



MACnews

Vol. 39, No. 6 June 2010

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Lewis and Clark County Commissioner Mike Murray was sworn in as NACo Western Interstate Region president May 28. (Photo L-R) Tim Josi, commissioner, Tillamook County, Ore., WIR immediate past president; Mike Murray, commission chairman, Lewis and Clark County, Mont., president; Ron Walter, commissioner, Chelan County, Wash., first vice president; Jerome Selby, mayor, Kodiak Island Borough, Alaska, second vice president; and NACo President Valerie Brown, supervisor, Sonoma County, Calif. See story on page 12

MACo JPIA announces new Land Use Consultants

MACo would like to welcome Susan Swimley and Tara DuPuy to the family. These two ladies were recently hired to fill the enormous shoes of Myra Shults after she retires June 30.



Tara DuPuy

Tara was born in Livingston, Montana. After graduating from the University of Montana School of Law in 1987, Tara was in private practice in Livingston before joining the Park County Attorney's Office. After twenty years of service to Park County, Tara has been in private practice the last two years, focusing on land use issues. Tara and her husband, Michael Sprague, reside with their dogs in Paradise Valley south of Livingston. Tara is an avid hunter, fair weather fisherman and enjoys hiking and cross country skiing.



Susan Swimley

Susan was born in Miles City and raised in Broadus. She attended the University of Montana from 1982-1986 and graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 1989, with honors. After a couple of years of private practice, Susan joined the Gallatin County Attorney's office in 1991. She served as the Chief Deputy with a emphasis on representing the county commission and zoning commissions, road department, clerk and recorder's office and other departments. Susan returned to private practice in January of 2001, where she has emphasized land use and road law issues as well as a general practice which includes litigation. Susan and her husband, Brett, have been married for 24 years and have three children- Kurt, 14, Rachael, 12, and Ryan, 10.



MACo News

MACo President Scholarships

MACo President Carl Seilstad has announced the recipients of the 2010 MACo President's Scholarship. Graduating seniors from the MACo president's home county were eligible for these awards.

"Our MACo Executive Committee members, who made the selections, were very impressed with these two applicants," Seilstad said. "The students and their families certainly can take a great deal of pride in their selections for the awards."

\$1,000 Scholarship-Dillon Udelhoven Winifred High School

With a GPA of 3.8, Udelhoven is a member of the National Honor Society and Academic All-State. Udelhoven feels strongly about improving school systems, public areas and transportation. He is active in drama and FFA; he is a mentor, a volunteer and an outstanding athlete and student. Udelhoven aspires to hold a county political office someday and continue to improve his community. He plans to attend Montana State University to study accounting.



Dillon Udelhoven

\$500 Scholarship- Donica Chrest Roy Public School

Chrest has a GPA of 3.8 and is captain of her basketball and volleyball team. She is a member of the National Honor Society; she is class vice-president and FFA chapter president. She volunteers for Meals on Wheels and the Adopt a Highway program. She hopes to attend the University of Great Falls to study dental hygiene.



Donica Chrest

TIGER II grants avail.

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for TIGER II grant funds. This is a \$600 million grant program for surface transportation projects. Pre-applications are due July 16 and final applications are due Aug. 23.

Counties, MPOs, transit agencies, tribal governments, cities and states are eligible for highway, bridge, transit, rail, port and intermodal project grants. Awards will be \$10 million to \$200 million and require a 20 percent match. Of the \$600 million, \$140 million is reserved for rural areas where 100 percent of the cost of the project is eligible and the awards can be \$1 million and up. For more information call Bob Fogel at 202-942-4217 or email him at bfogel@naco.org.

Leadership Mont. class of 2010

Commissioners Maureen Connor (Granite) and Andy Hunthausen (Lewis and Clark) are graduates of the 2010 Leadership Montana program, an affiliate of The Montana Chamber Foundation aimed at developing a sustainable core of leaders who understand the diversity of issues in Montana. The program begins in September and takes place in seven locations across Montana, concluding with graduation in May. Graduating classes hold 40 students who are carefully screened and selected to ensure diversity and commitment.

"I liked learning about issues that aren't necessarily in my region, like power transmission lines for instance. It helps me better understand concerns of my fellow commissioners across the state," Connor said.

Commissioners Susan Mosness (Sweet Grass) and Laura Obert (Broadwater) have been accepted into the 2011 program.

IN-STATE TRAVEL - MEAL ALLOWANCE RATES

In-state allowances for the morning, midday, and evening meals are:

Morning meal	\$ 5
Midday meal	\$ 6
Evening meal	\$12
Total per day	\$23

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL - MEAL and INCIDENTALS ALLOWANCE RATES

Morning meal	\$ 7
Midday meal	\$ 11
Evening meal	\$ 23
Total meals per day	\$41
Incidentals	\$ 5
Out-of state total	\$46



MACo News

Counties on high alert for Yellow Starthistle

By Talia Knudsen, MACo Communications Officer



Yellow Starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) is an annual with deeply lobed rosettes. Flowers are yellow with sharp straw colored spines up to three-quarters of an inch long that radiate from the flower head. This weed wipes out native plant species, displaces wildlife and is toxic to horses. It is managed by spraying. If Yellow Starthistle is spotted, notify your county weed coordinator immediately.



While spring flowers peek up over the grass in search of sunlight, unwelcome species are taking root in Montana soil, threatening native species, natural resources and agriculture. It is time to brush up on noxious weeds and lower our eyes to the ground to watch for these assailants.

Earlier this year, Stillwater County discovered Yellow Starthistle in their county, thanks to an aware citizen. Jim Visser, Stillwater County weed district coordinator, said the plant was spotted by a worker at a lot used as a staging area for contracted construction projects that require equipment from other states. Visser speculates the weed was brought to Montana on a rig, but says they'll never know for sure. Visser estimates the affected area is around 10 acres and he is confident the weed can be eradicated. The weed has infested millions of acres in California and occupies large areas in Idaho, Oregon and

Washington.

"It was just a matter of time," Visser said. But he was still surprised to see the weed in his county. "You think it will happen to somebody else," he added.

Other Montana counties have discovered this weed and were able to eradicate it. So far, it has been kept at bay. Visser is taking an aggressive approach to make sure it stays that way.

After the suspicious plant was brought to Visser, a sample was sent to the state for positive identification. After it was identified as Yellow Starthistle Visser's district applied for emergency funds from the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund at the Montana Department of Agriculture. These funds will pay for a seasonal employee to coordinate efforts to rid the county of the weed. Visser also invited Department of Transportation and county workers to a weed pull and a workshop at the affected site on Earth Day. When the time is right, the area will be treated with chemicals and treated again if needed. The lot and surrounding areas will be monitored for several years. Visser said he has also notified nearby counties.

"It's critical to involve all counties. We are a pretty close knit community. Not a day goes by that I don't talk to another county's weed specialist," he said.

David Burch, Montana Department of Agriculture weed coordinator, said that typically, each county and reservation in Montana applies for a \$7,500 grant from the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund each year to pay for weed or conservation district costs. In addition, districts and universities can apply for larger, more competitive



Rush Skeletonweed



Flowering Rush

Continued on next page

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MACo News

Counties on high alert for Yellow Starthistle (continued from p. 3)

grants for projects each year. In order for private property owners to gain access to these funds the Department of Agriculture prefer a coop of at least three continuous landowners to apply via a district, university or nonprofit organization and matching funds.

"This was something different," Burch said.

Since Yellow Starthistle is a level 1A weed- the highest threat to Montana, Stillwater County bypassed the grant application process and obtained funds almost immediately after the sighting. Burch said the site in Stillwater County is the largest colony of Yellow Starthistle that has been found in Montana, so it was crucial to get funds to the weed district as soon as possible to get the site under control, prevent further spread and hire a coordinator.

Visser said the most important part of the coordinator's job will be to educate landowners about the weed, train them to identify the weed and inform them of the next step after identification because there is no way he and other district personnel can monitor the entire county alone.

Jane Mangold, extension invasive plant specialist at Montana State University, also stressed team work, awareness and education as driving forces in the anti-

weed campaign in Montana. She said Montana has an outstanding weed program and is a leader in weed education. A new addition to the program is early detection/response workshops for government agencies and non-profit organizations that work in the field with the potential to spot and recognize weeds. Participants will be trained to identify weeds and gain access to the University of Montana's online INVADERS database where they can report weed sightings.

"The more eyes we have out there the better the program will be," Mangold said.

The workshops are funded by the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund; MSU provides personnel, equipment and materials and UM hosts the INVADERS database. Mangold said the MSU Extension office held six of these workshops already and plan to do six more. The locations may be determined by local interest or geographic accessibility. Those with questions or interest about the workshops should call Jane Mangold at 994-5513.



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MACo News

Films put county library in limelight

By Talia Knudsen, MACo Communications Officer

The Flathead County Library branch in Kalispell has been the site of controversial movie screenings and protests attracting over 200 people. The movies have been called Holocaust denial films and are organized by a self proclaimed member of the Aryan Nation, Karl Gharst, who is using the library meeting room to show the films.

Karen Marr, office administrator at the library said the screenings haven't had a great turnout and there are more people outside protesting than inside watching the films. Things have been fairly controlled.

It probably helps that the police department is across the street from the library, she added, although two people who arrived to view the films were arrested for breaking a protestor's camera. The protest organizers, mostly local churches, have kept the police department involved to ensure orderly protests.

It is the library's policy to allow free, unlimited public use of their facility as long as the users open the meeting to the public at no cost and do not use the facility for commercial activity.

"A community library is a community center and a gathering place where people can gather to share ideas," Marr cited from the library policy. The library does not censor and exercises free speech. The policy also states that the library does not support or condone beliefs held by facility users. In light of these events, the Flathead County Library Board is considering a revision to the meeting room policy that requires users who publicize their events to indicate sponsors of the event in their ads.

Marr said people have called to ask why the library is allowing the group to use the library and some understand the policy, and others still resent the library for providing the group a space. Overall, Marr said, protestors

are protesting the films and the ideals of the organizers rather than the library allowing the group access to their facilities.

Tara Fugina, Flathead County deputy attorney said that if the library were to deny the group access to the meeting room, the library would be vulnerable to a lawsuit.

"It is a freedom of speech issue," Fugina said. She said that the library could potentially deny a group access if there was a safety concern, but it would be very difficult to draw that line, and it would have to be done very carefully.

...two people who arrived to view the films were arrested for breaking a protestor's camera...

Marr said the meeting room policy also states that the library is not responsible for damages, losses or injuries during the event.

Mike Sehestedt, MACo chief legal counsel, suggests that all facilities with public meeting facilities either require the groups

to have liability insurance or sign a hold harmless form. He said a hold harmless form is more binding than a waiver. He stressed that consistency is very important- a policy must not discriminate against anyone and must be exercised consistently. He added that if a group has a history of causing issues at the facility, they may be required to provide security or other accommodations to prevent injury or damage but this practice must apply to all users.

Greg Jackson, MACo JPIA/JPA Trust administrator suggested county facilities with public meeting rooms adopt the 2006 MACo JPIA special events insurance requirement guidelines, developed by the facility users guidelines working group. These guidelines categorize types of events and give recommendations for insurance and contract requirements. It also contains a hold harmless agreement. To download these guidelines, visit here on the MACo website



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MACo News



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Website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/>

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MACo News

The shoe fits... but does it have arch support?

By Talia Knudsen, MACo Communications Officer

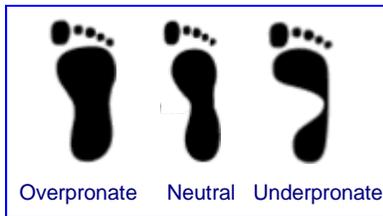
While your shoe mishaps may not be as embarrassing as Miss America's bottom bruising falls on national television, people can get hurt wearing the wrong shoes for the job. Ask any Hollywood movie damsel who has tried to outrun her assailant in heels, and she'll tell you that wearing improper shoes can hinder productivity and create unnecessary discomfort as well.

"How we interact with our clients and coworkers can be affected by uncomfortable shoes," said Dr. Tod Storm, Montana Podiatric Medical Association president. "It is hard to do any type of job when you are in pain."

Storm stressed the importance of choosing job specific shoe wear to reduce the chance of falls, excess sweating, blisters, injuries and discomfort. When selecting a shoe, also consider sole traction, water resistance and adequate protection for the job at hand.

Shoes should be comfortable immediately and should not require a "break in" period. Feet should be measured each time you purchase shoes, because feet change. Feet should be measured at the end of the day, when your feet are biggest. Storm also suggests owning two pairs of shoes and alternating each day to allow time for the shoes to dry out.

As a general rule of thumb, shoes should have a good heel counter, leather upper that laces and decent arch support. To determine whether your shoes have adequate arch support, it helps to get to know your foot/arch type. One way to



do this is to examine your footprint by wetting the bottom of your bare foot, then step on a piece of paper. It may also help to look at the bottom of your shoe to see wear patterns.

Underpronators usually have high arches and benefit from a cushioning shoe that prevents the ankle from bending outward as they walk on the outsides of their feet. Overpronators usually have low arches and walk on the insides of their feet and benefit from a motion control shoe.

If your favorite pair of shoes hurt your feet and/or do not have adequate arch support, try using inserts made for your foot type.

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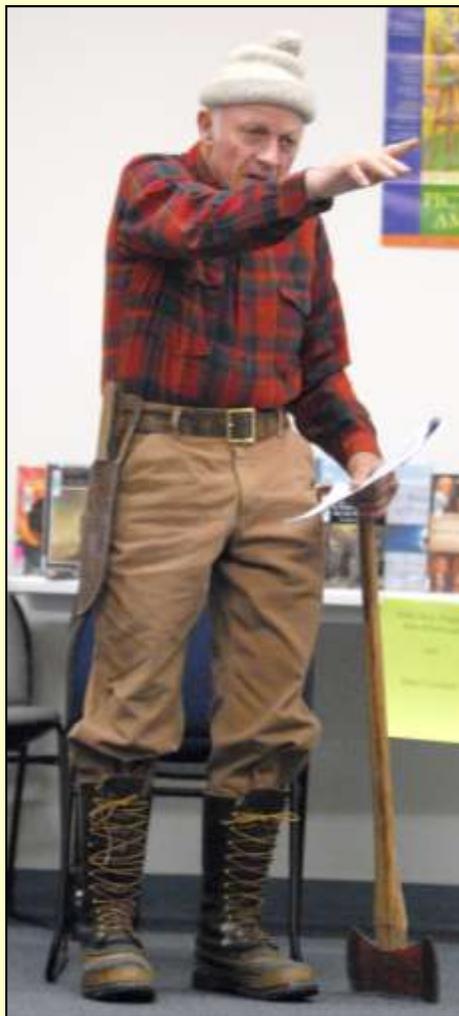
Primary Election Day Don't forget to vote!

June 8 is Primary Election Day. The following day, MACo will be working to gather the election results for local county elected official races and will be posting them on the website as soon as they become available.

County Election Officials—please send MACo your County results as soon as they are available. You may email them to: tknudsen@mtcounties.org or fax them to 406-442-5238.

It will be a long, busy day for our local election officials and we want express our thanks and appreciation to all of you for your service and dedication.

A picture worth sharing...



Park County Commissioner Jim Durgan, dressed as Paul Bunyan, reads a story at Family Read Night at the Livingston-Park County Public Library. That night's theme was "Tall Tales." Picture is courtesy of Livingston Enterprise Newspaper, photographed by Angela Schneider.



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MACo News

2010 MACo Directory of Montana Officials corrections/updates

MACo has mailed out corrections to pages xiv & xv, reflecting correct county classifications. If you have not received these corrections, please contact us.

Health Care Trust Trustees are Mike McGinley (Chair), Dave Schulz, Connie Eissinger, Leslie Burroughs, Herb Townsend, John Prinkki and Harold Blattie.

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Attorney Joan Borneman's email is jborneman@anacondadeerlodge.mt.gov

Big Horn County Commission appointed Kim Yarlott as clerk and recorder. She can be emailed at kyarlott@co.bighorn.mt.us

Chouteau County clerk and recorder, JoAnn Johnson can be emailed at joann19@itstriangle.com.

Fergus and Petroleum County Attorney Thomas Meissner can be mailed at 801 W. Broadway, Lewistown, MT 59457

Flathead County Clerk and Rec. Paula Robinson is representative on the MACo Board of Directors

Golden Valley County Commissioner Leslie Burroughs can be emailed at lburroughs@middrivers.com.

Lewis and Clark County Justice of the Peace Wallace Jewell will retire July 5.

McCone County commissioners are Aron King, Janet Wolf and Connie Eissinger. Aron King can be contacted at akfarm@wb.middrivers.com, P.O. Box 771, Wolf Point 59201 or 525-3629.

Mineral Co. commissioners can be reached at mccommissioners@co.mineral.mt.us or Clark Conrow can be reached cconrow@co.mineral.mt.us and Duane Simons at doughboy@blackfoot.net.

Meagher County former Commissioner Bernie Lucas' seat has been filled by Nancy Schlepp.

Meagher County has changed servers. New emails are:
Herb Townsend: htownsend@meaghercounty.mt.gov
Nancy Schlepp: nschlepp@meaghercounty.mt.gov
Ben Hurwitz: bhurwitz@meaghercounty.mt.gov
Linda Hickman: lhickman@meaghercounty.mt.gov
Dayna Ogle: dogle@meaghercounty.mt.gov
Donna Morris: domorris@mt.gov
Ronda Shinabarger: RShinabarger2@mt.gov
John Lopp: jlopp@sheriff.meagherco.org
Helen Hanson: hhanson@meaghercounty.mt.gov
Sue Phelan: sphelan@mt.gov

Park County Commissioner Marty Malone's address is PO Box 152, Pray, MT 59065.

Powell County commissioner, Cele Pohle, can be reached at cpohle@co.powell.mt.us.

Prairie County Road Department can be reached at roaddept45@gmail.com.

Rosebud County attorney, Michael Hayworth can be emailed at mhayworth@rosebudcountymt.com.

Sweet Grass County safety coordinator is Rick Reed. Larry Putnam is no longer a coordinator.



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Falls in parking lots

Part 2 of 2

Examples of at-risk behaviors that lead to falls in parking lots include:

- Shortcuts over or through hazardous conditions, like landscaping, ice, or water.
- Walking backwards.
- Not focusing on where you are stepping.
- Hurrying or running.
- Carrying an object that obstructs your view of the pathway.
- Being distracted and not paying attention to your surroundings.
- Wearing improper footwear for the conditions.

Does it happen?

Absolutely. In fact, falls that occur in parking lots are the second most common source of slip, trip, and fall injuries in quantity (frequency) and third in degree of injury (severity).

What can we do about it?

There are several simple things you can do right now to minimize your exposure to falls from stairs injuries.

- Always focus on where you step. Conditions in parking lots can change rapidly. Watch where you are stepping to allow

you to observe hazardous conditions.

- Do not carry items that block your view of the pathway. Take additional trips, if needed.
- Park near a light source if possible in the early morning or nighttime hours to help you better see unsafe conditions.
- Manage your time to avoid running or hurrying through parking lots.
- Walk on the pavement. Avoid shortcuts over grass or landscaping that can become slippery or a tripping hazard.
- Avoid other simultaneous activities like reading while walking.
- Wear appropriate footwear. We recommend a low heeled, rubber-sole shoe for all condition traction.
- Choose a safe path. Take the time to step around an unsafe condition, like ice, instead of through it.
- Help others. If you see a hazard that you can fix, fix it. Otherwise, report observed unsafe conditions for correction.
- Communicate. If you observe someone placing themselves at-risk of a parking lot fall, let them know.

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MACo News

MACo Employee Profile

Spouse's name and time together: Spencer. He's a Montana boy and moved to Casper, WY (my home town) in 1981. We met in 1984 and got married in 1986.



Chris Holling

Children's name and ages: Our one and only daughter, Chelsea. She is 18 and will be graduating from Helena High this year and will be going to MSU to study architecture.

Occupation and years at current occupation: I am a claims adjuster and I started with this company in 2004.

Profession before current occupation: I was a customer service representative at First Interstate Bank in Casper, WY for 25 years.

Education: High School graduate from Kelly Walsh High School in 1975 and attended 2 years at Casper College. (A really long time ago.)

Biggest challenge you've ever faced: Being a mother and leaving my home town and getting established in a new state in 2003.

Two people, alive or not, you would like to have dinner with: My parents and grandparents. I never got to say goodbye before they passed away.

Surprising fact about you: I am descended from English royalty. Also, my co-workers say I speak in "Wyomingisms".

Most adventurous thing you've ever done: Snorkeled off Catalina Island and went whale watching in Maui.

Favorite TV show: Deadliest Catch, Ghost Hunters and Two and a Half Men

A turning point in your life: Becoming a mother.

A book you've read twice (or more): The Outsiders and Homer's The Odyssey

The job you wanted at age 18: Airline stewardess so I could travel.

Favorite movie: Can't pick one...Animal House, Blazing Saddles, Steel Magnolias and Grease

Person(s) who had the biggest influence on you/your life, and why: My Grandmother. She was very tough but had the biggest heart of anyone I've ever met. She showed me the meaning of family and I pitied the person that ever crossed anyone in her family. If we were Italian, she would have been "The Godmother".

Commissioner Profile

Spouse's name and time together: Lori – 13 years



Paddy Trusler

Children's name and ages: Justin – 13, Tasha – 33, Bree - 30

Occupation and years at current occupation: Politician (a poor one) 10 years

Profession before current occupation: Director of Lake County Land Services (Planning, Environmental Health & Solid Waste)

Education: B.S. Environmental Health Engineering, Washington State University

Biggest challenge you've ever faced: Explaining to a taxpayer where their tax dollars actually go

Two people, alive or not, you would like to have dinner with: John Kennedy and Ronald Reagan

Surprising fact about you: I have never, ever been diagnosed with ADHD.

Most adventurous thing you've ever done: Ran for public office and campaigned

Favorite TV show: Animal Planet

A turning point in your life: The first day as Lake County Commissioner

A book you've read twice (or more): Ivan Doig – The Whistling Season

The job you wanted at age 18: Veterinarian

Favorite movie: Love Story

Person(s) who had the biggest influence on you/your life, and why: My grandmother because she taught me work ethic, respect for the land and its resources, and to understand that if you want respect you must give respect.



MACo News



Yellowstone County hosts successful NACo WIR Conference

Yellowstone County recently hosted the National Association of Counties' (NACo) 2010 Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference. Thank you to all of the counties and sponsors whose support made this conference a huge success.

The conference provided county officials with the opportunity to hear national speakers, discuss federal legislation and network with other county officials from across the country. Discussion topics included renewable energy development, wild land fire management, jail diversion programs, geothermal revenue sharing, healthcare reform implementation, The Clean Water Restoration Act, and communications interoperability.

Featured general session speakers included Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, U.S. Department of the Interior's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Del Laverdure, and Property and Environment Research Center (PERC) Executive Director Terry L. Anderson.

Conference attendees were highly impressed by the Montana and Yellowstone County hospitality, and many noted it was the best WIR conference they had ever attended, with exceptional workshop topics and speakers as well as great food and entertainment.

The many Montana County Commissioners in attendance were honored to see Lewis & Clark County Commissioner Mike Murray installed as President of the WIR.

In his acceptance speech, President Murray acknowledged the work of past presidents' and thanked them for their service. He presented Past President Tim Josi, from Tillamook County, OR with a custom made belt buckle from Montana Silversmith's on behalf of MACo and Montana Counties.

Murray informed the members that he will be appointing a task force to coordinate wildfire management in the west and will be appointing two representatives from each seat. He also noted that SRS and PILT have again be-

come a priority to ensure the funding is continued. He also reported that Utah has requested that WIR file an amicus brief, and the request has been referred to NACo legal staff for their review and advice.

President Murray thanked Yellowstone County and all of the Montana Commissioners in attendance for their support, and acknowledged the work and dedication of the NACo staff and Executive Committee. Murray closed by stating that he looks forward to leading them in the upcoming year.

WIR is affiliated with NACo and is dedicated to the promotion of western interests within NACo. Its membership consists of fifteen western states with membership funded through the individual state associations.

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MACo News

Ted Keating, 1921-2010



Ted Keating was a rancher, entrepreneur, businessman, author — but most of all, he was a family man. There was nothing he loved more than being with his family. He was proud of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ted was surrounded by his family in his last hours on April 25, 2010, when he passed away.

Ted was born on March 16, 1921, at the ranch home in Molt to Henry and Carrie Keating. He was the youngest and only boy of five children. Fanchon, Thelma "Peg," Mildred "Midge" and Joyce welcomed him and have preceded him in death.

Ted graduated from Columbus High School and attended college at Montana State University and went on to the University of Washington to pursue his master's until he entered the Army during WWII. He attained the rank of Lieutenant. While stationed in New York, he met Eleanor Woldan, a hostess at an officer's dance on Staten Island. They were married in June 1946 and spent 63 years together until Eleanor passed away last April. Ted and Eleanor raised five children at the family ranch in Molt.

Ted served a term as Stillwater County Commissioner and headed the tax appeal board for several years. He was very active in promoting Charolais cattle helping found the Montana Charolais Association and serving on the Board of Directors for the American International

Charolais Association. Ted was one of the original promoters and the first president of the Board of Directors of the Yellowstone Boys Ranch, now known as the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch. He continued to serve on the board for 16 years.

Besides ranching, Ted and Eleanor found time to visit all 50 states and five continents. He loved following the activities of his grandkids and great-grandkids in Rapelje, Columbus and Park City, and had many "adopted" grandkids in all of those communities. He continued to write his novels, finishing his fifth manuscript weeks before his death. He leaves many good friends and relatives who will miss his sharp mind and gracious hospitality.

Survivors include his sons, John (Shirley), Steve (Jacki) and David (Marge); daughters Maureen (Bob) Hemphill and Chris (Lance) Uhrich; foster son Kip Raffael; grandchildren Amy (Dan) Miller, Mat (Heather) Keating, Melissa Keating, Kris (Brian) Krieger, Ryan Hemphill, Gerald Oyon Oyon, Jefferson Keating, Cara Hemphill, Michael Keating, Eric Hemphill, Duman Lucas, Becky Gall, Sarah Keating, Brianna Krieger, Brooke Krieger, Chloe, Chase and Chance Keating and Kaden Miller.

Cremation has taken place. Interment was at a private service as we lay him to rest beside his beloved Eleanor.

A celebration of Ted's life will be held this summer on July 10, at the ranch in Molt. Memorials can be made to the Rapelje PTA, c/o Carol Thompson, PO Box 89, Rapelje, MT 59067.

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Around Our Counties

Law Enforcement

Carbon County Commission has passed a litter ordinance that gives the Sheriff's Department authority to inspect complaints, serve notice to persons violating the ordinance and fine \$200 for each day of violation. The ordinance, which offers a specific definition of "litter" went into effect May 27.

Jefferson County Undersheriff Steven Marquis was given the annual Outstanding Crime Victim Advocate of the Year award by Attorney General Steve Bullock during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. County Attorney Matt Johnson said Marquis has been very valuable during cases involving sexual assault of children because he has specialized training and a great way of communicating with them. He added that Marquis has filled the purpose of an advocate well by supporting, informing and guiding victims through the justice system.

Lincoln County law enforcement and justice system officers visited Lincoln County High School to attend a forum hosted by students in a student-mentor program to discuss underage drinking. The visitors and students discussed the roles of the law enforcement and justice system and brainstormed solutions to the problem. The forum included over 40 people.

Flathead County was ordered to pay more than \$200,000 in back wages to 34 current and former sher-

iff's deputies whose salaries were miscalculated. The county must also pay attorney fees in the amount of \$78,210. In 2008 Flathead County District Court Judge Katherine R. Curtis issued a partial summary judgment finding that \$2,000 added to the sheriff's base pay must be included in the calculation of sheriff's deputy pay.

Cascade County Commission voted to freeze the pay of 10 elected officials due to a -.4 Consumer Price Index this year. State law requires counties to pay deputy sheriffs longevity pay of 1 percent per year when elected official pay changes- whether it increases or decreases. If the county decreased pay, it would cost \$30,000 due to this statute.

Zoning/Planning

Flathead County Commission has decided not to regulate medical marijuana beyond laws in zoned areas. Roughly two-thirds of the county is not zoned and in zoned areas the laws do not pertain specifically to medical marijuana, so Planning Director Jeff Harris has the job of interpreting those laws. On zoned county property grow operations will be treated as an agricultural activity; in cities grow operations will be treated as a business similar to a pharmacy or drug store, and home operations are subject to zoning provisions regarding outdoor storage, signs, parking,

traffic and hazardous by-products.

Gallatin County Commission has learned that their plan to control billboards cannot go into effect without compensating the owner of the billboards first. The Highway Beautification Act of 1991 precludes state, municipalities, counties and local zoning authority, so all removal of lawful advertising must be compensated for according to Kevin McLauray of the Federal Highway Administration. It was also pointed out to the commission that the county does not have authority over federal highways and ignoring the FHA's recommendations could result in a loss of highway funds.

Flathead County Commission has unanimously voted not to renew planning director Jeff Harris' contract. Harris' contract was extended until September, when a new director will be hired, but the position of assistant director will be eliminated. The planning office has seen a dramatic drop in paid application fees and while half a dozen positions have been eliminated, the commission says more must be cut.

Powell County Commission passed an emergency interim zoning ordinance to halt new medical marijuana growing and dispensing facilities in the county. The temporary ordinance also prohibits the expansion of

current facilities while the county creates permanent zoning or ordinance- a process that can take 90 days or more. The county will be drafting an ordinance to regulate where, how and in what fashion medical marijuana grow operations and dispensaries can operate.

Gallatin County Commission's gravel pit zoning regulations has been protested by over 50 percent of Gallatin Gateway residents via petition, and other districts have filed petitions also. District Judge John Brown issued a restraining order preventing any further action by the county after the Gateway Opencut Mining Action Group and four area residents filed suit against the county. The plaintiffs asked for the restraining order until a hearing can be held on whether protests that allow owners of agricultural land to block zoning are constitutional.

Missoula City-County Office of Planning and Grants director, Roger Millar has accepted a position with Smart Growth America and will be leaving his post. Millar will remain based in Missoula but takes on his new position in June. The Washington, D.C. based national coalition advocates for healthy communities with affordable housing close to employment to reduce commute time and air pollution.

Grants/Projects

Gallatin County Solid Waste District Board has approved an application for a grant from the MT DNRC to be used for methane gas



Around Our Counties

exploration at the Logan Landfill. Landfill personnel have been approached by a firm planning extraction if economical viability can be proved by the state funded exploration. This is the second time the county has been approached by a methane extracting firm—the first time was kyboshed when it was determined the amount of plastics in the landfill would hamper extraction.

Big Horn County Public Library employee Donelle Boyer received a call from talk show host Jenny Jones and was awarded a grant in the amount of \$2000 for the Montana Summer Reading Program. Boyer applied for the grant with the hopes of using the funds to purchase 150 copies of the book "Fishing in a Brook: Angling Activities for Kids," as well as life jackets, hooks and bobbers for this year's program, titled "Make a Splash: Read." Co-workers coordinated the call with Jones, then surprised Boyer with her family and friends present.

Stillwater County Commission is planning to replace the boiler in the courthouse after around 50 years of service. The project will cost \$53,500, which will be covered by a grant. The old boiler has been rebuilt twice and has required constant repairs in recent years.

Cascade County will begin the process of digitizing more than a million old records, making it easier for the public to access official information and research

history. Many of the documents are in danger of turning to dust. County Treasurer Jess Anderson and Clerk and Recorder Rina Fontana Moore plan to purchase a document scanner for \$22,190.

Yellowstone County Commission has begun replacing temporary, ineligible and damaged grave markers at Riverside Cemetery with permanent granite headstones. In January the commissioners approved \$5,000 for the project, spurred by Commissioner Jim Reno's observation of newly placed toys and flowers next to the poorly marked graves of babies and children. Marking graves of babies and children are first priority, but a total of 100 lost or damaged headstones will be replaced in the next few months.

Hill County Sheriff's Office has successfully joined the Interoperability Montana radio communications system. The project cost between \$1.4 and \$1.5 million, paid for by grants. Once the system is complete, all counties across Montana will be able to communicate by radio.

Personnel

Stillwater County Road and Bridge Foreman, Calvin Clark, was awarded a "Roads Scholar" certificate in Great Falls at the conclusion of the MACRS conference. Clark has completed Level I Roads Scholar courses. The certificate program is operated by LTAP.

Meagher County former Treasurer Michelle Walker and former Clerk and Recorder Tammy Thomas were sentenced for their roles in an embezzlement scheme. Walker received a three year deferred imposition of sentence and is required to spend 60 days in jail while Thomas received a six year deferred imposition of sentence and must spend 60 days in jail. Both were ordered to return the embezzled money and Walker will pay fees and fines of \$1,640, and Thomas will pay \$877.33.

Madison County commissioners hired a human resource officer after years of handling their own personnel matters. The successful candidate, Maria Gilman, attended Carroll College in Helena where she acquired a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology. She then spent two years as the social services director for Madison County nursing homes, then got a master's degree in applied psychology at MSU.

Stillwater County chief communications officer, Kathie Jess, resigned

after 32 years of service. Her last day was April 30. Her retirement was marked with a party and well wishes from the commission.

Miscellany

Yellowstone County courthouse was the sight of a paranormal investigation, May 7, conducted by the Montana Paranormal Association. Facility Manager Greg Erpenbach spent the night at the building with the group as they set up meters, digital recorders and checked for energy fields. Official results have not been released by MPA, but Erpenbach said the group heard knocking on doors, discovered cold spots and saw shadows.

Prairie County Library Director Rolane Christoffer-son attended a training seminar instructed by the State Law Librarian Judy Meado, chair of the Mont. Supreme Court's Commission on Self-Represented Litigants. Attendees learned the difference between legal information and advice and about reliable law web sites. Mont. Legal Services has limited resources, so the Supreme Court is asking for the help of public libraries in providing access to justice.

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Announcements & Reminders

Events

- June
- 8 Primary Election Day
 - 11 Education & Local Government Interim Committee
 - 14 Legislative Finance Committee
 - 17 JPIA Property & Liability Pool Trustee Meeting
 - 17-19 Mont. Fire Alliance Conference, Butte
 - 18 JPIA Defense Counsel Meeting
 - 21-25 **MT Sheriff's & Peace Officers Convention**
 - 23 Legislative Audit Committee
 - 24-25 State Administration & Veterans Affairs Interim Committee
 - 28 Children, Families, Health & Human Svcs. Interim Comm.
 - 29 MACo Board of Directors/HCT, JPA, JPIA Budget Adoption
 - 29 Economic Affairs Interim Committee
 - 29-30 Law & Justice Committee
- July 16-20 NACo Annual Conference, Reno, NV
- Sept. 26-30 MACo 101st Annual Conference, Billings

June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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