

Courtesy Photo for I-O VISITING STAFF

— Thirty members from Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRSC) from Montana State visited western Triangle Ag Research Center on Wed., May 9. The Entomology/ Insect Ecology and Agronomy/Varietal Testing team members showing insect specimens and explaining about various research activities to the participants.



Commissioners approve text to 9-1-1 program

Note: These are the minutes from the May 9 Commissioners Meeting.

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the Preventative Oral Health Care Program Task Order Contract Amendment with the MT Department of Public Health and Human Services for the current contract year for an additional \$6,000. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kuka moved to approve the Encroachment Agreement requested by the Northwestern Energy to install powerlines under Trunk Butte Rd. Motion carried.

Requests for proposal were solicited for the purchase of a pickup for the Road Department. Two proposals were received:

Courtesy Ford—\$32,225.00—2018 Ford F-150 Special Service Vehicle with aluminum bed

Van Motors—\$32,857.36—2018 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 4WD Crew Cab with steel bed

Commissioner Seifert moved to accept the proposal from Van Motors at the higher cost because it included a steel bed. Motion carried.

DIS Technologies submitted a quote of \$11,757.50 to replace the server in the courthouse. Commissioners were advised to replace the server and the sonic wall as they have gone beyond their expected life and have begun to cause some technical issues. The cost will be \$11,757.50. Commissioner Kuka moved to purchase the new server and sonic wall from DIS for the quoted amount. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kuka moved to set the County Compensation Board meeting for Wed., June 13 at 10 a.m. in the Commissioner's Office. Motion carried.

Ryan Olson, a Public Safety Consultant with Third Signal was in attendance to discuss purchasing a system which would allow people to text to 9-1-1. The cost of the program is a onetime installation cost of \$8,000.

Commissioner Kuka moved to purchase the Text To 9-1-1 system, to be paid out of 9-1-1 funds. Motion carried.

Also attending: Ryan Olson, Third Signal; LeAnn Hermance, DES Coordinator, and Jeff Pruttis, Sheriff Deputy.

Managing your septic system after a flood

If your home or the area around your home has been flooded, your septic tank may fill with water by leakage through the lid or by rising ground water entering around the inlet or outlet, or your drainfield may become saturated and unable to drain. Water entering the tank or a saturated drainfield may cause sewage to back up into your home, depending on the elevation of your septic system relative to the lowest drains or toilets.

Wastewater contains human disease-causing microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses and parasites. Diseases can be transmitted to humans from wastewater if appropriate protective measures are not taken. The safe disposal of wastewater is essential to protect your health and the health of others. Ensure children and pets are kept away from sewage or wastewater affected areas.

How does a septic system flood?

Septic tanks are typically a concrete or plastic tank that collects the wastewater from toilets, bathrooms, the kitchen and the laundry. In a functioning system, the solids in the wastewater settle in a primary tank; the wastewater is then discharged through a drainfield into unsaturated soil.

Most septic tanks will not be structurally damaged by flooding since they are below ground. However, flood water may enter your septic tank through a flooded lid or when flooding causes ground water to rise and your tank becomes immersed. In either case, water can enter your home through toilets, showers, or floor drains if the water covering the flooded tank is higher than these openings in your plumbing system. The immediate concern is exposure to pathogens and damage to the floors, walls, or furnishings from the water. The longer term concern arises since flooding of the septic tank may wash out solids from the tank back into the sewer pipe causing

blockages or system damage.

Safety issues need to be considered at all times. Older septic tanks can collapse if pumped while covered with flood water and any septic tank (especially those recently installed) can float out of the ground if pumped out during very high ground water conditions. Also, some onsite wastewater treatment systems use electrical equipment such as pumps which can short out or be damaged by flooding. Homeowners need to be aware of their technical limitations and call for professional help as conditions warrant.

What should I do if I suspect my septic tank has been flooded?

Do not use or flush your toilet until you know that the septic tank and associated sewer pipes are intact, otherwise wastewater could flow back up into the house through the toilet, shower, bath, and laundry drains.

If you suspect your wastewater system has been physically damaged by the flood, contact the county health department and a licensed septic system installer or a licensed plumber to have it assessed.

Septic tanks inundated with flood water can be professionally pumped after the flood emergency has subsided, but the need depends on the flooding event. If flood water containing silt or other debris was able to enter the tank or any part of the system, pumping is recommended. If the tank and drainfield were simply inundated by a high water table, pumping may not be needed since no solids were added to the system. However, the floating scum layer may have been raised to the top of the tank and adhere to inlets, outlets, and vents, which can become plugged. An inspection by a qualified professional can determine the need for a pump out. If the contents of the tank have been stirred up or otherwise subject to turbulent flow, a pumpout is needed. Any

pumping should be delayed until flood waters have receded and the water table has lowered. Contact your local health department for a listing of licensed septic tank pumpers in your area or look in the Yellow Pages under "Septic Tanks-Cleaners".

Pumping out a flooded septic tank should be done with care as this could cause the tank to float out of the ground and damage the tank or sewer pipes. In some cases it may be prudent to fill a pumped septic tank with water to prevent it from floating out of the ground.

If the drainfield area is waterlogged or clogged, additional water will not drain and may pool on the surface. Measures such as pumping out the whole septic system (septic tank and drainfield) may be necessary but only after the water table has lowered. This may need to be done several times. Saturated soil is especially susceptible to compaction, which can lead to system failure. Avoid compaction of the soil over the drainfield area caused by driving or operating equipment in the area.

In most situations turning off power to pumps may be necessary to prevent flooded pumps from overheating, wearing out or pumping out untreated water. In some instances the pump may be required to be left on to prevent other types of damage – contact a licensed septic system installer or plumber for advice.

What should I do if sewage has overflowed inside my home?

Sewage contains harmful bacteria, viruses and parasites. Sewage needs to be cleaned up as soon as possible. Keep children and pets away from the area until this is done. Some appropriate clean up procedures are:

- * Use rubber gloves, boots, and eye protection.

- * Remove and discard contaminated household materials that cannot be cleaned or disinfected, such as carpet and chil-

dren's soft toys.

- * Clean all contaminated areas with hot water and detergent, then disinfect. Pay special attention to cooking utensils, work surfaces and other surfaces such as floors and walls.

- * Dip utensils in a solution of 1.5 cups of household chlorine bleach in two gallons of cold water (a household bucket) for two minutes. Rinse in clean water.

- * For disinfecting hard surfaces, use the same solution, leaving it wet for 10 minutes. Rinse off with clean water.

- * Disinfect cleaning mops, brooms and brushes with the bleach solution.

- * Clean and dry dirty shoes and wash your clothes separately after clean up.

- * Increase ventilation inside the house.

- * Throw out food containers that have been in contact with sewage, including unopened bottles.

- * Attend to any cuts and wounds immediately. Disinfect the wound then cover with a waterproof dressing.

- * Wash your hands and any affected parts of your body with soap and water.

Contact your local water authority or Environmental Health Officer for further advice.

What should I do if sewage has overflowed outside my home?

Sewage contains harmful bacteria, viruses and parasites. Sewage needs to be cleaned up as soon as possible. Keep children and pets away from the area until this is done. Some appropriate clean up procedures are:

- * Report the spill to your local health department.

- * Use rubber gloves, boots, and eye protection.

- * Cover the surface of the sewage spill with hydrated lime, following manufacturer's warnings. Avoid getting lime on your skin and clothing.

- * Use rake or shovel to mix the lime into areas where the spill is thick.

- * After 24 hours rake up the thicker residue into plastic bags and dispose of in the trash.

- * Use a hose to rinse the lime into the soil.

- * Block access until sunlight thoroughly dries the area.

If the area has been flooded, the use of lime should occur after flowing water has diminished and the standing water has receded.

More information:

Flood cleanup health tips: <https://deq.mt.gov/Portals/112/Water/PWSUB/Documents/security/EmergencyPreparedness/DrinkingWater/FLOOD7-3.pdf>

Centers of Disease Control information: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/septic/septic.html>.

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WEST TIBER NEWS

by Iva Kolstad

Mother's Day was a beautiful day with sunshine brightening the special days for mothers as they were honored by their families on Sunday. It was 74 degrees Sunday.

Church services started out the day. The message heard at St. Olaf and Our Saviors was on Mothers, and a special one in the Bible. She was the mother of three, Moses being her third one and during the time when the wicked Egyptian Pharaoh commanded that every Hebrew baby boy born to be killed, drowned in the Nile. (You can find this in Exodus, first chapter.) The Hebrew mother hid her newborn boy in a basket in the Nile River reeds, hiding him until some Egyptian woman would find him and want the child. No doubt, God had his hand in this plan as it was this Hebrew boy, raised and educated in the Egyptian courts, with his real mother as the nursemaid to take care of him. Years later Moses led thousands of Hebrews across a miraculous crossing of the Red Sea to the desert, then free of Pharaoh. What the sermon was stressing is the un-selfish love of a mother is of great importance in protecting their child and teaching them God's plan for them to exemplify good leadership in home and community. And God is a willing helper, standing by for the asking.

Therefore, we can be grateful to all mothers who have taught us to teach our children the Christian life. This includes even women who do not have children and our school teachers, who give hours of time to lots of children, including yours. Schools may not allow Christianity being taught but teachers can use Christian principals in the classroom by loving and patiently understanding children; arousing in a child's mind to be a builder of good, not a destroyer.

Mothers are our "un-sung heroes" who do a lot of lowly jobs, such as cleaning bathrooms, which are always necessary accomplishments in the home. I found an up-lifting gesture in last week's "Shelby Promoter" when the hospital administrator gave high compliments to the lady who kept their ER spotless. She and other "cleaning ladies" are another group of un-sung heroes who do not often get recognized of their importance and the dedication they give on these necessary jobs. Take time to say thank you for these people including all the volunteers who serve us.

In the 6th grade of CJI School, Mrs. Anderson had the children make planters, with bears, rabbits or their chosen animal, which they painted on to empty pop bottles. These then were taken home

to give to their mothers. The mother's called them "delightful!"!!!

Now if this is too much on women, be patient, men, your time is next month.

Out in the country west of Tiber Dam First, you might be glad to hear that the snow cover was a blessing for the winter wheat. It is up, maybe six or more inches, a beautiful green color from Liberty County to Pondera and Choteau County. There are, however, a number of small lakes in low spots, which the ducks love. The reservoirs are full but not running over. Seeding the spring crops after much spraying was going good for a bit but it rained. The 1.5 inches gathered in three different days caused muddy fields again.

At Buffingtons, their usual Mother's Day branding day was done last week when the two mothers both cooked for a crew of family and neighbors.

Chris, Vicki Kolstad, Cary Kolstad, Brittney Anderson and myself made a trip to the Grand Union in Fort Benton for their Mother's Day special dinners. It was called their sample dishes, so the servings were smaller than ordinarily found on the menu, but deliciously interesting. The main entrees were salmon, steak, chicken or lamb chop. Cheryl (Kolstad) Gagnon was hostess but took time to sit down with us, in-between her duties. Leonard and Dee Matteson joined us so you can easily guess what our entertainment was . . . Leonard's stories. It was a grand way to spend Mother's Day.

Morb Wicks had a special Mother's Day weekend with her daughter, Kali and Andrew in Helena. Morb and Kali went to the Kleffner Ranch Vintage Junk Sale with 30 vendors. Then off to the Archie Bray Pottery and Plant Mother's Day sale, where they had a chance to visit with the artists. Trudy Skari, an artist formerly from Chester, was one of the helpers. At the Montana Historical Society, the Montana DNRC had a book sale and the launching of: MONTANA WOMEN; VOICES IN AGRICULTURE AND LAND CONSERVATION. The DNRC interviewed 50 women including our neighbor, Doris Bishop of Ledger and Colleen Gustafson of Cut Bank. Not all 50, about 13 were selected for the book. Donna Fritz Griffin, Chester was selected and was the guest speaker. She signed books following the presentation. Gail Cicon, Liberty Co. DNRA, was there providing music on her harp. What a splendid way to celebrate these mothers talent from Liberty County. DNRC concerns the natural resources.



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