional.

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the proposal on April 6, 2026, at 6:30 PM at the Boulder City Hall. For more information on the proposed annexation, please contact Brian Bullock, the City Administrator at 406-225-3381 or at cityadministrator@cityofbouldermt.com

**Legal 26-023** Published in **The Monitor** March 18 & 25, 2026 MNAXLP

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS** See puzzle on page 3

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

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

<p><b>Montana City Dental</b> 443-5130 2 Market St., Montana City</p>	<p><b>GIULIO DISPOSAL SERVICE, INC.</b> 225-3607 • Container &amp; Rolloff Service • Commercial &amp; Residential <b>Office &amp; payment drop:</b> 108 N Main, Boulder</p>	<p><b>ARCTIC HEAT</b> 406-202-3460 Based in Boulder - Furnace &amp; AC - - Boilers - • Commercial &amp; Residential •</p>	<p><b>BOULDER TRANSPORT</b> Serving Boulder, Basin, Clancy, Jeff City &amp; Montana City In-town rides for shopping/errands • Service to medical appts in Butte/Helena • ADA accessible Available M-F 8:30-4:30 Call at least 24 hours ahead to schedule: <b>(877) 287-3156</b> Operated by Whitehall Public Transportation</p>	<p><b>THE HAIR DEPOT</b> Cheryl Martinson Men - Women - Children Perms - Color - Highlights 201 South Main, Boulder 406-225-3864</p>
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# SPORTS

## Middle school Panthers collect wrestling hardware



By TROY HUMPHREY  
Coach

With the high school season complete, the wrestling world this month enjoyed a short middle school campaign — and Panthers were in the thick of things.

Wrestlers from Boulder, Clancy and Montana City schools competed together as one team in several mixers and two major tournaments. Members included sixth graders Dillon Jackson, Conagher Lian, Jenna Richard and Corbin Robinson; seventh graders Jacob Buckley, Joseph Deichert-Fitzgerald, Riggins Mikesell, Rider Schreiner and Kahner Wing; and eighth graders Daniel Ahkivgak, Jack D'Ambra, Kayle Deichert-Fitzgerald, Walker Duenas, Mason Gallert, Bella Hays, Rocky LaLiberty, Isabella Mikesell, Anya Schatzel and Jesten Sullivan.

The Boulder/Clancy/Montana City squad traveled to the Butte Civic Center on March 7 for the Mining City Middle School Tournament. There, a program-record three Panthers were crowned champions: Buckley, Deichert-Fitzgerald and Isabella Mikesell. Duenas, Hays and Riggins Mikesell each placed third; Richard was fourth; and Ahkivgak, Deichert-Fitzgerald, Gallert, Lian, Sullivan and Schatzel finished in fifth place.

As a team, Boulder/Clancy/Montana City finished in ninth place, their highest finish ever. Middle school tournaments aren't separated into AA, A and B/C divisions as in high school competitions,

so finishing so high amid much bigger schools was a great accomplishment. (If divisions has been observed, the Panthers would have been third among B/C schools.)

On March 14 the team competed in the Dillon Jaycee Tournament. Just 10 athletes competed in this event, putting Boulder/Clancy/Montana City into the small team division. Still, eight young Panthers found the awards podium, with D'Ambra and Richard finishing as champions. Gallert placed second while Riggins Mikesell and Wing were third. Ahkivgak and Sullivan were fourth, and Schatzel finished in fifth place. Jackson and Robinson battled hard, but the 6th graders were unable to reach the podium.

Overall, the Panthers finished second in the small team division, the third straight year they've brought home a trophy from this competition.

This marks the end of the middle school season. But several of the middle schoolers will continue on with club wrestling, where they'll be joined by some high school Panthers. Jefferson High School wrestling has a bright future with a so many talented athletes in the pipeline.



## Spring is...here? Snow or not, spring sports are nearing

### SPORTS PLUS



Dan Sturdevant

Spring sports? It sure doesn't look like track, tennis and golf season with last weekend's snows, but here we are. With the state basketball tournaments completed last weekend, spring season practices kicked off Monday — although for at least a few days, it looks like those practices will be indoors. (Good thing Jefferson High has two gyms.)

This is a big year for the Panther track and field team: It will christen its brand new track and jump pits on Apr. 2 when it hosts the inaugural Avery Stiles Memorial track meet. Without

a rubberized track, the school has been able to host events like this. Jefferson High School will also be home to a small schools meet on Apr. 21, the JHS Invitational Apr. 24 and the District 5B track meet on May 15.

The JHS golf squad opens its season Mar. 31 at the Florence Invite in Hamilton, with the boys looking to defend their Class B state crown. In the meantime, lacking a golf course of their own for practices, the Panthers will start by hitting balls into tractor tires on the football practice field, or by putting in the

school hallways.

And the Panther tennis team will see its first action Apr. 2 at the Fort Benton meet in Great Falls, followed by events at Missoula Loyola on Apr. 9 and Manhattan Apr. 10.

A packed spring! Hopefully, the snows clear in time. As for those state basketball tournaments: Baker surprised absolutely no one by taking the Class B girls crown, defeating Malta, 64-51 to cap an undefeated season. In the boys' Class B bracket, Lodge Grass bested Harlem, 69-48, to win the championship.

## JEFFERSON HIGH SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE

All events subject to change; check JHS website

### TRACK & FIELD

#### APRIL

- 2 Avery Stiles Memorial
- 11 @Hamilton Invite
- 17 @Gallatin Valley Invitational
- 19 @Manhattan Christian (tentative)
- 21 @Helena Small Schools Meet
- 24 JHS Invitational
- 28 @Top 10 - Missoula
- 26 @John Tomich Invitational, Butte

#### MAY

- 1 @Corvallis Quad
- 5 @John Cheek Top 8, Anaconda
- 7 Great Falls Freshmen Invite
- 9 KLH Memorial Meet
- 15 District 5B meet @JHS
- 21 Divisional meet @Laurel
- 28-30 State meet @Missoula

### GOLF

#### MARCH

- 31 @Florence Invite, Hamilton

#### APRIL

- 7 @MCHS JV Invitational, Cottonwood, Bozeman
- 10 @Old Baldy Invite, Townsend
- 13 JHS Invitational, GMCC
- 16 @Gardiner Invitational, Livingston
- 16 @Three Forks JV Tournament
- 17 @Old Baldy JV Invite, Townsend
- 23 @Ennis Invitational
- 23 @Gardiner JV Invitational, Livingston
- 28 @Three Forks Invitational

#### MAY

- 7 JV @Deer Lodge
- 7 @Old Works, Anaconda
- 11-12 Divisional meet @Old Works, Anaconda
- 19-20 State meet @Lake Hills, Billings

### TENNIS

#### APRIL

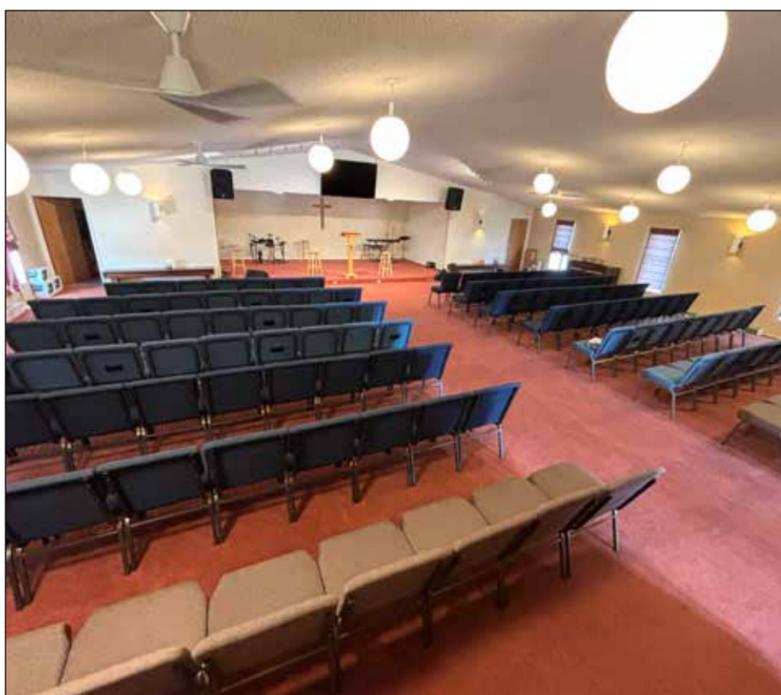
- 2 @Fort Benton
- 7 @Townsend (JV girls)
- 9 @Missoula Loyola
- 10 Three Forks & Granite @Manhattan
- 24-25 @Great Falls Invite

#### MAY

- 1-2 @Red Lodge Invitational (girls varsity)
- 8-9 @Dawg Bite, Helena
- 15-16 JHS Open
- 20-21 Girls Divisionals @Belgrade
- 22-23 Boys Divisionals @Missoula
- 28-30 State @Missoula

# BOULDER

## Churches doing much more than a light spring cleaning



LEFT: Valley Baptist Church has new seating, carpeting and a paint job, as well as wider entry ways. (Photo by Stormy Tuffield) RIGHT: Life Church's sanctuary will see similar improvements.

By PIPER HEATH  
Reporter

Two Boulder churches are undergoing spring renovations. Following weeks of fixes, the new and improved Boulder Valley Baptist Church is set to hold its first public service on Easter Sunday at the former Grace Church on Hauser Street, while Boulder's long-running Life Church is nearing the end of a four-year renovation project.

When Boulder Valley Baptist pastor Stormy Tuffield first walked into the building last summer, the main worship room, or sanctuary, looked much as it had when it was built in the early 1980s: light green carpeting, wooden pews and a four-foot-wide wall opening as the only entry point.

"It was in really great shape," Tuffield said. "But it was just — it had the green carpet and some pews in it."

Tuffield is the pastor of Boulder Valley Baptist, a new congregation overseen by Helena's Big Sky Fellowship. When Grace Church closed in May 2024, the Treasure State Baptist Association assumed ownership and soon entrusted Big Sky with the space to establish a new church.

After detailing his vision for the church last June, Tuffield invited a small group to Wednesday evening Bible study starting in October. Before the church began services, that group asked to renovate the space.

They replaced the green carpeting with gray patterned carpet squares and repainted the walls beige, to help the space

feel homier. They enclosed the original sanctuary entryway and converted it into a sound booth, with wider openings cut into the walls on either side. Most of the wooden pews, hand-built by original Grace Church members, were replaced with cushioned chairs, though a handful of the originals remain.

The work came to roughly \$16,000, funded through donations from regional partner churches. The new chairs were the single biggest expense, at around \$7,000, according to Tuffield. Bible study group volunteers, and others sent out by Big Sky, did most of the labor.

*"To see just our church be able to love on and support the community that we're in to the best of our ability — that's really our heart."*

— Stormy Tuffield

The work was nearly finished as of March 16. Other than minor touch-ups, the last remaining task is applying the trimming that caps the front edge of steps, known as a stair nose piece, for the steps leading up to the stage.

"I really would like to have it all done by our launch, which is going to be Easter Sunday," Tuffield said. The April 5 service is set for 10 a.m. and will include worship songs, a sermon and a fellowship gathering inside the building afterward.

"My hope would be that someone who's showing up, whether they are believers in Jesus Christ or don't know who Jesus Christ is, they'd be able to come here and be welcomed warmly," Tuffield said. "And

then be able to leave recognizing that there is a group of people here in Boulder who love the Lord and love our community."

When Tuffield first arrived in Boulder last year he vowed to take his time, allowing a congregation to build before holding services — and he has been true to his word. Boulder Valley's Easter service will be its first open to the public, even as a congregation has quietly begun to emerge.

The Bible study group that formed last October now gathers every Sunday morning at the church. Tuffield said he hadn't

publicly advertised the services; people just started showing up on their own, some simply because they saw cars in the parking lot.

After Easter, Tuffield said the church plans to resume prayer walks — organized walks through Boulder and surrounding areas to pray for the community and look for ways the church can serve — something he started last summer before pausing for winter.

Tuffield envisions the space serving the broader community through classroom programming, conferences and simulcast events. "To see just our church be able to love on and support the community that we're in to the best of our ability — that's really our heart," he said.

Tuffield noted that Boulder

Valley Baptist follows First Baptist Boulder and Grace Community Church at the Hauser Street location. "What we're doing here is part of a longer story of the Lord doing work here in our community," he said. "It's just a privilege to be a part of that story."

Life Church, which has been in Boulder for more than 40 years, is also renovating, though it does not expect to finish by Easter. Pastor Duane Weinmeister, who has led the congregation for 14 years, said exterior improvements began about four years ago.

"We had to paint the outside

via the creation of a doorway, into an adjacent room used for Sunday school.

Weinmeister's focus has now shifted upstairs, where the original sanctuary rust-red carpet is set to be replaced with square-patterned light gray late next month. The walls are getting a fresh coat of paint and the rooms new light fixtures.

Life Church's renovations have thus far cost more than \$60,000, funded through donations, and the work has been carried out by a mix of contractors and volunteers, including church members and others from the community.

Despite the unfinished sanctuary, Life Church's Easter plan remains unchanged. The day will begin with a sunrise service on Boulder Hill, followed by a potluck breakfast, 10 a.m. worship, and Easter egg hunt for children. Weinmeister said the tradition has been going on for at least as long as he has been there.

Beyond Easter Sunday, the church runs several programs, including a children's church and a youth group of around 20 kids. It also recently launched a community outreach dinner event in Jefferson City, with plans to bring a similar event to Basin.

"We want to just help people to find Christ in whatever way we can," said Weinmeister. "[Our mission] is to help people be healthy, which leads to healthy marriages, to healthy families, to healthy communities. We believe that this happens by people having a relationship with Jesus Christ."

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