

Smelter City Seniors

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 2

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION PRODUCED BY THE ANACONDA LEADER

APRIL 2025

The Smelter Mouse



page 2

FRAUD AWARENESS

page 6

ELKS AWARDS

page 9

GROWING THE
LEGION

page 15

The Anaconda
Leader

Retired librarian's 'Smelter Mouse Anthology' a labor of love nearly 40 years in the making

JAMES S. ROSIEN
EDITOR

Seated amidst her collection of Western art, retired Anaconda librarian Marian Geil held a copy of her recently-published collection of "The Smelter Mouse" books while the title character stood atop the wooden coffee table before her doing much the same, only he was holding onto one of her original hand-made copies of the story that started it all. It was a scene that felt like it could have come from out of the storybook itself.

In point of fact, however, it was the Smelter Mouse doll – walnut

"hard hat" and all – that first launched the concept that has now been immortalized in 101 hard-bound pages comprising 20 stories, original illustrations and beautiful new cover art by D.L. Johnson for Geil's book, "The Smelter Mouse Anthology."

Times were tough in Anaconda in the 1980s following the closure of the Smelter, and Geil at the time was working at the Hearst Free Library, "and I was always thinking about different fundraisers" to help organizations in town, especially those that serve Anaconda's youth. One of those organizations was the

See MOUSE on page 3



Top right: Marian Geil holds up her book, "The Smelter Mouse Anthology," with the title character joining her by holding one of her original hand-made copies of the book that started it all. **Leader photo:** James S. Rosien. **Right:** The front cover of "The Smelter Mouse Anthology" is pictured. *Courtesy graphic.*

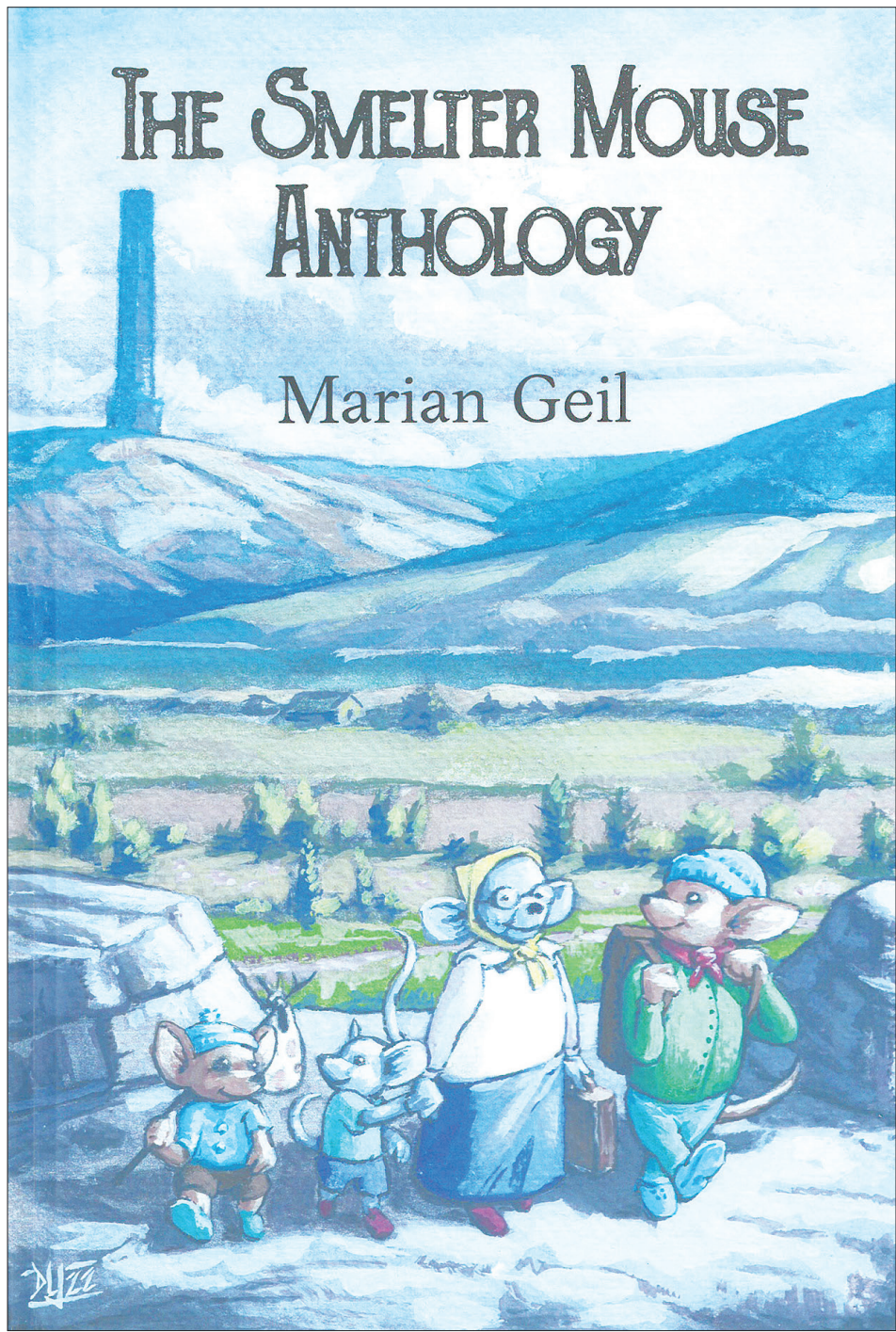
*The Finest Montana
Has To Offer...*

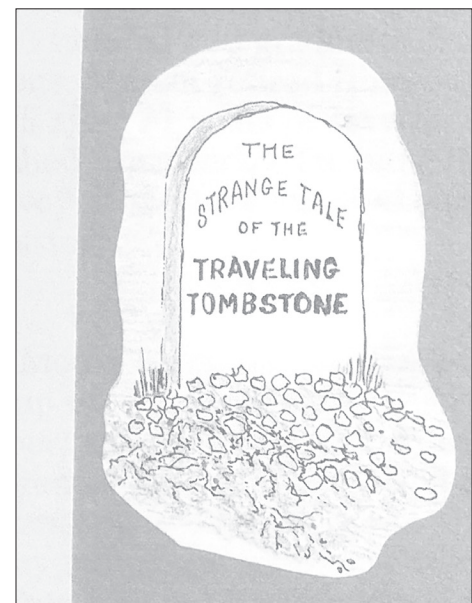
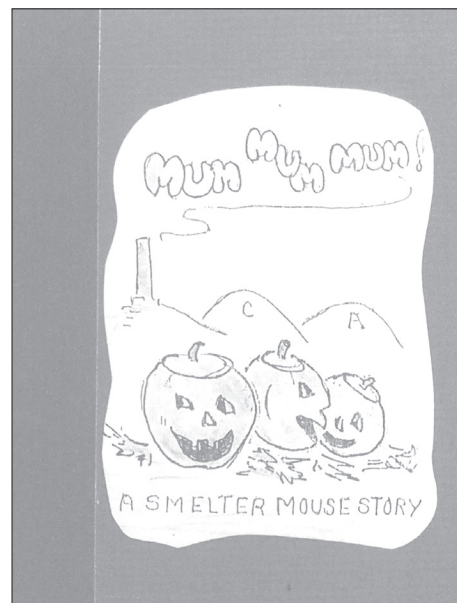
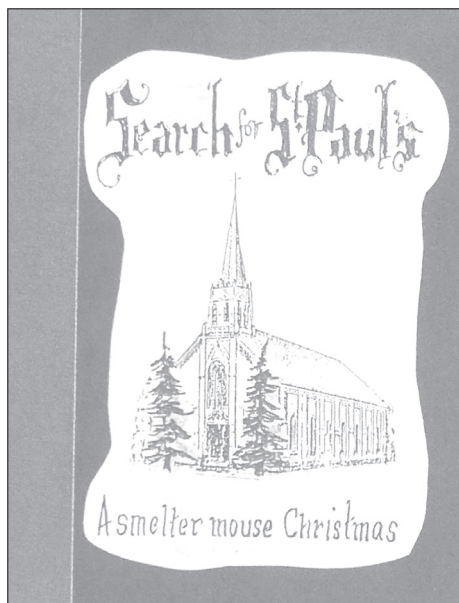
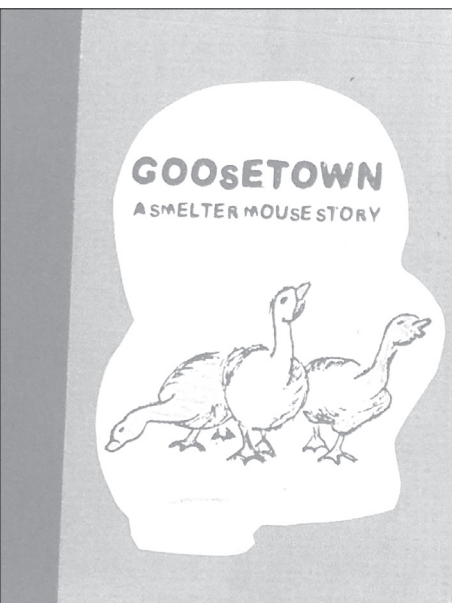
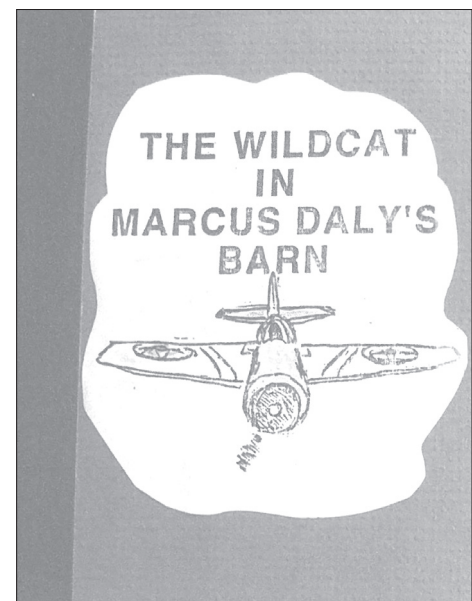
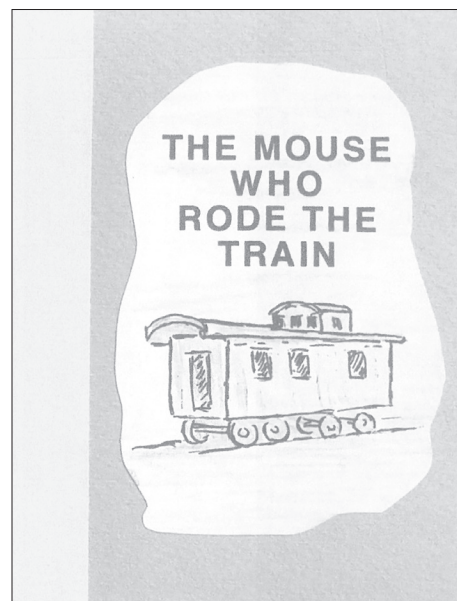
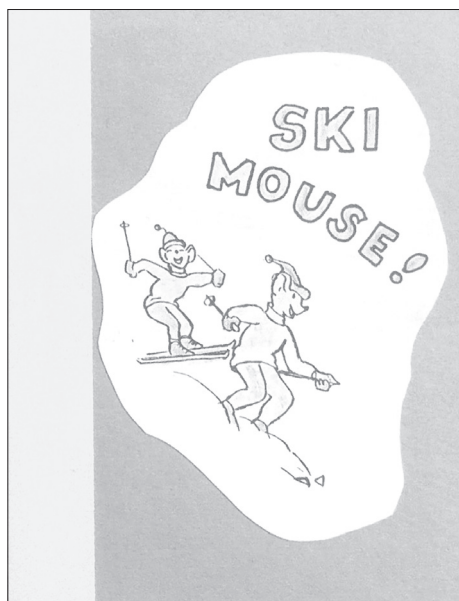
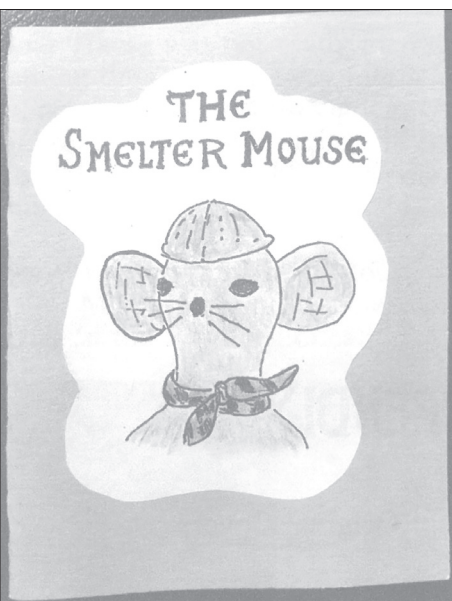
STEAKS – SEAFOOD – PASTA



BARCLAY II
Supper Club and Lounge

98 Union Ave • Anaconda, MT • (406) 563-5541





Here are eight of the front covers of Geil's original hand-made Smelter Mouse books, starting with, of course, "The Smelter Mouse," top left, and continuing with "Ski Mouse," "The Mouse Who Rode the Train," "The Wildcat in Marcus Daly's Barn," "Goosetown: A Smelter Mouse Story," "Search for St. Paul's: A Smelter Mouse Christmas," "Mum Mum Mum: A Smelter Mouse Story" and "The Strange Tale of the Traveling Tombstone." Courtesy graphics.

MOUSE from Page 2

Soroptimist Club. Geil had been reading up on the "Cabbage Patch" doll craze that was spreading across the country at that time, and that became the inspiration for her "Smelter Mouse" fundraiser for the Soroptimists.

"I thought, 'that's what we need, Cabbage Patch Kids for Anaconda,'" Geil said.

But what would be the Smelter City's version of such a toy? For further inspiration, Geil turned to the Smelter itself and the stories of the workers there.

"I thought about the stories of the smeltermen feeding the chipmunks and mice. I thought chipmunks might be hard to make ... so I started with making the mouse," she said.

After she had completed her design, Geil brought the mouse to the club and they liked the idea.

The mouse went through several phases before settling on the final design, but then the question became how to get the dolls finished in time for Oktoberfest, which is where they preparing to sell it.

"So we all made mice," Geil said. "The coveralls were the hardest part for me because I'm not a seamstress."

During the manufacturing process, Geil also wrote a story to go with the mouse to help explain the doll's concept and to encourage purchases of it. It was a story she turned into the first of the endearing hand-made mini-books that then were given out to children as stocking gifts at the Methodist Church.

"So we got the mouse introduced. We sold as many as we could make," Geil said. "But people kept wanting the books –

and those take time. It takes three days to make a book."

Yet that's what the public wanted, and so that's what they got – to the tune of 20 "Smelter Mouse" stories Geil wrote over the span of nearly 30 years from 1986 to 2015.

While the first mini-book gives the backstory to the mouse, named Marko, and how he and his mice friends had been fed by the smeltermen until suddenly there were no smeltermen and so they all had to move to town and make new friends, the stories from there go on to recount their adventures and at the same time teach Anaconda's kids about the history of their town.

And not just kids either. Nan Bovingdon, Geil's cousin from Missoula, said that's what she loves most about the Smelter Mouse books.

"They teach so much about Anaconda history – I know more about Anaconda's history than I do any other town," Bovingdon said.

Topics include Discovery Basin Ski Area, Rarus Railway, Marcus Daly's barn, Old City Hall, the original AOH Hall, St. Paul's Church and more.

They also include cultural stories such as "Mum Mum Mum" about how Anaconda kids used to celebrate Halloween, or the "UFOs" (Unidentified Flying Objects) seen above Stucky Ridge that this reporter theorized were sky lanterns launched in celebration of the Chinese New Year).

And then there are the ones that have a bit more of a personal touch, such as "Grandpa

MOUSE continues on page 4

MOUSE from Page 3

Oldmouse and the Great White Fish” about her time growing up at the Hefner’s Dam area, or “The Saga of the Yellow Guitar” that touches on the family’s musical talents. (The cousins cut an album together, “Remembering Medicine Springs.”) That yellow guitar is still in Missoula by the way.

Then there’s the final story in the book, “2010 Smelter Mouse of the Year,” that really shows how the Smelter Mouse stories came full circle. It’s the tale of the mouse named Bear Tracks (in honor of a smelterman who had that nickname) and how he made his way down to Ogden, Utah where he became instrumental in helping to teach kindergartners, particularly children for whom English is a second language. This was extremely moving for her because the final story was about a real mouse doll and how it’s being used to teach kids.

While Geil had ceased making new Smelter Mouse books, there

was still an interest in them – to the point where a brick at the Smelter Stack Interpretive Site was purchased in honor of the Smelter Mouse, and every year someone places an ad in the Anaconda Leader for Valentine’s Day celebrating the “Smelter Mouse Couple of the Year.” She has received letters over the years as well from people complimenting her on the books.

“I’ve got a file and I keep them all,” she said.

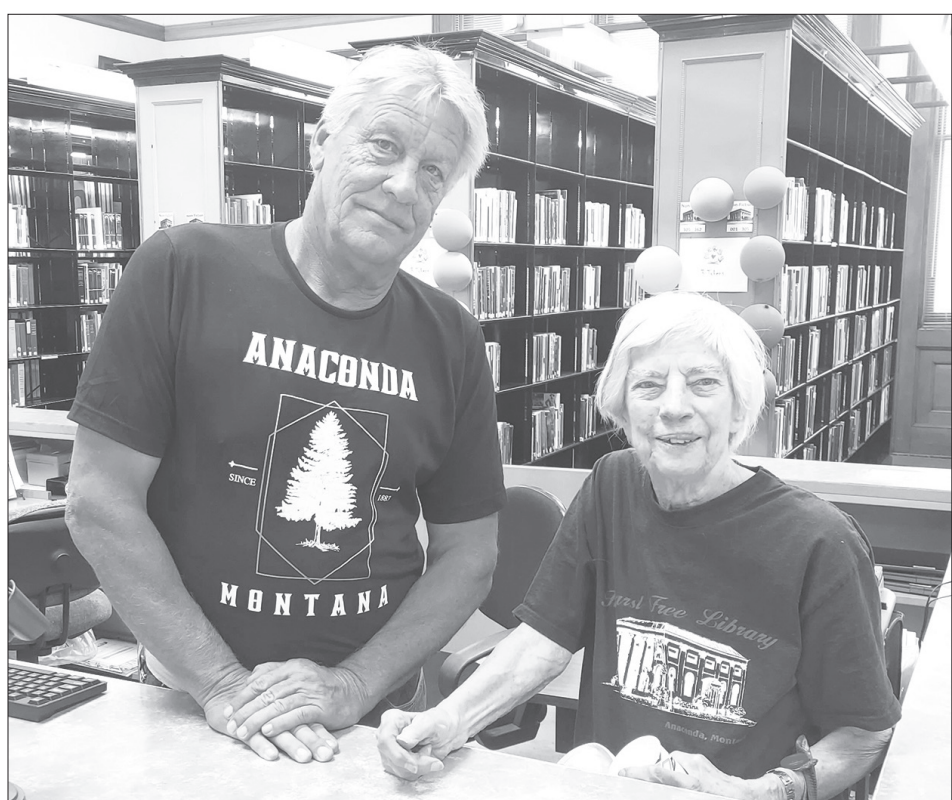
So, she got the idea to compile them all into an anthology.

“And I quit three times,” she said. “I couldn’t do it anymore. I just gave up on it. But Colleen Ferguson [a former co-worker of hers at the Hearst Free Library] kept after me. She offered to help me with her computer.”

And gradually it all came together.

They got the cover artist, D.L. Johnson, on board along with

MOUSE concludes on page 5



Top: Marian Geil is pictured in a vintage photo with the legendary yellow guitar, the subject of one of the Smelter Mouse books. *Courtesy photo.*
Above: Geil is pictured with Kurt Wyant at the Hearst Free Library, where she worked for more than 30 years. *Leader photo: James S. Rosien*



ANACONDA
LIQUOR STORE

*Finest selection of packaged liquor in Anaconda
Featuring Top Shelf Brands, Wines, Mixers, Accessories & Cigars!*

*Open
Mon & Tues 9-6
Wed thru Fri 9-7
Saturday 9-6*

222 W PARK STREET • (406) 563-5721

WINE SPIRITS BEER



Affordable, Income-Based Rentals

Utilities included in rent!

PJ Hagan Manor
201 W Commercial

The three-story brick veneer building includes an elevator and has 40 units. Each unit contains a living room, kitchen, bedroom, bath and patio. There are recreation areas on the first floor with adjoining kitchen and central laundry room. Units are subject to a waitlist, please call to inquire.

Contact us today to learn more!
anacondahousing.com

**Housing Authority of the City of Anaconda**
406.563.2921
10 Main Street • PO Box 1350

Open Mon - Fri
8 a.m. - Noon, 1-5 p.m.



Established more than 30 years ago with the goal of providing affordable housing for the elderly and disabled; PJ Hagan Manor was the first of it’s kind in Montana.

Serving Anaconda for over 70 years!



ANACONDA
DISPOSAL SERVICE
Disposal Service
you can rely on!

110 E Pennsylvania Avenue | Anaconda, MT 59711 | (406) 563-5111

Aaron Jennings, who completed the layout and editing and also assisted in applying for grant funding to help bring the book to print. And Geil decided that the proceeds from the book, which has recently been completed and is now available for purchase, should go to the Friends of the Library because of Ferguson's assistance on the project.

"We gathered them all into the same source so that they could have the whole shooting match all in one volume," Geil said, so that now when someone asks for a specific book they can get them all at once. "When I made the first Smelter Mouse book, I didn't know there'd be a Volume 2 let alone a Smelter Mouse Couple of the Year, or see a Smelter Mouse brick. [Anaconda historian] Pat Morris said that every bed and breakfast in Anaconda should have a copy of the Smelter Mouse so that visitors can learn about Anaconda."

Indeed.

The Smelter Mouse Anthology – whose publishing was made possible through the help of the Montana Arts Council and an ARPA grant – is available for purchase through the Hearst Free Library, located at 401 Main St. in Anaconda. For more information, call the library at (406) 563-6932.

**Miss
Your
Leader???**
**Weekdays,
Call
563-5283
before 11:00 a.m.
We will deliver
to your home.**

Smelter City Phone Numbers

Emergency	911
Fire Department	563-2164
Police Department	563-5241
Community Hospital of Anaconda	563-8500
Community Nursing Home of Anaconda	563-8417
Court House Information	563-4000
Metcalf Memorial Senior Citizens Center	563-3504
MSU Extension Agent	563-4035
Hearst Free Library	563-6932
Anaconda Veterans' Clinic	563-6090
Veterans' representative	406-533-0910
Do Not Call registry	1-888-382-1222
Commodity supplemental food program	563-3504
Adult Protective Services in Anaconda	563-3448
Agency on Aging hotline	1-800-332-2272
Montana Legal Aid, Butte office	723-4612
Blind and Low Vision Services	1-888-279-7531

Pick up a free copy of the latest Anaconda Phone Book at the Anaconda Leader brought to you by area businesses.

Complete Oil & Lube Service
Open Monday thru Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

No Appointment Necessary!

CHUCK'S

SUPER LUBE

FROM CLASSICS TO BRAND NEW, WE CAN SERVICE YOUR VEHICLE

WE SELL & INSTALL MOST AIR FILTERS, WIPER BLADES, SERPENTINE BELTS, HEADLIGHT BULBS & DIESEL FUEL FILTERS

1350 E Commercial Ave | (406) 563-3282

Anaconda's **AMSOIL** Dealer

DEE
MOTOR CO.

We'll Always Treat You Right!

DODGE

Jeep

CHRYSLER

1200 E Commercial | (406) 563-5225 | Anaconda, MT
www.deemotors.com

Anaconda Pintler Home Options

118 E 7th Street • Anaconda, MT • (406) 563-7023

- Anaconda Pintler Hospice provides medical support and caring during the final phases of life as well as bereavement and support services for family members
- Pinler Home Health provides a variety of home health services from nursing care to physical, occupational and speech therapy

Serving the hospice needs of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County since 1990

CHA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL OF ANACONDA

401 W Pennsylvania Street | Anaconda, MT | (406) 563-8500
www.communityhospitalofanaconda.org

Metcalf Center hosts speaker on financial fraud awareness

Fraud victim informs others to keep them from the same experience

KASEY EDGE-FAUR
COPY EDITOR

What do you do when you get scammed out of hundreds of thousands of dollars, lose your retirement savings and ultimately get forced into selling your beautiful Victorian house you love?

In the case of Anaconda resident Susan Bivins, you grieve your losses, and then you share your story to help others avoid the same misfortune.

In 2022, Bivins was the target of highly sophisticated financial phone fraud in which she was intimidated into believing she was a suspect in a DEA money laundering investigation and then convinced that in order to keep her money from being stolen by the actual money launderers, she needed to wire all of her savings into a "DEA secured locker."

Bivins was left \$220,000 poorer and the authorities she was directed to told her there was nothing they could do to get her money back.

Now, three years later, Bivins is an AARP fraud ambassador, and has spoken at many different venues in hopes of raising awareness of fraud and teaching people how to prevent themselves from becoming victims of similar schemes.

One such place recently was in Anaconda at the Metcalf Senior Citizen Center, where she sat at a table with a group of three or four attendees and shared her story.

Some reminders from Bivins:

Never link a debit card to your Amazon account, use a credit card or PayPal, because debit cards are much easier to hack.

Amazon will never call you, so if you see Amazon on your caller ID, don't answer it.

If someone makes financial requests of you, discuss the requests with family and friends, especially if the tell you not to tell anyone.

Pay attention to your gut feelings, if it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't.

Don't give out any personal information like your date of birth, social security number or address.

Government employees



never send you copies of their badges via text or email.

Keep notes on every person you talk to, every report that you complete and every action you take. Keep copies of wire transfers, money grams, gift cards, etc.

Know for certain who you're sending money to.

If this happens to you, don't be ashamed or embarrassed. These criminals are well-trained to scam and commit fraud.

Anyone can be a victim, this is a crime.

See FRAUD on page 7



Top: Susan Bivins talks to a small group at Metcalf Memorial Senior Citizens Center on Feb. 13 to give tips on how to prevent becoming victims of fraud.

Above: Bivins visits with a patron at the Metcalf Center after giving her a rose on Feb. 25 as part of her efforts as an AARP fraud ambassador. Leader photos: Kasey Edge-Faur.

COLBERT'S *Electric*

Providing Electical Services to Southwest Montana For Over 40 Years

- We are a proud local, family-owned and operated small business in Anaconda, MT.
- We perform a wide range of lighting, wiring, cabling and other key electrical services.
- Our electricians are respectful, hardworking and highly skilled.
- Fully licensed, bonded and insured.
- Reasonable Rates

www.colbertselectric.com

805 East Commercial Ave. • Anaconda • (406) 563-7552

CLARK'S Insurance Agency

Medicare
Supplements



Allan Clark
Tanna Andrews

Auto • Home
Life • Commercial

aclarkefarmersagent.com

(406) 563-3419 800-247-1650
211 Cherry Street • Anaconda, MT 59711

FRAUD from Page 6

You can survive.
And survive Bivins did.
Although it was only a fraction of what was stolen from Bivins, she received a \$50,000 restitution check from the office of the Montana State Auditor in December 2023.

She also has been given the opportunity to be granted AARP's Wish of a Lifetime, which "fulfills the dreams of older adults through personalized experiences that promote

healthy and purposeful aging" such as a trip to a specific place they've dreamed of going on or getting family they haven't seen in a while together for a family reunion.

Bivins' wish? To appear on the show "Good Morning America" and share her story with the country. Although the wish hasn't been approved yet, Bivins is hopeful.

"I've been a fan of the show for years," she said.

Bivins returned to the Metcalf a couple weeks after her talk to give out free roses and homemade cards to people passing through the senior center with her 9-year-old granddaughter Abby in tow as a part of AARP's Cupid's Crew program.

She originally planned to

hand out roses at the senior center on Valentine's Day, but the roses, which were shipped from Columbia, were frozen the first time they arrived.

Bivins didn't give up, however, and was eventually able to give out the roses near the end of the month.

Connors Law Firm, PLLC

Kenneth A. Connors

Dedicated to
providing professional
service to our
Southwestern Montana
Community

212 E Park Ave • Anaconda, MT • 563.5297



Abby Bivins gives out a rose and card to a staff member at the Metcalf Memorial Senior Citizens Center on Feb. 25. Leader photo: Kasey Edge-Faur

Jordi's Cantina Is More Than Just A Tex-Mex Restaurant

*Our menu is packed with a variety of delicious options to satisfy every craving
From Juicy Burgers and Flavorful Wings (both boneless and bone-in) to
Comforting Soups and Sandwiches, we've got you covered!*

Start your day with our
Hearty Pancakes
Waffles

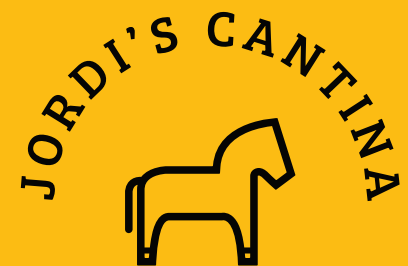
Classic Breakfasts
(bacon, egg, potatoes and toast)

Breakfast Sandwiches

Biscuits & Gravy
or Tasty Scrambles



Full Bar • 11 TVs
for for all your favorite games



Tex Mex +
Sports Bar

627 East Park Anaconda
406-563-0134

*Friendly, Courteous Service That Will Make You Feel at Home
Something for Everyone at Jordi's!*



Love Where You Live

Follow us!

“
It's a great place to live.
Home away from home.
The food is terrific, the
hospitality is marvelous.
I highly recommend this
place.

-Current Resident
”

Join In On The Fun



facebook.com/BigSkyonWaterford

*Retirement Living
Assisted Living
Memory Care*

**Walk-In Or Scheduled Tours
Available 7 Days A Week**

**Contact Us For
More Information**

(406) 300-2633

**3701 Elizabeth Warren Ave
Butte, MT 59701**

www.BigSkyWaterfordSeniorLiving.com

Anaconda Elks Lodge No. 239 recognizes their longtime members, and ...



The Elks Lodge recently revived one of their favorite traditions, their Awards Banquet, where members received pins denoting their time as an Elk. **Top row:** Elks Exalted Ruler Shawn Hansen, who also received his 25-year pin, presents 10-year pins to Margaret Ulstad, left, Judy Powers, Maria Hyvonen, Nancy Hardtla, Carolyn Hovery and Rich Nicholson; 15-year pins to Donni Cochran and Linda McGillen; and a 20-year pin to Tom Burkhart.

Second row: Don Ulstad, left, received his 30-year pin; Milo Manning, Hassen Najjar, Harry Piper and Charlie Hickman their 35-year pins; Bill Dee and Sparky McLean their 40-year pins; and Phil Watt, Dave Bisch and David Reisenaur 45-year pins. **Third row:** Con Malee, left, Duane Brugman, Tom Pahut, Bernie Morris, John Ruane, Gary Losheski and Walt Hansen received their 50-year pins; and Errol Eileraas, Bob Mazzolini and Jim Whelan their 55-year pins. **Above row:** And Jim Corrigan, Jeff Frank, Jerry Nielson and Ed Sedminik received their 60-year pins. Not in attendance but still recognized were Ed Ferguson, oldest member (72-year member); Floyd Brinton, 65-year pin; Gene Thomas, 60-year pin; Joe Strelnik and William McLure, 50-year pin; Gary Carlson, 25-year pin; Tim Connors, 20-year pin. Leader photos: James S. Rosien



Our Food is
fresh and flavorful.

From our lighter fare,
such as our Noodle Bowls and
Signature Salads, to our Unique
Sandwiches, House Made
Pastries and
Hardwood Smoked Meats.

Dine In or Take-Out
Call Ahead and Order Your Food For Picnics and Camping

100 Main Street | Suite A | Anaconda, MT | (406) 563-0909



Valley Bank
Division of Glacier Bank



.... Elks also honor Citizens of the Year, Elks of the Year, Officers of the Year



The Elks banquet also included their awards, including the previous year when no banquet was held. Errol Eileraas, left, last year's Exalted Ruler, presents last year's Distinguished Citizenship Award to Daniel Costle, Elk of the Year to Walt Hansen and Officer of the Year to Duane Brugman, while current year Exalted Ruler Shawn Hansen presents Elk of the Year to Maryanne Brugman, Officer of the Year to Eileraas and Distinguished Citizenship Award to Jim Zenahlik (not pictured).

Smelter City Seniors

Smelter City Seniors is a special quarterly publication from The Anaconda Leader. Pick up your free copy at the Leader's office at 121 Main St. Send your story ideas about Anaconda's senior citizens to leadernews@anacondaleader.com or call 563-5283 and ask to speak with the news department.

Premier Physical Therapy

Physical Therapy can keep you moving and be an effective tool in pain management!

—Call us to schedule a free consultation—
Monthly work out programs for seniors are also available.

We can get you in right away, no waiting!
Call us to see how Premier Physical Therapy can help you today!



Shane Spears, MPT
20 Years Experience

Accepting All
Medicare
Plans

124 Oak Street • Anaconda
Call 559-3600 for an appointment

Falling can be scary

Our physical therapists can help you avoid or recover from a fall. They are trained to help you improve your strength, balance, and ability to be independent.

PINTLER
PHYSICAL THERAPY
& Sports Rehab

110 Main Street, Anaconda **563-0797**
pintlerpt.com • Free Consultations

New Horizons

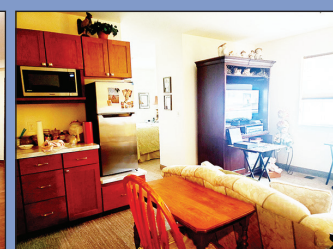
A Caslen Living Center Facility

402 Christine Court, Anaconda (406) 563-7008

Openings Now Available!

www.caslenlc.com

- Peaceful family lifestyle
- Homemade meals
- Individualized personal care
- Daily activities
- 24 hour qualified, caring staff



Fulfilling the needs of our senior family and friends



Deer Lodge County
Extension Service
Courthouse, 800 S. Main St.
Anaconda, MT 59711
Telephone (406) 563-4035
(406) 563-4036
Fax (406) 563-4001
E-Mail: deerlodge@montana.edu

MSU Extension has new MontGuide on using beneficiary designation to transfer vehicle, vessel title at death

The following article was adapted from the Montana State University Extension MontGuide, released in July of 2024, "Using a Beneficiary Designation (Form MV 13) to Transfer a Montana Vehicle or Vessel Title at Death" by Marsha A. Goetting, Ph.D., CPF, CFCS, MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist, and Michael Walker, Vehicle Services Bureau Chief, Motor Vehicle Division, Montana Department of Justice. To download it and other free online MontGuides

or order other publications, visit the online catalog at store.msuextension.org, contact the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County MSU Extension office, or e-mail orderpubs@montana.edu.

The 2021 Montana Legislature passed the Transfer on Death Act for Vehicles and Vessels and clarified the definition of vehicles and vessels during the 2023 session. The Act directed the Motor Vehicle

See EXTENSION on page 12

Metcalf Center Schedule

Veterans' services: Veteran's Service Officer is at the center the first Wednesday of every month from 9 a.m. to noon.

Nail clippings: Monthly – call Kate at the Metcalf Senior Center at 563-3504 for more information.

Senior shopping: Every Thursday afternoon. You must call the Metcalf Senior Center at 563-3504 by noon to be picked up.

Free counseling on Medicare health plans: Call 563-3504 to make an appointment.

Pinochle (Racehorse): Every Tuesday and Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the Metcalf Center.

Bingo: The first and third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Metcalf Center.

Billiards, puzzles, etc: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunch is served Monday through Friday at noon at the Metcalf Center. Menus are available monthly from the center; menus are subject to change. For more information, call 563-3504.

Meals on Wheels services also are available, as is the van transportation service. Call 563-3504 if you're interested in receiving Meals on Wheels or to arrange transportation to and from the center for lunch. The Metcalf Memorial Senior Citizens Center is located at 115 E. Pennsylvania Ave.

Our Hours

Mon.	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tues.-Thurs.	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Fri.	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sat.	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Some of our services include:

- Free Wi-Fi
- Free public computers
- Free scanning
- Faxing
- Printing
- Copies
- Great selection of new fiction and non-fiction
- Large print books
- Books on CD
- Films on DVD

401 Main Street (406) 563-6932
hearstfreelibrary.org

- **Lunch served** - Mon.-Thurs. reasonably priced
- **Ample off-street Parking**
- **Good Company**
- **Activities Galore** - Pool, Bingo, Pinochle
- **Free Senior Services Offered**
Transportation,
Medical Equipment Loaner

Metcalf Senior Citizen Center
115 East Pennsylvania • 563-3504

107 Oak Street, Anaconda, Montana 59711
Office: 406-563-3371
Email: info@anacondafuneralhome.com
longfellowfinneganriddle.com

Brianne Mulvaney, owner/mortician
Jessie Billquist, manager/mortician

Longfellow Finnegan Riddle
Funeral Home & Cremation Services

EXTENSION from Page 11

Division (MVD) to develop a beneficiary designation form to allow for the transfer of title for vehicles and vessels upon death of the owner without passing through probate, The Montana Beneficiary Designation for a Vehicle or Vessel Title (Form MV13) became effective on October 1, 2021.

Revisions to Form MV13 became effective October 1, 2023. Any MV13 Forms submitted between October 1, 2021, and September 30, 2023, are still valid.

This new Montana State University Extension MontGuide clarifies the definition of vessels and vehicles, answers questions about the Act and new provisions, explains the process to name or update a beneficiary for a vehicle and vessel, and outlines the procedures for the beneficiary to follow when an owner dies.

What is considered a vehicle or vessel?

Montana law defines vehicles and vessels to include automobiles, vans, trucks, sport utility vehicles,

motorcycles, recreational vehicles, trailers, pole trailers, snowmobiles, sailboats 12 feet or longer, and motorized boats including personal watercraft. Mobile homes and house trailers have not been titled since January 1, 2006.

If a manufactured home is permanently attached or built on a lot or other land the owner owns, title to the real property can be transferred at the owner's death without probate by using a Transfer on Death Deed (formerly called a Beneficiary Deed).

The definition of a vehicle or vessel also includes any other items for which a certificate of title is issued by the motor vehicle department. An airplane is not considered a vehicle or vessel in Montana.

When can an owner add a beneficiary designation to a vehicle or vessel?

An owner may add or update a beneficiary designation on a vehicle or vessel in the following situations: (Fees apply in all three situations).

1. When applying for a Montana title (initial application, title transfer, or replacement title). The owner(s) can enter up to two beneficiaries' names on form MV13 and apply for a Montana title.

2. When adding or changing a beneficiary on file. The owner(s) enter the new beneficiary(s) on form MV13 and apply for a Montana replacement title on form MV7.

3. When revoking the current beneficiary(s) on file. The owner(s) leave the beneficiary section on form MV13 blank and apply for a Montana replacement title on form MV7. This action revokes the current beneficiary on file.

How long is a beneficiary designation valid?

After a beneficiary designation is added to the MVD record of the vehicle or vessel, it is valid until:

1. A transfer of ownership is processed prior to the owner's death or the last surviving owner's death.

2. A new beneficiary designation

MV13 form is filed to change or revoke the designation.

What if the owner granted a security interest on the vehicle or vessel?

An owner cannot add a beneficiary to a vehicle or vessel's record at the time they file an application for adding or removing a security interest. A security interest is an enforceable legal claim or lien on a vehicle or vessel a purchaser has signed to obtain a loan on it. After the owner has completed the security interest transaction, the owner may then submit Form MV13 to add up to two beneficiaries.

What if the vehicle or vessel has multiple owners?

If more than one person owns a vehicle or vessel, by state law the vehicle or vessel is titled as joint tenants with right of survivorship (JTWROS). When one joint tenant dies, the surviving joint tenant(s) become owner(s) by operation

See EXTENSION on page 13



We provide a **comfortable, caring** atmosphere designed for the **special needs** of aging Seniors. In our **all inclusive home-like** setting, we offer customized **home cooked** meals, planned **activities**, and specialize in personal care including **incontinence, respite & Alzheimer's/Dementia** care.

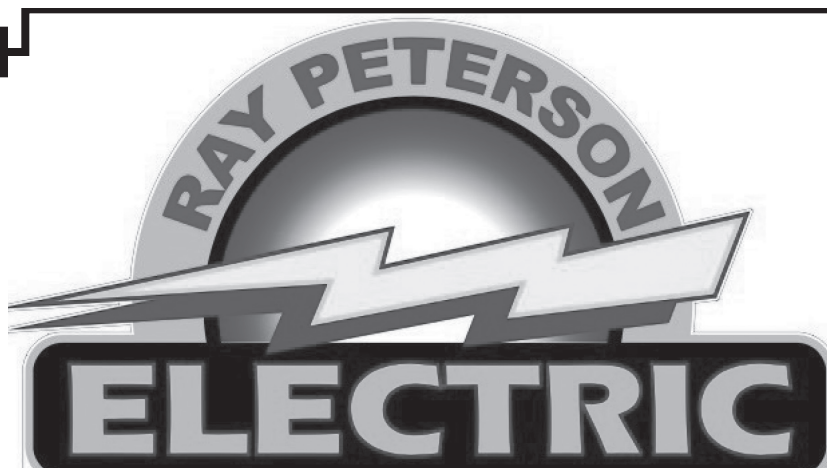


WE HAVE ROOMS AVAILABLE! Come by for a tour today!



Call Susan Whitney at 406.846.3342 | 702 Tumbleweed Lane Deer Lodge, MT 59722

RENAISSANCESENIORCARE.COM



103 N Harrison St., Anaconda, MT 59711

Serving
Anaconda
and
Surrounding
Communities

Master Electrician
COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL
RESIDENTIAL
Licensed and Insured

(406) 563-8021
Toll-Free 1-800-294-8021



EXTENSION from Page 12

of state law. The surviving joint tenant(s) may apply for the title in the survivor's name(s) and may add up to two beneficiaries when applying for the title using Form MV13.

Important consideration: If two owners name a beneficiary, and one owner dies, the surviving joint tenant could change the beneficiary designation and undo the intention of the first-to-die joint owner.

What rights does a beneficiary have in the vehicle and vessel while the owner is still alive?

A beneficiary has *no* ownership rights in the vehicle and/or vessel while the owner is alive. For example, the beneficiary can not:

1. Transfer the title of the vehicle or vessel to someone else.
2. Sell the vehicle or vessel.
3. Pledge the vehicle or vessel as collateral for a loan.
4. Take possession of the vehicle or vessel.
5. Name another beneficiary for the vehicle or vessel while the owner is still alive.

How does a beneficiary change a title to a vehicle or vessel from the deceased owner's name to the beneficiary's name?

If all owners on the current vehicle or vessel title have died, the beneficiary (if multiple beneficiaries, all must apply) may:

1. Request a TITLE in BENEFICIARY'S name by providing:

- Copy of death certificates for all owners listed on the current Montana title.
- Application for Certificate of Title for a Motor Vehicle (MV1) in the beneficiary(s) name. All beneficiaries must be shown on the new title issued and all beneficiaries must sign the MV1 form.
- Beneficiaries' government issued identification (ID) (if multiple beneficiaries, all must provide ID). Beneficiaries submit paperwork to the Vehicle Services Bureau, the county treasurer's office of the beneficiary, or a Motor Vehicle Division's (MVD)

Authorized Agent. Title fees apply.

2. Request TITLE and REGISTRATION in beneficiaries' names by providing:

- Copy of death certificates for all owners listed on the current Montana title.
- Application for Certificate of Title for a Motor Vehicle (MV1) in the beneficiary(s) name – all beneficiaries must be shown on the new title issued; all beneficiaries must sign the MV1 form.
- Government issued identification of the beneficiaries (if multiple beneficiaries, all must show ID).

Beneficiaries submit the paperwork to the local county treasurer's office, or an MVD Authorized Agent. All applicable title and registration fees apply.

3. Transfer the vehicle or vessel to a PURCHASER by providing:

- Copy of death certificates for all owners listed on the current Montana title.
- Bill of Sale (MV24) selling the vehicle to the purchaser – all

beneficiaries must sign.

• Application for Certificate of Title for a Motor Vehicle (MV1) in the purchaser's name.

• Purchaser's government-issued identification (if multiple purchasers, all must provide ID).

The purchaser submits paperwork to a local county treasurer's office or an MVD Authorized Agent. All applicable title and registration fees apply.

To summarize, the Montana Legislature passed the Transfer on Death Act for Vehicles and Vessels allowing owners to transfer the title of their vehicles and vessels upon death without passing through probate. The Beneficiary Designation Form (MV13) became effective on October 1, 2021, and was updated in September 2023 to include manufactured and mobile homes.

The owner and beneficiaries should contact their insurance companies to ensure the vehicle or vessel is insured at and after the death of the owner.



Thrifty Drug
201 E Park Ave Anaconda MT
406 - 563 - 8441
PHARMACY • COLLECTIBLES • HOME DECOR

Your Only Local Pharmacy

You can count on us!

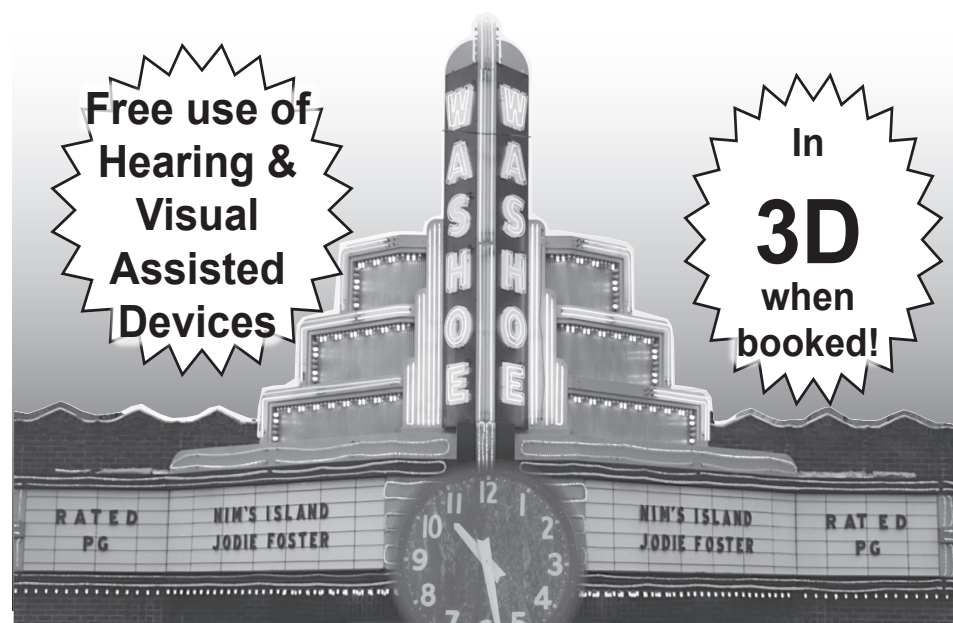
- Special and hard-to-find items
- Vitamins and nutritional supplements
- Computerized prescription service
- Set-up and Delivery of Dispill Medication Planners
- Private patient consultation
- Delivery Available

Hours:
Monday
thru
Friday
9:00-
5:00
Closed
Saturday

Wednesday Senior Discount

10%*
off

all seniors 55 & older
All Day Wednesday
*some exclusions



**Free use of
Hearing &
Visual
Assisted
Devices**

**In
3D
when
booked!**

RATED PG NIM'S ISLAND JODIE FOSTER

See A Movie Tonight!

OPEN

**7
Nights
a week!**

1st Show...

Sunday 5 p.m. Monday thru Saturday 7 p.m.

2nd show (when booked) on Friday & Saturday 9:00 or later

Sunday 7:00 or later

Stop In For Popcorn, Pop & Candy During Show Hours!

Call 563-6161 for Entertainment Announcements
301 Main Street • Anaconda, Montana

DPHHS: Take time to honor direct care workers

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is encouraging Montanans to recognize the invaluable contributions of direct care workers during National Care Worker Recognition Month in April.

“Direct care workers provide essential support to elders, people with disabilities, and others who require assistance with daily

living, playing a crucial role in enhancing their quality of life,” said DPHHS Director Charlie Brereton. “We are grateful for their work to help individuals live fulfilling, independent lives in their own homes and communities.”

DPHHS Senior and Long-Term Care Division (SLTCD) administrator Lindsey Carter said direct care workers, including

home care aides, personal care assistants, and certified nursing assistants, work tirelessly to provide compassionate care which helps individuals to maintain their independence and dignity. Their services range from assisting with personal hygiene and meal preparation to providing medical escort and medication administration.

“We encourage all Montanans

this month to take a moment to express their appreciation for the direct care workers who make a difference in their lives and the lives of their loved ones,” Carter said. “There are many selfless individuals in Montana caring for their fellow citizens that deserve to be recognized.”

According to AARP, there are

See WORKERS on page 16



ANACONDA OFFICE | 117 Main Street | Anaconda, MT 59711 | (406) 563-8409
HELENA OFFICE | 1 N Last Chance Gulch, Ste. 4 & 6 | Helena, MT 59601 | (406) 563-8409



Ice Cold Beer

Packaged Liquor & Ice to Go

**Thompson's
Bar**



“Where Old Friends Gather & New Friends Meet”

213 Main Street | (406) 563-9921

Across from the Post Office

We Salute Our Senior Citizens

- LOCAL NEWS •
- REAL ESTATE •
- SPECIAL EVENTS •
- ENTERTAINMENT •



The Anaconda
Leader

Give the gift that will last all year...

- ☐ **6 months of home delivery**
- ☐ **12 months of home delivery**

Name _____

Address _____

City, St & Zip _____

Phone _____

MAIL OR BRING TO:

121 Main Street Anaconda, MT 59711

(406) 563-5283

Email: leadernews@anacondaleader.com

advertising@anacondaleader.com

What a difference nine months makes: American Legion post is growing again

JAMES S. ROSIEN
EDITOR

Nine months ago, the Anaconda Leader reported in our July 2024 edition of Smelter City Seniors that the American Legion Post No. 21 was in need of help, especially in the form of active membership.

Lee Burt, known for his years-long efforts coordinating the Veterans Uniform Display at the courthouse with the Disabled American Veterans chapter that formerly met in Anaconda before it disbanded and its membership merged with Butte, was concerned that the same fate might befall the American Legion here.

So he agreed to take on the role of Post No. 21 Commander in May of 2024 with his primary goal being growing the membership so the Legion could continue its mission of service for the community.

"Since then we've started some new programs. We have five new active members, including one female member. We've gotten a few of our longtime members coming back to meetings. And we're trying to become more active in the community," Burt said. "Bingo is full every Thursday. The Honor Guard is active with 10 members. And we're hooking up with 'Spencer's Ride 2025' that's benefiting our post."

Spencer's Ride 2025 is a motorcycle and classic car poker run that will benefit American Legion Post No. 21. It's set for May 17, with sign-ups at 9 a.m. that day at the Legion Hall at the corner of Cedar and East 3rd Streets. Call Shane Charles at 406-531-2100 for more information.

"They're a group of American Legion riders from Post No. 91 out of Corvallis," Burt said. "They came to us asking if they could help."



The "Deer Lodge Crew" of American Legion Post No. 21 members Rick Cole, left, Bob Powell and Scott Safford join longtime Post No. 21 member Ed Goldberg in serving Palm Sunday Breakfast. Leader photo: James S. Rosien

And more help is on the way as the post has found an instructor for its Shooting Sports program, which Burt said they're hoping to start this summer. Bill Willing has taken up the mantle of American Legion

Baseball in Anaconda, and the post now has a historian, Mark Callison, "which is a new thing for us," Burt said.

See LEGION on page 16

Hearthstone Apartments

400 Oak Street | Anaconda, MT

- Pets welcome*
- Enclosed dog run area
- Elevators
- Rent-based on income
- Lounge with big screen TV
- 24 hour emergency call system
- In-room emergency alarms
- Utilities Included in Rent (heat, water, garbage)



- 62 or older or disabled
- Handicap Accessible
- Safety rails in bathrooms
- Service Coordinator onsite to help residents with their needs
- Onsite laundry facilities*
- Off street parking*

*Fee charged for these services

hearthstone.tamarackpm.com



Katie Caswell
Site Manager
for Hearthstone

Independent Living
in the
Heart of Anaconda

Hearthstone Apartments offer studio and one-bedroom units



Phone:
406.563.5232

LEGION from Page 15

And earlier this month the Legion post hosted the Veterans Resource Fair, the first time in at least 10 years that the post has held an American Legion District function, Burt said. "It turned out good," he said.

Also last year the post hosted the Anaconda Spay and Neuter Clinic and will be doing so again in late May/early June, and will do so again later in the year. And earlier this week they hosted a blood drive with Vitalant, and will do so every six weeks, Burt said.

"And all these functions are

supported by active American Legion members," he said, noting that active members are needed to open up and set up the building and to clean up afterward "so these organizations can come in and serve the community. We're very proud we can open our building to serve as a resource for our local community."

Burt said it will be crucial to continue sustaining its membership drive for the coming year, particularly younger members.

"And it's working, slowly but surely. We're gaining members so

we're very happy about that," he said. "And with our new commander coming in, Rosie Garcia, we're continuing on. We hope female veterans see that we're open. We're not just a corner bar, we're a community organization supported by veterans. We look forward to being community oriented in the future."

Indeed you read that right, as Burt will hand over the reins to Garcia, the post's second female commander in its history, at an installation meeting on Wednesday,

May 7 at 7 p.m. at the Legion Hall.

"I think we have the beginning of a different future with the younger veterans, and some of the older fellas are looking forward to stepping back and allowing these younger veterans to come up with some new ideas," Burt said. "All the new officers that are being installed are new officers. They've never served as officers before, so we're very proud of that. We have a full slate of officers, and we're looking forward to them continuing the American Legion tradition."

Anaconda Oxygen Service

Locally owned & operated by
J.D. Anderson, RRT and Jana Anderson, RN



Joe Burgman, J.D. Anderson
Lindsay Siders, KimBerly Sevalstad & Jana Anderson

Oxygen • Portable Oxygen
CPAP • Bi-PAP
Nebulizers
Night Time Pulse Oximetry

301 Main St. • Anaconda, MT 59711 • (406) 563-5677

Accepting Medicare, Medicaid, as well as most major insurance plans.

WORKERS from Page 14

112,000 informal caregivers in Montana providing 105 million hours of unpaid family care. Montana also employs 8,680 home health aids, also known as direct care workers, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Cassandra Yapuncich, Program Manager for Consumer Direct Care Network states: "The dedication of direct care workers lays the foundation for

compassionate and effective care systems," she said. "Their roles deserve recognition and reflect the profound impact they have on lives and communities."

DPHHS officials say the demand for direct care workers is expected to grow significantly in the coming years, driven by the aging population in Montana and the increasing prevalence of chronic conditions.

Your Health Is Important To Us



Care for all generations

A lifetime of top-notch specialized health care, close to home. Your extraordinary circumstances are our everyday ones. We're seeing new patients now, and every step of the way.



Top 100 Critical Access Hospital
The Chartis Center For Rural Health

**CHA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
OF ANACONDA**