



**P. 5:** JUST IN TIME FOR SPRING, A GARDENING CLASS FOR ALL



**P. 9:** FOR THESE SOFTBALLERS, EVEN THE HOME GAMES ARE AWAY



**P. 10:** AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF WILDFIRES IN OUR COUNTY

# THE MONITOR

\$2.00

SERVING THE FUTURE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

VOLUME CXIX - No. 31

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

## Public discussion highlights data center concerns

By ELIZA DUBOSE  
Reporter

Nearly 60 locals turned out for an animated AI data center event in Boulder last Friday, engaging speakers on legal, environmental, and cost concerns, opening up broader discussions and vowing to demand accountability from their representatives.

"It's a valuable conversation," said Barbara Chillcott, Western Environmental Law Center (WELC) attorney, touching on the evening's hot-button topic. "Where do we want our fresh water to go, and for what purpose?"

Residents' concerns about the impact of data centers have spiked in recent weeks, following The Monitor's report on a proposed 500-megawatt gas plant meant to support a government-linked, county-based AI data center.

Such concerns seem merited. Large AI

data centers use up to five million gallons of water per day, or about the same as a small town, according to the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. With the federal government declaring Jefferson County a drought disaster area in February, water had already been top of mind for many.

During the post-presentation Q&A at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds event, attendees mentioned the limited water resources, the abnormally dry winter, and the county's position in a closed basin, in which all water rights have been allocated. Some expressed fears of out-of-state companies misusing local resources.

"I don't want anyone messing with our land and water," said Boulder resident Nancy Roe.

Chillcott explained that data centers would likely apply for water rights as new industrial users, which would play out in one of three ways. They'll either buy existing water rights from current

right holders (a lengthy process involving Department of Natural Resources Conservation oversight), get a geothermal permit exemption (unlikely, according to Chillcott), or, most likely, transfer an existing water right, such as from agricultural use to industrial.

Municipalities and water marketers across Montana have already changed the purpose of their water rights, for instance from agricultural or industrial use, to make them available for purchase, according to Chillcott. "They're just waiting for the right buyer to come and buy these water rates for millions of dollars," she said on Friday.

Any ranchers or others tempted to make a big water rights sale, multiple attendees argued, should keep in mind the likely resulting impact on area water resources. "You can't drink money," said Whitehall resident Katie Smith.

Echoing several others, Smith vowed

to write her representatives to request strict data center regulations. "I want communication from local and state politicians," she said.

Many data center critics have expressed a similar wish. In early March, in fact, a coalition of advocacy groups, including the Butte Watchdogs for Social and Environmental Justice, challenged a Montana Public Service Commission protective order enabling Northwestern Energy to shield information about planned data centers from public view.

The coalition's main concern is that AI data centers' exaggerated power use will drive up electricity rates – a concern shared by Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC) executive director, who spoke at Friday's event.

"Residential customers are paying

Continued on Page 5

### Party animal



Gouda, one of Hope Nelson's goats, is dressed for Easter festivities, and available for hire. Story, page 6. (Piper Heath/The Monitor)

## Clancy Water to seek bids for well project

By PIPER HEATH  
Reporter

The Clancy Water & Sewer District hopes to start receiving construction bids on its well project in April, following Great West Engineering's March 12 submission of well design plans to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

Great West expects a response from DEQ by Thursday, April 2, and plans to put the project out to bid the second week of April, according to a project summary the firm sent to the District.

"With this timeline a special board meeting may be necessary in early May for the District to award the contract and ensure the ARPA [American Rescue Plan Act] funds get spent," project engineer Jesse Novak wrote in the summary, noting that all project dates are subject to change depending on factors such as DEQ's review timeline.

Great West missed the District board's March 25 meeting due to a calendar mix-up, but sent its update to board members the next day. The firm's absence

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## Rolling the dice for financial planning

By PIPER HEATH  
Reporter

Soon after walking into a new finance course at Jefferson County Fairgrounds last Thursday, I learned I was 35 years old, single with two children, working as an accountant and renting a studio apartment without a car. (I'm 22, with no children, and this is my job).

By the end of the hour, I had survived an emergency room visit, thanks to the health insurance I had chosen, and finished the month with \$845 to spare.

It was all part of a dice-driven exercise called the "Budgeting of Life Game," the opening activity of the Boulder edition of Financial Fitness, a free public course developed by Valley Bank and Jefferson Local Development Corporation.

Holly Mullaney, assistant branch manager and consumer lender at Valley Bank's Butte branch, led the March 26 session alongside four other bank representatives. Among the four finance students were Leah Lewis, a JLDC project officer and Boulder rancher, Mandy Haller, who works at Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, and Samantha Yearry, JLDC executive director.

Participants rolled dice to determine a fictional life scenario: their family status dictated whether they received child support or a spouse's income, their career set their monthly wages, their housing determined a rent or mortgage payment, and their vehicle, if they had one, added a car payment and insurance.

From there, they built out a monthly budget, allocating what

remained toward wants like dining out or a gym membership, and savings, before a final roll dealt an unexpected expense.

Lewis landed as a 59-year-old dental hygienist with nine cats, a huge house and a car who needed \$500 when her alternator gave out. "I have a huge house I don't need, but that's a lot of cats," Lewis said, before joking that "they might need their own rooms and cat trees and stuff."

Haller was a married 62-year-old lawyer with six kids, no car and a three-bedroom house with a \$1,600 mortgage, and had enough to spare at the end of the month after expenses, savings

and fixing her TV. "I'm apparently married at 62 with six kids, which sounds terrible," Haller said. "Luckily, I'm a lawyer, to be able to afford all of these kids."

Everyone finished the month with money left over, but Mullaney said that in her experience as a lender, that is not always the case. She regularly encounters high earners who struggle and modest earners who do not.

"Usually, if you don't have a budget, things can go awry," Mullaney said. "You have that emergency, you don't have any savings, and you're scrambling to figure out what to do."

Mullaney said the difference often comes down to discipline.

"I often see people that make great amounts of money and they really struggle," she said. "I do see people that are very low income and they do just fine, because you really just need to live within your means."

After the game, Mullaney walked the room through a list

*'I often see people that make great amounts of money and they really struggle. I do see people that are very low income and they do just fine, because you really just need to live within your means.'*

Continued on Page 6

## County reduces summer hours for Basin dump

By DAVID LEPESKA  
Editor

Basin residents expressed frustration with a recent county decision to open their local dump only one day a week this summer, halving its opening hours from previous summers.

"Basin's again getting treated like a red-headed stepchild," said resident DeDe Rhodes, whose husband Richard Rhodes is running for Jefferson County Commissioner. DeDe added that Basin's dump had already been the only county landfill open just one day a week in winter.

Now that schedule is year-round, while Whitehall's dump is open four days weekly year-round, and Montana City's seven days a week. In Basin, the shift from two days weekly in summer to one is expected to reduce the community's ability to dispose of its waste.

"This is ridiculous!" Basin resident Judi Colombe, a server at the Silver Saddle bar, said on Facebook, responding to a post on the dump discussion. "Why

Continued on Page 3

**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

### CITY OF BOULDER PLANNING BOARD MEETING

April 6, 6:30 pm, Boulder City Hall  
Meeting will be open to public.  
To participate online, <https://zoom.us/j/3147501763>

- Agenda:** Call to Order; Roll Call; Approval of Minutes.  
**Public Comment**  
**Status Updates:** City projects
- Park & Trails — Trail easements
  - Tree Board — Tree assessment; Tree assessment and maintenance estimate for Boulder Cemetery from Brent Sarchet (Recommendation to City Council)
- Old Business:** Growth Policy project status report  
**New Business:**
1. Public Hearing on Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch Proposal - Annexation and Zoning
  2. Discuss and Decide on Recommendation to City Council Regarding Annexation and Zoning for the Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch Proposal
- Other Business**  
**Schedule Next Meeting** and possible discussion topics.  
*The Mayor and City Council members may be in attendance.*

### Jefferson County Planning Board Meeting Agenda Wednesday, Apr. 8, 7:00 PM

Clerk & Recorder's Office, Boulder  
Or via Zoom: Phone: 1-646-558-8656 or [zoom.com/join](https://zoom.com/join).  
Enter meeting ID 671 828 8589

- Agenda:**
- Call to order; Establish a quorum. Public comment on matters not on the agenda. Correspondence & Communication: County Commissioners; Planning Department. Review minutes.
  - **New Business:**
    - a. Review & Provide Comments on the 4-R Properties LLC Conservation Easement
  - **Old Business:**
    - a. Update on Subdivision Regulations
    - b. Update on Floodplain Regulations
  - **Other Business. Next Meeting; adjournment**

## COUNTY COMMISSION

Apr. 7, 2026 - Clerk & Recorder meeting room  
[zoom.com/join](https://zoom.com/join), Meeting ID 671-828-8589

- 9:30** Claims approval  
**10:00** Meeting with Road Supervisor  
**11:00** Meeting with County Health Supervisor  
**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:**  
**Time-specific:**  
**1:45** Discuss and decide on Boulder TV Board budget and request for fee increase  
**Non-time-specific:**
- Adopt updated Safety Manual
  - Discuss and decide on adoption of County pet policy Sign letter of support for RMDC work plan
  - Appoint board members
  - Approval for write-off of Delinquent Personal Tax
- Website: <http://jeffersoncounty-mt.gov>

## OBITUARIES

# Dean Grenz, 80, of Boulder

Dean Grenz was born in Napoleon, North Dakota in 1945 to Gideon and Gloria Grenz. When he was still in grade school his parents moved him and his siblings Dawne, Merle, and Marji to Missoula, Montana. He often shared a favorite story of his from his youth in Missoula, about a time that he and Merle ran down Mount Sentinel to get their dad, then hurried back up the mountain in time to witness together the wonder of standing above the fog and seeing a cloud-filled valley with a time-traveler's sense of what Lake Missoula must have looked like 15,000 years ago.

It may have been that moment that put him on a lifelong path of exploration, evolving from a North Dakota farm boy into a quintessential Montana mountain man; skiing in the winter, mushrooming in the spring, panning gold in the summer, and bugling elk in the fall.

After graduating from Missoula County High School in the mid 1960s, Dean attended one year of school at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota before returning to Missoula and completing his bachelor's degree in education from the University of Montana. After a stint of being a student teacher, he took a teaching position at the Boulder River School and Hospital, living first in Boulder, then Basin, and back to Boulder. The Victorian-era house in Boulder, with the large yard and old barn, would become his workshop, urban farm, and home base for adventures around the world for more than five decades.

He lived out his lifelong passions in a legacy of teaching, woodworking, writing, drawing, gardening, outdoor adventuring, playing piano, attending fellowship and political activism.

Whether it was with his siblings growing up in Napoleon, and later Missoula, or with his wife and own family of five children and their friends in Basin and Boulder, Dean sought a sense of wonder and

the opportunities to share it with those around him. He led more adventures and misadventures into the mountains of Western Montana than people can fully recall. The magic of being on an outing with Dean was that whether it was sunny and easy going, or whether everyone was cold, wet, exhausted, hungry, dirty, and potentially lost – when all was said and done, many of the adventurers would look back on it fondly and look forward to the next time out. In this way he inspired a whole generation of adventurers who in turn continue the legacy of seeking out the wild corners of the map, in all weathers and all seasons.

It was usually in a moment outdoors, with friends or family, when Dean would look out at the landscape and at his companions and make a predictable declaration: "We're rich."

He didn't mean money, or property of any sort. And it was not anything that was even his to own. It was the moment, the appreciation of being, the peace of presence in the tumultuous journey from miraculous origin to unknowable destination. The riches around him were not anything that could be kept by one person, but rather something that became riches only through sharing.

Perhaps most memorable about Dean "Grenz For Peace" was his immense idealism that led him to engage nearly everyone he met in conversations — often ending in rhetorical stalemates — about the state of the political world and how we need to achieve peace on Earth simply to simply resolve our differences peacefully. He was known to often imagine scenes where instead of raising armies and waging war, world leaders would shape history by playing chess or arm wrestling. Much to his chagrin, three of his five children went on to join the armed forces, where they reported back to him the apparent applied limits of peaceful idealism.

For eighty orbits around the sun, Dean lived his daily adventure, both inviting and challeng-



ing others to join in. While he was a complex and dogged man of opaque depths, he lived in a way that he felt it was "good to be alive" every day – being kind to others; being thankful for the bounty of life's garden; and being uncompromising in his sense of right, justice, and peace.

He spent the last several years of his life experiencing setbacks in his physical health, yet he traveled, shared adventures with loved ones, wrote expansive volumes of autobiography, sent many dozens of letters to the editor, won grand prizes for his amazing garden vegetables, and lived life to his fullest. Before he passed away at home in Boulder on March 17, he took in rounds and rounds of visiting family and friends, phone calls, and video chats, finding moments for joy and sharing a story and laughter.

Dean was preceded in death by his father and mother. Those still on the journey and carrying his memory include his wife of 43 years, Connie Grenz; his three siblings, Dawne Schmutz, Merle Grenz and Marji Scott; his five children, Julia Graham with her husband Jason Graham, Chris Grenz with his wife Marci Grenz, Josh Grenzsund with his wife Evangelina Sundgrenz, Michael Grenz with his wife Sharon Grenz, and Daryl Grenz his wife Lily Jiansong Gong; and Dean's 15 grandchildren.

Friends and family are invited to a memorial to be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 11 at the Catholic Event Center, 214 South Elder, Boulder.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned Clerk of Clancy School District No. 1, Jefferson County, State of Montana that the Annual School Election will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, by mail ballot. Ballots may

be returned to the following locations, at the following times:

Location Prior to Election Day: Clancy School Main Office, 18 Clancy Creek Rd, Clancy 59634 and Hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Location on Election Day: Clancy School Main Office, 18 Clancy Creek

Rd, Clancy 59634 and Hours: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Electors will consider the following issues at the election:

- Two (2) Trustee(s) to be elected for a three (3) year term.

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

18 Clancy Creek Rd, Clancy 59634  
If you miss this regular registration deadline (30 days prior to the election), you may still register for the election by showing up at the county election office by noon on the day before election day. The late registration certificate may be exchanged for a ballot at the school election admin-

istrator's office until the close of polls on election day. The county election office is located at:

102 S. Monroe St., Boulder 59632  
A late registrant may obtain a ballot on election day at the following location:

18 Clancy Creek Rd, Clancy 59634  
DATED this 26th day of March, 2026  
District Clerk: Jennifer Milton

Legal 26-035 Published in **The Monitor** April 1, 8 & 15, 2026 MNAXLP

### NOTICE OF TRUSTEE ELECTION CANCELLATION

WHEREAS, the number of candidates filing a Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy for the open trustee positions for the:

- Whitehall Schools District No. 4 and 47
- Boulder Elementary District No. 7, and
- Basin Elementary District No. 5
- Jefferson High School District No. 1 Montana City Representative,
- Montana City School District No. 27

School Boards of Trustees, Jefferson County, State of Montana is equal to or less than the number of positions to be elected, the trustee elections are not necessary.

THEREFORE, the necessary 30 day notice is hereby given that,

- Whitehall Schools District No. 4 and 47
  - Boulder Elementary District No. 7, and
  - Basin Elementary District No. 5
  - Jefferson High School District No. 1 Montana City Representative,
  - Montana City School District No. 27
- Jefferson County, State of Montana, Trustee Elections are cancelled.

DATED this 25th day of March, 2026  
Ginger Kunz, Jefferson County Election Administrator

Legal 26-036 Published in **The Monitor** April 1, 2026 MNAXLP

# WHO TO CONTACT IN GOVERNMENT

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

# COUNTY

## Clancy water to seek bids for well project

Continued from Page 1

prevented the board from taking action on a Great West contract amendment for infrastructure design and construction.

That amendment, as well as new contracts for construction inspection and distribution/storage design are now scheduled for the next board meeting on April 29. The board also delayed action on the easement agreement with landowner Steve Marks because Great West, which is preparing the document, was unable to provide it for review.

After acquiring it from Great West, Jefferson County Attorney Steve Haddon reviewed the agreement and added language allowing the site to transfer to county ownership if the district were to dissolve.

At the meeting, County Commissioner Cory Kirsch presented an alternative to the easement:

applying for an agricultural use subdivision that would allow the district to own the property outright. The process is easier for public entities than private landowners and could be completed in about two months. But it would have to be done before any infrastructure is built on the site.

"As long as nothing's built on it right now, it qualifies for that," Hammer said. "Once we owned it, once it was subdivided, we could remove that agricultural subdivision feature and develop the property."

The option reignited board discussion about whether to pursue property ownership. President Lori Gilliland favored proceeding with the easement and making it "bomb-proof" – with strong protective language, according to Hammer. He said he would prefer to own the property, but acknowledged concerns about timing and funding.



Excel Drilling first tested a well on the Marks property in Clancy in 2024.

"We have to spend a lot of money this summer or we lose it," Hammer said, referring to the \$180,000 or so remaining ARPA funds, which must be spent by June 30. "Going down the pathway to ownership of the land is going to take some time and maybe we'll lose funding." Great West submitted the dis-

trict's application for \$2.5 million in congressionally directed spending, formerly known as earmarks, through U.S. Sen. Tim Sheehy's office on March 13. The funds, if awarded, would be used for the project's distribution and storage phase, which is estimated to cost \$3 million to \$3.5 million.

## County limits Basin dump summer hours

Continued from Page 1

would they do something like this?"

County Commissioner Cory Kirsch responded to the Facebook posts, saying the county had good reason for the decision. He told *The Monitor* the move was about cost and efficiency.

"The statistics on the amount of garbage we got on Tuesdays was almost nil," he said. "We've got five other sites around the county and we have trouble staffing them all. We decided it would be easier to leave Basin only open on Sundays."

The Basin schedule change was approved at the February 10 Jefferson County Solid Waste meeting. Some residents complained on Facebook of not being informed of the move. Kirsch apologized for that oversight, citing a miscommunication with Solid Waste officials.

Other residents wondered why the loss of a full day of dump access would not result in a reduced annual fee. This is because all



The entrance to the county dump in Basin –with a sign indicating its new schedule. (Photo by DeDe Rhodes)

county residents seeking to use county dumps (in Montana City, Clancy, Jefferson City, Boulder, Basin, or Whitehall) pay an annual \$193 fee for a permit that grants access to all six sites.

Kirsch pointed out that the Boulder dump is open three days

per week, Monday, Thursday and Saturday, and could offer Basin residents an alternative.

"They're close enough to Boulder that they could drive to Boulder to make a dump," he said, adding that a lot of residents in western and southern

Jefferson County have to drive further to use a site.

"The site in Basin is pure convenience, it's not actually needed," said Kirsch. "I advocate for keeping it open as I live in Basin. But that is the least used site in the county."

## AROUND THE COUNTY

### More roads may bring more fires, says study

When the U.S. Department of Agriculture last June announced plans to rescind its 2001 Roadless Rule, which prohibits road-building and development on millions of acres of national forest land, officials argued the change would help fire prevention and reduce fire risk.

But a new study in the journal *Fire Ecology* seems to counter that view. Surveying all contiguous-US Forest Service regions from 1992 to 2024, the authors found wildfires more than four times more likely to ignite within 50 meters of a road (7.99 fires per 1000 hectares) than within inventoried roadless areas (1.97 fires).

"The big surprise was just how stark the differences were," Greg Aplet, the lead author and senior forest ecologist at The Wilderness Society, told *Inside Climate News*.

"We found the exact same result in every Forest Service region, consistent across the entire national forest system."

Interestingly, the Forest Service has been aware of this trade-off for decades. "Building roads into inventoried roadless areas would likely increase the chance of human-caused fires due to the increased presence of people," the agency wrote in its January 2001 environmental impact assessment for the Roadless Rule.

The Forest Service is expected to offer a public comment period, potentially starting in April, for its draft environmental impact statement on revoking the Roadless Rule, which covers nearly 1.4 million acres of Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest.

— David Lapeska

Welcome to the **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

We are located...  
in **Clancy** at 6 N. Main St with Sunday services at 10 am  
in **Boulder** at 211 W Centennial Ave with Sunday services at 11:30 am

**We would love to greet you!!!**

Pastor Val Colenso, (406) 696-0886

Welcome to Worship!  
**FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH**

**SUNDAY**  
9:30 Bible Study • 10:45 Worship service  
**WEDNESDAY**  
6:00 pm Services

**Friendly People & Bible Preaching**  
5 Friendship Lane, Montana City  
(406) 442-8080

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

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

**LIFE CHURCH**

**Morning Service:** Sundays, 10 am  
**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

### Correction

The *Monitor's* Mar. 25 story on the candidates for House District 75 included two errors about Democrat Patrick Sullivan. He served as a non-commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy. And the state Professional Development Center, which he directed, closed in 2023, not 2015.

## CROSSWORD: Fill in the blanks

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- Double's trick
- Pick
- Marching band member
- North one or South one, in Asia
- Morse Code dash
- Root of iris
- Indian black tea
- Mother lode stuff
- Disinclined
- \*Mad as a \_\_\_\_
- \*Fit as a \_\_\_\_
- Pilgrimage to Mecca
- \* \_\_\_\_ A Sketch
- R&R destination
- Table, in Mexico
- Aerie baby
- Otter's den
- \* \_\_\_\_ as a button
- Type of union
- Axillary, in biology
- \*Bored to \_\_\_\_
- Fit of shivering
- Treated with calcium hydroxide
- Recipe amt.
- Not fiction
- \*Lawrence and DiCaprio movie "Don't \_\_\_\_"
- Like some hard times
- \*To the \_\_\_\_ degree

- Not less
- \*Hi- \_\_\_\_ graphics
- \*Fly off the \_\_\_\_
- \*Storm in a \_\_\_\_
- Louisiana swamp
- \*" \_\_\_\_ whiz!"
- Did like a lunatic
- Mr. T and friends
- \*Am is to I a \_\_\_\_ is to we
- Certain pudding ingredient
- Mosquito net, e.g.
- Local area network
- Leavening agent

### DOWN

- Reggae's cousin
- Silly talk
- Minor one in the sky
- Not o'er
- Type of gong instrument
- \* \_\_\_\_ -Eaters
- \* \_\_\_\_ for the course
- \*"Grand \_\_\_\_ Auto"
- Walked on
- Caspian Sea feeder
- \*"Take a \_\_\_\_ Out of Crime"
- Type of tree
- Idiom for outdated or trite (2 words)
- Tape deck button
- \*Break the \_\_\_\_
- Palatable
- \* \_\_\_\_ we dance?

- President Franklin Roosevelt's diagnosis
- \*"Remember the \_\_\_\_!"
- Cooking grease
- Tennis' Steffi
- Flotsam and jetsam alternative
- Something educed
- \*By the skin of your \_\_\_\_
- Hiker's journey
- Gaelic language
- \* \_\_\_\_ tire
- Lollipop brand
- D.C. mover and shaker
- Not very far
- Fit for a king
- Go "Boo!"
- \*A \_\_\_\_-hate relationship
- Pirates' affirmatives
- Famous flood survivor
- \*Nirvana's "Smells Like \_\_\_\_ Spirit"
- Iris holder
- \*Three \_\_\_\_ in a pod
- "Kapow!"
- Pitcher's stat
- Banned insecticide, acr.

For crossword puzzle solution, see page 8

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14			15				
16					17			18				
19				20		21	22					
		23			24							
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35		36		37		38		39				
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	57	58	59					60		61	62	
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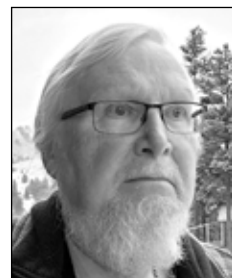
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# OPINION

## Reason for hope

There are days I fight despair. I wake up in the morning, seemingly weighed down by the upcoming burdens of the day. I read the news, and am further driven down by things happening in this country that I never imagined.

### FAITH MATTERS



Roger Reynolds

Then I heap on global warming, rising prices on a fixed income, the latest random act of violence, the direction we're headed in as a nation (or the lack of direction), and pretty soon, with little effort at all, I'm a swirling stew of despair. And the stew is cold.

Despair tends to breed further despair, which can lead us to a very dark place. Is such despair so all encompassing as to then be all consuming? Or is there somewhere we can look and see hope?

I often turn toward the little things. The big things can be overwhelming and seem insurmountable, inspiring a sense of hopelessness because they make me feel small and helpless. But the little things, those I can visualize, embrace, act on, see something positive happen.

For example, Helena's Safeway and Albertson's last week held a fundraiser for the firefighter and his family whose Helena Valley home recently burned down. From the Independent Record:

"From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., barbecues were set up in the Safeway and Albertsons parking lots to grill burgers and hot dogs that were sold for \$5. Patrons dropped their money into boots. Representatives from several fire departments, including Tri-Lakes Fire & Rescue, Canyon Creek Rural Fire and Baxendale Volunteer Fire, were there serving up food, standing by booths or hauling shiny red fire engines to draw attention."

As you walked through the store, the sound system periodically announced the food fundraiser activity to remind shoppers to stop and get something to eat before heading home.

On the same day, representatives of God's Love, a local agency that provides emergency shelter, food, cloth-

ing, hygiene and feminine products, access to medical care, and more, were at the Helena Walmart collecting donated goods in support of their cause.

They handed out little slips with a list of simple items as you entered the store, the idea being as you did your shopping, you might add on one or two of these items, then drop them back off as you left the store. Again, the sound system periodically announced the gathering activity to remind shoppers to pick up that extra item.

The upshot of all of this? There are examples of giving and generosity every day, all we need to do is look and see. Small groups, and even individuals, can make a difference.

*"We can live in hope that little*

*things matter at the local level, and that people will respond when the community is in need. And we can live in hope that for the worldly*

Hope is a local

these little things

At the other end of the spectrum, we can

worldly despair currently in what denominations

Week, the period to Easter, when death and resurrection

is commemorated in Palm Sunday, Palm Sunday, or Jesus' crucifixion. This commonly called

recalls the Last Supper and Jesus' washing his disciples' feet. Good Friday brings to mind the final acts of Jesus' life prior to resurrection. Finally there is Holy Saturday, or Easter Eve, when Christians make final preparations, and the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

*"stew" of despair, there is a promise that goes beyond that, a promise of new life.'*

force for good. And add up.

end of the spectrum beyond the around us. We are most Christian refer to as Holy from Palm Sunday the story of Jesus' rection is com- great detail.

day re-enacts the arrest, trial, and coming Thursday, Maundy Thursday,

washing his disciples' feet. Good Friday brings to mind the final acts of Jesus' life prior to resurrection. Finally there is Holy Saturday, or Easter Eve, when Christians make final preparations, and the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

On Easter Eve, my church, St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral, will celebrate the first Easter service, the Easter Vigil. It begins in the dark. A fire is lit and the flame is used to light a large candle, the Pascal Candle. This is followed by a chant from a cantor. I will act in this capacity this year, delivering these opening lines:

"Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout salvation for the victory of our mighty King. Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King."

This is a chant of ultimate hope, victory over death, the promise of salvation, that reaches beyond that worldly stew, overturns the pot and replaces it with the vision of a new life in the resurrection. When the world seems hopeless, we can embrace these manifestations of ongoing hope.

Hope for small things that can be fulfilled because people care and respond at a local level. Hope for that which is beyond our comprehension, for an enduring life as a promise we believe in, and hope in, that cannot be defeated or overcome.

Jesus has won the victory over death and despair, and that gives us a hope beyond hope, beyond what we might hope for in this world. And despair can be overcome. I ask again, is there a reason to hope, to see beyond the despair of day-to-day life?

We can live in hope that little things matter at the local level, and that people will respond when the community's in need. And we can live in hope that for the worldly "stew" of despair, there is a promise that goes beyond that, a promise of new life.

Easter is coming. It offers the ultimate hope of new life beyond this world, beyond despair. Each of us should consider this message in our own way, and ponder if maybe there is a greater hope that can overcome worldly despair.

Then maybe we can act, and just do a little thing now and again, in the name of hope.

*Roger Reynolds, a Jefferson City resident, is an ordained Episcopalian deacon.*

## Why I'm running for Senate: To truly put America first

By TOM JANDRON

My campaign for the United States Senate is already gaining strong early momentum following the March 24 release of my announcement video. In just over a week, with zero dollars spent, my audience on the social platform X has grown from roughly 100 followers to nearly 3500 (thanks in part to one post; see article on page 5).

While other campaigns rely on party infrastructure and donor networks, my early traction is clear evidence that Montanans, and Americans broadly, are refreshed to hear a message rooted in non-interventionism and a willingness to challenge the status quo in Washington.

Montanans are independent-minded people. We don't fit neatly into a two-party system. We have always been willing to vote for the person and not party labels. That's why I'm running as a Libertarian, and it's why this campaign is resonating nationally so quickly.

I'm not a career politician. I'm a husband, a father of three, a veteran, and an aviation professional. I have experienced the consequences of the decisions made in Washington, and I'm tired of seeing those decisions put foreign interests, whether it's Israel, Ukraine, Taiwan, or Timbuktu, ahead of the American people.

As a Montana National Guard veteran who deployed to Afghanistan, I take the decision to send Americans into war very seriously. I watched firsthand as we spent twenty years in a conflict that ultimately brought us back to where we started, with the Taliban still in power. That experience — and the mission creep I witnessed — shapes my view today.

There is only one candidate in this

race who is in it to defend our troops and opposes deploying them to Iran — and that's me. Montanans deserve to know where every candidate for U.S. Senate stands on sending our sons and daughters into another undeclared foreign war. As a vocal supporter of the "Defend the Guard" Act in the Montana legislature, I demand that Congress declare war before our Montana National Guard is ever sent overseas.

This campaign is about putting our country first.

That means ending foreign aid to all countries, confronting more than \$39 trillion in national debt, and stopping the reckless spending that is driving inflation and hurting Montana families every time they go to the grocery store or fill up their gas tank.

It means supporting Montana's agricultural producers, like the long-established ranchers of the Boulder Valley, by removing unnecessary federal barriers. I strongly support legislation like Rep. Thomas Massie's PRIME Act, which would enable Montana producers to sell Montana beef directly to Montana families.

Boulder Valley ranchers would benefit from the PRIME Act. There is no reason Montanans should be required to ship their beef out of state because of federal regulations while importing international beef to our grocery stores. We need to keep it local and allow local inspection regimes.

Similarly, America's public lands, like Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest, are our shared inheritance. But decades of centralized control have led to mismanagement, rising costs, restricted access, and missed opportunities for conservation

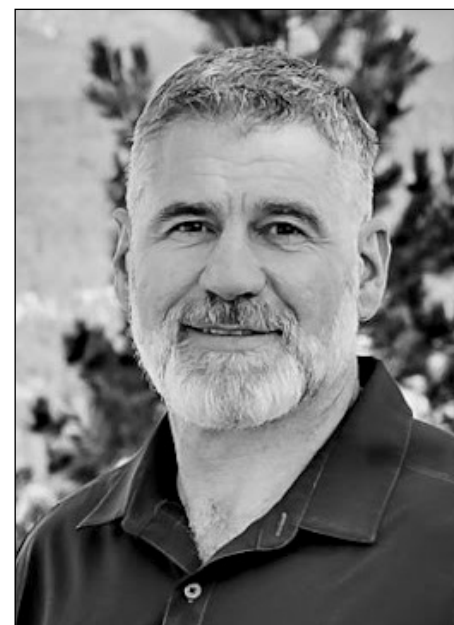
and responsible use.

As a U.S. Senator for Montana, I would decentralize management, reform federal land agencies, boost recreational access and reshape fire and forest management. I would propose solutions that prioritize local stewardship, fiscal responsibility, property rights, and voluntary conservation.

I would also protect the civil liberties of the American people by opposing programs like FISA Section 702 that allow warrantless surveillance and are routinely passed in massive omnibus packages that our delegation has historically supported (despite the fact that our own state Constitution and legislature require single-issue bills).

Montanans should know that this campaign represents a real opportunity for change. The Montana Libertarian Party already has major-party ballot status, meaning that, unlike the Independent in this race, I will appear on the ballot this November without needing to collect thousands of signatures if I win the Libertarian primary. This is about giving voters a real choice.

I served the people of Montana in uniform, and I'm ready to serve again in the



Tom Jandron

United States Senate. If you believe in peace, fiscal responsibility, and individual liberty, I hope you'll join me.

Let's finally take America First seriously.

*Clancy resident Tom Jandron, a retired Montana National Guard member who served in Afghanistan, is running for U.S. Senate with the Libertarian Party.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Opposed to water rate hikes

I personally think Boulder's water rate increases are too high, especially with what is going on with the economy right now. From \$82.50 to \$110 amounts to a 34% increase. Add that to the exorbitant price of gasoline and food, and it is too

much for seniors who only receive a less than 3% cost of living adjustment this year. Add in the \$7 billion this administration has requested for the Iran war, which in my opinion is illegal, and you have an economy headed for a repeat of the Great Depression.

Joel Schreiberman  
Boulder

# THE MONITOR

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Owner: Response Media, LLC

The Monitor is published every Wednesday.  
NEWS DEADLINE: NOON MONDAYS  
ADVERTISING DEADLINE: 5 PM FRIDAYS  
except as noted for holidays and special editions  
Normal office hours: Mon & Fri - 9-5, Weds 8-11

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Monitor (USPS 061-680), P. O. Box 66, Boulder, MT 59632. The Monitor office is located at 104 W. Centennial, Boulder, MT 59632. The Monitor (USPS 061-680) is published weekly. Entered as periodicals, and periodical postage is paid at Boulder, MT.

12-month subscription rates:

Mailed print edition.....\$75  
Digital edition.....\$60



**Letters policy:** The Monitor welcomes views from our readers. Letters to the editor should be timely, respectful and factual. Letters accepted for publication may be edited for clarity and length. Submissions must include the writer's full name and community for publication, as well as an email address and phone number. Letters can be emailed to david@boulder-monitor.com, mailed to P.O. Box 66, Boulder, MT 59632, or dropped off at 104 W. Centennial in Boulder.

# COUNTY

## Just in time for gardening season, a master class for all

By ELIZA DUBOSE  
Reporter

For their final class, 13 students from Jefferson and Madison counties gathered at Jefferson County Fairgrounds for Boulder resident and veteran gardener Keha McIlwaine's presentation on home cultivation.

"Gardening is so dependent on where you live, even between [my neighbors] and I," said McIlwaine, encouraging gardeners to experiment.

Montana State University Extension completed its 10-week, bi-county Master Gardener Program last week, with participants learning everything from handling common garden pests to proper pruning techniques and building a compost pile.

MSU Extension agents, plant professionals, and gardening volunteers provided instruction, with the March 24 gathering at the fairgrounds capping the program's first year in Boulder.

"One thing I really like about this curriculum is that it meets the needs of the first-time gardener, it's like 101 for [someone who] has never gardened before," said Kaleena Miller, MSU Extension agent for Jefferson and Madison counties. "It also benefits people who have 30 years of experience – and they can still learn a lot too."

To earn the master gardener designation, participants must pass an open-book test and complete 20 hours of community service and continuing

education courses. However, students don't need to become master gardeners to participate in the class.

In Miller's experience, about half the students in the course go on to earn that designation, while the vast majority just apply their newfound knowledge to their own gardens. Most sign on mainly to improve their skills.

Clancy resident Alan Baris has been gardening for decades but figured he could learn some new things from the course. He has also signed up for gardening seminars in Helena. Boulder resident Erica Yakawich is more of a beginner.

"I started gardening a couple of years ago and realized I was terrible at it and I needed to take a class," she admitted.

McIlwaine, who shares highlights from her own garden @ gold.flint.flowers on Instagram, embraces community-supported agriculture, which encourages gardeners to reconnect with the origins of their vegetables and flowers and to develop a shared sense of responsibility.

She highlighted the best perennial and annual flowers for Montana. Drawing on her own experience, she also offered helpful tips, such as how to properly store narcissus bulbs over the winter and replant them in spring. These practical insights are what make the program so effective, according to Miller.

"Last week, for our pruning class, someone walked in never having held pruners and walked



Master Gardener students look at a dried flower arrangement that instructor Keha McIlwaine brought to class (Eliza DuBose/The Monitor)

out of the class saying, 'I did it. It's not as hard as I thought,' she said. "And that was just one class. So that's super gratifying because you're removing those perceived barriers."

Throughout her presentation, McIlwaine encouraged students to engage their neighbors and friends in their gardens by offering trades or sharing gardening tips. McIlwaine's emphasis on community through gardening aligned with Miller's vision.

These students "didn't sign up so they can find other gardeners, but through the course and sharing with each other and getting to know each other, it comes out organically," Miller said. "One of the most gratifying things for me is learning about friendships

and gardening companionship post-course."

That companionship was on full display at the final class. Yakawich has lived a couple of streets from McIlwaine for years and always admired her garden, but never felt brave enough to ask for tips. After watching McIlwaine's presentation, she made a point to introduce herself.

"I walk by it all the time, and I'm like, 'I want my garden to look like that'. I've been too afraid to just go knock on the door and be like, 'Can you just tell me what you're doing?'" Yakawich admitted. "So to have her come here and just talk about what she's doing and her passion... I know I made a friend tonight."

The Master Gardener Program

has ended, but MSU Extension has other upcoming programs.

This summer, its 4-H program will feature students from across the county showcasing their animal husbandry and agricultural skills. On April 3 in Whitehall, a workshop on judging lamb and goat markets aims to help 4H members understand how to assess and rank small ruminants.

Starting in September, Boulder will host the Big Sky, Big Leadership program for the first time in Jefferson County, as reported by The Monitor in December. The nine-month program will instruct participants on protecting themselves from burnout, working through workplace conflicts, and other issues essential for local leaders.

## Senate hopeful knocks Graham, scores headlines

By DAVID LEPESKA  
Editor

It was just a joke, he says. Still, previously little-known Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate Tom Jandron of Clancy got plenty of attention for his vow to send U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina) to war upon taking office.

"I'm running for US Senate," Jandron wrote last week on the

social platform X. "If elected, the first bill I introduce will draft Lindsey Graham into any conflict he publicly supports while in office."

A retired member of the Montana National Guard who served in Afghanistan, Jandron's post attracted more than 23,000 likes in five days. Yet he explained to The Monitor that his assertion was not entirely serious.

"My comment about Lindsey

Graham was obviously tongue-in-cheek, and it clearly resonated with people," he said in an emailed statement.

Jandron explained that he had no plans to draft such a bill, but that he would work to end the "wars of choice" created by Washington power players. The U.S. and Israel launched joint strikes on Iran on Feb. 28, following failed nuclear deal talks.

Graham has strongly supported the Trump administration's military operations on Iran and encouraged the White House to "take" Kharg Island, Iran's offshore oil export hub. Jandron said he and many of his fellow veterans had grown tired of

politicians who start and support wars because they face little risk.

"The men who beat the loudest war drums seldom have any skin in the game," he said. "Lindsey Graham has no children who will be sent to fight and die in Israel's war in Iran. But as a veteran with three children, I cannot sit back quietly as the U.S. fights yet another war that goes against our country's interests."

Jandron followed up his initial X post with a vow to "never" accept funding from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a lobbying group that supports the policies of Israel. He told The Monitor that his cam-

paign is grassroots, with no Public Action Committee funding.

"I have not received any money from PACs, and have since received donations from Montana's voters and nationwide as a result of my announcement to run," said Jandron.

Jandron is running to replace Sen. Steve Daines, who retired minutes before the early March filing deadline and endorsed Kurt Alme, a former U.S. attorney for Montana. Jandron, one of two libertarians in the race, along with three Republicans and five Democrats, will face off against Kyle Austin of Billings in the primary election June 2.

## Public discussion highlights data center concerns

Continued from Page 1

a far greater share of utility costs than commercial data centers," she warned. "We are seeing this all over the country, where the residential customers, us, are getting the short end of the stick."

U.S. Congressman Troy Downing, whose district includes Jefferson County, appears to share this view. "These developments must not drive up costs for rate payers or threaten the viability of the resources Montanans know and love," he told The Monitor this week.

If they were to make no negative impacts, data centers could create jobs and boost local economies, Downing explained, adding that locals should help shape such projects. "Community engagement should play a central role in developments like data centers," he said.

That explains the thinking of Boulder artist Mary Eder, who organized the March 27 event and spoke after Hedges, who emphasized the importance of transparency, urging the audience to press for government regulation and data center accountability.

"I believe we are in charge of this, and if we all sit back and let this happen, that's our fault," Hedges said. "We should not sit back and let this happen."

During the nearly two-hour

event, audience members tutted their approval or muttered in disagreement as speakers made points about water usage, potential jobs, and more. Several expressed appreciation for the insights provided by Eder and others.

"They gave us information and they gave us tools," said Roe. "We need to have regulations in place before it all happens."

After the event, Boulder resident Tammy Bark, who along with Roe planned to contact state officials, appreciated seeing folks from across the political spectrum in attendance. "I want more uniting," she said.

Hedges, who also noted the bipartisan nature of the issues, pointed out that data centers are not inherently negative. Yet without governmental accountability, even at the county level, communities are vulnerable.

"We need the facts on the table," Hedges told The Monitor, calling for county zoning to mitigate data center impacts and for communities to reach agreements with data center developers to create an emergency fund to cover accidents, incidents or emerging issues.

Ultimately, each county is likely to decide how to proceed, guided by community input. "Regulations can make sure we do this on our terms," Hedges said. "It's up to us."

### BOULDER AREA EVENTS CALENDAR

## APRIL

<p><b>02 BLOOD DRIVE.</b> 11:30 am to 5:30 pm, St. Catherine Community Center, 214 S. Elder St. Make appointment at (800) 733-2767.</p>	<p><b>05 BOULDER TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BTAC).</b> 8 am, City Hall.</p>	<p><b>15 BOOK CLUB,</b> 6:30 pm, Boulder Community Library.</p>
<p><b>04 COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT,</b> 10 am, T'ings Tavern, Jefferson City</p>	<p><b>07 CAREGIVER RESPITE RETREAT,</b> 10 am to 3 pm, Boulder-Basin Senior Center, 201 S. Main. Register at (406) 600-2880.</p>	<p><b>20 ANIMAL SHELTER &amp; CARE MEETING,</b> 4:30 pm, 23 Muskrat Lane, Boulder.</p>
<p><b>04 EASTER EGG HUNT,</b> 12 pm, County fairgrounds. Sponsored by the Boulder Kiwanis.</p> 	<p><b>11 ATTACCA QUARTET,</b> noon, Art Mine Basin, Cataract Creek Road. Classical and electronica string quartet. Free.</p> 	<p><b>ONGOING LOCAL TRANSPORT SERVICES.</b> Mon-Fri, 8 am to 4 pm, based on driver availability. Reservation required: (877) 287-3156.</p> <p><b>JEFFCO FOOD SHARE:</b> Second Thursday of each month, noon to 2 pm, Boulder Life Church.</p>




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

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# COUNTY

## For parties, rancher Hope Nelson is the GOAT



ABOVE: Jill, Parmesan, Evan and Gouda dressed up in their Easter outfits. (Piper Heath/The Monitor) BELOW RIGHT: Nelson with her champion goat at the Jefferson County Fair in 2023.

By PIPER HEATH  
Reporter

About a year ago, a social media post offering costumed goats rented out to parties piqued Hope Nelson's entrepreneurial curiosity.

"I saw it on someone's Facebook in Idaho or something, and I was like, 'I'm gonna just try,'" said the 19-year-old, who now runs Risen Ranch LLC in the Boulder Valley and has lugged her impressively cooperative goats to about 20 parties since launching the business in August 2025.

The first was at a former teacher's home in the Helena Valley for his son's birthday. She brought four goats, dressed them up in dresses and button downs and watched the crowd go wild. Word spread fast, and she's barely been able to keep up since.

"I'm so busy that I haven't even posted online," she said. "People just reach out to me, which is really cool."

This spring, she introduced something new: Easter goats. Risen Ranch offers two Easter packages for backyard parties, churches, schools and community events. The basic includes dressed-up goats, petting and interaction time and photo opportunities.

The extra package adds goats participating in the Easter egg hunt, Easter baskets, feeding and brushing, and a goat photo shoot depending on the event location. Spots for Easter weekend and Easter Day are limited, and had been mostly booked as of Monday.

The Easter offering is just the latest in a lineup of themed events Nelson has built around her herd. Her goats have added farm animal charisma to Halloween parties in Boulder, birthday bashes, surprise parties and bachelorette party goat yoga sessions.

In May, she plans to bring the goats to Montana Technical University in Butte for an end-of-school-year event at which students will pie their professors. She's



also developing holiday specials for Christmas and the Fourth of July.

"You want them to show up in red, white and blue? I can do that," she said with a laugh. "A lot of parties that I never would think that people would want, they want them."

And the goats do not merely show up, they arrive fully turned out. Nelson brings four goats to each event, all of them around a year old: Jill, Parmesan, Gouda and Evan, each outfitted to match the occasion. She sources their clothes from thrift stores and has over the past eight months filled up a decent goat closet: Halloween costumes, Christmas sweaters, Valentine's Day looks, suits, swimwear, sunglasses and hats.

Party prices range between \$125 and \$350, depending on distance traveled, party length and add-ons. The first 30 miles are free. The most basic option is simply the goats showing up and mingling with guests. From there, clients can add brushing and feeding goats, as well

as face painting and decorations. At more elaborate events, the goats have even delivered presents to birthday kids.

The goats, for their part, appear to love the work. Nelson said that when she opens the back of her car – to unload groceries or head to an event – they race to get in. "They're all trying to jump in at the same time, and I'm like, 'Wait one second,'" she said.

During a slow stretch last summer when parties dried up for a week or two, the goats made their displeasure known by jumping in her car whenever it was open.

The party business is only one part of what Nelson manages. She breeds goats and rents animals to 4-H kids for the summer so families can participate without buying their own. She is also developing a weed-eating service and considering 4-H workshops where families could try out different animals before committing. Nelson has been in 4-H since she was seven and said the program shaped her confi-



dence going into college and beyond.

Outside the ranch, her schedule is no lighter. She works as a paraeducator at Boulder Elementary School, teaches after-school clubs, rodeos and does Irish dance classes, all while studying nursing at Helena College. "I don't know how I have time for anything," Nelson said.

She does most of it alone, with some help from friends. "One turned into 30," she said of her herd, recalling that she had originally planned to use goats for goat tying competitions before changing course. She now owns horses, dogs and chickens as well.

For Nelson, the work comes back to something simple. "Just to be able to see a lot of life and to be able to share it with people is really cool," she said. "That's what I like about the parties, to be able to share it with people that can't really have animals."

Looking to book goats at your next party? Contact Nelson at Risen Ranch LLC on Facebook or 406-461-7705.

## Rolling the dice for financial planning

Continued from Page 1

of strategies designed to make saving up feel achievable. One challenge asked participants to save \$1 in the first week, \$2 in the second and so on, up to \$52 in the year's last week – resulting in \$1,378 saved by year's end. Mullaney suggested starting in reverse, beginning at \$52 when motivation is fresh and letting the weekly contribution shrink from there.

Other methods included a temperature challenge in which participants save an amount each day equal to the forecasted high, and a subscription pause challenge in which streaming service fees are redirected to savings for a set period.

The class also touched on banking for young people. When Yearry asked whether having a

checking account would help a teenager qualify for a loan, Mullaney said it would not, because checking accounts do not report to credit bureaus.

She pointed instead to Valley Bank's credit builder loan, a program for people looking to establish or repair their credit history. The bank issues a \$500 loan and deposits it directly into a locked savings account, which the borrower cannot access until the loan is repaid at about \$23 a month over two years. Throughout that period, the loan reports to all three major credit bureaus.

It typically takes about seven months for someone with no credit history to develop a score, Mullaney said. A mid-600s score is roughly average, says the bank, while 750 and above is excellent.

Valley Bank also runs a good

grades program for students aged 14 to 26, paying account-holders \$3 for each A on a report card (up to \$20 max), and \$5 for a 4.0 or above grade point average. Students can earn an additional \$10 for completing a financial literacy course on the bank's website and are entered into a \$500 scholarship drawing each time they bring in a report card. A checking account with the bank is required to participate.

One question from the room opened the conversation further and covered FDIC insurance, with one attendee asking how the standard \$250,000 per-person coverage limit can be extended.

Another, about mortgage rates, prompted Ryan Cobb, a real estate lender at Valley Bank's Helena branch, to

explain that 30-year loans currently sit in the mid-6% range, having edged back up amid the ongoing conflict with Iran. Cobb noted that buyers can negotiate to buy their rate down, an option he said most people are unaware of.

Yearry said JLDC officials raised the idea of a finance course at a meeting with Valley Bank last year, and the two began working together, drawing on the expertise of their members, on a course meant to provide residents with practical financial guidance.

Seeking to attract broader participation, JLDC plans to announce new finance topics for upcoming classes, shaped by what residents have expressed interest in learning. This could include fraud, commercial lending for startups, online banking

basics for older residents, estate planning around bank accounts, first-time homebuying, rebuilding credit and more.

"Having a better handle on your finances helps you invest into the community," Yearry said.

"I'm looking forward to the next session and the chance to dig deeper into interest rates and strategic ways to pay off mortgage loans faster," Lewis said.

The classes run monthly through October, alternating between Boulder and Whitehall. Boulder sessions are held at the fairgrounds, at 21 Whitetail Road, with remaining dates on May 28, July 30 and Sept. 24. Whitehall classes are at 5 Whitetail Road on April 30, June 25, Aug. 27 and Oct. 29. All sessions run noon to 1 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

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# SAVVY SENIOR

## Where to get help sorting through Medicare options

Dear Savvy Senior,

I'll be 65 in a few months and could sure use some help sorting through all the confusing Medicare options that are available to me. Where can I get help with my Medicare decisions?

**Baffled Bob**



Jim Miller

Dear Bob,

With around 11,400 Baby Boomers turning 65 every day in 2026, you're asking a very timely question.

Many people approaching Medicare are confused by all the choices available today. In addition to original Medicare (Part A and B) that has been around for more than 60 years, you also have the option of enrolling in a Part D prescription drug plan, and a supplemental (Medigap) policy – both of which are sold by private insurance companies.

Another option is a Medicare Advantage plan. These plans, also offered by private insurers, bundle hospital coverage, medical care, prescription drugs, and often extra benefits like vision, dental,

and hearing into one policy. Most operate as HMOs or PPOs and require you to receive care within a defined network of providers in your area.

Medicare Advantage plans have also faced increased scrutiny in recent years over prior-authorization requirements that can delay or deny certain services.

To help you determine which path makes the most sense for your situation, there are several reliable resources avail-

able, depending on how much assistance you need. Medicare counseling either in person or by phone. To locate your local SHIP office, visit [shiphelp.org](http://shiphelp.org) or call 877-839-2675.

You can also contact the Medicare Rights Center ([medicarerights.org](http://medicarerights.org)) at 800-333-4114 for help with specific questions.

In addition, HealthMetrix Research publishes a free Cost Share Report at [medicarenewswatch.com](http://medicarenewswatch.com) that compares Medicare Advantage plans by area based on cost-sharing and health status.

**Around 11,400 Baby Boomers are turning 65 every day — and many of them are confused by all the choices available to Medicare participants.**

able, depending on how much assistance you need.

### Tools and Resources

A good starting point is the “Medicare & You” handbook, which provides a clear overview of the program and your options. You can download a copy at [medicare.gov/medicare-and-you](http://medicare.gov/medicare-and-you), and you should receive a printed version in the mail about a month before your 65th birthday.

The Medicare website also features a helpful “Find a Medicare Plan” tool at

### Get Help

If you'd like more hands-on help, you can work with a Medicare insurance agent.

Keep in mind that agents are paid commissions by insurance companies, so it's important to choose an independent agent who represents multiple insurers – not just one. That gives you access to a broader range of options.

Also understand that commissions are typically higher for Medicare Advantage plans than for Medigap and Part D policies used with Original Medicare. As a result, some agents may have a financial incentive to recommend Advantage coverage. That doesn't mean the advice is wrong, but it's wise to ask questions and understand all your choices before enrolling.

You can search for licensed agents through [nabip.org](http://nabip.org), the website of the National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals.

Taking the time now to compare your options carefully can help you avoid costly mistakes and give you confidence in the coverage you choose.

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



**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

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT CUSTODIAN

**BOULDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Full-time custodian - evening position  
Responsibilities: General custodial duties such as cleaning, dusting, mopping, sweeping, etc.

Qualifications: Experience preferred but not necessary. Must be able to work with minimal supervision. Must pass a background check.

Classification: Full-time - Includes health insurance and retirement benefits

Hourly Rate: DOE

To apply: Contact Superintendent's office. Phone: 225-3316. Email: [britton.mann@bgs.k12.mt.us](mailto:britton.mann@bgs.k12.mt.us). Or stop by the main office for an application.

Closing Date: Until filled

### 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. Starting salary \$19.98/perhour. County applications are available from 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 for on-line application at [www.jeffersoncounty-mt.gov](http://www.jeffersoncounty-mt.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.

### FOR RENT

**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

### AUCTIONS, SALES

#### ESTATE SALE

Saturday, April 11 & Sunday, April 12, 9 am-4 pm both days. 310 E. 3rd Ave, Boulder. Help clear out the house and the garage. Donations only. All proceeds will go to the Boulder-Bull Mountain Volunteer Fire Departments and the Boulder Carousel in honor of Les and Shirley Vossler.

### LEGAL NOTICES

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-22-2026-000009-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

#### 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 ob-

### LEGAL NOTICES

ligations 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 penal-

ties 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 PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council of the City of Boulder will hold a public hearing at the regular scheduled Council meeting on April 20th, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall (304 N. Main Street). This meeting will involve a first reading of ordinance 2026-01, establishing procedures and requirements relating to construction, deployment and maintenance of cable networks within the rights-of-way of the City of Boulder, Montana.

Please contact City Administrator Brian Bullock at City Hall, 304 N. Main Street, or call 406-225-3381 with any questions. Electronic comments are accepted by email at [cityadministrator@cityofbouldermt.com](mailto:cityadministrator@cityofbouldermt.com)

**Legal 26-037** Published in *The Monitor* April 1 & 15, 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

**HEAD HOUSEKEEPER**, Northern Montana. Head Housekeeper needed for large private ranch estate in Teton County, Montana. Oversee cleaning operations, laundry, seasonal staff. \$35-\$37.50/hour, benefits, housing provided. Apply at [www.mahlermatch.com](http://www.mahlermatch.com).

**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 Medi-

care! 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 pick-up 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**

IN THE JUSTICE COURT, STATE OF MONTANA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON  
 Ridgeline Rentals and Adventures LLC, Plaintiff, v. Matt Greenwood, Defendant. Cause No. CV-465-2025-0000229-CO Hon. Steve Andersen  
**ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION**

State of Montana sends greetings to Matt Greenwood.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action which is filed in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, and to file your answer and serve a copy thereof upon Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. This action is brought for the purpose of recovering damages related to your rental of a UTV from a Plaintiff.

Reference is made to the Complaint on file in the office of the clerk and the above-entitled Court for full particulars.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court, this 4th day of March, 2026.

Ryan A. Ballard  
 Vicevich Law  
 3738 Harrison Ave.  
 Butte, MT 59701  
 Telephone: (406) 782-1111  
 ryan@vicevichlaw.com  
 State Bar of Montana No. 14510  
 Attorney for Plaintiff

**Legal 26-032** Published in **The Monitor** March 25 and April 1 & 8, 2026  
 MNAXLP

**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, excepting 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

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION-SERVICE THE STATE OF TEXAS**

To: Unknown heirs, The Boulder Monitor in Jefferson County, Montana, Respondent: Greeting.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable

County Court at Law Bowie County, Texas at the Courthouse of said County, in the City of New Boston, Bowie County, Texas at or before 9:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday after the expiration of ten days from the date of publication of this citation by filing a written answer to application filed in said Court on the 15th day of August 2025, in cause No.44,293-CCL and styled:

THE ESTATE OF MIKE LYNN MCCOY, DECEASED

A brief statement of the nature of the application is as follows, to-wit: Application for Determination of Heirship as more fully shown by the application of file in this cause.

This citation shall be served by notice published once in a newspaper of general circulation in Bowie County, Texas, the County in which the proceedings are pending. Said publication being not less than ten (10) days from the return date exclusive of the date of publication.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at New Boston, Texas, this the 24th day of March, 2026.

Address for Applicant or Applicant's Attorney:  
 John Mark Burgess  
 4201 Texas Boulevard  
 Texarkana, Texas 75503

Tina Petty  
 Bowie County Clerk  
 710 James Bowie Drive  
 New Boston, Texas 75570

**Legal 26-033** Published in **The Monitor** April 1, 2026  
 MNAXLP

**PUBLIC MEETING FOR WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The City of Boulder will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 20, 2026, at City Hall, at 6:30 PM as part of the regularly scheduled City Council meeting. At the public hearing, the proposed wastewater project will be explained, including the purpose and proposed area of the project, activities, budget, possible sources of funding, and costs that may result for local citizens as a result of the project, and a decision will be made on the environmental assessment. A copy of the draft environmental record is available at City Hall and hard copies will also be available at the public hearing. All interested persons will be given the opportunity to ask questions and express opinions regarding the proposed project and any environmental impacts. Comments may be given orally at the meeting or submitted in writing before April 17, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Anyone wanting to review the environmental review record and project impacts or submit questions and comments should contact the City Administrator at (406) 225-3381 during regular business hours.

**Legal 26-034** Published in **The Monitor** April 1 & 15, 2026  
 MNAXLP

**More legal notices, pages 2, 7, 9 & 10**

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

See puzzle on page 3

S	T	U	N	T		O	P	T		T	U	B	A		
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M	E	S	H			L	A	N		Y	E	A	S	T	

**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:                  (877) 287-3156                  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>
<p><b>INTERMOUNTAIN HEATING &amp; AIR CONDITIONING, INC.</b>                  Helena                  Heating &amp; Air Conditioning                  449-4567</p>	<p><b>BOULDER HARDWARE</b>                  NOW OFFERING:                  • Lumber • Propane                  • U-Haul &amp; UPS drop-off location</p>	<p><b>MT State Liquor Store</b>  <b>BOULDER CASH 56</b>                  Tues-Fri: 11-7 Sat: 10-6                  Closed Sun &amp; Mon                  209 N. Main St., Boulder</p>	<p><b>Steven J. Shapiro, P. C.</b>                  Attorney at Law                  449-1200                  9 Friendship Lane in Montana City</p>	<p><b>Alternative Heat of Montana</b>                  406-439-WOOD/406-438-0027                  bsarchet@gmail.com                  Your local source for wood boiler sales, parts, installation &amp; service.</p>
<p><b>GRIT &amp; GRACE COLLECTIVE</b>                  NEW! WE BUY                  • GOLD                  • SILVER                  • ESTATE JEWELRY                  203 Legion Ave W • Whitehall                  508.517.600</p>	<p><b>ALPINE HOUSE SERVICES</b>                  406-431-3493                  JOE FALINE  <b>ROOFING</b>                  Exterior painting • Decks                  30+ years experience, insured</p>	<p><b>Madison Valley BANK</b>                  Boulder                  109 West Second                  LOBBY 8-4 M-F                  DRIVE UP 7:30-5:30 M-F 9-12 Sat.                  406-225-3351                  Since 1965 - madisonvalleybank.com</p>	<p><b>Montana City</b>                  9 Bankers Lane                  LOBBY 8:30-4 M-F                  DRIVE UP 8-5 M-F                  406-443-0497</p>	<p><b>CENTRAL BOILER</b></p>

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# SPORTS

## For Jefferson softball players, even home games are away

By SCOTT FERGUSON  
Contributing reporter

Most Jefferson High students walk out of school after the final bell and onto the practice field, or over to the gym. For junior Glory Tietje, getting to softball practice is a bit more of a trek – and requires leaving school early.

“I miss my last period of the day and then take the bus over here,” Tietje said, referring to her ride up to East Helena to join the Vigilante squad. “It’s a lot, but it’s worth it.”

East Helena High softball is a cooperative team – a relatively common solution in population-poor Montana – that includes six players from Jefferson High, some 25 miles south in Boulder. For the Vigilante co-captain, the daily travel and shared participation have strengthened bonds on and off the field.

“I really like it,” she said. “We get to travel together, and that

on their shoulders this year.”

They’ve carried that burden well in the season’s early days.

After reaching the State Tournament last season, East Helena softball enters 2026 in a different place, but with many of the same goals. Led by scorching hitting from JHS junior co-captain Sloane Ostby (6 for 9, 6 runs scored) and JHS senior Olivia Campbell (5 for 8, 4 RBI), the Vigilantes opened with two wins and a loss over the weekend, offering an early glimpse of their potential – and potential areas of improvement.

East Helena wasted no time making a statement in its opener last Friday, rolling to a 15-0 win over Park High School behind a balanced offensive effort and strong pitching that led to an early ending as East Helena reached the 15-run mercy rule.

The conference contest was a rematch of the game that sent East Helena to State last spring,

“I think it’s continual progression,” Smith told *The Monitor*. “Every week, we’re getting better.”

East Helena is navigating more than just a new season. The program is also adjusting to a new coaching structure, with Smith and Quinn sharing head coaching duties after previously working with the program at the junior varsity level.

The transition, Smith said, has been relatively smooth. “I feel like the JV coaches have always played a role in supporting varsity,” Quinn said. “As far as what happens on the field, not much has changed.”

What has changed is the roster. After graduating five seniors last year, the Vigilantes are leaning on younger players and hoping new contributors step into bigger roles. The squad, which includes just one senior, multiple freshmen and three eighth graders, badly needs varsity-level



Panther Glory Tietje bats for the East Helena-Jefferson coop softball team against Beaverhead on Mar. 28 (Scott Ferguson/The Monitor)

*‘I miss my last period of the day and then take the bus [to East Helena]. It’s a lot, but it’s worth it.’ — Glory Tietje*

helps build connections. And playing with the East Helena girls, it honestly feels like I go to the school.”

Pitcher and shortstop Josie Jerome, an East Helena High sophomore and team captain, felt much the same. “It’s definitely fun getting to play with girls we don’t get to spend our entire day with,” she said.

Co-head coach Jayden Quinn underscored just how much the East Helena High Vigilantes need their Jefferson High teammates. “If we didn’t have them, we wouldn’t have a varsity squad right now,” she said. “They’re carrying a big weight

and one that co-head coach Krystal Smith said could act as a barometer of this year’s squad. If accurate, the Vigilantes will be very happy with the results of that early test.

East Helena collected 14 hits in the game, with multiple players contributing throughout the lineup. Ostby led the way with a 3-for-3 performance at the plate, while freshman Jordan Lamping tossed three scoreless innings.

The next day brought a different kind of test. On Saturday, East Helena dropped a 12-10 decision to Havre despite another strong hitting performance. The Vigilantes jumped out early, building a 6-1 lead in the first, and later regained control with a 10-6 advantage. But they were unable to close it out.

Havre chipped away late, capitalizing on defensive miscues and timely hitting to erase the deficit and take the lead in the final innings. East Helena finished with 14 hits for the second straight game, with multiple players recording multi-hit performances, and Lamping struck out 11 over seven innings from the mound.

But the Vigilantes bounced back later that same day with a 9-6 win over Beaverhead County, showing resilience after the loss. East Helena fell behind early but answered throughout, taking control with a five-run fourth inning.

Lamping drove in three runs in the win, while Jerome earned the victory with a complete-game effort on the mound. That three-game stretch reflected what Smith and Quinn have seen in this group early on.

experience. That reality has meant a new approach.

“You reset,” said Quinn. “We don’t worry about who isn’t on the field. You pour into the girls that are here and willing to show up every day. That’s where your focus has to be.”

Fortunately, the blending of players from different schools seems to be a runaway success. All signs suggest the team’s already melding as the season kicks off.

“All of us are really close,” Tietje said. “There’s no drama. We all support each other.”

That chemistry will be crucial as the Vigilantes develop. East Helena’s mainly underclassmen lineup puts added emphasis on leadership from players like Jerome and Tietje.

“I don’t think one person can do it,” Jerome said. “It’s going to take all of us to get to where we want to go.”

While the team may look different than last year’s State qualifier, the expectations remain.

“Our goal is to get back there,” Smith said. “It might take some time, but we want to be playing our best softball by

the end of the season.”

The Vigilantes know they can score runs and compete with strong opponents. The next step is finding consistency as a younger group gains experience.

“Our model this year is commit, connect, compete,” Quinn said. “We want to commit to what we’re doing, connect as a team and then go out and compete every pitch and every play.”

Through the first weekend, the Vigilantes have already started to show what that can look like.

“We’re all really hyped up,” said Tietje.

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF CITY OF BOULDER'S PROPOSED WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASE AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 16, 2026, the City Council (the “Council”) of the City of Boulder, Montana (the “City”), adopted its Resolution No. 2026-03 of its Intention to Increase Rates and Charges for the Users of the Drinking Water System and Sewer System.

The City currently owns and operates a municipal drinking water and distribution system (the “Drinking Water System”) and a wastewater collection and treatment system (the “Sewer System”) and imposes a monthly rate charge on all connections to the Drinking Water System and Sewer System (the “Monthly Rate Charges”). The costs of the Drinking Water System and Sewer System covered by the Monthly Rate Charges are the amount necessary to pay the costs of operating and maintaining the Drinking Water System and Sewer System, to pay the principal of and interest on any outstanding or authorized debt of the Drinking Water System and Sewer System, and to establish and maintain any reserves and other debt service requirements.

The current total Monthly Rate Charge for the Drinking Water System for a service with a ¾ inch connection is \$34.16, with services utilizing larger connection lines being charged increased rates calculated using the multipliers in the chart below. The current total Monthly Rate Charge for the Sewer System for a service with a ¾ inch connection is \$47.84, with services utilizing larger connection lines being charged increased rates calculated using the multipliers in the chart below.

The reason for the proposed increase in rates is that the City will need to borrow approximately \$1,819,000 (payable over 25 years at an interest rate of 2.5% per annum) for the City’s portion of the construction costs of a drinking water improvement project, and the costs of operating the City’s Drinking Water System. The debt service coverage requirements for such loan repayment and reserves, as well as debt service coverage on existing water debt, will be approximately \$146,630 per year and the expenses for the Drinking Water System, including operation and maintenance are estimated at \$453,930.79 per year. The expenses for the Sewer System, including operation and maintenance are estimated at \$529,838.95 per year. These obligations require a monthly water base rate increase of \$18 per month per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU), a monthly water O&M rate increase of \$4.00 per month per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) and a monthly sewer O&M rate increase of \$8 per month per EDU.

The proposed new Monthly Rate Charge for the Drinking Water System is proposed to be as follows:

SERVICE SIZE	MULTIPLIER	BASE RATE	O&M RATE	TOTAL MONTHLY RATE
3/4 INCH	1.00	\$34.16	\$22.00	\$56.16
1 INCH	1.78	\$61.15	\$39.38	\$100.53
1-1/2 INCH	4.00	\$136.64	\$88.00	\$224.64
2 INCH	7.11	\$243.90	\$157.08	\$400.98
3 INCH	16.00	\$546.56	\$352.00	\$898.56
4 INCH	28.44	\$975.95	\$628.54	\$1,604.49
5 INCH	44.44	\$1,518.07	\$977.68	\$2,495.75
6 INCH	64.00	\$2,196.15	\$1,414.38	\$3,610.53
Outside Line				\$9.00

The proposed new Monthly Rate Charge for the Sewer System is proposed to be as follows:

SERVICE SIZE	MULTIPLIER	BASE RATE	O&M RATE	TOTAL MONTHLY RATE
3/4 INCH	1.00	\$47.84	\$8.00	\$55.84
1 INCH	1.78	\$85.63	\$14.32	\$99.95
1-1/2 INCH	4.00	\$191.36	\$32.00	\$223.36
2 INCH	7.11	\$341.58	\$57.12	\$398.70
3 INCH	16.00	\$765.44	\$128.00	\$893.44
4 INCH	28.44	\$1366.79	\$228.56	\$1,595.35
6 INCH	64.00	\$3,061.76	\$512.00	\$3573.76

On April 20, 2026, at 5:30 PM at the City Hall, located at 304 North Main Street, Boulder, Montana, the Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed water rate increase. Comments may be given orally at the hearing or submitted in writing to the address below before 3:00 PM on the date of the hearing.

Further information about the proposed rate increases may be obtained by contacting Rosemary Perna, City Clerk, P.O. Box 68, Boulder, Montana 59632, phone: (406) 225-3381.

Done by Order of the Council of the City of Boulder, Montana, this 16th day of March 2026.  
Rosemary Perna, City Clerk

Legal 26-039 Published in *The Monitor* April 1 & 15, 2026

MNAXLP

### JEFFERSON HIGH SCHEDULE

#### Thursday, April 2

Track & Field hosts Avery Stiles Memorial meet, Boulder

Tennis vs. Fort Benton @Great Falls

Softball @Lockwood

#### Tuesday, April 7

Golf JC @MCHS Invitational, Bozeman

Tennis JV @Broadwater

#### Thursday, April 9

Tennis @Missoula Loyola

#### Friday, April 10

Golf @Old Baldy Invite, Townsend

Tennis vs. Three Forks & Granite @Manhattan

#### Saturday, April 11

Track & Field @Hamilton invite

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MYRNA LOY

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

**BIRIBÁ UNION**  
THURSDAY, APRIL 16  
7:30 PM  
FRESH GLOBAL GROOVES

**MYRNA'S NIGHTOUT - 2026 -**  
FRIDAY, APRIL 24  
5:30 - 10 PM  
A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE THE MYRNA LOY!

**NY ICFF**  
NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL  
**Kid Flicks**  
APRIL 30  
5:30 PM  
7:15 PM  
Kid Flicks One Ages 5+  
Kid Flicks Two Ages 10+

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# OUTDOORS

## Our wildfires, ourselves

In most years, fire season is synonymous with summer. July and August often bring days, even weeks, when mountains in all directions are obscured by smoke. And though you can taste it and it dries out your throat, your main battle with the smog is a mental one. It's tough to exist with geographical benchmarks obscured. It messes with our sense of place.



Bret Lian

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) serves as an authoritative steward of historic fire data, and though the 2026 fire season seems to have started early and won't necessarily align with the season of sunshine, these records show that fire has long been a part of our county.

NIFC data, a conglomeration of different sources (and the data source for the accompanying map), is imperfect, and likely under-represents fire on our landscape. Yet if, for the sake

of this analysis, we treat it as mildly reliable, we see that some 112,000 acres of Jefferson County (more than 10%) have burned to some degree since 1980.

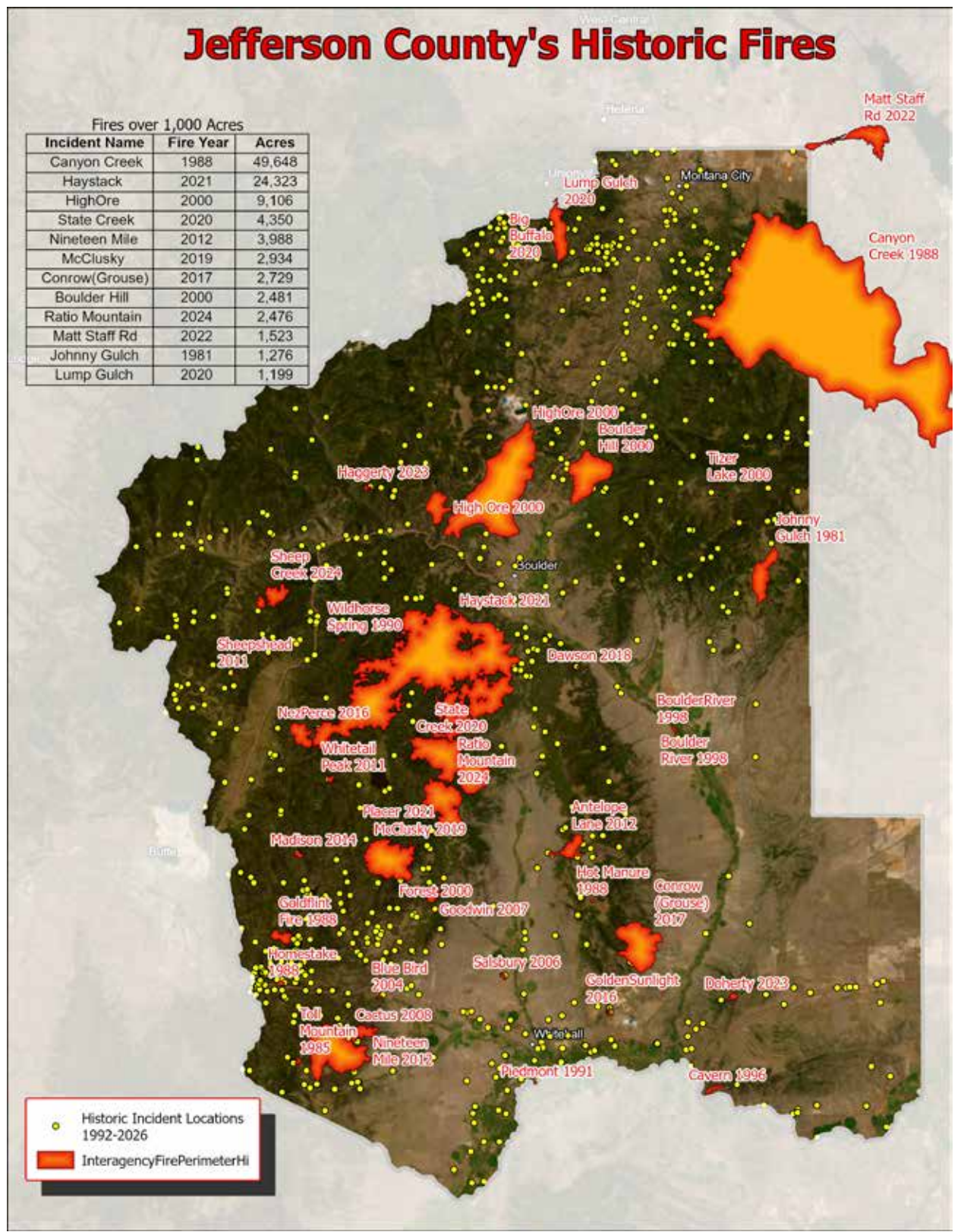
Fire perimeters are tricky insofar as not everything within a perimeter may burn, but statistics tend to assume so. The largest fire in that time period was the 1988 Canyon Creek Fire, also called the Elkhorns Burn, marking one of Montana's driest recent seasons. That same summer a large blaze burned much of Yellowstone park.

A respectable second place is the 2021 Haystack Fire, which many readers are likely to recall. Lasting from late July to early October, that wildfire burned more than 24,000 acres in the Boulder Mountains. Some 450 personnel descended on Boulder and a tent city sprung up on the fairgrounds. Driven by great winds, the conflagration at one point torched 10,000 acres in a single afternoon. Nearly five years later, one can still hike through the aftermath of ash and lodgepole bones, where a triangle of fuel, heat, and oxygen became an isosceles, and the gale took over – dang near to Boulder.

The first round of fire suppression is referred to as initial attack, and when we look at a fire's perimeters over time, we are really looking at the "ones that got away." Be it due to fuelscape, topography, or weather conditions, some fires are too dangerous or difficult to catch early. That said, depending on the source, more than 94% of Montana wildfires are extinguished in the initial attack, and Jefferson County is no different.

The yellow dots on the map represent fire starts brought to heel by federal and state agencies and local volunteer units, working together, before they grew large. Who responds to and takes over a fire is linked to its Fire Protection Area, or official administrative boundaries. But all wildland firefighters serve to protect life, property, and the environment, and they work together.

Jefferson County has seen more than 1,000 fires since 1992, dozens a year on average. More than two-



thirds of them are started by people – and even a larger percentage of those that harm people or property. These fire-starting mistakes are often the product of misguided judgement, and a philosophically-minded person might observe that we treat fire as an enemy, which may not be an impartial stance.

Perhaps because wildfires hungrily consume oxygen and grow – and if you squint your eyes you might mistake them for living things that devour other life – our default position to fire is as foe. Like many forms

of life, though, not all fire is created equal, nor is all fire all bad.

It's just a chemical reaction that heats and shines and reaches out for more, which I suppose mirrors a fair bit of souls out there.

*Bret Lian grew up in Clancy and lives in Jefferson City with his wife Lisa, their three children and a dog. The places and histories of Jefferson County and beyond have always provided him endless daydreaming material.*

**BOULDER HOT SPRINGS**  
**EASTER BUFFET**  
 Sunday, April 5, 2026  
 12:00 - 3:00 PM  
**Traditional Ham Buffet**  
 Prices: Adults \$45, Seniors \$43  
 Children (ages 5-12) \$22  
 \*Price includes use of pools and steam rooms  
 Reservations required call 406-225-4339 to make a reservation

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
 Saturday, April 4  
 12 pm  
 County fairgrounds  
 Preschool to 4th grade.  
 Lots of prizes and fun!  
 Hosted by the Boulder Kiwanis

**ATTENTION BASIN BROADCAST TV USERS**  
 Your local broadcast TV system is owned and maintained by your local TV District. This district is run by a volunteer board. This board for the last many years has been filled by one or two members that must spend time paying the bills and keeping the system operable.  
 Until now, this system has been fairly low maintenance and has not required much attention. One or two board members could usually handle it without too much effort.  
 Recently, though, the TV networks have changed how they deliver the TV signal to the rural sites, causing issues with the local equipment receiving and broadcasting the media to your television.  
 This change is going to require the board to communicate with the networks and facilitate changes to the system to regain the programming you have had in the past. That requires time and effort, and one person is not going to be able to effectively or efficiently get this done.  
 If you use and rely on this service, I would suggest you reach out to Judi (406-590-4170) or myself and find out how you can be of assistance. More folks on the board would help greatly, but even if you have some extra time to volunteer to help with this transition, it would be appreciated.  
 Without help, your local TV service may go away.  
 Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.  
 Cory Kirsch, County Commissioner  
 Call or text (406) 949-3346 • Email: ckirsch@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov

**Easter Celebrations**

**Basin Community Church of the Nazarene**  
 • Apr. 2: Crucifixion gratitude, 6 pm.  
 • Apr. 3: Good Friday service, 6 pm.  
 • Easter Sunday: Sunrise service, 6 am, south gate to Basin Cemetery; breakfast to follow. Sabbath Bible Study, 10 am. Easter Service, 11 am; fellowship dinner to follow. Easter evening service, 6 pm.

**Boulder Valley Baptist Church**  
 • Easter Sunday: 10 am service.

**Faith Lutheran Church, Boulder**  
 • Apr. 2: Maundy Thursday service, 6:45 pm.  
 • Apr. 3: Good Friday service, 6:45 pm.  
 • Easter Sunday: 7 am service.

**Friendship Baptist Church**  
 • Easter Sunday: 10 am service.

**Life Church, Boulder**  
 • Mar. 29: Palm Sunday service, 10 am  
 • Mar. 30: Passover Seder, 6 pm @ Catholic Community Center.  
 • Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service, Depot Hill, 7 am. Morning service, 10 am; kids' egg hunt to follow.

**South Hills Baptist Church**  
 • Apr. 2: Good Friday service, 6:30 pm.  
 • Easter Sunday: Son Rise Service and breakfast, 7 am. Easter Worship service, 10 am.

**United Methodist Church**  
 • Apr. 13: Palm Sunday service, 10 am in Clancy, followed by brunch and egg hunt.  
 • Apr. 17, Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae service: 5:30 pm in Clancy, 7 pm in Boulder.  
 • Easter Sunday: Sunrise service on the Lump Gulch Road hill, Clancy, 7 am. Celebration services in Clancy, 10 a.m., and Boulder, 11:30 am.

**Zion Lutheran Church, Whitehall**  
 • Apr. 2: Maundy Thursday service, 5:15 pm.  
 • Apr. 3: Good Friday service, 5:15 pm.  
 • Easter Sunday: 8:30 am service.

**THE MONITOR**  
*has a new online home!*  
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[jcmmonitor.com](http://jcmmonitor.com)

If you've been registered as a subscriber on our old site, just click on the "Log in" at the top left of the new home page. Then click on "Lost password" and type in the email address associated with your account. You'll get an email allowing you to set a new password and log in. Please contact alisa@boulder-monitor.com for help.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST TO VACATE A CITY ALLEY FOR THE CITY OF BOULDER**  
 The Boulder City Council will consider the abandonment of the alley South of Leslie Street, Between lots 21A and Lots 9-12 on Block 41. The legal description of the properties surrounding this alley are: 506 W Leslie Street, on the West side of the vacant alley with the legal description of S29, T06 N, R04 W, BLOCK 41, LOT 21A, ACRES 0.344, COS 292590 F1182-B; and 303 North Wickes Street, on the East side of the vacant alley, with the legal description of S29, T06N, R04 W, BLOCK 41, Lot 9-12, ACRES 0.356.  
 Kelly Abelmann is the owner of Lot 21 A, whose address is 506 W Leslie Street, and Curtis R Lander is the owner of Lots 9-12, whose address is 303 North Wickes Street. The alley has no existing public use and there are no existing utilities located in the 16-foot wide alley.  
 The public hearing will be held at City Hall, 304 N. Main Street, Boulder, Montana on April 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. Please contact the City Office at (406) 225-3381 with any questions or to obtain Zoom information if one wishes to attend virtually.  
 Written and verbal public comment will be accepted at the hearing or may be submitted via email to cityadministrator@cityofbouldermt.com

**Legal 26-038** Published in **The Monitor** April 1 & 15, 2026 MNAXLP