



P. 3: BOARD SEAT
TANGO AS BASIN SCHOOL
DEADLINE LOOMS



P. 9: PANTHER TENNIS
DOMINATES MEETS IN
MISSOULA, BELGRADE



P. 10: BOULDER
TRAINER AIMS FOR
MORE 'GOOD DOGS'

THE MONITOR

\$2.00

SERVING THE FUTURE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

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104 West Centennial • P. O. Box 66 • Boulder, Montana 59632

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

Fighting fire with fire



Firefighters close up their drip torches during a prescribed burn operation Apr. 9 in a 330-acre area off Grizzly Gulch Drive in the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, just west of South Hills. (Photo by Chiara Cipriano/U.S. Forest Service)

County moves to purchase health building

By PIPER HEATH
Reporter

Jefferson County is moving toward purchasing the Taylor Medical Building in Boulder, which houses the county health department and an InterMountain Health clinic, with a planned public hearing followed by a commission vote.

County Commissioner Cory Kirsch said the county completed three steps before moving toward a formal purchase: a title search, a building inspection and an appraisal. The title search came back clean on Dec. 11, finding no encumbrances on the property, while a building inspection found minor issues but nothing that would prevent the county from proceeding.

On March 20, the building was appraised at \$590,000. Elkhorn Mountain Health Services, the nonprofit that owns the building, is asking \$75,000 for the property, well below the appraised value.

Kirsch said the county plans to use federal COVID-era funds to cover the purchase and a planned expansion. The county received nearly \$900,000 in Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund money, federal dollars with few spending restrictions, and set it aside years ago to address the health department's space needs.

"We all decided that the health department needs help," Kirsch said, "so let's

Continued on Page 10

Book reading cancelled after parent pushback

By DAVID LEPESKA
Editor

A group of Clancy parents worried about a planned book reading last October relayed their fears and a disruption threat to school officials, leading to the event's cancellation.

Author Bess Kalb, a former writer for comedian Jimmy Kimmel's late night TV show, had agreed to read her bestselling book, "Buffalo Fluffalo," to a group of lower-grade students at the Clancy School, part of a tour organized by Helena-based Montana Book Company (MBC).

Other Montana stops included Broadwater Elementary. But the evening before Kalb's scheduled reading, Clancy School librarian Tona Iwen informed her that a group of parents had emailed Principal/Superintendent Daryl Mikesell sharing political jokes Kalb had previously written.

The parents warned that if she came to read her book they would show up and make a scene in front of the children until she left. This led to an online meeting between Kalb, her publicist, MBC co-owner Chelsea Rice, and Mikesell.

"He conveyed the concerns of the families and said it warranted concern because he thought they would disrupt the event," Rice told *The Monitor*, recalling Mikesell's comments and Kalb's response. "He said, 'I think we should cancel,' and she said, 'OK let's cancel it then.'"

Mikesell had a different recollection. "Once parents began contacting the school with concerns, we explored offering the event as an evening community opportunity," he said via email, adding that he hoped to minimize school-day disruptions. "This option did not align with the presenter's travel schedule, and

Continued on Page 5

Continued on Page 5

Are schools falling short on mental health?

By PIPER HEATH
Reporter

Jefferson County's lone youth council for mental health gathered for its second meeting Sunday, welcoming a new member before digging into what schools across the county are doing – and not doing – to support mental health.

A Clancy 8th grader joined the Youth Mental Health Local Advisory Council for the first time and was brought up to speed by coordinator Rochelle Hesford, Jefferson County Behavioral Health Coordinator. The council also includes three seventh graders: one from Boulder and two from Whitehall, though one Whitehall member was absent.

At one point, Hesford asked the group to think about mental health resources at their schools – and the responses were blunt. The Boulder member said her school addressed mental health only twice all year, once through what amounted to a presentation on puberty.

In addition, her school was down to a single counselor after previously having two, and officials rarely took any meaningful action. "Usually they get aware of the problem," she said, "but they don't really do anything to change the problem."

Another member went even further, saying that her school does nothing at all. In response, Hesford planned to help school staff map existing resources. She

encouraged members to speak with their school counselors before the next meeting.

"Part of this might be the school needing to have better communication with their intentions around mental health," said Hesford, who founded the council to bring youth voices into the county's mental health planning.

The meeting opened with a review of minutes from the first session last month, which identified loneliness, school stress, the stigma around mental health and the difficulty finding trusted adults to open up to as the most pressing issues. The group then watched a video highlighting

Continued on Page 6

A crime-free night – but don't call it 'quiet'

By ELIZA DUBOSE
Reporter

Sometimes being a Jefferson County Sheriff's Office deputy means wrestling a gun from a mother threatening suicide, de-escalating a bar fight, or delivering life-saving medical care.

But on the wintry evening *The Monitor* joined two deputies for ride-alongs, it meant patiently patrolling quiet back roads, making occasional traffic stops, and managing domestic tensions, including supervising a child custody exchange that one parent feared would turn contentious.

Deputy Taryn Braach parked her police SUV next to the front gate of the central Boulder home, got out, and watched as four young children, lugging their bags, began their regular transition from their mother's place to their father's.

Braach smiled and exchanged a few warm words before

climbing back into her vehicle and reflecting on the array of interactions she experiences every day on the job.

"Rural areas are all hands on deck," she said as we drove north up Interstate 15, away from Boulder. "I don't think there are two days I can even compare."

Indeed, rural deputies are expected to cover more ground (though fewer denizens) with fewer staff than their urban counterparts, and do more with less training, funding, and outside support, according to a 2022 peer-reviewed study of police.

While on duty, these officers are regularly pressed into service as a mental health counselors or medical first responders, search-and-rescue leads, victim advocates, enforcers of the law, or to use force to protect civilians.

And for nearly nine hours stretching from the evening of



Continued on Page 5

Continued on Page 5

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

Public Meetings

Jefferson County Tax Increment Financing Industrial District (TIFID) Advisory Board

Thursday, April 16, 9:30 a.m.

Join in person at Clerk & Recorder's Conference Room in Boulder or on Zoom: Phone 1-253-215-8782 or zoom.com/join. Meeting ID 671 828 8589

- Welcome and Introductions
- Public Comments
- Review minutes
- Budget review: Sunlight TIFID Finance and RMD Report
- Reports: JLDC; Sunlight TIFID; Barrick update
- Old business:
 - Update Regarding Selling the County Owned Warehouse Building in Sunlight Business Park - Commercial Market Analysis
 - Update on Sunlight Business Park Water and Wastewater Status
 - Update on Possible New Warehouse Building
 - Update on Sunlight Business Park Bylaws
 - Continue Discussion on Implementation of Revolving Loan Program for Sunlight Business Park
- New business: Discuss Sunlight TIFID Annual Work Plan for 2026-2027
- Other Items of Discussion
- Next Meeting - Proposing Thursday, July 16, 2026

JEFFERSON COUNTY SOLID WASTE BOARD

April 21, 10:00 am
Clerk & Recorder's Conference Room

To join remotely, phone: 1-646-558-8656. Computer: zoom.com/join. Meeting ID 671-828-8589

- Minutes, Manager's Report:** Incidents: No injuries.
Updates: Permits, staff, recycling update
Correspondence, Public Comment
Items for Board's action, review or consent
 Bids for Boulder; Basin site
Applications for adjustment and/or cancellation

COUNTY COMMISSION

Apr. 21, 2026 - Volunteer Hall, County Fairgrounds
zoom.com/join, Meeting ID 671-828-8589

- 9:30** Meeting with Tim Leahy, Forest Service: Update and request for letter of support for Haystack Mountain acquisition Claims approval
10:00 Solid Waste Board meeting
10:30 Meeting with various department heads: County Treasurer
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 Public Hearing - Notice of intent to sign contract for the purchase of the Boulder Health Clinic Building
Non-time-specific:
- Discuss and decide on signing a letter of support for a grant application for funding to create a Transportation Safety Action Plan for Jefferson County and the Communities within Jefferson County
 - Discuss and decide on a fee increase for Boulder TV District
- Website: <http://jeffersoncounty-mt.gov>

CLANCY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Wednesday, April 22 - 6:30 p.m. - 3 N. Main St.

- Reports:** Great West Engineering
Old Business: Water rights
Regular Business: Invoice approvals
New Business:
- Discuss & decide on permanent easement for production well property
 - Discuss & decide on amending the Great West contracts for construction, inspection and for Distribution/Storage design
 - Discuss & decide on reviewing bids and awarding public well drilling contract
- Announcements/Correspondence; Public comment; Next meeting**

CITY OF BOULDER PLANNING BOARD & ZONING COMMISSION

April 22, 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
New Business:
- Working Session to Review and Discuss Mobile Home Park Ordinance
 - Working Session to Review and Discuss Zoning Code Regarding Recreational Vehicles (RVs)
- Schedule Next Meeting** and possible discussion topics (tentatively May 4)
- The Mayor and City Council members may be in attendance.

OBITUARIES

Lynette Kay Fisher, 60, of Boulder

Lynette Kay Fisher, known affectionately by all as "Lynnee," passed away on April 2, 2026, at the age of 60. After a long and courageous battle with aggressive cancer, she found peace at 2:40 p.m. at the home of her niece, Tracy Salminen, in East Helena. Lynnee spent her final weeks in what she called her "happy place," surrounded by the deep love of her family.

Born on Sept. 9, 1965 in Billings to Bob and Wanda Hert, Lynnee's journey took her through Billings, Butte and Missoula before she finally found her home in Boulder. A proud graduate of Jefferson High School, she dedicated over 30 years of her life to the community, first at IGA (later L&P Grocery) and then at Hardware Hanks.

For Lynnee, work wasn't just a job; it was an opportunity to help people and spread her cheer. Whether you were a lifelong neighbor or a passing stranger, you were greeted with a beaming smile and a warm "Hi, Honey." Lynnee will be remembered most for her infectious smile and a laugh that could light up any room.

Lynnee was a true believer in the power of a good time. She was an avid bowler, a pastime that took her to many bowling tournaments in Reno. She loved playing cards and trivia games. Her family will fondly remember and laugh about for years to come the colorful language she used whenever a card game wasn't going her way.

She found beauty in the

simple joys of Montana: long mountain drives, exploring ghost towns, soaking in hot springs, riding on the back of a Harley, shooting guns, camping and spending the day on the lake. The Philipsburg candy store, and Virginia City were always highlights of her adventures. One of her favorite sayings, borrowed from the 1973 animated Robin Hood, was: "Put your hand on your heart and cross your eyes."

Lynn married Jim Fisher on May 9, 2012. They spent nearly ten wonderful years together, building a life centered on fun and adventures, before his passing in November, 2021. While she took pride in her work and her hobbies, Lynnee's greatest achievements were her children and grandchildren. She cherished every moment spent with her grandkids, whether they were playing Wii bowling, playing board games or card games, or settling in to watch movies together. She spent her final year dedicated to making lasting memories, seizing every possible chance to be with them. During this time, she also focused on building deep relationships with her daughter-in-law, Gabby, and her son-in-law, Seth. She was the steady heart of a large, vibrant family.

Lynn is survived by: her son Larry Mann (fiancé Gabrielle Mozer) and daughter Nicole Mann; grandchildren Landon and Harper Mann; her sisters Brenda Kremer and Gail Paige, and sister-in-law Kelly Hert; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins whom she loved



dearly.

Lynnee is now reunited with those who preceded her in death: her husband, James Fisher; her parents, Bob and Wanda; her brother, Robert Hert; and her sisters, Jo Anne Cordell and Ann Ledbetter.

Please join us to share your favorite "Lynnee stories" and celebrate a woman who made the world significantly brighter. A true friend to all. The Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Volunteer Hall at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds (Whitetail Road, Boulder). This will be a potluck; please bring your favorite dish and your best memories.

Cremation arrangements were handled by Simple Cremation in Helena. Flowers and condolences may be sent to her children: Larry Mann, 1029 12th Ave, Helena, MT 59601; and Nicole Mann, 1145 Tyro Court, Missoula, MT 59804.

Jefferson High School District 1: Trustees Meeting

April 21, 5:30 pm ~ Jefferson High School (former) Library

- Announcements & public comment; Consent agenda (Approval of minutes and claims & accounts); Student report; Staff report; Committee reports: Facility report**
Administration reports: Clerk/Business manager — Transportation report, Causey Financial; Principal/A.D. — Winter sports wrap-up; Superintendent
Unfinished business
New business:
- Personnel - Closed sessions are always possible for personnel issues: Substitutes; Resignations; Volunteers; Staff employment recommendations
 - Attendance Agreements
 - Contract Renewals: Certified; Classified; Administration
 - Contract Non-renewals
 - Heard Scholarship update
- Communication & Comments:** Letters to the Board
Commendations and Recognition
Next meeting: May 19, 5:30 pm

JEFFERSON COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

Thursday, April 23, 2026 6:30 pm
Whitehall Library

Zoom: 818 1084 6273, Passcode 4078511

- Call to order/attendance; Agenda; Public comment
 - Approval of minutes; Correspondence
 - Library reports: Housekeeping; Upcoming Events/Seminars/Programs; Friends of the Library.
 - Continued budget preparation
 - Introduction to Strategic Planning
 - MLA report
 - Calendar: Holidays, vacations
 - Financials/budgeting: Authorization to pay bills; Unexpected expenditures, possible transfer of funds
 - Public comment & unscheduled matters
 - Next meeting agenda items
 - Board/librarian certification training
- Next regular meeting: May 21, Boulder

A FRIENDLY TAX REMINDER

SECOND-HALF 2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES & FIRST-HALF MOBILE HOME TAXES ARE DUE JUNE 1.

Payments made in person must be made in the Treasurer's Office on or before 5:00 p.m. on June 1, 2026 for any taxes due to avoid penalty and interest.

Payments made by mail must be postmarked by the due date listed above to avoid return for penalty and interest.

To review your bill or make a payment on-line log on to www.jeffersoncounty-mt.gov/treasurer. Additional fees may apply for processing credit card payments. Paid receipts will be mailed only if a self-addressed stamped envelope is included.

THANK YOU!

Terri Kunz
 Jefferson County Treasurer
 201 W. Centennial, Boulder, MT
 59632 • 406-225-4100

WHO TO CONTACT IN GOVERNMENT

All listings are accurate as of time of publication

FEDERAL

U.S. Senator

Steve Daines
 (202) 224-2651; (406) 443-3189

Tim Sheehy

(202) 224-2644; (406) 441-1069

U.S. Representative

Troy Downing
 (202) 225-3211; (406) 502-1435

Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest

Supervisor's Office: (406) 449-5201

Beaverhead-Deer Lodge National Forest

Supervisor's Office: (406) 683-3900

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Western Montana District Office
 (406) 533-7600

STATE

State Senator

Becky Beard, SD-38
 becky.beard@legmt.gov
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State Representative

Mark Reinschmidt, HD-75
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JEFFERSON COUNTY

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 (406) 225-4020

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 (406) 225-4100

Sheriff

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 (406) 225-4075

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Patricia Lewis
 radon.gal@gmail.com

Bear Taylor
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City administrator

Brian Bullock
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 (406) 225-3381

COUNTY

Board seat do-si-do as school deadline looms

By DAVID LEPEKA
Editor

Basin resident Koti Tinker last week submitted her name to replace departing Basin school board chair Shannon Phillips, only to withdraw from consideration this week. Fortunately, hours later another Basin resident, Nicki Hale, stepped up to fill the void.

Tinker submitted a letter of intent to the board at its Apr. 7 meeting, which ran so long – ending after 9 p.m. following a 6:30 p.m. start – that the board decided to finish its planned agenda at a follow-up meeting on Apr. 16.

The board had planned to vote on Tinker's candidacy this Thursday, but momentarily faced a potential trustee shortage starting next month after

she withdrew early Monday. That evening, Hale, who lives in Basin and has an 18-year-old daughter who attended the school, informed the board of her interest.

She submitted her letter of intent Tuesday morning, putting Thursday's vote back on track.

"When our daughter was younger, I was on the board, so I know how it goes," said Hale, who previously served on the board from around 2011 to 2015. "I figured I should probably be a part of the community and help out."

Phillips and fellow trustee Terry Heaton plan to step down from the board at its May 12 meeting. Heaton will be replaced by Basin resident DeDe Rhodes, who is expected to be sworn in next month. Board member Scott Brock pointed out that Hale, if

approved, would not replace Phillips as board chair, only as one of the trustees. The board would later vote on its new chair.

If she were to be voted into Phillips' board seat, Hale expected to focus on the students. Assuming the school found a way to reopen, her priority, she said, would be "just making sure the children are getting their education and have a good teacher."

This all comes as the shuttered school nears a crucial deadline. Basin Elementary, which is more than 130 years old and entered non-operational status last June, must submit its re-opening application to OPI by June 1 in order to re-open this fall.

In early March, the board submitted its preliminary reopening documents – including two student applicants – to the state's



Office of Public Instruction for review, but had yet to receive any input as of Monday.

"We're waiting on OPI right now and we're running out of time," said Brock. "The reviewing should already be done. We can't make any strides forward until we know" whether our submission is ready.

AROUND THE COUNTY

City looks to annex YBGR parcel

The Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch has asked the City of Boulder to annex the footprint of its new \$1.8 million group home, currently under construction just outside the city limits, to enable its connection to the municipal water and sewer system.

Boulder's Planning Board reviewed the request and has recommended that the City Council, at its Apr. 20 meeting, approve the annexation. YBGR expects the building to be completed by the end of 2026.

Upgrades shutter Delmoe Lake area

The Delmoe Lake campground and picnic area, a popular U.S. Forest Service recreation site in the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest, is closed for improvements through Oct. 31.

The Forest Service plans to improve accessibility at the campground by regrading terrain that could be a challenge for less mobile campers, said Vaia Errett, vice chair of the Jefferson County Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee. USFS also expects to create pull-through drives for some sites and install new toilets and fire rings.

Trails around the campground will remain open during construction. The \$1 million project is funded by the federal Great American Outdoors Act, Errett said.

Boulder TV board eyes big fee increase

By DAVID LEPEKA
Editor

The Boulder TV board plans to sharply increase its annual rate from \$8 to \$30 in response to rising costs.

In a normal year, Boulder TV's expenses come to around \$10,000, according to board president Rick Haasakker. Yet user fee payments only deliver around \$4,400 in annual revenues, creating a sizable shortfall

even before recent added costs.

The board expects a near-quadrupling of its rate to cover the gap. "It's a pretty good jump, from 75 cents a month to \$2.50," said Haasakker. "Still, for the price of a cup of coffee per month, you're getting 19 channels."

Boulder TV's 2025 budget, shared with *The Monitor*, details more than \$40,000 in expenses, including nearly \$31,000 for a new signal translator to replace an aging translator from

a company called Larcen. That purchase was not a one-off; Haasakker expects to replace three more translators in the coming years.

"The Larcen equipment is still working, but it's old," he said. "We're getting toward its life expectancy. Hopefully it'll give us a few more years and then we'll have to buy new translators, as many as three over several years...probably one at a time."

In addition, new equipment

needed to switch Boulder's channel 4s and channel 6s from UHF to VHF and connect to substations in Bozeman and Missoula, respectively, cost several thousand dollars the last two years. Those switches also added a \$350 monthly charge for internet circuits.

The Jefferson County Commission is expected to vote on the proposed rate increase at its Apr. 21 meeting at Boulder's Volunteer Hall.

Boulder Kiwanis join the food truck trend

By ELIZA DUBOSE
Reporter

The Boulder Kiwanis Club has found a delicious and highly mobile way to raise funds: selling burgers, brats, and hot dogs from a food truck.

The idea came to Gary Craft, who has held various positions in Boulder Kiwanis over the past 20-plus years, when he came across Boulder resident Erica Yakowich's trailer some years ago.

"I thought something like that would be really good for the Kiwanis Club," he said, adding that he discussed it with a few fellow members. "We were like, 'Yeah, we'll keep our eyes open.' But it had to be pretty inexpensive for us to do it."

Finally, when he saw the for-sale sign go up on the trailer in March, Craft reached out to Yakowich and her husband and the two sides were able to agree on a reasonable price.

He views the trailer/food truck as a potential game-changer. In the past, Kiwanis has often run a concession stand at events like skijoring, using grills that require six volunteers.

In a food truck test run last month, Craft discovered that the new operation requires only three volunteers, cutting the number of workers in half. "Now we can do it in shifts, so three people don't work all day," he said.

Boulder Kiwanis, part of a global organization that works to serve children and strengthen communities, plans to put any funds raised by the new food truck toward building a \$21,000 playground in Boulder's East Side Park.

The food truck will make its debut when Kiwanis provides concessions at Jefferson High's newly minted track during meets on April 24 and May 15. Interested volunteers should contact (406) 225-3976.

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
AA meeting every
Thursday at 6pm
in the basement
of the Senior Center,
200 South Main Street
in Boulder.

CROSSWORD: Top athletes

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Capital of Tibet
6. Templeton of "Charlotte's Web"
9. Maisie Williams on "Game of Thrones"
13. Poisonous plant
14. UN labor grp.
15. George Orwell to Eric Arthur Blair
16. Movie genre
17. Shark part
18. Ax mark
19. *First Native American to win Olympic Gold
21. *The Great One of hockey
23. Be indisposed
24. Disfigure
25. Du Bois' initials
28. Hoodwink
30. Baking soda
35. Bypass
37. "Breaking Bad" product
39. Spelunker
40. Orchestra member
41. Charles Dickens' "___ House"
43. Family room staple
44. Like United States Capitol
46. "Cogito ___ sum"
47. Tongue-___
48. Stockholm dwellers
50. *Tiger Woods has won this

award the most times

52. On the wagon
53. Silage
55. Almond-induced state?
57. *Jordan or Phelps
61. *Female player with most Open Era Grand Slams
64. Infant's woe
65. Seafood selection
67. Practical
69. Stopped sleeping
70. Pigeon sound
71. *Most decorated gymnast
72. Red, or excessively bu-reaucratic, one
73. End of a fuse?
74. Balance sheet entry

DOWN

1. Drug in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas"
2. John Mellencamp's "___ So Good"
3. Nanny in East Asia
4. Polynesian island country
5. Tick or mite
6. Abundant
7. *Boxer a.k.a. The People's Champion
8. Kingdom in South Pacific
9. Loads (2 words)
10. Nabisco cracker
11. Noisy talk
12. Like Zombie's skin color
15. Low on hemoglobin

20. Perfectly vertical
 22. Adam's body part
 24. Measured, like electricity on utility bill
 25. *Tied for most PGA Tour wins
 26. Curve like a bow
 27. Biotic community
 29. *O Rei of soccer
 31. Throw a line
 32. Steer clear of
 33. Send to a specialist, e.g.
 34. *NFL's 7-time Super Bowl champion
 36. Got ready to drive
 38. Old witches, usually
 42. Small steep-sided hill, in Africa
 45. Vandalize
 49. Johnny Nash's "I Can ___ See Clearly Now"
 51. West African people
 54. Choose by vote
 56. Abominable snowmen
 57. Med. sch. requirement
 58. *Hall of Famer Bob Feller's home state
 59. Hoofbeat sound
 60. Nature walk
 61. Narrow aperture
 62. Zilches
 63. Away from wind
 66. Many, many moons
 68. Approx.
- For crossword puzzle solution, see page 5

CROSSWORD

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13					14			15					
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COMMUNITY

County unveils new emergency notification system

While there is still (a little) snow left in the high country, the wildfire season is well underway in Jefferson County. We can't predict exactly what our season will look like, but there are steps we can and should take to be prepared for whatever may come. The most important part of that preparation includes knowing how to get emergency information.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY



Doug Dodge

The County's Mass Notification System, the Sheriff's Office Facebook Page, and the County Low-Power FM Radio Network are the three pillars of emergency notification in Jefferson County, and the first of those has transitioned to a new platform.

Jefferson County's new Mass Notification System, Everbridge, provides important tools for the public to stay informed about incidents and emergencies, but citizens must sign up for a free account to take full advantage of those capabilities. To do so, visit the County's webpage at <https://jeffersoncounty-mt.gov/>, scroll down, and click on the blue button that says "Sign up for Emergency Notifications Here." That link takes users to the Jefferson County member portal where they can create an account and sign up for the notifications they would like to receive.

Creating an account allows users to receive the most detailed information available, using the delivery methods that work best for them, covering the topics



During major incidents, dispatch centers get inundated with calls from the public looking for information. That directly impacts critical communication capacity between dispatch and those responding to a scene, creating serious safety concerns. Please never call 911 to get information unless you have an emergency. Instead, sign up today for the Mass Notification System so you can get the information you need when you need it.

in which they are interested. Those who signed up for Jefferson County's previous system have been transferred to the new platform, but we still recommend creating an account. Doing so will enable users to customize the notifications they receive and the methods by which they receive them.

A simpler text messaging option is also available for those who don't want to create an account. To register for that service, users can text the word

51MTALERT to 888777 to sign up for incident notifications. These notifications include topics such as vehicle crashes or blockages impacting highways, prescribed burn information, major law enforcement activity, as well as major incidents that occur in Jefferson County. Users can always opt-out by texting STOP to the same number, 888777.

The biggest difference between the two options is that those who sign up for 51MTALERT will receive all

incident notifications, not just those they select when they sign up for an account. Another important difference is that those with accounts can receive more detailed information that can be specific to their location, while the 51MTALERT option has message length restrictions that can limit how much information we can provide and is sent to all subscribers regardless of where they live.

Signing up doesn't just provide safety to the public, it also helps keep our first responders safe. During major incidents, dispatch centers get inundated with calls from the public looking for information. That directly impacts critical communication capacity between dispatch and those responding to a scene, creating serious safety concerns. Please never call 911 to get information unless you have an emergency. Instead, sign up today for the Mass Notification System so you can get the information you need when you need it.

Finally, anyone living outside Jefferson County can sign up as well, but the notifications they receive are limited to those that impact our County. Each county in Montana has its own notification platform, so those outside of Jefferson County are strongly encouraged to find out how to sign up with their local jurisdiction. Those who need help signing up can call Jefferson County's Office of Emergency Management at (406) 225-4035. The best time to request assistance is before an incident occurs, however, as during major events response duties will delay the ability to help.

Dodge is the county's direct of emergency management. Contact him at ddodge@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov

Elkhorn Working Group seeks new members

The Elkhorn Working Group (EWG), an officially-sanctioned citizen advisory committee dedicated to the management of the Elkhorn Wildlife Management Area south of Helena, is seeking new members from surrounding communities.

The organization, established in 2002, was originally started to advise the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks, the USDA Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to develop collaborative management strategies. Over time, the EWG's role has expanded to address issues such as the reintroduction of westslope cutthroat trout, non-native plant incur-

sions, road management and resource impacts in the Elkhorn Mountains.

EWG members consist of ranchers, recreationists, educators, local government officials and other users of the Elkhorns. New members are needed to replace retiring members and to ensure representation from the communities and interests with stakes in the Elkhorns.

Candidates from agricultural and recreation interests from the east (Townsend, Winston,) south (Whitehall) and west (Boulder) sides of the mountain range are particularly encouraged to apply. Prospective members should

have interest and/or working experience in a collaborative setting, addressing livestock, outdoor recreation or other Elkhorns uses. Members are volunteers who meet every other month at different locations in the area, review potential and ongoing projects and provide community links.

Those interested in membership should contact EWG Chair Joe Cohenour at elkhornworkinggroup@gmail.com to receive a copy of the organizational charter and an application form. Recruitment for new members will continue through June.

— Mike Korn



A meeting of the Elkhorn Working Group

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Partnership gives teens free year of hunting app

Montana's Office of Public Instruction and onX Maps, a Missoula-based firm that makes GPS applications for hunting, hiking, and off-roading, have partnered to encourage teens to explore the outdoors and embrace healthy lifestyles.

Under the deal, Montanans aged 12-17 who complete a certified hunter safety course are eligible for a free one-year subscription to onX's premium hunting app. OnX

maps provide land ownership information, highlighting borders between public lands and private property.

The partnership seeks to promote hunter education, including firearm safety, responsible outdoor practices, and conservation principles, and the value of private property, block management, and public land access. Students and parents can learn more at OPI's Hunter Education Incentive Partnership page.

Celebrating Dean Grenz

My husband Mike and I recently went up to the spot where Dean ran up the mountain in one minute. Though we tried replicating his run, we were gassed and sore, while Dean finished not even breathing hard. As Dean's memorial started, thunder rolled, and rain and wind washed the building, a fitting tribute to a man who lived with such energy.

Dean was my mentor when I started as his aide at Boulder Elementary. He was magical, filling his classroom with fast-paced fun, immersion in

the outdoors, and dirt. He knew every kid's story, even bringing crates of activities on bus trips to ensure all of the kids were engaged. He taught them how to sprout seeds and, more importantly, how to embrace life, with a child-like sense of wonder.

He was a mentor in all things. Once, as he was dropping off chickens for me, a coyote appeared. I went to get my gun, but Dean simply ran at the fence and yelled, "Run, coyote, run!" That was Dean, fearless and kind. Since Dean loved to submit letters to the editor, I am honoring him in this way. May there always be men like you in the world. Thanks for showing

me the ropes and making the world a better place.

Rochelle Hesford
Boulder

From the Grenz family to Boulder

A special thank you to the many many individuals who have shown their love and support for Dean Grenz and his family. Your cards and best wishes have meant so much to me and our family. We love our Boulder family. Thank You!

Connie Grenz
Boulder

THE MONITOR

SERVING THE FUTURE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

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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

Parents' pushback spurred cancellation of book reading

Continued from Page 1

the event was ultimately canceled.

However it happened, this marked MBC's first-ever cancellation of a book event, over eight years and hundreds of author events across Montana, though only a handful of school events. "We've had people try to disrupt our story hours, but we've never cancelled," said Rice, whose priority is safety. "I've made sure everybody was safe and we continued."

Rice never learned the source of the parents' concerns, but Mikesell assured *The Monitor* that it had nothing to do with "Buffalo Fluffalo." "Parents were concerned about social media posts the author had published in the past and not with the book being read," he said.

A few weeks before Kalb's Clancy visit, Kimmel had been briefly suspended by ABC-affiliated stations after making a remark suggesting the killer of right-wing activist Charlie Kirk had been a President Donald Trump supporter.

Thus, the parents' pushback may have been politically linked. "It was vaguely con-

veyed to me that it was about a tweet she had posted several years before," said Rice, referring to Kalb. "My guess is she made a very pointed comment in her style about the latest issue."

Kalb summed up her view during a late February Congressional hearing, as previously reported by the *Daily Montanan*: "A group of parents who had previously caused a stir at a school board meeting where they successfully campaigned to ban certain books from the library, decided to ban me."

In March 2024, a group of parents urged the Clancy school board to ban several books in the school library that addressed gender identity, arguing that they endangered children's development. The list included "Jack, not Jackie," a picture book by Erica Silverman, which details a young child's navigation of gender identity for pre-K to primary school-aged readers.

In the end, the board decided against banning the books. "Ultimately, the decision was to not remove/ban any books from the library," said Mikesell. "Instead, we developed a process where parents identify what books their child is able to



At a Clancy Elementary School board meeting in March, 2024, a group of parents criticized books in the school's library that focused on themes related to gender identity as ideologically slanted, and dangerous to the development of young children. (Conor Reilley/The Monitor)

view and check-out."

A New York Times' #1 bestseller, "Buffalo Fluffalo" is about a young buffalo who acts tough to gain acceptance, only to discover that he can be loved for being himself. Kalb told Congress that the best part of her job is reading her books to children and seeing them react and deliver uncensored feedback, like whether she could

beat a buffalo in a race.

The Clancy students had never previously had an author visit, according to Kalb, and had been reading the book with their teacher, making buffalo art projects and preparing questions. On her Substack page, Kalb, the mother of two young boys, said the Clancy cancellation "definitely casts a very nonpartisan book in a potentially polarizing light."

Now, the 25 free copies of "Buffalo Fluffalo" the Clancy School would have received at the reading, thanks to a generous Helena-area donor, still sit in a box at the MBC office.

"We shouldn't be censoring books," said Rice, "especially books about overcoming anger and making connections with people, or buffaloes, you otherwise feel a little irritation with."

A largely crime-free night – just don't call it 'quiet'

Continued from Page 1

Thursday, April 2, into early Friday, April 3, *The Monitor* joined the solo patrol shifts of deputies Braach and Chad Bullis. But this Jefferson County night remained stubbornly uneventful.

Instead of witnessing breathtaking acts of courage, the officers and I mostly cruised around on patrol while engaging in meandering conversations, mostly about their law enforcement experiences. Twice during the ride-along I commented about how it had been a "quiet" night, and both times was hurriedly warned that such comments had the power to summon a torrent of criminality.

I arrived at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department around 6 p.m., and four hours into her shift, Braach seemed warm and welcoming. After signing the required paperwork, we clambered into her squad car and headed off into the evening.

The custody exchange supervision was followed by a visit to the County Treasurer's office in response to a burglar alarm. Having confirmed it was merely faulty, Braach began her usual patrol route and explained her career path.

She had always wanted to be of service and initially studied nursing – until the pandemic disrupted that plan. Braach found a post in the Helena police dispatcher's office before shifting to Jefferson County in 2021. That failed to scratch her itch to help others.

"I wanted to be more hands-on with helping people," said Braach. "You can feel so helpless on the phone."

She became a reserve deputy



The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office headquarters in Boulder. (Eliza DuBose/The Monitor)

in 2022 and served for three years before graduating from the academy last July to become a sworn deputy. Today she knows all too well that running around with guns drawn and wrestling bad actors to the ground is "not how we spend the majority of our time," she said. "Because of TV shows, [people] think only about enforcement."

The reality, said Braach, is that good policing requires "being personable and able to talk to people." Deputies need to be good at defusing tensions while staying friendly, since they could run into folks they've arrested at the local restaurant or grocery store.

At the same time, officers covering a relatively low-population area like Jefferson County experience an average of nearly 180 traumatic events over their careers, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Law En-

forcement Bulletin. The average citizen, in contrast, will experience maybe three in their lifetime.

Learning to work through trauma – while continuing to go to the office every day – is one of the most difficult parts of the job. "Even the toughest guy out there will have different calls affect him in different ways," Braach said.

Both deputies said they often felt on high alert, even off duty. The trick, for Braach, is not to let her trauma define her interactions, but to only react to what is happening in the moment. "We have to be completely neutral," she said.

Even on slow days, a deputy makes a thousand decisions, all of them with real-world consequences. On this night, it was more about dollars and cents than life and death: whether to ticket an out-of-stater whose temporary license plate fell short of

Montana regulations, or pull over a driver who barely paused at a stop sign outside Montana City.

Sometimes the responsibilities and the power can have far greater implications. Around 10 p.m., Braach and I rolled back into Boulder to visit headquarters, where she handed me over to Deputy Bullis, who would take my ride-along journey Friday.

Bullis, who has been on the force since 2020 and a sworn-in deputy since 2023, showed me in real time how an officer makes choices about how to handle a call. Around 12:30 a.m., while cruising the hills near Clancy, the computer screen between us beeped with a message from dispatch.

A Jefferson County resident had called expressing concern about her fiancé and child, who had left after an argument. Recognizing the address from a previous call, Bullis contacted

dispatch for further details before phoning the mother. She'd been unable to reach her fiancée since they'd argued over text that evening, though he had messaged to say he'd be at his mother's.

Bullis asked detailed, narrowly focused questions to determine whether a crime had occurred (it did not seem to be the case, though her distress was evident). That call lasted ten minutes before Bullis rang up the fiancée and father, who said fighting could be psychologically dangerous for his young daughter.

The father said this was why he decided to leave without discussing with his partner. Bullis again asked detailed, focused questions, this time focused almost entirely on the child's safety. Finally, he called the mother back to assure that her family was safe, closing with a suggestion that was somehow both gentle and firm: "Try again tomorrow."

In the moment, Bullis's advice seemed to refer to more than contacting her fiancé – suggesting tomorrow could offer a restart, the hope that maybe things could be better.

After writing his report on the incident, Bullis pulled back onto the road and resumed his patrol. Nearly every incident of an on-duty officer seems to offer such an intimate glimpse into the life of a stranger, or near-stranger. Then it's on to the next thing.

Police officers constantly face the worst and perhaps the most touching moments in people's lives. Earlier in the night, I'd asked Braach if the job had altered her view of humanity. "Every day," she said.

JEFFERSON COUNTY WEATHER FORECAST

	WEDNESDAY Apr. 15	THURSDAY 16	FRIDAY 17	SATURDAY 18	SUNDAY 19	MONDAY 20
BOULDER	SNOW & RAIN HIGH 55° LOW 37°	SOME SNOW HIGH 37° LOW 27°	SNOW LIKELY HIGH 42° LOW 22°	MOSTLY SUNNY HIGH 54° LOW 24°	MOSTLY SUNNY HIGH 63° LOW 31°	PARTLY SUNNY HIGH 66° LOW 38°
CLANCY/MT CITY	SNOW & RAIN HIGH 56° LOW 36°	SOME SNOW HIGH 36° LOW 26°	SNOW SHOWERS HIGH 42° LOW 21°	MOSTLY SUNNY HIGH 53° LOW 23°	MOSTLY SUNNY HIGH 62° LOW 29°	PARTLY SUNNY HIGH 65° LOW 37°
WHITEHALL	MOSTLY CLOUDY HIGH 60° LOW 39°	SNOW LIKELY HIGH 40° LOW 30°	SNOW SHOWERS HIGH 47° LOW 21°	MOSTLY SUNNY HIGH 57° LOW 24°	MOSTLY SUNNY HIGH 66° LOW 32°	PARTLY SUNNY HIGH 69° LOW 38°

DATA: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

HEALTH

County moves to purchase medical building

Continued from Page 1

set this money aside and earmark it for the health department and the office space issue.”

The health department has leased roughly 1,000 square feet in the building from EMHS for nearly 20 years. Jefferson County Public Health Supervisor Pam Hanna works out of a former storage closet alongside several staff members, and the county sanitarian is housed in the courthouse basement because there is no room in the Taylor building.

Rochelle Hesford, the county’s Behavioral Health Coordinator, does not have a dedicated office and works out of whatever space is available on a given day. Hanna said the need for more space predates her tenure. The supervisor who hired her was working on a building expansion roughly 15 years ago, before the pandemic made the problem impossible to ignore.

“It was obvious that we were overcrowded and needed space, and needed private space so that we could do the work that we needed to do,” Hanna said.

Despite the tight quarters, Hanna said the health department values its location. Being next to InterMountain’s clinic allows for easy referrals and close collaboration with medical providers.

“The healthcare providers can send people to us for vaccinations,” she said. “We just have a really good working relationship with them.”

If the purchase goes through, the county plans to expand the building. Kirsch said the expansion would likely include private offices for health department staff and the sanitarian, mental health appointment space, a



The Taylor Medical Building in Boulder houses the county’s Public Health Department and an InterMountain Health clinic.

conference room and potentially a dental exam room.

A local dentist reached out to the county about the possibility of using dedicated space in an expanded building. Hanna said she is also hoping to bring environmental health into the building, which had not been part of earlier expansion plans.

The county currently contracts its registered sanitarian services through a non-local contractor, and staff have taken on additional administrative duties to cover local needs in the meantime.

Hanna also said the expansion would create a new front entrance off Main Street, and she hopes to expand the waiting room and add storage space to replace outdoor sheds that would be removed during construction. She is currently assessing the department’s office needs, not-

ing that design work could start fresh after the purchase.

The county shelved a similar expansion plan in 2021, when it estimated the project would cost between \$400,000 and \$500,000, because it did not own the building. Kirsch said that estimate is no longer current and the county would need new bids.

The commission also considered relocating the health department to Cottage Five at the former Montana Developmental Center in 2023, but Kirsch said cost ruled it out. Even with grant funding, the county estimated it would still need roughly \$2 million for renovations.

Kirsch said Cottage Five remains a long-term possibility, but the Taylor Building offers a faster solution. “We need something now for the health

department,” he said. “Cottage Five, even if everything came together right now, it’s going to take years to reconstruct that thing.”

Kirsch said the commissioners were excited about the purchase and that the health department would likely be able to continue operating during any construction.

InterMountain Health, which leases space in the building to operate its Boulder clinic, has been notified of the potential sale. Christina Binkowski, secretary/treasurer of EMHS, said the lease began May 1, 2023 and runs for five years, expiring in 2028.

She said EMHS is not required to obtain InterMountain’s permission for a sale and that ownership would transfer to the county under the existing

lease terms. Binkowski said any future owner would be required through a deed stipulation to continue operating the building as a healthcare facility.

Kirsch said keeping a health provider in the building is a priority regardless of what InterMountain decides when its lease expires.

“If InterMountain decides they don’t want to be there in the future for any reason, we would look forward to finding somebody else to fill that gap,” Kirsch said. “I think it’s very important that we have that healthcare provider in the community.”

The County Commission will hold a hearing on the building sale at 1:45 p.m. during its April 21 meeting at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, with a vote expected at its May 5 meeting.

Youth mental health group explores school support

Continued from Page 1

the range of mental health careers, from counselors and therapists to social workers and psychiatrists.

The students were surprised by the breadth of options. “I don’t think I considered how much there would be,” said the Boulder 7th grader.

The group discussed the Science of Hope, a framework developed by researcher Chan Hellman asserting that hope consists of three elements: goals, pathways to those goals and the will to pursue them.

Hesford tied the topic to Jefferson County data in the 2023

Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey: more than 38% of county high schoolers reported feeling hopeless for two weeks or more in the past year. “This is really concerning for those of us working with youth, those of us working in public health, those of us working in the school systems,” she said.

The students engaged with the material in detail, pushing past its surface meaning.

“I think it shows more of – you see a better future instead of thinking there’s a better future,” the Boulder member said. “Because if you see a better future, you’d be able to look at pathways better. I think people who lack

hope might still believe they have a better future, but not see it.”

When Hesford asked how the council might apply the framework to help other young people, the group steered away from simple reassurances.

“I think instead of trying to make people just say, ‘you’re gonna have a better future ahead of you,’ I think we could try to help them imagine one instead,” the Boulder member added.

“Because just straight out saying that – I don’t think that’s going to really help too much. But if you help them imagine it, I think it will just bring more hope overall.”

Artwork came up as a possible

tool to help youth envision their futures, though not everyone was convinced it would reach those who needed it most.

“I feel like without creativity, it’ll be hard,” the Boulder student said. “And the people we’re trying to direct towards the artwork probably most likely lack creativity.”

Since goal-setting is central to the science of hope framework, the group also reflected on their own goals. The Clancy 8th grader said she had been working on her volleyball serve, practicing at home to get consistent before upcoming tournaments.

The Whitehall 7th grader said she had thrown discus at her first

track meet and wanted to keep improving. The Boulder member said her goal was to be more social.

“Being more social, I think that’s the root of many rules,” she said. “It could help a lot. I think I’ve been getting better over the years.”

Near the end of the meeting, Hesford said she had tentatively scheduled Dr. Julia Garcia, author of a recent book on the Science of Hope, to lead a training for roughly 50 county adults in August. School staff and county health employees, but not students, would also be invited.

The youth council’s next meeting is scheduled for May 17.

THE MONITOR has a new website!
Visit us at: jcmmonitor.com

LEGAL NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID

Separate sealed bids for construction of the Clancy Water and Sewer District Phase 1 - Well Drilling Project will be received and accepted via the online electronic bid service through QuestCDN vBid online bidding, or sealed paper copy by Great West Engineering on behalf of Clancy Water and Sewer District at 250 Helen P Clarke Street, Helena, MT 59601 until 2:00 pm local time on May 13, 2026 and then publicly opened and read aloud. Bidders may join the bid opening via in person or Microsoft Teams at the following link: <https://bit.ly/4vd5xpl> or by phone: (406) 247-0445 ID#869441508.

The project consists of completion of two new production wells, including drilling, installing casing and pump testing both wells.

Digital copies of the Bidding Documents are available at www.greatwesteng.com or www.questcdn.com for a fee of \$25. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the "Current Projects Bidding" tab. Reference QuestCDN Project number 10157070. Contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in membership registration, downloading digital project information and vBid online bid submittal. Project bid documents must be downloaded from QuestCDN which will add your company to the Planholder List and allow access to vBid online bidding for the submittal of your bid. Bidders will be charged a fee of \$42.00 to submit a bid electronically.

Paper copies of the contract documents, consisting of half size Drawings and Project Manual, may be examined or obtained at the office of Great West Engineering, Inc., located at 2501 Belt View Drive, Helena, MT 59601, phone 406-449-8627 in accordance with Article 2.1 of Instructions to Bidders. There is a required fee of \$55 per set, which is not refundable. In addition, the Drawings and Project Manual may also be examined at the following locations:

- Billings Builders Exchange
 - Great Falls Builders Exchange
 - Bozeman Plan Exchange
 - Helena Copy Center
 - Butte Builders Exchange
 - Missoula Plans Exchange
- There will be a Pre-Bid Conference at the Clancy Red Schoolhouse, 5 N

Main St, Clancy, MT 59634, at 2:00 pm on April 29, 2026. Interested Contractors are encouraged to attend. A site visit will occur immediately after this meeting.

Contractor and any of the Contractor's Subcontractors bidding or doing work on this project will be required to be registered with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI). Forms for registration are available from the Department of Labor and Industry, PO Box 8011, 1805 Prospect, Helena MT 59604-8011. Information on registration can be obtained by calling (406) 444-7734. All laborers and mechanics employed by Contractor or Subcontractors in performance of the construction work shall be paid wages at rates as required by Davis Bacon Wage Act or State Prevailing Wages, whichever is higher. The Contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

Each bid or proposal must be accompanied by a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond payable to Clancy Water and Sewer District, in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount of the bid. Successful Bidders shall furnish an approved Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Payment Bond, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount. Insurance, as required, shall be provided by the successful Bidder(s) and a certificate(s) of that insurance shall be provided.

This project is funded in part or in whole with grant/loan funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP), Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program (RRGL), and the Community Development Block Grant Program(CDBG).

Award of the project will be contingent upon receiving funding and award concurrence from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP). Bids may only be withdrawn as provided in Section 16.02 of the Instructions to Bidders after the scheduled time for the public opening of bids.

The right is reserved to reject any or all proposals received, to waive informalities, to postpone the award of the contract for a period not to exceed six-

ty (60) days, and to accept the lowest responsive and responsible bid that is in the best interest of the Owner.

All questions about the meaning or intent of the Contract Documents are to be submitted in writing to and must be received by Great West Engineering no later than 2:00 pm local time on May 8, 2026. Questions received after this date will not be answered. Oral questions will only be accepted at the Pre-Bid conference. Written comments may be submitted to Jesse Novak of Great West Engineering by mail at: 250 Helen P Clarke Street, Helena, MT 59601 or email at: jnovak@greatwesteng.com. Interpretations or clarifications considered necessary by Engineer in response to such questions will be is-

sued by Addenda delivered to all parties recorded as having received the Bidding Documents. Only questions answered by Addenda will be binding. Oral and other interpretations or clarifications will be without legal effect.

CDBG regulations governing the grant require that to the greatest extent feasible, opportunities for training, employment, and contracting arising in connection with this CDBG-assisted project will be extended to low- and very low-income individuals, especially those employed by Section 3 business concerns, participating in YouthBuild, living within the service area or the neighborhood of the project, or residing in public or Section 8-assisted housing.

CDBG regulations governing the grant also require that opportunities for contracting will be extended to minority, women-owned and disadvantaged ("DBE/MBE/WBE") businesses.

DBE/MBE/WBE firms are encouraged to register on Montana's DBE Registry at mdt.mt.gov/business/contracting/civil/dbe.aspx. Registrants will receive targeted outreach for opportunities pertaining to assisted projects that are covered by DBE/MBE/WBE.

The Clancy Water and Sewer District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Lori Gilliland
Board President
PO Box 8, Clancy, MT 59634

Legal 26-043 Published in **The Monitor**
April 15 & 29, 2026 MMAXLP

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

MMAXLP

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

See puzzle on page 3

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

<p>Montana City Dental 443-5130 2 Market St., Montana City</p>	<p>GIULIO DISPOSAL SERVICE, INC. 225-3607 • Container & Rolloff Service • Commercial & Residential Office & payment drop: 108 N Main, Boulder</p>	<p>ARCTIC HEAT 406-202-3460 Based in Boulder - Furnace & AC - - Boilers - • Commercial & Residential •</p>	<p>BOULDER TRANSPORT Serving Boulder, Basin, Clancy, Jeff City & 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>THE HAIR DEPOT Cheryl Martinson Men - Women - Children Perms - Color - Highlights 201 South Main, Boulder 406-225-3864</p>
<p>INTERMOUNTAIN HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC. Helena Heating & Air Conditioning 449-4567</p>	<p>BOULDER HARDWARE NOW OFFERING: • Lumber • Propane • U-Haul & UPS drop-off location Do it Best</p>	<p>MT State Liquor Store BOULDER CASH 56 Tues-Fri: 11-7. Sat: 10-6. Closed Sun & Mon 209 N. Main St., Boulder</p>	<p>Steven J. Shapiro, P. C. Attorney at Law 449-1200 9 Friendship Lane in Montana City</p>	
<p>GRIT & GRACE COLLECTIVE NEW! WE BUY • GOLD • SILVER • ESTATE JEWELRY 203 Legion Ave W • Whitehall 508.517.7600</p>	<p>ALPINE HOUSE SERVICES 406-431-3493 JOE FALINE ROOFING Exterior painting • Decks 30+ years experience, insured</p>	<p>Madison Valley BANK Boulder 109 West Second LOBBY 8-4 M-F DRIVE UP 7:30-5:30 M-F 9-12 Sat. 406-225-3351 Montana City 9 Bankers Lane LOBBY 8:30-4 M-F DRIVE UP 8-5 M-F 406-443-0497 24 HOUR ATM at both locations Since 1965 • madisonvalleybank.com</p>	<p>CENTRAL BOILER Alternative Heat of Montana 406-439-WOOD/406-438-0027 bsarchet@gmail.com Your local source for wood boiler sales, parts, installation & service.</p>	

<p>THE MONITOR KNOWS ADVERTISING ADS@BOULDER-MONITOR.COM</p>	<p>When residents need a local plumber, a realtor, or any service, how will they find YOUR business? Email ads@boulder-monitor.com today for a directory spot. As low as \$30 per month.</p>	<p>SUPPORT THE MONITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM FUND https://bit.ly/MonitorFund</p>
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SAVVY SENIOR

Understanding the Social Security ‘breakeven age’

Dear Savvy Senior,

I'm trying to figure out the best time for my wife and I to start taking our Social Security retirement benefits and would like to understand the breakeven age. What can you tell me?

Strategizing Sam



Jim Miller

Dear Sam,

As you approach retirement, one of the most important financial decisions you'll face is when to begin collecting Social Security retirement benefits. A useful concept to guide your thinking is the “breakeven age,” which helps you evaluate the trade-off between taking a reduced benefit early versus a higher one later. Here's what you should know.

retirement benefits as early as age 62. However, your monthly benefit will be permanently reduced – about .5 percent each month – if you claim before your full retirement age (FRA), which is 67 for those born in 1960 or later. Conversely, for every year you delay claiming beyond your FRA – up to age 70 – your benefit amount increases 8 percent each year. Your benefit maxes out at age 70, so there's no financial incentive to wait longer.

Breakeven Age

The breakeven age is the point when the total benefits from waiting to claim equal the total you would have received by starting earlier. Live longer than that age and delaying pays off. Live shorter and claiming early pays more. It's a simple benchmark for retirement planning.

The exact breakeven age varies based on individual circumstances, but a common comparison is between claiming at age 62 versus waiting until FRA. For most people, the breakeven age for this

scenario is around 78. Another common comparison is claiming at FRA versus waiting to age 70. The average breakeven age here is around 82.

Other Considerations

Keep in mind that while the breakeven age is a powerful tool, it is just one piece of the puzzle. It doesn't account for other crucial factors like your health and family longevity. If you have chronic health problems or a family history of shorter lifespans, taking a reduced benefit early might be the most prudent choice to ensure you receive a significant number of payments.

On the other hand, if you're in good health and expect to live a long life, delaying your benefits to age 70 can provide a much higher income stream that acts as a form of longevity insurance. To estimate your life expectancy, try the online tool livingto100.com.

Furthermore, a married couple's claiming strategy can be complex. The higher-earning spouse's decision can significantly impact the survivor benefits

for the lower-earning spouse. Waiting for the higher earner to claim at age 70 can provide a larger benefit for the surviving spouse for the rest of their life.

In the end, there is no one-size-fits-all answer. The breakeven age provides a useful framework for comparison, but the decision of when to claim your benefits should also consider your health, financial situation and family.

Online Calculators

There are several online calculators that can help you and your wife figure out the best time to claim your benefits. One that's completely free to use is open-socialsecurity.com. Or for a more thorough analysis use maximizemysocialsecurity.com. This tool, which costs \$49 for a year, will run what-if scenarios based on your circumstances to find your best strategy for getting the highest possible lifetime payout.

Send your questions or comments to questions@savvysenior.org, or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.

SSA Waiting Game

The Social Security Administration allows you to start collecting your

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; call (406) 225-3821; or deliver to the **Monitor's** office at 104 W. Centennial.

HELP WANTED

Jefferson High School VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

COACHING POSITIONS

- Assistant Football for 26/27 year
- Head and Assistant Cheer for 26/27 year
- Assistant Volleyball for 26/27 year
- Assistant Wrestling for 26/27 year

Qualifications: Ability to provide instruction to students to develop individual skills, teamwork, and goal setting. Must be available to attend after school practice and contests.

Stipend: District Pay Scale

Closing Date: When filled.

To apply: Call the JHS District Office at 225-3740. Email: lorie.carey@jhs.k12.mt.us. Stop by the district office for an application or find it on our website.



LEGAL NOTICES

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 administrator'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

Patricia Klanke
Montana State Bar No. 13182
Drake Law Firm, P.C.
27 Neill Ave, Ste. 200
Helena, MT 59601
Telephone: (406) 495-8080
patricia@drakemt.com
Attorney for Petitioner
MONTANA FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, JEFFERSON COUNTY

In re: the marriage of Lisa Caldwell, Petitioner, and Timothy Caldwell, Respondent. Cause No. DR-22-2026-0017.

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
NOTICE TO: Respondent Timothy Caldwell.

You are named in a petition for dissolution of marriage. Unless you respond in 21 days, the court may decide against you without you being heard and give Petitioner everything asked for in the petition. You must submit your written response within 21 calendar days. The 21-day period starts the day after the last date of publication of this notice. If the final day falls on a weekend or court holiday, you may file your response on the next business day.

You must file your written response with the Clerk of the Fifth Judicial District Court, P.O. Box H, Boulder, MT 59632, and serve a copy of your answer on the Petitioner.

Dated this 30th day of March, 2026.

(Seal)
/s/ Kathy Stein, Deputy Clerk of Court

Legal 26-040 Published in **The Monitor** April 8, 15 & 22, 2026 MNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners, Jefferson County, Montana, will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 21st at 1:45 p.m. at the Volunteer Hall at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. The hearing will be held concerning the Commission's intent to sign a contract to purchase the Boulder Health Clinic building. Any person may attend the hearing noticed herein and may comment on the proposed purchase. A final decision will be made at the May 5 Commission meeting.

Legal 26-041 Published in **The Monitor** April 8 & 15, 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

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

Legal 26-037 Published in **The Monitor** April 1 & 15, 2026 MNAXLP

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

LEGAL NOTICE

On Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 7:00 pm, the Consolidated Land Use Board will hold a public hearing in the conference room of the Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder's office (located at 102 South Monroe, Boulder, Montana) on the following item:

CHURCHILL CONDITIONAL USE REQUEST

Terry and Debbie Churchill have requested a conditional use that would allow them to build an accessory structure exceeding the main footprint of their primary residence located within a R-1 zoned area of the North Jefferson County Zoning District. They are proposing to build a shop that would be used to store recreational vehicles, equipment, personal property, and accommodate personal hobby activities. Section 4.4.2.2 of the zoning regulations states that without a conditional use permit, an accessory building shall not exceed the footprint of the primary dwelling. The existing dwelling's footprint is 1,238 square feet. The proposed shop would have a footprint of 40-feet by

50-feet and contain 2,000 square feet. The 3.711-acre property, which is located at 52 Ruby Mountain Road within Section 24, Township 9 North, Range 3 West, is further described as Lot 44 of the Saddle Mountain Estates III Subdivision as shown on COS 185188, Folio 530B.

The relevant information regarding the agenda item may be viewed at the Jefferson County Planning Department located in the Jefferson County Courthouse. The public is encouraged to attend this meeting and voice comments they may have on the proposal. The Planning Dept will also accept written comments on the proposal until May 11, 2026. Please send comments to: Jefferson County Planning Dept, PO Box H, Boulder, MT 59632 or by e-mail to lhintz@jeffersoncounty-mt.gov.

Legal 26-045 Published in **The Monitor** April 15, 2026 MNAXLP

More legal notices, pages 7 & 10

NOW HIRING
Hostess • Line cooks
Dishwashers

Apply in person at
#1 Jackson Creek Rd.
Montana City, MT 59634
www.montanacitygrill.com

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

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, write 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 is \$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. 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.

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. Or stop by the main office for an application.
Closing Date: Until filled

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

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

SPORTS

Panthers shine at Hamilton meet; tennis dominates

The Jefferson High School track and field teams turned in a strong showing at the large, competitive Bronc Invitational meet in Hamilton on Saturday, highlighted by a runner-up team finish from the girls squad and several impressive

individual performances.

The Lady Panthers scored 64 points to claim second place behind Custer County (73.33). Frenchtown (48.37), Hamilton (47.33) and Loyola (40) rounded out the top five in a deep

field of mostly Class A schools.

Jefferson's boys team placed fifth with 38 points. Host Hamilton won the boys title with 57 points, followed closely by Corvallis (56) and Big Fork (54).

Leading the way for Jefferson was the boys 4x100 relay team of Zeke Dove, Tyler Frydenlund, Caleb Morris and Xavier Wetzal, which captured first place in 44.33 seconds. Dove placed 7th in the 100 meter race with a time of 11.78; Wetzal was 9th in 11.88. Frydenlund was 7th in the 400 in 11.78, and McKenon Boyd third at 800 meters (2:08.20).

John Quigley claimed a top finish in the high jump, clearing 6 feet, 2 inches, with Colten Thornock just behind in 4th at 6 feet and Xavier Wetzal 8th, 5'8". And Cooper Mikesell was 3rd in the pole vault, with a leap of 12'6".

On the girls side, McKinleigh Doherty

sprinted to a first-place finish in the 200 meters (26.09), with Allie Muffick 4th (28.79). Ryleigh Doherty placed 5th in the 100 (13.23), with Emma Good 7th (21:16) and Marlee Sarchet 8th (21:46). Juliet Bell finished 7th in the 400, at 1:04.28. And Peyton Stears was 5th at 800 meters, in 2:30.92. The girls 4x100 relay team added a fourth-place finish.

Joslyn Buckley dominated the throwing events with a win in the javelin (113-7) and a runner-up finish in the discus (112-8). Muffick was fourth in both the javelin (109'11") and the shot put (36'1"). And London Ostby placed 7th in the javelin (108'4") and 6th in the discus (106'3").

Looking forward to the first JHS Invitational coming up April 24, another nice showcase for Jefferson High's new track.

Tennis romps

The Panther tennis teams also had a packed and successful week, competing Thursday in Missoula against Loyola Sacred Heart and Superior before traveling to Belgrade for the Three Forks Invitational on Friday.

Jefferson's girls singles players were dominant, sweeping nine matches. They were led by Bailee Silvonen, Teagan Silvonen and Lainey Wilson, who each recorded multiple convincing wins. Evelyn Hansen and Caia Dellwo also added victories.

In doubles play, combinations featuring Hansen, Dellwo, Wilson and Teagan Silvonen consistently controlled matches, with seven decisive wins.

On the boys side, Izaak Luhrsens led the charge with five victories in singles play, while Austin Lachney and Kale Strozewski added multiple wins of their own. Hudson Hill also contributed a solid performance, picking up several victories as the Panthers took all but one of their matches.

The momentum carried into Friday's tournament in Belgrade, where Jefferson players continued to find success. Bailee Silvonen and Hansen highlighted the girls results with multiple wins against Broadwater, Granite, Red Lodge and Three Forks, while Teagan Silvonen and Caia Dellwo also turned in strong performances.

For the boys, Luhrsens, Lachney and Hill each recorded wins in singles competition, and the doubles team of Luhrsens and Lachney secured a victory as well. In all, the girls and boys dropped just two of 16 matches.

Golf hosts

The Panther golfers hosted the JHS Invitational on Monday at Green Meadow County Club in Helena.

The Jefferson boys placed fourth out of nine schools, behind winner Manhattan, Ennis and Florence-Carlton. Tanner Lee led the team with an 82, 11 over par, tying for third place. Carter Lee placed seventh at 83, and Bridger Harris was 24th at 91. Dylan Caissey shot 95, Cole Meredith 98, and Dayten Groth 105 to round out the scoring.

For the girls, Alivia Logan shot at 95 for second place, while senior Shae Jones-Moore finished sixth with 99. Eryn Lindsay carded a 108 to tie for 14th.



Cooper Mikesell at the Avery Stiles Invitational meet on Apr. 3. Mikesell took third in the pole vault at the Hamilton Bronc Invitational on Apr. 10. (John Smith/The Monitor)



The Panther tennis squad at its tournament last Friday in Belgrade. From left: Caia Dellwo, Sienna Engstedt, Lainey Wilson, Evelyn Hansen, Teagan Silvonen, Izaak Luhrsens, Bailee Silvonen, Austin Lachney, Hudson Hill. Not pictured: Avery Wade, Hunter Heintz and Kale Strozewski.

JEFFERSON HIGH SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 16
Golf @Gardiner Invitational, Livingston
Softball vs. Billings Central @EHHS

Friday, April 17
Track & Field @Gallatin Valley Invite, Belgrade

Tuesday, April 21
Track & Field @Small Schools meet, Helena

Thursday, April 23
Softball @Stevensville

Friday, April 24
Track & Field: JHS Invitational meet @JHS
Softball vs. Lockwood @EHHS

Fri. & Sat., April 24-25
Tennis @Great Falls Invite
Softball @Laurel

Saturday, April 25
Softball @Hardin

Tuesday, April 28
Track & Field @Top 10 meet, Missoula
Golf @Three Forks Invitational
Softball vs. Butte Central @EHHS

Boulder Stories Spotlight Night

WHEN: Thursday, April 23
WHERE: Catholic Center Boulder
TIME: 6:00 to 8:00 pm

INTERFAITH STORY NIGHT

Potluck Dinner
Chicken provided
Bring a dish to share

Drawing Church Communities Together
Each table will be part of a group interview

Join us to share your journey, what you love about Boulder, your hopes and concerns, and your ideas for making positive change.

PURPOSE:
Community Heart & Soul will use the community's ideas and their love for Boulder to create a plan that will reflect the hope for Boulder's future.

A project of: Southwest Montana Youth Partners
Contact Rochelle Hesford at (406) 225-3164

BOULDER AREA EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL

17 A NIGHT TO SHINE. 6-8 pm, Whitehall High School. Celebrating Youth Leadership Program participants. Silent auction.

18 CAT ADOPTION DAY. 3:30-6 pm, 23 Muskrat Lane.

22 BOULDER STORIES SPOTLIGHT NIGHT. 6-8 pm, Boulder Catholic Center. "Drawing Church Communities Together." Free; chicken potluck dinner.

21 STAR TALKS. 6 pm, Star Theater, Whitehall. "Sexually Groomed/Trafficked Youth in our Community." Free (donations ap-

preciated); light refreshments.

28 BOOK FOLDING CRAFT. 6:30 pm, Boulder Community Library. Register at (406) 225-3841.

MAY

02 GREEN YOUR SPRING. 10 am to 2 pm, Boulder Elementary School gym. Seed & plant exchange; silent auction; vendors; pot-luck.

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

ONGOING

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

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

To list an event, call 225-3821 or email info@boulder-monitor.com

COUNTY

'Look!' Boulder trainer takes on would-be 'good dogs'

By ELIZA DUBOSE
Reporter

On a bright, sunny late March morning, Boulder resident Paige Seitz strategically placed small orange cones in a car-free area of the Helena Fairgrounds parking lot.

Her two canine students – three more joined 40 minutes later – waited patiently next to their guardians, looking around and sniffing the ground. Callie, a sweet black mix with a grey muzzle, and Gimme Bacon, a curious French Bulldog, were ready for the first group dog walk organized by Seitz's three-year-old business, Moonlight Mutts.

"I don't think enough people know about her," said Boulder resident Christina Binkowski, Callie's owner, who was there with her husband Bruce. "It's nice to have someone in Boulder."

Most of Seitz's clients live in Helena, but she's been working to attract customers in central Jefferson County, including dog owners in Boulder, Basin, and Jefferson City. "I would love to have more work closer to home," she told *The Monitor*.

In the Helena parking lot, dogs were given a green or yellow bandana to indicate their comfort level with people and other dogs. Kicking off class, both Callie and Gimme wore yellow, indicating some anxiety around others. The Binkowskis adopted Callie a little over a year ago.

She's been mostly good and seems to love their 14-year-old dog, Taz. But Callie tends to get nervous and protective around other dogs, especially if she fears Taz is under threat. They hoped Seitz would help them train their dog to be able to play with others, Christina explained.

Just before the group walk, the 31-year-old Seitz presented the dogs and their owners with a few basic commands. "Look!" she advised, is meant to get dogs to stop being distracted by noises, other dogs, or scurrying squirrels, and make eye contact with their owners.

"Touch" is meant to get the dog to

place their nose in the palm of their owners' outstretched hand. Finally, "1, 2, 3," should prompt the dog to come to heel at their owner's side. Seitz added that every proper response should earn a treat, an enthusiastic pet, or a "Good dog!"

Verbal commands, she explained, help owners avoid the physical aggression of yanking their dog's head around while improving behavior.

"If they're trying to go sniff something, and they drag you over to it, then they reward themselves for pulling," said Seitz. "Even though it can make your walk a lot longer and a little more tedious, just stand there. Be boring."

Seitz's animal training career began some 15 years ago, as a teenager on a Colorado alpaca ranch. She trained the guard dogs that protected the alpacas from predators and fell in love with the work. "Seeing the change in their behavior and the change in their owner's understanding, it just builds a better relationship," Seitz said.

Seitz's personal life also prompted her to pursue dog training professionally. When she and her husband started dating, their two dogs would often get into fights, adding a great deal of stress.

"They hated each other. They hated people," Seitz recalled. "They were actually my inspiration to get back into training, because neither one of us was going to get rid of our dogs, and we had to make it work."

After Seitz and her husband moved to Montana in 2019, she gained dog-training accreditation at PetSmart and began working as one of the company's trainers. "So that we could have peace in our own home, and so that I could really help other people too," Seitz said, adding that their two dogs are now best friends.

Seitz enjoyed working at PetSmart but soon felt that too many dogs were being left out. PetSmart only does group training and bars dogs with serious behavioral problems.

"It was so hard for me to turn people down. They desperately wanted help," said Seitz, who realized that few



Paige Seitz, left, practices the "look" command with Callie, while the dog's owners, Bruce and Christina Binkowski, look on. (Eliza DuBose/The Monitor)

Helena-area trainers specialized in dogs with severe behavioral issues. "So I was like, 'Well, why don't I do it? Somebody has to.'"

Seitz completed a fundamentals training certification from Victoria Sitwell Academy and a dogs aggressive master course run by Michael Shikashio, a highly regarded dog trainer, and hung out her shingle.

She named her company Moonlight Mutts to honor the days when she and her husband had to walk their dogs at night to avoid potentially difficult encounters with others – dogs and people.

Seitz offers a three-hour foundations package for \$375, a seven-session package for dogs with behavioral issues for \$750, and a package of 10 one-hour training sessions for aggres-

sive dogs for \$1,200.

Dog owners can also test the waters with a \$60 training consultation – which is the route the Binkowskis took before the late March outing. They had never planned to get another pup as they were happy with Taz.

Even when Christina brought Callie home, they'd expected to foster her for a couple days. But not longer after, Bruce walked into their bedroom and told his wife they had a problem. "I can't get rid of her," he admitted.

Now that they've got their pup, they're determined to give Callie the best life possible, including teaching her to get along with other dogs. Seitz is happy to assist.

"I want people to actually have their dog be their best friend," she said.

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COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

The Elkhorn Community Foundation is accepting grant applications for projects to benefit citizens within the Jefferson High School district. Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization, an exempt government agency, or sponsored by an exempt government agency.

Applications are due May 1. Application form and guidelines are available online <http://MontanaCommunityFoundation/ElkhornCommunityFoundation>. Or contact Peg at (406) 461-6252.

Email completed applications to erika.morris@elkhornpharmacy.net. Or mail 3 copies to:
Elkhorn Community Foundation
PO Box 224, Boulder, MT 59632

A heartfelt **Thank You** to the community for your donations during the Vossler Estate Sale. We were able to provide a generous donation to the Boulder Volunteer Fire Department and the Carousel in honor of Les and Shirley.

Thanks to Patty, Sally, Stephanie and Damon for your help!

A **Celebration of Life** for Shirley will be May 23 at 11 a.m., Cemetery Columbarium/Catholic Center

Cory and Lynnette Sena

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION

Notice is given that regular registration for the 2026 Federal Primary election to be held on June 2, 2026 will close at 5:00 p.m., on May 4, 2026.

During regular registration, individuals who wish to register to vote or update their voter registration must submit a voter registration form to their county election office.

During late registration, individuals who wish to register to vote or update their voter registration for this election must submit a voter registration form in person to their county election office.

DATED this 15th day of April, 2026.
Ginger Kunz, Jefferson County Election Administrator

Legal 26-044 Published in *The Monitor* Apr. 15, 22 & 29, 2026
MNAXLP

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