



Like to color? Check out the Easter coloring contest on page 8!

There is a contest for adults, too!



\$1.00



Congratulations to the CBMS Cougar Wrestlers!

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## Recall election procedure approved, election is May 3

By LEANNE KAVANAGH  
Pioneer Press Editor

The Secretary of State's office has given the go ahead to Glacier County election officials to proceed with the May 3 recall election of Glacier County Treasurer Mary Ann Boggs. Originally scheduled for March 29, the recall election was postponed due to the required election and registration notices not being published correctly by Glacier County Election Administrator Glenda Hall.

According to Casey R. Hayes, Elections Specialist, Hall submitted a new plan and timetable for the election on March 2 and then an amended plan on March 8. The ballot and amended plan for the May 3 election were both approved, notified Hayes in an email and letter addressed to Hall on March 11.

The approved plan estimates 6,699 active, inactive and provisional voters may vote in the upcoming recall election. Hall is currently publishing the required "close of voter registration and availability of late registration" notices in both of the county's weekly newspapers. The official "notice of election" will be published in both papers on April 6 and April 13.

According to the amended plan, ballots for the recall election will then be mailed out on April 13. Completed ballots must be returned—not just postmarked—to one of the two Glacier County Election Offices no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3.

Voters with questions about the upcoming recall election should contact Glacier County Clerk and Recorder Glenda Hall or Glacier County Election Clerks Gerald Parrent or Crystal Butterfly at their offices in the Glacier County Courthouse at 873-3609 or by email at [gmhall@glaciercountymt.org](mailto:gmhall@glaciercountymt.org); [gparrent@glaciercountymt.org](mailto:gparrent@glaciercountymt.org); or [cbutterfly@glaciercountymt.org](mailto:cbutterfly@glaciercountymt.org).



Photo by Brian Kavanagh

Emma Pyette and Joe Beckman have plenty to smile about after being crowned the Cut Bank High School 2016 Prom Queen and King on Saturday. This year's prom theme was 'A Touch of Class.' See more photos from this year's grand march inside!

## Bank of Glacier County, Moose Lodge know eggs-actly how to put on egg-cellent hunts!

By LINDA BRUCH  
Pioneer Press Feature Reporter

Holidays are about tradition. Easter is one of those holidays steeped in tradition. And the annual Easter Egg hunts held in Cut Bank have been a tradition on that holiday for 30 years and counting.

The Moose Lodge took the Easter Egg hunt over from the Eagles that started that fun tradition for the kids in 1985. And the Bank of Glacier County has been hiding eggs and awarding prizes at their Easter Egg hunt for 17 years now. They took the hunt over from the Jaycees when they disbanded almost 20 years ago.

And, with Easter just around

the corner, both of those organizations are busy preparing to hold and host, once again, their annual Easter Egg hunt.

The Bank of Glacier County's Easter Egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March



26 at the Cut Bank City Park located on Main Street. The whistle that signifies the kids can start hunting, will blow promptly at 10 a.m. and that is when the three areas defined

for three different age groups can begin their race to find the eggs.

The Moose Lodge is holding their Easter Egg hunt also on Saturday, March 26, but their hunt will be at the Swimming Pool park in southwest Cut Bank. Their signal to begin is the noon siren that goes off in Cut Bank every day, signaling the kids attending that hunt, that high noon will be the time to begin.

Staci Mazurkiewicz, the AVP Operations Manager at Bank of Glacier County, organizes the Easter Egg hunt the bank puts on with the help of the more than willing employees.

See Easter Egg Hunts on Page 3



The noon whistle will signal the start of the Moose Lodge's annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26, at the swimming pool park in southwest Cut Bank.

## City proposes raising base rates for water by 19% and sewer by 48%

By LEANNE KAVANAGH  
Pioneer Press Editor

No good news came out of the Cut Bank City Council meetings on March 14 and March 21. Council members reluctantly accepted the resignation of Clerk/Treasurer Diana Filban at last week's meeting. Her resignation is effective April 15. The council also approved resolutions of intent to substantially increase the city's water and sewer rates.

"This is a personal choice and has nothing to do with the turnovers we have recently gone through," assured Filban. "This is something that has been under my consideration for years due to my health issues." Filban has been a city employee for almost 21 years.

At its March 14 meeting, council members took the necessary steps to begin the process of raising residential base water rates by 18% to 53% per month, depending on the size of the meter. The majority of residential meters in town are 5/8" meters. If approved, the rates for those 1,218 properties will increase \$5 per month.

Residential properties with 1" meters, which number 133, will see rates increase almost \$9 per month. The 23 properties with 2" meters will see a proposed rate hike of approximately \$36 per month.

Under the proposed commercial base rate, Blackfeet Utilities would see their monthly rate increase from \$1,448.05 to \$1,775.36, an approximate increase of 18 percent per month.

The monthly base rates for the North Cut Bank Water and Sewer District (NCBW&S) would also increase significantly. The NCBW&S monthly base rate would go up from \$1,333.88

to \$1,655.33, or a rake hike of roughly 19%.

The reason cited for the proposed increase in water user charges was the need for the City of Cut Bank to "pay approximately \$76,000 annually as the City's cost" of the North Central Montana Regional Water Authority (NCRWA) project, which provides the city with an "interim water solution." The increase amounts to "a monthly base rate increase in the EDU rate to \$5 per month per equivalent dwelling unit."



Total projected revenue from the rate increase is \$9,444.51 per month, or \$113,334.12 annually, or roughly \$37,000 more than the estimate for the NCRWA project. According to City Superintendent Jim Suta, those funds will be put in a reserve account for the operation and maintenance of the NCRWA project.

The council is also proposing to increase City sewer rates a whopping 48 percent. That resolution of intent was approved at the council's March 21 meeting.

The resolution originally set the rate increase at 42% but once the computations were questioned it was determined the rate increase would actually be 48%.

According to the resolution, "The City Council finds... the proposed increase in sewer rates is necessary in order to provide the funds necessary to meet the requirements of the loan agreements required to finance the City's waste water system improvements and continuing system obligations as well as normal operation and maintenance for the waste water system."

Public hearings on both rate increases will be held on April 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cut Bank Voting Center. If

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## Friends of the Library invite you to membership drive event: Wine, beer tasting and Neil Lewing to entertain on March 31

By LINDA BRUCH  
Pioneer Press Feature Reporter

The Friends of the Library organization is one of those quiet, behind-the-scenes groups that continue doing good works for the Glacier County Public Library all without a lot of hoopla or pomp and circumstance. That is kind of the way they like it. They are good "friends" for a good organization, the library.

Even though, the Friends of the Library do not always make a big deal out of the things they do for the library, they are still responsible for a lot of great happenings at the Glacier County Public Library.

Each year, as part of their annual membership drive, the Friends host a speaker, singer or storyteller to come to the library for an evening of entertainment and everyone is invited.

This year, Neil Lewing is the actor, singer, songwriter, recording artist, poet and storyteller coming for the Friends of the Library program. He calls his event "Singing the Westward Legacy," and he will be here to perform on Thursday, March 31 at 7 p.m. in the basement of the library.

"Neal offers an entertaining performance on America's musical legacy from Lewis and Clark to Custer,

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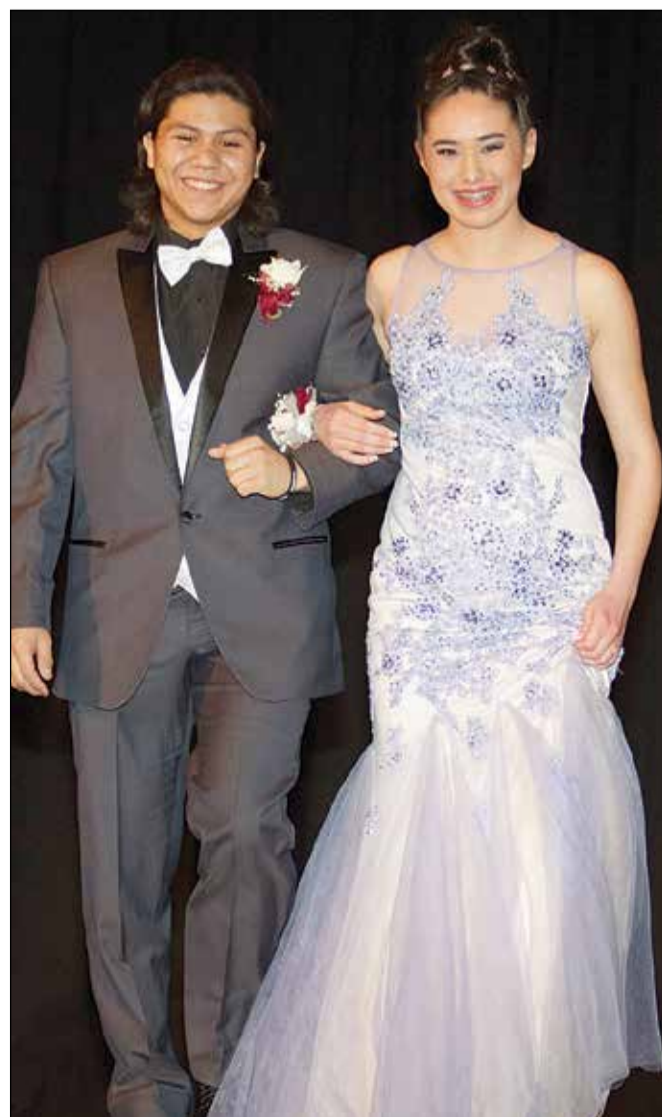


Photo by Brian Kavanagh

Tyrell Sylvester and Nicole Billedeaux both looked stunning during the CBHS Prom grand march on Saturday.

