

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

the Montana

VETERAN



Antelope



Volume 26

No. 1

vfwmt.org

April/May/June/July 2023



Mid-Winter meeting was held 21 January 2023 at Post 1087, Great Falls, Montana. It was a great turnout for this event. Our special guest was Past Commander in Chief BJ Lawrence.



Past Commander in Chief BJ Lawrence receives a metal cut-out from Post 1448 Butte, Montana. L-R: Mel Kieninger, Jerry Powers and Dan Kohr.



Post 4067 Malta, Montana participates in the Night of Lights Parade.



It is with our deepest sorrow that we inform you of the passing of Past State Commander Dave Tupper on March 29, 2023. May he rest in peace.



RESPECT THE UNITED STATES FLAG

Bill Turner, Commander of Post 4925 Roundup along with members of his Post were outraged when they saw the new cover of the Mid-Rivers phone directory. It featured a child covered in BBQ sauce trying to eat the BBQ while on top of a US flag. Commander Turner wrote a letter to Mid-Rivers expressing his concern and Mid-Rivers responded with a written apology to Commander Turner, veterans, service members and fellow Americans for any offense caused them by the directory cover.

They stated that cover photos go through a vigorous screening process before being approved for the cover photo, however they failed to identify the issue and again apologized for their oversight and promised to be cognizant of respecting the flag not only in photos but everything they do.

In these times of cancel culture it warms the heart that some Americans take the time to make things right. Commander Turner, we thank you for your service and your patriotism.

Department of Montana Commander, Jeff Schepp

Deadlines

All articles and pictures have to be into Department Headquarters on or before the following dates for the next three issues of The Montana Veteran.

- June 15, 2023 Aug-Sept-Oct-Nov
October 15, 2023 Dec-Jan-Feb-Mar
February 15, 2024..... Apr-May-June-July

Coming Events 2023

Table with 4 columns: District, Date, Location, Time. Includes Spring District Meetings 2023 for Districts 3, 1, 2, 4, 6, and 5.

COMMANDER'S REPORT



JEFF SCHEPP

Comrades,

The last several months has been very busy with yellow ribbon events throughout the state, Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen judging, Mid-Winter (what a great turnout at Post 1087 in Great Falls MT) and recruiting phone calls plus we are a little over 4 months away from our 101st State Convention 14-17 June 2023 in Whitefish MT how time flies. Make sure to register early I know that Post 276 in Whitefish is working hard on to make this an outstanding event.

District meeting are starting 1 April 2023 in Absarokee, 15 April 2023 in Eureka and Great Falls, 22 April 2023 in Butte, 29 April 2023 in Jordan and ending 30 April 2023 in Sidney I am looking forward to see a lot of you at these meetings and thank you for what you do for the VFW in your communities and what you do for the Department of Montana VFW.

As of 27 February 2023, we have 36 Post that are at 100% or Higher and 20 Posts with 10 or less to make 100%. The Department currently sits at 25th nationally with a percentage of 95.69%. We currently are short 279 members of reaching our goal of 100%. Let's make sure everyone is reaching out to our expired members, do the required recruiting events with in our communities to get that new members and the most important thing is that we are all working as a team to reach our goal of 100% by 1 April 2023.

Remember "It's Never Too Late"

Jeffery Schepp
State Commander

SR. VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



JIM LAYTON

Comrades,

We are nearly three quarters of the way through our current program Year. I want to thank each of you for your continued efforts and diligence in lifting one another up and serving our veterans community. Our recent Mid Winter meeting, in which we were privileged to have Past Commander-in-Chief Vincent "BJ" Lawrence as our National Representative, was well attended and I appreciate your participation and input during our deliberations. I also want to thank Post 1087 for once again hosting this outstanding Mid-Winter meeting.

The slogan of the VFW is "No one does more for veterans." This is in great part because we are an organization of veterans serving veterans. I would venture to say no one knows more about service than the men and women who at one time in their lives all took an oath to serve our great nation, and who continue to do so now. Service is part of who we are.

Muhammad Ali once said; "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." If that is the case, I would say our rent has been paid in full, nonetheless, we continue to serve because it is part of who we are and the oath we all took. This is why it is ever more important for us to be out in our communities lending a hand however we may. Being a force for good in our communities not only benefits the community at large, it will draw other veterans to our organization with a desire to continue their service in a meaningful way.

Our continued service is also why we emphasize membership so strongly. Members are the heart and soul of our organization. Without each of us there is no one to fight for veterans as we know how to do. Each of you, whether you recognize it or not contribute greatly to our mission and purpose and I thank you for that.

I challenge each of us to continue seeking out our fellow veterans who desire to continue to be of service not just to meet a membership benchmark of 100%, but to keep our organization growing and strong so that we may continue to advocate for veterans as we always have. I look forward to seeing you all during the upcoming spring district meeting and hearing your thoughts and insights.

Jim Layton
State Sr. Vice Commander



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Trustees:	Ed Viig, Dave Johnson and Art Widhalm	
By-Laws Committee:	Art Widhalm, Jack Hawley, Tim Peters and Jeff Schepp	

JR. VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT



Lonnie J. Johnson

Comrades,

Winter has been brutal. As we get into spring meeting mode, let's not forget about our membership. It seems our programs tend to slow down also in the cold months. Well, we are over the hump. It is time to reach out and get ready for Memorial Day and the busy summer. I am not afraid to tell you that I am quite busy in my new endeavor. But I am still finding time to fit our organization and our veterans in my schedule. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

In Comradeship,

Lonnie J. Johnson
State Jr. Vice Commander

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



MIKE PRYOR

Good day to all! It was very good to see many of you who attended this year's Mid-Winter Conference in Great Falls. I think all of us can say it was one of the largest groups with Posts from all six Districts. A lot of helpful information was available and hope all of you were able to have any and all questions answered.

I would like to chat about a subject we all know and face every day — **people in need**. It could be someone who is sick or facing a terrible disease, loss of a loved one, divorce, or many reasons we don't have time or space to mention. But they are all in need. Sometimes people reach out, but most times they simply are too embarrassed or feel they do not wish to talk about it.

These individuals are first noticed at Post level. It may be the Commander, Chaplain, Service Officer, or just someone sitting around who overheard a conversation in the Canteen. Whoever hears of someone in need, they must take it seriously. Some do, most don't.

Posts Chaplains and Service Officers are a vital resource for those who need help. It may be something as simple as a phone call and listening to their issues. I've said before how important it is to send sympathy cards when appropriate. Stop by and talk in a place where they are comfortable to open up. Whatever it takes we should give it our best to help them. It may mean you have to notify another agency to assist and you should do so immediately! But remember two things - **never promise anything you can't do and follow up!** People appreciate when you care enough to check on their progress.

Don't allow your Post Chaplains or Service Officer (or any elected person) to overlook someone. You never want a problem to become infested into something it may be too late for help. It the old "See Something — Say Something." Some say veteran suicide rate is dropping, but I don't think so. Even if it is, one is too many.

Let's all work together and understand how important this is. I am here and available when needed (see - I made a promise I can keep). May all of you, your family, and those around you be blessed each day.

Mike Pryor,
State Chaplain

VFW Post 7407



Legacy Life Senior Vice Commander Charles Noland of VFW Post 7407, Worden, MT presents a motorized scooter to Gary Michael, a disabled farmer in Huntley, Montana. The scooter was donated to the Post but was in poor repair. Noland repaired and refurbished the scooter in his shop paying for the cost. He then conducted an extensive search for a deserving individual. The scooter will enable a happy Mr. Michael to have much more mobility—something that was greatly lacking.



NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT



JACK HAWLEY

Comrades,

I hope everyone made it through the holidays safely. I'm preparing for my upcoming visit to Washington DC for our legislative conference. The National Council of Administration will also have a workshop and meeting. Along with being on the National Council I have also been selected to be one of nine members of the National Inspection Team, I have done inspections on three Departments, Maryland, Kentucky, and Wisconsin. A week after I get back from Washington D.C I will be flying to New York to do an inspection on the Department of New York. I will give an update at the spring district meetings. Today is the last day of

February and we have 36 posts that have achieved 100% in membership. Folks we have some work left we have 279 members to either renew, reinstate, or get new members for the Department to achieve its goal of 100% in membership by March 31. This is an important year for Montana, we have a chance to elect one of our own Tim Peters to be the next Junior Vice Commander In Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and over a few years become the National Commander in Chief to lead this great Organization but he needs your help he not only needs your support but he needs the veterans of Montana to stand tall and show the rest of the Western Conference that we stand behind our candidate with Montana achieving 100% in membership. I hope to see all of you in the upcoming Spring meetings.

Jack Hawley
National Council Member Montana

"MAKE SERVICE YOUR LEGACY"

Jim Layton, State Sr. Vice Commander



I have my Commander shirts for sale right now. If you are interested and want one, please give me a call at 406-250-5784 or email me at jllayton1225@gmail.com. The shirts are Red in color and come in Men's long and short sleeves and Women's 3/4 sleeves. The shirts cost \$40.00. I have also decided to include a polo shirt option that is also Red in color for \$35.00. If you want to have your shirt before State Convention, please ensure you have your order to me no later than April 1, 2023.



2023
VFW & AUXILIARY
WESTERN CONFERENCE



VFW



Western
Conference
2023

Salt Lake City-Marriott City Center
Salt Lake City, UT
November 2 - 5, 2023

What is a Legacy Life Member?

A Legacy Life member is another level of the VFW life membership program. It is intended to give our life members a way to leave a lasting legacy to the VFW. Future generations will know you not only for the sacrifices you made as a veteran but for the contributions you made as a member. **That's a legacy to be proud of.** When you become a Legacy Life Member, you are helping us strengthen the VFW where "NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS". There are 3 prestigious levels of Legacy Life Membership available, (Gold, Silver, or Bronze). Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life Members. Once your Legacy Life Membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department, and the organization. You will feel confident knowing your contributions to our organization are helping not only today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow. Future generations will know and remember you for the sacrifices you've made during your time in uniform in addition to the contributions you've made as a VFW Legacy Life Member. You will always be a member of your Post even after you're gone. Now Legacy Life memberships can be purchased for deceased life members, this is a great way to honor our past life members and keep them on the rolls of your post. If you are a life member and are interested in this program simply contact your Department Headquarters at (406)324-3992 for an application.

LEGACY LIFE MEMBER EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS

MEMBER INCENTIVES	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
	\$400	\$800	\$1200
Plated Engraved Life Member Card	●	●	●
Lapel Pin	●	●	●
Hat Pin	●	●	●
Distinctive Emblem & Supply Line for Legacy Life Members	●	●	●
Framed Certificate for Legacy Life Membership	●	●	●
Recognition on Internet & Convention Program	●	●	●
Recognition at Kiosks at Memorial Building in Washington, D.C. and Museum at National Headquarters	●	●	●
Special Plaque	●	●	●
Hat Patch	●	●	●
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza	●	●	●
Emblem & Supply Discounts (For Personal Use Only)	5%	10%	15%
Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance	\$2000	\$3500	\$5000
Annual Endowment: Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment: Dept.	\$6	\$12	\$18



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Become a Veterans' Advocate

Join the VFW Action Corps here:
www.vfw.org/weekly
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 and All VFW Action Alerts.

LEGACY LIFE HONOR ROLL

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Dennis G. Dreyer	Gold Post 276	Jason W. Aaron	Gold Post 8292
Fred Hamilton	Gold Post 276	Thomas H. Armstrong	Gold Post 8292
Kenneth A. Herman	Gold Post 276	Carl M. Carver	Gold Post 8292
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Robert Sammon	Gold Post 276	Louis L. Polinsky	Gold Post 8292
Shelia L. Schwegel	Gold Post 276	George F. Fryett, Jr.	Gold Post 9040
John H. Wise	Gold Post 276	Edward B. Andress Jr.	Gold Post 10010
Joe D. Thomas	Gold Post 276	Elmer D. Bernard*	Gold Post 10010
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Lawrence Cunningham*	Gold Post 1087	William R. Bovee*	Gold Post 10010
Bradley A. Darnon	Gold Post 1087	Michael C. Buckley	Gold Post 10010
William A. Darby	Gold Post 1087	Mark E. Colton	Gold Post 10010
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Russell O. Lenoir	Gold Post 3107	Thomas M. Nugent	Bronze Post 276
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Robert L. Jackson II	Gold Post 5159	Edwin M. Yohn	Bronze Post 3107
Howell K. Joiner	Gold Post 5159	Adam R. Zamborowski	Bronze Post 3107
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Clifford S. Tolman	Gold Post 5159	Stanley K. Rosaaen	Bronze Post 4099
James L. Wellington	Gold Post 5159	Lawrence R. Trout	Bronze Post 4099
Clayton H. White	Gold Post 5159	Vernon E. Wilson*	Bronze Post 4099
Ted H. Wilburn	Gold Post 5159	Paul L. Holmgren*	Bronze Post 4762
D. B. Zimmer	Gold Post 5159	Alfred J. Adolph*	Bronze Post 4925
Juan E. Santos Jr.	Gold Post 5514	Daniel C. Barta	Bronze Post 4925
John C. Fay	Gold Post 5652	Jack L. Burger*	Bronze Post 4925
Ronald J. Merwin	Gold Post 5652	Loren R. Erbe*	Bronze Post 4925
David M. Oberwegner	Gold Post 5652	John G. Liggitt*	Bronze Post 4925
Austin W. Bromley	Gold Post 6697	Paul R. Megeed*	Bronze Post 4925
Charles M. Carroll*	Gold Post 6774	Douglas H. Parrott	Bronze Post 4925
John T. Freetty*	Gold Post 6774	Henry A. Plott*	Bronze Post 4925
Paul R. Harper	Gold Post 6774	Wayne H. Moser*	Bronze Post 5514
Thomas F. Kelly	Gold Post 6774	Paul G. Metzger*	Bronze Post 5652
John C. Lattimer*	Gold Post 6774	George O. Stonehocker	Bronze Post 5652
Russell H. Mobraaten*	Gold Post 6774	Gordon L. Ewell	Bronze Post 6774
Robert J. Sutton	Gold Post 6774	Will D. Juhl	Bronze Post 6774
Howard J. Aemisegger	Gold Post 6786	Clifford E. Schleusner*	Bronze Post 6774
Ken J. Bartells	Gold Post 6786	Terry Beezley	Bronze Post 6786
Jerret Bratton	Gold Post 6786	Stanley A. Burns	Bronze Post 6786
Francis E. Croucher	Gold Post 6786	James H. Follensbee*	Bronze Post 6786
Ken R. Utter	Gold Post 6786	Leo A. Howe*	Bronze Post 6786
Melody J. Weldon	Gold Post 6786	J. P. Hume*	Bronze Post 6786
Richard N. Weldon	Gold Post 6786	Patrick L. McKeever	Bronze Post 6786
Gary O. Borland	Gold Post 7311	John C. Mueller*	Bronze Post 6786
Charles M. Handley*	Gold Post 7311	Thomas H. Price	Bronze Post 6786
Barton W. Lawson	Gold Post 7311	Francis L. Utter*	Bronze Post 6786
Edward A. Viig	Gold Post 7311	Dale F. Wassmann	Bronze Post 7311
Joseph F. Welter	Gold Post 7311	Robert M. Stout	Bronze Post 7407

LEGACY LIFE HONOR ROLL continued

Paul E. Coble*
 Mark R. Drake
 Zane G. Murfitt
 James G. Prusa
 Zachariah C. Bain
 Frank L. Belgarde III
 Edward J. Boucher
 John R. Buckley*
 James H. Clark
 Robert J. Clemo
 Timothy R. Graff
 Melvin V. Johnson*
 Timothy R. Graff
 Steven Z. Larson

Bronze Post 8292
 Bronze Post 8292
 Bronze Post 8292
 Bronze Post 8292
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010

Eugene E. Olson*
 Dale A. Person*
 Robert J. Russ*
 Kale J. Schmidt
 Timothy J. Sowa
 George C. Stump Jr.*
 Joseph E. Wagner
 Steven E. Walraven
 Art J. Alvarado
 Vern L. McCants
 John M. Ward
 Roy E. Jordan
 * Deceased

Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 10010
 Bronze Post 12181
 Bronze Post 12181
 Bronze Post 12181
 Bronze Post 15027
 Total 297

State Auxiliary President's Corner



As the 2022-2023 year comes to an end everyone needs to look back on what you have accomplished for our Veterans, military service personnel and their families and be proud of what you have done. Remember the commitment doesn't end it's a never-ending commitment, because more and more Veterans, military service personnel and their families will still be needing our help.

In the words of Margaret Mead, cultural anthropologist, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

We have helped the VFW Post fight the front lines to pass legislation that helps Veterans, military service personnel and their families. We have raised money for the Montana Homestead at National Home, Scholarships and so many other programs the VFW has to offer. We have done a great job this year in helping our Veterans, military service personnel and their families.

So, in closing I would like to say remember to Bridge the Gap! Through Honor, Respect, and Integrity, work as a Team and make Montana VFW Auxiliary strong. Thank you all for a great Year.

With sincere appreciation,

Tamee Havrilla,
 Your State Auxiliary President

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Post 9040 Helps Murdoch's do Photos With Santa

On December 4, Bill Carroll VFW Post 9040 assisted the Dillon Murdoch's Home and Ranch Supply store with their annual Photos With Santa event. Anyone wishing to have their children's or pet's photos taken with Santa could do so during the event. The Post 9040 Auxiliary arranged for a member of the local Patriot Riders organization to be Santa. Post 9040 members (Santa's elves) signed up individuals who wanted to get their photos taken and then took the photos, which were later posted onto the Murdoch's web site. Donations from people getting photos taken along with a generous donation from Murdoch's, will go to both Post 9040 and its Auxiliary. Most of the money will then be forwarded to the National Home for Children to help make their Christmas a little brighter.



Santa with elves Jodie Jolly and Sharon Andersen

VMS Views for Montana

Thank you Comrades for your support of the VMS programs! Our Posts have contributed over \$2,300 toward Veterans in need. And you have reported your activities to me to get forwarded to National. Well done and thank you!

As many Posts have National Guard units near them, please consider Adopting a unit. It doesn't cost anything but your time and may result in more members for your Post. Just a thought.

I will be attending the Spring District meetings except for District 4 as that is the same date as my District 2 meeting. See you in April and please keep up the good work!

Respectfully,
 Marty Havrilla, VMS Chairman
 (mhav4047qm@gmail.com)

VFW Ladies Visit
 By: Xander MacGrady

The VFW ladies came to the school and showed us how to fold a flag the right way. The VFW gave us stuff such as poppy flowers, an award for participating, a little flag, and a ruler that has presidents on it. I liked it.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner
 By: Titus Edinger

We had our Community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 22. We served Turkey, ham, potatoes, gravy, corn, and a lot of sides and desserts. We painted pine cones and decorated the tables with them. We also put white paper down for the table cloths and drew turkeys and wrote what we were thankful for. We put out crayons for the people to write or draw what they were thankful for too. My favorite part was serving the community and raw and what I was thankful for.

Christmas and Winter Jokes:

By: Ryker and Xander MacGrady

What does Jack Frost like best and school? **Snow and Tell.**

What is a mountain's favorite type of candy? **Snowcaps**

What do you call Santa when he doesn't move? **Santa Pause**

How did Mrs. Claus tell Santa the weather? **"It looks like rain, dear!"**

— **SAVE THE DATE** —

June 14-17, 2023

**State Convention
 in Whitefish MT**



VFW Post 5514



Post 5514 Post Commander presents Michael Lellesed with the rifle he won from the post raffle that was held in Troy MT.



Post 5514 Post and Auxiliary Troy Montana presented 2 Checks to the Libby Firemen Fund. Post 5514 presented a check for \$3072.00 and Post 5514 Auxiliary presented a check for \$700.00

Heather Allen



Candidate for Dept. of Montana Jr. Vice Commander 2023-2024

I would like to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for Jr. Vice Commander for the Department of Montana in 2023.

I served in the U.S Air Force from 1995 to 2005, earning my eligibility to the Veterans of Foreign Wars supporting the Kosovo Campaign in 1999 and serving 13 months in the Republic of Korea from 2000 to 2001.

I joined the VFW as a Life Member in 2018 at Post 3596 in Plains, MT. I was elected post Quartermaster in 2019 and continue to serve as their Quartermaster. I played an integral role in earning my post All-American status in 2020-2021 for the first time in its history and again in 2021-2022.

I was elected District 1 Commander for 2022-2023 at the Spring Meeting in Libby on April 16th, 2022 and am ready to move up the chairs. I look forward to meeting more of you as I work my way across Montana. Thank you for your support and consideration.

VFW Positions Held

National

General Resolutions Committee (2022-2023)
Finance and Internal Organization Committee (2021-2022)
General Resolutions Committee (2020-2021)
Aide-de-Camp (2019-2020)

Department of Montana

Social Media Chairperson (2022-2023)
Budget Committee (2022-2023)

District

2022-2023 – District 1 Commander
2021-2022 – District 1 Jr. Vice Commander

Post #3596

Adjutant 2020-Present
Quartermaster 2019-Present (All-State x2 & All-American x2)
Trustee 2019
Honor Guard & Color Guard

VFW Post 1703



Post 1703 Lewistown honored their VOD and PP winners with cake. Pictured are Heath Drivdahl, Gloria Brawdy, and Tacee Watson.

From L-R: Quarter Master Jennifer Oates VOD 1st place winner Heath Drivdahl, Service officer Josh Rouns and Judge Advocate Monty Bodden. present the 1st place check and certificate to Heath Drivdahl.



From L-R: Quarter Master Jennifer Oates VOD 2nd place winner Gloria Brawdy, Service officer Josh Rouns and Judge Advocate Monty Bodden. present the 2nd place check and certificate to Gloria Brawdy.



VFW Post 7407

MONTANA VFW STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Huntley Project VFW Post 7407 Senior Vice Commander Charles Noland, Commander John Carney, and Committee Chairman Mark Wandle present the Montana VFW State Teacher of the Year award to Stephanie Smith-Miller of Lockwood Schools, Lockwood Montana. Stephanie has been a teacher at the school for over 25 years. She is the music teacher for third through fifth grade students. Every year she has organized and presented on Veteran's Day a patriotic concert and reception. The program is well received by the community and is well attended. She is consistent on teaching patriotism and good character to her students. She is a leader in the school system being a former head of the union and

a member of the technology team. Stephanie maintains a goal of improving her teaching skills by seeking further education and training.



VFW Post 4042



VFW Post 4042 members Michael Shepard, Michael Stone and LD Gross presented a QPR Suicide Prevention Class to the Montana State University Army ROTC Battalion. 96 cadets and cadre in attendance.



Michael Shepard of VFW Post 4042 presenting coalition coins to Montana State University Army ROTC cadre. (2LT, CPT Laramée, and MSG Carreno)



Michael Shepard, VFW Post 4042 and member of Veterans Coalition of North West Montana presented coalition coins to Mrs. Hewitt, MAJ Owen and LTC L'Heureux, Professor of Military Science.

VFW Post 5652



TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD DEANNA MCELWEE

Post 5652 Commander Melvin Quackenbush awards Middle school Teacher of the year Deanna McElwee, Polson Middle School her crystal apple and certificate.



In the group photo for first and third place winners of the Patriots Pen contest from Polson Middle school from left to right are Pam Oberwegner, Jr. Vice Aux 5652, Melvin Quackenbush, Commander Post 5652, Ahrianna Rushing 1st place winner PP, Alexa Kinaman 3rd Place winner PP and Dave Oberwegner, Chairman for VOD and PP.

PATRIOTS PEN AWARDS AT CAYUSE PRAIRIE SCHOOL



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4042 Junior Vice-Commander Michael Stone at Cayuse Prairie School presenting Patriot Pen Awards on Veterans Day.

e-Edition

Same format as our printed edition.

You can view the current issue and other back issues of the *Montana Veteran* on our website at mtvfw.org

—Save the Date—

**June 14-17, 2023
State Convention
in Whitefish MT**



VOD Chairman Dave Oberwegner presents Austin Oberwegner his 2nd place certificate for Voice of Democracy.



Karly Smith from Polson Middle School receives her 2 place certificate and check for placing 2nd in the Patriots Pen contest.



Dave Oberwegner presents the 3rd place winner Natalie Craven her VOD certificate.



Dave Oberwegner presents Grace Laivee from Mission Valley Christian Academy her 1st place certificate for VOD.

Local students honored, received scholarship funds for patriotic essays

By Maddie Davis editor@signeyherald.com

On Wednesday, Post Commander Bill Henderson and Auxiliary President Tim Tharp went to local schools to present \$1,400 in educational scholarship funds to students who participated in VFW-sponsored essay contests.

The Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students an opportunity to express themselves in regards to democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay, according to the VFW website. Each year approximately 25,000 high school students from around the country enter to win. The program does out over \$2 mil in scholarships and incentives.

This year's theme was "Why is the veteran important?"

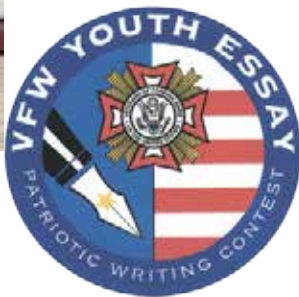
Sidney High School senior Burton Pollari was the local winner and his essay placed 3rd in the state. Burton was awarded \$500 for the third place finish by the program, and then the VFW Post and Auxiliary contributed \$100 each, leaving Burton with \$700 in total awarded funds.

Sidney High School's Lily Jones, Fairview High School's Taylor McPherson and Liberty Christian School's Kirsten Kraft were each presented with \$100 each for their participation in the essay program (\$50 from the VFW Post and \$50 from the Auxiliary.)

A second program is hosted by the VFW for younger students—the Patriot's Pen essay contest for sixth through eighth graders. \$1.4 mil in awarded funds are given out annually throughout the country through this program, with each first place winner in a state receiving a minimum of \$500 and the national first place winner receiving \$5,000.



Burton Pollari and Lily Jones receiving their funds. (L-R): Bill Henderson, Burton Pollari, Lily Jones and Tim Tharp.



Taylor McPherson received \$100 for her essay.



This year's theme was "My Pledge to Our Veterans" and Liberty Christian School's Keira Kraft was the local winner, earning her \$200 from the program. She also placed second in the state of Montana. The VFW Post and Auxiliary each contributed \$100, leaving Kraft earning a total of \$400.

Kirsten Kraft and Keira Kraft received funds for their efforts in the essay contests.

VFW Post 497

VFW PRESENTS VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, PATRIOT'S PEN AWARDS



Porter Blackwell and Grayden Blackwell accept their Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen awards from Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 497.

Havre's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 497 has presented awards to local students Porter Blackwell and Grayden Blackwell in its patriotic speech and essay programs.

Voice of Democracy

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the VFW's premier scholarship program. Each year nearly 80,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships.

This year's theme is "Why is the Veteran Important?"

We are proud to present this year's Voice of Democracy award to Porter Blackwell. Porter did an outstanding job on his oral report. We were proud to forward his speech on to compete at the state level. Porter's speech did not move on to the national level but he should be very happy with his effort, and I know his parents are very proud.

Patriot's Pen

The Patriot's Pen program is a nationwide youth essay competition that gives students the opportunity to express their views on a patriotic theme. This year's theme is "My Pledge to our Veterans."

The program is open to all sixth, seventh and eighth grade students.

Grayden Blackwell submitted an extraordinary paper on this year's topic. We are extremely proud to present Grayden this year's Patriot's Pen award for his outstanding effort.

BEBEE NAMED VFW FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

From Havre Daily News 1 Mar 2023



Bear Paw Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Josh Bebee accepts his Firefighter of the Year Award from Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 497.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars recognizes the importance of those individuals who perform the selfless duties of public servants for our communities. Each year we select the one individual who sets themselves apart in each of the categories to be recognized. The criteria for these selections is difficult and demanding. These individuals must be recognized by their colleagues or those they serve. They must demonstrate excellence in the performance of their duties and have a consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years. These individuals must also show a continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

The Bear Paw Volunteer Fire Department led the way last fall in fighting the Eagle Creek forest fire. The department spent a week out on the line fighting the fire and its fire chief, Bebee, was right there leading the way. Bebee coordinated with county, state and federal assets to ensure the fire was properly contained and the handover was completed to standard. Bebee and the Bear Paw Volunteer Fire Department did an outstanding job, as they always do whenever the need arises.

Bebee has been the Fire Chief for 10 years, his leadership and guidance have allowed the department to grow. Not only do they have a new firehall but they also have made huge advancements in training and equipment. Bebee and the department continue to develop and implement better ways to keep the Hi-Line safe from wildland fires.

It is with great pride that we present the VFW Post 497 Firefighter of the Year award to Josh Bebee.

STORTZ PRESENTED VFW TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

One of the primary goals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is to promote civic responsibility and patriotism, and to support youth and local programs across America.

We understand that the youth of today will be the leaders of tomorrow and that is why the VFW remains dedicated to establishing programs designed for young people and educators. Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Program. This program is designed for teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism in the classroom.

This year's recipient of Teacher of the Year is Lynette Stortz. She has been a teacher for over 20 years and has been teaching the students of the Hi-Line at Highland Park Early Primary School since 2007. Stortz was raised by veterans and is an active supporter of veterans and patriotic functions both inside and outside of the classroom.



Lynette Stortz accepts her Teacher of the Year Award from Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 497.

HAVREITES RECEIVE STATE VFW PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

Havre Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 497 announced that three Havre public services providers have been recognized by the VFW as Public Service Award winners for the State of Montana for 2022-2023.

Hill County Sheriff's Office Dispatch and 911 Supervisor Amanda Hamilton, Havre Fire Department Capt. and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Cody McLain and Havre Police Department Patrol Sgt. Justin Gomke were presented the awards.

A release from Post 497 said VFW recognizes the importance of those individuals who perform the selfless duties as public servants for their communities. Each year the local VFW Post selects one individual who sets themselves apart in each of the categories to be recognized. The four categories for the Public Servant Award are firefighter, emergency medical technician, law enforcement officer, and a new category this year, the 911 Post 49 dispatcher.

The criteria that each nominee must meet for these selections is difficult and demanding, the release said.

The nominees must be recognized by their colleagues or members of the community in which they serve.

- They must demonstrate excellence in the performance of their duties.
- They demonstrate consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

The nominees are selected at the local post level and forwarded to the state level to compete against nominees from other posts in Montana.

Hamilton, the state VFW National 911 Dispatcher award winner, has provided exemplary service to the community since 2011. She continues to set a high standard as a training officer and supervisor for a critical service, the release said.



Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 497, Havre Police Chief Gabe Matosich, representatives of the Havre Police Department and Havre Mayor Doug Kaercher present Havre Police Department Patrol Sgt. Justin Gomke, front center, with his Montana VFW National Law Enforcement Office award.

McLain, the state VFW National Emergency Medical Technician, has served the community for 18 years as an EMT and Fire Department captain. His list of accomplishments and volunteer assignments is exceptionally long as McLain is involved in so many facets of the community.

Gomke, the state VFW National Law Enforcement Officer, has provided outstanding law enforcement service to the City of Havre for more than 11 years. He has an extensive history of excellence and continues to train and lead the officers and staff of the Havre Police Department.

Each winner received an award citation from the National Commander of the VFW, a local citation from Bear Paw Post 497 and a Chamber Gift Certificate to allow the winner to put back into the community.

The release said VFW Post 497 members were honored to present these awards to the winners at their place of employment to celebrate with their co-workers and family members.

Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 497 and Havre Fire Chief Nathan Courtnege present Havre Fire Department Capt. and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Cody McLain, center, with his Montana VFW National Emergency Medical Technician award.

PHOTO
NOT
AVAILABLE

VFW Rifle Raffle

Spring 2023



HENRY
Cal .30-30
Or Remington
700 30-06



**Henry 30-30 or
Remington 700 30-06**

Drawings to be Held 16 June, 2023

Tickets only \$5 each or 6 for \$20

WOUNDED WARRIOR HANS ZAGLAUER



VFW Post 4042 members Michael Shepard, Michael Stone, Ron Wenzel, LD Gross, and Doug Shanks who are also members of the Veterans Coalition of Northwest Montana, a Suicide Prevention program in which the Coalition paid \$500 for batteries for a tracked chair for a wounded warrior.

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I have had the opportunity on several occasions to work with Kim Winston on custom orders. Kim has always been an extremely easy person to work with, whether it's custom shirt orders, coffee mugs or marketing items. I simply give her my ideas and in no time, she is emailing me sample pictures that she thinks might be what I'm looking for. Once I decide exactly what I want and what colors, I let her know and she works the order up, sends me a proof to approve and gets my project ordered. When my order has shipped, she lets me know the tracking number and when it is expected to arrive. In every case I received exactly what I expected. When I need a custom item from the VFW Store Kim Winston is always my first call. Kim Winston is a first-class employee of the VFW. With customer service as her number one priority, it is always a pleasure doing business with her.



TIMOTHY C. PETERS
State Adjutant/Quartermaster
Montana



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vfwstore.org | 39

TAPS

Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Sur Name	Post	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Sur Name
209	Dwaine	F	Selk		3596	John	T	Schmauch	
209	Robert	V	Vasecka		3648	Daniel	V	Guevara	
209	Albert	H	Yee		3831	James	G	Caird	
276	Kim	A	Rogers		4018	Robert	A	Mc Lean	
276	Donald		Wedel		4042	Henry	T	Demmons	
497	Larry	T	Sasaki		4042	Joe	D	Herrin	
497	Gary	J	Crossler		4042	William	D	Stout	
497	Mike	M	Hellman		4042	Samuel	L	Holodnick	
497	Larry	T	Sasaki		4067	Ernest	E	Becker	
689	Thomas		Lunceford		4099	Charles	G	Albrecht	
903	William	D	Tester		4099	Richard	A	Ellwein	
903	Frank	A	Langevin		4099	Joshua	W	Entzel	
903	Jacj	O	Rodgers		4099	Alfred	J	Falcon	
1087	Larry	E	Barghultz		4099	Ronald	F	Osborn	
1087	Lesley	S	Cislo		4099	Norman	E	Torgerson	
1087	Ralph	B	Cox		4109	Walter		Willson Jr	
1087	Jeffrey	P	Hunt		4109	Robert	D	Blosson	
1087	Robert	V	Lemoine		4109	Keith	A	Reynolds	
1087	Howie	D	Pittman		4109	Donvovan	D	Schmidt	
1087	Richard	K	Rusk		4109	Karlyle	D	Vansetten	
1087	Frank	H	Snow		4620	Mick	J	Thompson	
1087	Charles	L	Stephens		4620	John	T	Mc Master	
1087	John	P	Carlson		4620	Leland	D	Standiford	
1087	Shirley	A	Carlson Jr		4669	John	C	Sanders	
1087	Lowell	E	Carver		4744	Wally		Beck	
1087	William	D	Johnson		5159	Bobby	J	Basham	
1087	John	A	Knutson		5514	James	A	Carr	
1087	Jesse	D	Mc Lellard		5514	John	E	Erickson	
1087	Lukas	E	Rankin		5514	William	T	Lowe Jr.	
1087	Howard	W	Rowe		5556	Paul	L	Fitchett	
1087	George	W	Tongate		5556	Darrell	C	Roberts	
1087	Gerald	E	Van Every		5652	Bert	D	Postlethwaite	
1116	Milton	A	Coty		5652	Robert	J	Watson	
1116	Robert	W	Leaf		5652	James	N	Corcoran	
1125	Dale	B	Hewitt		5748	Charles		Riggs	
1125	Bland	V	Lunde		6238	Johan	R	Nilsen	
1125	Joseph	G	Borntrager		6238	Joseph	M	Magone	
1125	Gerry	R	Dawson		6774	John	R	Browning	
1125	Charles	L	Porter		6774	Charler	M	Carroll	
1448	Roderick	M	Duncan		6774	Fred	F	Reichert	
1448	Ronnie	W	Norris		6774	James	F	Walker	
1507	Robert	D	Gwaltney		6774	George	T	Walkki	
1507	Frank	E	Novotny Jr		6774	Ernest	L	Flynn	
1548	Terry	A	Holthaus		6774	Donald	A	Larson	
1548	Christ	R	Kuntz		6774	James	E	Larson	
1548	John	M	Landon		6774	Clifford	B	Saylor	
1548	Stephen	P	Mock		6774	Dennis	H	Tracy	
1548	Salvador	F	Sararcino		6786	Joseph	M	Cheevers	
1548	Marilyn	B	Smith		7311	David	A	Clements	
1548	Robert	E	Wenholz		7481	Randall	A	Angevine	
1548	Steven	G	Johnson		7621	David	W	Keith	
1548	William	S	Lamey		7655	Michael	H	Crane	
1548	Jim		Pierce		7655	Lavern		Amestoy	
1551	Kenneth	G	Voldseth		7655	Harry	A	Arvidson	
1551	Norman	E	Lindsley		8292	Russell	H	Dodd	
1551	Harlan	S	Wise		9040	Gerald	E	Hawkins	
1579	Randy	M	Butala		9040	Richard		Weaver	
1579	Randall	A	King		10010	Jonathan		Burdsall	
1579	Richard	D	Peterson		10010	Melvin	T	Nelson	
1579	Donald	F	Grauman		10010	John	C	Vaughn	
1579	Harvey	L	Watts		10010	Paul	R	Batterman	
1595	Howard	D	Best		10010	William	F	Chapek	
1595	Charles		Barbero Sr.		10010	LeRoy		Christensen	
1634	Jose		Riojas		10010	Milton	A	Coty	
1634	Harold	J	Weinmaster		10010	LeRoy	S	Johnson	
1634	John		Clark		10010	Robert	W	Leaf	
1703	Bill	L	Denning		10010	LeRoy	M	Nielson	
1876	Lloyd	A	Wallin		10010	Harold	O	Olson	
2154	Jonathan	J	Holmquist		10010	George		Smilonich	
2252	Darrell	J	Christofferson		12112	Syd	A	Brosten	
2252	Gherald	R	Fredericks		12112	Vern	H	Olson	
2252	Edward	W	Hetrick		12112	Paul	D	Stoffel	
2252	Michael	R	Jordan		12177	Al		Kinton	
2252	Dennis	O	Martinson		12177	Robert	T	Schwegel	
2252	Alan	W	Young		12181	Wallace		Ory	
2252	David	A	Anderson		12181	Ronald	P	Jones	
2252	Kenneth	W	Bauska		15027	Harold	R	Cambell	
2484	James	L	Nelson		15027	Allen	F	Fox	
2986	Donald	A	Gauvreau Jr.		15027	Gary	M	Frisbie	
2986	Robert	E	Schultz		15027	Frank	A	Hutton	
3107	George	J	Wright		15027	James	L	Mc Clure	
3107	Terry	L	Amundson		15027	George		Robertson Jr.	
3107	Alivin	E	Austin		15027	Erwin		Spent	
3177	Dennis	L	Greenwalt		15027	Theodore	A	Tennant	
3177	Dale	A	Lamphear		15027	Al		Zelver	
3596	Douglas	K	Browning		15027	John	K	Kent	
3596	Gary	A	Jenson		15027	Tranquilino	D	Leyva Jr.	
3596	Paul	L	Stariha		15027	John	D	Mac Lead	
3596	Dave	A	Tupper		15027	Herbert	R	Monk	
3596	Joseph	M	Ducharme Sr.		15027	Norman		Peters	
3596	Terry	R	Fischer		15027	Frank		Rosette	
3596	Edward	W	Manning		15027	George	B	Stipe	
3596	David	E	Saas		15027	Al		Zelver	

<p>WHITEFISH POST 276 Meeting 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Post and Auxiliary Club Room open 9:00 a.m. to ? 7 days a week</p>	<p>BLACK EAGLE POST 4669 Post Meetings – 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Club open daily at 12:00 p.m. Mon-Sat Lounge – Banquet Hall – Meeting Room Bowling Center, 2332 Smelter Ave. 453-4736</p>	<p>DAN ARNOLD DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday 406-453-0473 600 Central Plaza, Suite 300 • Great Falls, MT 59401</p>
<p>GREAT FALLS POST 1087 Meeting 2nd Thursday each month 6:00 p.m. Chicken & Steak Dinner – 3rd Sunday Breakfast Every Sunday – 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>POLSON POST 2986 Post & Auxiliary Meeting 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m. Club open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. 5th and Main in Polson</p>	<p>PONY VFW POST 3831 AND MOC PUP TENT #24 Post Meetings 2nd Saturday 1:00 p.m. at Pony Bar Members and Guests Welcome</p>
<p>LIBBY POST 1548 Meetings 1st Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Bingo every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Club open daily at 12:00 Noon to 2:00 a.m. 7 days a week</p>	<p>KALISPELL POST 2252 Post Meets 1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Breakfast available for purchase. 3rd Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Lounge open 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Daily Come in and enjoy Flathead Camaraderie</p>	<p>BOZEMAN POST 903 121 W. Main (406) 577-2155 Meeting 3rd Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Club House Open 12 Noon - 11 p.m. daily Members and Guests Welcome</p>
<p>BIGFORK POST 4042 AND AUXILIARY VFW Meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month/same time Auxiliary Meeting 1st Wednesday of the month Steak Night – 3rd Wednesday of the month</p>	<p>EUREKA POST 6786 Post Meeting 1st Tuesday – 6:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 1st Tuesday – 1:30 p.m. Club open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.</p>	<p>MISSOULA POST 209 Post Meeting 2nd Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Tuesday – 2:00 p.m.</p>
<p>Visit the Montana Military Museum At historic Fort Harrison, just west of Helena. Telling Montana's Military History and Recognizing Montanans For Their Service! For more information write to: Fort William Henry Harrison Museum Foundation & Montana Military Museum ATTN: Museum Director/Curator P.O. Box 125, Fort Harrison, MT 59636-0125 E-mail: myfun51@msn.com – 406-324-3550</p>	<p>EAST HELENA POST 10010 Post Meeting, 1st Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting, 3rd Monday, 3:00 p.m. Cooties Meeting, 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Club Open from 11:00 a.m. to ? Stop By and Enjoy Our Smoke Free Club</p>	<p>TROY VFW POST 5514 Post Meeting, 2nd Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. Auxiliary Meeting, 1st Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Jr. Girls Meeting, 4th Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>GLASGOW POST 3107 AND AUXILIARY 1222 Highway 2 West Meeting 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Canteen open 2:00 p.m. to ?, Mon-Sat</p>	<p>PLENTYWOOD POST 4018 AND VETERAN'S CLUB Post Meeting 1st Tuesday – 7:00 p.m. American Legion Post 58 Meeting 2nd Monday – 8:00 p.m. Club Hours 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.</p>	<p>MALTA POST 4067 & AUXILIARY Post Meetings 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Wednesday at 6 p.m. Club Open 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday</p>
<p>PLAINS POST 3596 Post Meetings 1st & 3rd Wednesdays Auxiliary Meetings 2nd Monday Club – Bowling Alley – Banquet Hall You Are Always Welcome</p>	<p>BILLINGS HEIGHTS POST 6774 Post Meeting 2nd Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting 2nd Thursday - 6:00 p.m. Canteen Open Daily</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">e-Edition</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Same format as our printed edition. You can view current editions as well as back issues of the <i>Montana Veteran</i> on our website at vfwmt.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Montana Veteran Department of Montana VFW c/o Tim Peters P.O. Box 4789 Fort Harrison, MT 59636</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Montana Veteran is designed at American Publishing LLC Jenny DeBack, Owner americanpublishing8482@gmail.com</p> </div>
<p>SIDNEY POST 4099 Meeting 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Club open daily 10:00 a.m. to Midnight Closed Sunday Phone: 433-9982</p>	<p>BILLINGS POST 1634 4242 State Ave. Post Meeting 1st Monday at 7 p.m. Kitchen Open Tuesday-Sunday Canteen Open 10:00 a.m. - Close</p>	
	<p>LEWISTOWN POST 1703 Post Meeting 3rd Monday – 7:00 p.m. Basement – American Legion Club</p>	

VA Montana Health Care System
TOLL-FREE NUMBER
1-877-468-8387 (M-F: 8:00-4:30)

<p>Option #1 Pharmacy (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refill 2. Renewal 3. Anticoag 4. Staff <p>**Refill Option is available 24 hours.</p>	<p>Option #2 Central Scheduling (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>Option #3 Mental Health (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appointments 2. Crisis Nurse 3. Staff <p>**If crisis nurse is needed after 4:30 p.m., call 406-442-6410</p>	<p>Option #4 VA Clinics (Between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Missoula, Kalispell, Cut Bank 2. Great Falls, Lewistown, Havre 3. Fort Harrison, Anaconda, Bozeman 4. Billings, Miles City, Glendive
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