

BROUHAHA

Debate brewing
over tap-room
legislation

PERSPECTIVES, C9

**SUMMIT PREP**

Academy aims
to give teens
a fresh start

MONTANA LIFE, CI

DAILY INTER LAKE

SUNDAY

MARCH 17, 2013

www.dailyinterlake.com

\$1.75 Serving the Flathead Valley since 1889

HOPE FOR HOPS



THE COMMERCIAL HOPS field trial at the Britz Ranch near Whitefish will use a trellis system with 18-foot poles similar to this one shown at a hops field in Austria. The local research aims to determine if commercial varieties of hops favored by craft beer brewers can be successfully grown in Western Montana. (©iStockphoto.com/tepic)

Field trial the newest ag research in Flathead

By LYNNETTE HINTZE
The Daily Inter Lake

A field trial to evaluate the feasibility of commercial hops production in Western Montana will get under way this summer at a Whitefish area ranch, once again putting the Flathead Valley in the spotlight for progressive agricultural research.

Tom Britz, who ranches southwest of Whitefish, has been awarded an \$11,820 state Growth Through Agricultural grant for a five-year hops variety trial. Britz has been working on the hops project with Pat McGlynn, the Montana State University agriculture extension agent for Flathead County.

"The question is not if we can grow hops here," McGlynn said, "but if we can grow varieties the brewers want."

With a strong background in horticulture, McGlynn has been the driving force behind several major research projects here that now are in various stages.

The sweet cherry variety trials on Flathead Lake are testing new varieties that ripen either earlier or later to better compete with Washington cherries.

Cold-hardy wine grape trials testing a dozen hybrid grape varieties in Northwest Montana began last year. The idea is to spur wine production that could create a shoulder tourist season for the Flathead.



PAT MCGLYNN leads a cherry orchard tour in Yellow Bay in June 2012. McGlynn, the Montana State University agriculture extension agent for Flathead County, has been the driving force behind several major local research projects. (Brenda Ahearn file photo/Daily Inter Lake)

Flathead County also is participating in a project to test apple, pear and plum trees in this area. An orchard will be planted next month near Columbia Falls Junior High and students will participate in the research. Eventually the fruit will be part of the hot-lunch program at the school.

Because there always are matching funds put into the grant-driven research, "we are looking at over \$250,000 in research projects," McGlynn said. "The Montana Department of Agriculture has contributed about \$115,000 but local growers have made matching or even more investment in the projects with

their land, labor, machinery and cash."

Britz wasn't thinking about hops when he went to McGlynn a while back for advice on growing a legume forage crop he'd heard about from a neighbor. His acreage historically has been used for hay and pasture and he was looking at ways to make the land more sustainable.

"Instead of going down the path of traditional agriculture, Pat suggested that I research hops and gave me a path to determine if a niche market might exist for this crop."

He liked McGlynn's big-

See FIELD on Page A12

Cherry growers considering new varieties

PAGE A3

Revelers celebrate St. Patrick's Day

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Crowds cheered and bagpipes bellowed as New York City's annual St. Patrick's Day parade kicked off Saturday, and people with a fondness for anything Irish began a weekend of festivities from the Louisiana bayou to Dublin.

With the holiday itself falling on a Sunday, many celebrations were scheduled instead for Saturday because of religious observances.

In New York, the massive parade, which predates the United States, was led by 750 members of the New York Army National Guard. The 1st Battalion of the 69th Infantry has been marching in the parade since 1851.

Michael Bloomberg took in his last St. Patrick's Day

parade as mayor, waving to a cheering crowd as snowflakes fell on Fifth Avenue. Marching just behind him was Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny, who presented Bloomberg with a historic Irish teapot earlier.

"The Irish are found in every borough, every corner of New York," Kenny said at a holiday breakfast. "In previous generations they came heartbroken and hungry, in search of new life, new hope; today they come in search of opportunity to

See REVELERS on Page A11

Grape, apple studies also under way

By LYNNETTE HINTZE
The Daily Inter Lake

Montana State University Extension Agent Pat McGlynn had economic development in mind when she decided to find out if there are varieties of cold-hardy grapes that could sustain a number of wineries in the Flathead Valley.

What has happened in Nebraska impressed her.

That state had no wineries in 1994, but by 2006 had 18 wineries producing about 49,000 gallons of Nebraska wine using cold-hardy grapes, at an average of \$10 per bottle. That translates into a \$5.3 million annual economic impact, including \$1.6 million in worker wages.

McGlynn has been following the cold-hardy wine grape trials being conducted by Cornell University on the

See APPLES on Page A12

Browning man stabbed, killed in Polson

The Associated Press

POLSON — Authorities in western Montana say a 26-year-old Polson man has been stabbed to death and a 32-year-old man from Browning has been taken into custody.

The Lake County Sheriff's Department says dispatchers received a report of a stabbing at about 4 a.m. Saturday at a Polson residence in the 1600 block of First Street East.

Police say the victim was taken by ambulance to St. Joseph Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Less than an hour later they located the suspect at a local motel, where he was taken into custody then transported to the Lake County Detention Facility.

A motive remains unclear, but police say alcohol consumption appears to be a factor.

Due to the proximity of the residence to the city/county line, the Polson Police Department and Lake County Sheriff's Office are cooperating in the investigation with assistance from Tribal Law and Order.

GET READY FOR SPRING!
HOME & GARDEN Showcase
Presented By:
FLATHEAD BUILDING Association
AND
Flathead Electric
Community...Integrity...Reliability
FLATHEAD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
Friday, March 15, 4pm to 8pm
Saturday, March 16, 10am to 6pm
Sunday, March 17, 11am to 3pm
BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE & SAVE!
\$5 / per person or \$10 / family of 4 (2 Adults & 2 Children)
AT THE DOOR: \$6 / per person or \$12 / family of 4 (2 Adults & 2 Children)
FOR A LIST OF TICKET OUTLETS GO TO:
www.flatheadhomeandgarden.com

Inside

Business **A10**

Classified **D1**

Crossword **C3**

Montana **A2**

Obituaries **A9**

Opinion **C9**

Records **A9**

Sports **B1**

Valley **A3**

Weather **B8**

PERSPECTIVES

The timelessness of opposing power-hungry presidents

Page C9

FOR HOME

DELIVERY,

CALL 755-7018



8 36118 00011 9
© 2013 The Daily Inter Lake

2013 FORD F150 CREWCAB XLT

4X4, AUTO, V8, #13T55



**\$1750 VALUE PCK
\$1000 FMCC REBATE
\$500 5.0 LITRE REBATE
\$1000 SPECIAL REBATE
\$3000 RETAIL CASH REBATE
\$1000 TRADE ASSISTANCE
\$2250 DEPRATU DISCOUNT**

*O.A.C.

\$33,860

**Was
\$44,360**

DePRATU

Ford

VW

**6331 HIGHWAY 93 SOUTH,
WHITEFISH, MT
863-2511**

NO DOC FEES
SALE ENDS 3/31/13

GOOD NEWS



Carol Marino

Injured soldiers appreciate their special treatment

The motto of the Wounded Warrior Project — “The greatest casualty is being forgotten” — resonates like the playing of “Taps” at a soldier’s funeral.

No one felt forgotten during the gathering of wounded warriors in Whitefish earlier this winter. The soldiers arrived Jan. 30 as guests of the community and the Whitefish Wounded Warrior Project.

During the six days they were in town, the veterans and their families were taken to Whitefish Mountain Resort, where some skied and others snowboarded on specially adapted equipment. They snowshoed in Glacier Park, snowmobiled in the Flathead National Forest and joined Whitefish Winter Carnival festivities.

Special Forces Warrant Officer Airborne Scott Schroeder and his wife Laura were part of the contingent.

After seeing a picture of her son snowboarding, his mother, Susan Schroeder, sent a letter to the town of Whitefish. (whitefishwp.blogspot.com)

She wrote, “With Scott’s injuries we never dreamed he would be able to do the things he has accomplished.”

Schroeder, who had been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan multiple times, lost both his legs above the knee and his right arm was severely damaged when a mine detonated beneath his vehicle in 2010.

“I have shed many tears since we got the call that he was seriously injured,” his mother wrote. “When I saw that picture in your newspaper the tears flowed once more, but they were tears of joy.”

“People like you in Whitefish have given him the opportunity to see that he can still do the things he always loved to do and to try new things, like snowboarding.”

LT. JASON “Jay” Redman, an 11-year member of the U.S. Navy SEALS, was guest speaker at this year’s Wounded Warriors dinner. In 2007, Redman’s team came under heavy machine gun fire in Iraq. Redman took multiple bullets in his arm before the next one hit his face, taking off his nose, most of his cheek bone and shattering his eye socket and jaw.

While recovering at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, he hung a bright orange sign on his door.

It read in part: “To all who enter here: If your are coming into this room with sorrow or to feel sorry for my wounds, go elsewhere. The wounds I received I got in a job I love, doing it for people I love, supporting the freedom of a country I deeply love.”

After 37 surgeries, Redman’s positive attitude is humbling and a tremendous inspiration. He is the founder of Wounded Wear, a nonprofit that designs clothing for America’s wounded warriors.

This was the fifth Wounded Warrior winter visit to the Flathead Valley. The Whitefish Wounded Warrior Project team enlists the help and contributions of countless local individuals, organizations and businesses.

Volunteer Shelle Kuntz wrote to thank the community for its generosity:

“We know we have outstanding restaurants. We know we have world-class venues to enjoy the winter environment. We know we have a loving and caring community. And it all came together when we took the time to share our little piece of our world with those who shared and gave so much for us and our country.”

In closing her letter to the people of the Flathead Valley, Susan Schroeder wrote, “Please thank everyone involved in this project and know that not only did you brighten the lives of these special wounded warriors, but you also brought smiles to the hearts of their families back home. God bless you.”

Community editor Carol Marino may be reached at 758-4440 or by email at community@dailyinterlake.com.

Tax funding request advances**Agency recommends partial funding for carpet-store project**

By TOM LOTSHAW
The Daily Inter Lake

After several weeks of discussion among Urban Renewal Agency members, a request for tax increment money to help reopen the Kelly-Main Street building goes before the Kalispell City Council on April 1.

Paul Roybal is renovating the 88-year-old building and intends to move in his carpet and flooring business. The building has been vacant at

the busy corner of Center and Main streets for most of a decade.

Urban Renewal Agency members on Wednesday voted 3-0 to recommend that the City Council provide up to \$72,961 of support for the project from the West Side Tax Increment Finance District.

That would pay up to 50 percent of the \$67,513 cost to renovate the building’s historic stone pillar and window facade and up to 50 percent of the \$37,065 cost to run a fire-flow water line to the building that could then be shared with neighboring building owners who want to install fire suppression systems.

The recommendation also offers Roybal up to \$20,000 of 3 percent loan support for eligible rehabilitation and code compliance costs.

Kalispell’s planning department and community and economic development department staffers pitched Roybal’s application as a pilot project to Urban Renewal Agency members.

It’s the first application for funding since Kalispell extended the tax increment finance district’s life for 25 years and enlarged its boundary to include a 365-acre railroad corridor targeted for revitalization.

And it comes as staffers are scrambling to craft policies and programs to handle, score

and prioritize demands for limited tax increment money and channel it to accomplish lofty redevelopment goals — both public and private — laid out in the Kalispell Core Area Revitalization Plan.

That policy-crafting process continues in coming weeks.

But after several meetings, Urban Renewal Agency members felt far enough along to make a recommendation for Roybal’s request as they continue to work with city staffers to massage draft program documents that eventually also will go before the council for its blessing.

Reporter Tom Lotshaw may be reached at 758-4483 or by email at tlotshaw@dailyinterlake.com.



PAT MCGLYNN leads a group on a tour of cherry orchards in Yellow Bay in June 2012. The Santina — a large, tasty, fast-growing early cherry — is one of the varieties of cherries being tested to better compete with Washington cherries. (Brenda Ahearn file photos/Daily Inter Lake)

Cherry growers mull new varieties

By LYNNETTE HINTZE
The Daily Inter Lake

This is a pivotal year for local cherry growers.

The Flathead Lake Cherry Growers cooperative will talk to local growers next month about transitioning to new varieties to make Flathead cherries more competitive with Washington cherries.

In a nutshell, that means ripping out trees that produce the popular Lambert cherries and replacing them — through an incentive program — with new varieties.

This crossroad in the local industry coincides with the final year of cherry trials that have been gathering research on several new varieties of cherries.

Growers will order new trees this summer

to replace the Lambert trees, and the trial trees will have a full year of research on the test varieties, explained Pat McGlynn, Montana State University Extension agent for Flathead County.

“This year it will be standing-room-only at the big field day in July,” she said. Growers will be able to see and taste the new varieties and get a close-up look at the trees.

Four years ago, a number of cherry growers from around Flathead Lake approached McGlynn about the challenges facing the industry. The biggest problem was increased head-to-head competition from Washington cherries.

“Now Washington is planting later and at higher elevations, so this will happen more and more,” McGlynn said about the market competition.



DAN GETMAN closely examines cherry tree leaves while on a tour of cherry test orchards in Yellow Bay in June 2012.

More than half of the small-acreage cherry growers in the Flathead belong to the cooperative that takes the cherries to Washington for processing.

In the past, Washington’s cherry harvest finished just as the Flathead cherries were ready. But with a later harvest in Washington, Flathead cherries have

at times been refused by an overwhelmed processing facility.

That put the long-term sustainability of the Flathead orchards in question.

In 2009, when the cherry market was saturated, Monson Fruit Co. bought less than half of the cherries from members of the Flathead Valley Cherry Growers and many growers simply left their cherries on the trees.

An advisory group of local cherry growers was then put together and the consensus was that research was needed to test new cherry varieties developed at Washington State University. These new varieties had been created to be larger, firmer and just as delicious as the Flathead Lambert and Lapin varieties, McGlynn said, but

See NEW on Page A4

Rescue group changing FEAR to GEAR

By JESSE DAVIS
The Daily Inter Lake

FEAR as we know it is disappearing.

The board of Flathead Emergency Aviation Resources is in the process of finalizing a change of the organization’s name to Glacier Emergency Aviation Resources, or GEAR.

“We’re taking a whole new direction,” director Jordan White said Friday. “We’ve formally structured the helicopters under Two Bear Air as a company because that’s really the managing entity that’s providing the services and the aircraft. We split it off from Mike Goguen’s original company — Two Bear Management — and made it into its own company.”

White said Glacier Emergency Aviation Resources will

be structured to facilitate the partnership that now exists between Two Bear Air and the Flathead County Sheriff’s Office.

It will also continue to function as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization so that donations to the organization are tax-deductible. Money from donors will be used to cover specific safety and rescue equipment for volunteers and rescuers.

“We’ve found repeatedly that people we’ve flown and saved and work with want to give something back, want to contribute,” White said. “This way someone whose family was positively affected will have an opportunity to give something back to the program in a meaningful way that will contribute to the same services being available to a different family or victim

in the future.”

The central functions of the organization will continue to be funded by Goguen, a Whitefish philanthropist.

The soon-to-be GEAR was founded in 2011 by White along with several others to provide aerial resources for search-and-rescue efforts and other limited purposes throughout the Flathead Valley and potentially beyond.

To fulfill those goals, the organization has been using a red, white and blue Bell 407 helicopter that previously belonged to Two Bear Management while awaiting delivery of a new Bell 429 currently being built.

The arrival of the new helicopter has been delayed, however, due to technology control requirements of the U.S. government.

According to White, some of

the equipment to be installed on the helicopter, such as thermal imaging equipment, may not be installed outside this country.

White and company initially had planned for all the equipment to be installed in Canada, but now it must be partially installed and the helicopter assembled and flown to the United States, where it will be disassembled and the remaining equipment installed.

The base price of the helicopter, before specialized rescue equipment, is roughly \$5 million. It is now expected to be delivered sometime in early or mid-summer.

The organization has continued to assist local search and rescue efforts in the interim, most recently helping locate the body of a missing woman in Glacier National Park on Thursday.

College offers boiler engineer license class

Flathead Valley Community College has received approval from the Montana Department of Labor and Industry to offer a non-credit First-class Boiler Engineer licensing preparation course beginning April 9.

Aimed at people seeking jobs as high-pressure boiler operators, the course will prepare students to pass the Montana first-class boiler operator/engineer's license exam. To enroll, a student must have at least a Montana third-class boiler operator/engineer's licenses one year of experience after licensing.

F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber helped the college develop the course to train first-class engineers to operate Stoltze's biomass steam boiler and 2.5 megawatt turbine now under construction. This project benefited from a tax incentive from the Flathead County commissioners.

Other Montana businesses also use first-class boiler engineers and have training needs for their current and future work force to continue operations. Oil and gas development projects require boiler operators as well and offer high-paying jobs in Montana and across the region.

NEW Continued from A3

the timing needed to be studied.

Later varieties here would help mitigate the processing challenges in Washington, and earlier cherries would give roadside stand owners a leg up in competing with cherries being trucked to the Flathead from the West Coast. Firmer cherries would be better for international packaging and transport.

In 2010 six research plots were established on growers' orchards around Flathead Lake. An organic plot was planted in 2011 at another local orchard.

Taste is paramount to determining which new varieties to plant, McGlynn said.

"It is agreed that producing a larger cherry without the flavor that the Flathead is known for will not meet the criteria set by the advisory committee," she pointed out.

All of the test varieties have produced exceptionally well and have proven to be winter-hardy, tolerant of Montana's high soil pH level and quick to establish.

Here's a synopsis of the new varieties tested in the trials:

Glory — This was a late entry to the study, added in 2011. This will be the first year the Glory trees will produce fruit.

Hudson — This is also the first year for the Hudsons to produce fruit in the local trials; it's a late, crack-resistant variety developed in New York.

Santina — These are proving to be a large, tasty, fast-growing early cherry.

Attika — They're a standout for size and firmness, and the cherries can remain on the tree for more than a week and a half once ripe, which would accommodate a later harvest and give growers more flexibility.

Pinedale Ruby — This variety is a heavy producer and was the

"This is a great example of collaboration with one of Montana's educational institutions in which the final product also directly benefits Montana business and citizens," said David W. Cook, Building Codes Bureau chief for the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Business Standards Division. "The department applauds Flathead Valley Community College for its development of this program."

Jodi Smith, work-force training director at the college, said she appreciated the collaboration of both Stoltze and Plum Creek Timber Co.

Instructed by Bill Hutchens, the course involves both class and field training and costs \$1,500 plus an estimated \$300 for textbooks. Starting April 9, classes will meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. and every other Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at various locations throughout the Flathead Valley.

People must apply by March 29. For application packets and more information, visit www.fvcc.edu/boilercourse.html or contact the Continuing Education Center at 756-3832 or at ceinfo@fvcc.edu.

Man sentenced for child abuse

The Daily Inter Lake

A 20-year-old Columbia Falls man who injured a 14-month-old girl was given a five-year suspended sentence March 7 after pleading guilty to felony assault on a minor.

Nickolas Fox also was ordered by District Judge David Ortley to pay a \$1,000 fine, an \$800 public defender fee and a \$50 pre-sentence investigation report preparation fee. He was barred from living with anyone under age 18.

Fox's girlfriend, Samantha French, previously was sentenced to five years in prison by District Judge Ted Lympus

on the same charge.

The charges stemmed from a Dec. 17, 2011, report from Kalispell Regional Medical Center that French's then-14-month-old daughter had suffered serious injuries.

The child's father picked her up that day from French and initially noticed some bruising on her face. French told him the bruising had been caused by a dog. The child began vomiting after the father left with her and he took her to the hospital, where she was admitted to the intensive care unit.

Hospital records showed that the child had sustained bruising on her

face and hand, retinal hemorrhaging in both eyes and bleeding in the brain caused by traumatic brain injury.

When detectives spoke with French about the child's bruises, she shared the same story about the dog before becoming silent. She then began crying and said she caused the bruises on the child's face when she "grabbed her face really hard" after she refused to

take a bottle.

Detectives obtained an email exchange between French and Fox in which Fox wrote that he had seen her slap the child in the mouth and "slam her into the crib." Also discovered was an email in which Fox stated he smacked the child and cried afterward because he "felt terrible."

French gave up her parental rights to the child.

Transportation Commission Meeting

Montana Department of Transportation
MDT - Commission Room
2701 Prospect Ave, Helena, MT.
March 28, 2013, 8:30 am

Planning Rail and Transit Division
Speed Zones

9:30 am - Local Government Officials/Public Comment

The meeting is open to the public. MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's participation in any department service, program or activity. For reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, contact Lori Ryan at (406) 444-7200 or PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620 at least two days before the meeting. For the hearing impaired, the TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or (800) 335-7592, or Montana Relay at 711. Alternative accessible formats of pertinent information will be provided upon request.

MDT Lori K. Ryan, (406) 444-7200
ryan@mt.gov

BLEVINS ANGUS RANCH
12th Annual Bull Sale... **MARCH 19, 2013**
Missoula Livestock Exchange - Missoula, MT
Lunch at Noon - Sale at 1:00 p.m.
Sale Day Phone (406) 728-3052

Selling:
65 Registered yearling bulls
18 Registered yearling heifers
15 Commercial yearling heifers

Bulls with:
LENGTH • THICKNESS • MUSCLE
EYE-APPEAL • CALVING-EASE
Breeding for balanced EPDs (Birth & Con)

HAYNES STERLING 924
A 9 Sires:
• CRA Bextor 872 5205 608
• Blevins Raindance 2803
• B/R New Day 454
• Rock'n D Proficient 2915
• Limestone Great Divide U254
• Haynes Sterling 924
• Connally Danny 5398
• Basin Yellowstone R178
• HARB Windy 758 JH

SALE BOOKS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST • **VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

BLEVINS ANGUS RANCH
38306 Dellwo Rd. • Charlo, MT 59824 • blevinsangus@blackfoot.net
Wayne: (406) 644-2309 or (406) 274-2732 cell • Tom (406) 644-2346 • Fax (406) 644-3059



NEW WEST IS HERE FOR YOU.

New West simplifies the Medicare process so you can focus on what's important.

Our knowledgeable local representatives offer straightforward information with personalized service. Plans include premiums as low as \$17, great benefits, worldwide coverage, low co-pays, prescription benefits and a Silver&Fit® Fitness Facility Membership.

Learn More at a Neighborhood Meeting

Enjoy refreshments and solid Medicare advice.

March 20, 2013, 11:30 a.m.

New West Health Services, 1203 Hwy 2 W, Suite 45

April 24, 2013, 11:30 a.m.

New West Health Services, 1203 Hwy 2 W, Suite 45



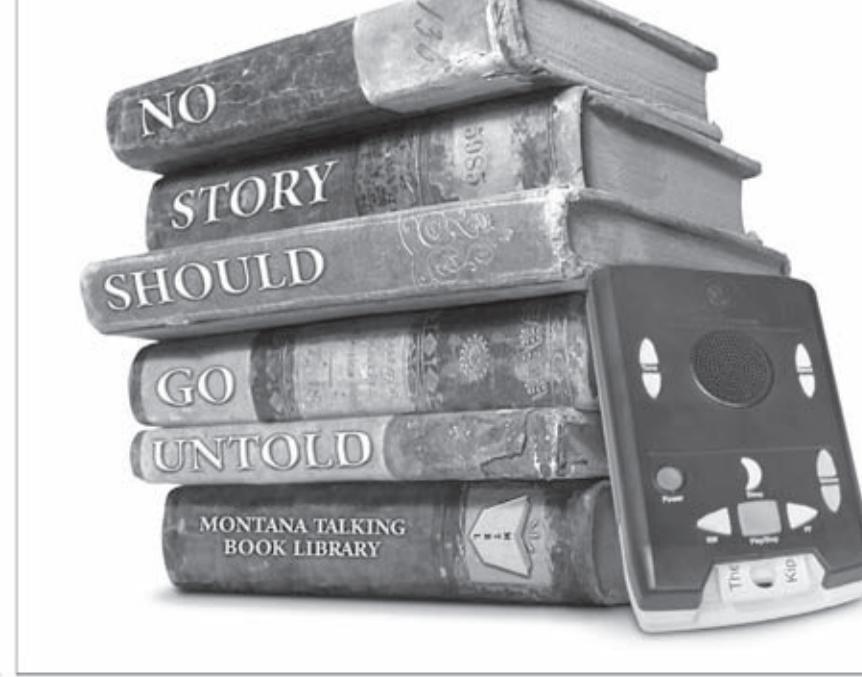
888-873-8044 • TTY 711

newwestmedicare.com

New West Makes Medicare Simple



New West Health Services is a health plan with a Medicare contract. You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. Limitations, co-payments and restrictions may apply. You must live in an approved New West Medicare service area to enroll. Silver & Fit is a federally registered trademark of American Specialty Health Incorporated and used with permission herein. A sales person will be present with information and applications. The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information contact New West Medicare. Benefits may change on January 1 of each year. For accommodations of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call 1-888-873-8044 or TTY 711, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. H2701_NW#52812-11-12 CMS Accepted.



Sometimes the best words on the page aren't on the page.

To commemorate Talking Book Library Month, MTBL is hosting an open house on Wednesday, March 20 from 2-4 p.m. at 1515 East 6th Avenue in Helena. Enjoy refreshments, meet the staff and local volunteers, tour the facilities and celebrate MTBL's first born digital local recording *Hand Raised The Barns of Montana*, a partnership with the Montana Historical Society

Press. For more information call 800.332.3400

or visit <http://msl.mt.gov/tbl/>.



MONTANA TALKING BOOK LIBRARY

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

MTBL is a Regional Library of the National Library Service.

JONES BROS TRUCKING
Increased Pay Scale •
\$500 BONUS for New CDL Graduates / \$1000 BONUS for EXPERIENCED DRIVERS. Local Flatbed carrier now seeking qualified CLASS A drivers for O.T.R. Flatbed TRAINING offered. Contact Rex 406-552-5580 or Tom 406-360-2730

FIELD Continued from A1

picture approach. Her advice was broader than just cultivation, he said. It encompassed economic development, with an eye on helping grow the craft brewing industry here.

McGlynn, known as the "lone non-ranger" when she joined the ranks of her extension agent peers who largely focus on the livestock and grain industries in Montana, said she always has taken an entrepreneurial approach to how agricultural products can build the local economy.

"I am an idea person," she said. "I get excited being part of creating a bigger vision."

McGlynn had been thinking about the hops trial for some time when Britz "took my idea and ran with it."

Britz did much of the leg work, meeting with the Montana Brewers



A JAR OF HOPS is pictured at Rod Douglas' home on Thursday in Kalispell. (Brenda Ahearn/Daily Inter Lake)

Association and local craft brewers. The consensus among brewers was that they'd love to have access to Montana-grown hops.

Nearly all commercially grown hops in the United States are produced in

Tamarack Brewing Co. in Lakeside have stepped up to help sponsor the hops trials.

Marcus Duffey, general manager of Great Northern Brewing, said he immediately supported the hops project. Craft brewers generally strive to use locally grown ingredients and have access to Montana-grown barley, he said. The supply of local hops, though, is limited to backyard and ornamental growers.

Hops have been used in brewing for centuries as a flavoring and stability agent in beer. The effect of hops varies by type and use, but generally hops are used either for their bitterness or aroma.

The hops research will involve surveying craft brewers to determine the most popular of more than 100 varieties. The research plot at the Britz

Ranch will include about 16 test varieties of hops grown on two different trellis systems — angled and vertical — using 18-foot poles.

Data will be collected on survivability, vigor, production quality and quantity, and start-up costs.

Britz acknowledged it will be a challenging crop to grow in Montana. As he was researching hops, growers in Washington and Oregon told him point-blank not to consider hops for this area.

But, he said, their advice was based on their business model. Britz, who has a background in marketing and business development, has an alternative business model in mind that would be based on a cooperative approach.

McGlynn, too, envisions a kind of regional

growers cooperative to use commercial harvest, processing and packaging equipment that comes with a hefty price tag. Commercial hops production is both capital- and labor-intensive and the infrastructure for harvesting and processing doesn't exist anywhere in Montana.

The study also will determine market feasibility for certified organic and non-organic hops.

Britz said it may be possible to offer better quality hops in Montana by using a processing method that uses less heat and therefore would burn off a lesser amount of essential oils.

"But we've got to prove it," Britz added.

Features editor Lynnette Hintze may be reached at 758-4421 or by email at lhintze@dailyinterlake.com.

APPLES Continued from A1

Canadian border. Cornell, from which she earned her Ph.D. in agriculture education, just got another \$2 million grant to further the cold-hardy research.

And there's a multistate Northern Grapes Project under way to study new grape varieties in states from Nebraska to New York.

McGlynn grew up in the Finger Lakes area in New York that has a thriving local wine industry using cold-hardy grape varieties. She's seen the success of that area's wine industry firsthand.

So why not the Flathead Valley, she wondered.

Spurred by a \$30,000 state grant, four research trials have been established at area vineyards that are testing 12 hybrid grape varieties in Kalispell, Yellow Bay, Missoula and Eureka.

The grapes were planted last year.

Red wine grape trial varieties include Leon Millot, Petite Pearl, Balaica, Rondo and Castel. White wine grapes include Louise Swenson White, Espirit, La Crescent (MN 1166), Frontenac Gris (MN 1187) and Osceola Muscat. Table grapes include Somerset Red and Brianna White.

SEVERAL AREA growers have had good luck growing grape hybrids in this area, she noted. Those being tested in the trials are a cross between the European Vitis vinifera and the native American grape.

"This cross makes the grape vine much more winter-hardy and disease-resistant," McGlynn said.

Hybrid grapes as a rule have a higher acid content at maturity and lower sugar content. As the trial grapes mature, local wine-makers will weigh in on which ones work best for them.

Funding for the cold-hardy grape trial runs through 2014, but McGlynn anticipates that growers will continue caring for the hybrids for several years after that unless there's one that's a dud and has to be replaced.

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce President Joe Unterreiner said both the commercial hops and cold-hardy research projects have significant economic development potential for the Flathead Valley.

The Chamber's online libation trail map featuring Flathead wineries, distilleries and breweries has become one of the most-searched areas of the website.

"Research that supports these expanding businesses and makes them more competitive can only add to our efforts," Unterreiner said.

McGlynn just returned from a Western Extension Leadership Development training course in San Diego. She was selected to represent Montana in developing innovating programs for the state. Her focus will be on agritourism.

NEXT UP for the Flathead is participation in a project to test apple, pear and plum trees across the state.

Lewis and Clark County MSU Extension Agent Brent Sarchet wrote a successful specialty crop federal block grant, to be administered by the state Department of Agriculture, that will establish test orchards in Columbia Falls, Power, Helena, Bozeman, Colstrip, Hinsdale and Billings.

Thirty-nine fruit trees will be planted near Columbia Falls Junior High School. Three trees of each variety will be researched. Apple varieties will include Goodland, Honeycrisp, Sweet 16, Northern Lights and Zestar. Pear varieties are Flemish Beauty, Park, Golden Spice, Patten and Luscious, and plum varieties include Mount Royal, Toka and Pipestone.

Students will participate in the research and eventually the fruit will be used in the school's lunch program. Columbia Falls is the only test site that will be incorporated into a school project, Sarchet said.

The last fruit tree research conducted in Montana was done in the late 1970s and early 1980s, he said, adding that since then the climate has changed to some extent.

Establishing more fruit production in Montana also falls in line with a national "locavore" movement to eat food that is locally produced.

Features editor Lynnette Hintze may be reached at 758-4421 or by email at lhintze@dailyinterlake.com.

Affordable Weight Loss Solution for both Men and Women

Lose 5-10 lbs the first week, up to 30 lbs in the first month.



Your One-Stop Weight Loss Shoppe

HCG WEIGHT LOSS & FAMILY CLINIC

Lottie Block APRN BC FNP

(406) 752-LOSE (5673)

1075 North Meridian / Kalispell, MT

hcgwlc@gmail.com / www.hcgwlc.com

Jews in Greece mark WWII Nazi deportation

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP) — Jewish residents of this northern Greek city on Saturday marked the 70th anniversary of the roundup and deportation of its Jews to Nazi extermination camps during World War II.

Several hundred people gathered at Thessaloniki's Freedom Square, where the first group of Jews was rounded up by the occupying German forces on March 15, 1943.

The crowd held a moment of silence, then marched to the city's old railway station, where the first trains departed for the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp complex. A short ceremony

was held at the station and flowers laid on the tracks.

Speakers included the city's mayor, Yannis Boutaris, and Holocaust survivors.

On March 15, 1943, 2,800 Jews departed for the concentration camp.

"We were packed 80

to each train wagon ... When we arrived, they sent a number straight to the crematoriums and kept some of us for work. We were beaten often by the guards," recalled Holocaust survivor Moshe Haelion.

Another survivor of the camps, Zana Santicario-Saatsoglou, described how for many years she was unable to tell

her story. "My children used to ask me what that number on my arm was," she said, referring to the identification number tattooed on Auschwitz-Birkenau prisoners. "I told them it was my old phone number in Thessaloniki."



Happy 40th Again Mom!
aka Pat Phillips

*Love,
the kids and families*

**GIL'S REMODELING EXPANSION SALE**

WE MUST LIQUIDATE 50% OF OUR INVENTORY



SIGNATURE DESIGN SOFA

WAS \$709

NOW ONLY

\$553

SIGNATURE DESIGN QUEEN AIMWELL PANEL BED
NOW ONLY \$366



Serving the Flathead Valley for over 30 Years

Located between Columbia Falls & Whitefish on Hwy 40

GIL'S
Furniture • Mattress
GOT IT FOR LESS

gilsgotit.com

406.892.2586

OPEN 7 DAYS

A WEEK

SALE EXCLUDES TEMPUR-PEDIC