

WINNETT TIMES

Winnett Montana Community Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 10, June/July 2023

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Thank you to all who contributed to the production of this edition!

"GOOD MORNING, CLASS: Winnett's March on Education

Written by Terry Lewis

When people settle in an area, they commence building, raising crops, and establishing businesses. Once roots take hold, the residents figure it's time to teach their children reading, writing, and arithmetic. In 1907 Walter Winnett, more or less Winnett's founding father, saw the need to educate his children. He and his wife set aside a bedroom for a classroom and looked for a teacher. First Katherine Moore and then Miss Carpenter stepped up to teach the Winnett children as well as a handful of other youngsters. However, the following year Walter's family moved to Lewistown so their children could go to school there. Alas, there was no school in Winnett from 1909-1911.

But come 1911, Hannah Deethart offered her cabin as a schoolhouse. It was about two miles from Winnett, but no matter. Miss Dora Beer was

hired as the teacher for School District #26. Winnett's education system was off and running. One year later, in 1912, the town built their first public school on what would be 101 South Broadway. It was a one-room 20 x 40' structure painted white, the "Little White Schoolhouse". Agnes Jones from Missouri taught 25 students. Sadly, she died before her term ended; Alma Fry finished up the year. However, she soon became Mrs. Edward Reynolds, and at that time only single teachers were permitted. Exit Miss Fry.

Enter Amanda Swift in the fall of 1914. The middle-aged teacher from Maine was contracted to teach in Winnett for eight months. For the remainder of the term, she rode her horse to outlying areas of her jurisdiction, teaching children who lived too...

Continued on Page 8 & 9



Winnett's first schoolhouse constructed by Flatwillow District #26 in 1912. Photo is Grades 1-6 in 1915-1916. Students (not in order) are: Kenneth Cole, Harold Deethardt, Edith Winnett, Margaret Alexander, Ressa Wilson, Mildred Woods, Edna Hillius, Claude Diere, Grace Woods, Charles Kent, Lewis Winnett, Harold Homer Howe, Emma Smiley. Three are not named. Teacher is Louisa Wilson.

WINNETT SCHOOL NEWS

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Almost three full years ago, I arrived in Winnett, straight from a five-year stint in China plus two weeks for Covid quarantine. There was no Winnett Times, no Youth Program, and no Community Center. The Odd Fellows Hall was just an old building on the other end of Main Street. It's amazing to see everything that has happened here in such a short period of time. I've been grateful to be here with you and be part of this community and I'm so thankful for the amazing staff and students I've gotten to know. It's easier to leave knowing that the school is in such great hands moving forward with Teri Harris as the new superintendent.

Summer vacation is a season with its own kind of joy and learning. Perfecting your swimming technique, fishing, boating, making campfires, achieving the perfect amount of char on a smore and the freedom to sit with a good, long book or just clean out your room or other space - all of these experiences bring both learning and renewal. One of the best things you can do to help your kids maintain their school progress is to prioritize some time with books and reading over the summer, even if it's just a few minutes a day. We wish you a safe and fun summer full of rest and renewal!

Lindsey Wilkerson

Spring Concert



Photo credit:
Reba Ahlgren
& Trish Smith

8C Prom



Parker & Easton Hanson
(Easton was Winnett's Prom Queen)



Kaitlyn Carter & Shani Browning



L-R: Tinley Browning, Shaylie Ahlgren,
Zurry Moore, Kenzie Smith
& Charlie Johnson

Photo Credit Prom/Sport photos:
Easton Hanson, Sarah Browning,
Savannah Moore, Nicole Tholt



WGR Track Team



JH Boys Basketball Team



National Honor Society Inductees L-R:

Tinley Browning, Shani Browning, Gracie Gill, Zurry Moore;
with science teacher, Kim Jensen. Photo credit: Savannah Moore



JH Girls Basketball Team

SIDE HUSTLES - WRITTEN BY WGR JH STUDENTS

In his essay "More Than Skin Deep," included in the book Montana Spaces, Glen Law writes this about Montana: "You can't eat the scenery...But when it has a hold on you, you find a way to get what you need." In Montana, and most certainly in Petroleum County, where the spaces are large and the people few, residents have to be especially creative at times to make a living to get what they need - or even better, thrive. During my three years back in Winnett, after an absence of over 45 years, I've been intrigued by the ways people in the county supplement their incomes with what one local woman calls a "side hustle." For a writing project, I asked the junior high English students to interview some of the community members who have side businesses - some substantial and some small - with the goal of writing short articles for The Winnett Times. We thank our subjects for their willingness to share their stories. ~Gail Wilkerson



"DOING WHAT HE LOVES FOR A LIVING"

By Jack Nowlin

"Pilots take no extra joy in walking, pilots like flying." This quote is true for Austin Kiehl. He loves flying. He can never wait to get up in the air. Austin says there is a special feeling about climbing into the plane on a cool spring morning.

Austin Kiehl is a crop duster from outside of Winnett, Montana, and he is also a part of his family's ranch. Most of his income is from crop dusting, though. He got interested in crop dusting as a kid when a crop duster from Forsyth would spray for his family's ranch. Austin decided that was what he wanted to be.

He earned a pilot's license at Rocky Mountain college, then got his first flying job towing advertising banners behind a plane across beaches on the east coast, banners that said things like "Vote for President Trump," "Will You Marry Me?", and "Geico Car Insurance." After flying for a while, he moved home and got a job flying from the guy who used to spray for his family. Now, he has his own crop dusting business. Austin doesn't need any advertisements; he markets his service with word-of-mouth.

Some of the challenges Austin has faced in maintaining his business are bookkeeping, taxes, and demanding customers. Austin says that the most rewarding part of his job is that he gets to fly, and the most disappointing part of having a crop dusting service is that there are "never-ending-expenses" such as maintaining the plane, buying chemicals and fuel for the plane. Being a crop duster requires a lot of equipment like a spray plane, fuel tanks, water tanks, trailers, pumps, chemicals, and he also needs a pesticide applicator license.

When asked what advice he would give to people starting a side business he said, "Be able to draw the line between your side business and main business. Don't let your side business take over." Austin may have to hire someone else at some point, because he is spraying for more and more people and he won't be able to handle all of that. His business is growing, and he gets to do what he loves more.

"DOG GROOMING"

By Hazen Arntson

It all started a long time ago before Nicole Tholt was Winnett's third and fourth grade teacher. Sylvia St. Pierre wanted to get her dog groomed, but she had to drive all the way to Roundup, which wasted her whole day. Nicole, whose mother groomed dogs, said she could shave the dog if that's all Sylvia wanted. Well, Sylvia liked the way Nicole groomed her dog so she told all of her friends, and Nicole's business, Country Dog Clipping, began.

When she started out in her business, she trimmed the dogs on her kitchen table and gave them baths in her personal bathtub. Now, she has an adjustable electric table to give them cut, a bath tub, and a machine that automatically distributes the right amount of shampoo and conditioner so that she doesn't waste any. She has to have a lot of special tools and supplies: different clippers, scissors, shampoo, conditioners, etc. The dogs really get pampered at her "salon," which is top of the line. She likes trimming the dogs; otherwise, she wouldn't be doing them. The hardest part of the dog to shave is its face because she wants to make them look good, and the face is a very delicate area.

Nicole charges less than groomers do in larger towns. She emphasizes, "I would rather charge less and help more customers than charge more and get fewer customers." Her advice for people that are just starting a side hustle is to try it and to never give up. This strategy has worked for Nicole as her business is a booming, "grooming" success.



"SAVANNAH'S BEAUTY BLOOMING"

By Payton Torgerson

Savannah Moore is busy on social media like Instagram, TikTok, FaceBook, and YouTube doing training, marketing, and selling for a makeup company called Younique. Savannah creates makeup, hair, and sometimes clothing tutorials and posts them on social media. Savannah's business model is multi-level marketing (MLM). She gets a commission for the social media products she produces plus she earns a percentage of sales from people who sell down line from her. She is very good at what she does, and she seems to love it.

Savannah got started working downline from a girl in her high school. At first she was only expecting about 10 dollars a week, just for morning coffee. After a few years, Savannah started making more money, and now her side hustle is her main income. Her "side" businesses are serving as Winnett's clerk and treasurer and part-time librarian at the Petroleum County Community Library.

All Savannah needs to make a video is a phone, tablet, or a computer and her knowledge of the product she's selling. The most rewarding part of her work is hitting goals. Her biggest challenge is staying active with her business, even when it is slow and she is not making as much money. Savannah says, "You just have to stay motivated." Savannah's advice to students: "You should just go for it because nothing has to be permanent."

"THE MANY BUSINESSES OF A HARD-WORKING SOUL"

By Wiley Dutton

With a plethora of businesses to tend to, Patti Kiehl's main objective is keeping balance among them. Mrs. Kiehl's primary business is ranching and raising black angus and Targhee/Rambouillet sheep, and her main side business is selling real estate. Her other "side business" is cooking for the senior citizens once a week, which she has been doing for 34 years.

She wanted to make some extra money for her family and chose real estate because she knew the broker really well, and she asked him if he needed help representing the Winnett area. When he said yes, she got right to it by taking a course to learn how to do it; that was 23 years ago.

Over the years she has started to bring in a good amount of money for her family, which was her main reason why she started. Patti's business of selling real estate was, and still is, spread by word of mouth. Her special knowledge of ranching has been very helpful when she was helping sell the Teigen ranch, and the subdivision parcels along the Musselshell River. She estimates 50% of her work is ranches.

The only thing she regrets is not starting earlier. The challenges she has faced are complex transactions because they take a lot of time. The most rewarding part of her job for her is seeing buyers get excited about selling. The most disappointing part of her job is for her is seeing sellers remorseful about having to sell their land. Her words of advice are, "if you have a passion, figure out how to get paid for it." Her ability to keep balance is absurdly good; even with the Teigen ranch project, which she described as "over the top," she still maintained balance.



"MONTANA WILDRAGS"

By Carlee Logerg

Brandi Iverson is not only a stay at home mom and a rancher, but she is also the owner of Montana Wild Rags. She never meant to buy the business until the previous owner, Tracy Taynor, asked her to drop by one afternoon. "It felt like I was going to the principal's office," said Brandi. She thought, Is my work not good enough? Am I about to be fired? Her jaw dropped when Tracy asked Brandi if she wanted to buy her business. When she found out how much it costs she did not know if she could pull it off. Later, when she got all of her funding that she needed, she accepted the offer. That is when her journey began with owning and maintaining Montana Wild Rags.

She makes and sells "wild rags", which Brandi says, "are just cowboy scarves." She buys fabric and then distributes the fabric to her sewists in Lewistown. After the sewists make the product, Brandi adds the product to her website for sale.

She markets her business by social media, such as Facebook, which she has 25,000 followers, instagram, and tik tok where she makes videos of her making the wild rags and of the ones she has in stock. Getting the wild rags photographed properly and neatly is the most time consuming and a big challenge she has faced in maintaining her

business. Brandi uses business classes to help her refresh her mind. She devotes 2 hours a week to her learning. Brandi wishes she had known more about starting a business before she bought it.

Brandi loves making the wild rags, loves traveling to stock shows to market her business, but she mainly loves talking with her customers. Montana Wild Rags has been a good fit for Brandi, and good for the community, too, as she is now able to support the community financially.

"SKULLWORKS"

By Virgil Tholt

Joel Odermann is mostly known as the pastor of First Baptist Church in Winnett, Montana. He came 7 years ago to help pastor David Iverson but he has many jobs like substitute bus driver, and part time EMT for Central Montana Medical Center. He is also a volunteer firefighter but he still finds time to work at his side business, Odermann Skull works.

He started his skull work business about 6 years ago. He learned how to do European Skull Mounts when he was 14 while working for a family friend who had a taxidermy shop. Now he does it for a little bit of extra cash, but mostly to connect with the community.

He usually boils elk and deer skulls, sometimes antelope, but there are some weird ones like bear, bison, coyote, longhorn, moose. The deer and antelope are easier to do because their antlers fit in the tub, but moose and longhorn are tougher because the antlers are the sides of the head instead of the top, so he has to sit there and just pour water on the top of the skull that's not in the water.

After letting the flesh melt off in the boiling water, he bleaches the skull. This step is the hardest part for him because he has a vision of the skull being white as snow after it is bleached, but sometimes it does not turnout that way. His favorite part of his business is when the hunters come in, drop off the animal, and tell the story of how they got the animal. He has made connections with people he never would have met, otherwise.





"KARI'S CREATIVE SIDE"

By Gracie Lang

As a rancher, mom, wife, and small business owner, Kari Weingart has a full plate. Initially, Kari didn't intend to be very involved with the business because she was teaching full-time, but when her husband Whit partnered with his uncle in Minnesota and bought fawn&forest, which is an online baby store that sells baby clothes, toys, and newborn essentials. When he needed some help with the social media, web design, and email marketing part of it, Kari said that she would help him. She then started to do more and more, and now she does most of the workday to day with Whit focusing on Google Ads and crunching the numbers.

Fawn & Forest is mainly a drop ship company, which means most of the orders ship directly from the manufacturer to the customer so Weingarts don't have to keep a large stock of inventory in their home. For some time it was just Kari, Whit, and two remote workers from the Philippines that were already hired when Weingarts bought the company. Later they hired Tara Jolma, who helps with a lot of the online platforms that they use. They market their business with things like Google ads, Facebook ads, email blasts, Instagram, and a rewards program for the people who have bought from them.

Kari wished they would have known more about the software before they took over the company because it was hard to learn on-the-go. Some challenges that they had to face when they first started the business was that they had to rebuild some of the business process from the way the previous owners had ran it. When COVID hit, people might have thought that the little business would fail, but it didn't. It did better than ever because people couldn't go to the store to buy baby things so they would order almost everything from an online store.

Kari said that some of the most rewarding part of the business is helping families to prepare for a baby to come because it is such a special time, and the most disappointing is letting customers down because she can't get their order to them fast enough. Kari advises people who are thinking about starting a side hustle/business is to find something they love, be open to other opportunities, and to keep an open mind. Even though Kari didn't intend to get into the e-commerce business, she ended up really liking the work she does and loves that she gets to work with nice people from all over the country everyday.

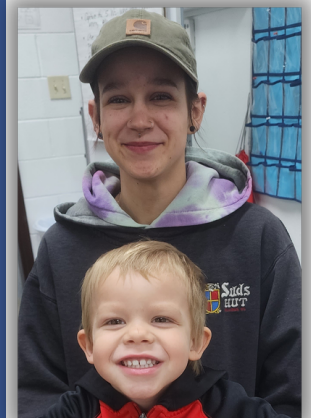
"ELIZA'S THREADS AND TRENDS"

By Will Murnion

Every flower blooms in its own time. That is true for Eliza Oas, who owns Montana's Wildside where she makes trendy resin products like notebooks and decorative boxes that include dried and pressed wildflowers. After a few years her resin business bloomed into another business: t-shirts design using vinyl and screen printing techniques.

Her t- shirt business started, according to her, unintentionally. One person heard she had a Cricut machine used to cut designs and asked her if she could make t- shirts. The business Montana Wildside markets by word of mouth. Eliza charges 30% of what the total cost it takes to make the t-shirts. She learned most of it online. The things she uses are screen inks, iron, heat press, cricut, and a computer. Eliza wishes that she had known more about different fabrics rather than having to learn by trial and error. Her advice for people wanting to start a side business is this: do a lot of research, don't jump in lightly, and think about future costs. She also advises people not to short change themselves.

For Eliza, the goal of her side business is earning enough to support herself and not having to work so much at other jobs. Eliza has not been able to support herself yet with her business, but she hopes for it to one day be able to support her. While Eliza is waiting for her business to bloom, she works for The Winnett Bar & Grill, and cleans the Petroleum County Community Center.



Skills USA Champions:

L-R: Wiley Dutton, Virgil Tholt, Hazen Arntson, and Jesse Mickelson

Photo Credit: Nicole Tholt



Dash for Tash ladies participating in the Montana Women's Run

Photo Credit: Tara Murnion

PCCC *Grand opening* APRIL 29TH



Photos Credit: Trish Smith

Booster Bash



Booster Bash WGR Athlete helpers



Kate Johnson won "Heads or Tails"

Bruno & Evelyne Hill Betti Youth Program



Summer Schedule

- June 6 – 29th: Little League and t-ball on Tue & Thur
- Taking care of garden beds
- "Free time" play every weekday, 11 am – 1 pm in Carrell Hall
- Yard Games during swimming lessons
- July 19th: Kid's Ag Conservation Ed Day
- July 31st Fort Peck Theater
- Putting on a play in Carrell Hall
- August (TBD) tour of the Honeybee Ranch in Lewistown
- Family Appreciation lunch (date and location TBD)

Photos Credit: Lance Olson



Kim Bevis keeping track of everything & Shy Iverson as the event MC

Booster Bash Photos Credit: Tara Murnion



Lisa & Kale Sandman providing the bar & Kale was the Auctioneer



Senior Citizens moved to the PCCC May 4th!

Photos Credit: Lance Olson



"Crafting with Neighbors"



Every 3rd Wednesday
9:30am - 2:30pm
Rebecca Room @ PCCC

Bring your needed craft supplies, lunch, \$5 to share in the cost of rental and your creative smile!

Contact:

Melody Whitcher 603.491.0676 or 406.429.2311

Photo Credit: Lance Olson

Petroleum Co. Community Center Rental Info:

- ENTIRE CENTER: 1 Day \$200 / Week \$1000
- CARRELL HALL: (300-person event) ½ Day - \$40, All Day - \$80
- WESLEY ROOM: (Seats 75 people) ½ Day - \$25, All Day - \$50
- REBECCA ROOM: (Seats 30 people) ½ Day - \$15, All Day - \$30
- KITCHEN: Flat Daily Rate - \$40

Using any space for a local resident's funeral is always free.

www.PCCCWinnett.org
pcccdirector1@gmail.com

55 Main Update ..

BY LAURA NOWLIN

Winnett ACES Operations Coordinator



Breathing new life into Odd Fellows

Exciting things are happening in Winnett, and the Community Enhancement Committee (CEC) of the Winnett ACES (Agricultural Community Enhancement and Sustainability) invites you to join us! The CEC is working to redevelop the historic Odd Fellows Hall, now called the 55 Main Building, into a modern multi-use building! Plans include a public convenience facility with restrooms/showers/laundry for travelers and locals alike, a first floor visitor center along with space for a proprietor to launch something like a coffee or ice cream shop, and a second floor three-bedroom apartment.

The next steps are always in flux, depending on funding, weather, and our team of volunteers. As of May 2023, we are in the midst of building an addition off the back which will house two ADA restrooms and showers accessible from the exterior for events, visitors, hunters and travelers. It will also feature an interior restroom for the first floor business customers and a public laundry facility.

Upcoming Happenings

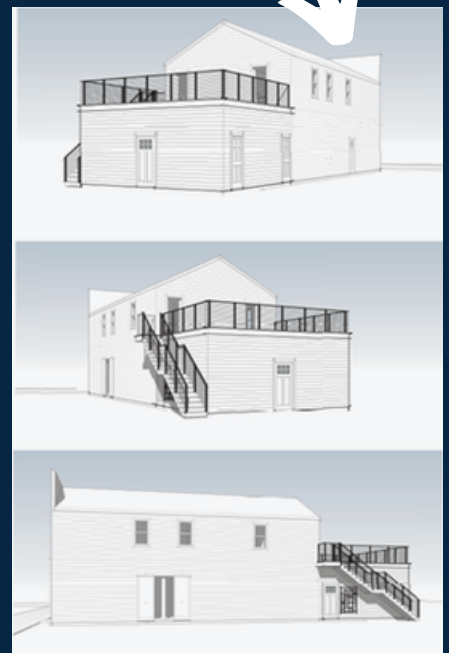
We have also planned a few events to be held at the 55 Main Building over the summer. Please watch for more information on flyers and social media!

~Monthly "Jam Sessions" – First Saturdays at 6:00 pm, June – September~

The Sweet Peas Daycare is now open at the Methodist Church! Hours are 7:30 - 5:30 Monday through Friday for children 0-10 years. Anyone interested should contact Kelby Sandman, Daycare Director, at 406-301-0002 or email at ksandman44@gmail.com.

Thanks to Kelby and the Methodist Church for the many hours spent getting a licensed daycare open in Winnett! The Winnett ACES is acting as the fiscal sponsor for the Sweet Peas Daycare, which means that Winnett ACES will provide bookkeeping services and administration of donations and grants. If you are interested in donating to the Sweet Peas Daycare, please contact Kelby for more information or send your donation to: Winnett ACES, PO Box 118, Winnett, MT with "daycare" in the memo line.

Another update for the Winnett ACES is that we will be offering a series of Pasture Walk gatherings the last Tuesday of May through August. These will be led by our land health specialist, Kendall Wojcik and will cover many topics such as soil health, plant health, insects and animal nutrition. These will be hands-on events to help develop observational skills and holistic thinking around mineral cycling for ranchers and farmers. The first event will be held at Flatwillow Hall on May 30th and will focus on soil health. We hope to see you there!



WINNETT
ACES
Agricultural Community
Enhancement & Sustainability

www.winnettaces.org

Winnett School Cont.

far from town to attend school. Miss Swift noticed that there were a number of young people ready for high school. Since Amanda was certified to teach through the twelfth grade, she volunteered to work with them after she dismissed her elementary students and on Saturdays.

By the 1915-1916 term, enrollment increased to the point that Winnett needed a second teacher. Miss Louisa Wilson taught the first through sixth grades in the little white schoolhouse. Miss Swift took on the eighth through twelfth grades. Their classes were held in the Masonic rooms above the Moll Pool Hall. Today that building is known as The Odd Fellows Hall, the historic structure Winnett is in the process of refurbishing. On February 29, 1916, School District #159 was formed, created from parts of District #126 plus several townships to the north and east. The trustees for the new district were H.B. Greene, G.H. Dehardt, and S.O. Pribble. The district administrated Winnett, Brush Creek, Elk Creek, and Cat Creek schools. Perhaps best of all, it legitimized the high school that Amanda Swift had voluntarily sponsored.

When school commenced in the fall of 1916, Miss Wilson again taught the primary and intermediate grades to the tune of about 30 students. Miss Swift instructed around 20 high school students, still using the Moll Building. The next year the older bunch moved to the first Eager Store building located at the west end of Main Street where the Catholic Church currently resides. Mr. Jones was hired as the principal. Mrs. Jones taught French. Mr. Lasater was the math instructor, and Miss Swift taught English and history. When Mr. Jones took a job at the bank, he was replaced by George Bramble.

Due to Amanda Swift's persistence in Helena, WHS became accredited for the 1918-19 school year. A \$5000 stipend was received from the state. It was time to build a bigger school, one that could include the high school. The trustees called for a bond election in April of 1918 for the purpose of building a combined high school and elementary. It carried with overwhelming majority. An architect from Lewistown, Otto Wasmendorff, was secured to draw up the plans. He presented them to the school to be sold, therefore building couldn't commence until the fall of 1919. In preparation, the little white schoolhouse was moved in August of 1919 and relocated to Block 27, the site of the proposed new school. When school started, it was again the home of the 1st-6th grades. The 7th-12th students, under the instruction of four teachers, were back at the Eager building, all 63 of them.

The Spanish Influenza Pandemic reared its ugly head in the fall of 1918, forcing a "flu vacation". The school doors were closed on October 24 of that year and remained that way for a month. Most of the victims were students and teachers, nearly all of whom got sick. During this closure, no athletic activities were held. Once classes resumed, they had to make up those "vacation" days. No "distance learning" in those days! Students and faculty were reluctantly chained to their desks every Saturday for four months. Athletic events resumed with the second semester. And, in the spring of 1919, WHS proudly graduated its first senior class.



Elementary & High School built in 1921. Photo take in 1932: Lucille Merten with doll carriage; Carroll Hough; Roscoe "Buddy" Moore; Charles Norman; Ruth & Edith Stormwind; Bobby Nelson on tricycle; Dale Nelson sitting in wagon

By the fall of 1919, bonds were sold, contractor William Sullivan got underway, and the first unit of the new school was finished. It consisted of four classrooms and the north end of the basement at the cost of \$9350. The 1st-6th graders moved into their new digs. Next, a three-stall garage was built on the west end. Classes in practical mechanical experience were taught. The students worked on local cars for the price of the parts. By the spring of 1921, the second unit was finished: eleven classrooms, a gymnasium, and office. A furnace room and coal room, plus a shower for boys was downstairs, as was the science room and high school library. Elementary classrooms were upstairs, each containing their own library. The little white schoolhouse became the music room. The third unit was to hold a girls' shower room, but it was never built.

By the 1921-22 school term, the high school boasted 95 students; elementary enrollment stood: 1st grade - 45; 2nd grade - 33; 3rd grade - 26; 4th grade - 30; 5th grade - 33; 6th-8th grades -60, requiring two teachers. District #159 hired seven elementary and seven high school teachers. It wasn't until 1934 that both boys' and girls' lavatories were installed with help from the Civil Works Administration. By then the high school's accreditation was on the line. Inspectors determined that holding classes in the fire-trap of a basement was a risk. Once again, a bond election raised \$91,000 for the building of a new high school. The beloved little white schoolhouse was sold to the Methodist Church and still serves the community.



The old school is now the current day Methodist Church & Sweet Peas Daycare



Winnett School complex. (L to R): shop building, old school and new gymnasium in background; high school and new elementary classrooms and community library in foreground.



Celebrating the completion of the Old School in 1921



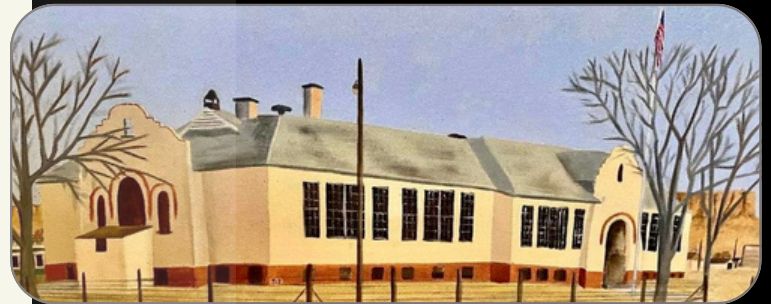
Later on, an entryway was added in front.

The "new" high school is still an integral part of the school campus. Currently, it houses several high school classrooms and administrative offices. By 1972, its indebtedness was paid off.

The mission-style elementary school was beginning to feel inadequate. A \$498,000 bond issue passed. Construction began on the 40x60' complex. It contains the first county/public library in the state and its well-stocked shelves are managed by an up-to-date computer system. Six classrooms open onto hallways overlooking the library. Eventually, the classrooms were enclosed; then locking doors were added for security. The new gymnasium with stadium seating made practices and attending games more functional and comfortable. Beneath it are boys and girls shower rooms, sports offices and storage rooms.

The high school felt cramped now. Classrooms needed updating, and it was inconvenient to marshal students outside to classes in the old school. Safety codes were more stringent, and refurbishing the old building was determined not to be cost-effective. So, the Board of Trustees ran another bond election. The first attempt narrowly failed, but with the second try it narrowly passed. It was sad to see the old school demolished, but it needed to yield ground for the new wing. Alumni raised funds to erect a small monument out of the discarded bricks. It houses the original school bell adjacent to where our old friend stood, serving so many children.

Construction on the new addition yielded a more functional art and art-storage room, two more classrooms, restrooms, and a spacious music room, complete with its own office and practice room, plus much-needed storage. Wide hallways accommodate high school lockers and an exit to a patio area. It is gratifying to know that, since it opened in 2002, the indebtedness for that structure has been cleared.



Painting of the school by artist Gwen Blake Storer in July 1969.

~Won by Vernon Rowton at an All-Class WHS Reunion~

The up-to-date school campus also includes two shop buildings where industrial arts flourish. There are computers in every classroom, and with COVID funds, Chrome Books were purchased for each 8th-12th grade student.

For over a century Winnett's schools have struggled to gain a toe-hold, build to accommodate increased student numbers, and tightened belts when enrollment declined. If you can believe it, 100 years ago, the total enrollment for Winnett's 1st-12th grades was 227! Currently, our numbers are just over 60 students. Still, even though class sizes are smaller, community support for our school is strong. Though Winnett has merged with Grass Range in athletics, students and community members still don the black and white to root for the mighty Rams, no matter what.

Photo/Info credits:

Petroleum County Pages of Time & the Petroleum County Public Library.

Photos Credit (present day photos & painting): Trish Smith



Old school bell, now on display on the south side of the new school.



Present day Winnett School and metal sign that P.I.E. purchased from "Woods Metal Art" in 2005. Artwork referenced for design: Diana Brady (rimrocks) and Joie Heitz (ram).

Winnett Shamrocks 4H Club



Photos Credit above and below: Nicole Tholt

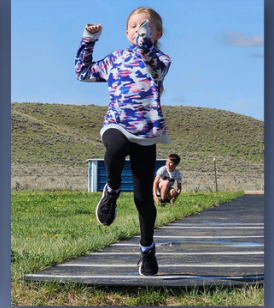
The Winnett Shamrocks would like to thank the Montana Farmers Union for their donation to our club. We really appreciate it!

Play Day in Grass Range



Brody Ahlgren taking the lead in the sack race

Photos Credit Above and Top Right: Nicole Tholt



Hadlee Arntson giving it her all long jumping



Elementary field trip to the Museum of the Rockies



Kids getting geared up for Laser tag put on by the MT Army National Guard



Anna Nowlin flying through the air with her long jump

Photos Credit bottom left and right: Trish Smith

WINNETT ACES
SUMMER JAM SESSIONS

First Saturday of each Month starting in June at 55 Main building

June 3rd | July 1st | Aug 5th | Sept 2nd
 Starts at 6:00pm

Food and Drinks Provided

All Musicians welcome!
 To register please contact Lindsay Flint (406) 370-2478

Mid-Rivers COMMUNICATIONS

55 MAIN BLDG.

Sweet Peas
 A CAREER

Quality Childcare
 Affordable Price

Methodist Church
 Winnett, Montana
 Monday - Friday
 7:30 am - 5:30 pm
 Ages 0-10

Enroll Now:
 Contact Kelby Sandman
 Text or Call (406) 301-0002
 Email ksandman44@gmail.com

HAPPY HOUR STARTS AT 5PM. TRIVIA TO FOLLOW AT 6PM.

TRIVIA NIGHT

DOOR PRIZES, 50/50, GOOD FOOD AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

SUNDAY JUNE 25TH

THE WINNETT BAR
 108 east main, winnett montana
 59087

Answers VBS

IM LAB

Discovering Jesus from Eternity Past to Eternity Future

Vacation Bible School 2023
 First Baptist Church of Winnett
 When: May 30-June 2, 2023 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
 Ages 5 to 6th Grade

Includes: Inspirational Bible Teaching Sunday School Charlie
 Missionary Story Crafts Fun Games Skits

What to Bring: A water bottle Sack Lunch Bible Jacket
 A friend Offering Money (if desired)

Country Summer Fair
 4th Annual

Saturday, June 17th, 10am - 3pm
 Petroleum County Community Center • Winnett, Mont.

QUILT TRUNK SHOW
 by Shawna Crawford @ Noon

DIANA BRADY
 Live Watercolors at 10 am

WONDERFUL, WACKY WIRE
 WILDFLOWER CLASS
 by Hallie Schram @ 10:30 am
 Preregister by Contacting Sue McKenna

THREAD ART COLLAGE DEMO
 by Sue McKenna throughout the day

WILD ROSEBUD CAKECICLE
 DEMONSTRATION
 by Mandy Rosado @ 11 am

HOME BAKED PASTRIES
 by Christy Wickhorst

CLAVINOVA PIANO MUSIC
 by Raye Ann Lund

ROARING PRAIRIE GOODS
 by Chelsea Hollender

RESIN POUR PRODUCTS
 by Eliza Aos

MAKE & TAKE PAINT PROJECT
 by Jaycie Oderman

\$2 Suggested Entry Fee for Adults
 Lunch Available for Purchase.
 Watch Facebook for More!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ELIZA NEWFIELD 208 506 0246

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 1-406-557-7129

JUNE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Seniors Baptist VBS 9-2:30pm	2 Baptist VBS 9-2:30pm	3 Catholic (Mass) 5:30pm Summer Jam Session 55 Main Building 6pm
4 Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am Lutheran 4pm (Mosby)	5 Pet. Co. Commissr's 9am Pet Vaccine Clinic 1-3pm	6 PCCC Meeting 6pm	7 ACES Meeting 6pm	8 Seniors Rimrock Readers 7pm Vol. Fire Meeting 7pm	9	10 Tasha Keith Softball Tournament
11 Catholic (Word) 10am Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am Tasha Keith Softball Tournament	12	13 Ambulance Sheriff's Reserve	14 Town Council 5pm	15 Seniors	16	17 Catholic (Mass) 5:30pm Country Summer Fair 10am-3pm @PCCC
18 Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am	19 Pet. Co. Commissr's 9am	20 School Board 7pm PCCC Meeting 6pm	21 Crafting w/ Neighbors Pet.Co. Search & Resc.	22 Seniors	23	24
25 Catholic (Word) 10am Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am Trivia Night-Winnett Bar	26	27 Soil Health Pasture Walk* (*for ACES Members) Join ACES @WinnettACES.org Lions Club	28	29 Seniors PCCD Meeting 5pm	30	

Please contact Patti at 429-5601 BEFORE WEDNESDAY to reserve a SENIOR MEAL
CONFIRM day/time of meeting or event before attending. Dates/times are subject to change
 Youth group schedule is on Page 6

JULY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Catholic (Mass) 5:30pm Jam Session 55 Main Building 6pm
2 Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am Lutheran 4pm (Mosby)	3	4 PCCC Meeting 6pm	5 ACES Meeting 6pm	6 Seniors	7	8
9 Catholic (Word) 10am Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am	10 Pet. Co. Commissr's 9am Swim Lessons 8-Noon Youth Program: Games & Refreshments	11 Ambulance Sheriff's Reserve Swim Lessons 8-Noon Youth Program: Games & Refreshments	12 Town Council 5pm Swim Lessons 8-Noon Youth Program: Games & Refreshments	13 Seniors Swim Lessons 8-Noon Youth Program: Games & Refreshments Rimrock Readers 7pm Vol. Fire Meeting 7pm	14 Swim Lessons 8-Noon Youth Program: Games & Refreshments	15 Catholic (Mass) 5:30pm
16 Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am	17 Swim Lessons 8-Noon Youth Program: Games & Refreshments	18 School Board 7pm Swim Lessons 8-Noon Youth Program: Games & Refreshments PCCC Meeting 6pm	19 Crafting w/ Neighbors Swim Lessons 8-Noon Kids Ag Conservation Ed. Day @ PCCC (afternoon) Pet.Co. Search & Resc.	20 Seniors Swim Lessons 8-Noon Youth Program: Games & Refreshments	21 Swim Lessons 8-Noon Youth Program: Games & Refreshments	22
23 Catholic (Word) 10am Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am	24 Pet. Co. Commissr's 9am	25 Soil Health Pasture Walk* (*for ACES Members) Join ACES @WinnettACES.org Lions Club	26 CMT Fair Lewistown	27 Seniors CMT Fair Lewistown PCCD Meeting 5pm	28 CMT Fair Lewistown	29 CMT Fair Lewistown
30 Catholic (Word) 10am Methodist 1030am Baptist 11am	31					

SPONSOR RECOGNITION

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

DIAMOND Level (\$750+)

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Gunda Lewis
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Terry & Mark Lewis
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Sig Pugrud
Mark See

GOLD Level (\$250-\$499)

Skip & Diane Ahlgren
Delores Hill
Anthony & Betty Kuhry
Stuart & Anne Shirley
In Memory of Lois Johnke

Recent Donations

Doreen & Victor Hannam

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Website (Under the
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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!*

Free Classifieds & Announcements on the Website & current up to day INFO

If you have a classified listing (for sale or wanted), job posting or general announcement/Ad please contact Trish Smith @ www.winnettimes@gmail.com to have it posted on the Winnett website:

www.VisitWinnett.com

Check out the website for all up to date information/announcements, community calendar, links to businesses/organizations, meeting agendas/minutes (that have been submitted) & and recreational ideas. It also has the current newsletter and all past editions of the Winnett Times in both PDF printable format and e-version FlippingBook.

This website is also linked to **www.WinnettMontana.com** (ran by Chelsea McKenna). Both sites should have all the area info for the local community and visitors.

Winnett Times Contact Info:
winnettimes@gmail.com & our FB Page

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