

Fort Belknap Indian Community NEWSLETTER

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FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY VOICES OPPOSITION TO ZORTMAN-LANDUSKY SETTLEMENT

BY: PERRY WHEELER - EARTHJUSTICE

The Fort Belknap Indian Community voiced strong opposition to a consent decree submitted to the court by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to settle its enforcement action against two miners who illegally mined within the Zortman-Landusky Reclamation Area. The settlement agreement filed on Friday, May 22, 2026 would fine Luke Ployhar, Owen Voigt, and their respective companies \$200,000 to be paid over five years and does not require them to admit any liability or wrongdoing. Fort Belknap, who will soon file official opposition to the consent decree, argues that the agreement does not hold the miners accountable and that it is premature as the full extent of environmental harm caused by Ployhar and Voigt's actions is still unknown.

"The Fort Belknap Indian Community opposes the proposed settlement because we do not believe it adequately addresses the seriousness and long-term impacts of the environmental issues associated with the Zortman-Landusky site," said President Randall Werk Sr. of the Fort Belknap Indian Community. *"This area lies within our ancestral homelands, and we have a responsibility to protect our lands, waters, cultural resources, and future generations. Significant environmental concerns remain unresolved, water treatment continues indefinitely, and important questions regarding the full scope of environmental damages have not yet been fully evaluated. We believe additional accountability, environmental review, and meaningful tribal involvement are necessary before this matter is resolved."*

Fort Belknap Indian Community intervened in the enforcement action in 2023, arguing that the illegal mining activity in the region exacerbated environmental harm to reservation water sources and in areas of profound cultural significance. The Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes have faced an extreme environmental justice burden from the mines for decades. DEQ originally requested \$512,767 in fines and permanent injunctive relief, and to prohibit Ployhar, Voigt, and their companies from future mining until the disturbances are reclaimed and the penalties are paid. The Tribes argue that the settlement agreement amounts to a slap on the wrist for the miners who ignored the law and failed in their duty to remediate the damage they caused.

In 2022, DEQ required Ployhar to complete an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the impacts of mining the already-

damaged Zortman site, but later discovered that Ployhar and Voigt had already charged forward without the requisite authorization.

"We oppose this consent decree as it fails to hold the miners accountable for a blatant environmental injustice," said Emma Shahabi, associate attorney with Earthjustice's Northern Rockies Office. *"Mining pollution has devastated the Fort Belknap Indian Community's natural resources and drinking water for decades and the miners' actions have only exacerbated that harm. The DEQ must ensure appropriate penalties and remediation for the harm done or the cost of this irresponsible mining will once again fall on the Tribes and Montana taxpayers."*

The Zortman mine is part of the broader Zortman-Landusky mining complex in the Little Rocky Mountains. The site has left a legacy of persistent toxic pollution, disproportionately impacting tribal members' land and water for decades. The Little Rocky Mountains were once entirely within the boundaries of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, but when gold was discovered in the 1880s, the federal government pressured the Tribes to cede the gold-bearing areas to the United States. The Zortman and Landusky mine sites are currently surrounded on three sides by the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation.

*Earthjustice represents the Fort Belknap Indian Community in the case. *Earthjustice is the premier nonprofit environmental law organization who wields the power of law and the strength of partnership to protect people's health, to preserve magnificent places and wildlife, to advance clean energy, and to combat climate change.*



Courtesy Photo by: Bureau of Land Management

ZORTMAN-LANDUSKY: HISTORY & OPERATIONS

The Zortman-Landusky mines were two adjacent open-pit, cyanide heap-leach gold and silver mines in the Little Rocky Mountains of north-central Montana. Operated by Pegasus Gold Corporation between 1979 and 1998, they are infamous for causing massive environmental devastation, including acid mine drainage, heavy metal contamination, and over a dozen cyanide spills. Site location and operations occurred in Phillips County, Montana, just south of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation (home to the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes).

The mines utilized a method called cyanide heap leaching, where cyanide solution was trickled through massive piles of crushed ore to extract precious metals. The Zortman and Landusky sites disturbed approximately 1,200 acres of land and produced around 140 million tons of ore.

This environmental catastrophe caused toxic leaks. Over their operational lifespan, the mines experienced more than a dozen cyanide spills, heavily contaminating local creeks and community drinking water supplies. Mining the deep sulfide ores exposed rock to air and water, creating highly acidic runoff (acid rock drainage) that leached toxic heavy metals like arsenic, lead, and selenium into the groundwater.

In 1998, Pegasus Gold declared bankruptcy, abandoning the site and leaving behind a drastically underfunded reclamation effort. State and federal taxpayers were forced to cover the tens of millions of dollars in cleanup costs. Because of the extent of the sulfide exposure, acid mine drainage is continuous and cannot be stopped naturally. Water treatment plants at the site run perpetually to

neutralize the acidic water and remove heavy metals before they can flow into the Fort Belknap Reservation.

Luke Ployhar is currently the primary private owner of the Zortman-Landusky gold mine sites in the Little Rocky Mountains. After purchasing 1,080 acres of private mining claims following the Pegasus Gold Corp bankruptcy in 1998, with attempts to conduct new exploratory mining and alleged unauthorized earth-moving activities. All in which have sparked major legal battles with state regulators and the Fort Belknap Indian Community.

In 2021 and 2022, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) found that earth-moving activities and unauthorized excavations were occurring on the site by Ployhar and his associates without proper permits. Regulators warned that this is a huge risk in damaging the carefully engineered, decades-old environmental containment and water treatment systems.

In May 2026, the State of Montana reached a proposed consent decree with Ployhar and his companies to settle the mining violations, requiring them to drop their exploratory permit. The Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC) and several conservation groups strongly oppose Ployhar's efforts to mine the area.

The site is managed under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and is overseen by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).



Courtesy Photos by: Bureau of Land Management

TRIBAL LEADERS GAMING SUMMIT

Council Members Donald Horn, Michael King II, and Josh Horn, Sr. along with Fawn Williamson (Gaming Commission), Diana Bigby (Casino Board Member), and Samantha Leo (FB Casino Acting General Manager) attended the Tribal Leaders Gaming Summit in Polson, MT on May 4, 2026. The Summit was hosted by the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes to collaborate and strengthen Tribal Gaming Sovereignty. Key discussions included: National Tribal Gaming updates, Rocky Mountain Regional Insights, Legal & Sovereignty Challenges, Montana Regulatory Perspectives, and Tribal Roundtable & Coordination Strategies.

Welcoming and opening remarks were delivered by Jami Pluff, Vice-Chairwoman of the Salish & Kootenai Tribes. She addressed the purpose and objectives of the summit for all attendees.

David Bean, Chairman of the Indian Gaming Association, provided an update on key emerging issues in tribal gaming. He discussed recent federal developments affecting tribal gaming operations and introduced the concept of prediction markets, highlighting their potential national implications. His overview emphasized the evolving impact of regulatory and market changes on the tribal gaming sector. *“It is going to take all of us working together. We must engage at every level, from Congress to our local communities, to ensure our voices are heard. We will continue to advocate, to educate, and to build coalitions to protect tribal sovereignty and the integrity of our industry,”* said David Bean. The State of Montana is currently advancing two bills, HR270 and HR40160, which could significantly impact the sovereignty of Tribal nations regarding online sports betting. These legislative measures raise concerns about the extent of Tribal authority and self-governance in regulating this emerging market. It is important for stakeholders to closely monitor the progress of these bills and understand their potential implications on Tribal rights and economic opportunities. Engaging in informed discussions and advocacy can help protect Tribal sovereignty.

Francine Dupuis, Indian Gaming Association Regional Delegate representing CSKT, and Michael King II, Alternate Indian Gaming Association Delegate representing FBIC, discussed key topics including regional coordination, current engagement efforts, tribal perspectives, emerging concerns, and opportunities for greater regional alignment. These topics highlighted the importance of collaboration among tribes and organizations to address shared challenges and leverage collective strengths for the benefit of their communities.



400 Horses Casino Grand-Opening - Courtesy Photo by: Marianne Addison (Char-Koosta News)



David Bean, Chairman (Indian Gaming Association) along with Tribal Leaders including: Josh Horn, Sr., Michael King II, and Donald Horn. Courtesy Photo by: Indian Gaming Association

Alex Sterhan, Administrator for the Montana Department of Justice Gambling Control Division, provided valuable insights on the state regulatory perspective. His input highlighted the importance of maintaining strong oversight to ensure fair and responsible gambling practices. His perspective offered a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and priorities in regulating gambling within Montana.

Cher Old Elk, FBIC Legal Counsel, and the CSKT Legal Department discussed several important topics, including an overview of prediction markets within federal law and their intersection with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. They also examined the implications for tribal gaming exclusively under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and considered ongoing federal legislative efforts and potential solutions related to these issues.

In closing, a Tribal Leader roundtable discussion took place, providing a valuable platform for leaders and attendees to share insights, address community challenges, and explore collaborative opportunities while advancing collective goals for the future.

Tribal Leaders and attendees were also invited by Salish & Kootenai Tribes to attend the grand opening of the 400 Horses Casino in Polson, owned by Salish & Kootenai Gaming. This 35,000 square-foot facility features 300 gaming machines, a restaurant with lake views, and an outdoor patio designed to showcase the area's natural beauty. The casino is named after Chief Alexander, who was directly responsible for the forming of the Confederated Salish Kootenai tribes and known for his humility and wealth by owning 400 horses at the end of his life.

The facility is designed to honor the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes while providing employment opportunities to the community which is set to employ around 75 people. Revenue generated will support tribal programs and services. Leaders say the investment is already having an economic impact, and with future expansion plans like a hotel and event center, they see continued growth ahead for both the tribe and the surrounding community.



Courtesy Photo by: Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders

NATIONAL CHAP SYMPOSIUM

Councilwomen, Tina Bierle and Joan Johnson attended the National CHAP Symposium in Billings, MT on May 5-7, 2026 at the Billings Hotel & Convention Center.

The National Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) Symposium is an annual gathering for healthcare professionals, Tribal leaders, students, educators, administrators, and policymakers dedicated to improving community-driven health systems in Tribal and rural communities. It focuses on workforce development, clinical integration, and addressing regulatory challenges for community health.

CHAP is a multidisciplinary health system that trains and certifies local tribal members to serve as mid-level medical, dental, and behavioral health professionals. Created to identify and resolve missing preventive, chronic, or specialty treatments in remote Native communities, providers work alongside licensed physicians to deliver culturally competent care.

An introduction to the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) was presented, including its key concepts, roles, and foundational system elements. It also addressed important aspects of implementation planning, building partnerships, and ensuring regulatory readiness. Topics included clinical integration, supervision, billing processes, data management, and compliance requirements. This comprehensive overview provided a solid understanding on both the operational and strategic components essential to CHAP's successful deployment and ongoing function within healthcare systems. The orientation session provided an insightful overview on the history, milestones, and future direction of the Community

Health Aide Program (CHAP). Participants gained a deeper understanding of the program's development and the important role it continues to play in community health. The session highlighted key achievements, outlined the roadmap ahead and commitment to advance healthcare services through CHAP.

The keynote address focused on the power of collaboration while panel discussions covered important topics such as CHAP education pathways and workforce development. Together, these sessions aim to strengthen the framework supporting Tribal health initiatives and promote sustainable, impactful progress. Advancing through collaboration with education, supervision, policy, and system alignment remains essential for Tribal Health Transformation.

This symposium provides valuable opportunities to plan actionable steps, reflect on progress, and refine approaches. Continuous engagement and feedback help align efforts with community needs and emerging challenges, supporting a resilient future for CHAP and rural health initiatives.

The conference committee wants to ensure that the next Community Health Aid Program (CHAP) Symposium honors the work that has brought CHAP to this point while preparing for what comes next.



Courtesy Photo by: Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders



Fort Belknap Tribal Council Members: Tina Bierle, Donald Horn, and Joan Johnson pictured with Suzanne Carrywater, Family Resource Advocate – State Tribal Partnership Program for Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes. Photo by: Suzanne Carrywater

ICWA LEGAL SUMMIT

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Legal Summit was hosted by the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes on May 19-21, 2026 in Polson, MT. Council members, Tina Bierle, Joan Johnson, and Donald Horn were present.

This summit is a collaborative gathering designed to strengthen Tribal child welfare practice and legal advocacy under the Indian Child Welfare Act. The summit convenes Tribal and State partners, attorneys, judges, social services professionals, and community leaders to advance culturally grounded, legally sound approaches to serving Native children and families. Through shared learning, dialogue, and problem-solving, participants build strategies that strengthen ICWA implementation, uphold Tribal Sovereignty, and promote family and community well-being.

Day 1: Connection and Foundations

The day began with table introductions followed by a keynote presentation by Sheldon Spotted Elk on the Connectedness Framework. An attorney panel discussed the distinctions between guardianship and adoption in ICWA cases. Participants then engaged in table dialogues to deepen their understanding and share perspectives. The day concluded with a reflection circle focused on the importance of connectedness within communities, emphasizing the foundational role it plays in fostering strong relationships and support systems.

Day 2: Lived Experience and Practice

A morning reflection set a thoughtful tone for the sessions ahead. The day included a social work panel and a table

dialogue, offering opportunities for discussion and learning. A powerful “Voices of Parents” panel shared personal experiences, providing valuable insight into their perspectives. The “Nuts and Bolts of ICWA” presentation, delivered by Baracker-Taylor, Webster, and Finley, offered an in-depth look at the Indian Child Welfare Act and its application. The day concluded with a reflection activity aimed at carrying the work forward, encouraging participants to think about how to apply the knowledge and experiences gained to their ongoing efforts.

Day 3: Moving to Action

The final day focused on moving to action through a series of engaging presentations and reflections. The Circle of Keepers presentation by Hart and Tannehill highlighted important cultural perspectives, followed by the CIP Website and eLearning presentation by Burk and Guinn, showcasing valuable resources. The OPD presentation emphasized active efforts in ICWA practice, reinforcing commitment to effective child welfare. The day concluded with summit reflections and a collective commitment to action, culminating in a traditional closing ceremony that honored the summit's experiences and learnings.



The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is a 1978 federal law designed to protect the best interests of Native American children and promote the stability of Native families and tribes. It prevents the disproportionate removal of Indigenous children from their homes and communities. To achieve this, ICWA dictates how child custody, foster care, and adoption proceedings are handled:

- Tribes have exclusive jurisdiction over child custody proceedings for any Indian child who lives or is domiciled on the reservation.
- For children not living on the reservation, state courts are required to transfer the case to the child's tribe unless there is good cause not to, the tribe declines, or the parents object.
- Before removing an Indian child, state agencies must provide "active efforts" to keep the family together. This goes beyond the standard "reasonable efforts" and requires agencies to actively provide services, resources, and help to the family.
- The court cannot remove a child or terminate parental rights unless there is clear and convincing evidence, including testimony from qualified expert witnesses, that continued custody by the parent is likely to result in serious emotional or physical damage to the child.
- If a Native child must be removed from their biological home, ICWA establishes strict guidelines for where they can be placed. Unless "good cause" is shown to deviate from this list, placement priority must be given to:
 - Members of the child's extended family.
 - Other members of the child's Native tribe.
 - Other Native American families.
- ICWA applies to any child who is a member of—or eligible for membership in a federally recognized Native American or Alaska Native tribe.



Courtesy Photo by: U.S. Indian Affairs

Tribal Consultation on Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC) Improvement – Main Session on FY2028 Budget

Indian Affairs invited Tribal Leaders to Washington DC on May 19-20, 2026 to participate in the Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC) session. Fort Belknap Tribal Council members, Michael King II and Josh Horn, Sr. were in attendance with Legal Counsel Representation. Strategy and planning of the FY2028 budget and the future of TIBC were topics of discussion.

Indian Affairs (IA) is committed to meaningful government-to-government consultations with Tribal Nations. The Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC) plays a critical role in ensuring that Tribal priorities inform the budget formulation process. TIBC participants in previous sessions indicated a desire for great improvement in the overall TIBC process, including time spent on budget discussions and individual breakout sessions. The Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs is committed to working to enhance TIBC to ensure these sessions are meaningful, outcome-driven, and responsive to priorities across the 575 federally recognized Tribes.

Purpose of TIBC

- Provides a forum and process for Tribes and federal officials to work together in developing annual budget requests for Indian programs in the Department of Interior.
- Provides cooperative participation in Indian Affairs (IA) budget formulation, justification, and information.
- Serves as an education forum to better inform tribes of the budget, process, and advise on status of Indian country initiatives throughout the Federal Government.

Prior to the establishment of TIBC, Indian Affairs would hold annual budget hearings that informed Tribes of the proposed budget after decisions had already been made. The current structure of TIBC now convenes three times per year, specifically in the Spring, Summer, and Winter, where 3 days are set aside for subcommittee meetings and 2 days for the main session.

Indian Affairs have an open dialogue for ideas and suggested strategies to help improve TIBC, making it more efficient, outcome driven, more inclusive and effective with the objective of identifying Tribal priorities and securing Tribal funding.

Securing Tribal funding is essential for Tribes in Indian Country. Access to these funds enables Tribes to invest in vital programs such as education, health services, infrastructure, environmental protection, public safety, and much more. It also strengthens sovereignty by providing financial resources for self-governance and decision-making. Prioritizing the acquisition and effective management of Tribal funding ensures the long-term sustainability and resilience of Tribal nations, empowering them to meet current needs and future challenges with confidence and independence. Budget updates for FY2028 will continue to be the main focus.



Courtesy Photo by: U.S. Indian Affairs

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS HEARING: FORT BELKNAP WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 20, 2026) – U.S. Senator Steve Daines spoke with Assistant Secretary William Kirkland from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs about the importance of water infrastructure in Montana’s Tribal Communities during a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing. Their dialogue focused on the importance of advancing water infrastructure and settling water rights litigation for Tribal Communities in Montana, including the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation.

Daines spoke directly to Assistant Secretary, Kirkland on settling water rights litigation for Tribal Communities. *“Assistant Secretary Kirkland, thanks for your testimony earlier. Going back to your confirmation hearing, we discussed Montana’s final Indian water settlement, the Northern Montana Water Security Act. You mentioned, in fact, memories of hauling water across the Navajo Nation with your grandmother. You understand the challenges and the necessity of securing water rights and access in Indian country. You also committed to working with Congress to ensure the federal government upholds its trust and treaty obligations, which includes protecting water rights, and I want to make sure we hold each other accountable to that. During President Trump’s first term, his support was instrumental in enacting the Montana Water Rights Protection Act to settle the Confederate Salish and Kootenai tribes’ water claims. These are century-long fights, as you well know. Some of the toughest fights are water fights, and some of the most interesting fights gets into treaty rights as well. They recently reached a major milestone. This is going back to the Salish Kootenai that the Trump administration, Trump 45, that the president signed. We finally got the Montana Water Court’s final order approving that compact last week. This is a big win for our farmers, our ranchers, the Tribe, and the federal government, and for President Trump. This action by Congress and the court now brings certainty to all water users in the region. There’s a lot of false information spread up in that part of our state. It’s just not true. And we’re grateful, working with President Trump, we got this thing signed, and the court just affirmed it in Montana again last week. Had we not gotten this done, the alternative was almost unthinkable. Without a settlement, the majority of the water rights claims in Montana would have been litigated over several decades and that’s thousands of water rights claims. And as we know, the courts are increasingly sympathetic to the treaty rights that oftentimes predate statehood. Nontribal water users would have faced unprecedented uncertainty and possibly seen*



Courtesy Photo by: Indian Affairs Hearing



Courtesy Photo by: Indian Affairs Hearing

diminished access and would have cost the federal government an untold amount of money. Now Fort Belknap, alongside the many farmers and ranchers who rely on the Milk River to make a living, want to bring the same certainty to their region. It’s the last water compact to be settled in Montana history. Assistant Secretary Kirkland, do you support the idea of settling rather than litigating Indian water rights claims?”

Kirkland responds, *“Senator, the department supports the idea of settling any and all water settlement claims that we can.”*

Daines urges a timely completion of water rights settlements: *“It’s a lot of legal fees. And then the uncertainty of losing those water rights if the litigation proceeds, the risk of losing water rights for our ag economy in a place like Montana is very real and it’s significant. And there’s a clear blueprint to getting this done. I want to work with the Trump administration to build off these past models of success. None of these are ever easy. I experienced that myself under Trump 45, like the Salish Kootenai CSKT compact, we call it. And to move forward, enact the Northern Montana Water Security Act. Assistant Secretary Kirkland, time is of the essence on the issue. Can we work together and push to get this done, this year?”*

Kirkland: *“Senator, I know you just recently spoke to the Secretary Bergum on this as well, and I’ll echo him that we’ll continue to work with you and the Committee on settling all active water rights.”*

Daines: *“This is about water security for tribal and non-tribal water users. It’s for infrastructure for Montana agriculture and certainty for future generations of Montana. These are legacy kind of decisions we can make and move forward and settle it and not put this on the backs of our children and grandchildren. The bill I have ensures long-term stability across the Hi-Line of Montana and upholds the federal government’s trust responsibility.”*

The Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC) Water Rights Settlement Act is a proposed federal legislation aimed at ratifying a water compact between the FBIC (the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes), the State of Montana, and the United States. It secures tribal water rights, resolves historic claims, and funds critical water infrastructure.



Fort Belknap Tribal Council pictured with Governor - Photo by: Breanne Main

GOVERNOR GREG GIANFORTE MEETS WITH FORT BELKNAP TRIBAL COUNCIL

The Fort Belknap Tribal Council met with Governor Greg Gianforte and Misty Kuhl, Director of the Office of Indian Affairs, to discuss several important topics.

Treaty History and Water Compact:

Historical context highlighted the distinction between the “Treaty Tribes” and the broader group of federally recognized Tribes, which number 574 in total. The passage of the Water Compact marks a significant milestone in this ongoing journey, representing a critical achievement for the communities involved. This milestone reflects not only legal and political progress but also a step forward in honoring the rights and histories of these Tribes, strengthening their ability to manage and protect vital water resources for future generations. Preparing for Water Compact impacts such as infrastructure, safety, and growth: As the water compact passes, the local economic footprint and construction activities are expected to increase significantly, affecting areas including Great Falls and Billings. This growth brings several risks such as the emergence of man camps, damage to roads, and increased pressure on law enforcement resources. Critical infrastructure gaps need urgent attention, especially the limited detention capacity, which currently stands at only 16 beds. The reservation covers approximately 650,000 acres, making it about 13,000 acres larger than the state of Rhode Island. Addressing these challenges proactively will be essential to managing the impacts on the community and infrastructure effectively.

Youth Sports, Culture, and Community activities:

Council emphasized the importance of keeping youth engaged outside of school to address challenges they face, including drug exposure and the lack of Native heroes and role models. A recent positive development is the revival of the Boys & Girls Club, which offers a constructive space for young people. However, there is a pressing need for funding to support more culturally and tradition-oriented programs and activities. Ideas under consideration include repurposing empty settling ponds near the water treatment plant to stock fish, promoting winter sports such as ice skating, and developing mountain trails for hiking and nature exploration. These initiatives aim to provide opportunities that connect youth with their culture and environment, fostering a healthier and more active lifestyle.

Workforce Strategy:

A key finding in the workforce strategy analysis highlights that approximately 100,000 Montanans of working age are neither employed nor actively seeking work. This group includes veterans who lack job skills fit, individuals with disabilities, returning inmates who face barriers and risks of recidivism, and members of Native American communities who are underemployed. Addressing the unique challenges faced by these populations is essential for developing targeted programs to improve workforce participation and economic inclusion across Montana, especially Reservations.

Law Enforcement & MOUs

Efforts have been made to improve relationships with surrounding counties, including pursuing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen collaboration. Currently, the tribe is engaged in a lawsuit

seeking increased funding, highlighting that the resources provided by BIA Law Enforcement are insufficient to meet the community’s needs.

Economic Development

Exploration of cannabis legalization on the Reservation, though it is not expected to be a significant revenue source. The community is also pursuing carbon credits through the National Indian Carbon Coalition, with the project currently in the pre-feasibility stage. A major housing development is in progress to address the current waiting list of about 100 people. There are three large development sites planned, one in each community, each with 50 homes. Construction at Eagle Valley has progressed with 22 homes built, plus additional builds totaling 34, aiming for an estimated 108 homes by the project’s completion. This housing effort has reportedly created over 60 jobs, with all construction carried out by tribal members. Funding is leveraged through Island Mountain, Indian Housing Block Grants, and Tribal funds, supporting sustainable growth and community development on the Reservation.

Cost of Living Concerns and State Response

Council asked how the State plans to address Montana’s cost-of-living disparities (East of Great Falls vs. Kalispell/Missoula/Bozeman) and noted that \$20-\$22/hour now feels like “barely getting by.” The State’s strategies are focused on wages/take home pay and business growth such as: reducing taxes so people can keep more of what they earn, and removing regulations that make it hard to start/grow businesses. Montana is one of only two states where wage growth exceeded inflation over the last 5 years. Montana paid off all state debt, addressed deferred maintenance, reduced taxes further, and improved fiscal health ranking from 22nd to 8th. The average Montana salary gap vs. national average improved from \$14,000 below to \$4,000 (a \$10,000 gain in 5.5 years).

Conservation District Funding and Trust-Land Barriers

A request was made for Fort Belknap to join the (Association of Conservation Districts), but funding has been difficult due to trust land. It was stated that Blaine County receives conservation district funding using Fort Belknap “numbers,” and the Tribe wants a share to staff a year-round position and make the conservation district a hub for grants (irrigation projects, ranchers, and NGO grants). Governor Gianforte directed Misty to follow up and identify who raised the key funding fact.

Closing Commitments, Healthcare Programs, and Final Q&A

Schedule a Governor’s office meeting with FWP on hunting rights, water compact – what support is needed to get it “over the finish line,” Misty to follow up on the Conservation District funding issue. Meeting request to clarify state stake and coordination about the concern on reservation borders and fencing gaps (free grazing, hay loss and uncertainty about state right-of-way responsibilities). Healthcare implementation priorities and funding concerns such as CHAP and Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), plus Medicaid expansion and rural health investments. Fort Belknap is one of six pilot tribes: funding is current but future is uncertain. Full support on programs including Soaring Eagle (Recidivism Reduction Initiative/Juvenile Justice), described as nationally known. The diabetes program is flagged as potentially being cut, raising concerns about elders affording rising electric/gas bills and the high local diabetes burden. Requested pressure on IHS due to vacancy rate and inability to hire, harming access to care. Additional topics included, mining enforcement and penalties, drought designation concerns, gaming regulation tensions and reiterated water compact importance.

The meeting provided an opportunity to address key issues impacting the community and to collaborate on strategies for sustainable growth and well-being. Tribal Leaders addressed concerns, shared updates, and are working toward solutions. Such engagements with the State are important for building strong relationships and decision making.



Council Meeting w/Governor and Misty Kuhl - Photo by: Tina Bierle

MMIP AWARENESS DAY - COMMUNITY WALK

In 2017, the Montana Congressional Delegation secured the passage of a Senate resolution declaring May 5th as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Men and Relatives. This resolution was a direct response to the demands for justice following the 2013 murder of Hannah Harris on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Due to an inadequate law enforcement response, Hanna's family and friends were forced to conduct their own search. Their relentless pursuit of justice sparked community-led marches and advocacy efforts, not only for Hannah but for the countless cases that remain unresolved. Since 2017, the national movement to end violence against Indigenous Peoples has continued to elevate May 5th as a day of remembrance, action, and advocacy.

To commemorate this day, the Child Support Program hosted the MMIP Walk where community members came together to support this important cause. Events like this make a meaningful impact by raising awareness and fostering a sense of unity. We appreciate the effort and dedication of everyone involved in organizing and participating in the walk.

This day highlights the urgent need to address the disproportionate rates of violence faced by Indigenous communities. It serves as a call to action for justice, support, and prevention efforts to protect Indigenous lives and honor those who have been lost. Recognition of this day encourages education, advocacy, and solidarity to help bring about systemic change and ensure safety and respect for Indigenous peoples across the nation. It is a moment to listen, learn, and commit to making a difference in the lives of Indigenous families and communities.

However, raising public awareness alone is not enough – action and accountability are necessary to address the crisis of MMIP. The National Day of Awareness calls for:

- Honoring the lives of our missing and murdered relatives.
- Shedding light on the countless tragedies impacting Native women/men and communities.
- Highlighting the need for ongoing grassroots advocacy and organizing for change of laws, policies, protocols, and allocation of increased resources at the Tribal, Federal, and State levels to end these injustices.
- Sharing information to understand and drive legal reforms and change.

The alarming rates of abduction and murder of Native Peoples represent one of the most devastating issues facing Tribal communities. On some reservations, Native women face murder rates more than ten times the national average. These disappearances and



MMIP Walk held on May 5th – Agency (Photo by: Tatyana Oats)

murders are often directly linked to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, sex trafficking, and longstanding harms impacting Indigenous communities.

- Homicide is roughly the third leading cause of death among Indigenous women ages 10-24.
- 56.1% have experienced sexual violence, 55.5% have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner, and 48.8% have experienced stalking.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that there were 10,248 missing Indigenous persons reports in 2024. 5,614 were women, and 4,626 were men. Most women reported missing were under the age of 18.
- The 10 states with the highest rates of American Indian/Alaska Native missing person's cases in 2025 were Alaska, Arizona, Oklahoma, Washington, Montana, New Mexico, California, North Carolina, South Dakota, and Texas.
- 95% of cases identified by the Urban Indian Health Institute had not been covered by the mainstream media.
- Because of limited data, there is no reliable nationwide count of how many Native People go missing or are murdered each year.

Cheryl Horn, Magazu Nahzi (Standing in the Rain), an enrolled member of the Nakoda (Assiniboine) Tribe and resident of Fort Belknap, became a member of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Men (MMIWM) family in July 2018 after the tragic loss of her niece, Tristen Gray; and again in 2020 with Tristen's sister, Selena Bell-Not Afraid. *"These heartbreaking experiences have driven me to become a passionate advocate for families and survivors of missing, murdered, and trafficked individuals. As an advocate, I work tirelessly to bring about change by pushing for legal reforms, connecting families to resources, engaging media, finding legal representation, and expanding networks of support for affected families. My mission is to raise awareness and foster prevention by sharing the experiences my family and I have endured,"* said Cheryl.

In 2022, Cheryl was honored to receive the USA Today National Woman of the Year award, alongside 10 distinguished recipients. This recognition has created valuable opportunities for families to share their stories. Cheryl proudly serves as a board member for the Pretty Eagle Woman Resource Foundation and as the Affiliate Equity Officer on the Montana ACLU Board of directors who are passionate about civil rights.

In 2024, Fort Belknap Tribal Council appointed Cheryl to the Montana Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force, where she represents Fort Belknap in addressing MMIP issues. Cheryl stated, *"My ultimate goal is to bring healing opportunities to all MMIWM families. I firmly believe that healing is essential for the families left behind, and that together, we can navigate the difficult journey of advocacy and grief. Maintaining positive mental health is vital as we continue to seek justice and honor our loved ones. By working together, we can find strength, healing, and hope for a brighter future."*

*(During the 2025 legislative session, the name was changed from Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Advisory Council. These changes better align the purpose of the strategic body and increase the scope of duties.)



MMIP Walk - Photos by: Tatyana Oats

Courtesy Photo: Cheryl Horn



Photos by: Ramona Horn and Geno Levaldo

HEALING WALK, RUN, AND HORSEBACK RIDE

The Healing Walk, Run, and Horseback Ride brought our community together in a meaningful way. Volunteers and community members covered HWY 2, Route 8, Route 11, and HWY 66, with a final stretch that ended at Horse Capture Park where a Community Dinner was held. The Youth Wellness Task Force volunteered to prepare meals.

We extend our gratitude to Councilwomen Joan Johnson and Tina Bierle for their inspiring words of encouragement. This wonderful event was organized by TIWAHE, and we thank their staff and program, along with all the volunteers and community members who contributed their time and energy to make this gathering so special and memorable. This event was more than just exercise! Whether you are recovering from illness, coping with emotional challenges, or simply seeking balance...It was a powerful practice for mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being!

HEAD START CELEBRATES IT'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

Statement from Yasmina Vinci, Executive Director (National Head Start Association): *“For more than six decades, Head Start has supported children, families, and communities across the country. Since its founding in 1965, the program has served more than 40 million children, helping build strong foundations for lifelong success. This milestone reflects the commitment and care of the educators, staff, parents, and partners who make this work possible every single day. Head Start continues to play a vital role in communities nationwide, reaching hundreds of thousands of children and their families each year through comprehensive services that support early learning, health, and family stability. Its impact is both immediate and lasting, strengthening families today while contributing to stronger communities for the future. Thank you for your continued leadership, dedication, and belief in the promise of every child.”*

In celebration, Head Start Director, Julia Doney and staff served cake to employees and community members passing through the Tribal Office Lobby. Julia Doney began her work with the program in 1974 as a parent volunteer before accepting a teacher's aide position. At that time, she earned \$2.88 per hour, which she was grateful for, as both she and her spouse Ed were unemployed. *“Head Start was my spring board to a wonderful career working with and for people,”* said Julia. Julia dedicated 17 continuous years to Head Start, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, and taught Early Childhood Education classes at Fort Belknap College (ANC) while pursuing a Master's Degree in Counseling and Education at Northern Montana College. She briefly returned as Head Start director before humbly accepting a Tribal Council Vice-President term. Julia stated, *“Working with and for children has always been my calling so I applied for the Head Start Director and was hired. I have been here since 2010. Getting an education is something that no one can take away from you.”*

Thank you to the Head Start staff for their dedication and service to our children and community!



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Julia Doney, Director



Sharana Buck, Rose Doney, and Ivy Snow



President Randall Werk, Sr. and Vice-President Alan Bigby
Photos by: Rose Doney



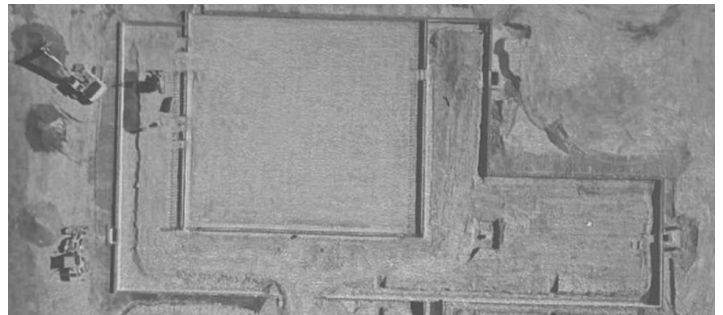
ICF Walls/Build

COMMUNITY MEETING - ANAAKYAANIIN WELLNESS CENTER (PROJECT UPDATE)

John Anfinson, Project Manager for Woodstone, Inc., recently hosted a community meeting to provide an update on the Anaakyaaniin Wellness Center project, with Council Leadership in attendance. The project is currently about a week ahead of schedule. The foundation has been completed, backfilling is done, and insulated concrete form (ICF) walls are being constructed. John expressed his satisfaction with the subcontractors, Martin’s Construction and Shane Bishop Construction. Notably, approximately 75% of the current workforce consists of Fort Belknap Indian Community Tribal Members. Heberley Engineers from Havre are conducting inspections, including compaction and soil testing, in compliance with Montana Building Codes. Contractors are pleased with the site; ground consists of gravel and clay, which is ideal for constructing a large building. The plan is to have the building enclosed by winter and to carry out interior work throughout the season. All community questions were formally answered, and another meeting is planned for this fall as construction progresses. The scheduled completion date is set for September 2027.



John Anfinson, Project Manager pictured w/Foreman and Assistant Foreman



Aerial View of Completed Foundation Photos by: Warren Morin

BROADBAND & CELLULAR SERVICE (COMMUNITY MEETING)

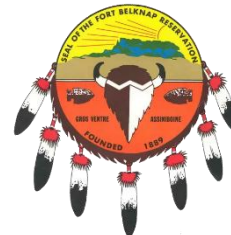
A community meeting was held at the Agency Community Center to discuss Broadband and Cellular Service (Red Elk Communications). Attendees gathered to share concerns, experiences, and suggestions related to connectivity in the area. The meeting provided an opportunity for residents to learn about the Project Overview, Services & Benefits, Land & Right-of-Way, Funding & Costs, Service Options, Tower & Fiber Locations, Construction Timeline, and What-to-Expect. The community’s input helps guide future initiatives to improve broadband and cellular services for everyone.

Red Elk Communications is a tribally owned broadband infrastructure project developed by the Fort Belknap Indian Community. The goal was launched to bridge the digital divide and bring high-speed internet to over 7,000 tribal members living across the 675,000-acre reservation. Funded by federal grants such as the NTIA Tribal Connectivity Program; the project installs fiber-optic lines and communication towers to provide direct Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) connections.

This partnership is in collaboration with Spy Ego Media. Spy Ego Media is an industry leader in delivering broad spectrum technological solutions. With over two decades of experience in the IT industry, thousands of successful projects, hundreds of IT and cybersecurity certifications, and a proven track record of success, Spy Ego Media delivers solutions you can count on!

Our broadband service aims to provide affordable, no-contract, and reliable connectivity; specifically, to the needs and priorities of Fort Belknap. Unlike services designed by outside companies, this approach focuses on what matters most to the community, ensuring that the technology and support align with local expectations and requirements. By prioritizing Fort Belknap’s unique demands, we strive to deliver a service that is both accessible and dependable, empowering residents with better access to digital resources without the burden of long-term commitments or unreliable service.

****For more information, please visit www.fibelknap.org, click on announcements, and click on link for Draft Environmental Assessment for the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation Broadband Fiber Route.***





Courtesy Photo by: MTN News



Courtesy Photo by: Montana Army National Guard

YOUNG RECEIVES HONORING BY GOVERNOR GIANFORTE

Governor Greg Gianforte honored Members of the 1st Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment after placing third overall (in early May) at the Sullivan Cup, one of the Army’s premier tank crew competitions. The Sullivan Cup is a prestigious, biennial military competition held at Fort Benning, Georgia (now part of Fort Moore), that tests and identifies the world’s best tank and armored fighting vehicle (Bradley) crews. The tank crew included Staff Sergeant Cody Warner as tank commander, Staff Sergeant Mitchell Clark as tank gunner, Sergeant Tyler Olson as tank loader, and Specialist Kendon Young as tank driver. Their achievement highlights their skill and dedication in a highly competitive field, reflecting great pride for their unit and the state of Montana.

Kendon Young, age 20, is an enrolled member of the Aaniiih (Gros Ventre) Tribe. He is the son of Arlene Morin and Kyle Young, and the grandson of Kenneth Healy Morin and Kay Shambo Morin, as well as the late Lyman Young and Alma Stiffarm Young. Kendon joined the National Guard at the age of 17 and attended Basic Training in Fort Moore, Georgia. The National Guard Headquarters is located in Belgrade, MT.

The soldiers were also inducted into the Order of St. George, a prestigious distinction within the armor and cavalry community. This honor recognizes their exceptional service and commitment, marking a significant achievement in their military careers. Being part of this order not only reflects their skills and bravery but also connects them to a long tradition of excellence in the field.

On May 27, the unit was officially redesignated from the 1st Battalion, 163rd Cavalry Regiment to the 1st Battalion, 163rd Infantry Regiment during a ceremony at Fort Harrison. This change marked the battalion’s shift away from heavier combat vehicles like Abrams Tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, focusing instead on a mobile infantry mission using lighter infantry squad vehicles.

During the ceremony held at the capitol, soldiers presented Gianforte with their unit patches from the cavalry regiment before wearing their new infantry patches, symbolizing the end of one chapter and the start of another. This transition added special meaning to the Sullivan Cup finish, as the Montana crew was the first—and possibly the last—from the state to compete in the event before the battalion’s transformation.

The Sullivan Cup brought together some of the top armored crews in the world, and Montana’s crew finished as the top National Guard team. For the soldiers, the ceremony was about more than placement or awards. It was a moment to honor their hard work, dedication, and the strong bonds formed through intense training and competition. The event highlighted not only their skills but also their commitment to teamwork and excellence, reflecting the pride they take in representing their unit and state at such a prestigious level.

Congratulations to Kendon Young, representing the Aaniiih Tribe and for being a part of this historic event!



Courtesy Photos by: Montana Army National Guard

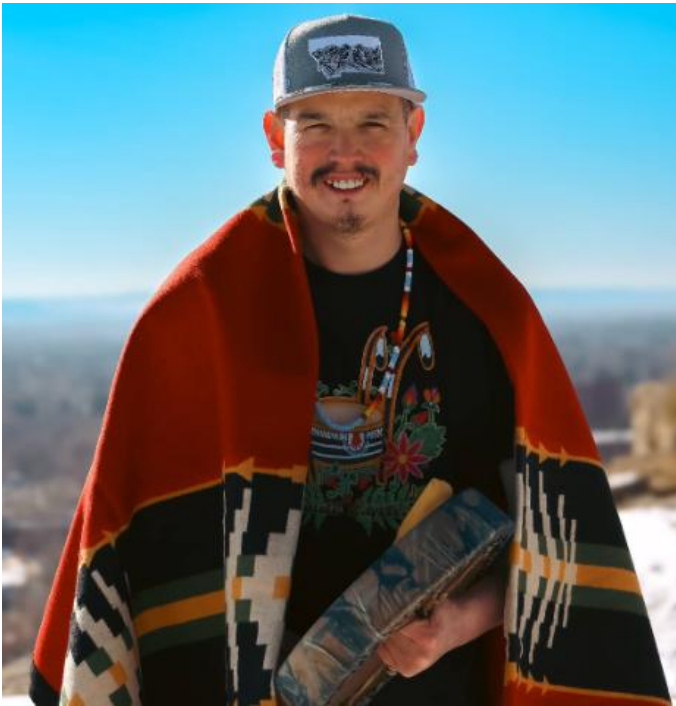


Photo by: Holly Netz

NATIVE CULTURE, ATHLETE LEADERSHIP SHINE AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS STATE GAMES

BY: TOM WYLIE – MTN SPORTS

BILLINGS — For Keith King, the moment still feels surreal. The longtime Special Olympics Montana athlete from Billings remembers getting the phone call asking if he would serve as an athlete emcee for the 2026 State Summer Games opening ceremony at Metra Park.

“I was on cloud nine,” King said. *“I couldn’t speak for about a minute or two. It just hit me hard that my hard work has paid off.”* King and fellow Billings athlete Laci Nomee helped lead the State Summer Games opening ceremony in front of athletes, coaches, families and fans from across Montana.

The ceremony highlighted Native American heritage through dance groups, drum groups and cultural performances, while also recognizing Native athletes involved in Special Olympics Montana. For King, a member of the Nakoda (Assiniboine) Tribe who has participated in Special Olympics since 1998, the opportunity carried extra meaning. *“It’s pretty cool,”* King said. *“A lot of times here in Montana, Native Special Olympics athletes don’t get this recognition often. We’re up here representing them and being their voices.”*

Nomee, a member of the Crow Tribe, has been involved in Special Olympics since 2004 and has competed in athletics, basketball, cycling and bowling. Though quieter during interviews, she smiled often alongside King and described the experience in simple terms. *“Fun,”* Nomee said. *“Very fun.”*

The two athletes have known each other for years through Special Olympics and family connections.

“We’ve known each other for a very long time,” King said. *“Both our families knew each other for a very, very long time.”*

Behind the scenes, King said preparing for the ceremony meant long hours rehearsing lines and making sure everything was ready for the big stage inside Metra Park. *“Practice day and night,”* King said. *“Just make sure I don’t skip a beat and make sure I get the lines correctly.”*

King said Special Olympics has changed his life by giving him opportunities to travel, compete and build friendships. *“It gives me a voice,”* he said. That voice has also helped grow opportunities for Native athletes in Montana. King recalled helping expand Special Olympics participation in Native community’s years ago through grant funding that helped athletes from places like Box Elder and Rocky Boy join programs. *“When I first saw those teams coming, I had tears of joy,”* King said. *“I was proud of it. It holds dear to my heart forever.”*

Both athletes hope their visibility encourages others to get involved. *“Don’t be shy. Just be brave,”* King said. *“Come to somebody like me or Laci and we’ll welcome you with big arms.”* Nomee offered a similar message. *“Come in here. Have some fun,”* she said.

As the State Summer Games in Billings got underway, King said standing on stage inside Metra Park fulfilled a longtime dream. *“It was my dream to be on stage and performing,”* King said. *“Now I get to do it here in the Metra. It’s awesome.”*

****Keith King is a resident of Billings, Montana, and a dedicated member of the Nakoda (Assiniboine) Tribe. He honors his heritage deeply, with strong family roots including his parents, Keaster and Tammy King, and his late grandparents, Robert M. King and Ramona Werk-King. Every year, Keith eagerly anticipates attending the Milk River Indian Days Pow-Wow, a celebration that connects him to his culture and community.***



Laci Nomee & Keith King
Photo by: Holly Netz

3x Shot Put Champion!

STORYTELLING

BY: JOHN A. ALLEN, JR.

I was asked by the editor of our own Fort Belknap Tribe's Newsletter to tell a story or two concerning our communities' past events. Since the time is close to Decoration Day or Memorial Day holiday where we as Indian people feed, honor, and remember good times in the past lives of our dead relations and friends; I am going to provide two spiritual stories of dreams and visions of two old Indian cowboys that were nearing the ends of their trails as they travel the Circle of Life.

Those stories came from the book Titled: "**STORIES FROM THE ELDERS, Nakoda Horse Society**"

Minerva Allen, 2011 Fort Belknap, Montana. The contributing Elders number ten head, and all are from the Fort Belknap Indian Community.

This first story was told by Andy Lamebull, he said he was in the old hospital recovering from some sickness, and some unworldly cowboy friends came to his window in his room. The following story is his version of what took place.

It is entitled "**I HEARD THEM CALL MY NAME,**" *Story told by Lamebull.*"

I saw George Fox at the window. He said, "Well partner, I came after you."

"Ah Shucks! I ain't going nowhere."

Well, I seen Jim Kipp over there, Tom Bell and Kipp says, "Come on Andy, come over and help us, we're chasing horses. Sure, a lot of horses over here. Come over and help us."

There was a white horse, and it had a saddle on. Kipp was holding the horse. I would not go. I just laid there looking at them. He said, "There are sure a lot of horses where we're at." Old Tom did not say a word, sitting there on his horse. I guess that was just my imagination, I do not know, but I seen these guys. I know they came to the window, and I heard one say, "I came after you partner. You better get ready."

I told them, "I don't want to go nowhere." Yeah, I was all right after that. I was all right.

This next story is similar to the Lamebull experience. It was told by my dad John "Boogee" Allen, Sr. My dad was getting close to the end of his fight with cancer, when he shared this story to us.

It is entitled: "**DREAM STORY**"

I dreamed that I walked out of the house. Standing at the hitching rail by the saddle shop was a big buckskin with a black tail and mane and strips down his legs. The horse was not a small quarter horse like Doc Bar but a large one. I thought, "Boy! The old lady would really like this one." While walking up to him he nickered. I pet him on the neck, and then fixed the saddle. It was loose, so I cinched it up and climbed on. As I rode away, I came up on this big Hill. The horse wasn't even sweating or puffing. We sat there looking out on the country, coulees and pine trees as far as the eye could see.

Way off, movement showed a herd of horses of all different kinds of colors. The horse flickered his ears as he looked toward the horses. This, is good looking country. We rode down the other side. The dun knew where he was going. We crossed a large creek and some tall cottonwood trees and started up the other side. As we came over the top, I could see on the horizon a big log house with a porch-hitching rail. There were many horses tied up in front, standing, switching their tails. I tied him to the rail, then walked toward the house and



Photo by: Thae Main

pushed in the door. The guys in there were all talking. When I came in, it got really quiet and Jim Kipp said, "Hey! Kid we are waiting for you!" Henry Fox, Gerald Walsh, Wilkey Flying, Two Gun Snell, and a big line of guys were there. Two bartenders were there also; the one close by was Al Horner. I said, "What are you doing here with all these Indians?" He said I won this last bar, either buy whiskey or beer or get out of here." Al put his gun on the bar.

"Come on kid," Jim said, "have a drink on us." He heard a big movement of jingling spurs and clinking of glasses. "Well kid, we got to get going. A big herd is waiting for us." They started to go outside. "See you next time kid; we will be waiting. I guess you're not supposed to come with us." Horner said, "are you having a drink?" I said, "no, next time," and I walked out. They were on their horses. Some were going over the hill. Jim, Henry, Dutch, and Gerald smiled and waved. They said, "See you later." And rode off. I wanted to go, but climbed on the buckskin and rode back down the hill. The sky seemed so blue; no clouds were out. The grass was tall and green, I thought, "Man this is good country." Well, I woke up in bed.

In conclusion, those are two stories about our Indian Cowboy's versions of their own visions of their afterlife in Horse and cowboy heaven. Being with friends and good horses following and chasing wild horses and cattle herds doing the cowboy life style is their idea of a good eternity. To each their own, I am sure we all have our own version of our heavens to keep us all happy. With a lot of different people in this world there will be a lot of different heavens. The Creator sure knows how to award us and keep us all happy in our next spiritual life in the Happy Hunting Grounds.

Those stories reinforce the traditional cultural Indian ceremony of the Four-day feast that we have at our departed people's wakes. To pray to our past-on relatives; Grandfathers and Grandmothers to come and take our dearly departed ones to the happy hunting grounds. To be the spiritual guides to show them the right trails to follow to the Big Camp, the Sand Hills, Across the River, go over the Big Divide, or go into the Light. To give us knowledge of the pathways between this physical world and the spiritual world; so, we will not become earth bound spirits or ghosts. We will be able to come and go between the two worlds to help our relations by anyway that we can, plus in the end becoming spiritual guides to take our own people to their own Happy Hunting Grounds.

a'ho, penameya



Courtesy Photos from Facebook

TRIBAL HEALTH EMPLOYEE RECEIVES RECOGNITION AWARD

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

The Confluence Public Health Association Conference took place in Helena, MT and is a significant event that brings together professionals, researchers, and policymakers dedicated to advancing public health. This conference provided an opportunity to share the latest research, discuss emerging health challenges, and collaborate on innovative solutions to improve community health outcomes. A diverse program featured keynote speeches, panel discussions, workshops, and networking sessions designed to foster knowledge and exchange professional development. The conference serves as a platform for building partnerships and driving collective action to address critical public health issues locally and globally.

“In recognition of your dedication, resilience, and service to environmental health. Your commitment to protecting the health of your tribal community through leadership, education, and collaboration is an inspiration to those around you. We honor the meaningful impact you continue to make through your service and leadership”. – Montana Environmental Health Association

The Montana Environmental Health Association (MEHA) is a nonprofit professional organization dedicated to protecting public health and the environment across the state and affiliated with the National Environmental Health Association.

Raelynn, an employee with the Fort Belknap Tribal Health Department-Environmental Health Services, and serves as the Sanitarian. Her hard work and dedication that led to receiving this award is truly outstanding. We sincerely thank Raelynn for her valuable service to our community!

ELIZABETH HORSE CAPTURE – HONORING BY FBIC COUNCIL

Elizabeth Horse Capture was honored by the Tribal Council on her last day of employment with the Fort Belknap Indian Community. Liz dedicated 13 years to Transportation and 7 years to Disaster Emergency Services (DES). Elizabeth was a dedicated employee of (DES), consistently demonstrating commitment and professionalism in her role. Her efforts significantly contributed to the organization's mission of providing timely and effective emergency response. Elizabeth's dedication and hard work made a meaningful impact on the communities served, reflecting her passion for helping others in times of crisis. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors and thank her for her years of commitment and hard work.



Photo by: Sunni Plumage



© Randy Perez
 Dodson 8th Grade & High School Graduation - Photo by: Randy Perez



© Randy Perez
 Hays/LP High School Graduation - Photo by: Randy Perez



© Randy Perez
 Harlem High School Graduation - Photo by: Randy Perez



ANC Graduation - Photo by: Breanne Main



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ANC Graduation - Photo by: Breanne Main

The Fort Belknap Tribal Council extends its warm congratulations to all graduates from:

Ataniih Nakoda College

Dodson 8th Grade & High School

Hays/LP 8th Grade & High School

Harlem 8th Grade & High School

Head Start Students

and all Tribal Enrolled Members

We honor your hard work, dedication, and achievements. May your future be filled with continued success and opportunities.



Head Start Graduation - Photo by: Sharana Buck

FBIC TRIBAL RESOLUTIONS

Tribal Resolutions will now be featured in the monthly newsletter. The resolutions listed below, date back to November 2025, providing an ongoing record of important decisions and initiatives. This addition aims to keep everyone informed and engaged with the latest developments and actions taken within the community. We look forward to sharing these updates regularly.

A tribal resolution is a formal, legal document adopted by a tribal government—usually the Tribal Council or governing body—to establish policy or take official action. It acts as a binding decision on matters often adhering to the tribe's specific laws and traditions.

Key Aspects of Tribal Resolutions

-Resolutions are used to pass legislation, authorize contracts, approve funding proposal, set tribal policy, etc. They can cover a vast range of topics.

-They typically contain "WHEREAS" clauses that explain the reasons for the action, followed by "NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED" sections that declare the official decision. They are formal documents signed by authorized tribal officials, confirming the tribe's official position, particularly in interactions with federal, state, or local governments.

-These documents also represent the exercise of tribal sovereignty and jurisdiction to manage internal affairs and tribal resources.

Resolutions - November 2025 to December 2025

- 203-2025 Land- Shay Snider lease RU 66
- 204-2025 FBICC Elections- Replacing day judges for districts 005 and 008 for FBIC general elections
- 204-2025 Water Resources- Requesting \$250,000 from BIA for FY 26 Counsel legal fees
- 205-2025 Enrollment- New enrollees (9) Anderson-Main
- 206-2025 Enrollment- Relinquishment Red Willow Horse Capture
- 207-2025 Enrollment- Relinquishment Billie Jo Sunderland
- 208-2025 Enrollment- Relinquishment Ken Elliot Todd II
- 209-2025 FBIC- Adopting leave donation policy
- 210-2025 FBIC- Rescinding section 640.4 of FBIC personnel policy
- 211-2025 FBIC- Approving entry into settlement agreement Dupuis-Pablo V. OPI
- 212-2025 EPA- Approving and authorizing submission of grants solid waste infrastructure
- 213-2025 Housing- Removing Interim Board of Commissioners and appointing new commissioners
- 214-2025 FBICC- Audena Wing as the Secretary Treasurer
- 215-2025 FBICC- New check signers
- 216-2025 Tribal Construction- Escrow account for contract #FBIC24068 IHS
- 217-2025 FBICC- Signature authority for Bureau of Trust Funds administration transactions
- 218-2025 FBICC- Salaries
- 219-2025 Transportation- Credit Card
- 220-2025 IMDG- Permit for NW Energy, energy install electrical power at Eagle Valley Subdivision
- 221-2025 Enrollment- New enrollees (15) Begay-White grass
- 222-2025 Enrollment- Relinquishment Debbie Ann Chippewa
- 223-2025 Enrollment- Blood Change Michael James Blackwolf
- 224-2025 Finance- Budgets FY 25 & 26
- 225-2025 Planning- Economic Development plan CEDS 5 yr. plan 2026-2030
- 226-2025 Planning- Contract Martins Construction Commodity Building
- 227-2025 IMDG- Contract with WWC engineering Northeast Corner
- 228-2025 Water Resources- Authorizing Filing Complaint against Dept. of Interior
- 229-2025 Forestry- One-time funding from BIA
- 230-2025 Law Enforcement- One-time funding from BIA for \$200,000
- 231-2025 Land- One-time funding from BIA \$200,000
- 232-2025 FBIC Admin- One-time funding from BIA
- 233-2025 FBIC- Employee Cola 3.8%
- 234-2025 FBIC- Council Cola 3.8%
- 235-2025 FBIC- State of Emergency due to strong winds
- 236-2025 FBIC- Authorizing the Condemnation of John Capture Center- Hays Community
- 237-2025 Land- Shay Snider Lease RU 66

Resolutions - January 2026 to May 2026

- 1-2026 Enrollment-New Enrollees (9) Bradley-Vinger
- 2-2026 Planning Tribal Tourism Grant Application Submission
- 3-2026 Planning-Dept. of Transportation BUILD grant app.
- 4-2026 Housing -HUD IMGB-COMP grant program
- 5-2026 FBIC Request to Contract Detention Program through Self-determination PL 638 Contract
- 6-2026 Enrollment- New Enrollees (3) Archambault-Hughes

- 7-2026 Planning- DOJ OVC fy25 grant submission
- 8-2026 Planning submission and negation 105 (L) Leasing IHS
- 9-2026 Planning FBIC Request from BIA one-time funding for Community Projects 2026 \$5,354,611.00
- 10-2026 FBIC Credit Card Readers for Programs
- 11-2026 FBIC/GSA Mileage Rate year 2026
- 12-2026 Red Shield 8 Nations Inc. Board of Directors VP Bigby and Mike King
- 13-2026 Increase of Hours Allowed for Religious Leave Amending Sec. 650.8 Personnel Policies Manual
- 14-2026 Employee Appreciation Leave BD
- 15-2026 Amending Sec. 610.3 Personnel Policies to Include May 1 as an Employee Holiday
- 16-2026 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation NIH Contract Grant
- 17-2026 Requesting to Contract Fire Management Programs PL 638 Process
- 18-2026 Cher Old Elk Law Office Legal Services Contract
- 19-2026 FBHA stop receiving utility payments from tenants and direct payments to PMU Department
- 20-2026 Reaffirming the state of emergency on Drugs within FBIC
- 21-2026 MOU w/FBIC and DPHHS Cardiovascular Health Program
- 22-2026 WIPFLI Credit Card and Travel Expenses Forensic Consulting
- 23-2026 Amending Resolution No. 178-2025 IMDG Hays Fairgrounds Area Future Residential Development
- 24-2026 Finance January 2026 Budgets
- 25-2026 Planning Condemnation of the John Capture Center Hays Community
- 26-2026 FBIC Request One-Funding \$ 25,000 from BIA to Conduct an Independent Review of the Associate Judge
- 27-2026 Land- Hunter Neibauer 5-year Lease
- 28-2026 Land- Hunter Neibauer 5-year Lease (Hawley Farms)
- 29-2026 Land- Lisa Horn Home Site
- 30-2026 Land- Danielle Walker Home Site
- 31-2026 Land- Aragon Stiffarm Home Site
- 32-2026 Land- Duane Buck Sr. Cancelling Lease 415-B, T1187, G5005, T3004
- 33-2026 Land- Warren Bell Cancelling Lease T-151-A, T815-A
- 34-2026 Land- Mitchell Ranch 5-year Lease T-2003, T-2059
- 35-2026 Land- Tyea Doney Home Site
- 36-2026 Land- Signature Authority for USDA, NRCA, FSA
- 37-2026 Land- Tina Bierle Cancelling Lease T-851-A
- 38-2026 Land- Craig Adams Lease T-480, T-1136-A
- 39-2026 Fish and Wildlife- Application Submission for BIA Endangered Species Program
- 40-2026 FBICC Appointment to RMTLC Representatives Subcommittee to Health Donald Horn and Joan Johnson
- 41-2026 Finance February 2026 Budgets
- 42-2026 FBIC MOU W/Indian Land Tenure Foundation National Indian Carbon Coalition
- 43-2026 Land Holly Marie Kirkaldie Renouncing Land Interest at FBIC Enrollment No. 204U003499
- 44-2026 Enrollment (7) new Enrollees to FBIC
- 45-2026 Enrollment Relinquishment Verner W Sears Jr.
- 46-2026 FBIC Adoption the Confidential Advance Fund (CAF) Expenditures
- 47-2026 FBIC Approving a Policy to Honor Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Soldiers and Veterans
- 48-2026 IMDG Board Member Douglas Stuart
- 49-2026 IMDG Board Member Frank Doney
- 50-2026 IMDG Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity First Light/Clarity
- 51-2026 IMDG Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity First Light/Validifi, Inc.
- 52-2026 IMDG Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity First Light/Flex
- 53-2026 IMDG Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity Great Plains/Viking
- 54-2026 Aaniiih/Nakoda Family Healing Center Office Space in the Anaakyaaniiin Wellness Center Hays
- 55-2026 Vets Rescinding Resolution 127-2023 and Appointing Veteran Representatives for Aaniiih and Nakoda Tribes
- 56-2026 Land Carletta Benson lease 874-B
- 57-2026 Land Cleo Cole lease T-851-A 300 acres
- 58-2026 Land Cleo Cole lease T-851-A 180 acres
- 59-2026 Land Donald Horn Lease T-459
- 60 - 2026 Land Eldwin Brown Lease T-565-B
- 61-2026 Land George Brown lease Martin Fee Purchase
- 62-2026 Land Jered Messerly lease RU#39 61 head
- 63-2026 Land Lacey Phillips lease 1yr Revocable 814-A, 814-B, T-815-A
- 64-2026 Land Reynald Weigand lease 693-A
- 65-2026 Land Josiah LongFox Home Site Halftown
- 66-2026 FBIC Revised Settlement Agreement in Dupuis-Pablo vs OPI and Authorizing Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity
- 67-2026 Adopting the Proposed Organizational Chart
- 68-2026 April 16 new enrollees Barnhill-Tincher

69-2026 Adopt the FBIC Domesticated Pet Control Ordinance

70-2026 Head Start Parent Committee 2026

71-2026 Approving & Authorizing 100% of FBIC's Skyway Tower Lease Revenue to be used for Tribal Broadband
72-2026 MOU Between Blaine County and the FBIC for Mutual Law Enforcement Assistance

73-2026 Approving & Authorizing a tower lease (Location 10) Old Head Start FBIC tribal broadband Infrastructure Project

74-2026 Approving & Authorizing a Tower Lease (Location 9) Route 8 FBIC Tribal Broadband Infrastructure Project

75-2026 Approving & Authorizing a Tower Lease (Location 7) Three-Buttes FBIC Tribal Broadband Infrastructure Project

76-2026 Approving & Authorizing a Tower Lease (Location 6) Old Hays Tower FBIC Tribal Broadband Infrastructure Project

77-2026 Approving & Authorizing a Tower Lease (Location 4) Agency Water Tower FBIC Tribal Broadband Infrastructure Project

78-2026 Approving & Authorizing a Tower Lease (Location 3) Agency Tribal Office FBIC Tribal Broadband Infrastructure Project

79-2026 Approving & Authorizing a Tower Lease (Location 2) Hays – The Grade, FBIC Tribal Broadband Infrastructure Project

80-2026 Approving & Authorizing a Tower Lease (Location 1) Lodge Pole – Leggins, FBIC Tribal Broadband Infrastructure Project

81-2026 Repeal & Replace Pt. 3 Initial Appearance & Arraignment Title III Criminal Procedure Laws of FBIC

82-2026 Restricting Sale of Alcoholic Beverage sold on Fort Belknap Reservation Containing an Alcohol Level of 6% or higher in Establishments

83-2026 Approving & Authorizing the Submission of an Application to US Dept. of Economic Development Admin Public Works
& Economic Adjustment Assistance FY 2026 EDS PWEAA Grant Facility Project

84-2026 Ratifying March 2026 Finance Committee Budget for FY26

85-2026 Approving & Authorizing Submission App to (DOJ) (OJP) (BIA) FY 2025 Second Chance Act Community Based Re-Entry Program

86-2026 FBCC Adopting Title 7 (Law & Order) Pt. 1 through 5, Repealing & Replacing Current Title VII, Driver Privileges,
Traffic Enforcement, Roadway Management Provisions

87-2026 Rescinding the Appointment of Councilwoman Tina Bierle from FB Tribal Housing Board of Commissioners, Adopting
John Filesteel, Jr. to serve remaining term

88-2026 Land, Ilene Longknife home-site transferred from Daniel First Raised T3013 Lot 1 New Town

89-2026 Land, Jarrid Sullivan home-site T3013 Lot 36 New Town

90-2026 Land, Vernie Healy home-site II T173c Rodeo Grounds

91-2026 Land, Daryl Brockie home-site to 3008 Old Hays Sub-Division

92-2026 Land, Gerald Has Eagle home-site T267-B North of Highway 2

93-2026 Land, Morgan Johnson home-site T03014 River Sub-Division

94-2026 FBIC Authorizing the Participation in the Survey of Native Nations

95-2026 Land, Hunter Neibauer 5-Year Lease Allotment 138, 138B, 138C, 260 Peter Wetan, 260B Peter Wetan, 1147, T293, 250 One Woman

96-2026 Land, FBIC Approving & Directing the BIA to follow Fort Belknap Ordinances, 3-day Trespass Rule

97-2026 Land, Hunter Neibauer 5-Year Lease Allotment T1123A

98-2026 Land, Travis Shields home-site T3013 Halftown Sub-Division

99-2026 Land, Joseph B. Fox, Lease Allotment T581D

100-2026 Land, Jo Jimmy Snow home-site renewal T170C Rodeo Grounds Sub-Division

101-2026 Land, Tina Bierle home-site T771 Leggins Sub-Division

102-2026 Land, Gail Ereaux home-site TR2021 Old BIA Trailer Lot

103-2026 Land, Kyle Bigby home-site Renewal T03014 River Sub-Division

104-2026 Courts Adopting Amended Title 7

105-2026 Enrollment April (10) New Enrollees (Blackbird-Yellowrobe)

106-2026 Finance Ratifying March/April FY2026 Budgets

107-2026 Gaming Approving Title XV FB Gaming Commissioners from 1 to 3 Commissioners

108-2026 Volunteer Fire confirming the Corporate Charter amending the Articles of Incorporation, Approving By-Laws of the FB Fire Rescue

109-2026 Council Approving the Elderly Assistance Policy



The Fort Belknap Land Department would like to encourage all ranchers, farmers, producers, and lessees to begin preparing for potential drought conditions this season.

As drought conditions continue to impact Montana and surrounding areas, it is important for all agricultural operators to take proactive steps to protect livestock, water resources, grazing lands, and agricultural operations. We encourage producers to begin evaluating pasture conditions, water availability, forage supplies, fencing, and overall herd management plans early.

The Land Department will continue doing all we can to assist producers through drought monitoring, water development projects, grazing management efforts, communication updates, and coordination with state and federal partners. However, drought preparedness is a shared responsibility, and we strongly encourage all operators to prepare in advance for difficult conditions.

The Land Department also encourages all producers to make sure their agricultural records and documentation are current and organized, including:

- Grazing leases or revocable permits
- Land use authorizations
- Livestock records
- Water hauling documentation
- Grazing plans and pasture records
- Any other records related to agricultural operations

Proper documentation may be required when applying for USDA drought assistance programs, including the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and other federal disaster assistance programs. Having current lease documents and operational records available may help prevent delays during the application process.

Some recommended drought preparation measures include:

- Monitoring stock water sources and wells
- Planning for reduced forage conditions
- Evaluating stocking rates and grazing rotations
- Repairing fences and water infrastructure

- Developing emergency feeding or hauling plans
- Staying informed on drought conditions and available assistance programs

The Land Department will continue providing updates regarding drought conditions, water projects, grazing information, and available resources as conditions change.

We appreciate the continued cooperation of our producers and community members as we work together to protect our lands, livestock, and agricultural future.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Land Department at (406) 353-8333.

PSA – Transportation:

Fort Belknap Transportation Department will be doing Right of Way Verification Work on Route 11 from Hays to Lodge Pole. This work will include finding section corners and land pins along Route 11. Work will be conducted throughout the summer months, Monday through Friday 8am-5pm. The primary work vehicle will be a white Chevy Suburban. Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Transportation Director, William "Bill" Main II at (406) 399-3883 or email: bill.main@ftbelknap.org.

PSA – Prairie Mountain Utilities:

Greetings to residents in the Hays area. Over the past couple of months, someone has been stealing gates from the Hays transfer site. This is theft of tribal property, and replacing these gates is costly. Please help us keep the Hays community transfer site clean and well-maintained. If you have any information about who is taking the gates, feel free to message or call Prairie Mountain Utilities at (406) 399-2301. Thank you for taking the time to read this notice.

PSA - MISSION CANYON: Due to heavy rainfall and falling rocks, Mission Canyon will be closed until further notice. This measure is taken to ensure the safety of our community members and visitors. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this time and will provide updates as soon as the situation improves.



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



Fort Belknap Indian Community

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

Fort Belknap Indian Community
Charter 2011
Dedicated to the preservation of the culture, history, and traditions of the Fort Belknap Indian Community



Announcing the
2026



Aaniiih Nakoda

Giant Pumpkin Contest!

With \$20 entrance fee, receive 2 seeds from 2025 state record winner

Registration required

Pumpkin must be grown by a member or descendant of Fort Belknap

Winner will receive \$1 for every pound of pumpkin
Special educational opportunities provided for participants

Final weigh-in on September 15th, 2026



Limited space available!!

To register, please reach out to McKenzie at (405) 885-8775, or stop by the Extension office.

Public Service Announcement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 05/27/2026

Effective immediately, burning of any kind within the exterior boundaries of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation is prohibited due to dry conditions.

This burn ban shall remain in effect until further notice.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Randall Werk Sr., President

8th Annual Running Series

Friday, June 5, 2026: **Canyon Crush** Walk/Run
8:30am Start Time
1.5 mile-route from entrance to the canyon to turn around mark & return

Cancelled due to rock slide

Friday, June 12, 2026: **Snake Butte 6** Walk/Run
8am Start Time
6 mile-route from mark before the reservoir to the highway

Still a go!

Everyone of all ages and fitness levels are encouraged to join us for the fun of it.

You can walk or run or both.
And you can do all the miles, half the miles or even one.

Please contact Karrese at 353-8386 if you have any questions.
Sponsored by: Health Education and Healthy Heart

JOIN US
donuts WITH DAD
JUNE 17TH 2026
10:30 AM TO 11:30AM
ENEMY KILLER CENTER LODGE POLE
CALL 390-0219 TO SCHEDULE A RIDE
SPONSORED BY TIWAHE FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM

JOIN US
DONUTS WITH DAD
JUNE 17TH 2026
9AM TO 10AM
KILLS AT NIGHT CENTER HAYS
CALL 390-0219 TO SCHEDULE A RIDE
SPONSORED BY TIWAHE FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM

Teen Week! 2026
GET BEHIND THE WHEEL AND DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS!
06/29 06/30 07/01
YOUNG ADULTS (15-19) WITH NO EXPERIENCE CAN REGISTER TO ATTEND A ONE-DAY DRIVING WORKSHOP FROM 8 AM TO 5 PM ON MONTANA DRIVE'S CLOSED TRACK AT 1500 RACEWAY DR. IN LEWISTOWN, MT.

THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROVIDES MONTANA TEENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A MODIFIED MONTANA DRIVE WORKSHOP FREE OF CHARGE.

VISION ZERO **Montana DRIVE**
Call Avis @ Register Now! 353-8420

Field Trip June 10, 2026
Meet at Tiwahe 9:00 a.m.
call 406-399-3420 for a ride
Guide: Pat Ditmar
Sponsor: Renita Longknife
TIWAHE CULTURAL COORDINATOR
CALL 406-353-8349 TO SIGN UP
BRING A DIGGING TOOL

FORAGING FOR WILD TURNIPS
SNACKS AND WATER PROVIDED

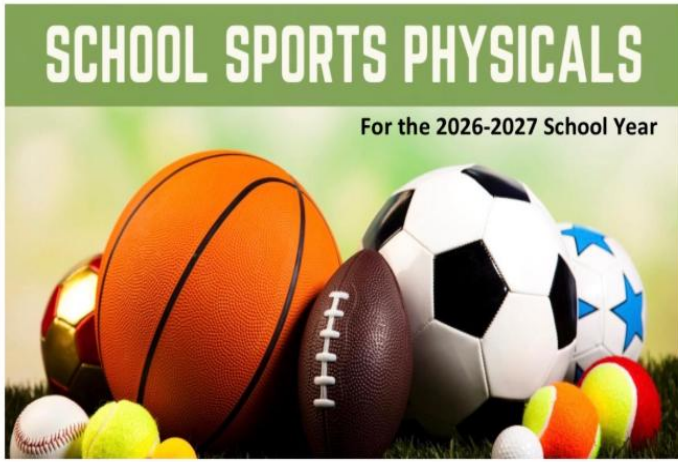
AGENCY YOUTH WELLNESS TASK FORCE PRESENTS
Pride Month
Color Me Fun Walk
Join us for a colorful celebration of love, community, and pride!
SATURDAY
JUNE 13, 2026
10:00 AM
Child Support Parking Lot
wear a shirt you don't mind getting colorful
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Upper Missouri River Breaks
National Monument

EVENT SCHEDULE **JUNE 2026**

6 1-2 PM	NATIONAL TRAILS DAY EVENT: VIRTUAL PADDLE DOWN THE MISSOURI 701 7 TH STREET, FORT BENTON, MT
12, 19 1-2 PM	BIRDING IN MONTANA AND ALONG THE MISSOURI RIVER 701 7 TH STREET, FORT BENTON, MT
16, 23, 30 10:30 AM-NOON	SUMMER EDUCATION PROGRAM WITH GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY 301 2 ND AVENUE NORTH, GREAT FALLS, MT
20 10 AM-4 PM	UMRBNM OUTREACH @ LEWIS AND CLARK FESTIVAL 4201 GIANT SPRINGS ROAD, GREAT FALLS, MT
27 10 AM-4 PM	SUMMER CELEBRATION PARADE AND RANGER ACTIVITIES 1718 FRONT STREET, FORT BENTON, MT

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC!
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 406-622-4000



Availability Now!!!

UPDATED MHSA PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EXAM REQUIREMENTS

A physical exam must be completed for a student to be considered eligible for participation in an Association contest. Physical exams must be completed prior to the first practice.

Physical examinations conducted May 1 and thereafter are valid for the following two school years.

All students entering 9th grade must have a physical after May 1st of the year they enter high school, regardless of whether they had one in 8th grade.

The following process should be followed:

- Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and their student will fill out the History portion of the form together.
 - The student and parent/guardian will sign the form.
- A medical provider will review the form with the student and parent/guardian and perform the exam. A signature from the medical provider is required to clear the student for participation.
- The completed MHSA Pre-participation Physical Exam form will be given to the appropriate school administrator.

Call to schedule! Fort Belknap Clinic – 353-3101

Eagle Child Health Center Hays – 673-3777



- Home Visits upon request or referral from provider.
- Immunizations
- Pregnancy testing
- STI screening
- Transportation for pre/postnatal appointments
- Foot Clinic
- Community Education
- Patient advocacy
- Head Lice screening

Contact Info
 Hays: (406)673-3809
 Agency: (406)353-3250
 LP: (406)673-3962



Integrated Mosquito Mangement

IMM uses a combination of methods to control mosquitoes based on an understanding of mosquito biology and the mosquito life cycle.

Larva control-larvaciding
Pesticide application-adulticide fogger
Source reduction

As the warmer weather approaches, we as a community can take steps to reduce mosquitoes by removing standing water. Turning over or throwing out any items that hold water. Mosquitoes only need a cup fill of water to lay eggs

Any questions please contact:
 Raelynn Rider, Sanitarian
 #106404-15
 Environmental Health/Sanitation
 at 406-353-8455

Fort Belknap Clinic
 669 Agency Main Street
 Harlem, MT 59526
 Hours: Monday – Friday 7:30am - 5pm

Emergency Room Services
 24 hours a day
 7 days a week!

Eagle Child Health Clinic
 453 Pine Grove Road
 Hays, MT 59527
 Hours: Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm



 Sheryl Holmes Family Nurse Practitioner 406-353-3101	 Lisa Scheresky-O'Neil Family Nurse Practitioner Nurse: Roxie, RN 406-353-3127	 Chinwendu Chineke Family Nurse Practitioner Nurse: Bethany, RN 406-353-3286	 Brian Reynolds, DO Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Nurse: Jana, RN 406-353-3207	 Michael Cowan Family Nurse Practitioner Nurse: Alyssa, RN 406-673-3777
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Case Management: Velvet, RN 406-353-3277 Megan, RN 406-353-3195	Optometry Fort Belknap 406-353-3106 Mon - Fri 7am - 5pm Hays: Tues & Thurs 9am-4pm	Lab Fort Belknap Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm Hays: Thurs 9am - 4pm	Pharmacy Mon - Fri 8:30am - 5pm Refill Line: 406-353-3105 Hays Refill: 406-673-3250
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Call for an appointment: 406-353-3101

Preventative Health Care • Chronic Health Conditions • Dental Care • Emergency Room

Our Mission: to raise the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level



CHR SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENT

- Medication Delivery Services.
- Transportation to Local Indian Health Service (IHS) Facilities.
- Home Visits and wellness checks.
- Community Outreach and Vital Screenings.
- Case Management.
- Patient Advocacy.

Please call to request a home visit for a patient.

Agency
 Joshalyn Morales: 406-353-3236
 Austin Afterbuffalo: 406-353-3236
 Lee Gray: 406-353-3242

Hays
 Staci Bradley: 406-353-3808
 Lacey Addy: 406-353-3808

Lodge Pole
 Cindy Cliff: 406-673-3962
 Michael Stiffarm: 406-353-3962

Dads & Kids Fishing Derby

DATE: Thursday, June 18, 2026
Time: 10AM to 2PM

***Door Prizes**

Prize for largest fish (by weight) caught in each category

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place in Each Age Category:

- 6 & Under: \$70 \$60 \$50
- 7 – 12: \$105 \$90 \$70
- 13 – 17: \$130 \$105 \$80
- 18 & Up: \$230 \$205 \$180

For more info please call the Fort Belknap Child Support office at 406-353-4230

Not responsible for accidents or injuries—Fish at your own risk!

Subject to change

Sack lunches for participants



Community Meetings

June 23, 2026

Agency (Community Center)

5:30 p.m.

June 24, 2026

Hays (Kills At Night)

5:30 p.m.

June 25, 2026

**Lodge Pole/Dodson
(Enemy Killer Center)**

5:30 p.m.



Fort Belknap Indian Community Council

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



JUNE 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 Regular Council Meeting	2	3	4 Finance Committee Meeting	5 Payday	6
7	8	9 Public Safety Committee Meeting	10 General Services Committee Meeting	11 Human Services Committee Meeting	12	13 Pay Period 13
14	15 Health Committee Meeting	16 Land Committee Meeting	17 Tribal Partner's Meeting	18 State Tribal Relations Committee (STRC) Tour/Meeting 9 AM - 4PM	19 Payday	20 Juneteenth HOLIDAY
21 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	22 Employee Appreciation Day	23 Agency Community Meeting 5:30 PM Agency Community Center Natural Resources Committee Meeting	24 Hays Community Meeting 5:30 PM Kills At Night Center Planning Committee Meeting	25 Lodge Pole/Dodson Community Meeting 5:30 PM Enemy Killer Center Director's Meeting	26	27 Pay Period 14
28	29 Executive Committee Meeting	30 Insurance Board Meeting				

Subject to change at anytime



FATHER'S DAY

Word Search



BARBECUE

BEER

BRAVE

CELEBRATE

CHILDREN

DEVOTED

DINNER

FAMILY

FOOTBALL

GIFTS

GREETING CARD

HANDSOME

HONOR

JUNE

LOVING

MEMORIES

MENTOR

NECKTIE

PRESENTS

RESPECT

SPECIAL

SUNDAY

SUPPORT

TOGETHER



SUMMER



— WORD SEARCH —

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

— WORD LIST —

BEACHCHAIR	HAMMOCK	RELAX	SNORKEL	SUNBATHING	TALLGRASS
BEACH UMBRELLA	ICE CREAM	SAILBOAT	STARFISH	SUNFLOWER	TENDER COCONUT
BUCKET AND SHOVEL	LAGOON	SCUBA	STRAWBERRY	SUNSCREEN	THEME PARK
CAMPING	LIFEGUARD	SEAGULL	SUMMER	SUNSHINE	VACATION
FLIP FLOPS	PALMTREE	SHELL	SUN	SURFING	WATERMELON