

Fort Belknap Indian Community NEWSLETTER

Aaniih - Nakoda



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Strengthening Tribal Health, Culturally Appropriate Care & Access to Services at Fort Belknap

Fort Belknap Tribal Health continues moving forward with efforts to strengthen healthcare services, expand access to care, and build greater Tribal capacity through Public Law 93-638 programs.

Recently, Dr. Natalie O'Neal Weeks, Licensed Physical Therapist, conducted a site visit at Fort Belknap as she moves through the onboarding process with Tribal Health. Her visit is part of a broader effort supported by the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council to explore opportunities to expand 638 healthcare programs and bring additional services closer to Community members.

Dr. Natalie O'Neal Weeks is currently onboarding with Tribal Health and assisting with efforts to develop and expand physical therapy services. Dr. Regina Ertz, Licensed Psychologist and Acting Clinical Director, is providing clinical leadership as Tribal Health works to strengthen the quality, coordination, and accessibility of healthcare services. Dr. Michelle Messerly, PhD, Acting Tribal Health Director, is providing leadership during this period of growth, transition, and development of Tribal Health programs. Jesse Brockie, Family Nurse Practitioner, is currently onboarding with Tribal Health to help expand access to Diabetes healthcare services.

An important part of this work is ensuring that the growth of Tribal Health is not measured only by the number of programs or providers available, but also by whether healthcare is delivered in a way that is culturally appropriate, respectful, and responsive to the Aaniiih and Nakoda people.

Culturally appropriate healthcare recognizes that health and wellness can extend beyond a clinical diagnosis. Culture, family, community, language, traditional knowledge, relationships, and connection to the land and one another can all play important roles in a person's overall well-being.

As Fort Belknap strengthens its healthcare system, Tribal Health has an opportunity to create services that combine high-quality modern healthcare with an understanding and respect for the cultural values, traditions, and lived experiences of the people being served. This can help strengthen trust between patients and providers, improve communication, encourage people to seek care earlier, and ultimately contribute to better health outcomes.



Pictured from L to R: Dr. Natalie O'Neal Weeks, Licensed Physical Therapist; Dr. Regina Ertz, Licensed Psychologist and Acting Clinical Director; Dr. Michelle Messerly, PhD, Acting Tribal Health Director; and Jesse Brockie, Family Nurse Practitioner.

Expanding 638 healthcare programs is also an important exercise of Tribal self-determination. It provides Fort Belknap with greater opportunity to determine how programs are designed, how services are delivered, and how the healthcare needs of the Community are addressed.

Vice President, Alan Bigby is helping lead these efforts alongside Dr. Messerly and Dr. Ertz as Fort Belknap Tribal Health works to make meaningful changes in its healthcare programs and improve care for community members.

"Our people deserve healthcare that is accessible, dependable, and respectful of who we are as Aaniiih and Nakoda people. As we expand our 638 programs, we have an opportunity to build a healthcare system that reflects our community, respects our culture, and allows more of our people to receive quality care here at home. Working with Dr. Messerly, Dr. Ertz, and the professionals joining Tribal Health, we are not simply adding programs—we are working toward a stronger, culturally responsive healthcare system that our families can trust and that future generations can depend on," said Vice President, Alan Bigby.

The addition of professionals in physical therapy, psychology, clinical leadership, and Diabetes care represents another important step toward increasing Tribal Health's capacity and reducing barriers to healthcare for Fort Belknap community members.

The goal is not simply to bring more healthcare to Fort Belknap. It is to build healthcare around the people it serves—care that is accessible, high-quality, culturally respectful, community-driven, and grounded in Tribal self-determination. This is about strengthening local healthcare while protecting what makes Fort Belknap unique: our people, our culture, our families, and our future generations. -

Self-Governance Health Consultation with Rocky Boy Health Center

The Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC) delegation met with Rocky Boy Health Center leadership and administrative staff to learn directly from a mature Tribal Self-Governance health system. The consultation focused on the funding mechanisms, financial structure, administrative design, benefits, risks, and operational realities of the Self-Governance model used by Rocky Boy Health Center. The visit also allowed FBIC leadership to examine how Self-Governance authorities, Section 105(l) lease compensation, and third-party clinical billing can work together to support health facilities and services.

Fort Belknap Indian Community Participants

Randall Werk Sr., President

Alan Bigby Sr., Vice President

John Allen, Councilman

Josh Horn, Councilman

Cody Shambo, Councilman

Audena Wing, Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Michelle Messerly, Acting Tribal Health Director

Dr. Regina Ertz, Acting Chief Health Officer

Robert Bearcub, Chief Financial Officer

Sunni Plumage, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

Rocky Boy Health Center and Other Participants

Joel Rosette, Chief Executive Officer, and Rocky Boy Health Center administrative staff (hosts).

Rocky Boy's Tribes have operated under Self-Governance since 1994. Their leadership openly shared nearly three decades of institutional experience, including lessons learned during implementation, financial and administrative pitfalls, practices that have proven effective, and areas requiring continued oversight. The discussion was candid and practical, giving the FBIC delegation a clearer understanding of both the flexibility offered by Self-Governance and the responsibility required to sustain it.



Miyo Pimatisiwin Youth Wellness Center

Funding Mechanisms: The parties discussed how recurring Indian Health Service funding, negotiated funding agreements, program income, third-party reimbursements, and other eligible revenues may be coordinated within a Self-Governance health system.

Financial Structure: Rocky Boy Health Center described the importance of a financial structure that separately tracks funding sources, allowable uses, program income, obligations, and carryover while still giving leadership a complete view of the health system's financial position.

Administrative Design: The hosts emphasized that Self-Governance requires clear internal authority, strong coordination among executive leadership, health administration, finance, billing, compliance, human resources, and legal counsel, as well as written processes that survive leadership and staff transitions.

Benefits and Tradeoffs: The model can provide greater Tribal control over priorities, staffing, service design, procurement, and the use of available resources. That flexibility also transfers greater responsibility to the Tribe for planning, compliance, cash-flow management, workforce capacity, and performance monitoring.

Pitfalls and Insights Gained: Rocky Boy Health Center identified the risks of underestimating startup demands, weak accounting separation, incomplete documentation, inadequate billing systems, unclear decision authority, overextension, and loss of institutional knowledge. The discussion reinforced that Self-Governance is not simply a change in funding; it is a change in management responsibility and accountability.

Continued on Page 3



Rocky Boy Health Center

Miyo Pimatisiwin Kamik Youth Wellness Center Tour

Following the consultation, the delegation toured the Miyo Pimatisiwin Kamik Youth Wellness Center, whose Cree name means "Good Life Lodge." Rocky Boy Health Center opened the facility on March 27, 2026, after breaking ground in 2023. The approximately 30,000-square-foot, youth-centered building was designed to blend Western health care with Indigenous knowledge and to provide a safe place for healthy activities, peer connection, cultural events, and educational programming.

Services and activities described for the center include mental health support, school-based care, wellness programming, dental health and screening, maternal health, regalia-making, gardening, cooking, dancing, and other culturally grounded activities. Rocky Boy Health Center anticipates serving approximately 1,000 children and youth annually through the facility.

The center also demonstrated how multiple revenue authorities can support a health-related building and its operations. Rocky Boy Health Center explained that the facility has been supported in part by Section 105(l) lease compensation, while the clinical component creates opportunities for eligible third-party billing revenue. The tour highlighted an important planning distinction for FBIC: Section 105(l) lease compensation and clinical billing revenue serve different purposes and should be modeled, documented, and accounted for separately. Together, however, they may strengthen long-term facility sustainability when the underlying programs, space, agreements, and billing practices are properly structured.

Key Takeaways for FBIC

-Rocky Boy's long experience confirms that Self-Governance can strengthen Tribal control and improve the ability to align health services with community priorities.

-Third-party billing capacity is a core operating function, not a secondary administrative task. Accurate coding, collections, compliance, and revenue-cycle management can materially expand services.

-Section 105(l) opportunities should be evaluated, facility by facility, and tied to eligible programs and documented space use; projected lease compensation should not be treated as interchangeable with clinical billing revenue.

-Successful implementation depends on administrative capacity, stable policies, trained personnel, clear authority, and the preservation of institutional knowledge.

-Peer consultation with experienced Tribal health systems should continue throughout FBIC's planning, negotiation, and implementation phases.

The consultation was highly valuable to FBIC's Self-Governance planning. Joel Rosette and the Rocky Boy Health Center administrative team provided a generous and candid account of the opportunities and demands of Self-Governance. Their experience since 1994 offered FBIC a practical view of how careful financial design, disciplined administration, strong billing systems, facility planning, and clear accountability can support a tribally directed health system. The meeting and facility tour should inform FBIC's next phase of planning, including its financial model, capacity assessment, 105(l) strategy, and negotiations with the Indian Health Service. -



Miyo Pimatisiwin Kamik Youth Wellness Center



January 2026: Councilwoman Joan Johnson (Testimony - Washington, D.C.)

Councilwoman Johnson's Testimony on Tiwahe Played a Crucial Role in Advancing the 'Native Children's Commission Implementation Act'

In late July 2026, United States Senator, Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), took the Senate floor to introduce the Native Children's Commission Implementation Act (S. 4976), which seeks to permanently authorize and fund the Tiwahe Initiative to improve comprehensive social, children welfare, and justice services in Native communities.

Murkowski respectfully recognizes tribal leaders, elders, youth, and the families who shared their perspectives on the bill. Not only did they share the importance, but they also helped educate members and staff of the committee and legislation. *"I really think that their presence, their stories, and their unwavering commitment has really brought this legislation to life,"* said Murkowski who also acknowledged Senators Schatz and Smith. *"Together, they made it clear that this is more than just the introduction of a bill. It is the continuation of a movement that's been built on years of partnership, perseverance, and hope."*

In late January 2026, Councilwoman Joan Johnson, represented the Fort Belknap Indian Community and delivered her testimony at the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Hearing in Washington, D.C. *"For Fort Belknap, Tiwahe is not just a line item in a budget,"* said Johnson. *"It's the cornerstone of our success in protecting our most sacred resources, which are our children."*

Councilwoman Johnson's advocacy highlighted the importance of supporting Native children and families through effective policies and programs. This progress marked a significant step toward ensuring the well-being and rights of Native communities are prioritized at the federal level.

In Johnson's testimony, she argued that the act was truly in the best interests of Indigenous children; however, it needed to be well-funded to be successful. Johnson also shared the story of a young woman from Fort Belknap who had struggled with homelessness and addiction. This young woman received guidance and support from Tiwahe, which helped her discover her identity. Today, she is sober, raising her children, and actively working to build a brighter future for her family.

"The Fort Belknap Indian Community is proof that when Tribes are given flexibility to lead, our families thrive," said Johnson.

The Tiwahe Initiative is a successful pilot program providing holistic services that promote everything from child safety to family stability. *"The Native Children's Commission Implementation Act is not about creating one more federal program or one more report that's going to sit on a shelf somewhere. It's about strengthening what is already working in native communities,"* said Murkowski. *"It's about trusting tribal Governments, investing in Native families, and ensuring that every Native child has the opportunity to grow up healthy, safe, and connected to their culture and be confident in who they are...that's a goal that should unite all of us!"*

The goal is to codify the Tiwahe Program by moving the family-centered pilot initiative passed its demonstration phase to offer permanent, flexible support. A tribal pilot program is a small-scale, test phase (federal or state) initiative designed specifically for Native American tribal governments. It tests new policies, services or funding models before deciding whether to expand them permanently.

Murkowski invites all colleagues (Republicans and Democrats) to join alongside her and Senator Schatz as co-sponsors of the Native Children's Commission Implementation Act. *"Let's show that when communities speak, Congress listens. Let's work together to build a future where every Native child has the opportunity to not only overcome challenges, but to become those leaders of the next generation,"* said Murkowski.

The movement forward in the Senate Committee brings hope for meaningful change and increases resources to Native children's health, education, and welfare.

This joint effort between the Tiwahe staff, elders and councilwoman Joan Johnson's dedication to this cause emphasizes their ongoing efforts to strengthen tribal sovereignty and promote justice for Native families in our community and Indian Country.

"The elders played a key role in sharing their wisdom and knowledge with families and youth to help heal the Aaniiih and Nakoda people. Their guidance and stories have been essential in preserving cultural traditions within the community," said Johnson. *"By passing down teachings and experiences, the elders have supported healing, unity, and growth among our people, ensuring that the heritage of the Aaniiih and Nakoda Tribes continue to thrive for future generations."*

This is an ongoing effort to advance this bill through the Senate, with the goal of securing the necessary support for its passage. Continued collaboration and advocacy are essential to navigate the legislative process and address any concerns that arise. Fort Belknap Indian Community remains committed to pushing this bill forward in hopes of achieving a positive outcome. -



July 2026: Murkowski Highlights Decade of Work Behind Native Children's Commission Implementation Act.



July 2026: Senate Floor (Washington, D.C.) Photos by: Senate Committee on Indian Affairs



Courtesy Photo: American Prairie Reserve

Fort Belknap Leadership Helps Secure Pause on Trust Land Grazing Policy

“We opened the door, and now we need to go through it and make sure Tribes have a voice. Our goal is not just a delay; our goal is to work together and make a meaningful difference.”-President Randall Werk, Sr.

The Fort Belknap Indian Community is continuing government-to-government discussions with the State of Montana following Tribal concerns regarding a proposed Production Livestock Policy considered by the Montana Board of Land Commissioners.

At the July 20th Land Board meeting, Fort Belknap Tribal Councilman Mike King appeared on behalf of the Fort Belknap Indian Community and urged the Board to postpone adoption of the proposed policy until its potential effects on Tribal governments and Tribal buffalo restoration could be fully considered.

The proposed policy would establish a preference in certain competitive grazing lease decisions for operations that use state trust lands primarily and directly for raising and marketing livestock or livestock products. The policy does not specifically address how Tribal governmental buffalo programs—which may serve cultural, food sovereignty, conservation, ecological restoration, and other governmental purposes in addition to agricultural purposes—would be treated.

Councilman King emphasized that, for the Aaniiih and Nakoda people, buffalo are not simply livestock.

“The buffalo are our relatives,” King said during his testimony. “Our responsibility to them has existed since time immemorial. Tribal buffalo restoration is about our culture, our land, our food sovereignty, and the responsibility we have to future generations.”

King asked the Board to provide clarity and engage Montana’s Tribal Nations through meaningful government-to-government consultation before adopting the policy.

Following the Discussion, the Land Board postponed action on the proposed policy to allow additional consideration and dialogue.

That dialogue is now continuing. The Governor’s Office has contacted Fort Belknap regarding a meeting scheduled to discuss the Tribe’s concerns and the proposed policy.

Fort Belknap approaches those discussions as a governmental partner. The Community’s Land Department reports that Fort Belknap currently leases at least 20,000 acres of Montana state trust lands within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation, giving the Community a direct interest in policies governing the leasing and stewardship of those lands.

Fort Belknap also has a longstanding buffalo restoration program. For the Aaniiih and Nakoda people, restoring buffalo is inseparable from cultural revitalization, ecological stewardship, food sovereignty, education, and Tribal self-determination.

The issue has also gained broader Tribal attention. At Fort Belknap’s request, the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council

recently adopted a regional resolution supporting meaningful Tribal consultation and recognition of Tribal governmental buffalo restoration, land stewardship, and food sovereignty.

Fort Belknap’s position is not that the State should disregard its constitutional responsibilities for state trust lands. Rather, the Community seeks a policy that fulfills those responsibilities while recognizing the governmental interests and stewardship responsibilities of sovereign Tribal Nations.

Recent federal litigation concerning bison grazing on Bureau of Land Management lands in Montana further demonstrates the importance of clear grazing policies. Although that litigation concerns federal lands and a private conservation organization—not Fort Belknap or Montana state trust lands—it illustrates how uncertainty surrounding the treatment of bison under grazing policies can lead to significant disputes.

Fort Belknap believes collaboration before adoption is preferable to disagreement after the fact.

“We opened the door, and now we need to go through it and make sure Tribes have a voice,” President Werk said. “Our goal is not just a delay; our goal is to work together and make a meaningful difference.”

The Fort Belknap Indian Community will continue working with the Governor’s Office, the Montana Board of Land Commissioners, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, and other Tribal Nations to seek a solution that respects Tribal sovereignty, protects responsible stewardship, and ensures the buffalo continue to have a place on the landscape for generations to come.

Fort Belknap Councilman Michael King Encourages Tribal Members to Support Recognition of Native American Religion in the U.S. Military

Fort Belknap Indian Community Councilman Michael King II is calling upon Tribal members, Native veterans, military families, and supporters of Tribal sovereignty to join him in urging the United States Department of Defense to restore Native American religion as a distinct religious preference within its personnel system.

On May 20, 2026, the Department of Defense removed “Native American Religion” as a separate religious preference and placed it within the general “Other” category. Councilman King believes this change fails to recognize the unique spiritual traditions of Tribal Nations and overlooks the longstanding service and sacrifice of Native American men and women in the United States Armed Forces.

“Native Americans have defended this country since before the United States became a nation,” said Councilman King. “Our people have served in every major conflict in American history, often at higher rates than the general population. Our ceremonies, beliefs, and spiritual practices are inseparable from who we are as Tribal people. They deserve to be recognized and respected.”

Councilman King is a combat veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, a Purple Heart recipient, and the father of a son currently serving on active duty in the United States Army. He has written to the Secretary of Defense requesting that Native American religion be restored as a distinct religious preference and is encouraging others to do the same.

He invites Fort Belknap tribal members, veterans, active-duty service members, military families, and allies to respectfully contact the Department of Defense and members of Congress to express their support for restoring this important recognition.

“This is about honoring those who have served, protecting religious freedom, and ensuring that future generations of Native American service members see their identity and traditions recognized,” King said.

Councilman King encourages those who choose to participate to share their own stories of military service, cultural traditions, and the importance of Native American religion in their lives. Respectful and unified voices can help demonstrate the significance of this issue to Tribal communities across the country.

For additional information, please contact:
Michael King II, River Gros Ventre Representative
Fort Belknap Indian Community Council

U.S. Representative Troy Downing Meets with Fort Belknap Tribal Council

Fort Belknap Agency – On August 13, 2026, United States Representative, Troy Downing (R-Montana) met with the Fort Belknap Tribal Council during the congressional recess until September. The discussion focused on several important topics, including the Water Settlement, Tiwahe, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

Additionally, concerns were raised regarding the Catholic Church in Hays, Montana. This meeting highlights ongoing efforts to address key issues affecting the community and strengthen collaboration between representatives and tribal leadership.

Thank you, Troy Downing, for your continued support and efforts. Meeting with U.S. Representatives is crucial for effective communication and advocacy. It allows for direct dialogue on important issues, helps build relationships, and provides an opportunity to partake discussion in policy decision making. Engaging with representatives ensures that concerns and perspectives are heard at the government level. These meetings can lead to meaningful outcomes for tribal communities.





Tracy "Ching" King looks off into the horizon from his front yard. King lives just south of Fort Belknap Agency.

VEINS OF THE RIVER | By: Lucy McDonald-Garrity & Sav Chavez | Photos By: Mark Elkins Davidson

It started with a silent heart attack. Tracy "Ching" King required surgery for the incident. The follow up treatment required the use of contrast dye injections, which made it easier for doctors to see the heart valves, coronary arteries and heart chambers in King's heart.

However, the dye destroyed King's kidneys, which now only function at 7% capacity. Now, King must travel to Havre three times a week to receive the dialysis treatment he needs to survive.

The drive is only about an hour away, but the process is arduous and takes about four hours, requiring the better part of each of those three days, weekly. Dialysis takes a toll on King's 68-year-old body.

Getting up hours before the sun breaks over the horizon, King sits at his kitchen table to check his vitals to keep his doctor up to date on his health. By 4:30 a.m., a minivan's headlights shine into his home, alerting him it is time to go. The van is driven by one of the three drivers working for a transportation program provided by the Indian Health Service, or IHS. After driving through the morning darkness for an hour, King arrives at Northern Montana Health Care in Havre. Here, a nurse hooks him up to dialysis.

This is the morning routine King does when he goes to his dialysis treatment, partially made possible by the Indian Health Service.

The tribes have considered constructing a dialysis center on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, which would help more than a dozen patients in the area. However, a lack of funding and dilapidated infrastructure has put that dream out of reach for decades.

On Fort Belknap, clean and safe water is not guaranteed. Water infrastructure in the area is outdated and, with both limited manpower and lack of funds, the reservation cannot work to meet the water demand necessary to support everyone.

For the past three years, the tribes on Fort Belknap, the Nakoda and Aaniiih, have been working on a new water rights settlement that could help resolve the water issues, however the argument has been caught up in the House of Representatives. The Senate has passed the bill unanimously twice. The Fort Belknap Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act would offer \$1.3 billion to the tribes for water projects, \$275 million specifically aimed to repair the Milk River system that provides drinking water for 18,000 people and water for 121,000 acres of irrigation, including the people and land on Fort Belknap.

A dialysis center on the reservation has been nothing more than a conversation for 20 years, and until recently, that conversation remained on the back burner. Now, members of the tribal council hope to have a building to host a center as early as next spring, but there is still the financial burden. And that's just the beginning.

Reliable access to clean water is crucial to a functional dialysis center as large amounts of water are exposed directly to the person's bloodstream during treatment. When the reservation went on a six-week boil water advisory, proper treatment was all but impossible.

In December, windstorms with gusts up to 90 mph damaged a water tower on the reservation. Hundreds of residents were left without clean water to drink and shower with. This makes the possibility of constructing a dialysis center close to home difficult to imagine. *-Continued on Page 8...*

King has previously served on the tribal council and was aware of the issues keeping Fort Belknap from having its own dialysis center. The frequent water and sewer line breaks mean the water quality isn't good enough for what's needed for dialysis. The water systems are outdated, originally built in 1889, and made of brick and not built for the current capacity of the reservation today.

"You look at maybe two or three times a week there's water breaks," King said.

The last time the tribal council considered a reservation-based dialysis center was in 2011, but the water from the Milk River was considered unstable. Tribal Council President Randall Werk, Sr. said the reservation's water supply is tested once every two months and, on paper, is fit for human consumption. But residents complain about the taste.

While there are patients on Fort Belknap who must travel the 47 miles to Havre or the 170 miles to Great Falls to receive dialysis, some patients have managed to treat themselves at home.

Edward "Buster" Moore has been on peritoneal dialysis, home dialysis, for more than two years and prefers it to hemodialysis, which would require him to travel to a clinic.

"I'm still doing what I love and that's why I like peritoneal," he said. "I'm tired all the time, but I don't want to be more tired. I like having my freedom."

Moore started his dialysis treatment when his kidney function dropped to 12%. Though this function is still low, he is proud of how he's maintained this. While home dialysis is the preferred method for Moore, he and his wife can no longer travel because his machine is not easy to transport.

"Unless I get a kidney transplant, I'm never going to get off of dialysis," Moore said.

Buster Moore's wife, Dawn Bishop-Moore, said Moore went on dialysis at a stressful time. Around the time he started treatment, the couple's daughter passed and their



Edward "Buster" Moore sits on his bed next to his peritoneal dialysis machine as his wife Dawn Bishop-Moore stands by in their home in Hays, MT.



Tracy "Ching" King records his blood sugar at his home in the early morning and records his vitals daily to keep track of trends in his health.

granddaughter, who requires high support needs, was put in their care. Bishop-Moore was concerned about the home treatment, but now agrees it was the right choice.

"I've had people I know very close to me that have gone on hemodialysis and they're sickly," she said.

Though Moore is unable to travel, he remains active in his community by teaching crafts, running an alcoholics anonymous group and helping with a narcotics anonymous group and grief support group.

Moore required three surgeries to insert a catheter into his abdomen. The home treatment allows him to hook up to his machine every night and do his 10-and-a-half hour dialysis cycle in his bed, running three gallons of fluid through his body.

This option is only possible for Moore because he has access to a private well. A sanitation department comes every two months to test the water quality to ensure its safe for consumption.

The lack of a dialysis center also affects patients who require other lifesaving services like chemotherapy. Tescha Hawley is executive director of Day Eagle Hope Project, a cancer support organization in Fort Belknap. She said there have been times when cancer patients had to miss their chemotherapy appointments because there weren't enough drivers and the dialysis patients took priority.

"So, he missed his appointment, and I went into IHS and I'm like 'Where is everybody and what happened?' And they told me they have a shortage of drivers and that dialysis people are a priority," Hawley said. "How do you decide which disease is a priority over another disease?"

When a patient misses a dialysis treatment, they risk overloading their bodies with fluid and toxins, which could begin to flood their lungs or cause potassium to build up which can ultimately lead to a heart attack.

-Continued on Page 9...

“When someone misses their treatment, that means they are missing a day of getting toxins removed,” said Abby Nicholas, director of dialysis at Northern Montana Health Care.

In the past when King has missed a treatment, he said he was instructed to limit his fluid intake to 32 ounces, significantly lower than the recommended water intake for an adult. According to the Mayo Clinic, an adult should drink about 115 ounces, or 3.7 liters, of water a day.

“There are some guys that miss three or four treatments. I feel bad just missing one,” King said.

King said he has grown to look forward to his dialysis days, mostly because he tends to be surrounded by positivity.

“You have drivers from [the Indian Health Service] that take us,” King said. “There’s probably four of us that go, and what I see is the drivers are good and the nurses that hook you up to the dialysis, they have good vibes, good energy...so that really helps.” -



Edward “Buster” Moore pictured with wife, Dawn Bishop-Moore. Edward says that choosing the at-home peritoneal dialysis over out-patient hemodialysis grants him more freedom to do what he wants with his days. He enjoys preparing supplies for the arts and crafts class where he teaches community members at Fort Belknap.

Rural Areas Face Challenges in Receiving Dialysis

Approximately 1,900 people receive dialysis for kidneys in Montana, based on state population proportions.

Access to dialysis in rural areas has been a significant challenge, forcing many patients to travel great distances to receive essential care. This gap in healthcare accessibility not only imposes physical and financial burdens on patients but also affects their overall health outcomes. Addressing this issue requires focused efforts to expand dialysis services in underserved regions, improve transportation options, and increase awareness about available resources. Ensuring that patients in rural communities have convenient access to dialysis is critical for their well-being and quality of life.

Montana has 18 Medicare-certified dialysis centers located in larger towns and communities across the state which include: Billings (2), Great Falls (2), Missoula (2), Polson (2), Bozeman, Browning, Butte, Hamilton, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Libby, Miles City, and Poplar. This network ensures access to essential dialysis services throughout Montana’s key population areas.

Why Dialysis is Important for Kidneys

Dialysis is a vital treatment for people whose kidneys are no longer able to function properly. The kidneys play a crucial role in filtering waste, excess fluids, and toxins from the blood, maintaining a healthy balance of electrolytes, and supporting overall body function. When kidney function declines significantly due to disease or injury, these waste products accumulate in the body, leading to serious health complications.

Dialysis performs the essential job of filtering and cleaning the blood artificially, taking over the role of the damaged kidneys.

This helps to prevent the buildup of harmful substances, control blood pressure, and maintain the body's chemical balance. Without dialysis, patients with kidney failure would face life-threatening conditions.

Dialysis is important because it sustains life and health in individuals with impaired kidney function by removing toxins and excess fluids that the kidneys can no longer manage effectively. -

Fort Belknap Indian Community Dialysis Survey

We invite you to participate in this survey regarding your health care experiences related to dialysis. The information you provide will be used exclusively for the purposes of this study and will assist in the planning of future dialysis services on the Fort Belknap Reservation. This survey is entirely anonymous; we do not collect any personal identification. Your responses will not be revealed or disclosed. All information will be analyzed for the study results.

Survey Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2ZCWD22>

Thank you for helping us plan better healthcare for our community!

Hays Parade/Results

Hays Parade had an amazing turnout during the powwow weekend with a total of 204 participants. Among them were 165 youth participants involved in both bikes and horseback activities, along with 6 princesses. This year's theme was "Proud to be an American."

In the Rez rides category, the winners were:

1st place: William Has The Eagle

2nd place: Taleyah Walker

For the non-traditional floats, the top three were:

1st place: Hays Maintenance Shop

2nd place: Paige Werk

3rd place: Voc-Rehab

In the traditional floats category, the winners included:

1st place: Annie Shields

2nd place: Elizabeth Fox

3rd place: Partnership 4 Success

What a wonderful celebration and community gathering!



Photos by: Judy King

4th Annual Hole in the Wall Run

The Hole in the Wall run featured a total of 16 participants. The event brought together runners all eager to take on the challenge and enjoy the experience. It was a lively competition that showcased determination and community spirit. Contributions by: Tribal Health Department, TERO, Public Health Nursing, and Tiwahe.

Shirts Made by: K-D, LLC.

1st Place Male- Miles Werk

1st Place Female - Amanda McKeel (Farthest visitor from Austin, TX)

1st Place Youth Male- Ethan Walker

1st Place Youth Female- Jaspen Camel

Youngest Runner - Frankie Mount

Eldest Runner - Antonio Alvernaz

Most Inspiring- Amy Snow



Photos by: Ray Cichosz



Photo by: Vivian Webb

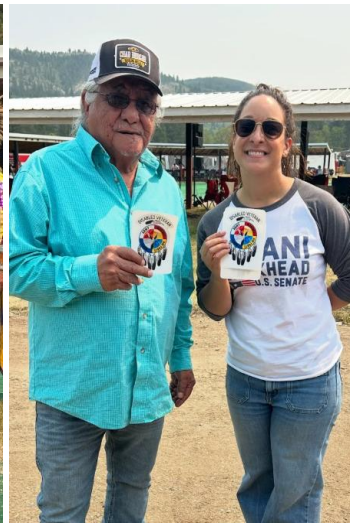
Walk/Run for Sobriety

The Partnership for Success/THD Program hosted a walk/run during the Hays Powwow Celebration with the theme "Walking for the Sobriety of Our People." This meaningful event brought out 70 participants, all coming together to support and honor sobriety within the community.

Thank you to Vivian Webb, Partnership for Success/THD for hosting this event!



Tribal Council Members and Bankhead walk out for Grand Entry.



Elmer Blackbird pictured with Bankhead



Johnson & Bierle during Grand Entry

Alani Bankhead, U.S. Senate Candidate Attends Hays Powwow

Alani Bankhead demonstrated unwavering support for our community and culture during the Hays Powwow celebration. She proudly walked out for Grand Entry alongside members of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council, showing solidarity and respect for our traditions and heritage.

Bankhead is running for election in the U.S. Senate to represent the State of Montana. She advanced from the Democratic Primary on June 2, 2026 to the General Election to be held on November 3, 2026. She is running against Kurt Alme (R), Kyle Austin (L), and Seth Bodnar (I).

Lieutenant Colonel Alani Bankhead retired from the United States Air Force on October 1, 2025, after more than 21 years of commissioned service. She then transferred to the Retired Reserve on February 26, 2026. She served as a supervisory special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, the Air Force's federal law enforcement and counterintelligence organization.

Bankhead earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and Latin American studies from Penn State University and served as a counterintelligence agent and lieutenant colonel in the United States Air Force. She later founded a life coaching company called Mighty Sparrow Coaching. Bankhead is running on housing, healthcare, and government accountability and highlighted her military background: "After 21 years of serving, I was looking at my beautiful state and country burning and I knew I had a special set of skills to offer the people of Montana," said Bankhead.

Don't forget to vote in the general election. Your participation is important to help shape the future and

make your voice heard. Every vote counts, so take the time to cast yours and contribute to the democratic process.

Statement from Bankhead:

"Showing up as a public servant means going to the most forgotten places. Not to where the powerful and elite are.

In Fort Belknap, I talked to women who described never taking their eyes off their kids while they played for fear they'd disappear. One even shared how someone attempted to kidnap her as a child. If it wasn't for her brother screaming and chasing after her, she wondered if she'd even be alive.

During Hays Grand Entry, the announcer encouraged everyone to stand and do a victory dance. With life being so difficult for so many people, he said we should all celebrate the hard things we have overcome. I danced.

We talked about water rights and the ongoing fight to claw back access to water that was already theirs. And the struggle to clean up the water sources poisoned by big business.

I've worked with indigenous groups for years in the anti-trafficking space, and what I know for sure is trust isn't given - it's earned. And it's earned by telling folks who you are then showing up over and over and over again until they decide to extend their trust. As long as it takes. And sometimes it can take years. That's what showing up means to me, and that's the work that matters.

My past behavior and record have demonstrated I'm willing to show up and do this work, and I will never quit fighting for those the elite only seek to exploit and devalue.
-Alani Bankhead



HAYS POWWOW

DANCE CATEGORY-RESULTS

August 7-9, 2026

Women's Traditional

1st Lynn Cuny
2nd Josette Bill
3rd Nina Fox

Teen Boys Traditional

1st Kash Graves
2nd Eli Grant
3rd Hehaka Giago

Jr Girls Traditional

1st Tahniyah Bradley
2nd TT Parker
3rd Sekoya Messerly

Women's Jingle

1st Crystal Little Ow
2nd Jaiden Blackcrow
3rd Abilee Runs Above

Teen Boys Grass

1st Rleal Boyer
2nd Treyton Mount
3rd Jermiah Walks Over Ice

Jr Girls Jingle

1st Kassandra Walker
2nd Layna The Boy
3rd Jai-Ivy Mount

Women's Fancy

1st Denelle Stanley
2nd Mia Nepoose
3rd Shanna Robertson

Teen Boys Fancy

1st Taday Helgeson

Teen Girls Traditional

1st Shaylee Johnson
2nd Jazzy Snell
3rd Rayden Smith

Jr Girls Fancy

1st Kaia Little Owl
2nd Tahmya Tall Bull
3rd Azlyn Weston

Men's Traditional

1st Brando Jack
2nd Sam Slickpoo
3rd Kyle White

Teen Girls Jingle

1st Pie Padilla
2nd Laytyn Allen
3rd Amira Hoops

Jr Boys Traditional

1st Kaven Not Afraid
2nd Samuel Cochran
3rd Darell Cuts The Rope

Men's Grass

1st Andre Lamb
2nd Tim Parker
3rd Callan Fox

Teen Girls Fancy

1st Ivy Bluebird Runs Above
2nd Aliyah Main
3rd Tahlia Walker

Jr Boys Grass

1st Brycen Spencer
2nd Timber Messerly
3rd William Main

Men's Fancy

1st Caleb Nicholson
2nd Booch Lamb

Jr Boys Fancy

1st Emmitt Main
2nd Jackson Horn Weasel
3rd Trenton Horn

Incoming Dance Committee: Anthony Main, Cecelia "Boppers" Shortman, Val Werk, Camille Stein, Trey Mount, Gunner Doney, Zoey Walking Eagle (Sr. Princess), Kassandra Walker (Jr. Princess), Ava Parker (Tiny-Tot Princess).



Photos by: Teri Harper

2nd Annual Buffalo Day

By: Teri Harper, ANC Buffalo Research Center

Our 2nd annual Buffalo Days was originally scheduled for August 13, 2026, to celebrate the buffalo, which Fort Belknap has had the honor of caring for over the past 50 years. Due to inclement weather, we postponed the event to August 17, 2026. We sincerely appreciate the supporters who still made the journey to Belknap despite the postponement. Their commitment and willingness to gather with us, even in challenging circumstances, meant a great deal to our team and helped set a welcoming tone for the week. For this smaller group, we held presentations, discussions, and lunch at Aaniiih Nakoda College.

At 10 a.m. on August 13, we met with 10 students from the University of Calgary International Indigenous Studies program, accompanied by Dr. Adela Tesarek Kincadi, Dr. Craig Cunn, and other supporters. Participants included the Native Governance Center Team, PTE's group from Fort Peck, and Savey Moose Strategies Consulting.

The Fort Belknap Buffalo Program Director and crew, along with Buffalo Research and Education Center staff and interns, presented research underway to support buffalo management and health.

Over four hours, staff shared information, discussed key issues that are affecting both groups on each side of the medicine line, and enjoyed lunch together. This gathering

was informative and provided an excellent opportunity to connect with groups supporting buffalo conservation.

On August 17, 2026, we began the morning by setting up and opening vendor booths, which included Day Eagle Hope, Havre Buffalo Jump, MSU Northern Ecology Program, ITGN Network, Smithsonian Biology Conservation Institute, Josiah Longfox, ANC Buffalo Research and Education Center, and the Fort Belknap Buffalo Program.

We started with tours of the buffalo, facilitated by the Fort Belknap Buffalo Program and ANC Buffalo Center interns, along with recent graduate Colton Werk. Colton provided updates on research and collaboration between the Buffalo Center and the Buffalo Program. Participants were able to get close to the People's Creek herd and learn about the program's goals.

After the first tour, we held the Buffalo Impersonation Contest, supported by the Fort Belknap TERO Program (Nancy Boushie and Cheryl Horn). Four contestants participated, impressing everyone with their creativity and realistic costumes. Cash prizes were awarded to the top three winners. 1st place: Shaun Ball, 2nd Place: James Cochran, 3rd Place: Shelby Essert, and Honorable Mention: Tanner Ball. *Continued on Page 14*



Buffalo Impersonation Contest sponsored by TERO. Photo Submitted by: Nancy Boushie



Shirts made by: K-D, Photo by: Yvonne Stanley

Following the contest, Elder Buster Moore offered a prayer. Yvonne Stanley and Teri Harper welcomed attendees and recognized Director, Bronc Speakthunder with a star quilt for his 24 years of dedication and service to the Fort Belknap Buffalo Program, where he worked alone or with limited staff. Ang Speakthunder was also honored with a ribbon skirt in appreciation of her support throughout the years. Afterward, we enjoyed a buffalo lunch provided by the Fort Belknap Buffalo Program.



The day concluded with additional tours and giveaways, including shirts, cups, and seed packets. Some planned activities were canceled due to rain, but we distributed meals prepared by Hannah Haseagle to the community. We also conducted a survey during Buffalo Days and shared both printed and electronic copies, along with the Conservation Management Plan developed by the Buffalo Program Planning Team over the past year.



Despite the weather, we had an excellent turnout on both days. We look forward to next year's Buffalo Days and hope to welcome more community vendors. If you are interested in participating as a vendor or volunteering at next year's Buffalo Days, please contact our team or visit our website for more information on how to get involved.



Photos by: Yvonne Stanley



We encourage everyone who wants to support buffalo conservation and community engagement to join us. Thank you to everyone who supported Buffalo Days, including the Fort Belknap Council members, elders who shared their stories, Yvonne Stanley and the cooks for the wonderful meals, and the ANC Buffalo Center interns and staff for their support. We look forward to celebrating the buffalo together again next year.



RIDER TO PURSUE EDUCATION

Raelynn Rider has dedicated 14 years of hard work and service, contributing in various roles including DES, Enrollment, and most recently as the Sanitarian for the Tribal Health Department, Environmental Health Services.

Raelynn is an enrolled member of the Aaniiih (Gros Ventre) Tribe, in early Spring she was honored with an award from the Montana Environmental Health Association. This recognition took place at the Confluence Public Health Association Conference in Helena, highlighting her contributions and dedication to environmental health in Montana.

Rider will be moving to pursue her education. We sincerely thank Raelynn for her commitment and wish her the very best of luck in her future endeavors! -



FLANSBURG PURSUES NEW ENDEAVORS

Bryar Flansburg dedicated 10 years to the Fort Belknap Indian Community – Tribal Health Program.

Bryar worked for 2 years in Public Health Nursing (PHN), where she focused on preventative care and community outreach. Her work involved direct patient care and health screenings.

She advanced to serve as the Clinic Manager for the Diabetes Care Clinic for 8 years. In this leadership role, she managed clinic operations, coordinated patient care programs, and was diligent in diabetes care prevention and education, helping individuals manage their health for long-term wellness.

Throughout her decade of service, Bryar demonstrated unwavering devotion to enhancing health services for patients. Her leadership at the Diabetes Care Clinic played a crucial role in addressing significant health challenges and made a meaningful impact on the lives of many.

We wish Bryar the very best of luck in all her future endeavors! -

NICHOLSON SIGNED TO PLAY FOR THE WENATCHEE WILD HOCKEY ACADEMY

Congratulations to Kason Nicholson who signed with the Wenatchee Wild Hockey Academy in the 18U Division, AAA Tier 1, Top Elite. Wenatchee is part of the Canadian Sport School Hockey League and is the most competitive league in youth Hockey.

Kason proudly represents the Aaniiih (Gros Ventre) and Secwépemc (Shuswap) Tribes and currently attends Eastmont High School in Wenatchee, WA where he will be a Senior this fall.

Kason's parents are Kasey Nicholson and Sunshine Gottfriedson. Grandparents are Margaret Nicholson (Aaniiih) and the late Francis LaPlant, Sr. (Pikuni), and Gayle Gottfriedson (Secwépemc) and the late Bucky John (Secwépemc). -



Fort Belknap Aaniiih Nakoda 4-H Fair & Auction

The 10th Annual 4-H Fair and Auction was a huge success. The event began with animal check-in, followed by the Swine and Beef Showmanship and Market Judging. Attendees also enjoyed a buyer's feed, culminating in a lively Livestock Auction. The fair brought together participants and buyers in celebration of agriculture and community spirit.

RESULTS

Beef Showmanship

- Grand Champion Senior: Tissie Webb
- Reserve Champion Senior: Frank Cole VI
- Grand Champion Junior: Emmitt Lonebear Ditmar

Swine Showmanship

- Grand Champion Senior: Sheldon Blackwolf
- Reserve Champion Senior: Diana Old Elk
- Grand Champion Junior: Emmitt Ditmar
- Reserve Champion Junior: Alanna Wing

Market Champions

Grand Champion Market Beef:
Emmitt Lonebear Ditmar

Reserve Champion Market Beef:
Jazlyn Flansburg KillEagle

Grand Champion Market Swine:
Urijah Wolfchild

Reserve Champion Market Swine:
Sophia Arensmeyer

Judge: Johnny Benson
Auctioneer: Beau Pegar
Announcer: Don Racine III



Trenton Horn pictured with members from FBIC Council who purchased his Swine Pig.
Photo by: Leslie Horn



FORT BELKNAP 2026 4-H LIVESTOCK SALE

Thank You

Fort Belknap Indian Community
Island Mountain Development Group
Fort Belknap Economic Development - Credit
American Prairie Reserve
R & G Quality Feeds
Triangle Communications
Fort Belknap Insurance
Bishop Building
Bishop Inc.
Independence Bank



For purchasing our 4-H steers and hogs.
You helped make it a success for our
Aaniiih Nakoda 4-H program!

Thank you to our sponsors: Fort Belknap
Investment Board, Fort Belknap TERO,
and Big Flat Electric Co-Op.



SORNA

Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act

On July 27, 1981 Adam Walsh who was 6 years old at the time vanished while shopping in a department store with his mom in Hollywood, Florida. Two weeks later his severed head was found in a drainage canal over a hundred miles away; the rest of his body has never been found. Adam was the son of John and Reve' Walsh, who since have advocated for victims' rights and helped establish the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children in 1984, which tracks missing youth and aids law enforcement.

In 2006 the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 was established. That Act established a national sex offender registry and strengthened penalties for crimes against children. From this Act came SORNA which is the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. It requires offenders to register and appear in person to update their information whenever they move, change jobs or change their student status.

Sex offender registration and notifications programs are important for public safety purposes. It monitors and tracks sex offenders following their release into the community. The registration provides important information about convicted sex offenders to local and federal authorities and the public, such as offender's name, current location and past offenses.

SORNA puts offenders into three tiers based on the severity of the crime, setting distinct update schedules and registration lengths:

Tier 1 - 15 years of registration and yearly updates.

Tier 2 - 25 years of registration and updates every 6 months.

Tier 3 - Lifetime registration and updates every 3 months.

Offenders must follow strict federal rules to keep their registration valid. A failure to register or update information across state or tribal lines is a federal crime punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

According to SORNA Officer, Debbie Gomke, The Fort Belknap Indian Community Sex Offender Registry uses the TTSORS system. It stands for Tribe and Territory Sex Offender Registry System. This system is provided by the Department of Justice's SMART Office. TTSORS integrates with the FBI's National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR), it allows law enforcement to upload records, fingerprints and palm prints directly. It can send automated community email alerts, and handle local geographic tracking. TTSORS automatically syncs with the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website (**NSOPW.gov**) to ensure public listings stay up to date.

To search for an offender, go to the NSOPW.gov website scroll down past all registries to where it says Tribes, click on Fort Belknap Indian Community and it will take you to the search page where you can type in an offenders' name or see all offenders and their pertinent information. Or you can go to **ftbelknap.nsopw.gov** and it will take you directly to the search for offender page.

The purpose of the website is to provide information to the public concerning location and status of sex offenders within the Fort Belknap Reservation. The information is provided by the offender and subject to frequent changes. It may not reflect the current residence, status, or other information regarding the offender.

The information provided on this website should not be used to unlawfully injure, harass, or commit a crime against any individual named in the registry. Misuse of this information may result in civil or criminal penalties.

Under this website you can go to the Community Notifications tab and sign up to be notified by e-mail when a sex offender registers a home, work, or school address that is near an address of interest to you. You can also leave a tip if you know an offender is not in compliance or registered.

The SORNA office is located in the Fort Belknap Police Department, 200 Sullivan Ave., and the direct phone number is 353-8307. If you have any questions about an offender please don't hesitate to call.

Following is a list of offenders that are currently living on the Fort Belknap Reservation along with their address and what offense they were convicted of.

Cody N. Adams 211 Iroquois Ave. Fed. Sexual Abuse of Minor

Wayne A. Azure 445 Rodeo Dr. Ave. Fed. Sexual Assault

Alex J. Bigby E Valley Rte 9 mm 4 Fed. Abusive Sexual Contact

Joseph E. Brown 34826 Hwy 66 Fed. Abusive Sexual Contact

Dale V. Campbell 26824 Hwy 66 Fed. Sexual Abuse of Minor

James O. Campbell 708 New Town Sexual Intercourse w/o Consent

Wendell H. Haakanson 1420 Hays Rd. Fed. Sexual Abuse of a Child

Granville S. Hawley 257 Hays Cut Across Incest

Keith J. Hawley 257 1/2 Hays Cut Across Incest

Jarred Hugs, Sr. 301 Dan Horn Rd. Sexual Assault

Wilbin J. Jackson 282 Blackbird Trail Abusive Sexual Contact

Gregory Rider 135 Nakota St. Fed. Sexual Abuse of a Minor

James F. Snow 374 Blackbird Trail Fed. Aggravated Sexual Abuse

Benjamin C. Thomas 11683 Hwy 66 Sexual Assault

Joshua L. Tinchler 277 Iroquois Ave. Sexual Abuse of Children

Robert D. Walsh 122 White Clay Ave. Sexual Intercourse w/o Consent

Dennis P. Wing 161 First Chief Court Sexual Intercourse w/o Consent

It is the duty of the offender to keep their registration current. Failing to do so is a violation under 18 U.S.C. § 2250 and a federal felony. Knowingly failing to register or update information carries a penalty of up to 10 years in federal prison, fines up to \$250,000 and at least 5 years of supervised release. This punishment can increase to 30 years if a violent federal crime is also committed.

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking - Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), under the leadership of Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. at the Department of Health and Human Services, and Assistant Secretary Alex J. Adams, has two new announcements:

- Publication of a proposed rule titled “*Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs*,” and
- Issuance of a new Information Memorandum (IM) on Enrollment Reductions for Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

This proposed rule will significantly reduce regulatory burden and unlock savings to serve more children and families. These proposed updates directly benefit the Head Start workforce, programs, and families. To ensure children truly thrive, the rule secures vital health, nutrition, and physical activity fundamentals. Moreover, it drives local innovation by granting maximum flexibility in critical workforce decisions.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) regarding the Performance Standards will be open for public comment in the Federal Register Website on Friday, August 7 and remain open for 60 days.

Additionally, the issued IM communicates a new review process for Enrollment Reduction requests, including how ACF will use these standards to evaluate, and approve or deny requests in a timely, consistent, and transparent manner. This new process will help streamline processes for providers and maximize Head Start reach to more families.

Explore related resources and learn more at www.headstart.gov.



Fort Belknap Indian Community: Enrollment Department

The following individual's applications were viewed and tentatively accepted at the AUGUST 31, 2026 meeting for the Fort Belknap Indian Community Enrollment.

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

TENTATIVE ENROLLEES:

Bade, Kurt R.
Brockie, Brevin D.
Fox, Archer A.
Hallett, Vicki M.
Healy, Taylor R.
Horseman, Grayson
Kulbeck, Ellyse A.
Little Field, Evelyn
Main, David J.
Main, Kazely K.
Neuman, Emeric S.
Ortega, Azaria A.
Ortega, Xareni L.
Ortega, Xoemi B.
Rider, Ember L.
Rider-Stiffarm, Zainyn A.
Rock, A'leera J.
Shambo, Kaioni J.
Speakthunder, Ralley K.
Stiffarm, Jr., Marlon G.
Sullivan, Kylee M.
Thomas, Marcella B.
Thomas, Suset T.
Wagens-Newman, Indigo R.
Walker, Trailee K.
Watkins-Ball, Sebastian B.
Whitetail, Trimire H.
Young, KayLeah J.
Young, Tyler A.

RELINQUISHMENTS:

Houle, Jr., Johnny R.

BLOOD CHANGES:

McKeel, Amanda
Weasel, Kenneth M.

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

FBIC RESOLUTION LIST

167-2026 DV ACF Grant Application Submission

168-2026 Enrollment (12) new FBIC Enrollees Cochran-Youngbear

169-2026 Exclusion of Alexander Jiron

170-2026 July 26 Ratifying of Finance Committee budget (5)

171-2026 July 26 Ratifying of Finance Committee Budget (1)

172-2026 June 26 Ratifying of Finance Committee Budget (1)

173-2026 Land - Craig Adams RU #3 and #22

174-2026 Land - Jesse Runsabove rescind home site resolution 93-2024

175-2026 Land - Patricia Messerly rescind home site resolution 56-2010

176-2026 Land – Orville, Aj, Jasmine Crasco 10-year lease 477A-Mary stands on iron

177-2026 Land – Dorcas HasEagle, Clyde Wing, Randi Fetter 10 years 837 Grayboy 40 acres \$4 per acre

178-2026 Land – Jackie Wing Homesite leggins subdivision T771 Lot #4

179-2026 Land – Phyllis Smith home site new town subdivision T3013 Lot 18

180-2026 Land – Shirley Pease home site new town subdivision T3013 lot 20

181-2026 Land – Linda Quincy 10 yr. lease T292 Ella blackbird 40 acres \$4 per acre

182-2026 Land – Katrese Hammod home site new town subdivision T3013

183-2026 Land – Tribal rates not to be below or comparable to State of Montana rental rates

184-2026 Land - Tyrell Racine cancel agriculture lease FB resolution 28-2025, 48-2025

185-2026 Land – Warren Bell 1 yr. permit allot # T2063, T985A, T988A, T2063

OPEN SEASON FOR MILITARY TRIBAL MEMBERS ON ACTIVE DUTY

The Fort Belknap Fish & Wildlife recognize that many of our family members serving in the military are active hunters, but the dates of our seasons do not always align with their return home. For this, we and the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council have decided to open our season for any military tribal member who is on active duty; allowing them to hunt outside of the designated seasons and still experience the land of their home. These coordinated hunts MUST be disclosed to the Fish & Wildlife Director before they can take place and a military ID MUST be provided. We appreciate all that you do and thank you for your service. For any questions or concerns, please contact the Fish & Wildlife Office at (406) 353-4801.

ENATIVETRUST ELECTRONIC PROBATE SYSTEM EPS – FAMILY PORTAL FOR TRUST PROBATES

The EPS Family Portal makes probate easier, faster, and more transparent for families in Indian Country. Your information is protected every step of the way. Get started today! Visit the EPS Family Portal homepage to report a death or track your case. You must have a login account to access EPS.

Visit online website at:

<https://enativetrust.indianaffairs.gov>

Why the family portal matters: eliminates long waits for mail-based family history forms, ensures documents are uploaded securely and quickly, provides transparency with real-time case progress, helps families stay connected and reduces repeated phone calls.

PUBLIC SERVICE **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Obstruction to Driver's View or Driving Mechanism

Please be advised that the new Fort Belknap Law & Order Code: Title 7, Part 2, Section 7.2.10.12 is enforced. This regulation clearly states that it is an offense to violate any of the following regulations regarding obstruction to driver's view or driving mechanism. Violating this offense is punishable by a fine of up to \$250.

- *No person may operate a vehicle when the operator's view is obstructed to the front and sides or the operator's access to the driving mechanism is obstructed. For purposes of this Section, an air freshener is considered an obstruction if hanging from a rearview mirror.*
- *No more than three (3) passengers may be present in the front seat of a motor vehicle.*
- *No passenger in a vehicle shall ride in such position as to interfere with the driver's view ahead or to the sides, or to interfere with their control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle.*

*Note: In Montana, driving with a handicap placard hanging from your rearview mirror is illegal if it materially obstructs your clear view of the road under Montana Code Annotated § 61-9-405.

Compliance with these regulations is mandatory to ensure safety and avoid penalties. Thank you for your understanding and full cooperation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Central Administration Office during business hours at (406) 353-8305 or Sarah Gone, Tribal Court Administrator at (406) 353-8418.

NOTICE OF SEALED BID AUCTION

The Fort Belknap Indian Community Road Maintenance Department is requesting 'Sealed Bid' from Wednesday, August 19, 2026 through (no later than) September 17, 2026 on the following equipment.

1. Bobcat Loader, Model 864, Year 1997, VIN Number: 514414031, Hours Unknown, Fair Condition, Flat Rear Tire, Bad Battery, Missing Gas Cap, other Issues unknown. Property sold **AS IS** with no warranty.

Inspection of property is required to Sealed Bid submission. For inspection appointment, please contact Kevin Hawley, Roads Maintenance Supervisor at (406) 399-2329.

All Sealed Bids shall be marked on lower left of envelope and mailed or dropped off to Property & Supply. ATTN: Ronald G. Speakthunder, Procurement Officer, 656 Agency Main Street, Harlem, MT 59526 (Fort Belknap Agency).

All Sealed Bids must be received by 12:00 p.m. on September 17, 2026 at the Property & Supply Office. Address: 656 Agency Main Street, Fort Belknap Agency, Harlem, MT 59526.

Bid opening will be at: \$500.00
Location: Property & Supply Office

Successful bidder will be required to submit payment in the form of a Cashier's Check or Money Order within five (5) days of Bid Opening and made out to the Fort Belknap Indian Community Roads Maintenance Department. Failure to submit payment within this timeframe will result in Bid Cancellation and awarded to the next highest bidder.

The Fort Belknap Indian Community Council reserves the right to reject any and all Bids.

Randall Werk, Sr., President
Fort Belknap Indian Community Council

YOUR INPUT CAN HELP MAKE BLAINE COUNTY ROADS SAFER

Whether you drive, walk, bike, or ride, your experiences matter. We're asking community members to help identify transportation safety concerns and shape Blaine County's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan.

Take a few minutes to complete the online survey:
<http://blainecounty-ss4a.com>

Your feedback will help prioritize future safety improvements throughout Blaine County. Please take the survey and share with others.
-Blaine County Election Department, Chinook, MT

PUBLIC SERVICE **ANNOUNCEMENT**

OFFENSES AGAINST PROPERTY

Please be advised that the **Fort Belknap Law & Order Code: Title 7, Part 2, Chapter 7.2.5: Offenses Against Property** is actively enforced. Compliance with these regulations is required to ensure community safety and legal adherence.

- **7.2.5.1 Arson:** *Both a criminal and civil offense, maximum fine of \$2,500 and maximum possible incarceration of up to 6 months.*
- **7.2.5.2 Breaking and Entering:** *a civil offense punishable of a maximum fine of \$2,500.*
- **7.2.5.3 Burglary:** *a civil offense punishable of a maximum fine of up to \$2,500.*
- **7.2.5.4 Damage and Destruction:** *Both a criminal and civil offense, maximum fine of \$2,500 and maximum possible incarceration of up to 6 months.*

These offenses allow the Court to award restitution or the cost of damages to the victim(s).

For further information regarding these provisions, please seek appropriate guidance or consult the official code documentation by contacting Sarah Gone, Tribal Court Administrator at (406) 353-8418.

**The Revised Law & Order Code has been in effect since May 4, 2026. In early spring, Tribal Court hosted a Code Revision Forum located in all three districts. This event provided the community an opportunity to voice their concerns and stay informed about updates in the revised Law & Order Code.*

ATTENTION FORT BELKNAP AGRICULTURAL LEASE **AND PERMIT HOLDERS:**

The FBIC Land Department will soon send out a mailer with a link to an electronic survey about agricultural water needs and infrastructure. To ensure you receive it, please make sure your mailing address is current with the Land Department. If you prefer to complete a hard copy survey, please contact the Land Department and we will mail one to you directly. Thank you for helping us gather accurate information to support agriculture across the Reservation.

Jayme Lamebull, Land Director (406) 353-8447
Email: jayme.lamebull@ftbelknap.org

ATTENTION 2026 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OF **NORTH CENTRAL MT UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM:**

Greetings from the North Central Montana Upward Bound Offices. This year we will be collecting data for our Annual Performance report. We encourage all participants who have graduated in May 2026 to complete an online survey whether you will be pursuing a post-secondary journey or not. If you have any questions, please contact our office. Thank you and we look forward to continue serving our students in the future.

ONLINE SURVEY LINK: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H83SRJL>

Emma Lamebull, Upward Bound Director (406) 353-8401/8402
Email: emma.lamebull@ftbelknap.org

JOB OPENING

The Fort Belknap Casino is accepting applications for a General Manager. The position will be advertised until September 11, 2026 and the selection process will occur on September 15, 2026.

Applications are available for pickup at the Fort Belknap Casino. You can submit your applications to the Fort Belknap Casino or the FBIC Human Resources Department. Job descriptions are available at each location.

Background check is required for this position.
Salary: Negotiable based on job experience.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Fort Belknap Casino at (406) 353-2235.



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



Invitation for Bid
Tiwahe Project E-008
 Open Date: September 2, 2026
 Close Date: October 2, 2026



The Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC) TIWAHE program is actively seeking material and labor bids for a removal and replacement of Rain Gutters and one bathroom handicap renovation located at the Fort Belknap Agency, Montana. Bids not physically received by **5:00PM on October 2, 2026** will remain unopened and returned to the company. Site visit and measurements required. Interested companies are encouraged to apply and address their bid to;

FBIC TIWAHE Program
Re: (Company Name)
Bid for Tiwahe Project E-008
Attention: Amber Belgard
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, MT 59526

All bids **will be scored** on the following information:

1. Name, Address, Email address & phone number of the Company or Individual
2. Must demonstrate work history and experience with references for qualifications measures.
3. Must be in good standing with the Fort Belknap Indian Community.
4. Must provide a written warranty guaranteeing workmanship for a period of one (1) year to the homeowner.
5. Must be compliant with the FBIC Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) and must show proof of TERO license and/or certification and federal ID.
6. Contractor must comply with Prevailing Wage Act; and
7. Must show proof of Liability Insurance.

The FBIC TIWAHE Program reserves the right to reject any or all bids and will waive any informality in bidding.

Thank you for your interest and should you have questions or require additional information about this IFB, please contact Amber Belgard, Assistant Family Advocate Coordinator for the complete Scope of Work at (406) 353.8367 or email at amber.belgard@ftbelknap.org.

Ramona Horn, TIWAHE FAC



Invitation for Bid
Tiwahe Project E-010
 Open Date: September 2, 2026
 Close Date: October 2, 2026



The Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC) TIWAHE program is actively seeking material and labor bids for a 2500 sq.ft. removal and replacement of: house siding, eight (8) windows, and two (2) exterior doors located at the Fort Belknap Agency, Montana. Bids not physically received by **5:00PM on October 2, 2026** will remain unopened and returned to the company. Site visit and measurements required. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply and address their bid to;

FBIC TIWAHE Program
Re: (Company Name)
Bid for Tiwahe Project E-010
Attention: Amber Belgard
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, MT 59526

All bids **will be scored** on the following information:

1. Name, Address, Email address & phone number of the Company or Individual
2. Must demonstrate work history and experience with references for qualifications measures.
3. Must be in good standing with the Fort Belknap Indian Community.
4. Must provide a written warranty guaranteeing workmanship for a period of one (1) year to the homeowner.
5. Must be compliant with the FBIC Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) and must show proof of TERO license and/or certification and federal ID.
6. Contractor must comply with Prevailing Wage Act; and
7. Must show proof of Liability Insurance.

The FBIC TIWAHE Program reserves the right to reject any or all bids and will waive any informality in bidding.

Thank you for your interest and should you have questions or require additional information about this IFB, please contact Amber Belgard, Assistant Family Advocate Coordinator for the complete Scope of Work at (406) 353.8367 or email at amber.belgard@ftbelknap.org.

Ramona Horn, TIWAHE FAC



353 OLD HAYS ROAD | P.O. BOX 470 | HAYS, MT 59527
 TEL: 406.673.3031 | FAX: 406.673.3023 | WWW.ISLANDMTN.COM



353 OLD HAYS ROAD | P.O. BOX 470 | HAYS, MT 59527
 TEL: 406.673.3031 | FAX: 406.673.3023 | WWW.ISLANDMTN.COM

Invitation For Bid

INVITATION FOR BID: The Fort Belknap Indian Community (hereinafter referred to as ("FBIC")) in partnership with Island Mountain Development Group (hereinafter referred to as ("IMDG")) are requesting written lumpsum, fixed price Bids to design, build, deliver and install (20) modular, factory-built moderately sized homes, each consisting of approximately 1,300-1,400 square feet, which each meet IBC standards. Proposals shall contain one (1) design, which if selected, will be designated by Owner for all 20-units.

This solicitation is subject to the Indian Preference procedures set forth in 24 CFR 1000.52; and, generally, the provisions of 2 CFR 200 Methods of Procurement; and the Fort Belknap Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO). Bids will be accepted from both Indian- and Non-Indian-owned bidders. Additionally, bidding firms must have been in business for a minimum of five years and must never have been listed on the US government's debarment list.

Biddocuments, plans, and specifications for the Project may be obtained from the IMDG office. For a complete Bid packet, including the Plans Book, please email the IMDG Procurement Office at procurement@islandmtn.com.

Bids must be submitted to the IMDG office on or before October 2nd, 2026, prior to 4:00 pm Mountain Standard Time. Sealed Bids must be hand delivered to IMDG at 1537 Avenue D, Billings, MT 59102; or mailed (post-marked on or before deadline) Attention: Garrett MacKay, 1537 Avenue D, Billings, MT 59102, with the company's name and "FBIC Modular Homes Bid" stated on the sealed envelope. Faxed and emailed bids will not be accepted.

This Invitation For Bids (IFB) does not oblige the FBIC to award a contract nor pay any costs incurred by Bidders in the preparation of their bid(s). FBIC reserves the right to reject any and all bids and re-advertise the IFB, and to waive any irregularities and informalities in the bid process.

Pre-Bid Meeting: Bidders are strongly recommended to attend the Pre-Bid Meeting on September 23rd, 2026, at 11:00 am with Owner's and Engineer's representatives. The Pre-Bid Meeting will be in the IMDG Conference room at 1537 Avenue D, Billings, MT 59102. The Pre-Bid meeting will help Bidders understand the Scope of Work; and identify any challenges to Contract completion by the deadline. Failure of a Bidder to attend the Pre-Bid meeting shall in no way relieve the Bidder from any obligations with respect to its Bid.

IMDG Procurement Team
 Attn: Garrett MacKay
 1537 Avenue D
 Billings, MT 59102

Invitation For Bid

INVITATION FOR BID: The Fort Belknap Tribal Housing Authority ("FBTHA"), in partnership with Island Mountain Development Group ("IMDG"), is requesting written lump-sum, fixed-price bids for the installation of eighteen (18) clotheslines and perimeter boundary fences on existing residential lots at Eagle Valley Estates.

This scope establishes the minimum performance, material, and installation standards required for the project, including the construction of perimeter fencing and outdoor clothesline systems across eighteen (18) residential properties. The contractor shall furnish all labor, tools, equipment, permits, materials, supervision, and related services necessary to complete the work safely, professionally, and in compliance with all applicable local building codes and project requirements.

This solicitation is subject to the Indian Preference procedures set forth in 24 CFR 1000.52; and, generally, the provisions of 2 CFR 200 Methods of Procurement; and the Fort Belknap Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO). Bids will be accepted from both Indian- and Non-Indian-owned bidders. Additionally, bidding firms must have been in business for a minimum of five years and must never have been listed on the US government's debarment list.

Bid documents and specifications for the Project may be obtained from the IMDG office. For a complete Bid packet, please email the IMDG Procurement Office at procurement@islandmtn.com.

Bids must be submitted to the Fort Belknap Tribal Housing Authority office on or before **September 25, 2026, prior to 4:00 pm Mountain Standard Time**. Sealed Bids must be hand delivered to Fort Belknap Tribal Housing Authority at 668 Agency Main Street, Harlem, Montana, 59526; or mailed (post-marked on or before deadline) Attention: Steve Fox, 668 Agency Main Street, Harlem, Montana, 59526, with the company's name and "**FBTHA Eagle Valley Residential Fencing and Clothesline Installation Bid**" stated on the sealed envelope.

Faxed and emailed bids will not be accepted.

This Invitation for Bids (IFB) does not obligate the FBTHA to award a contract nor pay any costs incurred by Bidders in the preparation of their bid(s). FBTHA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and re-advertise the IFB, and to waive any irregularities and informalities in the bid process.

Site Visit: Bidders are strongly recommended to attend the Pre-Bid Meeting on **September 17, 2026, at 10:30 am** with the Owner's and Engineer's representatives. The Pre-Bid Meeting will be held in the **FBTHA Conference Room at 668 Agency Main Street, Harlem, Montana 59526**. The Pre-Bid Meeting and site visit will help Bidders understand the Scope of Work; and identify any challenges to Contract completion by the deadline. Failure of a Bidder to attend the Pre-Bid meeting and Project site visit shall in no way relieve the Bidder from any obligations with respect to its Bid.



**MONTANA
NATIVE
GROWTH
FUND**

Building Strong, Sustainable, Indigenous Communities

Free Business Training Calendar

August-November 2026

For more information, contact:
roberta@nativegrowthfund.org

August 2026	September 2026	October 2026	November 2026
Indian Equity Grant Support & MNGF Loan Application Assistance Date: August 26, 2026 Where: MSU Extension Office 656 Agency Main Street Fort Belknap Agency Time: 1:00-3:00 pm Date: August 27, 2026 Where: Zoom Time: 5:30-7:30 pm Zoom Access email: roberta@nativegrowthfund.org	Training: CDFI 101 & MNGF Loan Application Assistance Date: Sept. 16, 2026 Time: 1:00-3:00 pm & 6:00-7:30 pm Where: MSU Extension Office 656 Agency Main Street Fort Belknap Agency Time: 1:00-3:00 pm Zoom Access email: roberta@nativegrowthfund.org	Training: Pathways to Homeownership & MNGF Loan Application Assistance Date: October 20-22, 2026 Time: 5:00-7:30 pm Where: MSU Extension Office 656 Agency Main Street Fort Belknap Agency Zoom Access email: roberta@nativegrowthfund.org	Training: Marketing your business with Canvas & MNGF Loan Application Assistance Date: November, 10, 2026 Time: 1:00-3:00 pm Where: MSU Extension Office 656 Agency Main Street Fort Belknap Agency Zoom Access email: roberta@nativegrowthfund.org



Fort Belknap Indian Community Tribal Enrollment Process

1. Inquiry/Information Request

Individual contacts the Enrollment Department to request information about enrollment requirements and the application process.

2. Application Request

Applicant requests an Enrollment Application and checklist of required documents from the Enrollment Department.

3. Submit Application & Documents

Applicant submits the completed Enrollment Application, and all required supporting documents to the Enrollment Department.

Required Documents:

- Original Notarized Application with \$5 filing fee
- Certified Birth Certificate (no copies)
- Copy of Social Security Card
- If parent is enrolled with another tribe, non-enrollment verification from tribe.
- Any name changes: marriage certificate, driver's license, court orders, etc.
- If enrolling off grandparents' blood, proof of lineage is required.

4. Application Review

The Enrollment Department reviews the application and documents for completeness and verifies eligibility in accordance with the Fort Belknap Enrollment Ordinance.

Incomplete Application?

If information or documents are missing, the applicant will be notified in writing of what is needed. Application is placed on HOLD until all required documents are received. If not received within 90 days, application will be sent back to applicant via USPS mail.

5. Eligibility Determination

Does the applicant meet the enrollment eligibility requirements?

YES

6. Approval

Applicant is determined eligible for enrollment by the Enrollment Committee/Tribal Council

7. 30 Day Posting

Applicants for the month are posted in all communities for 30 days.

8. Ratification by Resolution

All tentative enrollees are ratified by resolution and received official approval from FBIC Tribal Council

9. Enrollment & Recording

Applicant's information is entered into the Tribal Enrollment Database. Enrollment number is assigned.

10. Notification

Applicant is notified in writing of approval. Original birth certificate is mailed to applicant along with copy of Certificate of Indian Blood.

The Enrollment Department is available to assist with questions and guidance throughout the process.

Address Change

If you are needing to update your address, please contact Enrollment at
(406) 353-8531/8532 or
send an email to
enrollment@ftbelknap.org

Address change forms are also found on the Fort Belknap Website under "forms/documents" if you wish to mail in the address change form.

Fort Belknap Website:
www.ftbelknap.org

TRIBAL HEALTH Reminders

Frequently Asked Questions



Please allow

3-5 BUSINESS DAYS

for all requests to be processed.



DO NOT CALL FINANCE.

Finance staff are prohibited from releasing any information. Please contact Tribal Health directly with any questions.



Gas cards

WILL NOT BE GIVEN

if proof of appointment is not provided **FIRST**.



Please be **KIND** and **RESPECTFUL** to Tribal Health staff and understand there's so much we can do.



RESPECTFUL CONDUCT POLICY

We do not tolerate any rude behavior or comments. If done so, you will be asked to be removed and police will be notified.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

We're here to help.

FORT BELKNAP TRIBAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CLINICAL SERVICES

WHO CAN RECEIVE SERVICES?

We are here for our community.

OUR CLINICAL SERVICES

DIABETES CLINIC
Prevent, manage, and support diabetes and overall wellness.

NUTRITION
Nutrition education and support for healthy lifestyles.

ANIBH/CDC
Behavioral health and substance use prevention and treatment.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING (PHN)
Health promotion, disease prevention, and patient education.

WIC
Nutrition support for women, infants, and children.

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES (CHR)
Support, outreach, and connection to health services.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

You must reside within our service area: Fort Belknap Indian Community and surrounding areas outside of the Reservation in Phillips, Blaine, Hill, and Cascade Counties.

You must be a member of **ANY** federally recognized tribe residing within our service area.

You do **NOT** need insurance. You are **NOT** required to have Medicaid, Private Insurance, or any other insurance to receive services.

We provide services to **ALL** Tribal members residing in our service area at **NO COST** to you.

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

IHS IS NOT AN INSURANCE PROVIDER.
IHS provides clinical services to Tribal members at no cost to the patient.

Many of our programs provide assistance with external referrals and additional resources. We are here to help you get the care you need.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Reach out to any of our programs to learn more or schedule an appointment. We are happy to assist you!

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

Your health. Your family. Our community.

PREVENTION • SUPPORT • WELLNESS
STRONGER TOGETHER.

QUALITY CARE • RESPECT • CULTURE • COMMUNITY

CONTEST

Local Youth, We Want Your Talent!
"Aunties Biggest Earrings"
"Uncles Biggest Belt Buckle/Medallion"

Open to K-12:
ANC Immersion, Dodson, Harlem, Hays/Lodgepole, & Life's language Lodge (Schools). The contest will be held the month of September 2026. Submit your name to me no later than **September 18, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**

Prizes will be 1st-5th place. Get creative as possible! Sign up with your teacher and they will let me know! Winners will be selected on **9/22/2026**.

*Head start Program and Early Head start children will be included by showcasing their Native Art they are making during Native American Week ☺

Fort Belknap Tobacco Prevention Program

For more information:
Contact Mella Stiffarm-Flansburg
mella.stiffarm@fbelknap.org
Harlem Office: 406-353-8426
Hays Office: 406-673-3281

ANC 6TH ANNUAL LUMINARY WALK

Walk will be held **September 23rd, 2026 @ 6:30pm**

Come design a bag in honor of:

- A loved one who has passed on
- Someone who has inspired you
- Someone you want to show appreciation for

Bags and Supplies will be available for pick up:

- Tuesday 9/8-Thursday 9/10
- Tuesday 9/15-Thursday 9/17

From **10am-12:30pm and 1:30pm-4pm** in Little River Learning Lodge(LRL).

Bags can be decorated on site as well. So if you have time to come decorate a bag, please stop by and see us.

Decorated bags need to be dropped off at Nakoda Hall in Kathy & Roberta's office by **Monday 9/21** to be ready for the walk.

- Food will be served in LRL
- Shirts for participants
- Glow sticks for youth participants
- Prayer followed by Honor Song
- Reading of the bags
- Walk after Honor Song.

(Food, Shirts, & Glow Sticks are FCFS)

If you have any questions, please call
Roberta Quintana at 406-353-3963 or Kathy Pitkanen at 406-353-3910

White Clay Immersion School

BAZAAR

OCTOBER 23, 2026
9AM - 2PM

AANIIH NAKODA COLLEGE
EKIB-TSAH-AH-TSIK (CULTURAL CENTER)

\$25 VENDOR FEE

TO RESERVE A TABLE:
(406) 353-2607
wschandler@ancollege.edu
WCIS Facebook page

FOOD SALE TBD

Fort Belknap Tribal Health
Diabetes Care Clinic

Nutrition Education

Cooking Class

SEPT 17, 2026

2:00PM-3:00PM

Kills At Night

REDWHIP POOL IS OPEN!

ADULTS ONLY
NO LIFEGUARDS ON DUTY

POOL HOURS

8:00 AM – 12:00PM
OPEN SWIMMING

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
LAP SWIMMING ONLY

1:00 PM – 7:00 PM
OPEN SWIMMING

PLEASE SHOWER BEFORE ENTERING THE POOL!

YOUTH SWIMMING HOURS WILL BE UPDATED ONCE LIFEGUARDS ARE AVAILABLE.

Fort Belknap Tribal Health
Diabetes Care Clinic

Nutrition Education

Cooking CLASS

WITH VAL RICKER

September 17

10:00 - 11:00 AM

At Tiwaka

IF YOU NEED A RIDE TO CLASS,
CALL 406-399-3420

EVERYONE 18+ IS WELCOME

NACDC FINANCIAL SERVICES PRESENTS

PATHWAY'S HOME:

A NATIVE HOMEOWNERSHIP GUIDE



This eight-hour Homebuyer Education Course is delivered in three three-hour sessions over three days. This pre-purchase course is designed to equip prospective buyers with the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully become homeowners. Topics covered include financial education, understanding the homebuying process. You must attend all sessions.

SEPT 14TH, 2026 | 5:30PM TO 8:30 PM
SEPT 15TH, 2026 | 5:30PM TO 8:30 PM
SEPT 16TH, 2026 | 5:30PM TO 8:30 PM

THIS IS A CERTIFICATE COURSE AND IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE CERTIFICATE YOU MUST ATTEND ALL SESSIONS FROM YOUR OWN DEVICE.
 VIA ZOOM TRAINING

REGISTER FOR FREE AT THE QR CODE OR AT THE WEB PAGE:
<https://form.jotform.com/260686730457162>

Notice: Once you have signed up via the Jotform link or the QR code, watch for an email from Jotform; it will have the zoom link and official registration form.

★★ ATTENTION ★★

BLAINE COUNTY VOTERS!

— FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION —

NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Stay informed. Be prepared. Make your vote count.



REGISTRATION

Regular registration closes:

**OCTOBER 5, 2026,
AT 5:00 P.M.**

Late registration begins:

OCTOBER 6, 2026

After the close of regular registration, all registration updates and absentee ballot requests must be completed in person with the Election Office, following the schedule posted on their website.



ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee ballots will be mailed:

OCTOBER 9, 2026

- Mail your ballot at least 7 days before Election Day.
- Ballots may be dropped off at the Elections Office during regular office hours.
- Ballots may also be dropped off at a polling place on Election Day.
- Ballots may be dropped off at the alternative election office during hours of operation.



Ballots must be received by
8:00 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY
 at the Election's Office or a polling place.
POSTMARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.



If you do not wish to receive an absentee ballot: contact the Election's Office to receive the form for removal from the absentee list and discuss options.



If you have an absentee ballot, **VOTE IT.** If you go to a polling place to receive a ballot, you will be directed to the Election's Office.



CHECK YOUR VOTING INFORMATION AT
voterportal.mt.gov

- ✓ VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS
- ✓ ABSENTEE BALLOT STATUS
- ✓ SAMPLE BALLOT AVAILABILITY (WHEN AVAILABLE)
- ✓ POLLING PLACE INFORMATION

BLAINE COUNTY ELECTION OFFICE

420 Ohio St.
 Chinook, MT 59523

406-357-4022

elections@blainecounty-mt.gov



Check your registration status, absentee status, find a sample ballot (when available) and polling place information at **voterportal.mt.gov**.



FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Elder Discussion

LOCAL SENIOR CENTERS

September 2, 2026
 Lodge Pole Senior Center
 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

September 9, 2026
 Agency Senior Center
 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

September 16, 2026
 Hays Senior Center
 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

September 30, 2026
 Dodson Senior Center
 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

These meetings are a great opportunity to connect, share ideas, and discuss important topics!

FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026
 SACRED HEART CHURCH
 FORT BELKNAP AGENCY
 5:30 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026
 KILLS-AT-NIGHT CENTER
 HAYS, MONTANA
 5:30 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026
 ENEMY KILLER CENTER
 LODGE POLE, MONTANA
 5:30 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2026
 WATHATAU CENTER
 DODSON, MONTANA
 5:30 P.M.

These meetings are a great opportunity to connect, share ideas, and discuss important topics.

Contact for questions/concerns:
 (406) 353-8305

SEPTEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2 Lodge Pole School Student/Junior Tribal Council Meeting 10 AM Lodgepole Senior Center Meeting 12 PM	3 Timesheets Due by 5PM	4	5 Pay Period 19
6	7 Labor Day HOLIDAY	8 Regular Council Meeting	9 Harlem School Student/Junior Tribal Council 10 AM Senior Center Meeting 12-2 PM Agency Community Meeting 5:30 PM Agency Community Center	10 Finance Committee Meeting	11 Public Safety Committee Meeting	12
13	14 General Services Committee Meeting	15 Land Committee Meeting	16 Hays School Student/ Junior Tribal Council 9:00-11:30 Hays Senior Center Meeting 12-2 PM Hays Community Meeting 5:30 PM at Night Center Tribal Partner's Meeting	17 Human Services Committee Meeting	18 9AM Code Revision Zoom Meeting with Kostan	19 Pay Period 20
20	21 Timesheets Due Health Committee Meeting	22 Natural Resources Committee Meeting	23 Lodge Pole Community Meeting 5:30 PM Enemy Killer Center Planning Committee Meeting	24 Coffee w/Council IMDG Havre Office	25 Native American Day HOLIDAY	26
27	28 Executive Committee Meeting	29 Insurance Board Meeting Tribal Council Exit Interview TIWAHE AOTR Review @2:30 PM	30 Dodson Schools Student/Junior Tribal Council 10 AM Dodson Senior Center Meeting 12 PM Dodson Community Meeting 5:30 PM Dodson Senior Center Director's Meeting			

Subject to change at anytime

September 2026 ISSUANCE CALENDAR

Phone number's

406-353-8403 - Issuance Clerk

406-353-8407 - Cert Clerk

406-353-8487 - Director

Fax: 406-353-2546

Food Distribution on Indian Reservation (FDPIR) Survey

Your Experience Matters — Share Your Voice about the Quality, Timeliness, and Availability of FDPIR Food(s) to help better the program.



The survey should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete. It can be accessed by scanning the QR Code or visiting the link below.

Food Distribution Program
on Indian Reservations
(FDPIR) Participant Survey



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2VJKCR3B>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	2 CLOSED USDA/FRESH TRUCK Cert Office Open	3 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	4 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	5
6	7 CLOSED LABOR DAY	8 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	9 CLOSED INVENTORY & FRESH TRUCK Cert Office Open	10 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	11 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	12
13	14 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	15 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	16 CLOSED INVENTORY & FRESH TRUCK Cert Office Open	17 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	18 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	19
20	21 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	22 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	23 CLOSED INVENTORY & FRESH TRUCK Cert Office Open	24 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	25 CLOSED NATIVE AMERICAN DAY	26
27	28 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	29 8:00 - 1200 1:00 - 4:45	30 CLOSED FOR REPORTS & FRESH TRUCK Cert Office Open			

State Contact--Comment & Concerns

Tina Wagner 406.447-4265

Calendar is subject to change at any time.



FDPIR
Commodity
Program

Mailing address: 656 Agency Main St
Physical Address: 260 New Town Dr
Harlem, MT 59526

FALL

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

BOUNTIFUL	HALLOWEEN	SEPTEMBER	NOVEMBER	CRUNCHY
FLANNEL	OCTOBER	ORCHARD	PUMPKIN	AUTUMN
BREEZY	CHILLY	COLORS	GOLDEN	LEAVES
ORANGE	SQUASH	YELLOW	APPLE	BRISK
CIDER	CRISP	GEESE	PEARS	TREES
COZY	FALL	RAKE		

Self-Care

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

physical health
 organisation
 selftalk
 routine
 sleep

copingmechanism
 mentalhealth
 exercise
 nature
 bath

supportsystem
 destress
 selfcare
 music
 walk