

Fort Belknap Indian Community NEWSLETTER

Aaniiih - Nakoda



VOLUME: 1 ISSUE: 10 OCTOBER 2026

Expanded Social Services & Tribal Court Services Coming to Hays

The Fort Belknap Social Services Department is pleased to announce that the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council has approved the expansion of Social Services programming to provide services from the Anaakyaaniin Wellness Center in Hays, Montana.

This expansion will bring important programs and services directly to the Hays community, including Fort Belknap Social Services and Tribal Court services on a more consistent basis.

Bringing Services Closer to Families

Providing Social Services from the Anaakyaaniin Wellness Center will improve access for individuals and families living in Hays and the surrounding communities. For many services, community members will no longer have to travel to the Fort Belknap Agency area, helping reduce transportation barriers, time away from work and family, and other challenges associated with traveling to receive essential services.

Having Social Services available locally will also support family stability and reunification efforts by making it easier for families to meet with caseworkers, participate in services, complete required appointments, and access resources needed to work toward their family goals.

Expanded Social Services in Hays

Having Social Services available at the Anaakyaaniin Wellness Center will provide families with greater access to family-centered support within their own community.

Social Services will be able to provide and coordinate assistance related to child welfare, family support, prevention, foster care, reunification, case management, and other services based on the needs of children and families.

Locating Social Services within the community will also help families connect with available resources more efficiently and reduce some of the barriers that can make it difficult to participate in services.

More Consistent Access to Tribal Court

The Anaakyaaniin Wellness Center will also provide space for Tribal Court services to be offered in Hays on a more consistent basis.

Bringing Tribal Court services closer to the community can reduce the burden of traveling to the Agency for certain court-related matters while improving access for individuals and families who may also be working with Social Services and other Tribal programs.

Connecting Social Services and Healthcare

One of the important benefits of this partnership is the opportunity to strengthen connections between Social Services and healthcare services.

With Social Services located near the clinical wing, families will have greater opportunities to connect with healthcare providers and other wellness resources *(Continued on Page 2)...*



Construction Progress on September 22, 2026. Photo submitted by: Amber Bigby

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within the same facility. This coordinated approach can help strengthen communication and collaboration among Social Services, healthcare professionals, and other service providers. When appropriate, and with proper client consent and confidentiality protections, families can be connected to medical, behavioral health, and other supportive services without having to navigate multiple locations.

A Community-Based Approach to Family Wellness

The overall goal is to create a more accessible, coordinated, and community-based approach to supporting children and families.

By bringing Social Services, Tribal Court services, and healthcare resources together at the Anaakyaaniin Wellness Center, families will have greater access to important services closer to home while strengthening collaboration among the programs and professionals who serve them.

Bringing services closer to our people means reducing barriers, strengthening families, supporting reunification, and improving the overall health and wellness of the Hays community.

The Fort Belknap Social Services Department looks forward to working alongside the Fort Belknap Tribal Health Department, the Island Mountain Development Group - Anaakyaaniin Wellness Center team, Tribal Court, and community partners to expand access to essential services and build a stronger, healthier future for Fort Belknap Indian Community families.

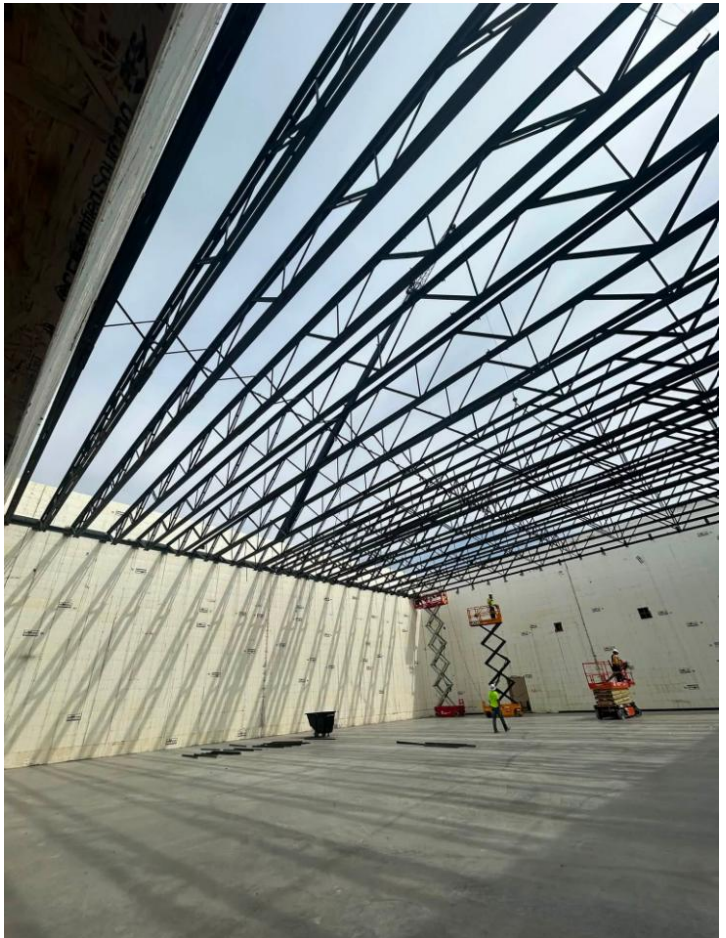
Strong collaboration between the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council, Tribal Health, Social Services, and Island Mountain Development Group is essential to the success of the Anaakyaaniin Wellness Center. By working together, these partners can help ensure that the wellness center serves the community. This partnership creates an opportunity to address longstanding health disparities affecting Native people, including suicide, diabetes, behavioral health gaps, chronic disease, and access to care, while promoting prevention, cultural connection, and overall family and community wellness.

Anaakyaaniin Wellness Center Construction Update

Construction progress continues to move forward at the Anaakyaaniin Wellness Center.

All structural welding is expected to be completed this week. The setting of rooftop units is scheduled to begin on Thursday, September 24, 2026. Major siding and window installations will be the next significant construction milestone.

Projected construction completion date is 09/28/2027. -



Photos by: Warren Morin

Fort Belknap Calls for Formal Tribal Consultation on Prediction Markets as Ninth Circuit Recognizes IGRA's Application to Event Contracts on Indian Lands

FORT BELKNAP, MONT. – The Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC), representing the sovereign Aaniiih and Nakoda Nations, is calling on the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to conduct meaningful government-to-government consultation with Tribal Nations before moving forward with prediction-market policies or rulemaking affecting Indian Country.

The request follows a significant week of developments in Washington, D.C., and the federal courts involving prediction markets, Tribal sovereignty, and the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).

FBIC Councilman Mike King II, represented Fort Belknap at an invitation-only Tribal Roundtable with CFTC Chairman, Michael Selig in Washington, D.C., on September 14, 2026. Councilman King was accompanied by FBIC Legal Counsel, Cher Old Elk.

During the roundtable, Councilman King specifically raised the unresolved question of whether CFTC regulation of prediction markets could displace Tribal gaming laws, IGRA, and Tribal governmental jurisdiction when prediction-market products are accessed from Indian lands.

Two days later, on September 16, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a published decision in *Blue Lake Rancheria v. Kalshi, Inc.*, No. 25-7504, addressing those issues.

"We went to Washington asking a fundamental question: if the CFTC regulates a product, does that automatically mean a Tribal government loses its authority when that product enters Indian Country?" Councilman King said. *"The Ninth Circuit's decision demonstrates exactly why Fort Belknap has been asking that question and why Tribal Nations need to be directly involved before federal prediction-market policy is established."*

Ninth Circuit Addresses Prediction Markets on Indian Lands: In *Blue Lake Rancheria*, the Ninth Circuit considered sports-event contracts offered by Kalshi to users location on Tribal Lands. At the

preliminary-injunction stage, the court held that the plaintiff Tribes were likely to succeed on their claims that Kalshi's sports-event contracts offered on Tribal lands violated IGRA and their gaming ordinances.

The court reached several conclusions directly relevant to the concerns Fort Belknap raised before the CFTC: First, the court concluded that the sports-event contracts at issue constituted Class III gaming activities under IGRA.

Second, the court concluded that the contracts were "located on Indian lands" when users entered into those contracts from Tribal territory.

Third, the court rejected the argument that federal commodities regulation necessarily displaced IGRA. The Ninth Circuit explained that the Commodity Exchange Act and IGRA address different questions: the Commodity Exchange Act gives the CFTC jurisdiction over covered derivatives trading on designated contract markets, while IGRA governs Class III gaming activity located on Indian lands.

The court reversed the denial of preliminary relief on the IGRA claims and remanded the case to the district court to consider the remaining preliminary-injunction factors. The decision therefore does not constitute a final judgment on the merits, but its analysis is now published Ninth Circuit precedent.

For Fort Belknap, the decision is particularly timely because Councilman King had specifically identified the pending *Blue Lake Rancheria* litigation during his remarks to Chairman Selig on Sept. 14.

"Reservation boundaries do not disappear because a transaction happens on a cell phone," Councilman King told the Commission during the roundtable.

The Ninth Circuit subsequently addressed that same jurisdictional issue, concluding for purposes of the Tribes' preliminary-injunction request that the relevant gaming activity could be located on Indian lands when the customer entered the

contract from Tribal territory.

President Werk Formally Requests Government-to-Government Consultation: Following the CFTC roundtable, FBIC President Randall "Butch" Werk, Sr., sent a formal letter to Chairman Selig on September 15 memorializing Fort Belknap's position. During the September 14 meeting, Chairman Selig had expressly clarified that the invitation-only roundtable was not government-to-government Tribal consultation.

President Werk's letter emphasized that engagement with selected Tribal representatives does not substitute for formal consultation between the United States and affected Tribal Nations.

Fort Belknap formally requested that the CFTC:

-Stay further action on prediction-market rulemaking pending meaningful government-to-government consultation with affected Tribal Nations;

-Advise FBIC and other affected Tribal Nations when and how formal consultation will occur; and

-Provide a written response regarding the legal basis for conducting the September 14 roundtable as a closed, invitation-only meeting despite its express status as something other than Tribal consultation.

"Fort Belknap welcomes engagement with the federal government, but engagement and government-to-government consultation are not interchangeable," President Werk said. *"When federal policy may affect Tribal lands, Tribal governmental authority, or rights established under federal Indian law, Tribal Nations must have a meaningful opportunity to participate before those decisions are made."*

Fort Belknap Brings Montana Perspective to National Discussion: Councilman King also brought Montana's distinct legal landscape to the CFTC discussion. His testimony asked what happens when the CFTC (Continued on Page 4)...

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authorizes or regulates a prediction-market product that another sovereign government considers unlawful gambling—and whether federal commodities regulation, standing alone, displaces otherwise applicable gaming law.

The Ninth Circuit's September 16 decision is significant to that question because the court rejected the proposition that the Commodity Exchange Act's grant of "exclusive" CFTC jurisdiction extended to the sports-event contracts for purposes of the Tribes' IGRA claims. The court instead concluded that the two federal statutes address different regulatory questions. Fort Belknap will review the decision in relation to its own laws and regulatory framework.

Fort Belknap also Engages Congress:

Fort Belknap's advocacy in Washington, DC extended beyond the CFTC. Councilman King and FBIC Legal Counsel Cher Old Elk met with staff for Montana Senators Steve Daines and Tim Sheehy regarding federal digital-asset (CLARITY Act) legislation and requested protections for Tribal sovereignty, IGRA, Tribal-State gaming compacts, and Tribal and State gaming authority.

On September 15, the Senate did not invoke cloture on the CLARITY Act. Fort Belknap, other Tribes across Indian Country, and National Tribal organizations had raised concerns about the legislation's potential interaction with prediction markets and existing Tribal sovereignty and gaming authority.

Fort Belknap provided Montana's congressional delegation with proposed

Legislative language intended to make clear that CFTC regulation does not, by itself, preempt otherwise applicable State or Tribal gaming law.

Agriculture Remains a Separate Fort Belknap Priority: Councilman King also emphasized that Fort Belknap's relationship with the CFTC extends beyond prediction markets. The Fort Belknap Reservation encompasses more than 650,000 acres, and agriculture remains an important part of the Reservation's land base and economy.

Councilman King encouraged the Commission to work directly with Tribal producers to determine whether futures, options, hedging tools, market information, and other agricultural risk-management resources are effectively reaching Native farmers and ranchers.

"When the CFTC talks about commodities and agricultural risk, that is not abstract to our People of Fort Belknap," Councilman King said. "We think about cattle, grain, water, drought, weather, input costs, transportation, market prices, and whether our producers can continue making a living from the land."

Councilman King invited the Commission to participate in the Intertribal Agriculture Council Annual Conference, December 8–10 in Las Vegas, to hear directly from Native farmers, ranchers, Tribal leaders, and agricultural producers.

Fort Belknap will Continue to Protect its Sovereign Interests: President Werk said the events of the past week demonstrate why Tribal Nations need a direct

governmental role as federal prediction-market policy develops.

"Federal financial regulation and Tribal sovereignty do not have to be in conflict," Cher Old Elk said. "But federal regulation cannot simply assume Tribal jurisdiction disappears. The Ninth Circuit's decision reinforces the importance of carefully addressing IGRA, Indian lands, Tribal law, and Tribal Sovereignty as this new industry develops."

Councilman King added:

"Fort Belknap is not opposed to innovation. Innovation and Tribal sovereignty can coexist. But innovation should not become a way to bypass Tribal governments or Tribal law. We went to DC to make sure Fort Belknap's voice was heard, and we intend to remain engaged."

Fort Belknap will continue reviewing the Ninth Circuit decision, its existing gaming laws and Tribal-State gaming framework, and developments before the CFTC and Congress. -

****The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) has become a major source of tension and concern for Tribal Nations due to its regulatory approach toward prediction markets and sports event contracts. Tribal leaders, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and the Indian Gaming Association (IGA) view the CFTC's actions as a serious threat to tribal sovereignty and economies.***

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

On September 15, 2026, Tribal Leaders and organizations—including the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Indian Gaming Association (IGA)—participated in a private Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) roundtable in Washington, D.C.

During the CFTC meetings, tribal representatives reiterated that sports event contracts on prediction market platforms are unauthorized gambling products attempting to evade federal, state, and tribal laws by masquerading as financial derivatives.

The subsequent September 16 Ninth Circuit ruling provided crucial legal momentum for tribal nations advocating in Washington, D.C., affirming that online or app-based bets placed on reservation lands fall under tribal regulatory authority.

On September 16, 2026, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a landmark ruling in *Blue Lake Rancheria v. Kalshi, Inc.*, holding that prediction market sports event contracts constitute illegal class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) when accessed from tribal lands.



Courtesy Photo: IMDG

Fort Belnap Tribal Council Hosts Quarterly Community Meetings

In September, the Fort Belnap Tribal Council held its quarterly community meetings in Hays, Lodge Pole, Fort Belnap Agency, and Dodson. The meetings gave community members an opportunity to hear updates, ask questions, raise concerns, and share feedback directly with Council representatives.

TOPICS INCLUDED:

Aanaakyaaniin Wellness Center Project: IMDG shared progress on facility planning and efforts to expand community health capacity.

Eagle Valley Subdivision: IMDG provided an update on construction and plans to expand residential opportunities.

Future Housing Developments: IMDG discussed proposed developments in Old Hays, the Northeast Corner, and Leggins Flat.

Blood Quantum Amendment III: FBIC Legal Counsel Cher Old Elk answered questions about the proposed amendment to the Tribal Constitution. The FBIC Council encourages community members to provide feedback as discussions continue.

Infrastructure Initiatives: Updates covered efforts to expand access to healthcare in the Agency area and strengthen comprehensive support services for elders.

IMDG Elder Gift Card Distribution: Attendees received information about the upcoming October distribution.

Sawmill Project: The project update outlined its current status, potential community and economic benefits, and anticipated impacts.

Public Safety and Health: Discussion addressed substance abuse, increased law-enforcement presence, suicide prevention, and intervention resources.

Community meetings are an important way for residents to stay informed about Tribal initiatives, ask questions, and share their perspectives directly with Tribal Council representatives. These gatherings help strengthen communication between the Council and our communities and ensure residents have an opportunity to raise issues that matter to them. We look forward to the next quarterly meetings in December and encourage everyone to attend, take part in the discussion, and help shape the future of our communities.



All photos in Article are the Gros Ventre & Assiniboiné of Fort Belknap Tribes. By: Eleventh Census of the United States. Robert P. Porter, Superintendent

Indians of the Fort Belknap Reservation

Report of Special Agent | Jere E. Stevens | December 1890

Fort Belknap Agency, MT

Names of Indian tribes or parts of tribes occupying said reservation: Assiniboiné and Gros Ventre. The unallotted area of this reservation is 537,600 acres, or 840 square miles.

This reservation has not been surveyed. It was established, altered, or changed by treaty of October 17, 1855; unratified treaties of July 18, 1866, and of July 13 & 15 and September 1, 1868; executive orders, July 5, 1873, and August 19, 1874; Act of Congress approved April 15, 1874; executive orders, April 13, 1875, and July 18, 1880, and agreement made January 21, 1887, approved by Congress May 1, 1888.

Indian Population in 1890: Assiniboiné - 932; Gros Ventre - 770; Total - 1,722.

FORT BELKNAP RESERVATION – The agency of this reservation is located on the south bank of the Milk River, 4 miles south of Harlem, a station on the line of the Great Northern Railway and the nearest Post Office. The agency has been located here about a year, having been removed from the old site when the reservation was reduced in size.

The Assiniboinés live principally along the Milk River, which forms the northern boundary of the reservation, while the greater number of the Gros Ventres live in and near the mountains which form the southern boundary of the reservation, there being a distance of about 30 miles between the two settlements. These two bands are very different in their nature and disposition, have not intermarried to any great extent, and seem to have little interest in common. The Assiniboinés are like their brethren of the Sioux Tribes on the south, and in years gone by have caused more or less trouble to the white people. The Gros Ventres since their occupancy of the northern country have always been the friends of the white man, and the Indians themselves take special pride in stating that their band has never injured a white man.

They were driven to this country years ago by the Arapahos, to which tribe they claim to have belonged to at one time, being

unwilling to join in their ceaseless warfare and pillaging expeditions. They can be classed as peaceably disposed.

The agency buildings are all new and commodious, having cost about \$65,000. They consist of dwellings for agent and employees, offices, medical dispensary, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, meat house or market, 1 large warehouse, besides a barn and outbuildings. In addition to these is a commodious and well-arranged slaughter house, where beeves are killed, dressed, and prepared for issue to the Indians. The custom of having the Indians witness the killing is no longer allowed, and, like the Indians at other reservations, they deem it a great hardship to be deprived of the privilege of carrying away the "fifth " quarter, or entrails.

But few of these Indians can be said to have any occupation, as there is no longer game in sufficient quantity to afford profitable hunting, and, owing to repeated dry seasons and crop failure, but few of them attempt farming. Some are beginning to take an interest in herding and have a few cattle, while others work at odd jobs. There is but little work for them more than the freighting necessary for the Agency and the Mission Schools located on the south side of the reservation near the Little Rocky Mountains.

About one-fourth of these Indians are "blanket" Indians, although nearly all carry about their persons, especially during the cold season, a blanket in addition to the garb of civilization. (**Garb** - means a style of clothing, a distinct outfit, or the special attire worn for a particular job, role, or occasion.) The women are particularly averse to wearing anything upon the head, always depending upon the blanket to protect them from cold about the head and shoulders. In this their blankets serve a double purpose, as they always carry their children upon the back; in fact, almost anything they have to carry is either suspended from a strap that crosses the forehead or shoulders or is held fast to the shoulders by means of the blanket which they firmly clasp in front. One seldom finds an Indian, especially among (Continued on Pg. 7)...

(Continued from Pg. 6)...the Sioux tribes, who does not prefer the blanket which is particularly gay in color and figure, even though it be of inferior quality. This affords an excellent opportunity for traders to swindle them. Shirt, coat, vest, and trousers are all the garments of civilization that most Indians will wear. Nearly all of them still wear their hair long and prefer a red handkerchief over the head rather than the warmest cap. For foot wear, they all use moccasins. The shoes that are issued to them they do not like, and will often cut the tops off to make moccasin soles, while the bottoms, or sole leather, they do not use at all, claiming that they cannot walk with a stiff-soled shoe. They still retain their admiration of trinkets and beadwork, and nearly all have about them something of this kind. Many also wear feathers in their hair, some with the tail of a fox, rabbit, skunk, or other animal fastened to their long, braided locks. The only reason they do not wear so many of these savage decorations now as they once did is because they are more difficult to get.

These Indians do not paint themselves as much as formerly, owing to the determination of the agent to stop the custom by refusing to notice them if they appear before him with painted faces. They still follow the custom while in camp.

There are but very few of these 1,722 Indians who use a word of English, all replying to interrogatories with the same characteristic grunt. Some of them, especially the half-breeds and younger Indians, who work around the agency, could speak enough English. The system of carrying on a conversation by means of an interpreter with those who can speak English should not be countenanced by the agents.

The only day school on this reservation is a small one at the agency, which is attended by but few of the Indian children, the scholars being principally the children of the white people who



are connected with the agency. The Mission School at this agency is situated at the mountains, about 35 miles south of the agency buildings.

There are 2 new buildings, one-half mile from the agency which are intended for school purposes. The buildings, constructed of brick made on the reservation, at a cost of \$20,000, will properly accommodate about 150 pupils. (*\$20,000 in 1890 is equivalent to approximately \$736,219.78 in the year 2026.*)

One great drawback to this agency is the poor water supply, the only good water that can be obtained being from a spring several miles distant.

The dwellings of these Indians are uncomfortable, unhealthy, poorly ventilated, and filthy log huts, generally about 12 by 14 feet in size, with dirt roofs and no floors. These are the winter habitations. In summer, many live in the canvas-covered tepee, which is more comfortable and healthier than the ordinary Indian house.

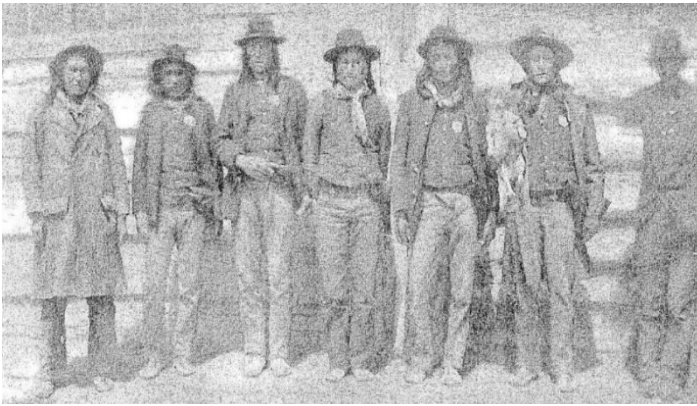
These Indians subsist almost wholly on the rations issued by the government, although some of them earn a little money occasionally by work or the sale of buffalo horns, which they patiently finish and polish while sitting around the camp fire. A good pair of these horns, well finished and finely polished, will generally bring about \$1.00; but for the money thus obtained these people are apt to purchase some useless trinket that strikes their fancy or spend it for liquor, sugar, or tea. (*\$1.00 in 1890 is equivalent to approximately \$36.81 in the year 2026.*)

The quality of the rations issued is excellent, in fact as good as the neighboring whites purchase for themselves.

The flour is a good family flour; the beef is the Montana range meat; the pork is clear side bacon, and the granulated sugar is a prime article. The rice and coffee are also good. The soap cannot be called a very good article; however, that is something little used by these people, but generally eaten by their half-starved dogs.

The issue of rations at the Fort Belknap Agency occurs every Saturday. It would seem that the issue table would be a good place to teach these people something about neatness and manners. It would perhaps be better to (Continued on Pg. 8)...





(Continued from Pg. 7)...issue at longer intervals, and take more pains in the manner of issuing, than to have these people gather once a week to scramble for food like a lot of hungry swine.

Even though it takes double the force of help and more time, every article should be weighed out and properly done up before being issued. In this way the young men and women of the tribe could be taught to weigh and do up the various articles, all of while would certainly have a tendency to help these people and prepare them to provide for themselves in the future.

The issue of "annuity goods" represents about \$35,000, including about 40 wagons and as many sets of harness, or an average of about \$20 for each man, woman, and child belonging to the reservation. Previous to the day of issue, the issue clerk has a list prepared of just what each person or family is to receive, the object being to distribute as nearly as may be according to the value of the goods. The issue room is stocked with a supply of each kind of goods, and a score of assistants are employed to deal out the various articles as they are called off.

Now let us suppose that ticket number 20 is presented, a certain number of dollars' worth of goods having been allotted to that number. First, the holder receipts for his annuities, or "touches the pen", as they call it; then the issue clerk commences to call off the articles that have been assigned to that number, somewhat as follows: 1 blanket, 3 quilts, 1 suit man's clothes, 1 suit boy's clothes, 1 cap, 1 pair man's shoes, 1 boy's overcoat, 1 shawl, 1 pair girl's shoes, 1 pair suspenders, 1 camp kettle, 3 tin cups, 1 coffee pot, 1 fine comb, 1 coarse comb, 1 paper of needles, 1 knife and fork, 1 pan, 1 tin plate.

The first thing issued is always a blanket or a quilt, and this being spread out on the floor all the other articles are thrown promiscuously upon it until the amount the ticket calls for has been issued; then it is dragged out into the dust and dirt, where the articles are inspected by the curious family. If the suit of clothes or overcoat happens to be a 40 in size and the man 36, or vice versa, he is expected to find someone else who is in the like dilemma and make a trade with him. The same rule will apply to shoes, shirts, caps, mittens, or in fact, to anything that is issued, and the Indians often trade off these annuity goods at a disadvantage.

There are always white traders around who are ready to accommodate an Indian who has anything to barter, and

certainly, the latter will not gain anything by the trade he makes with these men.

There are often three times as many applicants as there are articles of certain classes (for instance, wagons and harness) to be distributed, making it necessary for the agent to decide between several persons who have equal right to consideration.

The older ones are more robust than the rising generation, and particularly is this the case with the mixed bloods. Consumption, scrofula, and other diseases of that nature seem to have a hold upon them.

The Indians' dance is not measured by any given number of changes or limited to any given time, but rather by their vitality, and they often dance until they fall from exhaustion, when they are carried out to cool off and recuperate. This in itself seems to be sufficient to account for any amount of lung trouble that is found among them.

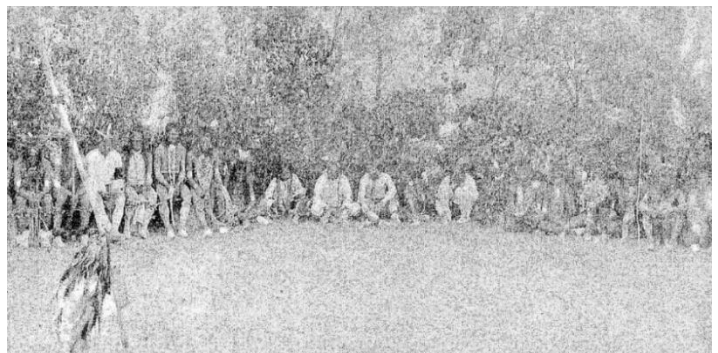
It is very difficult for the agent or agency physician to get reports promptly of any death that occurs, as the name of any deceased person is taken from the ration roll of the family as soon as reported; but, on the other hand, as soon as a birth occurs it is known at the agency at once, as that increases the family food by 1 ration. In this matter, these Indians show quite as much sharpness as their white neighbors could under like circumstances.

The reservation is about 29 miles square, being 312 acres of land for each man, woman, and child belonging to it. Only a very small portion of it can be classed as agricultural land. Probably not to exceed one-tenth part of it, and even that is sure to produce a crop only about 1 year in 5, owing to the lack of rainfall and to the hot and parching winds that seep these prairies every year, often curing the native grass in a single day.

More than one-tenth of the reservation could be plowed, probably one-fourth of it, but only that part lying close to the river and a few small tracts in the mountain valleys could produce a crop without irrigation, which is entirely out of the question, unless a water supply can be obtained by means of artesian wells, the Milk River being hardly sufficient to supply the stock with water.

Very nearly all of this reservation is good grazing land, rich feed growing in abundance all over its hillsides and valleys.

(Continued on Pg. 9)...



(Continued from Pg. 9) ...There is some fairly good pine timber in the mountains on the south side of the reservation, probably enough to furnish the lumber necessary to build more comfortable houses for these people.

In their present location, the only business they can profitably engage in is stock raising. It has been fully demonstrated that if they depend on grain raising, they will suffer untold hardships and privations when thrown upon their own resources.

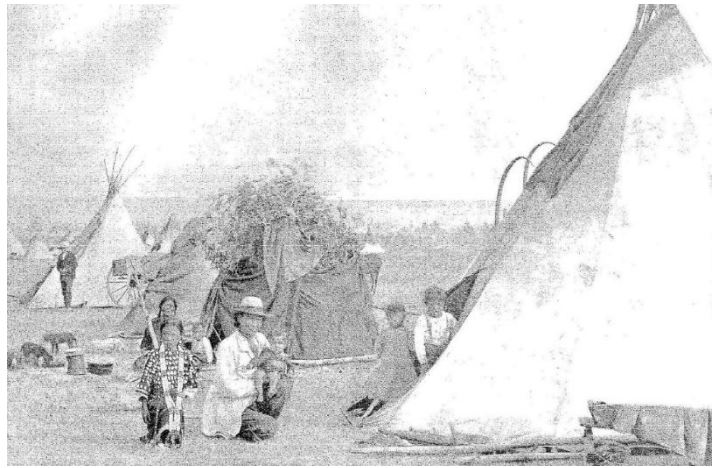
The agricultural implements issued to these Indians consist of mowers, hay rakes, plows, harrows, garden rakes, hoes, axes, and a few hatchets. There are 2 thrashing machines in the warehouse at the agency, which are but little used.

All these people are addicted to the vice of gambling, even the women indulging in the habit. They have an uncontrollable appetite for liquor, which they manage to gratify in spite of the stringent laws against selling it to them. There are always evil disposed white men about these reservations, who cause more or less trouble in this direction, and the Indians are particularly unfortunate in having no division between them and the land occupied by these white men other than a small stream that can be forded at any point. There are several little shops along this stream where a few groceries are kept for sale or trade, and where liquor is openly sold to white men.

One trader had at one time in his possession 300 pounds of coffee that had been issued to the Indians by the government and had been obtained from them in exchange for goods.

These Indians do not seem to regard their old people as of any account. Probably the greatest immorality that exists among them today is the social evil, in which they are also largely the victims of an inferior order of white men.

Little or no advance has been made by them in civilization during the past 10 or 15 years. With the advancement they have made in dress they have retrograded socially, and some of them have fallen to a very low scale. It is said by men who have been familiar



with these people since 1864 that these Indians, especially the Gros Ventre, up to the time of the extinction of the buffalo were a virtuous and a chaste people; death being the tribal punishment to the one who violated the marriage vows, and he who made any improper overtures to one of their women did so at the risk of his life.

With the extermination of the buffalo and other game came a time of privations and hardships; and the Indian maiden's favor had a money value, especially near military posts, and it was no uncommon thing for men to sell their wives, sisters, and even mothers, for immoral purposes.

Owing to the pressure brought to bear upon them by the government, these Indians have not had a "Sun Dance" for several years, but they still have some of their old dances, the favorite now being the "Tea Dance", where as many as possible gather in a room around a fire, over which is made a large quantity of tea of the vilest and most poisonous sort. The Indians drink this tea in large quantities, and always as hot as can be swallowed and dance around the boiling kettle for hours at a time to the weird music of a tom-tom or Indian drum until they are completely exhausted; then they go out and suddenly cool off, thus inviting disease and death. He who can afford to give this feast is a great man in the estimation of his red neighbors. These occasions always furnish an opportunity for the men to recount their great deeds.

Most of these Indians carry about their person a belt full of cartridges; but few carry guns, although they all have them. It is no uncommon thing to hear the white people in this vicinity say they dread the coming of spring on that account; but there is little cause to anticipate any trouble at this reservation, especially from the Gros Ventre. -





Courtesy Photos: MAPS Media

Motivational Speaker, Shaylynn Bird Visits Local Schools During Native American Week

Native American Week is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich cultures, traditions, and histories of Native Americans. It provides an opportunity to honor their contributions to society and to raise awareness about the challenges they continue to face. During this week, communities often engage in educational programs, cultural events, and storytelling that highlight Native American heritage.

It is a time to respect, understand, and appreciate diverse nations and tribes across the country. Native American Week encourages reflection on the past and the importance of preserving cultures for future generations.

Councilwoman Joan Johnson, Tiwahe's Renita Longknife, and Elder Jill Plumage participated in the Harlem High School opening ceremony for Native American Week. John Stiffarm sang a traditional honor song.

The highlight for Native American Week was a visit from Shaylynn Bird who conducted a School Assembly at Harlem, Hays, and Dodson.

Shaylynn is Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, and Oglala Lakota. Celebrated for her high-energy athletic performances, she specializes in the Women's Fancy Shawl Dance. She is also a content creator and motivational speaker.

Traveling across schools, recovery facilities, and tribal communities in states like Montana and North Dakota to deliver keynotes focused on:

- Resilience and overcoming bullying
- ADHD awareness and neurodiversity
- Mental reframing and self-love
- Interactive somatic workshops targeting body awareness and emotional regulation

She openly discussed her experiences with ADHD and mental health awareness. *"My goal is to remind every person that they belong, that kindness matters, and that taking care of your heart and mind is a strength, not a weakness,"* said Shaylynn.

Shaylynn gained widespread recognition for her incredible physical endurance on the powwow trail. At the 2024 Mandaree Celebration, she won a grueling Iron Women's special, outlasting competitors through 74 consecutive songs to take home a Chevy vehicle, cash prize, and a star quilt.

Every step forward is a victory, and every challenge is simply an invitation to discover how strong you truly are. Like a champion dancer finding their rhythm amidst the chaos, true resilience isn't about never getting tired—it's about listening to your body, honoring your spirit, and showing up authentically every single day.

Other activities at local schools included Native games; Big Auntie Earrings and Big Uncle Bolo Tie contests; Moccasin Day; Ribbon Skirt and Shirt Day; inspirational speakers; Braids, Bandanas, and Scarves Day; Native American trivia; drum and stick making; setting up tipis; singing and round dances; preparing traditional foods; beading; and sweetgrass braiding. The week concluded with traditional powwows at Harlem High School and Dodson High School, where students and community members took part.



Courtesy Photos: Pierre Bibbs



Courtesy Photo: MAPS Media



Native American Week – Creative Event Brings Joy to Participants

TERO's Auntie Earrings and Council Bolo Tie Contest, along with the Tobacco Prevention Program's Biggest Auntie Earrings and Biggest Uncle Belt Buckle/Medallion Contest, was a great success. Community members, employees, and students joined in on the fun, with prizes awarded to the winners.

The event brought community members, employees, and students together for an afternoon of connection, laughter, and friendly competition. Participants proudly showed off their auntie earrings, council bolo ties, belt buckles, and medallions, bringing creativity and personality to the contests.

It was great to see participants join in on the fun, celebrate one another, and watch the organizers' vision and ideas come to life. With prizes for the winners and plenty of smiles all around, the event was a memorable highlight of Native American Week.

Thank you to TERO Department: Nancy Boushie and Cheryl Horn, and Tobacco Prevention Specialist: Mella Stiffarm-Flansburg, for bringing this fun-filled event to our communities and local schools. -

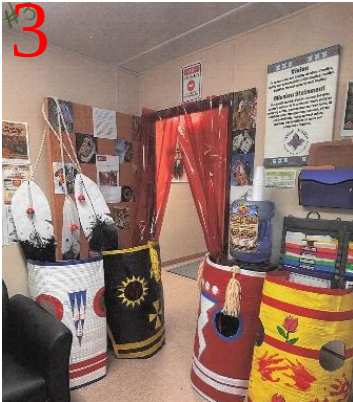
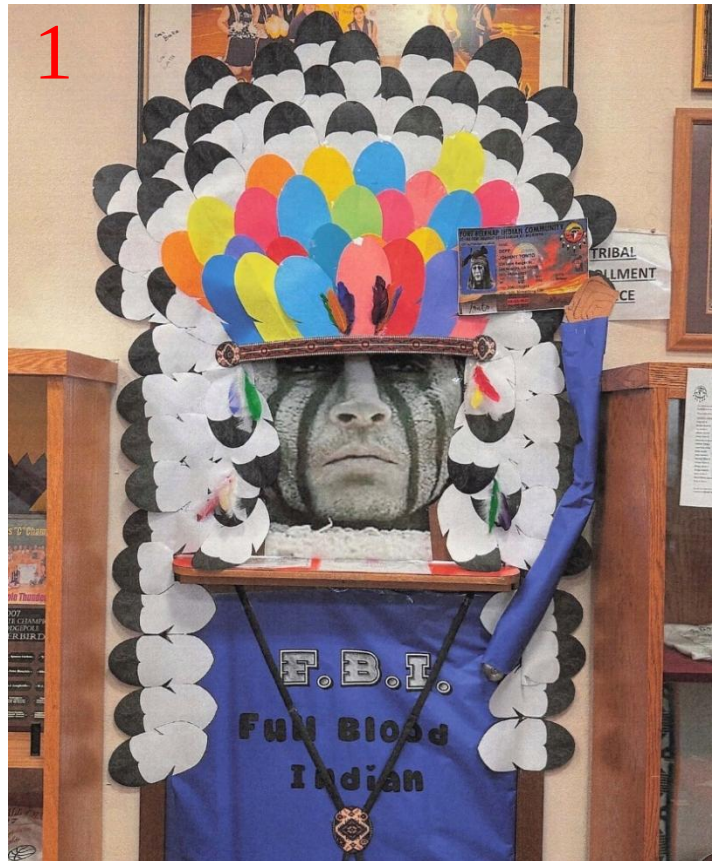


Native American Week Activity – Door Decorating Contest Winners

A total of 6 programs entered in the door decorating contest sponsored by Central Administration.

- 1st Place - Enrollment
- 2nd Place - TIWAHE (Savana/Kayla)
- 3rd Place- ANFHC (Social Services)

Other departments that participated were TIWAHE (Ramona), Environmental & Land.



Former Globetrotters Player Visits Local Schools

Nick "Motivator" Moore is a former Harlem Globetrotters player and alumni for Arizona State University (class of 1992). Nick is also an author and motivational speaker.

Nick, a former 6'6" guard played for the Harlem Globetrotters' entertainment team and later launched the *Motivate The Children* life skills program. He transitioned from a life of childhood adversity to a successful sports career, later becoming a renowned international motivational speaker and youth advocate.

Nick travels to schools, youth centers, and communities (including recent visits to Harlem and Hays Schools) to talk about overcoming childhood adversity, building resilience, and respecting teachers and parents.

Moore was raised by his grandparents and describes himself as a "knucklehead" and "class clown" during his youth. His life shifted dramatically when his school principal stepped in and encouraged his grandparents to let him play sports.

He went on to play collegiate basketball at ASU. Following his college career, he joined the Harlem Globetrotters' entertainment unit, showcasing his athletic skills and showmanship across the world.

After retiring from basketball, Moore rebranded himself as the "Motivator". He has dedicated over 34 years to traveling across North America, working extensively with tribal communities, public schools, and youth organizations.

Through his specialized nonprofits, Athletes Going to College and Motivate the Children, Moore conducts School assemblies & workshops; Delivering impactful messages focused on resilience, choices, and self-belief.

Combining his athletic roots with interactive, community-building exercises for children. His presentations often utilize actionable challenges, such as prompting youth to regularly compliment those around them and break free of negative peer environments.



Mitchell Healy to be Inducted into the Montana Indian Athletic Hall of Fame

It began on the Fort Belknap Reservation in the backyard of Rodeo Drive where Mitch "Shafter" Healy started playing with old horseshoes as a teenager in the 1990's. *"Just pegs in the ground with some old-time horseshoes that you can't find anywhere nowadays,"* said Mitch. *"I did not know how to throw but it was an intriguing game."*

Over the years, Mitch practiced relentlessly up until his mid-20's. He showed an interest playing in local horseshoe tournaments on the Fort Belknap Reservation. Still learning, he was attentive to how others were pitching as most were flipping the horseshoe and very few turned the horseshoe. *"I tried both ways and found that turning the shoe worked for me, so it was endless hours on the pits,"* said Mitch. *"I was practicing until I was able to have a consistent turn that scored points and ringers."* In the game of horseshoes, points measure the general proximity of a tossed shoe to the stake, while a ringer is a specific, high-value throw where the horseshoe completely encircles the stake.

Many horseshoes are designed for turning and flipping. *"I wouldn't be surprised if I had more than 20 sets of horseshoes over the years, trying to find the right one,"* said Mitch. *"I gave most of them away."* Horseshoes are designed as universal or hybrid models and can accommodate both turn and flip pitching styles. With these styles, pitchers can compete effectively at all skill levels.

As time went on, Mitch became better and wanted to do more after watching a game of pool and hearing competitors agree on the rules. "Ball in Hand," the competitors agreed, meaning the cue ball can be placed anywhere on the table if there was a scratch shot or if the shooter didn't hit their ball first.

The first player scratched and the second player put the cue ball "In the Kitchen," which is behind an understood border marked by a diamond on the top rails. The first player said, *"It's ball in hand, you can put the cue ball anywhere you want."* The second player said, *"Really?! You mean I can leave the Rez?!"* This comical analogy gave Mitch a good laugh as he never heard it put into those words, words that stuck with him.

Mitch's point in sharing that story is exactly what he anticipated on doing. *"I wanted to venture off the Reservation and see what horseshoes was like...I wanted to do more,"* said Mitch.

As an avid horseshoe pitcher with a mission, Mitch was a promotor and recruiter. His goal was to get more Native Americans (men, women, kids, and elders) to play at all levels. When traveling to tournaments across different Reservations to improve and share the game of horseshoes, he knew the potential was there. *"I know there are a lot of great Native horseshoe pitchers,"* said Mitch. *"But it took some time to get Tribal folks into it."*

Mitch began posting flyers around the Reservation to let horseshoe players (and anyone interested) know they could be sanctioned by him or someone from the Havre Horseshoe League. He also reached out to players on other Reservations, sending them flyers and the year's tournament schedule.

Before long, Fort Belknap had over 20 pitchers at the State Tournament. Reservations along the Hi-Line joined in, including Fort Peck and Rocky Boy, as did Northern Cheyenne from the southern end of the state. With at least 2 individuals in each Class, Mitch said, *"This was a very proud time. Everyone was introduced to how horseshoes are played off*



Mitch Healy, FB Courtesy Photo

Reservation. So, it was a huge success!"

When joining the Havre Horseshoe League, Mitch played with 3 different partners (2 from Fort Belknap and 1 from Havre) winning a total of 4 games. Although he doesn't play in the Horseshoe League anymore, he is willing to be a sub for a team that needs one. During league, he was very knowledgeable in teaching players to become better at pitching. *"This has always been my trademark,"* said Mitch. *"A lot of times I spent talking with other players and providing some guidance on how to pitch better."* Not only was he exceptional at the game, he wanted others to gain the technique and confidence he worked so hard to achieve over the years.

Mitch has a very profound technique, a precise 1 ¼ turn which he spent endless hours practicing. *"When I would play in tournaments, people watched and would ask how I throw like that,"* said Mitch. *"I would say, 'Practice.'"* These individuals were inspired by Mitch, trying his technique countless times. He would get a random phone call with excitement on the other line saying, "Mitch, I got that turn down!" and for him, that was always great to hear. Later on, Mitch would see them at a tournament and they would say, "That throw is too hard, it stopped working!" With amusement Mitch responded, *"I thought that too, when I first tried!"*

This brings back memories for Mitch when he would travel to Poplar, MT (long ago). *"A youngster on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation was intrigued by my pitching style and he wanted to learn,"* said Mitch; taking time out of his day to travel and practice with this young man. *"He turned into one of the best pitchers there and won many tournaments."* But they never teamed up because this 'youngster' stated that he wanted to play against the best, and to him...that was Mitch. *"Sadly, he is gone now. But it was a true privilege to have played a small role in his journey,"* said Mitch.

There was a time Fort Belknap players wanted to have a league of their own, a long-time goal. Mitch recalls how difficult it was in getting the league started. Players would travel out of town to compete in tournaments, giving them the opportunity to observe the horseshoe pits, and hoping to bring that back to the community. Today, horseshoe pits have been constructed in the Mission Canyon with a league called, "The Little Rockies Horseshoe & Cornhole Club." Cornhole has its similarities to pitching horseshoes but the technique differs. This major sport has become very popular throughout the Country, a sport Mitch has succeeded in as well. *"Cornhole is a whole other story,"* said Mitch. Perhaps, another story he may share in the future.

Mitch was highly involved in designating (Continued on Page 14) ...

(Continued from Page 13)...horseshoe pits within the community where a number of tournaments were played. The horseshoe tournaments became extremely competitive during the local Powwows. A few days prior to this event, Mitch recalls gathering help that consisted of mowing the grass, painting the boards, and hauling sand. With brackets ready to go and extra horseshoes on hand, Mitch said, *"It was quite the work, but the end result is putting on a good tournament for everyone."*

As the organizer, Mitch donated trophies and sought donations from local organizations. One time he purchased a set of champion belts, similar to WWE belts that said 'FORT BELKNAP CHAMPION.' The team that won, posed with the belts, making it a fun addition to local tournaments. *"Some were brushy and just stood there, and some would get into it,"* said Mitch. *"You're the champions, show everyone who the champs are!"* as Mitch tried encouraging the winners.

Once players began going to sanctioned State Tournaments, they witnessed many different types of horseshoes. There was a high interest, so Mitch ordered horseshoes for a majority of the players from the community. Pick-up sticks and measuring tools were also purchased for the winners. These are multi-function combination tools that check ringers and scoring distances.

In 2009, Mitch joined the Montana Horseshoe Pitchers Association. To qualify for the Montana State Horseshoe Tournament, he pitched in Sanctioned State Tournaments. Winning or competing in sanctioned state events helps establish a player's official ranking and eligibility for higher-tier events. With a 24% ringer average, Mitch won the Class C Title.

With Mitch's initial Class C victory, everyone assumed he was ready compete at the top level, Class A. *"I was put in this class and the competitors taught me a lesson...I was not ready yet,"* said Mitch. With his devastating loss in 2010, he practiced relentlessly and improved his ringer percentage to almost 40% and competed in the 2011 Class B Tourney, winning the Class Title!

In 2012, Mitch entered the Class A State Tournament where he found himself in a tie-record with a former 3-time State Champion. With a playoff match between the top 2, the pressure was on! Mitch pitched his best game with a 55% ringer, earning his first State Class A Championship.

From that moment on, Mitch became a dominant force. Overall, he has won 2 Class Championships (Class B & C) and 9 State Championships (Class A), making him an 11-time Champion.

The National Horseshoe Pitchers Association records for Montana State Championships go all the way back to 1922, and Mitch currently holds a tie for the most State Championships (9 Titles) in Montana History. *"My personal goal is to get that 10th State Championship,"* said Mitch, *"But I'm going to have to bring my A-game to achieve this milestone."* This goal was something he never considered until after earning his 7th State Title, which is when he began to think about what's possible.

In 2017, Mitch competed in the World Horseshoe Tournament in St. George, Utah against 15 competitors in Class B1, and was top 37 in the Men's Division. There was a total of 1,041 entrees and 72 classes. This tournament lasted 2 weeks. Mitch entered with a 51.23% ringer average and fought his way to an incredible 2nd place finish. *"I will never forget this experience,"* said Mitch. He proudly stood alongside other Montana pitchers, connected with Native athletes from various reservations, and made friends from different countries.

Mitch's unique story even caught the media's attention. In 2018, while driving a reporter from the *Great Falls Tribune* around the Zortman and Landusky Mines, Mitch casually talked about his passion for horseshoes. *"I had no clue that he was taking notes and then found myself in the Great Falls Tribune,"* said Mitch. He was also interviewed several times during tournaments and briefly made an appearance on the local news channel.

In deep thought, Mitch reminisces being a teenager playing in the backyard and making it to the Montana Indian Athletic Hall of fame. *"I would have never imagined this,"* said Mitch. Growing up on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, horseshoes felt like a traditional pastime – a 'Native Game.' *"I thought it was something that other Reservations did."* It was a simple lifestyle, deeply rooted into who he is.

Mitch laughs about a time his grandparents took him to Deb's Diner for the very first time. When the waitress asked for his order, Mitch replied, *"Deer meat and spuds."* It was what he grew up on, and it was all he knew. *"Of course, they didn't have it. But my point is, it was the same thing with horseshoes, we knew nothing more,"* said Mitch, *"Good Memories!"*

Mitch never reflected that far back into his journey of horseshoes until he was approached by a friend, Loren "Bum" Stiffarm, who nominated him in 2025 to be inducted into the Montana Indian Athletic Hall of Fame (MIAHOF). With hesitation, Mitch thought, *"What have I done?"* The MIAHOF is an organization that honors indigenous athletes, coaches, and teams from Montana's Tribal Nations who have achieved excellence in sports and made a lasting impact on native culture.

Mitch was uncertain if horseshoes was in that realm and if he was worthy of such recognition.

After much deliberation the nomination was sent in, *"You don't know until you try,"* Mitch thought. Without expectations, Mitch received a letter in the mail from the director of MIAHOF (dated September 3, 2026), welcoming him into the Montana Indian Athletic Hall of Fame - Class of 2026!

Humbled with gratitude of this prestigious nomination, Mitch felt honored and privileged to be listed alongside many great inductees who represent professionalism, respect, talent, and most importantly...Indian Country. Keeping in mind, Mitch said, *"The places we go and the things we do, we should always be representing, and be proud of who we are and where we come from."*

To Mitch, this is not an individual recognition. *"Success comes with support from family, friends, mentors, and all the battles on the pits with competitors,"* said Mitch. *"They are all a part of my journey."* His journey is not over yet. Mitch feels very content with the outcome but feels there is still work to be done and a goal of winning that 10th Championship.

Representing Indian Country with respect and pride, Mitch states, *"I will continue to represent the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation and our Tribes, the Nakoda and Aaniiih."*

As an official inductee of the Montana Indian Athletic Hall of Fame, Mitchell "Shafter" Healy will stand alongside the greatest icons in Native sports history. *"Whenever I hang it up, I know that I did my best,"* said Mitch.

This event will take place on November 14, 2026 in Bozeman, MT. -

Living by the Bigfoot Motto:
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
"Appreciate the moments and experiences along the way. Every challenge can be overcome. Never quit, keep moving forward, and in the end...there will be a positive outcome."



Mitch Healy Pitching Horseshoes, FB Courtesy Photo

Governor Gianforte, CMS, DPHHS Announce \$8.7 Million Investment in Rural Emergency Medical Services

HELENA, Mont. – Governor Greg Gianforte and Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) Director Charlie Brereton announced an \$8.7 million investment to help strengthen emergency medical services (EMS) across rural Montana. The funds will support 78 EMS agencies serving rural and frontier areas to purchase needed equipment and four new ambulances.

“Working with President Trump and CMS Administrator Oz, Montana is modernizing its rural health system,” Gov. Gianforte said. “Through this \$8.7 million investment in emergency medical services, CMS is ensuring that all Montanans, regardless of where they live, can receive a swift response in the event of a medical emergency. As we deploy Rural Health Transformation Fund dollars, we will continue to prioritize the needs of Montanans in our rural and underserved communities.”

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz praised Montana’s commitment to strengthening rural health care, adding, “CMS is proud to work with states like Montana to deliver innovative, locally driven solutions as part of President Trump’s Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP).

These awards demonstrate how this historic investment is empowering rural communities to strengthen their health systems, put patients first, and bring better care closer to home.

Four agencies were awarded ambulances at a cost of approximately \$340,000 each, including: Absarokee Rural Fire District, located in Stillwater County; Avon Volunteer Fire and EMS, in southern Powell County; Blackfeet Tribal Emergency Medical Services; and Prairie County Ambulance Service. Three of these agencies currently operate ambulances over 20 years old that need replacement, and the fourth operates with leased ambulances, some of which are not fully functional.

“Every day, EMS professionals and volunteers respond when their neighbors need them most,” said Director Brereton. “This funding will help EMS agencies replace critical equipment,

improve patient care, and better support the responders who serve their communities – creating a lasting impact across rural Montana.”

In addition to ambulance grants, 75 agencies, including three tribal governments, have been awarded funding for 238 pieces of equipment, providing modern upgrades to aging, faulty, or non-existent equipment. Equipment provided in this round of grants included IV pump systems, ventilators, cardiac monitors, power load systems and cots, and stair chairs. Awards range from \$3,200 to \$308,637 based on need and equipment type.

The highest-need items requested through the grant applications were specialized equipment such as IV pump systems and ventilators to transport critical patients from rural centers to larger medical facilities that provide more advanced care. The power cot systems and stair chairs, which help with patient loading, unloading, and lifting, are particularly important in areas with an aging EMS workforce – many of whom are volunteers.

This is the first round of funding for EMS modernization through Montana’s RHTP. Additional grants will be available annually through 2030.

The grants were available to EMS agencies located in or serving rural, tribal, and frontier areas of Montana to upgrade ambulances and equipment. Eligibility was based on need, such as the age, model, or operational status of current equipment, the level and type of service provided by the requesting agency, gaps in patient care, and the rurality of calls.

The Rural Health Transformation Program is supported by the CMS of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$233,509,358.76 with 100 percent funded by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services/Health Human Services.

The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/DHHS, or the U.S. Government. -By Office of the Governor



LEADING THE
MONTANA
COMEBACK



FB Courtesy Photo

Montana Department of Labor & Industry Launches Workforce Warriors

In September, Governor Greg Gianforte joined Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) Commissioner Sarah Swanson and tribal leaders to launch the Workforce Warrior poster and video series, a campaign that features Native Montanans and their career journeys and community contributions in fields including skilled trades, entrepreneurship, health care, education, public service, and business.

"The Workforce Warrior campaign reflects the strength, leadership, and contributions of tribal citizens and communities across Montana," Gov. Gianforte said. "We are grateful to the Workforce Warriors who have chosen to share their experiences, and we remain committed to our partnership with Montana's tribal nations to support a growing, skilled workforce."

The Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) is driving meaningful change in Native American communities and reservations through collaborative partnerships to create individualized workforce development initiatives. Under Commissioner Swanson's leadership, the Office of the Tribal Liaison was formed in October 2023 and has expanded from a single role into a dedicated team focused on building authentic relationships with Tribal Nations. Since the formation of the Tribal Liaison Office, they have conducted 26 tribal consultations, encompassing over thirteen tribes and seven reservations. To support these growing endeavors and recognizing the potential of young adults in these communities, the Office created a youth engagement position to connect Native youth with career opportunities.

The office's approach centers on collaboration. In 18 months, the Tribal Liaison team has facilitated six in person roundtables with Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) directors, Tribal leaders and elders, organized labor, Tribal Colleges, and Montana employers. These discussions allow each Tribal Nation to define its workforce priorities, with DLI providing consistent support to help achieve those goals. TERO directors are the eyes and ears on the ground helping support workers, while developing need-specific programming, training, and resources. These partnerships foster mutual respect and prioritize a shared commitment to grow career opportunities in Indian communities.

DLI's efforts reflect a commitment to listening, respecting Tribal sovereignty, and creating tailored workforce opportunities in partnership with local tribal leaders. The Office of the Tribal Liaison is fostering economic opportunity and resilience, building a foundation for lasting success in Montana's Native communities.

The series showcases young Native entrepreneurs, community leaders, and business owners through posters and video interviews, sharing their stories of success to motivate both youth and adults to explore new career possibilities.

Chance Main and Mesa Bell were the first to be featured in the Workforce Warriors campaign by the Montana Department of Labor & Industry. Their posters were showcased at last month's launch.

Chance Main is an Indigenous private contractor from the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation who was featured as the very first profile in the Montana Department of Labor & Industry's Indigenous Workforce Warriors poster series. He runs a successful construction and contracting business on the Reservation and is a member of the Aaniiih and Nokoda Tribes.

Chance's guiding advice for young people entering the workforce is, *"Don't be scared to start anything."*

Mesa Bell is a heavy equipment operator and commercial driver's license (CDL) holder on the Fort Belknap Reservation and is also a member of the Aaniiih and Nakoda Tribes.

"The reservation is hard and there are not many role models for females or males. I experienced hardships at 17 years old and I ended up not finishing high school," said Mesa Bell, a participant in the Workforce Warrior campaign. "When I turned 19, I enrolled in Salish Kootenai College in the heavy equipment and CDL program. Now, I am on the Fort Belknap Reservation, and I am a heavy equipment operator. I've been there for a year and a half and I run everything from an excavator to a snowplow."

The goal is to highlight diverse career paths in tribal communities to inspire the next generation of workers.



Tribal Employees & Community Members Celebrate Mary Adams' 50-Year Work Anniversary

Tribal employees, Tribal Council members, community members, and the family of Mary Adams all came together to celebrate her remarkable 50-year work anniversary with the Fort Belknap Tribe.

The surprise event was a heartfelt tribute to Mary's dedication and commitment. It was a joyous occasion filled with gratitude and recognition for her invaluable contributions to the community and the Tribe. Everyone involved expressed their appreciation for Mary's hard work and the positive impact she has made throughout the years.

In 1976, Mary began her career as a trainee in the Finance Payroll Department with a starting wage of \$2.30 per hour. Her first paycheck was \$173.73, which is equivalent to approximately \$1,023.27 today. By 1980, she took on the role of bookkeeper, managing 638 programs until October 1990. Shortly after, she returned to the payroll department, where she has dedicated the past 36 years of her career.

Mary has worked under 26 Tribal Council Terms. In 1976, members of the FBIC Council include: Joe Brown, Basil Long Fox, Gerald Healy, Dave Hawley, Jack Plumage, Arnold Plumage, Gilbert Horn, Tennyson Boe, Franklin Perez, Joe McConnell, John Allen, Frank Cuts The Rope, and Donovan Archambault.

In 1976, the United States President was Gerald Ford. The cost of items in 1976 include, New Car: \$4,250, Gallon of Gas: \$0.61, Gallon of Milk: \$1.65, Movie Ticket: \$2.13, Postage Stamp: \$0.13, Dozen Eggs: \$0.84, Loaf of Bread: \$0.32.

Mary Adams was honored by the Fort Belknap Tribal Council with a beautiful star quilt as a special gift, symbolizing respect and gratitude for 5 decades of dedicated service to the Tribe, with no plans of retiring anytime soon.

Words of Appreciation by Tribal Employees:

Happy 50th Work Anniversary to Mary Adams as of the 16th of August!! Thank you for everything you do in the finance department, us ladies over here at Upward Bound Appreciate everything you do. – Emma Lamebull

Thank you Mary and Congratulations!! – Bill Main

She needs a blanket and a day off! 50 years how cool!!! – Shaina Barrows

Thank you, Mary, for all you do for all of FBIC! All the years of dedication and support you've blessed us with and you still remain humble & kind. You are APPRECIATED! – Farrell Shortman

Wow! Congratulations to one of the most dedicated tribal employees ever! Thank you for all you continue to do. – Ramona Horn



Courtesy Photo: Dianna Blue-Gamble

Awesome!!!! Congrats Mary!!! Needs a Blanket and 50-days Off!!
– Geno LeValdo

Held down Payroll for 50 years and counting! – Lisa Campbell

HOLY!!!!!! 50??????? I was just a baby!! – Nancy Boushie

50 years! Congrats! Thank you for all your years of hard work! –
Cody Shambo

Thank you, Mary! You are appreciated more than you know!!! –
Cheryl Horn

Congratulations Mary! You do an awesome job and thank you for
all your help when I call you. – Kermit "Dale" Snow, Jr.

Congratulations Mary!!!! – Andrea Boushie

Congratulations Mary!! That is a great achievement and thanks
for your dedication and hard work over the years. – Josh Horn, Sr.

Excellent Mary Adams..... You're in a league of your own, keep
going. It's boring out there, lol. – Wesley Cochran

Congrats Mary! You're an amazing, dedicated, hard-working and
phenomenal woman! – Sheryl Parisian

Congratulations, appreciate all the hard work & dedication you
have given all of us throughout the years. – Carolyn Horn

Thank you Mary for your dedication to Fort Belknap and the
finance department. You are appreciated and thank you for your
hard work. – Tina Bierle

Congratulations Mary! I've never heard of anyone having 50
years with the Tribe. AMAZING! Thank you for all you do! –
Breanne Main

Lelelelelelelele WAY TO GO MARY! 50 Years! CONGRATULATIONS
thanks for everything you do for the tribe!! An incredible person
and appreciated by many. – Journi Johnson *(Continued on Pg. 18)*

(Continued from Pg. 17)...Congratulations Mary!! You are AWESOME and it is about time you receive recognition for a job well done! You are very valuable to the Community and the Tribe! I fully agree to prior comments of establishment of Mary Adams Day! – Avis Ball

Thank you for your all your efforts and commitment, Mary! Your contributions are valued! Wishing you a joyful 50th work anniversary. – Louise Doney

Congratulations Mary!! You're an amazing person and we are all lucky to have you! Thank you for your many years of dedicated work! You are truly appreciated. – Kayla Horn

Congratulations Mary, your reliable service, your patience and your professionalism are exceptional, we appreciate all you do. – Delina Cuts The Rope

Mary Adams, my first job with tribe was in 1981, you were already employed in finance. Your dedication, hard work, and rapport with 100s of tribal employees is so appreciated by many. You deserve 50-star quilts lol. thank you for your patience and kindness. Love you, Mary. Aho! – Joan Johnson

Congratulations Mary, that is quite an achievement! I agree, you deserve an honoring for your dedication and service to the tribes. You are dedicated, very kind and professional. Thank you for your dedication and service and setting the example for many. We certainly appreciate all that you do. – Warren Morin



Courtesy Photos: Dianna Blue-Gamble

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS), ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (ACF), ADMINISTRATION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES, CHILDREN'S BUREAU AWARDS \$56,943.00 TO FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY (FBIC) A MODERNIZATION FINGERPRINTING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CHILD WELFARE GRANT PROGRAM.

The Fort Belknap Modernization Fingerprinting Infrastructure for Child Welfare, a 24-month project, will enhance the Tribe's Aaniiih Nakoda Family Healing Center (ANFHC), to modernize the fingerprinting infrastructure used to conduct required child welfare background checks for prospective foster parents, kinship caregivers, adoptive parents, and other adults residing in potential placement homes. The project will address this infrastructure gap through four primary activities:

- Conduct a formal gap analysis and define appropriate technical solutions;
- Purchase, install, test, and implement office-based Live Scan and portable fingerprinting technology, as feasible and permitted by applicable requirements, and train designated staff;
- Establish and monitor performance measures to assess improvements in efficiency and accessibility; and
- Develop and implement a sustainability plan. These efforts are expected to reduce preventable administrative delays, improve fingerprint quality, decrease the need for repeat fingerprint collection, reduce staff burden, and increase access to fingerprinting services for prospective caregivers experiencing geographic or transportation barriers.

Louise Doney, Tribal Planning Grant Writer, was instrumental in writing this grant proposal and commended for her dedication to the Fort Belknap Indian Community. The project will be administered by the Aaniiih Nakoda Family Healing Center, under Koda Mount, Program Director.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Fort Belknap Planning Department at (406) 353-8380 and/or the Aaniiih Nakoda Family Healing Center staff at (406) 353-8346.

TO OUR FORT BELKNAP RELATIVES

These past few weeks have brought more loss than our communities and many of our families have had time to process. We have lost community members, relatives, friends and neighbors. Some deaths followed illness, while others came suddenly and under tragic circumstances. Each loss leaves a unique absence in a family and in our community.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to every family who is grieving. Your loved ones mattered. Whether they served in a public role or lived quietly among us, their lives were part of the life of our people.

We also recognize those who are carrying several losses at once, those supporting families through funerals, and those struggling privately. You do not have to pretend that you are okay. There is no single way or timetable for grieving.

We ask our community to treat one another with patience and care. Please respect families' privacy, refrain from spreading rumors, and remember that children and loved ones are hearing and reading what we say.

Let us check on one another, bring a meal, offer a ride, sit with someone, and keep showing up after the services have ended. Let us make room for the ways our families seek comfort through our respective relationships with the Creator, our Aaniiih and Nakoda traditions, counseling, and the company of people they trust.

To every grieving family, we are thinking of you and your loss is respectfully recognized.

-Fort Belnap Indian Community Council

Fort Belnap Indian Community: Enrollment Department

The following individual's applications were viewed and tentatively accepted at the SEPTEMBER 28, 2026 meeting for the Fort Belnap Indian Community Enrollment.

These names will be posted for THIRTY (30) DAYS.

TENTATIVE ENROLLEES:

Green, Kegan B.
Has Eagle, Kennedy R.
Main, III, Douglas F.
Moore, Alexis M.
Muller, Tyffany L.
Olsen, Hayden L.
Perez, Adorai S.
Squires, Tamara M.
Stiffarm, Onyx J.
Welch, Jr., Michael J.
Windy Boy, Ashlyn C.

Should you have any questions regarding the above-mentioned applicants, please direct all inquiries to Randall Werk, Sr., President of the Fort Belnap Indian Community.



FBIC RESOLUTION LIST

- 186-2026** Council/Legal – Authorizing the FBIC to Join a tribal amicus curiae brief in support of petition for writ of certiorari in Flaherty vs. Kalishiex LLC
- 187-2026** Enrollment – Blood change Marcus Gone
- 188-2026** Enrollment – Blood change Kimber Shambo
- 189-2026** Enrollment – New Enrollees (7)
- 190-2026** Finance – Ratifying August 2026 budgets (18)
- 191-2026** Fish & Game – Approving submission of a proposal to US F&G National Native American program office for Fiscal Year 2024 tribal wildlife grant program for FBIC tribal F&W programs
- 192-2026** Council/Legal – FBIC Council urging the U.S. department of defense to restore Native American Religion as a distinct religious preference & affirming religious freedom of Native American service members
- 193-2026** PMU – Commercial Solid Waste Service Rates
- 194-2026** Planning – Authorizing submission of application to the U.S. dept. of Health & Human Services, administration for children & families for fingerprint infrastructure modernization
- 195-2026** Planning – Authorizing submission to the FY 26 U.S. Dept. of Justice coordinated tribal assistance solicitation (CTAS) purpose area 1 combined TRGB hiring & equipment & training
- 196-2026** Planning/IT – Formal Secretarial mapping survey/map of definite location NPM-TRUS-48 Section K waiver
- 197-2026** Water Resources – Request funding from BIA for Water Rights negotiation/Litigation cost regarding program 34420
- 198-2026** Water Resources – Requesting funding from BIA Water Resources Management, planning & pre-development regarding program 34020
- 199-2026** Planning – Approving & Authorizing the submission of one-time funding request to the BIA for needed items
- 200-2026** Council/Casino - Adopting the revised Title XV, Gaming Code
- 201-2026** Council – MOU with Blaine County Commissioner
- 202-2026** Water Resources – request 250,000 from BIA for FY27 payment of private council legal fees, Attorney fees funding to protect FBIC treaty reserved water rights & trust resources through FBIC water rights negotiations & settlement
- 203-2026** Social Services – Payment for Gray Box space at Anaakyaaniin Wellness Center
- 204-2026** IMDG/Council- Approving and authorizing amended American Rescue Plan (ARP) housing allocation scope of work administered by IMDG
- 205-2026** IMDG/Council – Approving professional services agreement with WO Wiyuk’can for Environmental Assessment and engineering services for the Hays Future residential developmental project
- 206-2026** IMDG/Council – Approving change order number one to the WWC engineering contract for environmental assessment and engineering services for the NE Corner development

Community Survey: Blood Quantum – Fort Belknap Indian Community Article III Membership Review

The Fort Belknap Indian Community Council is reviewing Article III of the Fort Belknap Constitution, which establishes the requirements for membership in the community. The current constitution generally counts only Assiniboine and Gros Ventre blood when determining whether a descendant satisfies the constitutional one-eighth (1/8) Indian Blood requirement. Questions and concerns have been raised regarding Enrollment Requirements and how it may affect Fort Belknap families and future generations. Before deciding on any constitutional changes, the Tribal Council wants to hear directly from tribal members through a Community Comment Form/Survey. NO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED AT THIS TIME. Note: Your comments will be included with the community input presented to the Fort Belknap Tribal Council before determining whether any proposed constitutional amendment should move forward. Tribal members are highly encouraged to fill out the survey link below.

Online Survey Link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLLJX2S>

Community Survey: Cannabis Legalization on the Reservation

The Fort Belknap Tribal Council is seeking community input regarding the potential legalization and regulation of cannabis on the reservation. Your responses will help tribal leadership understand community perspectives, concerns, and priorities before any decisions are made. This survey is anonymous and confidential. Click on survey link below. Online Survey Link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LC6JDHC>

Community Survey: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan

Help make our streets safer. This survey asks about your experiences, safety concerns, and ideas for improving roads in our community. When filling out the survey, please focus on the area in which you travel the most or live in. Areas of concern: -Fort Belknap Agency -Old Hays -Hays -Northeast Corner -LodgePole. Your responses will be kept confidential. Survey results may be summarized or shared, but individuals will not be identified. Thank you for your participation! Your feedback will help develop a Safety Action Plan, which aims to initiate safe streets and roads for everyone in the community. Online Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9VJB6HV>

Community Survey: FBIC Agricultural Water Needs

Fort Belknap Indian Community is conducting a Reservation-wide assessment of livestock water infrastructure and future stock-water needs. Tribal producers, agricultural lessees, grazing permittees, and Tribal departments are invited to share information about existing water facilities, livestock needs, drought impacts, water hauling, maintenance priorities, and possible future improvements. Your response will help support planning and prioritization. Responses are for planning purposes only and do not guarantee funding or construction.

Online Survey Link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/FBIC-AgWater



Newsletter Created and Published by:
Breanne Main, Public Relations Officer
Fort Belknap Indian Community
Central Administration
E-mail: breanne.main@ftbelknap.org

Blaine County Election Office
Early Voting, Absentee Ballot Drop-Off, & Late Registration

If you would like to vote early, request a new ballot, or register after regular registration closes, you can visit the Blaine County Election Office or one of our scheduled alternative locations. Voted absentee ballots can be dropped off at the Blaine County Courthouse M-F from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM or at the alternative office on the dates listed below.

Chinook	Blaine County Courthouse	8:00 AM–5:00 PM
Tuesday, October 6		
Friday, October 9		
Tuesday, October 13		
Monday, October 19		
Tuesday, October 20		
Friday, October 23		
Monday, October 26		
Tuesday, October 27		
Monday, November 2		8:00 AM–12:00 Noon
Tuesday, November 3	Election Day*	7:00 AM–8:00 PM
Fort Belknap Agency	Insurance Building	9:00 AM–5:00 PM
Wednesday, October 7		
Wednesday, October 14		
Wednesday, October 21		
Wednesday, October 28		
Lodge Pole	Enemy Killer Center	10:00 AM–5:00 PM
Thursday, October 8		
Friday, October 16		
Friday, October 30		
Hays	Hays/Lodge Pole High School	10:00 AM–5:00 PM
Thursday, October 15		
Thursday, October 22		
Thursday, October 29		

CLOSED — Monday, October 12 - The Election Office will be closed for the holiday.

*Election Day services will include late registration, replacement ballot issuance, and ballot drop-off.

Questions? Call the Blaine County Election Office: 406-357-4022

Please note: Alternative office dates and hours may change based on the availability of Fort Belknap facilities.



KNOW YOUR BALLOT

I-194 — POLITICAL SPENDING BY ORGANIZATIONS

BALLOT INITIATIVE I-194

I-194 is about political spending by organizations in Montana.

It applies to organizations such as corporations, nonprofits, trusts, partnerships and trade associations.



THINK: MONEY FROM ORGANIZATIONS IN ELECTIONS

WHAT WOULD CHANGE?

I-194 would restrict these organizations from using money or anything of value to:

- Support or oppose candidates
- Support or oppose political parties
- Support or oppose state or local ballot issues

It would not apply to individuals or political committees. News, commentary and editorial content would also be protected.

THINK: LIMIT ORGANIZATION POLITICAL SPENDING

A VOTE MEANS

YES
Organizations covered by I-194 would generally **not be allowed** to use their organizational money to influence Montana elections or state and local ballot issues.



YES= ADD THE PROTECTIONS

A NO VOTE MEANS

NO
The restrictions proposed by I-194 would not become Montana law. Existing laws governing political spending would remain in place.



NO - DO NOT ADD THE PROTECTIONS

QUESTIONS?

Go online to:
sos.mt.gov/elections, or
[WESTERNNATIVEVOICE.ORG](https://westernnativevoice.org)



YES



BEFORE YOU FILL IN THAT BUBBLE...

Read it. Ask questions.

NO



Understand what **YES** means.

Understand what **NO** means.

MY VOTE IS BIGGER THAN ME



KNOW YOUR BALLOT

CI-132 - HOW MT CHOOSES SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

BALLOT INITIATIVE CI-132

CI-132 is about how we elect judges in Montana.

Montana judicial elections are **currently nonpartisan**. That means judges do not run as Republicans, Democrats or another political party.

CI-132 would put that rule into the Montana Constitution.

THINK: JUDGES + POLITICAL PARTIES



WHAT WOULD CHANGE?

If CI-132 passes, the Montana Constitution would require judicial elections to remain nonpartisan.

Judicial candidates would continue to appear on the ballot without running as a political party's candidate.

THINK: KEEP JUDICIAL ELECTIONS NONPARTISAN



A YES VOTE MEANS

YES
Add a rule to the Montana Constitution requiring judicial elections to remain nonpartisan.



YES= ADD THE RULE

A NO VOTE MEANS

NO
Do not add this rule to the Montana Constitution. The Constitution would not be changed by CI-132.



NO = DO NOT ADD THE RULE

QUESTIONS?

Go online to:
sos.mt.gov/elections, or
[WESTERNNATIVEVOICE.ORG](https://westernnativevoice.org)



YES



BEFORE YOU FILL IN THAT BUBBLE...

Read it. Ask questions.

NO



Understand what **YES** means.

Understand what **NO** means.



KNOW YOUR BALLOT

CI-133 — INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PROCESS

BALLOT INITIATIVE CI-133

CI-133 is about how citizen ballot initiatives and referendums are handled in Montana.

Montanans already have the constitutional right to use **initiatives and referendums**.

CI-133 would add more specific protections and rules for how government handles that process.

THINK: RULES FOR CITIZEN BALLOT MEASURES



WHAT WOULD CHANGE?

If CI-133 passes, the Montana Constitution would require the initiative and referendum process to be impartial, predictable, open and timely.

It would also protect petitions from being rejected for minor or technical issues and require ample time for collecting signatures.

THINK: ADD CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS FOR THE PROCESS



A VOTE MEANS

YES
Add these protections and procedures for citizen initiatives and referendums to the Montana Constitution.



YES= ADD THE PROTECTIONS

A NO VOTE MEANS

NO
Do not add these protections and procedures to the Montana Constitution. The Constitution would not be changed by CI-133.



NO - DO NOT ADD THE PROTECTIONS

QUESTIONS?

Go online to:
sos.mt.gov/elections, or
[WESTERNNATIVEVOICE.ORG](https://westernnativevoice.org)



YES



BEFORE YOU FILL IN THAT BUBBLE...

Read it. Ask questions.

NO



Understand what **YES** means.

Understand what **NO** means.

MY VOTE IS BIGGER THAN ME



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Fort Belknap Agency
158 Tribal Way, Suite B
100 BIA Road
Harlem, Montana 59526

FARM/PASTURE BID ADVERTISEMENT 26-01

THE SUPERINTENDENT, FORT BELKNAP AGENCY, announces that sealed bids will be accepted on various tracts of land for farm pasture lease to begin on January 1, 2027. These leases will be subject to all terms and conditions in use at this agency. Each lease is subject to one-time administrative fee that is 3% of the annual rent.

If you intend to exercise "Owner's Use" on tracts advertised within this bid, you must submit a written request to the Superintendent, Fort Belknap Agency. Your request will be reviewed to determine if it meets all the stipulations required for owner's use. This applies to trust land only. Lessees are responsible for contacting negotiating a lease with the owner(s) of any full interest of undivided fee (patent in fee) interests within the tract(s) that they bid on for lease.

Lessees are not allowed to pasture outside cattle on tracts that are designated as pastureland. The lessee must be the owner of the livestock. Aftermath grazing will be assessed separately and must be requested on bid sheet. Bidder is responsible for access to the tract(s).

If you currently have an outstanding debt with United States government, you are ineligible for bidding.

When bidding, please use the attached bid sheet and place your bid on the bid sheet by the item number and your per acre bid amount. If you note any errors, please refer to the tract number.

Sealed bids will be accepted until 10:00 a.m. (local time) on **October 1, 2026**. You must include 100% of the total cash bid. If these tracts are within the Irrigation Unit, a 100% bond must also be submitted. Accepted only are certified checks, cashier's checks, or money orders made payable to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Mark clearly on your bid, "**FARM/PASTURE BID ADVERTISEMENT 26-01**". The Superintendent reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Bid advertisement 26-01 will be held at the BIA Superintendents Conference Room.

If you have any questions, please contact Real Estate Services with the Leasing Department at 406-353-4004.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Azure

Digitally signed by Mark L. Azure
Date: 2026.09.21 11:44:12 -0600

Mark Azure
Superintendent



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Fort Belknap Agency
158 Tribal Way, Suite B
Harlem, Montana 59526

IN REPLY REFER TO:
REAL ESTATE SERVICES
CODE 4300

October 1, 2026

Memorandum

TO: General Public / Interested Parties

FROM: Mark L. Azure, Superintendent, Fort Belknap Agency *Mark L. Azure*

SUBJECT: Public Notice of Extension of Sealed Bid Advertisement

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Belknap Agency, hereby announces an extension of the advertisement period for the agricultural lease sale previously advertised. This extension modifies the bid opening date only.

New Bid Opening: November 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. (MST).

Sealed Bid Submission Deadline: On or before 10:00 a.m. (MST) on November 10, 2026

Delivery Location: Fort Belknap Agency – Real Estate Services Office, 158 Tribal Way, Suite B, Harlem, MT 59526.

The advertisement will be conducted in accordance with 25 CFR 162, and all terms and conditions of the original 20-01 solicitation remain in effect. Bidders must follow all instructions, terms, and conditions contained in the original advertisement, including any requirements for bid labeling, documentation, and deposits. Only the bid opening date has changed.

Packet Availability: Packets for the 2026-01 Farming and Grazing Lease Advertisement are available at the Fort Belknap Agency, 158 TRIBAL WAY, SUITE B, HARLEM, MONTANA 59526.

All other terms and conditions of the original advertisement remain unchanged. This notice is effective immediately upon publication.

Upcoming Promotions!



October 2026

October 1-31, 2026, Birthday Free-Play \$25/Tier 1-2 and \$5/Tier 3-5. Participants who come in on their Birthday will receive a free play coupon depending on tier status. Participants must log in on the Promotional Payout Log.

October 31, 2026, Halloween Candy for kids (starting at 4pm until gone).

October 2, 2026, Promo Fun Wheel! Participants will be selected from 6pm-11pm for a chance to win a prize of up to \$250 free play or cash. Max prize is \$250 cash. Players will be drawn via Hot Seat drawing through the Player Rewards Club and patrons must be actively playing on a gaming machine. Participants must sign the Promotional Prize Payout Log.

October 3, 2026, Hotseat Drawings hourly for \$100 from 5pm-9pm and \$150 from 10pm-11pm for a total of \$800. Must be a member of the casino Player Rewards Club. Players must be actively playing on the gaming machine during the drawings. Must be present to win and must sign off on the Promotional Prize Payout Log form.

October 6, 2026, Seniors Day. Participants must be at least 60 years of age. **Ten hotseat cash prize drawings for \$25 will be done every half hour from 12:30pm and 5:00pm.** \$10 Match Play, you pay the cashier \$10 and receive a \$20 Free play voucher. Promotion begins at 10am and goes on until 8pm. Seniors must sign off on the Promotional Prize Payout Log form.

October 09, 2026, Hotseat Drawings hourly \$100 hourly from 6pm-8pm, \$150 from 9pm-10pm and \$200 at 11pm for a total of \$800. Must be a member of the casino Player Rewards Club. Players must be actively playing on the gaming machine during the drawings. Must be present to win and must sign off on the Promotional Prize Payout Log form.

October 10, 2026, Hotseat Drawings for Cash – A \$100 hotseat drawing at 6pm. A \$125 hotseat drawing at 7pm. A \$150 hotseat drawing at 8pm. \$175 hotseat cash drawings at 9 and another \$200 hotseat cash drawing at 10 PM for a total of \$750. The participant must be a member of the Player Rewards Club. Must be present to win and actively playing a gaming machine. Winners must sign off on the Promotional Prize Payout Log.

October 13, 2026, Seniors Day. Participants must be at least 60 years of age. **Ten hotseat cash prize drawings for \$25 will be done every half hour from 12:30pm and 5:00pm.** \$10 Match Play, you pay the cashier \$10 and receive a \$20 Free play voucher. Promotion begins at 10am and goes on until 8pm. Seniors must sign off on the Promotional Prize Payout Log form.

October 17, 2026, Hotseat Cash Drawings from 6-11 pm. \$100 6pm-9pm, \$200 10pm-12pm for a total of \$1,000. Must be a member of the casino Player Rewards Club. Players must be actively playing on the gaming machine during the drawings. Must be present to win and must sign off on the Promotional Prize Payout Log form.

October 18, 2026, Hotseat Cash Drawings from 3-11 pm. \$50 3pm-6pm, \$100 7pm-8pm, \$125 9pm-Midnight. Must be a member of the casino Player Rewards Club. Players must be actively playing on the gaming machine during the drawings. Must be present to win and must sign off on the Promotional Prize Payout Log form.

October 21, 2026, Seniors Day. Participants must be at least 60 years of age. **Ten hotseat cash prize drawings for \$25 will be done every half hour from 12:30pm and 5:00pm.** \$10 Match Play, you pay the cashier \$10 and receive a \$20 Free play voucher. Promotion begins at 10am and goes on until 8pm. Seniors must sign off on the Promotional Prize Payout Log form.

October 23, 2026, Hotseat Drawings hourly \$100 from 6pm-8pm, \$150 from 9pm-10pm and \$200 at 11pm-midnight for a total of \$1,000. Must be a member of the casino Player Rewards Club. Players must be actively playing on the gaming machine during the drawings. Must be present to win and must sign off on the Promotional Prize Payout Log form.

October 24, 2026, ALL DAY CASH Hotseat Drawings Cash drawings starting at **\$25 from 1pm-4pm, \$100 5pm-8pm, \$150 9pm-10pm and \$200 at 11pm-12am.** Must be a member of the casino Player Rewards Club. Players must be actively playing on the gaming machine during the drawings. Must be present to win and must sign off on the Promotional Prize Payout Log form.

October 28, 2026, Seniors Day. Participants must be at least 60 years of age. **Ten hotseat cash prize drawings for \$25 will be done every half hour from 12:30pm and 5:00pm.** \$10 Match Play, you pay the cashier \$10 and receive a \$20 Free play voucher. Promotion begins at 10am and goes on until 8pm. Seniors must sign off on the Promotional Prize Payout Log form.

October 31, 2026, Halloween Night! Hotseat Cash Giveaways totaling \$1000!! Drawings will be at **8pm for \$150, 9pm drawing for \$350 and 10pm drawing for \$500 for a total cash giveaway of \$1000.** Promotion participants must be present to win and must sign off on the Promotional Prize Payout Log form.

October 31, 2026, Halloween Night Candy giveaway (4 pm-run out of candy) for kids, at the front door.

Fort Belknap Indian Community



Fort Belknap Agency
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, Montana 59526-9455
PH: (406) 353-2205
FAX: Council - (406) 353-4541
FAX: Departments - (406) 353-2797

Fort Belknap Indian Community
[Tribal Seal]
Fort Belknap Indian Community
(Dedicated to addressing the affairs of the community and
to represent the Assiniboin and the Gros Ventre Tribes
of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation)

LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID Fort Belknap Indian Community Little Rockies Sawmill Fencing

Sealed bids for the installation of security fencing for the Little Rockies Sawmill must be mailed or hand-delivered to the address listed below by **4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2026**. Proposals must be marked "Sealed Bid" on the lower left corner of the bid envelope. Proposals not physically received by the Fort Belknap Indian Community by **4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2026** will be returned, unopened to the firm. All proposals should be addressed to:

Fort Belknap Indian Community
Re: **(Vendor Name)**
Proposal for the Fort Belknap Indian Community
Little Rockies Sawmill Fencing
Attention: Rainie Walls/Audena Wing
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, MT 59526

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Guarantee in the form of a Bid Bond from a company with an A-1 best rating, or a cashier's check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid and made payable to the client address Fort Belknap Indian Community, 656 Agency Main Street, Harlem, MT 59526 which will be held as retainer and returned to contractor upon final completion of final inspection. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after the bid opening date without the consent of the Fort Belknap Indian Community. Checks or drafts of unsuccessful bidders will be returned as soon as possible after opening and checking the bids.

Successful bidder will have bid guarantee check returned and must provide proper insurance up to one-million dollars and a Performance Bond at 100% of contract amount acceptable to the Fort Belknap Indian Community. **Contractor must comply with TERO requirements.**

Each contractor is to submit their bid as indicated above and should include costs for approximately 2,500 feet of 8' high security fencing in their proposal. Each bid should include but is not limited to materials, labor, TERO fees and any other costs associated with security fencing. Formal site visit of the Little Rockies Sawmill will be available upon request and can be scheduled by contacting Audena Wing or Rainie Walls at 406-353-8315 or 406-353-8446. The Fort Belknap Indian Community reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informality in bidding.

Award of Contract: The Fort Belknap Indian Community Council will make the final award of the proposal or contract.

RANDALL WERK, SR., PRESIDENT

FT. BELKNAP TRIBAL BAR EXAM



DATE:

October 16, 2026



TIME:

9:00 AM



LOCATION:

**Ft. Belknap Bingo Hall
Ft. Belknap Agency, Montana**



Please contact
(406) 353-8452
for further information.

Please join us for the
Aaniiih Nakoda College & ANFHC

HALLOWEEN MASQUERADE



October 23, 2026 | 6-8 pm
Fort Belknap Bingo Hall

Door Prizes & Costume Contest: 1st, 2nd, & 3rd

Toddlers 0-6, Kids 7 - 12
Teens 13-17, Adults 18 and Up

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to
Kim Barrows (406) 353-3907



Everyone
Welcome

Fall Open House

October 22,
2026

10:00am-
2:00pm

Hays-Kills at
Night Center

Lunch will be served!
Door Prizes!

All Tribal Programs, Local Entities, Non-Tribal Programs are
welcome to set up an informational booth/table. Tell the
community about your program(s). Hope to see you there.

SPONSORED BY
Hays District Office & FT. Belknap Tobacco Prevention



Please join us for

HALLOWEEN CRAFTING

OCTOBER 23
2 PM

Tiwahe Conference Room

must be an adult to attend



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

HALLO WEEN cRaFts

OCTOBER 23

9:30 AM

LODGEPOLE

Chief Nosey

Gym

OCTOBER 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3 Pay Period 21
4	5 Regular Council Meeting	6	7	8 Finance Committee Meeting	9	10
11	12 Indigenous Peoples Day HOLIDAY	13	14 Tribal Partner's Meeting	15 Health Committee Meeting	16	17 Pay Period 22
18	19	20 Land Committee Meeting	21	22	23	24
25	26 Executive Committee Meeting	27 Insurance Board Meeting	28 Director's Meeting	29	30	31 Pay Period 23 

Subject to change at anytime

**DAYLIGHT
SAVING TIME
ENDS**

★★ ON ★★
**SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 1, 2026**

**2:00 AM
EDT** AT 2:00 AM
EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME
(EDT),

**CLOCKS TURN
BACK ONE HOUR**

**1:00 AM
EST** TO 1:00 AM
EASTERN STANDARD TIME
(EST)



**Hays – LodgeDole Elementary
School
Invites you to our Annual Trunk
or Treat!**

**Where : Hays LodgeDole
Elementary School Gymnasium**

**When : Thursday, October
29th, 2026
2:00 pm – 3:30pm**

Hope to see you all here !

HARLEM ELEMENTARY 5TH ANNUAL

**TRUNK
OR
TREAT**

**THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 29TH**

**12:00 - 2:30
ELEMENTARY
PARKING LOT!**

**RESERVE YOUR
SPOT TODAY!
12 SPOTS LEFT!**

**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**

**CALL OR EMAIL
TAYLOR AT THE
ELEMENTARY TO
RESERVE OR
DONATE CANDY OR
COSTUMES!**

taylorf@harlem-hs.k12.mt.us or 406-353-2258



Hunting

M S Q U I R R E L R M O X H B N X R G N L X Z S
 E E R T O A T W J E Y J R A O B N Q W Q I R O D
 V F Y X B U L L E T G Z A D I F E A O C L R M O
 V I M S A O I T T A A W H L P F F D V R W U V O
 B J A N T L E R S W T B T Z A G X J J G A U H W
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 Y A U H D S S N A P W T Y J N R E L E A S E N E
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 B A J O C J O O Y L R B Q E S S B D E A D G Q A
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Tree Stand
 Antlers
 Safety
 Rifle
 Boar
 Safe

Tradition
 Harness
 Arrow
 Sight
 Buck
 Shot

Woodchuck
 Release
 Blind
 Stick
 Camo
 Tree

Antelope
 Bullet
 Field
 Track
 Duck
 Vest

Property
 Orange
 Grass
 Water
 Fawn
 Bow

Squirrel
 Pistol
 Moose
 Woods
 Quad
 Doe

Halloween

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

Happy Halloween

Trick or treat

Jack-o-lantern

Haunted house

Frankenstein

Decorations

Halloween

Black cat

Scarecrow

Spiderweb

Skeleton

Monster

Pumpkin

Vampire

Custom

Coffin

Zombie

Ghosts

Spider

Scary

Candy

Skull

Bones

Grave

Mummy

Cat

Boo

