# 69th Montana Legíslatíve Sessíon

### By Representative Kenneth Walsh, House District 69

The 69th Montana Legislative Session wrapped up on April 30th, marking the 85th day of productive debate and policymaking. As a third-term member of the House of Representatives, I am proud of the work accomplished to ease financial burdens, cut taxes, and expand conservation efforts for Montanans.

### Historic Property Tax Relief

One of the most significant achievements this session was passing Senate Bill 542 and House Bill 231, providing much-needed property tax relief. Senate Bill 542 delivers a \$400 rebate to Montana property taxpayers next year, while House Bill 231 restructures residential property tax rates, bringing substantial cuts:

0.76% on the first \$400,000 of property value

- 1.1% on values between \$400,001 and \$1.5 million
- 2.2% on property above \$1.5 million

These reforms will result in average property tax savings of 34% compared to last year and 40% compared to what taxes would have been under previous laws. Importantly, this package protects Montana's agriculture and industry sectors from rate hikes, ensuring fairness across all communities.

### The Largest Income Tax Cut in State History

Tax relief didn't stop at property taxes—House Bill 337 introduced major reductions in income tax rates to help working families across Montana. The new tax structure will lower rates from 5.9% to 5.65% in 2026, followed by a drop to 5.44% in 2027. For families filing jointly, the threshold for a higher tax rate jumps from \$41,000 to \$95,000 in 2026, and to \$130,000 in 2027—a significant win for working-class Montanans.

### Expanding Conservation Efforts

One of my proudest accomplishments this session was House Bill 932, which I sponsored and successfully sent to the governor's desk. This bill unlocks new opportunities for conservation funding by expanding the use of revenue from the state's marijuana tax special account. Previously, these funds were restricted to land purchases and easements, but now, they can be used for critical environmental projects such as:

Irrigation infrastructure

Forest management and prescribed burns

- Noxious weed mitigation
- Wetland protection
- Wildlife crossings
- Riparian protection and repair
- Wildlife friendly fencing

Range and soil management practices

By empowering conservation districts, private landowners, and public land users alike, HB 932 marks a significant victory for Montana's natural resources.

### Lookína Ahead

This session was one for the books, filled with challenges and triumphs alike. I am honored to serve alongside dedicated legislators on both sides of the aisle, and I remain committed to representing House District 69 with integrity.

As we move into the interim, I encourage all Montanans to stay engaged and share their concerns, ideas, and priorities. Your voice matters in shaping the future of our state, and I look forward to continuing this work for the people of Montana.

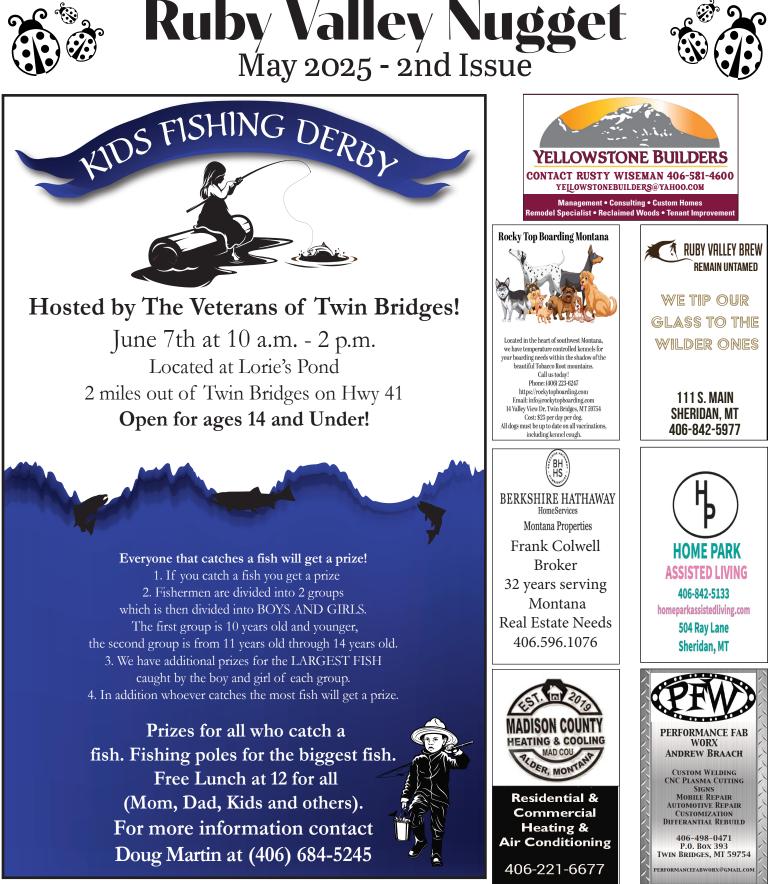
> Representative Ken Walsh kenneth.walsh@legmt.gov 406-596-0418

THE RUBY VALLEY NUGGET CAN BE ALSO FOUND ONLINE www.beaconbusinessctr.com & on Facebook/BeaconBusinessCenter









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# May Dust and Montana Tales

### Bv Kate Joki Rose

<sup>8</sup>May isn't just the month when tulips and tourists return to Montana. It's also the anniversary month for several remarkable chapters in our state's past. Some are a point of pride, some a puff of ash, and one was a matter of federal paperwork that changed everything.

Let's start with a defining moment: May 26, 1864, when President Abraham Lincoln, busy saving the Union, found time to sign a little document carving out what would become the Montana Territory. Up to that point, as I've mentioned before, we were part of Idaho Territory, an indignity some of us can't shake. Lincoln's signature officially made us a territory and set the wheels turning toward statehood. That means Montana was technically "born" in late May. Happy birthday old girl.

 $\S$ Fast forward a few decades to another May milestone, this time rooted in conservation. On May 23, 1908, Congress established the National Bison Range in the Flathead Valley. It was one of the gearliest efforts in the United States to save a species from extinction. Bison, once numbering in the tens of millions, had been hunted to near oblivion. Montana, of course, stepped in with compassion and land. With funding help from the American Bison Society (and a big push from President Roosevelt), the range was born. Thirty-four bison were purchased and placed on federal land, a wild bunch with the weight of an entire species on their shoulders.

It's still there today, still home to hundreds of buffalo, and still a quiet reminder that sometimes, when we don't shoot everything, nature finds a way.

Then, there's May 18, 1980, when Mount St. Helens blew its top in Washington, and Montana got a face full of ash. Like a passive-aggressive relative, the volcano didn't yell directly at us, but we sure caught the aftermath. I bring up this 'non-Montana' event because I recall it as being the one and only day the schools closed due to weather. In heavy snow we put on boots. In twenty-below weather we added scarves for our faces. We didn't get 'snow days'. It took a volcanic eruption  $\delta$ to even give us a legitimate day off. Butte and Bozeman saw skies the color of old dishwater and ranchers reported coughing cows. Flights were grounded and there was a run on vacuum cleaner bags. (my mother had them all) But like always, we Montanans wiped our windshields and went on with it.

 $\S$ So, if May feels momentous, that's because it is. It gave us boundaries Lincoln himself once drew lines around. It gave us bison to repent our past and protect the future, and it gave us dusty pickup dashboards courtesy of a volcano 700 miles away. But most importantly? May gave us a day to honor the men and women who protected all of it for all of us.

Happy Memorial Day Ruby Valley.

# **Ruby Valley Happenings**

ALDER SCHOOL ALUMNI PICNIC - Thursday - May 22nd at 12 pm at the Alder School NATALIE PADILLA & BEN WINSHIP - Saturday - May 31st @ 7pm at The Elling House KIDS FISHING DERBY - Saturday- June 7th - Lorie's Pond 10 am to 2 pm LINDERMAN CABIN PROGRAMS - VCPA - Sunday - June 8th - 2 pm - "The Madison House Hotel &

The Murder of William Ennis" ANNUAL GARAGE A RAMA - Saturday - June 14th - Jessen Park, Twin Bridges **ART IN THE GARDEN** - Saturday - June 14th - Jacksons Garden - 10 am to 12 pm - 3D Nature Art. FREE GOLF LESSONS & PRACTICE - Starting January 25th - Monday through Saturday from 1 to 4 pm. Next to The RV Brewery. For more information contact former PGA Member Bob Crandall at 406-480-9715

**RUBY VALLEY GUN CLUB TRAP LEAGUE** - Starting May 14th SHERIDAN DAYS - July 17th to July 20th FLOATING FLOTILLA - July 25th to July 26th **PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS:** 

SHERIDAN - Knitting Group - Thursdays @ 2 PM CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6 pm. For more information 406-842-5770. TWIN BRIDGES - Story time is every Wednesday at 11:00am for children 18 mos. - 5 yrs TWIN BRIDGES - Garage-A-Rama- Book Sale & Backroom Project Information - June 14, 2025, 9-2

@ Jessen Park, Twin Bridges -Summer Reading Program -Presents a Puppet Show June 23, 2025 @ Montana Room Twin Bridges School

-Shakespeare in The Park - September 8, 2025 @ Madison County Fairgrounds Soccer Field @ Twin Bridges

**TWIN BRIDGES BOOK CLUB** meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Blue Anchor. Dinner at 6:00 with meeting at 7:00. Please email dmmontana@3rivers.net for information

**COMMUNITY SERVICES:** PREGNANCY LOSS BIBLE STUDY & SUPPORT GROUP - Starting on March 17th @ 6:30 at Valley Assembly

TWIN BRIDGES HELPING HANDS - Twin Bridges-MT Helping Hand Food Pantry - Wednesday's. 10 am to 3 pm. Call for appointment any other day or time. - 406-596-1978 & 406-233-9616 **RUBY VALLEY FOOD PANTRY** - Food is distributed on Saturday mornings from 10-12 @ 206 S. Main in Sheridan, MT - between the gas station and post office.

- 287. Family friendly

RUBY VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH - Every Sunday Service Times: - Sunday School 10 am - Morning Service @ 11 am. Bible Study & Prayer Meetings Wednesday Evenings @ 6 pm. **AA MEETINGS** - AL-ANON Group - Mondays @ 7 pm Christ Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall Womens Group - Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm - Christ Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall STRENGTH TRAINING CLASSES - Mon, Wed, & Fri @ 2 pm @ The Sheridan Senior Center SOFT SERVE ICE CREAM - Every Thursday - 1 pm to 4 pm - TRMCC Activities Department

Fundraiser

TOWN OF SHERIDAN COUNCIL MEETINGS - 2nd Monday of every month - location TBA TOWN OF SHERIDAN - Public Meeting on Water and Sewer Base Rates. Thursday, June 19th at 6 pm at the Sheridan Senior Center

Deadline or submissions to the Ruby Valley Nugget Monday Afternoons! If you have a event you PROMOTE, PLEASE LET US KNOW



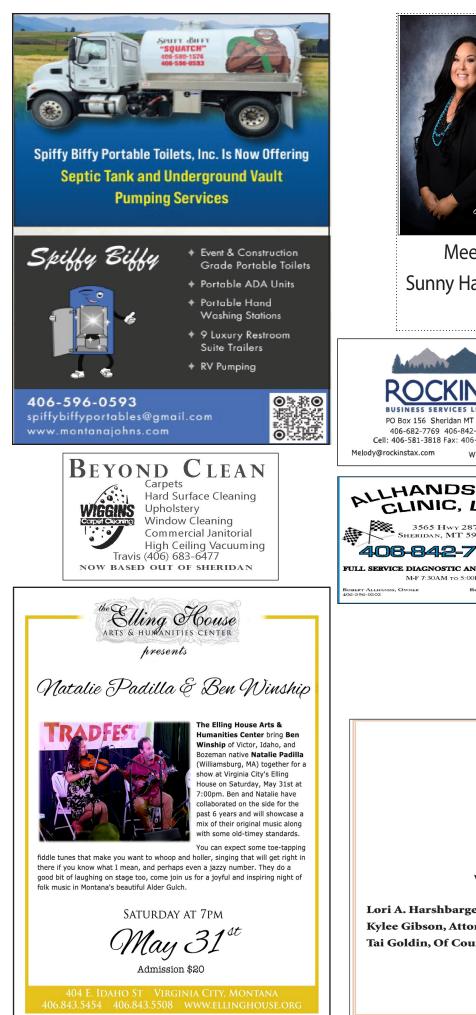
Scan the OR Code to see more events in our area!!

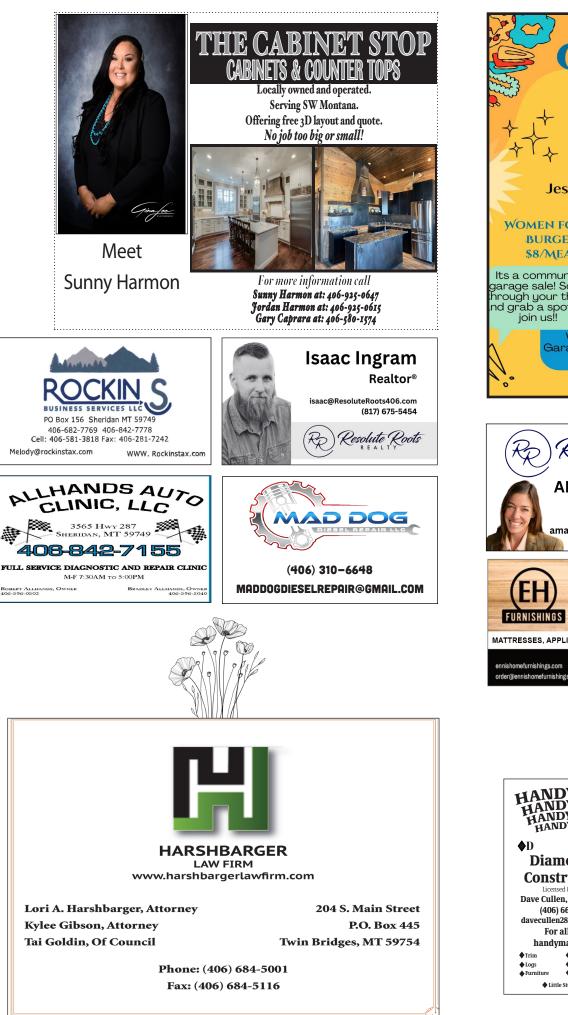
**P'S CLOTHES & MORE** - Located above the Twin Bridges Library. Hours: Wednesday: 10-2, Friday: 10-2. All items are FREE to the community. Call P at 406-600-2983 to donate or for questions. **3 RIVERS WORSHIP CENTER - WHERE HOPE, FAITH AND LOVE CONVERGE** and we would love to have you join us. Come as you are and be blessed. Every Sunday @ 10:30 am @ 3648 MT-

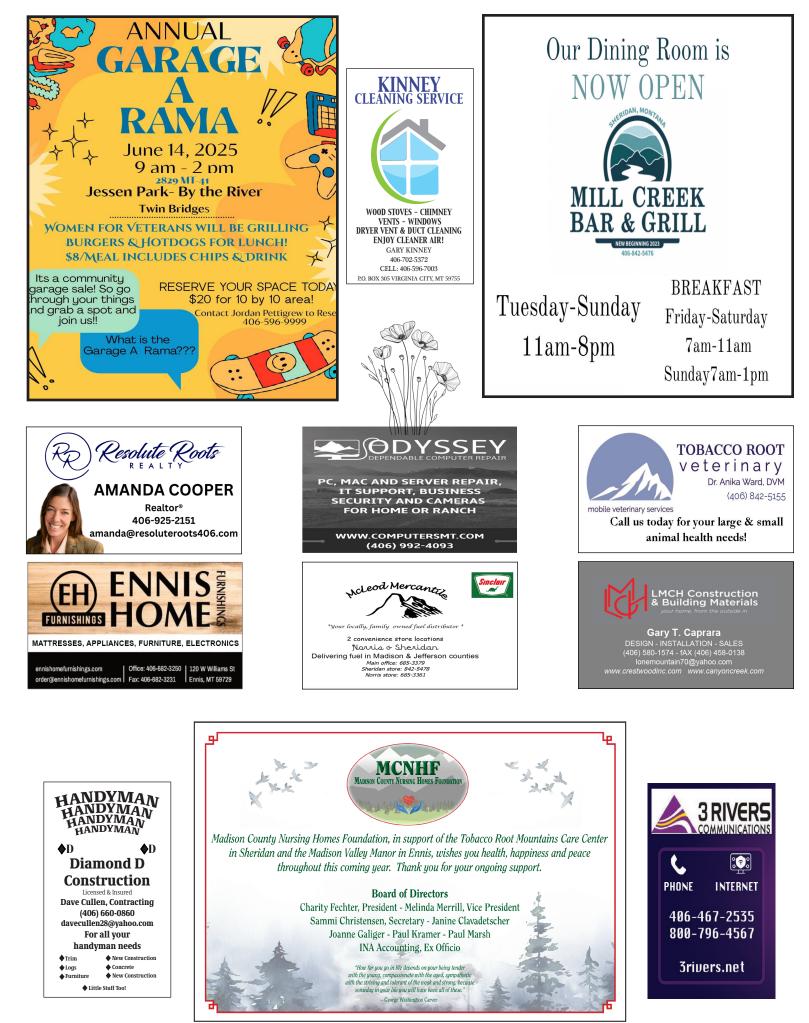
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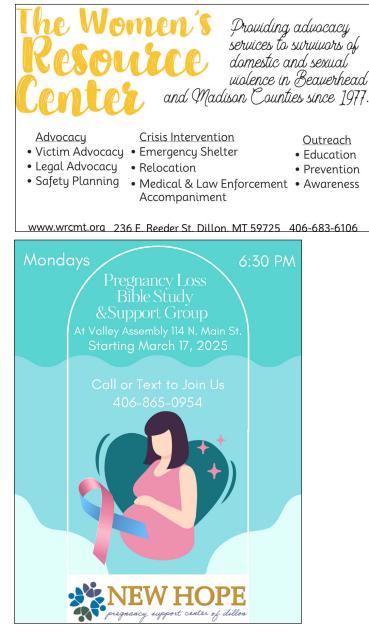






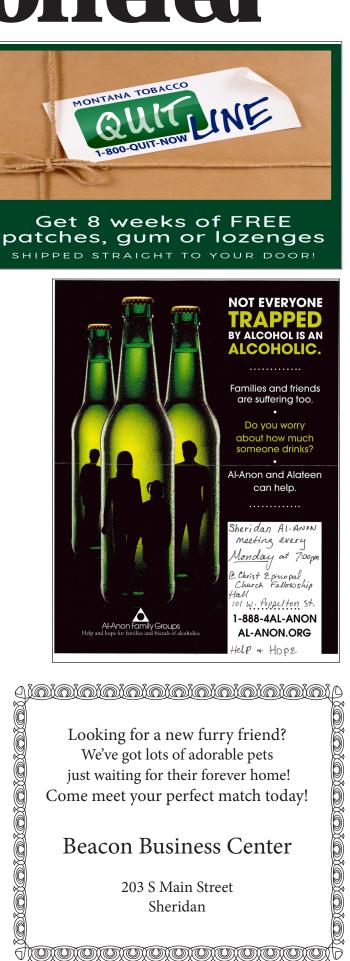


# Services Offered



Twin Bridges Public Library needs volunteers to transport books to the Dillon Library or Whitehall Library. So, if you are headed in those directions, please stop by the Twin Library and see if we have books going that way. Thanks for





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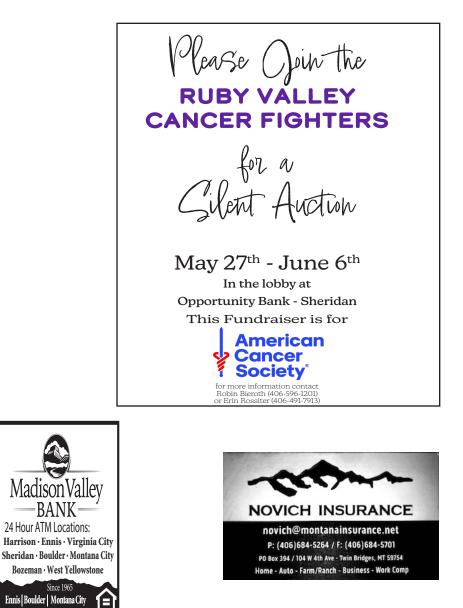
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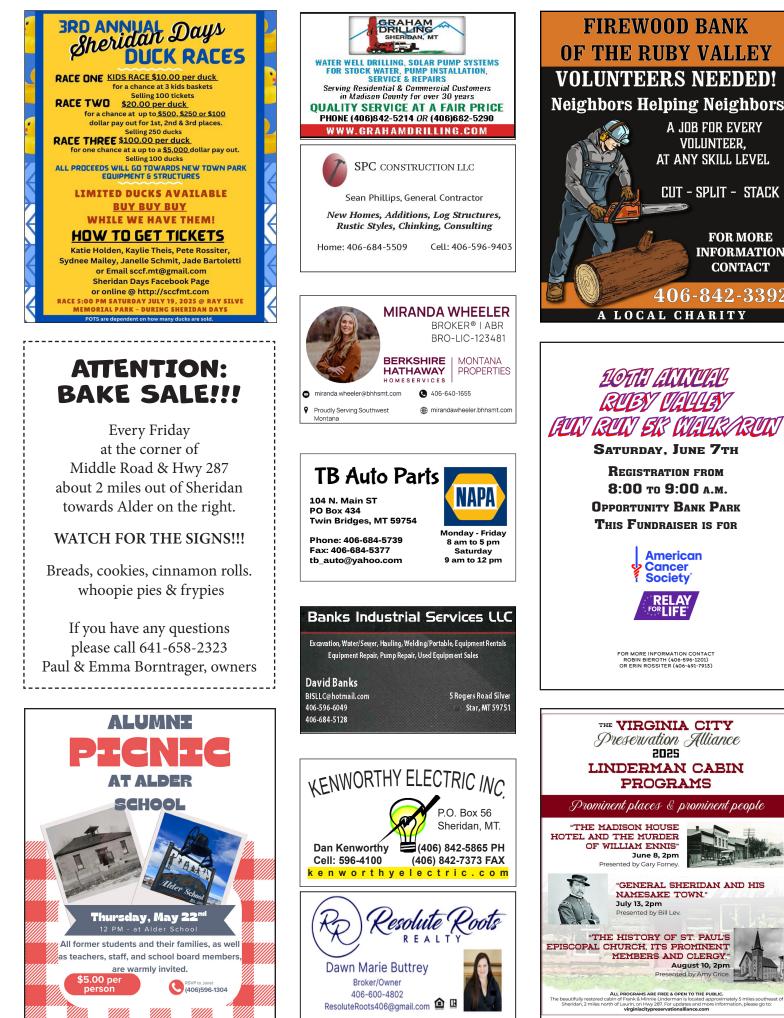






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### TWIN BRIDGES LITTLE LEAGUE MAY 2025 HOME SCHEDULE

GAMES PLAYED AT TWIN BRIDGES BASEBALL FIELDS. CONCESSIONS AND TEAM SWAG AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE. CONTACT TBMTBASEBALL@GMAIL.COM WITH QUESTIONS.

- MAJORS BASEBALL | WIGGINS CARPET & WINDOW CLEANING VS TURNKEY REPAIR & TOWING FIELD | 6:15PM
- JUNIOR BASEBALL | ROCK SOLID SEPTIC & EXCAVATION VS ANACONDA GREEN FIELD 2 | 6:00PM MAY 14
- MINORS BASEBALL | HOLBROOK SEED VS BEAVERHEAD MEATS FIELD 1 | 6:15PM MAY 19
- JUNIOR BASEBALL | ROCK SOLID SEPTIC & EXCAVATION VS STEELE'S WAREHOUSE FIELD 2 | 6:30PM MAY 21
- MAJORS BASEBALL | WIGGINS CARPET & WINDOW CLEANING VS SMELTER CITY MAY 22 FORESTRY FIELD 1 16:15PM
- TEE BALL | MONTANA APPRAISAL PARTNERS VS LAKELAND FEED & SUPPLY FIELD T | 4:30PM MA1
- JUNIOR BASEBALL | ROCK SOLID SEPTIC VS CCCS FIELD 2 | 6:00PM MINORS BASEBALL | HOLBROOK SEED VS THE NOTCH PT FIELD 1 | 6:15PM MAY 28
- MAJORS BASEBALL | WIGGINS CARPET & WINDOW CLEANING VS PEPSI FIELD 1 | 5:15PM MAY 29
  - PONY BASEBALL | BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY VS BANK OF COMMERCE FIELD 1 | 6:15PM





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MAY 30

## BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES

MONTANA PROPERTIES

<b>Community Events</b>										
May/June 2025										
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat				
	May	MAY 20 <sup>th</sup>	21 Twin Bridges Helping Hand Food Pantry 10am-3pm	22	23	24 OPENING WEEKEND in Virginia City – ~Poker Ride ~Duck Race ~Parade				
25 Panthers Senior	memorial DAY	27	28 Twin Bridges Helping Hand	29	30	31				
Graduation @ 1pm			Food Pantry 10am-3pm							
JUNE 1st	2	3	4 Twin Bridges Helping Hand Food Pantry 10am-3pm	5	6	7				
8	9	10	11 Twin Bridges Helping Hand Food Pantry 10am-3pm	12	13	14 FLAG DAY				
15 HAPPY Father's DAY	16	17	18 Twin Bridges Helping Hand Food Pantry 10am-3pm	19	20	21				



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To the Twin Bridges and Sheridan Class of 2025 — wishing you a bright future filled with good things ahead. You've grown, learned, and shown so much heart. We're cheering you on every step of the way!



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MONTANA PROPERTIES

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