

# Winnett Times

## ~Winnett Montana Community Newsletter~

Volume 1, Issue 3

July 2021



Photo Credit: Justin Landon from Montana Drones

### “Small Town Pride” *By Carrie Hess*

As you drive in to Winnett you will see any number of things that show off our small-town pride from banners sending off our local athletes to sporting events throughout the year, flower tubs along our Main Street to give it a splash of color, cleanup projects hosted by various groups in the community to keep us looking sharp and revitalization of the downtown area.

Community members have had a tradition of sending off our athletes in style for years whether it is football, volleyball, cross country, basketball or track. A parade of law enforcement vehicles, fire trucks and ambulances can be seen escorting our team bus either sending them off or welcoming them home from divisional and state tournaments. Posters are made of our athletes and posted on our main street and community members line the streets honking and cheering our athletes.

Local Jess Hoge has spearheaded the Main Street Flowers for the past three years

adding a splash of color up and down Main Street. Jess and a small group of local ladies plant 14 to 16 large planters filled with vibrant colored plants and flowers each summer. Then these planters are watered, deadheaded and fertilized all summer long to keep them looking their best.

The local Lion’s Club has an annual event where they work with the Winnett School and



Main Street flower pots that are put together and maintained by Jess Hoge and a local group of ladies.  
Photo Credit: Jess Hoge



Poster Sign set up in support of this year’s WGR State Track Participants  
Photo Credit: SamiJo Elliott/Jen Zimmerman

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the students and volunteers alike walk-through town and pick up trash. Then the Lion’s members and volunteers clean up parts of the highway as you enter town. This year they also picked up tree branches and pruned trees along the northern end of Grand Street.

The Town of Winnett teamed up with Winnett ACES and the Petroleum County Conservation District to run a pilot project for cleaning up around town. This project has two main portions. The scrap metal recycling portion started in the fall of 2020 and to date 12 – 15 pickup loads of metal have been removed from the

Continued on Page 8

# Community Spotlight

## *Jim Johnke*

There are many wonderful supporters of our town and county, and we salute them all, but if we Petroleum-ites were to nominate someone for the title “Mr. Winnett”, I’m confident Jim Johnke would be among the frontrunners. Jim seems to be everywhere. You can’t miss him. He’s the one with pep in his step, a perpetual smile on his mug, and an enviable full head of hair despite his “senior” status. Yes, he’s “Winnett” from the roots up.

Jim was born and bred in the briar patch, so to speak, to Lois and Otto Johnke who lived in the Flatwillow community since 1914. He melded into a family that boasted five boys and three girls: Gene, Martin, Steven, Robert, Paula, Marie, and Arlene. The Johnke children made up a fair chunk of Flatwillow School’s enrollment.

Jim thrived there and was the top student of his class, though he chuckles when he brags about that: It was a class of one. He attended high school in Winnett. He then moved on to

Eastern Montana College.

There he served as president of his senior class, graduating in 1967. Jim was now ready to teach math. He first taught for two years in Winnett. Following that, he spent two years teaching math in Winifred.

Eventually he returned to the family ranch and raised sheep and Angus cattle. He and his wife Dee raised three children: Tracy, David, and Linda. All are college graduates and have given Jim three grandchildren. Currently he is co-owner of Easy Go Construction. He’s a skilled carpenter and a handy man to know if you need something fixed. Jim loves a good game of pinochle or cribbage. And he enjoys cooking meat – and eating it, for that matter, topped off with Hershey chocolate bars and a Coke. Beyond what Jim does for a living, he’s one busy man, volunteering right and left. There’s not much he hasn’t done for Petroleum County’s citizens.

### Here are some of Jim’s contributions:

- He’s been instrumental in keeping Flatwillow alive, well, and on the map and is chair of the Flatwillow Hall Board.
- He serves on the Petroleum County Endowment Board of Directors.
- Jim was a Winnett School Board member.
- He is a past president and treasurer of the Petroleum County Stockgrowers Association.
- Jim wrote the matching-funds grant for Winnett’s ambulance which came through Lion’s International.



**Mr. Winnett**



**Completing vision health screening with Melody Whitcher**



**Jim’s family in 2016 - Gene, Martin, Arlene Bond, Marie Fitzgerald, Bob and Jim**

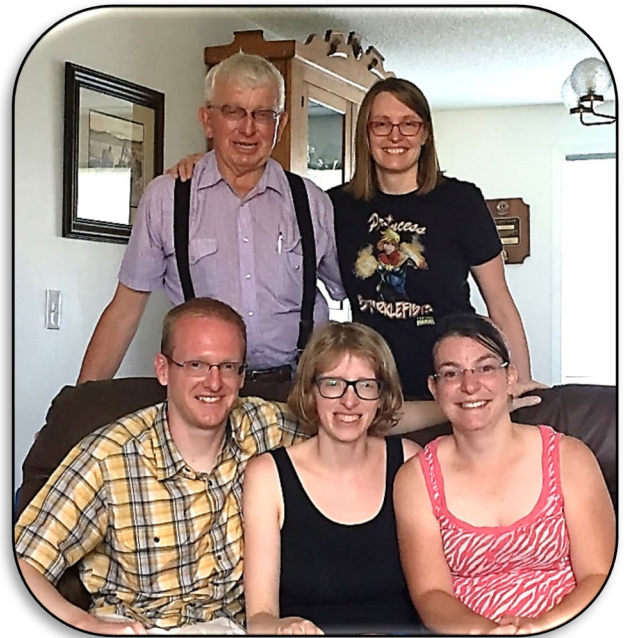
# Community Spotlight Continued...

Jim's service to the Winnett Lion's Club deserves an entire paragraph. He is a charter member of the chapter, which is celebrating 30 years of service to our area. He has served as its president for the past 18 years and as the Lion's Club's District Governor from 2007-08 and again from 2014-15. Oh, the places he has taken the Winnett Lions! From hosting such community-minded events as Christmas-decorating house exteriors to serving, along with his great companion Melody Witcher, as Santa and Mrs. Claus. He and Melody were instrumental in bringing Vision Screening to our area through the Lion's Club. Thanks to them, this program currently screens over 400 children each year in Central Montana.

For his 30 years of service, the local Lion's Club has nominated Jim for a prestigious award. He has been selected by the Lion's Club's International Foundation to receive the Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow Award for Dedicated Humanitarian Service. (Photo of Jim with his award will be in a future issue)

We of Petroleum County offer him a standing ovation and a round of well-deserved applause! Jim Johnke, dedicated volunteer, Lion at heart, and Winnett's man about town, certainly should be in our Spotlight. So, when you see "Mr. Winnett" prowling the streets, give him a Petroleum County salute!

*By Terry Lewis*



**Jim Johnke with his kids (biological and "adopted"): Tracy, David, Linda and Amanda**



**Jim with his Grandchildren**



**Jim standing in front of his cattle, dressed up as Santa ready to head in to the Christmas Concert.**

**Photo Credit: Melody Witcher**

## LOCAL COOKBOOK RECIPE HIGHLIGHT

### ICE BOX SLAW

Judy Bevis  
Winnett

- |                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 lb cabbage, chopped | 1 scant cup vinegar       |
| 2 med onions, chopped | ¾ cup sugar               |
| 3 carrots, shredded   | ¼ cup vegetable/olive oil |
| 2 cups minced celery  | 2 tsp salt                |
| 1 T sugar             | 2 tsp celery seed.        |
| 1 T prepared mustard  |                           |

Combine cabbage, onions, carrots, and celery. Sprinkle with 1 T sugar. Mix well and let stand while you combine the mustard, vinegar, sugar, oil, salt, and celery seed in a saucepan. Bring to a boil. Pour over vegetables. Do not stir. Cover tightly and chill well. Mix before serving.

# Winnett School News

## WGR JH Track Meets



Aliyah L. & McKenzie S.



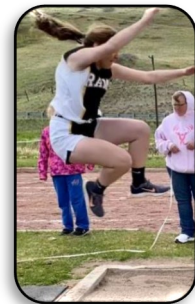
McKenzie S.



Alizae H.



Jayden M.



Bailey Seaholm

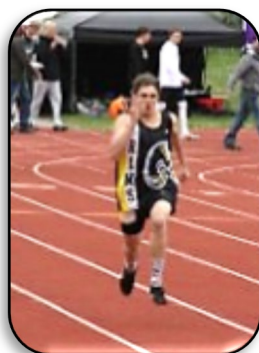


Alizae H.

## WGR HS Districts, Divisionals & State Track Meet



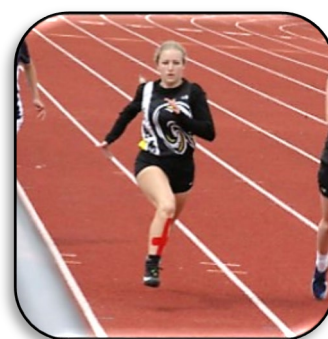
Jace Dunkel threw the javelin 115'7" at the district meet in Great Falls and improved to 132'9" at the divisional meet also in Great Falls to qualify for state in Missoula.  
Photo by Ralph T. Corbett



Derrick Zimmerman:  
Districts: 3rd in 100 and 4th in the 200.  
Divisional's: 5th in the 100 for the opportunity to try to place to run the final at State. State Ranking unknown.



Walker Doman got 2nd in high jump and 5th in the long jump at Districts.



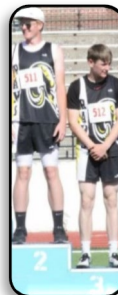
Kaitlyn Carter got 3rd in the 100 and 4th in the 200 at Districts



Brady Bantz participated in the 200, long jump, javelin, and long and short relay at districts. He advanced to Divisionals in the javelin and long relay. He won the javelin at Districts and Divisionals. He advanced to state in only the javelin. He got eighth in javelin at state.



Cy Nunn placed 4th in the triple jump at Districts.



Jace placed third in the high jump at Districts. At Divisionals he placed 4th in the Javelin. He placed 11th in the Javelin at State.



WGR Boys Team placed 3rd in Districts Short Relay took 3rd, Long Relay took 2nd

Other Photos Credit:  
SamiJo Elliott, Kim Doman, and Jada Bantz

# WINNETT K-12 SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

## MINUTES OF THE APRIL 20, 2021, REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Visitors in attendance were Kate Johnson, Karen Hale, Tara Murnion, Janice Meabon, Kim Jensen, and Jody Weller arrived at 7:37.

Public Input: Brent and Tricia Smith were on Zoom.

Board Chair Debbie Hale called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Board members present were JR Lund, Raye Anne Lund, and Charlie Ahlgren. Cassie Brinkerhoff was on Zoom. Supt. Lindsey Wilkerson and Clerk Melissa Bohn were also present.

Public Input: Brent Smith wants all coaching positions to be opened every year.

### 1. Reports

1.1 Charlie reported that he will schedule a Beef committee meeting for 5:30 on May 18 before the Regular scheduled board meeting.

### 2. Consent Agenda

Charlie made a motion to approve the consent agenda items 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3. Tabling 2.4 (Policy updates). JR second and the vote passed 5-0.

2.1 Board minutes from March 16, regular meeting, March 26, special meeting, and April 6, special meeting.

2.2 Financial Package with claim warrants #24362 - #24395.

2.3 Golden Triangle Agreement

2.4 Policy Updates (1700, 3130, 3225P, 3310, 5012P, 5120F, 5120P, 5122F, 5228F, 5228F2, 5228P, 5232, 5328P, 7220, 7220P). Tabled until next meeting.

### 3. Old Business - none

### 4. New Business

4.1 Raye Anne made a motion to approve the building assessment for \$15,000.00 pending COVID funds. JR second and the vote passed. 5-0

### 5. Personnel

5.1.1 JR made a motion to offer Janice Meabon - Secretary a contract for 2021-2022 school year. Raye Anne second and the vote passed. 5-0

5.1.2 Raye Anne made a motion to offer Megan Nunn - Head Cook/Food Service Director a contract for the 2021-2022 school year. JR second and the vote passed. 5-0

5.1.3 Raye Anne made a motion to offer Ben Arndt - Maintenance/Head Custodian a contract for the 2021-2022 school year. Charlie second and the vote passed. 5-0

5.1.4 JR made a motion to offer Eric Jolma - Bus Driver a contract for the 2021-2022 school year. Raye Anne second and the vote passed. 5-0

5.1.5 JR made a motion to offer Kim Doman - Bus Driver a contract for the 2021-2022 school year. Raye Anne second and the vote passed. 5-0

5.1.6 Raye Anne made a motion to offer Carol Schaeffer - Bus Driver a contract for the 2021-2022 school year. JR second and the vote passed. 5-0

5.1.7 Charlie made a motion to offer Kristina Dutton - Instructional Paraprofessional a contract for the 2021-2022 school year. Raye Anne second and the vote passed. 5-0

5.2 Raye Anne made a motion to extend Megan Nunns contract for the summer months if the District chooses to do the Summer Foods Program offered by the state. JR second and the vote passed. 5-0

5.3 Raye Anne made a motion to advertise for hiring a relative for 14 days in the local newspapers. JR second and the vote passed. 5-0

5.4 Raye Anne made a motion to hire Haley Kiehl as a floating elementary teacher for 7-10 hours a week until the end of 2020-2021 school year. JR second and the vote passed. 4-0. Cassie abstained.

5.5 JR made a motion to advertise for a 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher (floating) for 2021-2022 school year, 1 year only, and paid with ESSER funds (contingent upon final receipt of ESSER funds). Raye Anne second and the vote passed. 5-0

5.6 Raye Anne made a motion to pay Tara Jolma a \$300.00 stipend for counseling work done through MSSA for the school year 2020-2021. JR second and the vote passed. 5-0

## 6. Future Agenda Items

6.1 Certified wage negotiations

6.2 Personnel Committee Meeting

## 7. Superintendent Report

7.1 Election update - Cassie Brinkerhoff and Raye Anne Lund by Acclamation

7.2 Co-op Report/Football Update/Athletic Finance Update

7.3 ESSER II (\$128K) and ESSER III (\$286K) is the amount we are looking to get from COVID epidemic

7.4 Quarter 3 Honor Roll – Supt. Wilkerson listed off the names of the students who made the honor roll.

7.5 Community Newsletter

Board Chair Hale adjourned the regular meeting to go into executive session for Clerk Bohns evaluation at 8:42. Came out of executive session and back to regular meeting at 9:40.

With no further business to come before the Board, Board Chair Hale adjourned the meeting at 9:40 P.M.



Debbie Hale, Board Chair OR

JR Lund, Vice-Chair



Melissa Bohn, Clerk

5-18-2021

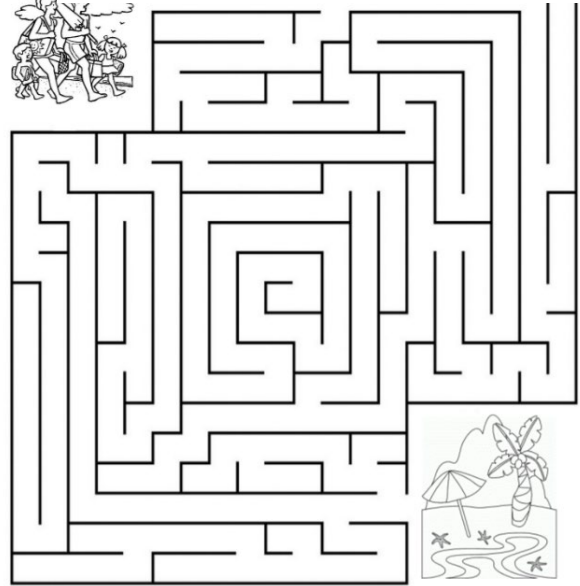
Date of Approval

# Kid's Korner

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July

F D V F L I B E R T Y C F M B F J P R Z  
 I X P M B B R X Y V D B I I A F A A Q U  
 R Q O P R L E P L T J D R M M Y U T P A  
 E K C R R U S J U C H A E A E K M R Z Q  
 W S E E M E P P A S E Q C G R L C I R W  
 O X L D Y M E N C O L A R I I M K O P A  
 R Y E D B F C E V Q K O A S C L C T E D  
 K D B V H X T T M R Q R C B A E D I Y Z  
 S S R S P A R K L E R S K S S S J C G Q  
 L P A A W W W P A J M O E Q W W P S U U  
 T E T P M A R R E K M U R L M J G E D U  
 R C I A P S T A R S A N D S T R I P E S  
 A T O R K D B E V C F N S R H V O V D G  
 N A N A N I M E R D H A M B U R G E R S  
 L C J D Q L D K Y M Z D X H W O U H A R  
 W U I E N I N D E P E N D E N C E E O M  
 H L P K C H D L X D G L F L A G V S V W  
 I A Q M M X C S Q W Z Q O G X I H K T R  
 T R D V X A B J U P P I C N I C U W C A  
 E O N L D U N I T E D T C Q W Q I A L U

Can you help them find the beach?



Stars and Stripes	Independence	Celebration	Firecracker
Sparklers	Fireworks	Patriotic	Watermelon
Respect	United	Hamburgers	America
Liberty	Picnic	Parade	Flag
White	Spectacular	Blue	Red

**Q: Why don't oysters share their pearls?**  
 A: Because they're shellfish!

**Q: How many tickles does it take to make an Octopus laugh?**  
 A: Ten-tickles!



Word Search Puzzle Answers on Page 12

## “Things Kids Say”

“If you made your own ice cream flavor, what ingredients would be in it and what would you call it?”



“My ice cream would be chocolate and have gummy worms, gummy snow monsters, and cookie dough and would be called **SNOW MONSTER ICE CREAM!**”  
 ~Nash



“My ice cream would be chocolate and have blueberries and marshmallows and would be called **MARSHBERRY!**”  
 ~Keaghan



“My ice cream would be vanilla, with caramel and chocolate sauces, and sprinkles, and would be called **DOUBLE FUDGE ICECREAM!**” ~Mary



“My ice cream would have bubble gum chunks in it and be called **BUBBLE GUM SWIRL!**”  
 ~Gunnar

# Small Town Pride Continued...



Lions Highway Clean Up Crew 2020



Cemetery Clean Up Crew 2021

town. The metal recycling is still being removed from the drop off area so please contact the Town before dropping off, as the area can only handle so much at a time. The second main portion was the roll away dumpster which was hauled in the end of April 2021 and in four short days was filled to the brim and had to be compacted down for pick up. This means that in just four short days the equivalent of 12 pickup loads of waste was removed. This came in the form of mattresses, chairs, cabinets, and scrap wood that could not be taken to the

mulch pile.

Then we have the community members who have stepped up in the last year and started beautifying their own properties doing everything from removing old hazardous buildings to updating the landscaping on their properties.

Over the last two to three years community members have formed groups and committees that are focusing on revitalizing the heart of our little town and community.

In the coming months groundbreaking will be done

on one new structure and one old structure will be moved to a new location and rehabilitated, other buildings along Main will receive renovations bringing new life and beauty to our downtown area in the near future.



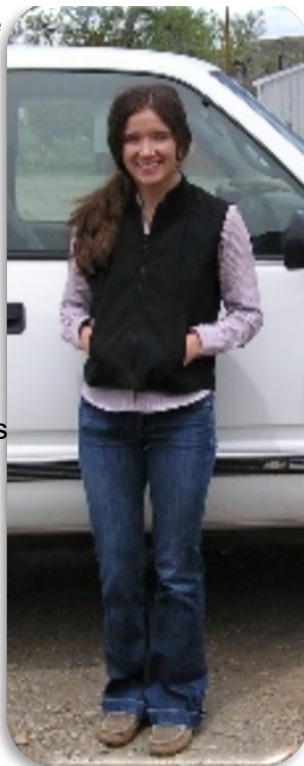
Metal Recycling Pile by the City Shop

## DNRC Working Lands Internship Program on the Ahlgren Ranch

The Rangeland Resource Committee focuses on promoting care and health of rangelands all across Montana. This committee hosts events throughout the year that help farmers, ranchers, and the general public see the importance of rangeland and its management. The Rangeland Resource Committee focuses on keeping the lands fertile and healthy for grazing for domestic animals and wildlife, erosion control, and scenic beauty.

The Committee hosts a working lands internship that pairs interns, who are focused on natural resource management, with working ranches through-out the state. One of four interns in the 2021 program, Leah Fisher started her internship with Skip and Diane Ahlgren on their ranch in Central Montana.

Leah had heard about the internship while attending MSU and stated that this would be a great opportunity for her in growing her understanding



Intern Leah Fisher at Skip and Diane Ahlgren's Ranch

of what range land management really is. This internship will allow her to spend a few weeks at six different ranches to help her see the different methods that some ranchers use.

Leah Fisher also hopes that this internship will help her to reach her career goals and allow her to get a job with some of the bigger agricultural companies. Leah Fisher's dream goal is to become a rangeland scientist so that she is the one to call when things go awry out in the field.

*~By Kambri Sandman*



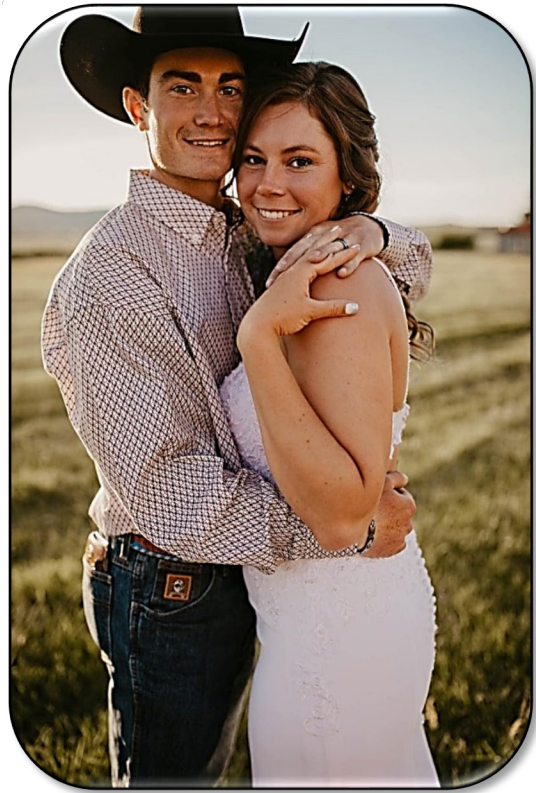
Leah helping at the Ahlgren branding this spring.



# Recently Hitched



*Kody & Kelly Lund ~ June 5th*



*Justin & Shelby Mornion ~ June 12th*



## Looking Back Scrapbook



North side of Main Street in July 1916. (L to R): Eager building under construction, Bachelor Cafe, Central Billiard Parlor, Montana Bar, Schmidt Hotel

Photo Credit: Petroleum Co Pages of Time, Petroleum Co Public Library



# SPONSOR RECOGNITION

The Winnett Times is made possible by our sponsors – THANK YOU!  
We greatly appreciate your support!

## DIAMOND

Petroleum Co Endowment

## SILVER

Skip & Diane Ahlgren  
Deloris Hill  
Kalin & Jess Hoge  
Eric & Tara Jolma  
Chris & Gari King  
Donna Rowton  
Mark See  
Stuart & Anne Shirley  
Brent & Trish Smith  
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## PLATINUM OR GOLD

No donations in these levels

## BRONZE

Brenda Brady  
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Cody Martinez & Savannah Moore

### Sponsor Levels:

Bronze	\$25 - \$99
Silver	\$100 - \$249
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Diamond	\$750+

Total production cost for each monthly Newsletter is approximately \$500. As long as we have funds, we will continue to mail the hard copy of the newsletter. If our funds become depleted, we will continue with the e-Version of the Newsletter only. (PDF can be printed from the online version) Staff time is all volunteer based and they are not compensated.

If you would like to donate to the Winnett Times Newsletter Project  
PLEASE SEND YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO:  
**Winnett ACES, PO Box 118, Winnett, MT 59087**  
with "**Newsletter**" in the Memo.

Thank you to Winnett ACES for being our Non-Profit Sponsor. Winnett ACES has agreed to handle funds on our behalf. Without their support & the support of the community this project could not happen. Thank you!

## Classifieds/Notices

### Pool Manager Position Open for Summer of 2022

This position would include:

- Overseeing and scheduling lifeguards and attendants
- Overseeing daily water tests
- Daily Check of Chemical Levels
- Daily Maintaining of Filters and Pumps

Training will available this summer.

Please Contact the Town of Winnett if Interested (406)429-5451

### Winnett Community Pool HOURS: 1-5 & 6-8 (7 days/wk)



**SWIM LESSONS:**  
July 5-9 & 12-16  
\$20/Child

### Upcoming in August/September

**AUG 13:** Booster Club Poker Run  
*More details in the Aug Edition*

**September 18<sup>th</sup>:** Cat Creek: 100 Year Anniversary Celebration – Looking back and moving forward.

**6:30pm Street Dance & Live Music with Wylie & The Wild West**

*BBQ/Grill @ 3PM-ish on Main Street; Pre-street dance Bluegrass Music; Kids roping arena; Some activity for a Winnett ACES fundraiser (horseshoe competition jackpot..?); Stand with pictures & history of the Cat Creek field with some old timers there to tell stories; And as part of that stand more materials/pictures/graphics on future plans at Cat Creek.*

**Winnett Lions Club** would like to help the Winnett Community and surrounding areas with a **MAILING address directory**. We are asking people that are willing to share their MAILING ADDRESS to please mail them to **PO Box 107, Winnett MT 59087** or feel free to private message us on FB. *This will make graduations, weddings, Christmas cards, birthday cards etc so much easier in the future!*

### Central MT Fair Schedule:

**Come and support our local Winnett Shamrock 4H Kids!**  
20 Pre-Fair Interview Day  
21 4-H Ranch Horse Show  
22 Cat and Pocket Pet Show, 5:30  
23 4-H Horse Show 26 4-H Dog Show  
Foods and Gardening Interviews Rabbit and Poultry Check in Rabbit Confirmation and Showmanship Pavilion Set up, 3:30 27 Rabbit Agility Poultry Show Livestock Check In and Weigh In 28 Swine Show Sheep Show 29 Beef Show 30 Sale 31 Premium Payout Animal Check out 12 Indoor Check out 5pm

### ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE CONTINUED:

We hope you enjoyed the art show and the second chance to view the watercolor pieces that were featured in our last issue. Thank you, Diana Brady for your work with the students, The graphic art logos that were the result of Chelsea Hollender's classes are being judged. The winner's design will become a logo for P.I.E., so once that is finished, that work will be featured in this newsletter. Since the larger perspective line drawings done under Terry Lewis wouldn't translate well into mini-shots, we invite you to visit the multipurpose room at WHS once school begins to check them out. The Artists in Residence project was well worth the time and effort. Thanks to all who helped and participated!

# CONTACT INFO

**E-MAIL: [winnettimes@gmail.com](mailto:winnettimes@gmail.com)**

Find and Follow us on Facebook & Instagram

## COMING SOON:

Winnett Community Businesses, Organizations & Group Contact Information.

**Attention Winnett Organization & Group Leaders, and Business Owners:**

**Please email [winnettimes@gmail.com](mailto:winnettimes@gmail.com) with your Contact Information to be included in future editions of the Newsletter.**

**Thank you for your help!**



Ad/Notice by July 10<sup>th</sup> for the Aug edition to [winnettimes@gmail.com](mailto:winnettimes@gmail.com)←

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A huge THANK YOU to David Ponte, Publisher of “The Roundup Record Tribune & Winnett Times” for giving us copyright permission to use the old “Winnett Times” name on our newsletter. It has nostalgic value to our community and we appreciate your generosity!  
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