



Photo by Scott Fritz

Former Mayor and First Lady Doug and Marla Embody received the Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce's 2016 Citizens of the Year award at Saturday's Chamber banquet. Presenting the award were 1992 Citizen of the year LeAnne Kavanagh and her husband, Brian, who received the award in 2012. In accepting the award, the Embodys encouraged local 20, 30 and 40-year-olds to get involved in community organizations and affairs. Marla and Doug, who were featured in the Pioneer Press in January, were humbled to receive the award.

## These administrative professionals boast over 70 years experience

By LINDA BRUCH  
Pioneer Press Feature  
Reporter

Today, Wednesday, April 27, is Administrative Professional's Day. It used to be called Secretary's Day and focused on those people doing strictly secretarial work.

But now, Administrative Professional's Day is about office professionals. It is about the people working in all types of businesses and the jobs those people do to keep those business running smoothly and efficiently.

This year we are featuring three ladies for Administrative Professional's Day: Debbie Kennedy, Staci Mazurkiewicz and Karla Rooney. Collectively they have been in the banking business for over 70 years. They are, as they say, "seasoned" professionals, who know their jobs well, do their jobs well and above all that, enjoy their jobs.

Karla has been with Bank of Glacier County

for 20 years, this coming June. "Primarily I have always been a teller. As a teller, I work with the safety deposit boxes and I help with customer service by answering the telephone," Karla said.

When she first started at the bank it was First Interstate Bank. "In 2004, our branch was purchased and we became Bank of Glacier County, which was a branch of Flathead Bank. Later this year, we will once again become First Interstate Bank. I guess I will have come full circle," she said with a grin.

Debbie started at Bank of Glacier County in February of 1994 as a proof machine operator. "After a while they added drive thru tellers along with proof. I was then offered a position in Customer Service, which lead to another position in new accounts and then to where I am now, a personal banker."

She, too, remembers the bank going through a

number of transitions and names over the years. Like her counterpart Karla, she has been in the business long enough to see it come back to its name of origin, First Interstate Bank.

Staci came to First Interstate Bank right out of her "first and only year of college. I was hired as a part-time safe deposit clerk, then moved into a full-time bookkeeping position. I have been a proof operator, teller, general ledger clerk, operations officer, customer service manager and in early 2014, I was promoted to Assistant Vice President, Operations Manager," she offered.

She admitted she has worn "a lot of hats in the bank, having worked in many of the operation jobs within the bank. It is never boring and well, with our staff, even a slow day is a day full of laughter," she said smiling.

For Staci, it is the people she works with at the bank and the people she serves at the bank that are the reasons she loves her job.

"We spend more time with the people we work with than our families, so if you are lucky, like I consider myself to be, those people become your extended family and you enjoy the time you spend with them," Staci said. "The customers are the reason I have a job and the relationships we build with them are irreplaceable."

Karla agreed. "I have to say, the best part of working at the bank, would be the social aspect of the job. I get to see and visit with my co-workers along with the customers who walk in the door or give us a call. It does not get any better than that."

Debbie is in complete agreement with her counterparts about what makes her job so

## Treasurer fails to pay nearly \$1.5 million in retirement, behind in her payments to State and 35 retired firemen

By LEANNE KAVANAGH  
Pioneer Press Editor

Glacier County's four school districts are impatiently waiting for their money from the Glacier County Treasurer's Office.

According to Glacier County Superintendent of Schools Darryl Omsberg, as of press time, the school districts have not received their December payout for the retirement funds. Those payouts total nearly \$1.5 million.

### Commissioners table action on suspending treasurer until after recall.

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Cut Bank Schools officials are very frustrated at the lack of funds and reports they should be receiving from Glacier County Treasurer Mary Ann Boggs. According to School District No. 15 Business Manager and District Clerk Scott Laird, Boggs is holding nearly \$582,000 of the school district's funds, not counting interest payments that were due back in January.

"We were supposed to receive our March Cash reports by yesterday, April 20. We are 9 months into the school year and we are 8 MONTHS BEHIND," emphasized Laird to Boggs in an email on April 21. "When are we going to receive our reports and payments?"

According to Laird, School District No. 15 no longer has Glacier County manage their funds but various payments from the state must still be funneled through the treasurer's office before the school district receives them.

To date, Glacier County has failed to release \$50,344.54 in oil and gas payments to the school district that were received by Boggs in late January.

Glacier County Superintendent of Schools Darryl Omsberg confirmed he requested Boggs release the school district's County Transportation Payment of \$43,803.00 and the County Retirement Payments of \$487,491.87 two months ago.

In addition, interest payments from Glacier County to School District No. 15 were due Jan. 26, said Laird. Since Boggs has failed to release School District No. 15's retirement payment, the district's retirement fund is over \$304,000 in the red, said Laird.

Omsberg said School District No. 9 told him Monday, April 25, they had not received their transportation or retirement payments. Omsberg said the Browning School District is owed \$731,947.65 for the Elementary Retirement Payment and \$248,492.22

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Photo by LeAnne Kavanagh

Cut Bank High School senior Dakota Dosch talks with kindergartner Kasey Spotted Bear about the importance of doing well in school, stressing "graduation matters" during student assemblies at H.C. Davis and Anna Jeffries Elementary Schools last Friday.

## Over 30% of recall ballots have been returned, deadline is 8 p.m. May 3

A total of 4,506 ballots have been sent out to qualified voters in the election to recall Glacier County Treasurer Mary Ann Boggs, reported Gerald Parrent of the Glacier County Elections Office. As of press time, Parrent said 1,404 ballots had been returned.

Voters who have not returned their ballots may mail them or drop them off at the Glacier County Satellite Office in Browning, located in the City Hall, 124 Second Ave. NW, and the Glacier County Elections Office in the Glacier County Courthouse in Cut Bank. Both offices will be open on Election Day, May 3, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Language on the ballot alleges Boggs should be recalled for the following reasons:

- Incompetence for violating her oath of office by failing to discharge her duties in the office of Glacier County Treasurer; and

- Mary Ann Boggs has committed official misconduct by negligently failing to perform mandatory duties as required by law;

- Mary Ann Boggs has also failed to submit a cash report since taking office in December 2014 as required by

Montana Code Annotated 7-6-2111 and 20-9-212;

- Mary Ann Boggs has failed to submit district revenues to designated custodian report to the School Districts in Glacier County, Montana since taking office in December 2014 as mandated by Montana Code Annotated 7-6-2111 and 20-9-212(6);

- Mary Ann Boggs has also failed to respond to a public record request which is mandated by Montana Code Annotated 2-6-101 et seq.

Boggs' response on the ballot denies the five allegations, despite the fact that the Glacier County Commissioners have not received cash reports for October 2015 through March 2016. School district officials have stated they are not receiving their monthly payments or reports and the State of Montana is assessing Glacier County interest on late payments. (See related stories in this week's issue.)

Voters are reminded to put a 47¢ stamp on the envelope if they mail their completed ballots back.

Unofficial results of the recall election will be posted on this newspaper's website as soon as they are available next week.

## Cut Bank Schools Election Preview Voters asked to approve voted levies, elect Kraft or Racine

By LEANNE KAVANAGH  
Pioneer Press Editor

For the first time in five years, School District No. 15 is asking voters to approve an elementary and high school voted levy in the upcoming school election on Tuesday, May 3. Voters will also be electing one trustee for the local school board. Seeking re-election is challenger Bret Kraft, who is completing his first three-year term on the board. He is being challenged by Gary Racine.

The Cut Bank Schools board of trustees is seeking an elementary levy for \$101,184.16 and a high school levy for \$27,589.88 to operate the local schools in 2016-17.

According to District Clerk Scott Laird, the total estimated tax increase from the levies would be less than \$10 on a \$100,000 home. Laird reminded the board the school district hasn't asked voters to approve any additional levies since 2011.

To learn more about both candidates, see candidate profiles and opinions on school issues on pages ? and ?

Polls will be open on Election Day, Tuesday, May 3, from noon to 8 p.m. at the Cut Bank Voting Center. Qualified registered voters who are unable to go to the polls next Tuesday may request an "Application for Absentee Voter's Ballot" from Laird at the school district's Central Office, located at 101 3rd Ave. SE in

Cut Bank.

Absentee ballots will be counted by the election judges in the boardroom of the Central Office beginning at 6 p.m., informed Laird. Unofficial results will be announced following the election on the Cut Bank Pioneer Press Facebook page and web site and in the May 11 issue of the paper.



Photo by Brian Kavanagh

Chamber director Ryan Eney manned the Chamber merchandise booth during the Chamber banquet and one of his best customers was fellow director Sissy Nygaard.



Photo by Linda Bruch

Karla Rooney, standing, Debbie Kennedy and Staci Mazurkiewicz described themselves as "seasoned" professionals in the banking industry. They have over 70 years of experience in the banking business.

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