Fort Belknap Indian Community
NEWSLETTER
Aaniiih ~ Nakoda

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Zortman-Landusky Mining Site – Online Photo

"They've faced the very real consequences of these harms, through sick tribal members, desecrated sacred sites and contaminated drinking water."

-Emma Shahabie,
Earth Justice Attorney

EARTHJUSTICE

Fort Belknap Tribes ask Judge to Reject Settlement for Mining Work at Zortman-Landusky

Sam Wilson | The Missoulian

Attorneys for the Fort Belknap Indian Community on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 sought to convince a judge to throw out a settlement between Montana environmental regulators and property owners accused of illegal mining activities at the former Zortman-Landusky gold mines.

The Aaniiih and Nakoda nations of Fort Belknap, also known as the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine tribes, had intervened in the case on DEQ's behalf shortly after it was filed in 2023. Arguing on their behalf, Earthjustice attorney Emma Shahabi told Phillips County District Judge Yvonne Laird the tribes were cut out of the settlement negotiations, and that its terms would fail to hold the defendants accountable or deter similar actions in the future.

"The reason that Fort Belknap is here today, and advocating for this today, is not to torpedo a settlement," Shahabi said. *"It's to uphold the settlement's compliance with the law."*

Since the mine closed down in the '90s, Zortman-Landusky has become shorthand for the dangers of mining companies leaving a toxic mess with the cost of cleanup falling on the taxpayers.

Pegasus Gold, the mine's owner, declared bankruptcy in 1998 after extensively degrading the 1,200-acre mining complex at the foot of the Little Rockies. Acid mine drainage and heavy metal contamination have heavily polluted surface and groundwater in the area. Today, water treatment to prevent pollution from spreading further off site costs the DEQ and the federal Bureau of Land Management more than $3 million annually. That remediation is expected to be required in perpetuity. *(Continued on Pg. 2) …*

(Continued from Pg. 1)... Shahabi said the alleged mining activity happened as close as 50 feet from that infrastructure and "disrupted a carefully integrated water treatment system." The property owners had sought, but did not receive, permits to conduct mining activity at the site.

DEQ's attorney responded that the parties attempted to include the tribes in the settlement negotiations and that, ultimately, the settlement was crafted based on the merits of its case against the defendants. And regardless of the consent decree's strength, DEQ's attorney argued, it was the government, not an intervenor in the case, that had the authority to settle its claims.

"Thinking about what that looks like when presented to a jury, from my view this settlement is fair and its equitable and it does not violate public policy," King (DEQ's Attorney) said. *"And that's really the standard that the court has to look at."*

Asked by Judge Laird if the settlement's grant of a "blanket waiver" to the defendants served the state's best interests, King again emphasized they wouldn't be able to summon evidence of environmental damage if the case went to trial.

"That's not to say I think our case is hopeless," King noted. *"I certainly don't think it is. I'm just saying, in my view I think this settlement is rough accommodation of the strengths and weaknesses of the case."*

The state's cost of remediating the disturbance totaled about $15,000, he added, compared to the $200,000 settlement that would be used to pay ongoing water-treatment costs.

Laird also expressed concern that the consent decree would impact the tribe's ability to pursue its own independent claims against the defendants. Their attorneys had noted the mining complex sits on land carved out of the reservation borders after gold was discovered in the late 1800s, but remains historically and culturally important to the tribes. It's also within the watershed that provides Fort Belknap's tap-water.

"They've faced the very real consequences of these harms, through sick tribal members, desecrated sacred sited and contaminated drinking water," Shahabi said.

King responded that it only waived DEQ's ability to take enforcement actions related to the 2021 disturbances at the site. And Ployhar's attorney, Matthew Dolphay, said a separate complaint by the tribes didn't amount to an "independent claim" because it was identical to the agency's.

"We would be prosecuted for the exact same claims and the exact same conduct, twice," Dolphay said.

The judge did not indicate when she would issue a ruling on the proposed settlement. If the settlement is ultimately accepted by the court, that would amount to the conclusion of DEQ's case. -

Fort Belknap Tribal Council's Commitment to Protecting Its People and Water, Recognized in Court Ruling

Court rules that the Fort Belknap Indian Community's claims cannot be dismissed through a settlement without its consent or appropriate judicial proceedings.

FORT BELKNAP INDIAN RESERVATION, MONTANA – The Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC) announced on Friday, October 30, 2026 that the Montana Seventeenth Judicial District Court has issued an important ruling protecting the Community's independent legal rights in litigation involving mining violations at the former Zortman Mine in the Little Rocky Mountains.

The ruling follows more than three years of litigation in which the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council has remained committed to protecting the interests of tribal members, the Community's water resources, and the lands that have sustained the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre people for generations.

In 2023, the Tribal Council made the decision to intervene in the State of Montana's enforcement action concerning unauthorized mining disturbances at the former Zortman Mine. The Council recognized that the Community's interests were distinct from those of the State and that the potential impacts on tribal water resources and culturally significant lands required independent representation.

That decision proved important when the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the mining defendants subsequently proposed a consent decree that would have dismissed the Community's claims with prejudice, despite FBIC not having agreed to the settlement.

In its October 30, 2026 order, District Judge Yvonne Laird recognized FBIC's status as a full party to the litigation and reaffirmed that the Community has distinct sovereign, cultural, and water-related interests that DEQ cannot adequately represent.

The Court determined that DEQ and the defendants cannot settle away the Community's independent claims without its consent or an appropriate judicial adjudication. The Court also found that FBIC's objections were timely and that the Community had not waived its rights by participating in or being aware of settlement discussions.

The ruling underscores the importance of the Tribal Council's continued commitment to ensuring that the Community's interests are protected in decisions affecting its homeland and natural resources.

The Little Rocky Mountains are deeply significant to the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre People. *(Continued on Pg. 3)...*

(Continued from Pg. 2)... The waters originating in these mountains flow toward the Fort Belknap Reservation, making the protection of these resources a matter of direct concern to tribal members and future generations.

The proposed consent decree includes a $200,000 civil penalty. FBIC has raised concerns about whether that penalty and the proposed reclamation measures adequately address the alleged violations and their potential environmental consequences.

Although the Court did not decide those substantive issues, it denied the joint motion to adopt the proposed decree to the extent that it would dismiss, release, or otherwise prejudice FBIC's claims.

DEQ and the defendants may submit a revised agreement resolving their own claims, but they cannot extinguish the Community's independent claims without its consent or further appropriate judicial proceedings.

Throughout this litigation, the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council has maintained that protecting the Community's water, lands, and natural resources is a responsibility owed not only to tribal members today, but also to future generations.

The Council's decision to intervene and its continued support of the litigation have ensured that the Community's independent legal claims remain before the Court.



Zortman-Landusky Mining Site – Online Photo

The Fort Belknap Indian Community will continue pursuing appropriate relief and advocating for the protection of its people, water resources, and homeland.

About the Fort Belknap Indian Community

The Fort Belknap Indian Community is home to the Assiniboine *(Nakoda)* and Gros Ventre *(Aaniiih)* Tribes. The Community is governed by the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council, which works to protect the sovereignty, lands, natural resources, and welfare of its people. -

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All Nations' Healing Hospital – Online Photo

All-Nations' Healing Hospital Tour

Vice President Alan Bigby and Councilwoman Tina Bierle visited the All-Nations' Healing Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. The hospital is uniquely owned and operated by the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC) and the Touchwood Agency Tribal Council (TATC). The tour gained insight into its healthcare model. During the visit, they received an overview of the hospital's programs and participated in discussions with healthcare professionals and cultural leaders.

The visit had several objectives:

- Learn from Tribal leaders, decision-makers, and healthcare professionals: Education focused on healthcare delivery, client care, community engagement, and cultural integration.
- Building relationships among peers: Engaging sessions, networking opportunities, and cultural practices helped participants connect and learn from one another.
- Discuss future directions for Tribal healthcare: Meetings with Tribal healthcare leaders provided an opportunity to explore plans and ideas for advancing care in ways that reflect community values and respond to local needs.
- Support planning for a future dialysis center: The visit helped inform thinking about prevention and support systems that could contribute to the success of a future center.

All Nations' Healing Hospital shared a model designed to provide safe, holistic health services and research that respond to community needs. Its services include primary, acute, and chronic healthcare, as well as dialysis.

The model prioritizes the client's experience and incorporates community engagement and cultural practices throughout care. It also emphasizes maintaining stable staff and resources while advancing secure and innovative healthcare.

Overall, the visit offered an opportunity to learn from an established community-focused healthcare model, strengthen professional relationships, and consider approaches that could help guide future Tribal healthcare planning on the Fort Belknap Reservation. -

Keeping Families Together: The Heart of ICWA

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe hosted a 3-day session; Keeping Families Together - The Heart of Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) at the Casino Del Sol Conference Center in Tucson, Arizona. Councilwoman Joan Johnson, Soaring Eagle Case Manager Charity Boushie, and Tiwahe Staff members were in attendance including Ramona Horn, Amber Belgard, and Renita Longknife.

Project Lead Marissa Quiroz coordinated the gathering, which brought together tribal leaders, legal professionals, child welfare practitioners, educators, and community members to share knowledge and strengthen support for Native children and families.

Enacted by Congress in 1978, ICWA is a federal law that sets minimum federal standards for the removal and out-of-home placement of Native children in child custody, foster care, and adoption proceedings. It was created to combat a historic crisis where 25% to 35% of Native children were removed from their homes, with the vast majority placed outside their families and culture.

The National Indian Child Welfare Association provides resources and oversight for the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), which protects the rights of American Indian and Alaska Native children families, and Tribal Nations.

Councilwoman Joan Johnson emphasizes the importance of ICWA. *"The Indian Child Welfare Act is so important to understand,"* said Joan. *"Our children need identities to know their culture and traditions."* By helping preserve those relationships, ICWA supports children's sense of identity, belonging, and histories that shape their lives.

The first day opened with prayer, a color guard, and remarks, followed by sessions on ICWA legal developments, advocacy and implementation, and the often-overlooked needs of drug-endangered children. Afternoon breakout sessions addressed ethics, the Fort Belknap Indian Community's Soaring Eagle Program, and ICWA court practice. The day also included presentations on a proposed Uniform Law Commission draft ICWA law and grief and loss in Indian Country, before concluding with a networking session.

The second day focused on approaches to strengthening tribal child welfare through culture and family-based policy.



Charity Boushie & Councilwoman Joan Johnson pictured during ICWA Session.

Featured topics included an update on the Tiwahe Authorization Act, elder connection and family well-being; and Indigenous adverse childhood experiences, trauma, and resiliency. Additional sessions examined ICWA implementation, investigation-to-permanency practices, and the development of an ICWA onboarding curriculum for Salt River child welfare and social services.

The gathering concluded with a cultural day hosted by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Activities were flower making, a Yellowbird cultural demonstration, and a Navajo cultural demonstration, followed by closing remarks, prayer, and the retrieval of the colors.

The three-day session offered opportunities to learn and exchange perspectives; and relationship-building centered on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). Participants deepened their understanding and connected with others who are committed to supporting Native children, families, and communities – united by the goal of keeping Native families together. -

Supreme Court Rejects Challenge to Indian Child Welfare Act

By: Native American Rights Fund

On October 5, 2026, the United States Supreme Court declined to take up a challenge to the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), denying certiorari in *N.R. v. Ellison*, a case where the petitioners argued both ICWA and the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA) violate equal protection.

ICWA is a 47-year-old federal law that protects the well-being and best interests of Indian children and families by upholding family integrity and stability and by keeping Indian children connected to their communities and cultures. ICWA also reaffirms the inherent rights of Tribal Nations to be involved in child welfare matters involving their citizens.

"The Supreme Court correctly denied cert in this case, rejecting another attack on the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)," said NARF Staff Attorney Leonard Powell. *"Just three years ago, we successfully defeated a similar equal protection attack on ICWA and Tribal sovereignty in Haaland v Brackeen. ICWA remains a vital protection for Tribal families and Tribal sovereignty."*

For decades, ICWA has been recognized by child welfare experts as the gold standard in child welfare practice, and the law has helped tens of thousands of Indian children and families who find themselves in state child welfare systems.

In the past several years, anti-Tribal interests have launched a series of legal challenges against ICWA, with the goal of broadly undermining tribal sovereignty. -

Tiwahe Leadership Summit Sets Priorities for National Coordination

The first Tiwahe Leadership Summit brought together representatives and Tribal Council members from 10 Tiwahe Tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and Whānau Tahi USA to strengthen shared leadership and identify priorities for the next phase of national coordination. Attendees from Fort Belknap Indian Community were: Councilwoman Joan Johnson, Tiwahe Program – Ramona Horn, Charity Boushie, Renita Longknife, and Amber Belgard.

Held October 13, 2026, at Casino Del Sol in Tucson, Arizona, the summit was hosted by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Participants included representatives from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Spirit Lake Nation, Red Lake Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Fort Belknap Indian Community, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Oglala Sioux Tribe, the BIA's acting National Tiwahe Coordinator, and Whānau Tahi USA. The Association of Village Council Presidents sent apology for their unattendance.

Discussions focused on strengthening Tribal-led national leadership, advancing a five-year national strategy for Tiwahe expansion and permanence, refining the Tiwahe Model, and developing a consistent framework for implementation, planning, and performance reporting across Tiwahe sites.

Building National Leadership

A key priority is establishing an interim chair and vice chair for the National Tiwahe Leadership Group. The group will also explore options for a permanent national leadership and governance structure. The work is expected to begin in November 2026, with the structure established in early 2027.

Participants also called for creation of a National Tiwahe Council to provide a focused voice in public and policy discussions. The council would operate under a governing structure that ensures Tribal councils are included in setting direction and providing leadership.

The council is intended to help represent the Tiwahe Model while supporting the specialized knowledge and integrated service-delivery approaches developed by Tiwahe Tribes.

Refining strategy and the Tiwahe Model

Whānau Tahi USA will consolidate summit feedback and recommendations on the five-year National Strategy for Tiwahe and proposed refinements to the Tiwahe Model. The organization will present its recommendations to the National Tiwahe Leadership Group at its next monthly meeting for review and direction.

The summit also identified a need for clearer and more consistent ways to assess implementation. The National Tiwahe Leadership Group, Whānau Tahi USA, and the BIA will partner on a standardized self-assessment tool.

Tribes would use the tool to evaluate how well they are embedding the Tiwahe Model, while it would also help support accountability during joint reviews and site visits. Development is expected to begin in November 2026, with implementation planned for February 2027.

In addition, the partners will design standardized Tiwahe performance reports to improve consistency in tracking implementation progress, services, and family-driven outcomes.

Next Steps and Long-Term Goals

The summit's immediate next steps include appointing interim leadership, formalizing the National Tiwahe Council through a governing charter and clear mission, consolidating recommendations on the national strategy and Tiwahe Model, and beginning work with the BIA on the self-assessment tool.

The overall direction is toward a stronger, coordinated, Tribal-led national structure. The National Tiwahe Council is envisioned as a voice for the Tiwahe Model in public and policy discussions, while national leadership and strategy are connected to practical implementation at the Tribal level.

The summit's long-term goal is a shared Tiwahe framework that provides national direction while preserving each Tribe's sovereignty. That approach would allow Tribes to implement Tiwahe in ways that reflect their communities, cultures, priorities, and visions for strengthening families. -



Representatives from various Tribes take group photo.

Rocky Mountain Region TERO Conference Explores Pathways for Building the Native Workforce

Workforce development, employment rights, compliance, and career opportunities were the focus of the 2026 Rocky Mountain Region TERO Conference that was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. In attendance from Fort Belknap Tribes were: Tribal Council Members - Donald Horn, Michael King II, and Josh Horn, TERO Staff - Nancy Boushie and Cheryl Horn, and Tribal Housing Authority Staff - Derek Azure and Colleen Gardipee-Filesteel

"From Vision to Opportunity: Building the Native Workforce," highlights the conference's emphasis on connecting ideas about workforce development with practical opportunities for Native workers and communities.

The three-day conference brought together tribal employment rights representatives, workforce professionals, government agencies, legal experts, employers, and other partners. The agenda included presentations on TERO law, compliance, workforce services, human resources, oil field services, and youth outreach.

John Navarro, co-founder of the Council of Tribal Employment Rights brought together perspectives from tribal employment rights organizations and workforce and industry partners. Navarro, a national Native American Advocate is dedicated to protecting tribal employment rights and promoting sovereignty. He is widely recognized as the foundation figure in the development of the TERO framework across the United States.

Throughout his career, Navarro developed and delivered acclaimed presentations and workshops focused on "Cultural Synergy". He emphasized how tribal sovereignty could be leveraged as a tool for economic growth and job creation.

By including representatives from tribal organizations, government agencies, and industry, the conference was designed to create space for participants to exchange information and consider how workforce initiatives can support Native workers and communities.

**Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) is a program created and managed by federally recognized Native American and Alaska Native Tribes. The Fort Belknap Indian Community actively enforces its own TERO Ordinance to protect its workforce and preserve economic sovereignty. The Fort Belknap TERO office maintains a specialized labor registry. When an outside contractor receives a project on the reservation, they must utilize the registry to fill vacancies before bringing in non-local workers.*

Open Discussions on Cannabis and Enrollment Initiatives

Community discussions took place on two important tribal initiatives: cannabis regulation and enrollment requirements for the Fort Belknap Indian Community. The council presented proposed amendments to the 2026 cannabis ordinance, which would establish regulatory frameworks for medical and recreational use, including licensing requirements, cultivation limits, and business ownership restrictions requiring 80% tribal member ownership.

Councilman John A. Allen and FBIC legal counsel Cher Old Elk explained enrollment options being considered, including allowing federally recognized blood from other tribes to count toward membership requirements and changing how qualifying blood is calculated from fractions.

The most recent session was streamed Facebook Live which included introductions, a slideshow presentation, and Q&A from the public. The group also briefly discussed business model development priorities, noting that regulations would need to be established first if an ordinance passes, with Jennifer Bear Eagle's team *(Cedar Tree Native Law)* working on draft regulations.

Cher Old Elk, serving as FBIC legal counsel, provided context on tribal sovereignty and explained the history of cannabis regulation at Fort Belknap, noting that the 2026 amendments to the cannabis ordinance were under review. She emphasized that while the Council had not yet made decisions on either initiative, community input would be important for informed decision-making.

The meeting was the fifth community discussion on cannabis initiatives and the seventh related to enrollment ordinances. Jennifer Bear Eagle, an attorney from Cedar Tree Native Law, introduced herself and participated in the discussion. President Randall Werk, Sr. highlighted the purpose of these meetings was to gather community input on important initiatives, noting that previous meetings in different communities had raised various concerns and questions about social factors, business models, and financial implications.

The discussion touched on past hemp initiatives in 2015 and a 2025 ordinance that was inspired by another tribe's model, emphasizing the need to adapt strategies to fit the unique demographics and circumstances. The meeting also addressed the critical issue of enrollment, with President Werk expressing concern about the current ordinance's exclusivity and the need to update it to ensure more community members can be enrolled.

The meeting focused on discussing a revised cannabis ordinance for the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. Councilman Cody Shambo and President Werk explained that the ordinance aims to establish clear rules for cannabis use and sales within the reservation, *(Continued on Pg. 7) ...*

(Continued from Pg. 6) ... addressing current gaps in the 2025 ordinance. They emphasized the importance of regulation to protect community health and safety, reduce harm, and provide access to tested cannabis products rather than illicit markets.

Eddie Moore, COO for IMDG, highlighted that the ordinance is built on tribal sovereignty and does not waive tribal immunity, with violations potentially leading to administrative, civil, or criminal penalties. The discussion included plans for community input before finalizing the ordinance, with a third revision to be made after considering community feedback. Cher explained the sovereignty and waiver of immunity provisions.

Eddie presented details on the two legal pathways for cannabis access - medical and recreational use - including requirements for tribal medical registration cards, home growing rules, and possession limits. Jennifer clarified that cannabis businesses must be tribally owned or at least 80% tribally member owned to ensure benefits go to tribal members, and the ordinance includes strict safety and security requirements including seed-to-sale tracking and testing protocols.

The council discussed the cannabis ordinance proposal, with Councilman Shambo highlighting the need to add a micro-tier system similar to the state's to allow home growers to sell to dispensaries. He emphasized that regulations would be strictly enforced, with licensed cultivation tracked closely and all products requiring testing at the state's single testing facility.

The council received questions about license caps, costs, and revenue distribution, with Cody explaining that specific details like license pricing would be determined in the subsequent regulatory framework development phase after the ordinance passes. Jennifer outlined next steps including compiling public feedback, updating the draft ordinance, and potentially holding additional public information sessions before implementation.

Key points included the requirement for 80% tribal ownership by enrolled Fort Belknap members, separate financial reporting for cannabis funds, and tribal jurisdiction limited to reservation boundaries. The discussion also covered infrastructure needs for growers. Councilman Blake Stiffarm suggested land could be reserved for growing operations and that indoor cultivation might be more viable due to limited growing season.

Councilman John A. Allen explained that the Tribal Council has been discussing possible changes to enrollment requirements, including how Indian blood is calculated, based on concerns from community members about current rules affecting families and future generations. Cher outlined two main options being considered: allowing Indian blood from other federally recognized tribes to count toward enrollment requirements *(which would require a constitutional amendment)* and implementing a four-fourths blood quantum calculation method that would change how qualifying blood is calculated for enrollment purposes.

The Council has not made a final decision on the proposed changes and is continuing to gather community input through these digital and in-person meetings before determining next steps.

The Cannabis Ordinance and proposed enrollment amendment were presented and discussed at community meetings held in September and October; with one meeting broadcast via Facebook Live, attracting up to 50 participants during the livestream.

Breanne Main, Public Relations Officer gathered questions and encouraged community members to complete surveys about these important matters, noting that feedback would help ensure community perspectives are considered.

Councilman Allen explained the historical context of enrollment changes, emphasizing the need to address declining enrollment due to federal programs and intermarriage, while Councilman Stiffarm reminded attendees that all council members' intentions are focused on doing good for the community.

This is an ongoing discussion and no decisions had been made on either initiative at this time. The Fort Belknap Tribal Council highly encourages community input before moving forward with any implementation. -

The Fort Belknap Indian Community Council is reviewing Article III of the Fort Belknap Constitution, which establishes the requirements for membership in the community. The current constitution generally counts only Assiniboine and Gros Ventre blood when determining whether a descendant satisfies the constitutional one-eighth (1/8) Indian Blood requirement. Questions and concerns have been raised regarding Enrollment requirements and how it may affect Fort Belknap families and future generations. No constitutional amendment has been approved at this time.

To review the informational packet, visit *wwww.ftbelknap.org/announcements* and click on FBIC Proposed Blood Change Packet.

If you do not have access to wi-fi or would like a copy, please contact the Central Administration office at (406) 353-8309.

Fort Belknap Indian Community Meets with Montana Leadership on Treaty Hunting Rights

HELENA, MT — On October 13, 2026, President Randall "Butch" Werk Sr., members of the Fort Belknap Indian Community Council, FBIC Legal, and Fort Belknap Fish & Wildlife Director met with Montana's Lieutenant Governor, Director Misty Kuhl; and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks leadership for a government-to-government consultation concerning treaty hunting rights and wildlife management.

During the meeting, FBIC leadership emphasized the importance of protecting the hunting and harvesting rights of the Aaniiih (Gros Ventre) and Nakoda (Assiniboine) peoples while working cooperatively with Montana on wildlife conservation and management.

"Our people have hunted and harvested these lands for generations. Protecting those rights while caring for our wildlife is a responsibility we take seriously," said President Werk.

FBIC presented a proposed Tribal-State Hunting and Wildlife Management Agreement for the State's consideration.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed Montana's commitment to respecting Tribal sovereignty, treaties, and Tribal rights, and indicated that the State would review the proposed agreement and provide follow-up correspondence regarding next steps.

"We appreciate the State's willingness to sit down with us government-to-government. This is an opportunity to build a stronger working relationship while protecting the rights and interests of our people," said President Werk.

FBIC looks forward to continued discussions with Montana concerning treaty rights, Tribal hunting opportunities, and cooperative wildlife management. -



Pictured from L to R: Fish & Wildlife Director Gary Lamere, Councilman John A. Allen, President Randall Werk, Sr., Councilman Blake Stiffarm, Councilman Cody Shambo, and FBIC Legal Cher Old Elk.



Slippery Ann Wildlife Viewing Area – Photo by: Breanne Main

The Story of Cyprian Matte

By: Tim Doney

Elk breeding usually occurs in September and October, and it is during the breeding season, or rut, that large numbers of elk congregate at the Slippery Ann Elk Viewing Area located inside the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge. Peak numbers of bull elk can be viewed in this area around the second and third weeks of September.

Records from recent years show that nearly 500 elk may visit the elk viewing area in September, though this can vary from year to year. Numbers continue to remain high through early October, and then begin to decline as the harems (groups of cows) break up and the bulls begin to once again feed and store up reserves for the winter ahead.

Most people who have traveled through north-central Montana have probably heard the name Slippery Ann. Today the area is best known for the elk that gather there each fall, but behind that unusual name is the story of a man whose life was tied to the Missouri River, Fort Benton, the Bear Paws, and the Little Rocky Mountains for decades.

His name was Cyprian Matte.

Depending on the record, his surname appears as Matte, Matt, or Mott, which has made his story difficult to follow. But when baptismal records, newspapers, Jesuit histories, census records, and family accounts are brought together, a remarkable picture begins to emerge.

According to Jody Jones of the Refuge:
The name Slippery Ann is a twice-butchered name for a nearby creek. On old topographical maps, the creek was written "Cyprian," possibly a reference to the early Christian bishop of the same name. Somewhere along the way, that got changed to "Siparyann." Because no one could understand refuge staff when they said the word on the phone, it was changed to Slippery Ann.

Cyprian was born in Quebec in 1833 and eventually made his way into the Upper Missouri country. By the middle of the nineteenth century, he was already part of the world of traders, interpreters, scouts, miners, and travelers moving through what would become Northern Montana. *(Continued on Pg. 9)…*

(Continued from Pg. 8)… One of the earliest records placing him at Fort Benton comes from Father Pierre-Jean De Smet.

During De Smet's journey through the Upper Missouri in 1866, his baptismal register recorded that on June 7 at Fort Benton he baptized a boy named Joseph, born in September 1863, described as the legitimate son of "Cyprian Mott and Meline his wife."

It is only a short entry in an old church record, but it firmly places Cyprian and his family at Fort Benton by the mid-1860s.

Cyprian's connection with Father De Smet appears to have gone beyond that baptism.

Twenty years later, Father Frederic Eberschweiler remembered Cyprian as a man who had once guided the famous Jesuit missionary by boat on the Missouri River toward St. Louis. The account was later published in The Indian Sentinel.

By the 1870s, Cyprian had become familiar with an enormous stretch of country between Fort Benton, the Marias, and the Little Rockies. He appears in the records as a trader, miner, guide, interpreter, and government scout.

One newspaper account names Cyprian Matt and Murray Nicholson as government scouts who had returned from an extensive trip through the Snowy Mountains while following the trail of stolen horses. Other Fort Benton accounts identify Cyprian as an interpreter associated with the Gros Ventre *(Aaniiih).*

His name also appears during the Nez Perce War of 1877.

As the Nez Perce moved north through Montana, word of their approach reached the trading post at Fort Clagett. Cyprian carried information toward Fort Benton about their movement shortly before the events that culminated at the Bear Paw Mountains.

He was not simply a man who lived in one place. Newspapers show him moving through the Marias country, mining districts, trading posts, and military routes across a wide section of Montana.

In one particularly dramatic incident, Cyprian was present at a trading establishment near the mouth of the Musselshell River when trader Edward Gravelin was shot and killed. The newspaper identified him as "Mr. Cyprian Matt, of the Marias." After the shot was fired, Cyprian grabbed his rifle and rushed outside in an attempt to find the killer.

By the early 1880s, his attention had shifted toward the Little Rocky Mountains.

One newspaper report joked that Cyprian had "started a town of his own" at Warm Springs near the head of the Little Rocky. At that time the settlement consisted of only one cabin and twelve to fourteen lodges.

Among those camped there was Bird Chief, a Gros Ventre *(Aaniiih)* man.

The description gives us an unusual glimpse of Cyprian's place: not simply a lone cabin in the mountains, but a small gathering point where Native families, travelers, traders, and others moved through the country.

Before long, newspapers were using "Cyprian Matt's place" almost as though everyone already knew where it was.

Freighters traveling between the Missouri River and Fort Assiniboine passed through the area. Loaded freight trains were left near his place. When freighter Paul Hanley suffered a serious accident, he was taken to Cyprian Matt's house, and medical help was sent from Fort Assiniboine.

When reports of gold discoveries began coming out of the Little Rockies, another correspondent described the new mines as being about ten miles beyond Cyprian Matt's place.

Cyprian also became involved in the commercial growth of the area. One newspaper reported that Judge Sanborn and Cyprian Matt were building a new store at Point Comfort and making other improvements.

Somewhere during these years begins the story behind one of Montana's strangest place names.

An old newspaper account stated that a mountain in the region had first been called "Hairy Cap" by the Piegans, reportedly because of the timber growing on its summit. Later it became known as "Cyprian's Butte."

According to the account, Cyprian Matt had located Cyprian's Springs in 1881, and his name became attached to the surrounding landscape.

The newspaper explained that the cowboys gradually changed Cyprian into "Slippery-Ann."

Whatever exact path the pronunciation took, the old account directly connected the modern name with Cyprian Matt.

Today Slippery Ann is one of the better-known names in the Missouri Breaks, especially because of the large numbers of elk that gather there during the fall rut. Few visitors probably realize that hidden inside that name may be the memory of an old French-Canadian Montana pioneer.

Cyprian's connection with the Little Rockies became even more important in 1886. Father Frederic Eberschweiler was searching for a permanent site for a Catholic mission. On May 1, 1886, after consulting with the Native people about establishing a permanent mission, he saddled his horse and rode into the Little Rockies. Cyprian went with him. *(Continued on Pg. 10)…*



Slippery Ann Wildlife Viewing Area – Photo by: Breanne Main

(Continued from Pg. 9)... Eberschweiler later wrote:
"Cyprian Mott, who once had guided the famous Father De Smet in a boat on the Missouri to St. Louis, was my companion together with two other Indians."

The four men traveled southeast into the Little Rockies until they reached the valley of Peoples Creek. There, Eberschweiler found what he had been looking for.

The mountains were covered with timber. Clear streams flowed into the valley. The grazing country was excellent, and fertile ground followed the creeks.

Eberschweiler was so impressed that he compared the country to, "The promised land where milk and honey flows."

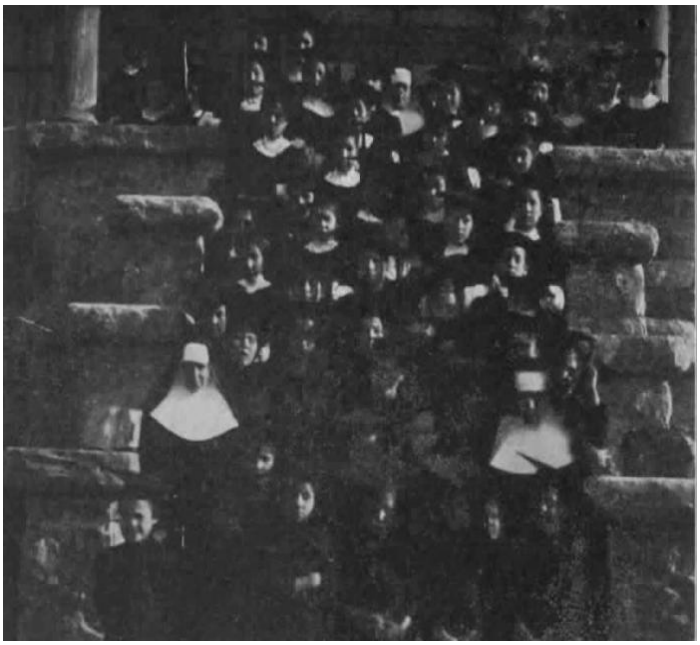
At Peoples Creek he made his decision. This was where the mission would be built.

Twenty-five years later, when St. Paul's Mission celebrated its Silver Jubilee, the Harlem News remembered the event plainly: "Rev. Fr. Eberschweiler with Cyprian Mott selected this beautiful place for a mission on May 1st, 1886." That place became St. Paul's Mission.

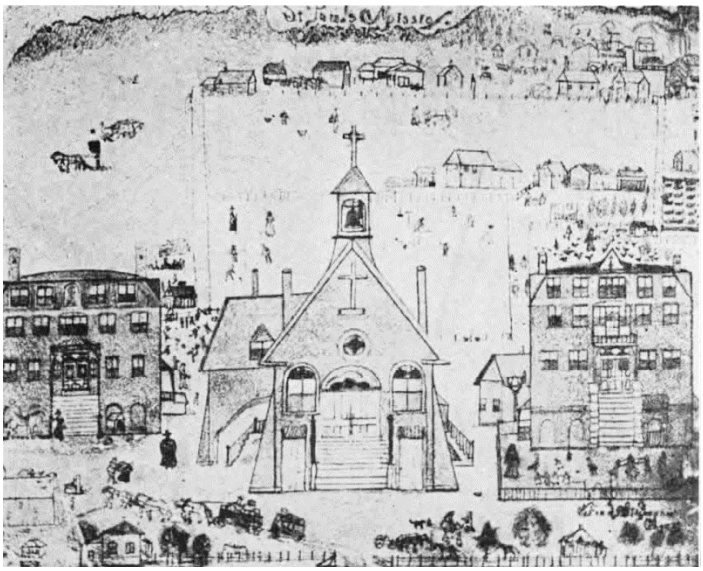
Family history preserves another side of Cyprian's life. He is remembered as having a trading post "on the warm spring west of Landusky." His daughter Mary Matte later married Dave Hawley, Sr., and the Hawley family continued to preserve the story of Cyprian and his place in the Little Rockies.

Another son, James Matt, also appears in later Montana records. Earlier family histories identify Cyprian's Native wife or partner as Kills-in-the-Brush, although the 1866 De Smet baptismal record names his wife as Meline. Whether Meline and Kills in the Brush were the same woman under different names has not yet been proven.

Cyprian remained connected with the Bear Paw and Little Rocky country into the later years of his life. When he died at his home in the mountains, a newspaper gave the notice a fitting headline: "Cyprian Matt Joins the Silent Legion."



Girls – St. Paul's Mission School - 1910



Drawing Made (1911) By an Indian Boy 12 Years of Age – St. Paul's Mission

The obituary remembered him as one of Montana's "old, old pioneers." It said he had come up the Missouri River during the 1850s in the employ of the American Fur Company, worked for years as an interpreter and trader, and eventually settled on a ranch in the Bear Paws.

His life had spanned an extraordinary period.

He had known the Upper Missouri during the old fur-trading days.

He lived around Fort Benton during the steamboat era.

He knew Father De Smet.

He worked as an interpreter, guide, government scout, trader, miner, and rancher.

He carried news during the Nez Perce War.

He established himself in the Little Rockies.

His name became attached to springs, a creek, and a mountain.

And in 1886, he accompanied Father Eberschweiler into Peoples Creek and helped select the place that became St. Paul's Mission.

There is no confirmed photograph of Cyprian Matte. Perhaps one still exists, unidentified in an old family album, archive, or collection. But even without his photograph, pieces of his life remain scattered through old newspapers, baptismal records, Jesuit histories, family memories—and across the Montana landscape itself.

And the most enduring reminder is still spoken today:
Slippery Ann**.** –

Note: The use of artificial light to locate wildlife, including elk, is prohibited at all times on Charles M. Russell NWR. This includes the use of spotlights, flashlights and your vehicle headlights. Please be aware that collection of shed antlers and animal skulls is illegal. These items are an important source of calcium for elk, deer and other wildlife on the Refuge.

Social Security Announces 3.6 Percent Benefit Increase for 2027

BY: BARTON MACKEY, PRESS OFFICER (SSA)

Baltimore, MD - The Social Security Administration (SSA) today announced a 3.6 percent benefit increase for 2027. Social Security benefits include Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). On average, Social Security retirement benefits will increase by $75 per month.

Nearly 72 million Social Security beneficiaries will see a 3.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) beginning in January 2027. Increased payments to about 7.3 million people receiving SSI will begin on December 31, 2026. (Note: Some people receive both Social Security benefits and SSI).

"Social Security will implement this cost-of-living adjustment for 76 million Americans, giving them greater financial stability," said Commissioner Frank J. Bisignano. *"Under President Donald J. Trump, Social Security is delivering better, faster, higher-quality service for the American people."*

Individuals with personal my Social Security accounts can view their COLA notice online starting in late November—up to three weeks earlier than receiving a paper notice in the mail. Account holders can also choose to receive text or email alerts when a new message, including their COLA notice, is available in their personal my Social Security account's Message Center. Individuals who do not have a personal account will need to create one and enroll in paperless notices by November 18 to see their COLA notice online. Create an account today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

Individuals who have not enrolled in paperless notices in my Social Security will receive their COLA notice by mail in December.

Social Security beneficiaries will receive a simplified, one-page COLA notice, which uses plain and personalized language, and provides exact dates and dollar amounts of an individual's new benefit amount and any deductions.

Information about Medicare changes for 2027 will be available at www.medicare.gov. For Medicare enrollees, the 2027 premium amount will be available via my Social Security Message Center starting in late November. Individuals who have not opted to receive messages online will receive their COLA notice by mail in December.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

For additional information, visit www.ssa.gov/cola. -

Montana SNAP Benefits Restrict Certain Items

BY: MT DPHHS

Montana's waiver allows the state to restrict Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) purchases of certain items as part of a demonstration project. The demonstration applies statewide and is intended to test whether the change supports healthier purchasing patterns among SNAP households.

Foods affected

Beginning Nov. 1, 2026, SNAP benefits may not be used to purchase the following items in Montana:

- Candy
- High-sugar beverages
- Energy drinks
- Shelf-stable prepared desserts

Some products remain eligible for SNAP purchase, including plain or naturally flavored water, artificially sweetened beverages, drinks with more than 50 percent fruit or vegetable juice, milk and milk substitutes, coffee, tea, protein bars, meal replacement bars, certain fruit snacks, and store-made bakery items.

Why Montana is doing this

Montana submitted this waiver to support healthier food choices and study the effects of restricting certain low-nutrition items. The waiver is connected to state public health goals related to obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and improved dietary quality.

The demonstration will also help the state evaluate whether purchases of fruits and vegetables increase and whether retailers expand access to non-restricted items, including in rural communities.

What this means for households and retailers

The waiver applies to all SNAP households. It also applies to all SNAP-authorized retailers in the state, including retailers that accept SNAP online.

The waiver does not change who qualifies for SNAP. It also does not change benefit amounts. Retailers will need to update point-of-sale systems to block restricted items.

Evaluation and monitoring

Montana will evaluate the demonstration over time. The state plans to review purchasing patterns, client, retailer, and stakeholder feedback, and cross-border shopping activity. This evaluation is intended to help Montana and federal partners understand how the waiver affects food purchasing, program operations, and access.

You can find policy details by visiting the online website at https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/SNAP/SNAP-Food-Restriction . -

USDA Boosts Montana Agricultural Economy Through $303 Million in Safety Net and Conservation Program Payments

BY: USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Record farm safety net payments plus conservation assistance support farmers, ranchers and rural communities

Bozeman, Montana - October 16, 2026 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is delivering approximately $303 million in farm safety net and conservation program payments to Montana farmers, ranchers and landowners. USDA recently announced nationwide historic safety net assistance totaling $13.8 billion in gross payments through the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2025 crop year and an additional $1.8 billion in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) annual payments for 2026.

"These dollars help producers and landowners in our state cover operating expenses, purchase supplies and equipment, and do business with local companies, creating a positive economic ripple effect throughout our rural communities," said Mike Foster, State Executive Director in Montana. "It's a tremendous investment in Montana agriculture and, collectively, in American agriculture."

ARC and PLC Working Families Tax Cuts Act Improvements

The Working Families Tax Cuts Act (WFTCA) strengthens ARC and PLC beginning with the 2025 crop year, including higher statutory reference prices and improvements to the effective reference price calculation. Additionally, for the 2025 crop year only, producers automatically receive the higher payment rate of either ARC or PLC, regardless of their program election. The WFTCA also increases the ARC and PLC payment limit from $125,000 to $155,000, starting with the 2025 crop year with annual adjustments based on inflation. The payment limit for the 2025 crop year is $160,000.

The following 17 crops in Montana triggered a PLC payment for the 2025 crop year: barley, beans-large chickpeas, beans-small chickpeas, canola, corn, crambe, dry peas, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, rapeseed, safflower seed, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

Producers receiving ARC and PLC payments are reminded that this does not account for payment limitation reductions and the 5.7% sequestration rate required by statute that will be applied to all ARC and PLC payments.

ARC-County (ARC-CO) payments are based on county-level revenue and therefore trigger at the county level. FSA will issue payments to eligible producers as calculations are completed.

Also, the ARC and PLC election and enrollment period for the 2026 crop year opened Sept. 16 and runs through Dec. 11, 2026, and for the 2027 crop year from Nov. 2, 2026, through March 15, 2027. The WFTCA added an additional 30 million new base acres to farms nationwide. Because eligible acres exceeded the nationwide 30-million-acre cap, FSA applied an across-the- board, prorated reduction of 3.69% to all newly allocated base acres. In Montana, 1.3 million additional base acres were added. These additional base acres impact ARC and PLC starting with the 2026 and future crop years, further improving the farm safety net.

Through annual election and enrollment on covered commodities, ARC and PLC protect producers from substantial declines in crop prices or revenues. PLC provides income support when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its effective reference price. ARC provides income support when actual crop revenue falls below a guaranteed level. Depending on the coverage elected, ARC protection is based on either county-level revenue or the revenue of an individual farm.

Producers with questions about ARC or PLC enrollment or 2025 crop year payments should contact their local FSA county office.

CRP Acres and Impact

CRP payments to agricultural producers and private landowners for 2026 cover 927,622 acres currently under active CRP contracts in Montana. These annual rental payments are made to eligible landowners who establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative covers. CRP payments support participating landowners while protecting natural resources, enhancing wildlife habitat and strengthening rural economies.

Grassland CRP continues to play an important role in working lands conservation. Following 2026 enrollment, Grassland CRP is expected to account for more than 40% of all CRP enrolled acreage nationwide including 489,326 acres in Montana, helping ranchers conserve valuable grasslands while maintaining livestock grazing and haying operations.

Questions about participation in CRP and 2026 annual rental payments should be directed to the local FSA county office.

Bring Awareness to How Your Body Feels

National Massage Therapy Awareness Week was held on (October 25-31, 2026). We would like to recognize Amy Stewart who is a licensed massage therapist and an enrolled member of the Nakoda *(Assiniboine)* Tribe.

Amy started her business in December 2024, Wa'Asniya Massage Therapy, LLC. Wa'Asniya is the Nakoda word for 'healing' or 'to heal' which Amy has been bringing to the people of Fort Belknap for the past 2 years. She is the only licensed massage therapist located within a 30-mile radius of Fort Belknap Agency.

Wa'Asniya Massage Therapy is dedicated to promoting wellness and relaxation through a variety of spa services. Amy provides an array of massage therapies designed to rejuvenate the body and sooth the mind. She strives to create a personal experience for each client, ensuring that their journey towards wellness is both effective and enjoyable. Whether you seek relief from stress, pain or simply wish to indulge in self-care, Wa'Asniya services are tailored to meet your needs.

Recent posts on Facebook show Amy providing services to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers by partnering with the Fort Belknap WIC Program. She also works with student athletes for muscle recovery. Wa'Asniya Massage Therapy participates in local bazaars and collaborates with programs and other small businesses in the area.

Caring for your body is more than taking a moment to relax. *"One of my long-term goals is to get people off pain management medication,"* said Amy. *"We can set up a treatment plan to get you feeling better without any type of surgery or major pain management medication."* With her special technique and wellness plan, Amy can help reduce muscle soreness, ease tension related discomfort, and more!

Clients and community members frequently recommend Amy for the best personalized care! Travel services and wellness events are available.

Massage rates starting at $55! Book your appointment today by calling (406) 353-5082. Amy is located at 660 Rodeo Drive Ave, Fort Belknap, MT.

Thank you to Amy for bringing this much needed service to our area! -

Wa'Asniya
MASSAGE THERAPY





Communities Celebrate Halloween with Festivities Across the Area

Families and community members gathered for a variety of Halloween activities in Hays, Lodge Pole, Harlem, Mission Canyon, and Fort Belknap Agency. The events offered opportunities for children and families to enjoy seasonal activities, share meals, and celebrate together.

In Hays, the Halloween Carnival featured games, a children's costume contest, and a haunted house. Harlem School also hosted a carnival, with bouncy houses, games, arts and crafts, music, a photo booth, food, and face painting.

Lodge Pole hosted several Halloween events, including a Family Fun gathering that drew nearly 70 participants. Activities included cookie decorating, caramel apples, wagon rides, prizes, and a candy table. Guests also shared a sloppy joe dinner. The community additionally held a Halloween Masquerade and a Spooky Forest Walk.

A second Halloween Masquerade took place at the Fort Belknap Bingo Hall, while Mission Canyon hosted a Haunted Trail for those seeking a spooky seasonal experience.

Local schools also welcomed children/families for Trunk-or-Treat events. Twenty-five FBIC programs participated, helping provide treats for community members!

This year's Halloween activities and celebrations offered something for all ages. The events brought families together across the community and made Halloween memorable for local children and residents.



Harlem Trunk-or-Treat – Photo by: HHS



Agency Masquerade – Photo by: ANC



Halloween Family Fun in Lodge Pole – Photo by: Tina Bierle



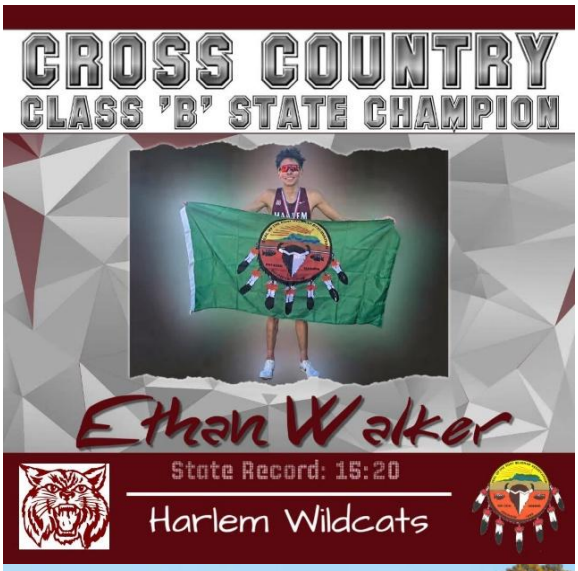
Hays/LP High School Principal Jessica Cochran accepts donation from Independence Bank. Photo by: Hays/LP School

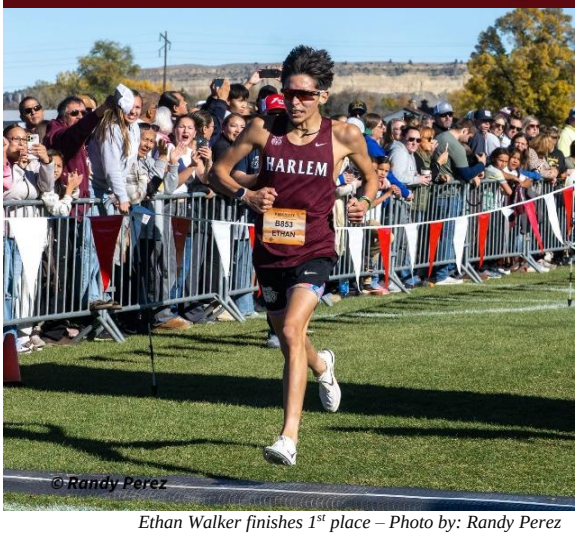
Hays/LP Schools Receive Donation

Hays/Lodge Pole Schools recently received a $400 donation from Independence Bank through the School Spirit Debit Card Program. Every dollar goes back to supporting the students and school!

"Since the introduction of our School Spirit Debit Card program in 2018, we have donated over $600,000 to our local schools! We take pride in supporting and investing in our smalltown communities, and this is just one of the many donations we make each year to show it! Independence Bank School Spirit Debit Cards allow you to represent your local schools and raise money for them each time you use your card. Our School Spirit Debit Cards are now available with our Instant Issue service. Replace your current debit card, or open a new checking account with Independence Bank, and select the participating school you would like to support. Independence Bank will donate up to 5¢ for each transaction you make using your debit card to the school represented on your card. Cardholders will keep their current card number and your School Spirit Debit Card will be activated immediately.

This is a great way for Independence Bank and our customers to work together to support our local public-school systems. Together, we can make a meaningful impact on the educational journey of our young learners. This initiative not only strengthens the bond within our community but also empowers students to dream big and achieve more. Whether you're a parent, teacher, or community member, your involvement helps pave the way for a brighter future." -Independence Bank





Ethan Walker finishes 1st place – Photo by: Randy Perez



J'Lynn Morgan crosses the finish line – Photo by: Randy Perez

Ethan Walker Captures the Class B' State Title for Cross Country

On October 24, 2026, Harlem High School Junior, Ethan Walker captured the MHSA Class B' Individual Cross-Country State Title, setting a new Montana Class B' record with an exceptional time of 15:20.

Representing the Fort Belknap Aaniiih and Nakoda tribes, Walker maintained an impressive 4:57 mile pace over the 5,000-meter course with All-State Honors.

His individual victory also pushed the Harlem Wildcats Boys' Cross-Country team to a 2nd-place overall finish at the state meet held in Billings, MT at Amend Park.

Ethan is a standout high school student athlete who has earned multiple All-State honors in Cross Country and Track & Field. Parents are: Shuree Zander and Jeremy Walker; Grandparents are: Stan and Sandy Zander, and Marjorie and Robe Walker.

The Harlem Wildcats boys team put on a spectacular performance but finished second in the state overall following a tie-breaker. Both Harlem and Poplar tied in total points for the top spot, but Poplar claimed the Class B' State team title by virtue of the sixth-runner tie-breaker rule.

On the girls side, the Wildcats were led by J'Lynn Morgan, who placed 15th overall in the Class B' individual race with a personal record of 19:58; earning All-State Honors. Parents are: Joshlynn and Corey Morgan.

The Harlem Wildcats Cross Country team is led by Head Coach Hope Doney. Hope is a teacher at Harlem Public Schools and coaches along-side her daughter, Melinda Young. Melinda is a Public Health Nurse at Tribal Health in Fort Belknap. Junior High Coach Clayton Talks Different is an employee of Harlem High School. Managers and team supporters are Zeke Jackson and Jaspen Camel. The team is also supported by longtime bus driver Ira Talks Different, who works at the school and is a dedicated fan and supporter of the team. -



Harlem Boys XC Team with the 2nd Place Team Trophy – Photo submitted by: Melinda Young



Photo by: Thae Main

Lady Thunderbirds Flag Football Team Finishes 3rd Place at State

Congratulations to the Lady Thunderbirds and Coaches on an outstanding Flag Football season! Their hard work, determination, and teamwork earned them an impressive 31–6 win over Park City and an incredible 3rd-place finish at State! The community came together in celebration with a Parade to honor the team.

We're so proud of everything you accomplished and the way you represent Hays/LP School! Way to go, Lady Thunderbirds!

Lady Wildcats take 2nd Place at the 2B District Tournament

Congratulations to the Harlem Lady-Cats Volleyball team and Coaches on taking 2nd place at the 2B District Tournament! They played a tough match against Fairview in the championship game. The Lady-Cats are an exceptional group of team players!



Photo by: Harlem Public Schools FB Page

Virginia Cochran Dedicates 54 Years of Service to the Tribe

Congratulations to Virginia "Ginny" Cochran as she goes into her 54th year of working for Tribal Court.

Ginny is an enrolled member of the Nakoda *(Assiniboine)* Tribe. She began her career as a court clerk at the age of 20, with the honor of working for Judges Cranston Hawley and Raymond Helgeson. After receiving training, she became a Judge in 1988 and a Senior Judge in 2000.

"I remember my first day. It was October 15, 1972. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to serve this reservation," said Ginny.

In addition to her decades of service to Tribal Court, Ginny volunteered as a Tribal Veterans Representative for 23 years, retiring in April 2024. She supported Veterans by helping them access benefits, services, and community resources.

We are grateful to Ginny for her many years of dedicated service to the Community of Fort Belknap. Her commitment, dedication, and knowledge are appreciated. We are fortunate that Ginny has no plans to retire anytime soon and look forward to her continued guidance and service as Senior Judge.

Thank you, Ginny, for all you have done and continue to do for our Tribe. -



Clarification on Military Super Range

There has been a sudden increase of discussion on social media platforms concerning the Hays area and the potential establishment of a possible military "super range." We want to clarify the facts surrounding this topic.

The conversation involving our tribally owned 8(a) company was about the possibility of manufacturing a vehicle component, the hull (body) of a vehicle. It was not a discussion about establishing a military testing range on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation.

That manufacturing opportunity has not moved beyond an initial conversation. It is not an approved project, and manufacturing is not underway. Any potential advancement would depend on community support and, if pursued, it would likely occur a couple of years from now.

Social media posts circulating from News Outlets should **NOT BE** interpreted as an official announcement or confirmation of a project approved by the Fort Belknap Indian Community or as a description of our company's preliminary manufacturing discussion. Circulating news outlets define it as *'under consideration,'* meaning no decision has been made.

Our communities deserve accurate information and an opportunity to understand and discuss any potential development. We will ensure the community is well-informed if the manufacturing conversation develops into a concrete proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact President, Randall Werk, Sr., at (406) 654-4463.

Fort Belknap Indian Community: Enrollment Department

The following individual's applications were viewed and tentatively accepted at the OCTOBER 26, 2026 meeting for the Fort Belknap Indian Community Enrollment.

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

TENTATIVE ENROLLEES:

Ahenakew-Moccasin, Aliah J.
Guardipee, Cyprienne F.
Gunn, Ozius A.
Taylor, Brandon M.
Tracy, Amy E.
Tracy, Andy P.
Wisner, Chelsea B.

RELINQUISHMENTS:

Gone, Artiece O.

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

FBIC RESOLUTION LIST

207-2026 New enrollees (29) Bade-Young

208-2026 Relinquishment for Johnny Ray Houle

209-2026 Blood Change for Kenneth Weasel

210-2026 Approving and Authorizing tower lease (Location 5) for tribal broadband (Harlem Golf Course)

211-2026 Ratifying September 2026 budgets (7)

212-2026 Approving Mileage rates for the calendar year 2026

213-2026 Authorizing Admin leave for Veteran Employees participating in Honor guard or gun salute

214-2026 Buffalo nations grasslands alliance consent to lease Obey Farms

215-2026 Mitchell King Lease Allotment T734A Oliver Helgeson

216-2026 Lark Environmental LLC BOR contract work for 2026-2028

217-2026 Lark Environmental LLC Noxious Weed Mitigation 2026-2028

218-2026 Approving Lease for Tribal Dialysis Building

219-2026 Lodge Pole Assembly of God (Elizabeth Fox) lease Allotment T771 Leggins

220-2026 Joseph Killeagle lease Range Unit 30

221-2026 Requesting the BIA to conduct a comprehensive range assessment of the Ft. Belknap Reservation

222-2026 Thomas Molina Home site Lodge Pole Scattered T860-B

223-2026 PMU commercial rate change $125 per canister

224-2026 Constitutional Initiative No. 132 and Non-Bi-partisan Judicial Elections in Montana

225-2026 Acknowledge IMDG Board action & Express owner support for the proposed sale of a Ten Acre tract of Sweet Grass Meadows Parcel 1

226-2026 Authorizing the Rehab of RPCTP&P fuel system & Backup generator to be funded by allocation of ARPA

227-2026 Acknowledging board action & expressing owner support for proposed sale of the Oliver Building Condominium Interest

228-2026 Approving & Authorizing the FBIC Environmental to submit application FY 26 Non-Point Source management

229-2026 Modification to Contract A24AV00023 to complete the repair & Maintenance on the White Horse Canyon Creek Restoration

230-2026 Authorizing & Submission of Application to US DOJ OJP SMART for the Adam Welsh Act implementation program

231-2026 October 26 Ratifying Budgets for FY27

232-2026 New Enrollees (11) (Green – Windyboy)

233-2026 Approving & Authorizing submission of application to MT DPHHS IHSB FDPIR Commodity Grant Program

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:

Livestock in Neighborhood/Urban Areas is Prohibited.

Due to multiple complaints about livestock (horses, poultry, etc.) we are reminding the community that keeping livestock in your yard is strictly prohibited. As mentioned in the **"Grazing Ordinance (209-04, Section 21 – 2008) Trespass: (25 CFR 166.4)"** Any unauthorized occupancy uses of, or action on Indian Lands, Domestic Livestock in an area for which the owner has no authorization, including but not limited to:

Road Right-of-Ways, Housing Development Complexes and Communities. Livestock in Trespass are subject to the Law & Order Code, Grazing Ordinance, Tribal Resolutions, and BIA Regulations. Any operator who does not comply with this section, Livestock will be impounded – quarantined.

Keeping livestock in standard urban yards poses serious risks to animal welfare, public health, and neighborhood safety. Standard residential lots lack the space, zoning, and infrastructure required to properly care for them. Keeping them confined to small yards is a form of animal abuse which leads to muddy, unhygienic conditions, muscle atrophy, and severe mental distress from boredom.

Great Plains Veterans Services Center is HIRING

View full job details and application instructions online:

www.greatplainsveterans.org/employment-opportunities

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE – FORT BELKNAP BOYS & GIRLS CLUB: Attention Parents, Guardians, and Community Members. The Fort Belknap Boys & Girls Club will be temporarily closed from November 2, 2026 through November 13, 2026, to allow for the reorganization and enhancement of our facility, program spaces, and activity areas. During this closure, staff will be reorganizing rooms, equipment, supplies, and program areas to improve the overall functionality, safety, and effectiveness of the Club. This reorganization is intended to create a more welcoming and productive environment for the youth and families we serve. We appreciated your patience and understanding as we take this important step to strengthen our operations and prepare our facility for continued programming and growth. The Club is scheduled to reopen on Monday, November 16, 2026. Thank you for your continued support of the Fort Belknap Boys & Girls Club and our commitment to providing a safe, positive, and enriching environment for the children and families of our community. Respectfully, Dr. Michelle Messerly (CEO B&G Club)

REMINDER FOR FORT BELKNAP AGRICULTURAL LESSEES AND GRAZING PERMITTEES: A postcard with a QR code and link to the livestock water survey was mailed to you.

Please use the QR code on the postcard or the link below to complete the survey and share information about existing livestock water facilities, livestock needs, drought impacts, water hauling, maintenance priorities, and possible future improvements.

Your response will help the Fort Belknap Indian Community plan and prioritize future stock-water needs. Responses are for planning purposes only and do not guarantee funding or construction.

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

WIC MONTANA: When grandparents step in to care for a grandchild, they bring love, stability, and support when it matters most. If you're a grandparent or guardian caring for a young child, WIC Montana may be here for you, too. WIC provides healthy foods, nutrition support, and referrals to helpful local resources for eligible families. Contact our local WIC Agency at (406) 353-3157 to learn more.

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



GVA HOLDINGS, LLC

GVA HOLDINGS

GVA Holdings continues to expand its operations in Hays, Billings, and Havre, and most recently opened its newest River Office on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation. This new location will help support employment opportunities, generate revenue for economic development, and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the Fort Belknap Indian Community.

GVA Holdings remains committed to fostering a positive workplace culture by offering creative employee engagement opportunities, including Spirit Week-themed dress-up days, monthly employee luncheons, and attendance-based competitions.

These activities help strengthen teamwork, boost employee morale, and create a supportive work environment across all call center locations.

Currently, GVA Holdings employs 116 call center staff members across its Hays, Havre, and Billings offices. Through continued growth and investment in its workforce, GVA Holdings remains dedicated to supporting economic stability and opportunity for the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation.

ISLAND MOUNTAIN
DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Aanaakyaaniiin Wellness Center
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Anaakyaaniiin Wellness Center represents a significant investment and commitment of the current and past Fort Belknap Indian Community Councils, with the goal of improving healthcare access, cultural connectivity, creating economic opportunities, and strengthening services for our community.

Island Mountain Development Group (IMDG), Woodstone, and the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) would like to clarify the hiring process for construction employment opportunities at the Anaakyaaniiin Wellness Center.

Applications collected during the AWC Job Fair were forwarded to the appropriate subcontractors for review and consideration. IMDG, Woodstone, and TERO do not make final hiring decisions. **Each subcontractor is responsible for selecting and hiring its employees in accordance with applicable TERO requirements.**

We ask that all applicants and community members respect the hiring process and conduct themselves professionally. **Threatening, aggressive, intimidating, or harassing behavior toward any project personnel WILL NOT be tolerated, and Law Enforcement will be contacted.**

We remain committed to supporting local employment opportunities and appreciate the community's understanding and continued support of the Anaakyaaniiin Wellness Center project.

ISLAND MOUNTAIN
DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Coffee with Council

Island Mountain Development Group (IMDG) was pleased to host a Coffee With the Council meeting on October 22, 2026, providing an opportunity for meaningful discussion between Tribal Council members, IMDG leadership, and employees. The meeting encouraged open communication, collaboration, and the sharing of ideas regarding current initiatives and future opportunities across the Fort Belknap Indian Community.

A key topic of discussion centered on the development of the Credit Union. Conversations focused on the proposed business lease, potential locations, existing barriers affecting the project, and strategies to address them. Participants explored solutions to advance the initiative and ensure the Credit Union's long-term success.

Another important discussion focused on the Eagle Valley housing development and the progress being made toward preparing the homes for occupancy. The project represents a significant milestone in addressing housing needs within the Fort Belknap Indian Community and will provide additional housing opportunities for community members and families.

IMDG extends its appreciation to the Tribal Council members, Board members, employees, and all attendees who participated in the discussion. Opportunities like Coffee With the Council help strengthen communication, foster collaboration, and support a shared vision for continued progress and success within our communities.

Attendees included Council Members Randall Werk, Al Bigby, Joan Johnson, John Allen, Blake Stiffarm, and Sergeant-at-Arms Wes Medicine Bear; IMDG Board Members Doug Stuart and Bill Bell; and IMDG employees and leadership: Taylor McCabe (CEO), Eddie Moore (COO), Brandi Horn (CLO), Alvin "Jim" Kennedy (Tribal Liaison), Jesse Main (LRTP Deli Associate/Clerk), Brooklyn Levaldo (Call Center Engagement Facilitator), Rochelle Reyes (Corporate Project Manager), and Miracle Bigby-Gray (Communications Coordinator).











CLOSE EVERY GATE

PROTECT LIVESTOCK

KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR LIVESTOCK, PROTECT PROPERTY AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE RESERVATION

FORT BELKNAP
ATTENTION HUNTERS

PLEASE CLOSE ALL GATES!

The Fort Belknap Land Department is requesting the cooperation of ALL hunters while accessing lands within the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation.

Please ensure that every gate you open is securely CLOSED before leaving the area. Leaving gates open puts livestock at risk, disrupts grazing patterns, and can lead to dangerous situations for both wildlife and the public.

FORT BELKNAP LAND DEPT
656 Agency Main St
Harlem, MT 59526
land@ftbelknap.org
(406)353-8333

Montana Indian Athletic Hall of Fame

Donnie Wetzel Jr., CEO · PO Box 1653 E. Helena, MT 59635 · www.identityincmt.org · identityincmt@gmail.com

2026 Montana Indian Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

MSU – Strand Union Building Conference Room
November 14, 2026
2pm to 6pm

1:00pm Inductees & Families Set up Photos & Memorabilia on tables

2:00pm Welcome to the 2026 Induction Ceremony
- ★ Opening & Drum
- ★ Welcome Montana State University President Tessman
- ★ MIAHOF Welcome – Donnie Wetzel, Jr.
- ★ Tribal Leaders & Dignitary Recognition

2:30pm Presentation of Awards:

INDIVIDUAL INDUCTEES

- John Allen | Football
- Ray Augure | Coaching
- John Edgar Colliflower | Rodeo
- Moke Eaglefeathers | Basketball
- Charlie Ereaux | Basketball
- Keith Erickson | Basketball/Football
- Cindy Farmer | Coaching
- Spike Guardipee | Rodeo
- Mitchell Healy | Horseshoes
- Levi Horn | Football
- Scott McGowan | Running
- Lloyd Pickett | Rodeo
- Jerry Small | Rodeo

TEAMS

- 1973 & 1974 Hi-Line All Stars State Baseball Champions
- 2000 & 2001 Heart Butte Warriors Back-to-Back Basketball State Champions
- 1996 Browning Lady Indians Basketball State Champions

5:30pm Dinner – Relax, eat and enjoy the evening!
Photos / Table Showcase / Autographs / Songs / Celebration
Welcome 2026 Inductees to the Montana Indian Athletic Hall of Fame Family!

Event Registration:

https://identityincmt.regfox.com/montana-indian-athletic-hall-of-fame-2026-induction

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS!

SUICIDE HOTLINES

***IF YOU'RE HAVING SUICIDE IDEATION, OR YOU'RE IN A CRISIS SITUATION (I.E. ACTIVE SUICIDE IDEATION) AND NEED IMMEDIATE OR EMERGENT ASSISTANCE, CONTACT THESE INITIAL RESOURCES AT THESE HOTLINES IN THE U.S. THEY ARE THERE TO HELP.**

- 988 NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE
  To reach the Native and Strong Lifeline, call "988" and press 4
- 1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)
  NATIONAL HOPE LINE NETWORK
- 1-800-4-UTREVOR (1-800-488-7386)
  LBGTQ AND QUESTIONING YOUTH
- THE LOCAL IHS EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT 406-353-3222
- 24/7 CRISIS TEXT LINE: TEXT "MT" TO 741-741
- CALL 911

TRIBAL HEALTH EMPLOYEES

***THE FBIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM RESPONSE TEAM ARE ALSO AVAILABLE TO HELP FOR CRISIS SITUATIONS AND CAN BE CONTACTED AS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. IF A STAFF MEMBER DOES NOT RESPOND, PLEASE CONTACT THE RESOURCES LISTED ABOVE.**

INDIVIDUALS AND AVAILABILITY (*) (AVAILABILITY SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

DR. REGINA ERTZ 406-399-0121 *(24/7)

JENNIFER STRZELCZYK 406-399-1914 *(24/7)

Dr. JESSICA BRODY 406-399-3437 *(24/7)

Laurie Harvey 406-399-3956 *(24/7)

MONICA Myers 406-399-0302 *(24/7)

TERRI MITCHELL 406-399-0256 *(24/7)

RICKEY WHISENHUNT 406-399-3687 *(24/7)

YOU'RE INVITED

COMMUNITY MEETING

Three days of hands-on workshops, food and good company

SUPPLIES PROVIDED

NOV 17 Lodge Pole Enemy Killer Center
Belt Making · Tallow Lotion Making · Meal
12PM – 4PM

NOV 18 Hays Kills at Night Center
Belt Making · Tallow Lotion Making · Meal
12PM – 4PM

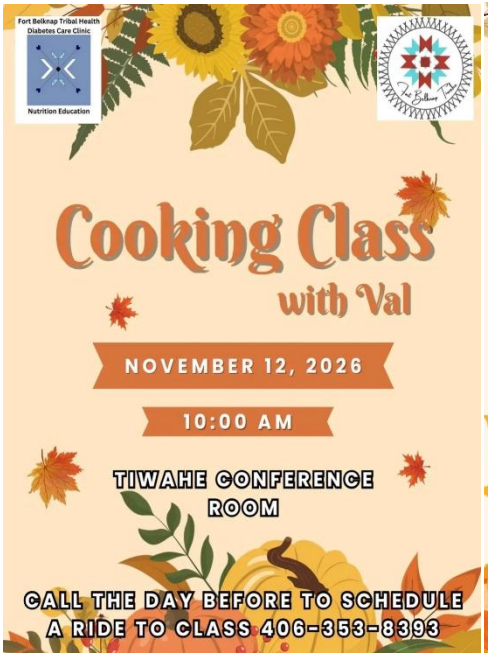
NOV 19 Agency Community Center
Belt Making · Tallow Lotion Making · Community Meal
12PM – 4PM

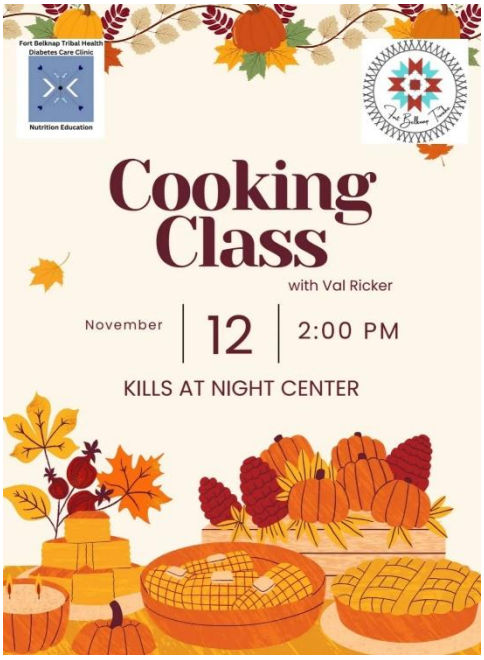
Bring a friend – all are welcome

NATIVE GOVERNANCE CENTER

FORT BELKNAP BUFFALO PROGRAM

Contact: Teri Harper 406-353-3965 Or Dawn Thomas 406-353-3927 or Yvonne Stanley 406-353-5030









THE

Blossom Quisno Memorial

CHILD CARE CENTER

Current openings for in-center classrooms:

2-3 Year Old Class: 2 children

3-5 Year Old Class: 1 child

For more information, please call
JD @ (406)353-8486,
Tanya @ (406)353-8488 or
Ang @ (406)353-8493
We would be happy to assist you or answer any questions you may have!

FT. BELKNAP VETERANS POW WOW

NOV. 13-15, 2026

HARLEM HIGH SCHOOL GYM

GRAND ENTRY
FRI-7PM
SAT-1PM & 7PM (VETERANS ONLY)
SUN-1PM

MC: LIL' DON RACINE & TUFFY HELGESON
AD: WALTER RUNSABOVE
SOUND: REZKAST MEDIA

MOURNERS FEED: NOV.11, 2026
BINGO HALL @ 6PM

SPECIALS:

ALL VETERANS, MENS & WOMEN (IN REGALIA OR UNIFORM)
CASH PRIZE FOR 1ST, 2ND, 3RD & 2 CONSOLATION
SPONSORED BY WOMENS FLAG: LESLIE HORN & FAMILY

WAR MOTHER SPECIAL, HONORING ALL WAR MOTHERS
SPONSORED BY MENS FLAG: SLY BLACKBIRD & FAMILY

ALL MENS, WINNER TAKE ALL-AR 15 W/AMMO & MAGS + $1,000
SPONSORED BY WHIPMAN/SPOONKEEPER: CATCHER & AMY CUTS THE ROPE & FAMILY

WOMENS OLD STYLE JINGLE (PINK DRESS) - ALL AGES
SPONSORED BY VETERANS JR. PRINCESS - MURIAL TUSHKA & FAMILY

GIRLS SWITCH DANCE -16+
SPONSORED BY VETERANS SENIOR PRINCESS JOCYLN GRAY & FAMILY

ALL WOMENS SPECIAL, IN REGALIA OR CIVILIAN CLOTHING, 3 PLACES WILL RECEIVE, CASH & RIBBON SKIRTS
SPONSORED BY SECRETARY/TREASURER: DIANA BIGBY & FAMILY

WOMENS OLD STYLE FANCY - ALL AGES
SPONSORED BY CANDACE IRONMAN & FAMILY

FIRST 10 DRUMS PAID PER SESSION

GOLDEN AGE:
1ST - $350 2ND - $300 3RD - $250
NON CONTESTING GOLDEN AGE WILL BE PAID PER SESSION

MENS:
TRADITIONAL, GRASS, FANCY, CHICKEN
1ST - $350 2ND - $300 3RD - $250

TEEN BOYS:
TRADITIONAL, GRASS, FANCY, CHICKEN
1ST - $300 2ND - $250 3RD - $200

JR BOYS:
TRADITIONAL, GRASS, FANCY, CHICKEN
1ST - $250 2ND - $200 3RD - $150

WOMENS:
TRADITIONAL, JINGLE, FANCY
1ST - $350 2ND - $300 3RD - $250

TEEN GIRLS:
TRADITIONAL JINGLE, FANCY
1ST -$300 2ND - $250 3RD - $200

JR GIRLS:
TRADITIONAL, JINGLE, FANCY
1ST - $250 2ND - $200 3RD - $150

ALL TINY TOTS WILL BE PAID PER SESSION

VENDORS CONTACT: DIANA BIGBY 406-344-2182

VETERANS POW WOW COMMITTEE & HHS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT OR ACCIDENTS

GREAT PLAINS VETERANS SERVICE CENTER

TRANSPORTATION

SERVING 45 MONTANA Couties

MONTANA VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

BRING DD214

DOOR PRIZES

ALL VETERANS WELCOME

DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2026

TIME: 0900 - 1500 HOURS

PLACE: FORT BELKNAP BINGO HALL

400 Agency Main St Harlem, MT

Call: 406-215-9709 or 406-399-3627

PRESENTERS FROM ACROSS MONTANA

VETERAN AFFAIRS K9 CARE VET CENTER

AMERICAN LEGION VOA VETERANS, INC

VNN WARRIOR BRIDGE VETERANS BURIAL

STATE, FEDERAL, LOCAL VSO & MORE

ARMY AIR FORCE MARINE CORPS NAVY COAST GUARD SPACE FORCE

Connect with Resources, Support, and Community

VETERAN'S DAY | NOVEMBER 11

VETERAN'S DAY Meal



All Veterans are Invited to come and eat

Bring a guest!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

12pm - 1pm

HHS LITTLE GYM

Sponsored by: Youth Leadership, Indian Club, and Title VII

Served by: National Honor Society & Indian Club

WHITE CLAY IMMERSION SCHOOL

BÁÁSBÉTAANIIISS BAZAAR

DECEMBER 4, 2026

AANIIIH NAKODA COLLEGE

EKIB-TSAH-AH-TSIK (CULTURAL CENTER)

FROM 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

Breakfast Burritos

Indian Burger Lunch Sale

$25 Vendor Fee (limited capacity)

wschandler@ancollege.edu, 406-353-2607

NOVEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 Fall back set your clocks back an hour	2 Regular Council Meeting	3 Code Revision Meeting (Crim Pro) 9am-12pm	4 Council Interviews for Director/Associate Judge; Code Revision Meeting (Crim Pro/Fish & Game) 9am-12pm	5 Finance Committee Meeting	6	7
8	9 Code Revision Meeting (Child Support) 9am-12pm	10 Health Committee Meeting; Code Revision Meeting (Zoning) 9am-12pm	11 Veteran's Day HOLIDAY	12 Council Planning Session Transportation Conference Room	13 Council Planning Session Transportation Conference Room	14 Pay Period 24
15	16	17 Land Committee Meeting	18 Coffee w/Council IMDG River Office; Tribal Partner's Meeting	19	20	21
22	23 Code Revision Meeting (Child Welfare) 9am-12pm	24 Insurance Board Meeting	25 Director's Meeting	26 Thanksgiving day HOLIDAY	27 HOLIDAY	28 Pay Period 25
29	30 Executive Committee Meeting					

Subject to change at any time

Veterans Day Word Search

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

basictraining
deployment
barracks
sergeant
Marines
veteran
seaman

pettyofficer
lieutenant
chaplain
admiral
officer
airman
major

armedforces
Air Force
corporal
captain
private
branch
army

Coast Guard
commander
enlisted
colonel
service
ensign
navy

camouflage
stationed
military
general
soldier
sailor
rank

Thanksgiving

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

cranberry sauce
pumpkin pie
mayflower
football
indians
family
rolls

mashed potatoes
traditions
apple pie
stuffing
friends
butter
yams

plymouth rock
casseroles
November
harvest
gobble
turkey
nap

Thanksgiving
blessings
pilgrims
america
parade
gravy
ham