



MACo news

Vol. 36 No. 6 June 2007

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So, Don't You Wish the Legislators Were Still in Helena? (And Other Pearls of Wisdom)

Message from MACo President, John Prinkki



It has been several weeks since the end of the 2007 Montana Legislative Session and the Special Session that was called to finalize the State's budget, and I am still not sure what all happened. I hope that Harold and Sheryl are able to sort it all out for us at the upcoming District Meetings. I plan to attend all of them and look forward to visiting with you.

I feel that it is very important that I let everyone know how much time and effort that our Executive Director, Harold Blattie,

and Associate Director, Sheryl Wood, put into this 2007 Legislative Session. I know that both Harold and Sheryl were working 12 to 14-hour days, six days a week, which is pretty darn close to farmers hours. Harold and Sheryl earned the respect of the Legislators and were able to have the majority of MACo Resolutions signed into law; some others were withdrawn or merged into other legislators' bills. That's a pretty good batting average (over 750 ISA).

I also gained alot of respect for most—not all—of the Legislators who served this session. They also put in very long days and took their roles in making Montana a better place to live very seriously. Adopting legislation is not an easy process. Listening to hours and hours of testimony, some of which made sense and was direct to the issue at hand, requires alot of patience, attention, and a belief that each of us has a right to be heard.

The process can be very frustrating. It can make you angry over the narrow-minded vision of some. It can make you glad that you were able to prevail and that the majority saw the issue your way and held the same beliefs. But most of all, it can make you appreciate that we have the opportunity to participate in our government, and that we should never take that for granted. We will never always agree on every issue, but it is truly a cherished heritage to be able to argue about them.

MACo Scholarship Given to Dell

John Prinkki, MACo President and Carbon County Commissioner, announced the awards of the 2007 MACo President's Scholarships.

Lisa Dell, a graduating senior from Bridger High School is the winner of the \$1,000 Montana Association of Counties 2007 President's Scholarship, and Jennifer Turk, a graduating senior from Joliet High School is the winner of the \$500 scholarship.

The scholarship competition is based upon merit and offered to eligible graduating seniors from the president's home county, who plan to attend a Montana community college or 4-year degree unit of the University System.

"Our MACo Executive Committee members who made the selections were very impressed with the Carbon County applicants," Prinkki said. "The students and their families certainly can take a great deal of pride in their selection for the awards." Certificates were presented to Dell and Turk at their high schools.



MACo News

Mark Your Calendars

<i>June</i>	
June 5	District 4 & 5: 10 a.m. at the Choteau County Club, Choteau: Blaine Co., Choteau Co., Hill Co., Cascade Co., Glacier Co., Pondera Co., Teton Co., Toole Co., Liberty Co.
June 7	District 1, 2 & 3: 9 a.m. at the Broadus Community Center (107 S. Wilbur Street): Daniels Co., Phillips Co., Roosevelt Co., Sheridan Co., Valley Co., Dawson Co., Garfield Co., McCone Co., Prairie Co., Richland Co., Wibaux, Carter Co., Custer Co., Fallon Co., Powder River Co., Rosebud Co., Treasure Co.
June 10 - 14	Montana Assoc. of Clerk of Courts Annual Conference, Cut Bank
June 11	District 10 & 11: 10 a.m. at the Mineral County Court House in Superior: Flathead Co., Lake Co., Lincoln Co., Sanders Co., Mineral Co., Missoula Co., Ravalli Co.
June 13	District 6 & 7: 10 a.m. at the Geyser Senior Center, Stanford: Fergus Co., Musselshell Co., Petroleum Co., Wheatland Co., Golden Valley Co., Big Horn Co., Carbon Co., Stillwater Co., Sweet Grass Co., Judith Basin Co., Yellowstone Co.
June 14	District 8, 9 & 12: 10 a.m. at the Beaverhead Search & Rescue, Dillon: Broadwater Co., Jefferson Co., Lewis & Clark Co., Beaverhead Co., Anaconda-Deer Lodge Co., Gallatin Co., Meagher Co., Park Co., Granite Co., Butte-Silver Bow Co., Madison Co., Powell Co.
June 15	Insurance Trustees- Defense Council Joint Meeting
June 19 - 20	Montana Association of Oil, Gas & Coal Counties Annual Meeting, Lewistown
June 20 - 22	Montana Sheriffs & Peace Officers Assoc. Annual Conference, Helena
June 27	MACo Board of Directors Meeting
June 27 - 29	Montana County Attorneys Association Annual Conference, West Yellowstone
<i>July</i>	
July 12 - 18	NACo Annual Conference, Richmond, VA
<i>August</i>	
Aug. 7 - 10	Western Planners Association Conference, Dickinson, ND
Aug. 20 - 24	Montana Clerk & Records Association Annual Conference, Great Falls
<i>September</i>	
Sept. 17 - 19	Montana Treasurers Annual Conference, Missoula
Sept. 23 - 26	MACo Annual Conference, Great Falls
Sept. 30 - Oct. 4	Magistrates Fall Conference

MACo Request for Proposals

Name of Project: Network Assessment, Maintenance, and Support

Contact Person: Sheryl Wood, Associate Director
Phone: 406-444-4360
Fax: 406-442-5238
Email: swood@maco.cog.mt.us

Proposal Due: June 8, 2007; 5 p.m., MST
Late Proposals Will Not Be Accepted

Submittal Location:
Montana Association of Counties
Attn: Sheryl Wood, Associate Director
2715 Skyway Drive
Helena, MT 59602

Purpose—MACo is seeking a person or firm to:

1. Evaluate, recommend, and perform system performance checks and enhancements
2. Evaluate, recommend, and implement a network security program
3. Evaluate, recommend, and install a reliable network backup/disaster recovery system
4. Evaluate, recommend, and install necessary software updates
5. Inventory and evaluate software licensing compliance
6. Ongoing maintenance and support of current computers and network system
7. Recycling/disposal of old equipment

Scope of Work:

1. Ongoing maintenance of current systems
2. Analysis of the technology needs for MACo
3. Assessment of necessary upgrades to existing systems and improvements to create a well-functioning, reliable infrastructure
4. Determine upgrades and/or replacement of existing workstations—recommend software
5. Plan/install a secure, reliable backup/disaster recovery system
6. Recycle/dispose of old equipment, including destruction/removal of data from hard drives

For more information, please go to the MACo Website, www.maco.cog.mt.us, or enter the following URL into your web browser: <http://www.maco.cog.mt.us/pages/TechServicesRFP.pdf>.

MACo News Invites Letters to the Editor

If you have a compliment, complaint, or suggestion, please let us know!

Please include your name and county with your letter, and email your thoughts to:



Phone:
406.444.4380

macopb@maco.cog.mt.us
or
Send directly to MACo News, 2715 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT 59602 -1213.

Get a Wonderfully Crafted MACo Pin



Made by Montana Silversmiths for Only \$25



Risk Management

Injury Prevention for Summer Sports

Provided by Federal Occupation Health, Department of Health and Human Services, <http://www.foh.dhhs.gov/>

It's been weeks since you had to use your umbrella. The days are getting longer and temperatures are on the rise. This can mean only one thing—spring is here and summer is just around the corner! With this in mind you might be tempted to sign up for that tennis tournament going on this weekend or maybe head for the park for a game of basketball. Don't reach for your racket and head for the courts quite yet, and hold off on picking teams for the basketball game. Read the following information to ensure your summer sporting experience is safe and injury-free.



soned pro, when the thermometer starts to creep above 90 degrees you're putting yourself at risk for heat related illnesses. Fluid replenishment before, during, and after your activity is essential. Always consume more water than you think you need, and don't wait until you are thirsty to drink up. When possible, don't plan sporting events between 10

a.m. and 3 p.m. (the hottest times of the day) and wear light colored, well-ventilated, loose fitting clothing. Never underestimate the importance of shade. Before you start playing outside, do some research to make sure shade is close, and if not bring your own umbrella or tarp to rest under.

Your body can generate 15-20 times the amount of heat it normally produces with hard physical work. Not only should you be aware of the signals your body sends as it begins to heat up, you need to act accordingly. Stop all activity and call a doctor if you develop a headache, lose coordination, feel dizzy, develop muscle cramps, stop sweating, or begin to feel nauseous—all could be signs of heat-related illnesses. Know when to quit playing. Commonsense goes a long way in preventing heat related illnesses.

Enjoy the warm weather and all the opportunities it provides for outdoor activities. Just be sure to keep safety in mind and take the necessary precautions needed for a safe and healthy summer. After all, fun in the summer sun only applies if you're injury free!

Conditioning for Summer Sports

If your winter workouts consisted mainly of sprints to and from the refrigerator during commercials, don't plan on returning to your favorite sport in the same condition you left in last year—or more importantly don't try to. Too much activity too soon and you might be enjoying the season on the sidelines as a spectator. Instead, ease into your activity at a comfortable level and gradually increase the duration and intensity over a period of 4-6 weeks. Try starting with 30 minutes of cardiovascular exercise 3 days a week, eventually working up to 40-45 minutes 4-5 days a week. Starting slowly helps you build endurance and allows your body to adjust to the new stresses put on it.

Safety Equipment

Real athletes don't wear protective equipment, right? Wrong! Everyone needs protective gear—everyone. Helmets are important insurance against head and neck injuries when your summer sports include bike riding, inline skating, baseball, horseback riding, and skateboarding. Bottom line, if your head is in danger of being struck or there is a chance you might fall at a high rate of speed, wear a helmet. Safety experts also recommend practicing how to fall. Avoid the tendency to tense up and stretch your arms out to break a fall. Instead, relax as much as possible and roll with the fall. Don't forget wrist guards, elbow protectors, kneepads, lifejackets, and mouthpieces when appropriate. As for sunscreen, aim for a SPF of 15 or higher and make sure it's sweat-proof.

Beat the Heat

It doesn't matter if you're a weekend warrior or a sea-

MACo
Risk Management and Training
Emelia McEwen
Senior Loss Control Specialist
Fred Hansen
Loss Control Specialist
Phone (406) 444-4370
FAX (406) 442-5238



County News

CORRECTED: Population Estimates for Montana Counties April 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006

County	July 1, 2005	July 1, 2006	Difference
Beaverhead County	8,778	8,743	-35
Big Horn County	13,076	13,035	-41
Blaine County	6,634	6,615	-19
Broadwater County	4,506	4,572	66
Carbon County	9,895	9,903	8
Carter County	1,320	1,321	1
Cascade County	79,490	79,385	-105
Chouteau County	5,464	5,417	-47
Custer County	11,256	11,151	-105
Daniels County	1,825	1,774	-51
Dawson County	8,629	8,624	-5
Deer Lodge County	8,986	8,888	-98
Fallon County	2,709	2,717	8
Fergus County	11,503	11,496	-7
Flathead County	83,079	85,314	2,235
Gallatin County	78,262	80,921	2,659
Garfield County	1,211	1,244	33
Glacier County	13,522	13,578	56
Golden Valley County	1,146	1,150	4
Granite County	2,932	2,909	-23
Hill County	16,276	16,403	127
Jefferson County	11,136	11,256	120
Judith Basin County	2,170	2,142	-28
Lake County	28,275	28,606	331
Lewis and Clark County	58,387	59,302	915
Liberty County	1,967	1,863	-104
Lincoln County	19,182	19,226	44
McCone County	1,776	1,760	-16
Madison County	7,252	7,404	152
Meagher County	1,961	1,968	7
Mineral County	4,033	4,057	24
Missoula County	100,033	101,417	1,384
Musselshell County	4,474	4,586	112
Park County	15,965	16,084	119
Petroleum County	462	474	12
Phillips County	4,135	4,098	-37
Pondera County	6,084	6,032	-52
Powder River County	1,714	1,756	42
Powell County	6,968	6,997	29
Prairie County	1,090	1,074	-16
Ravalli County	39,822	40,582	760
Richland County	9,163	9,295	132
Roosevelt County	10,601	10,496	-105
Rosebud County	9,279	9,261	-18
Sanders County	11,009	11,138	129
Sheridan County	3,517	3,447	-70
Silver Bow County	32,876	32,801	-75
Stillwater County	8,468	8,646	178
Sweet Grass County	3,698	3,760	62
Teton County	6,174	6,115	-59
Toole County	5,174	5,073	-101
Treasure County	694	680	-14
Valley County	7,144	6,995	-149
Wheatland County	2,025	1,959	-66
Wibaux County	944	909	-35
Yellowstone County	136,586	138,213	1,627
Montana State	934,737	944,632	9,895



County News

County Officials

POWELL COUNTY Treasurer Dalice Rogers retired as of April 30, 2007 after 28 years of public service. Lisa Smith took over the reins as of May 1, 2007 after being appointed by the county commission.

DANIELS COUNTY Sheriff's Department has a new deputy, Chad Oswald, who was officially on the job as of April 1, 2007. He joins Sheriff Skip Baldry and Undersheriff Joe Fouhy on the three-person staff.

MADISON COUNTY Planning Director Doris Fischer is resigning. Her last day is June 30, giving the county

time to find a replacement. She plans to take the summer off and then look for work in planning while remaining in the Ruby Valley.

CARTER COUNTY has selected Christina Schmid of Broadus as the new County Superintendent of Schools. Schmid has some 19 years of experience in education along with three Masters Degrees in educational fields and is currently working on her Doctorate in Education.

STILLWATER COUNTY's Deputy County Attorney Patrick Begley resigned from his post. His last official day was May 9, according to County Commission Chairman Dennis Hoyem.

Subdivisions

GALLATIN COUNTY commissioners gave preliminary plat approval to a high-density subdivision west of Belgrade. The Country's Edge subdivision plans call for 91 lots on just over 60 acres that was formerly the 4-Dot Equine Station, a now closed horse facility, and is adjacent to the 4-Dot Meadows subdivision.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY commissioners approved the preliminary plat for the 15-lot Silverwood major subdivision.

MISSOULA COUNTY commissioners approved Cheyenne Lane, a 16-home subdivision on an east Missoula lot of just under three acres.

MINERAL COUNTY commissioners voted to approve the 70-lot Mountain River Estates subdivision, attaching 46 conditions for approval.

TETON COUNTY Planning Board gave preliminary approval to a 33-lot subdivision to be developed on the southeast edge of Teton County. The proposed 543-acre Golden Pond Estates major subdivision would consist of lots that range from

five acres to 30 acres laid out so that an existing trout pond borders most of their rear lot lines.

Miscellaneous

LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY Treasurer/Clerk and Recorder Paulette DeHart told commissioners that the county had earned more than \$2 million in interest on its investments so far this fiscal year. Two months remain in the budget year.

CASCADE COUNTY commissioners okayed a rezoning that paves the way for construction of a \$3 million plant, which would process Montana-grown cereal grains and create many new jobs.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY Weed Board has added two new weeds to the noxious weeds list: Swainson Pea and Scentless Chamomile. The county can't authorize treatment for any plants not on the list.

GALLATIN COUNTY commissioners gave the nod to a conservation easement on a 603-acre parcel of farmland. The property, on Bitterroot Road northwest of Four Corners and west of the Gallatin River, has been farmed by the Bolhuis family for close to a century.

Granite County: Planning Director Position

The Board of Granite County Commissioners will accept applications starting June 8, 2007, until filled, for the half-time position of Planning Director. This important job will influence how this rural area of Montana will meet the future needs of the residents. Good things about this work include an excellent citizen's Planning Board, a current growth policy recently adopted after a vote of the people of Granite County, and an engaged board of commissioners. Starting wage depends on experience. The job is based in spectacular and historic Philipsburg. The days for this job are generally Tuesdays and Thursdays, with several evenings expected per month. Interested candidates are invited to contact the Granite County Commission Office at commissioner@co.granite.mt.us, or via phone at (406) 859-3771 for further information and a job description.

MACo Property and Casualty Insurance AND Workers' Compensation Insurance

For Public Entities

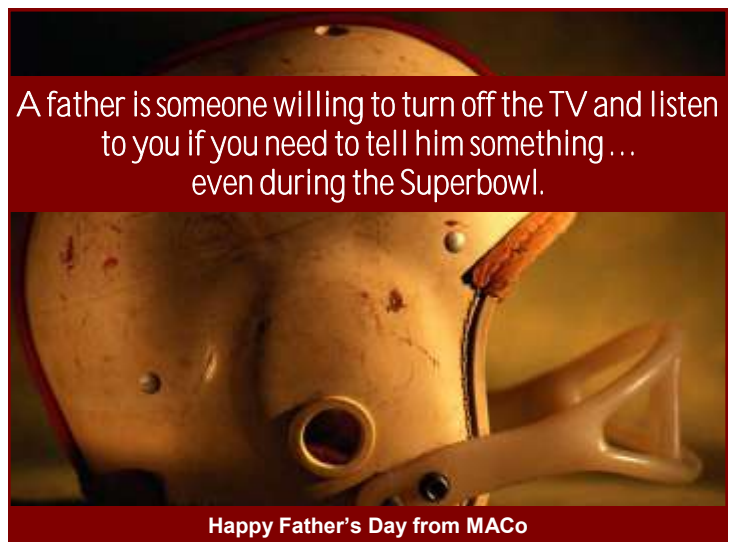
Greg Jackson

JPIA/JPA

Marketing Director

Phone 444-4370

macoim@maco.cog.mt.us



A father is someone willing to turn off the TV and listen to you if you need to tell him something ... even during the Superbowl.

Happy Father's Day from MACo



County News

DEQ Subdivision Applications and Lots

<u>County Name</u>	<u>Total Apps FY00</u>	<u>Total Lots FY00</u>	<u>Total Apps FY01</u>	<u>Total Lots FY01</u>	<u>Total Apps FY02</u>	<u>Total Lots FY02</u>	<u>Total Apps FY03</u>	<u>Total Lots FY03</u>	<u>Total Apps FY04</u>	<u>Total Lots FY04</u>	<u>Total Apps FY05</u>	<u>Total Lots FY05</u>	<u>Total Apps FY06</u>	<u>Total Lots FY06</u>
Beaverhead	21	34	14	63	12	17	17	97	15	41	9	18	10	30
Big Horn	3	5	5	18	1	1	3	92	5	12	3	28	3	4
Blaine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Broadwater	14	64	11	98	15	59	19	131	15	193	27	224	24	488
Carbon	35	107	30	53	25	63	31	54	33	70	25	145	28	263
Carter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	23	0	0
Cascade	38	207	29	130	22	75	20	134	28	67	31	133	33	118
Choteau	1	1	2	3	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Custer	0	0	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	4	1	1
Daniels	0	0	4	8	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0
Dawson	1	2	2	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Deer Lodge	15	46	3	13	4	8	8	54	10	40	14	78	13	66
Fallon	0	0	2	2	5	8	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	2
Fergus	6	9	5	13	12	77	10	27	4	9	0	0	0	0
Flathead	261	1000	256	740	243	824	352	1092	413	1302	404	1546	389	1305
Gallatin	119	636	105	1084	144	1286	105	793	107	1122	155	793	147	1762
Garfield	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Glacier	1	1	2	4	2	4	2	4	1	1	2	6	7	16
Golden Valley	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Granite	9	51	6	13	9	22	6	14	5	7	14	114	7	37
Hill	3	7	4	23	1	2	6	12	1	6	6	12	3	3
Jefferson	25	78	14	57	24	49	25	31	17	47	29	122	33	177
Judith Basin	1	2	0	0	2	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake	74	433	73	239	73	212	79	130	68	187	96	222	110	536
Lewis & Clark	66	361	75	503	91	409	83	226	88	394	67	429	115	1160
Liberty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	73	157	77	189	62	150	88	184	93	242	88	232	117	1153
Madison	31	449	22	87	23	99	27	158	45	349	52	353	59	387
McCone	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meagher	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1
Mineral	15	76	6	27	13	50	11	24	4	61	20	54	15	46
Missoula	72	311	95	281	91	247	124	202	114	640	132	425	104	409
Musselshell	0	0	0	0	5	6	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Park	22	62	26	71	31	77	28	71	21	59	23	80	36	128
Petroleum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phillips	1	1	2	4	0	0	3	33	0	0	3	9	2	3
Pondera	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	0
Powder River	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Powell	7	6	6	8	2	2	6	23	1	5	2	6	5	44
Prairie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0
Ravalli	133	283	140	388	135	354	135	243	167	448	174	718	138	1103
Richland	6	8	2	5	4	4	7	8	2	2	3	2	1	1
Roosevelt	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Rosebud	4	46	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	0
Sanders	40	116	22	59	35	56	38	94	45	127	54	185	73	234
Sheridan	1	1	4	3	2	2	2	3	0	0	2	2	0	0
Silver Bow	13	96	7	12	11	21	7	26	7	17	16	127	14	66
Stillwater	25	91	16	105	20	78	21	38	24	61	18	43	19	75
Sweetgrass	4	10	7	9	11	140	5	25	3	3	9	17	3	9
Teton	2	3	6	6	9	13	7	7	6	6	5	5	5	6
Toole	4	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	7	0	0	1	1
Treasure	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Valley	2	4	1	8	5	156	3	28	3	21	3	5	1	8
Wheatland	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wibaux	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellowstone	57	503	62	397	44	255	67	623	68	445	79	638	80	525
Totals	1208	5280	1154	4742	1198	4853	1354	4692	1429	6010	1585	6814	1603	10171

To view years preceding FY 2000, please go to the MACo Website: www.maco.cog.mt.us.



County Spotlight

Who is Mike McGinley: Profile

Mike McGinley: Beaverhead County Commissioner

If you have a spouse, what is her name?

Colette

How many years have you been in public service?

7 ½ years as County Commissioner, but I have been in public service all of my life, i.e., Key Club in High School, Circle K in College, 20-year volunteer Fireman for the Dillon Fire Department.

What is your occupation (s)?

County Commissioner and Owner of Beaverhead Meats

What did you do professionally before becoming a commissioner?

Owned and operated Beaverhead Meats since April of 1993

Education. Where and what did you study?

Montana State University – 1 year

What is the hardest thing you've ever done?

Complete these questions.

Name three people (living or dead) you'd invite to dinner? (can be anyone)

Walt Garrison, Emmitt Smith, Tom Landry

What is a dream you have?

No comment.

What is something people would be surprised to learn about you?

I am one of 12 kids in my family.

What is the most adventurous thing you've ever done?

At the age of 50 I ran a 26.2-mile marathon.



Fantasy Dinner

Mike McGinley and the three people he would invite to dinner (from left to right): Walt Garrison, Emmitt Smith, and Tom Landry.

What is your favorite way to relax?

Steak BBQ in my backyard with friends and family

What are you most proud of?

My kids.

Jessica—married, 2 kids, business

owner in Bozeman

Rachael—4th year Med Student at

Colorado University

David—current manager of Beaverhead Meats

Jake—Up-coming senior at Beaverhead County High School

What is something you read every morning and/or night?

The Montana Standard, I have to read it with coffee before anything else.

What is your favorite meal?

Rib steak

What is your pet peeve?

Lazy people who can't think for themselves.

What is your motto?

P.M.A.—Positive Mental Attitude—I do believe if you want to change the world, change your attitude, and the world will indeed change.

What was the last book you read?

Celestine Prophecy (Ever wonder what to do with a gut-feeling?)

What is your favorite movie?

Clint Eastwood westerns

If you would like to contact Commissioner Mike McGinley, he can be reached by phone or email: 406-683-4632 (home), 406-683-3750 (work), mmcginley@co.beaverhead.mt.us.



County Spotlight

Gallatin County: Web Site Tracks County's Growth

By Dave Richardson, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer

See some bulldozers churning up the ground on the land next door? Want to find out what's going on?

Information about subdivisions proposed and going up throughout Gallatin County is now just a few mouse clicks away, thanks to a high-tech mapping system available on the county's Web site.

The county's Graphic Information System department already has a comprehensive, interactive map system online that shows every conceivable detail—from appraised values to the amount of last year's tax bill—on every existing property in the county.

Now, some of the same information is available for subdivisions still winding their way through the planning and approval process.

The system, which went live this recently, offers a detailed list showing the name of the proposed subdivision, where it is, how many proposed lots it contains, and who the developer is.

A link next to each project opens an interactive map, showing the project site from an aerial view, complete with street names and other information.

"Before this you'd have to walk into the planning office, talk to the planner assigned to that area to find out what's happening, and that was just not very user friendly," said Allen Armstrong, the county's GIS direc-

tor.

"We worked with the planning staff to put all of their information into one database where people can see it, get an idea of a project's size, what developer is behind it, and see it on a map," Armstrong said.

County planner Warren Vaughan said the system will be useful to planners and county commissioners. But it will also give the public a powerful new way to visualize the county's continuing rapid growth.

"We're trying to make it a way to get information out there, so everyone can get a bird's-eye view of the changes we are seeing around here," Vaughan said.

Armstrong said the idea for the system came from Commissioner Steve White shortly after he was elected last year.

"I just thought it would be something that would be beneficial to the public," White said. "They just grabbed onto the idea. What they came up is an excellent tool and a great addition to the county's Web site."

"And anything that improves citizens' access to county government without them having to get in their car is a good thing," White said.

The map system can be accessed by clicking the "Interactive Mapping" icon on the main page of the county's Web site, at www.gallatin.mt.gov.



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Western Interstate Region Conference Report

By Alan Thompson, Montana Public Lands Steering Committee Representative, Ravalli County Commissioner

Fairbanks Alaska, May, 9-11, 2007

The first meeting I attended was a breakfast meeting dealing with rural obesity. The charts and graphs that were used to show what is happening in our country were very dramatic. The program was an open forum with lots of exchange of ideas as to what we as counties can do to help the problem. Commissioner Beltrone was the moderator and has all the information, and I am sure will present this same information to us at our annual conference in Great Falls.

Public Lands Steering Committee Meeting

The Chair of this committee is Elizabeth Archuleta, Supervisor, Coconino County, AZ and Vice Chairs are Reta Griffin, WV and Collen Macleod, OR. The meeting was called to order and introductions were made of the committee members around the table. The interest in this meeting seemed to be at an all-time high as there were many extra people listening to our discussions. The two candidates for NACo vice-president addressed us and explained their reasons for running.

Speaker: Mr. Randall Luthi, Deputy Director, U.S Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior

Mr. Luthi expressed a desire to hear from counties as far as trying to make the department function better. He explained that he is a political appointee and will be gone as soon as this administration leaves office. However, he still feels that there is a lot of work that can be accomplished by this administration. He said the department is committed to public service, and the days of work being done from the top down are over. They need to hear from the counties and try to work from the bottom up. The department is working to improve the Endangered Species Act (ESA). As of April 30 there were 1359 species that have been put on the ESA. At this time 15 are considered recovered, and 9 have gone extinct. He said we need to change from listing to recovery. Many species are pro-

tected by local governments and by private interests. Once a species is recovered, we need to de-list it. All actions in the last 30 years have been driven by conservation litigation. Some examples he gave for work that has been done and species still on the recovery list included 98,000 pair of bald eagles, 6500 miles of stream habitat that has been restored and two million acres of enhancements for Federal Lands. They mainly offer technical support. He talked about resources that exist that we have not tapped, such as 1.9 billion barrels of oil in Southern Wyoming.

He spoke about climate change and global warming, which is a hot topic these days. Secretary Kempthorne has put together a task force to look at what is happening. According to him scientists are saying yes and no, however they feel that we should be responsible for healthy lands, sustainable resources, and abundant wildlife.

Presentation: NMAC Illegal Dumping Initiative
Mike Anaya, Commissioner, Santa Fe County, NM
Maj. Ron Madrid, Santa Fe County Law Enforcement, NM; Ms. Joy Esparsen, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, NMAC; Ms. Joyce Fierro, BLM Liaison to NMAC

This presentation had to do with the problem of illegal dumping on government lands and what they are doing about it. We all have the same problems that exist; there to varying degrees. They had a power point presentation showing what the areas looked like before and after. The dumping effects the landscape, water quality, and wildlife. Federal, State and private lands were all impacted. To start the clean up they made sure transfer stations were open later, did away with fees, and used County inmate work teams to clean-up the areas. The State allocated \$10,000 to purchase fencing and the BLM provided work crews to build fences to limit accesses. Berms were dug to discourage off-road vehicles. County worked with State and

"WIR Conference" Continued on Page 10 . . .

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WIR Conference: *Continued from Page 9*

other agencies to solve problems. I have the DVD of the power point and can give it to anyone interested.

Presentation: Cyanide Use in Gold Mines; Jim Ignatius, Commissioner, Teller County, CO

Commissioner Ignatius explained the process for removing gold from rock and how much mining benefits his county. I found the presentation very enlightening and must confess that I was so enrapt that I forgot to take notes. However he did show how cyanide is used and explained how it disappears quickly in the environment. He also showed various pictures of what the process looks like during the mining and how it looks after the clean up and restoration. I'm sure anyone who is interested in his program can get information and possibly a DVD directly from Commissioner Ignatius.

Annual Conference Resolution Preview & Discussion

This was somewhat the technical meat of our conference in that there are procedures that need to be followed if we want to present resolutions. We went over all the requirements and changes that are being instituted. Resolutions must be reaffirmed by the committee or they will be dropped from our list of action items. Each of us were given three pages of information that we need to read and understand. It's time consuming but necessary.

Update on Public Lands Legislative Priorities

Paul Beddoe conducted this portion of the meeting and gave us the latest updates. He said he has been consumed with SRS for the last several months. The House will split the emergency funding bill into two parts with one part attached to the Katrina Relief Bill, this bill would hopefully look at 5 year reauthorization. The second bill would look at reauthorization for one year only. Paul said that the Senate does not like the bills split and with all the action at the Capitol at this time this information could be

old. He did ask us to call our House members and try to get them to go along with the Senate who wants full PILT funding and reauthorization for five years. There has been a lot of volunteers in Washington lobbying for the reauthorization.

He said there is nothing happening with the forest health initiative at this moment. We then went over the draft resolutions that were presented and the committee made some minor changes that we could all agree on. The resolutions dealt mainly with our platform on ESA and then there were several dealing with impacts to Gateway Communities. I will have those resolutions after the annual conference and detail what was passed at that time. There isn't much sense in detailing each resolution if they change before being adopted. We ran a little long on our meeting and finally adjourned, so many of us could attend a meeting on PILT.

PILT Meeting

This was a follow-up meeting to the one that was called in Washington. We looked at inequities that exist and, there was alot of comment as to how various people wanted the changes to be made. We talked about decoupling prior year payments. Senate has full funding for PILT attached to the War Supplemental Bill and if it passes it would fund for five years. There was a general worry that if we put to much pressure to change the formula at this time, that it would jeopardize funding. Most people were concerned with their own allocation but did agree that those at the bottom need to be brought up without reducing funding for the counties that receive more monies now.

I enjoyed the conference and attended several workshops that will help me be a better representative. Alaska was a neat place to visit, but Montana has it beat hands down for beauty and climate. Look forward to seeing everyone and giving a full report of the annual conference in Great Falls.

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“When a man retires, his wife gets twice the husband, but only half the income.”

At least that’s what golfer Chi Chi Rodriguez had to say.

“The question isn’t at what age I want to retire, it’s at what income.”

That’s what boxer George Foreman told people.

A sheriff’s lieutenant in Douglas County, Nevada in the late 1980s gave a cub reporter the advice that it’s important to take a little bit of retirement every year because you don’t know if you’ll be able to take it when you are of retirement age.

Ah, retirement age. What does that mean — now, 50, 55, 65, 72, never?

According to Nationwide Retirement Solutions, public employees average \$30,000 in their retirement accounts, while private sector workers average \$70,000.

The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College believes people should shoot for being able to live on 73 percent of their current income once they retire. The problem is retirees don’t always have that much saved. “I wish I had started saving at 25 because I would be retired by now,” said Jim Ley, county administrator for Sarasota County, Fla. The 58-year-old hopes to retire at 60. “Had I saved sooner, I would have more options in my life.”

A mentor convinced Ley at age 38 to start saving for retirement. Each pay period a portion of his gross pay goes into Nationwide’s deferred compensation plan. Nationwide has been NACo’s sole provider of 457s (the IRS code number for the plan) since 1980.

Getting younger employees to invest in their future is a dilemma counties across the nation face. This “me” generation — the “entitlement” generation — doesn’t expect a gold watch in 30 years. The problem is those workers don’t intend to stay at a job long. Statistics show that even Gen Xers, the oldest of whom are 42, are not likely to retire from the job they started out of high school or college.

With the savings rate in the United States at the lowest it has been since the Great Depression, the alarm

bells are deafening. While sifting through the din of negativity, county workers need to wash away the illusion of Nirvana and realize it’s up to them to create a retirement portfolio.

“I would say budgeting for retirement is like budgeting for food, clothing, housing and other necessities,” said Daniel Chadwick, executive director of the Idaho Association of Counties based in Boise. “Salaries aren’t always as much as we’d like them to be. Younger workers worry about living today as opposed to saving for the future.”

Celine Smania, 47, started putting money into a deferred compensation program seven years ago — two years after being hired by the El Dorado County (Calif.) Sheriff’s Department. Financial instability and procrastination are why money wasn’t diverted the first two years. Since then, her contribution has fluctuated between \$50 and \$300 depending on household demands. Smania is like most county workers: saving for retirement wasn’t a priority upon hire.

“I think for the new employees, the younger ones, you need to train them on the importance of saving for retirement,” Chadwick said. “It’s one thing to have them part of the retirement program that is provided by the county, it’s another to get them beyond the one program and save themselves. Nationwide has a great computer model that shows how saving will compound over time.”

Nationwide’s Web site has an example of a 20-year-old deferring \$50 a week with an 8 percent return. At 38, the age Ley began his deferred comp plan, the account would total \$100,000. Keeping the same contribution, that 20-year-old’s account would be \$1 million when he or she retired at 65.

Ley talks to his workers about retirement being a three-pronged approach — Social Security, local-state retirement plan and personal savings.

“We live in a materialistic society. You are looking to get a house, then the next house, the car,” he said. “If you have kids, then you are thinking about saving for their education. The demands of the day make it very difficult to think about the future.” *Retirement Continued on Page 14 . . .*



The National Association of Counties (NACo), in Partnership with Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS), and state associations of counties, provides county employees with a Section 457 Deferred Compensation Program.

Since its inception in 1980, NACo’s 457 Deferred Compensation Program has grown to become the largest supplemental retirement program available to county employees.

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Announcements & Reminders

Local Governments Key to Success of 2010 Census

Provided by the **Congressional Affairs Office, U.S. Bureau of the Census**

The Census Bureau estimates there will be more than 310 million people living in more than 130 million households across the country by 2010. The partnership of local governments is vital to accomplish the feat of counting every person living in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Factoring in an increasingly diverse population, the rise in immigration and a record number of languages spoken by respondents, the need for a complete and accurate address list to mail or hand-deliver questionnaires will play a critical role in obtaining an accurate population count in the next census.

Although the 2010 Census is still three years away, the U.S. Census Bureau has begun mailing informational booklets to all state, local and tribal governments about a program for them to provide updated addresses for their communities ¾ known as the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program.

This joint and voluntary program between the Census Bureau and your local government is the official start of the 2010 Census, which depends on a complete and accurate address list. Your assistance in assuring the residents in your community are counted is crucial to a successful census.

“Census data drive reapportionment and redistricting decisions and directly affect the distribution of more than \$200 billion in federal funding each year,” said Doug Palmer, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. “In order to get money for public health, education, transportation and much more, mayors across the country need to take the lead and work to get a complete count of their city’s population in 2010 ¾ LUCA is the first step.”

In partnership with the Census Bureau, local governments will use their area knowledge to improve the list of addresses for housing units and group quarters, including growth from new construction or annexation.

After registering for LUCA between July 2007 and January 2008, participating governments will receive review materials and will have 120 days to review and improve the address list.

The information contained in the address list is confidential by law, and those governments that choose to participate in the LUCA program will be provided an option to review the Census Bureau’s address list. Like all census employees, those who review and update a confidential address list are subject to a jail term, a fine or both if they disclose any protected information.

After LUCA but prior to the 2010 Census questionnaire delivery, address listers will perform a field canvass across the country to make sure the latest address list is correct. Using GPS mapping on hand-held computers, workers will be able to update information electronically while out in the field.

“The Census Bureau has moved beyond being a ‘pen and paper’ census and is now utilizing new technology in order to improve the speed and accuracy of census operations in the field,” said Census Bureau Deputy Director Preston Jay Waite. “We are mandated by the Constitution to count the population every 10 years, and with the reengineering of the 2010 Census, we will be well equipped to fulfill this mandate.”

Dating back to the nation’s first census in 1790, the 2010 Census will have one of the shortest census questionnaires in the history of the United States. Asking just seven questions, including name, sex, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether you own or rent your home, the questionnaire will take respondents only about 10 minutes to fill out.

For more information, visit the 2010 Census LUCA Program at <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/luca2010/luca.html>.



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Announcements & Reminders

Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity Program

You are invited to a training that the Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity Program is hosting in Livingston, MT, June 25-27 on using the Nutrition Environments Measures Survey (NEMS). The NEMS tool can assist community members in completing an assessment of their community's nutrition environment. Researchers, community leaders, and advocates can use the results of the assessment to plan improvements in the local nutrition environment.

To find out more about NEMS, go to <http://www.sph.emory.edu/NEMS/in2.htm>. **Registration ends June 11, 2007.** Training space is limited, and reservations are made on a first-come first-serve basis. If you have questions about this training, please feel free to contact Ninia Baehr, Program Manager, at niniab@montana.edu or 406-

3rd Annual At Risk Conference: Meth Prevention & Intervention

Register now for a two-day conference—June 4-5, 2007 at the MSU Billings Main Campus—on how we can respond to the meth epidemic in Montana. MSUB has summoned resources from all aspects of our community—medical, educational, psychological, spiritual, political, and legal—to share information and respond to your questions.

It's time to come together and respond to the threat of methamphetamine use on the users, their families, and our community. The conference is open to all, family members, educators, school nurses, counselors, medical professionals, law enforcement, community and faith leaders, etc. You will gain valuable information and make important contacts.

Keynote speakers include Montana Attorney General, Mike McGrath and Chairman of the Montana Meth Project, Mike Gullede.

The cost is \$225 per participant; this covers all materials and breakfast and lunch for both days. Evening events are FREE to the public both nights at 7 p.m.:

Monday Evening—HBO film "Montana Meth"

Tuesday Evening—Panel discussion of recovering meth addicts and their families

Call 406-896-5890 to register or to RSVP for evening events. Agenda and flyer for the conference are located on the MACo website: www.maco.cog.mt.us.

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Conclusions

Retirement: *Continued from Page 11*

An effective medium for Sarasota County is e-mail, including video, between Ley and his 2,200 employees. "Ask Jim" has produced a dialog between worker and boss about the deferred comp program. He is also working with Nationwide to produce a five-minute snippet about the value of retirement planning that will be sent to all employees.

"The first thing on their mind is to get a good job, pay their debts," said Tam Burgau, human resources director for Jackson County, Wis. and chairwoman of the 15-member committee that oversees the deferred comp program between NACo and Nationwide. "They don't think about retirement in those first 10 years. We are trying to change the mindset of employees."

It doesn't matter the size of county or number of employees, the quest to enroll the Millennium, Gen Y and Gen X generations in a deferred comp plan proves difficult. Jackson County has 19,000 residents, about what Riverside County, Calif. employs. Jackson employees number nearly 400, the same number Riverside HR Director Ron Komers has in his department.

But some counties, like Sonoma in the heart of Cali-

fornia's wine country, have close to 100 percent enrollment. A lot has to do with it matching at least part of an employee's contribution.

Other counties are looking into automatic enrollment. This would mean new hires would have to sign a form to opt out of the deferred compensation program. It has caught on faster in the private sector. For counties with unions, it would need to be addressed at the bargaining table.

For more information about deferred compensation programs, contact your human resources department, Nationwide at www.nrsforu.com or Lisa Cole at NACo at lcole@naco.org or 202/942-4270.

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