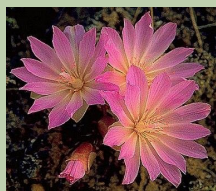


# YELLOWSTONE COUNTY INSIDER

JULY 2025

ISSUE 439

MONTANA



Bitterroot  
Montana State Flower

## Board of County Commissioners

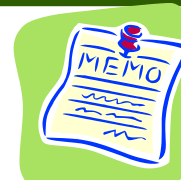
Mark Morse  
Chair

Michael Waters  
Member

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## Commissioner Corner



July is here and I hope everyone had a great Independence Day and were able to spend some time with family and friends.

If you have not already heard, the funeral service for Commissioner Ostlund will be held on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the MetraPark First Interstate Arena. All County Employees are welcome to attend, I hope to see many of you there.

The CAB building is making progress. The 6<sup>th</sup> floor has cabinets and counter tops going in and work is being done to start tiling the elevator lobby. On the other floors, framing and sheetrock are still going up.

MetraPark has a busy couple of weeks ahead before fair.

Big Sky State Games

Equestrian Weekend July 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>

Montana Classic Car Auction July 12<sup>th</sup>

Montana Brews & BBQ July 12<sup>th</sup>

Billings Fun Con July 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

MT Country Creations Craft Show July 19<sup>th</sup>

I hope everyone has a chance to get away from the office these next couple of months and enjoy the summer. I appreciate the work you all do for the citizens of Yellowstone County.

Sincerely,

Mark Morse, Chairman



## Remembering John Ostlund

The sudden passing of Commissioner John Ostlund on June 19, 2025 was met with a profound sense of disbelief by everyone at Yellowstone County and throughout the community.

John dedicated 30 years to the Road & Bridge Department and served 22 years as County Commissioner. His deep knowledge of the county and unwavering commitment to public service will be greatly missed. As one employee noted, "those are some big boots to fill." Many others expressed sadness, recalling how John always remembered their names, greeted them with a smile, listened to their concerns, and took the time to thank them for their work.

At heart, John was the quintessential cowboy - always in his cowboy hat and jeans, doing what he loved, including flying his plane high above the county he proudly served.

We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Kristie, their children, his siblings, and all members of his extended family.



*New Employees*

**Jonathan Stanton**  
**Justin Kucera**  
**Kaden Field**  
 MetraPark

**Kelsey Weik**  
**Rochelle Gilbert**  
 Motor Vehicle

**Annie Hoffman**  
**Sunshine Wells**  
 Justice Court

**Roman Potter**  
**Hailey Daffin**  
**Anjelica Thompson**  
**Jaymie Streever**  
 Detention Facility

**Joseph Gierke**  
 Information Technology

**Kerri Cooley**  
 Youth Service Center

\*\*\*\*\*

*Recognition of Service*10 Years of Service

**Heather Webster**  
 County Attorney

*I hope...*

Yesterday reminds you how

**strong** you were

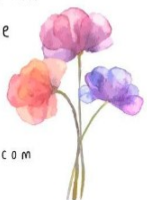
Today proves you how

**capable** you are, and

Tomorrow tells you how

**fantastic** you can be

OurMindfullLife.com

*Montana Fair*

MontanaFair is an agricultural celebration in the historic tradition of fairs. It is the region's largest event with attendance of nearly a quarter of a million each year. Held at MetraPark in Billings, MontanaFair celebrates for nine days beginning August 8th. Nearly 10,000 people will earn cash and ribbons for their entries which range from beer, wine, bunnies, horticulture, horses, cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, petit-point, pickles, to hobbies, and arts and crafts.

The Thomas Carnival operates the midway featuring rides and games. A shady park for kid's rides accommodates families and the free Kid's World exhibit nearby offers free games, activities, and a petting zoo for small children. Food choices are abundant at the fair featuring the traditional corn dog, BBQ, corn on the cob, 'Vikings On a Stick', fresh lemonade, and beer gardens.

The MontanaFair Pepsi Concert Pass gets you general admission to 3 shows for just \$79 plus free gate admission from August 8-10! Enjoy Flo Rida, Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias, Russell Dickerson. **And you can also attend rodeo outside!**

*Sunshine News*

We will be serving  
 Root Beer floats on  
 Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup>



Stop by room 212 between  
 11:30am-1:00pm and have a  
 treat.

We look forward to seeing you  
 there!

*What's Up With Parking?*

The City is prepping the roadway surfaces this week (blowing out cracks, removing vegetation from the roadway, etc.). In order to complete this prep work, there will be parking restrictions, but they will be short term.

Parking restrictions on 3rd Ave N and North 26th St were put in place on July 8th. Crews will be working west from the courthouse, so parking will not open back up on these roadways until next week, when parking will be restricted on 3rd Ave N and N 25th / N 26th Streets starting 7/15 (Tuesday). Roadway resurfacing will begin on Wednesday (7/16).

Cars that are on the roadway on 7/16 will be towed, so it is important to adhere to all parking restrictions that are in place. The City is anticipating on-street parking will open back up on 3rd Ave N by Saturday (7/19) and N 26th St and N 25th St by Monday (7/21).

Traffic will remain open throughout construction, but there may be short durations where flaggers are directing traffic around the active construction.



## Horseplay at Work - It's No Joke!

Let's admit it, we all at some time, have played a joke on a coworker. At times it alleviates stress on the job site. That is the upside. Part of enjoying our job is liking our co-workers and having a good laugh. The downsides are more numerous. Horseplay and pranks should never be welcomed or tolerated.



There is no room for carelessness, practical jokes, or fun and games. Someone can easily be injured or killed. I am sure that would not be intentional, however it can happen. The person or persons performing the practical jokes probably would never get over causing an injury or death. Here are some examples of practical jokes on a job site to make you think of the consequences should you think of pulling a prank on a co-worker.



An excavator operator had worked for 30 years and was due to retire. His foreman decided to play a pre-retirement prank on him. The foreman greased the floor of the excavator causing the operator to slip, fall out of the cab of the excavator, and suffer a broken hip.

A carpentry crew decided to play "Cops and Robbers" with power actuated tools. Nails flew around the job, breaking windows and scarring walls. As nails flew out of windows, some nails narrowly missed a small boy walking past the job site. No one was injured but think of what could have happened. I wonder where this crew is working now, if anywhere.

Most of us have stories such as these, but these jokes aren't funny. They could be considered criminal. Horseplay can result in accidents, and sometimes death. Indifference to safety endangers you and your co-workers. If you encounter horseplay or carelessness on the job site you must report it. **Safety is everyone's job.**



## Walking Montana Mileage Logs



Have you reached 150 miles by July 18th???

If so, please turn in your mileage log to Human Resources no later than **July 25, 2025** to be entered into the Midway Give-a-Way! Remember to keep tracking those miles to earn awesome awards from our sponsors:

**"You Can Do It Award"**  
**150 Miles**

Intermountain Health  
Water bottle with towel

**200 Miles - BCBS**  
To be announced

**300 Miles - Marsh McLennan**  
\$15 Gift Card

**Thank you to our sponsors**  
**who help to make this**  
**program possible.**

## *Work Comp Claim FREE - Congratulations!*

Congratulations to the following departments for **June**:  
Clerk & Recorder/Auditor, Commissioners, County Attorney, District Court, Disaster & Emergency Services, Elections, Extension, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology/GIS, Junk Vehicle, Justice Court, Motor Vehicle, Public Works, Road & Bridge, Sheriff Office, Treasurer, Weed, and Youth Services

**In June there were 7 claims filed: 2-Detention Facility; 2-Sheriff Office; 2-MetraPark; 1-Facilities**





## SHERIFF HAPPENINGS

On July 1st, 2025 Yellowstone County Sheriff Mike Linder recognized (3) promotions within YCSO and (1) promotion within YCDF. Please join us in congratulating the following:

- YCDF Officer Petley to YCDF Sergeant
- Detective Sandquist to Training Sergeant
- Patrol Sergeant Harris to Detective Sergeant
- Detective Lieutenant Fritz to Patrol Captain

Congratulations to all and best of luck in your new roles!



Congratulations to Deputy Galles on receiving the Montana Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association's (MSPOA) 2025 Deputy of the Year Award. Congratulations! (Pictured on left: Sheriff Linder & Deputy Galles)

# New Insurance Rates - August 1, 2025

TO: Yellowstone County Employees

## New Health Insurance Rates effective August 1, 2025:



Yellowstone County continues to make every effort to provide the best medical, dental and prescription drug plan to its employees and retirees. The revised rates reflect the necessary increase in plan costs according to BCBS and the increase in cost of stop-loss coverage. Fortunately all of our insurance coverage rates, including dependent and retiree premiums, remain very competitive in the marketplace.

Below are the per pay period (pp) dependent health insurance rates and monthly retiree rates for fiscal year 2025/2026 effective starting with August 1, 2025 coverage are listed below.

Effective August 1, 2025	Traditional Plan (\$500/\$1,500)	HDHP Plan (\$3,300/\$6,600)
Single – No Cost to the employee	\$495.00 /pp paid by County \$0 – Cost to the employee	\$421 /pp paid by County <b>\$74.00 /pp in employee HSA</b> \$0 – Cost to the employee
Spouse only	<b>\$290.00 /pp</b>	<b>\$173.00 /pp</b>
1 child	<b>\$181.00 /pp</b>	<b>\$80.00 /pp</b>
2 children	<b>\$361.00 /pp</b>	<b>\$233.00 /pp</b>
Family (3+ children)	<b>\$387.00 /pp</b>	<b>\$255.00 /pp</b>
Part-time single (.5 - .74 FTE)	\$248.00 /pp paid by Employee	\$211.00 /pp paid by Employee + \$37 in HSA
Part-time single (.75 - .99 FTE)	\$124.00 /pp paid by Employee	\$106.00 /pp paid by Employee + \$56 in HSA

Remember the annual Election Period will be from October 20 to October 31, 2025 for 2026 benefit coverage.

Be sure to take advantage of the services offered at the annual Wellness Screenings which will be held in September 2025. Check out the County's newsletter available on your NeoGov Dashboard to keep informed on benefit changes and other County sponsored events.

Sincerely,

Board of County Commissioners, Yellowstone County



## 98point6 - Telehealth Options for You!

Protect your health - its as easy as sending a text.

Even if you feel great, regular care helps catch problems early and keeps you strong for the future. Now, it's easier than ever with 24/7/365 on-demand virtual care through 98point6 by Transcarent—no waiting rooms or appointments required.

Get care and support for:

- Diabetes, hypertension, asthma, heart disease
- Depression, anxiety, obesity, diet & exercise
- Age-specific screenings (colon cancer, prostate cancer, STIs, etc.)
- Routine lab orders and vaccine guidance
- Birth control, menstrual health, smoking cessation
- 1000+ common conditions like allergies, flu, gastroenteritis and more

Download your free app and create your profile in less than 5 minutes so you can start a visit when you need it. Visits for you and your dependents ages 1+ are \$0-Traditional Plan or \$8-HDHP Plan per visit.

## Telehealth Options for You!

Yellowstone County is excited to share that we've added a new telehealth service to our health insurance benefit offerings...

### 98point6



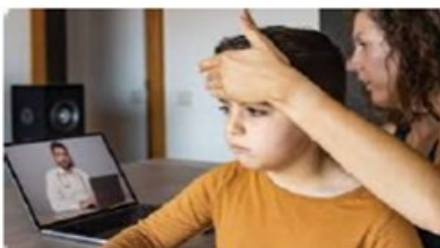
98point6 is a new kind of virtual-on-line, primary care that gives you on-demand access to a care team, including board-certified physicians, via secure in-app messaging on your mobile device. We've added 98point6 to your health insurance benefits so you can now have access to care 24/7 from wherever you are—between meetings, while making dinner and even in the middle of the night.

Your 98point6 care team can:

- Diagnose and treat a range of conditions, including upper respiratory illnesses, itchy or sore throat, gastrointestinal issues and UTIs
- Answer any medical questions you have (no question is too small)
- Outline care options
- Order any necessary prescriptions or lab tests



Visits with a 98point6 care team, including board-certified doctors, are available to employees and dependents ages 1+ are \$0 per visit\*\*.



We encourage you to take a few minutes today to download the 98point6 app and register so it's easy to access and use when you need it. Instructions on how you and your dependents ages 18+ can download the app and create an account are available at:

[www.98point6.com/members](http://www.98point6.com/members)

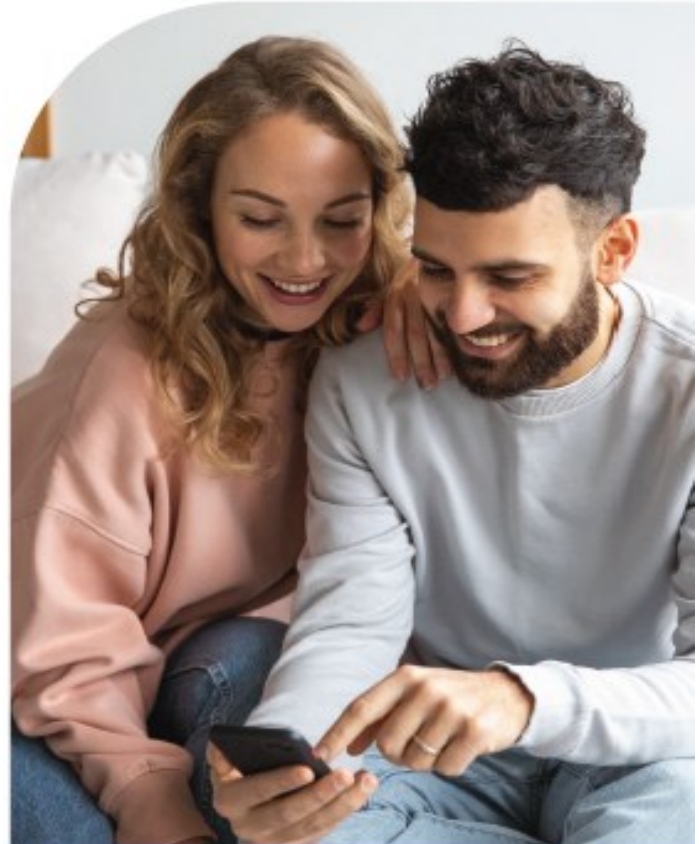
You can start visits for your dependents ages 1 to 17 once you set up your account.



**98point6**  
by transcarent

## Your 24/7 Virtual Care Benefit

98point6® makes it easy to  
prioritize health, with trusted  
diagnosis and treatment  
available on-demand through  
the convenience of an app.



Available to all Medical Enrolled  
Employees and Dependents ages 1+

Ready when you are:

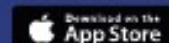
- Diagnosis and treatment for 900+ primary care conditions
- Available 24/7, nationwide
- No travel or waiting rooms
- U.S.-based care team, including board-certified physicians
- One-stop for prescriptions, lab orders and doctor's notes

**Low cost:**

HSA Plans: \$8 / visit Non-  
HSA Plans: \$0 / visit



Download 98point6 from the App Store or Google Play.





## Yellowstone County Fact Sheet **BBQ Safety**



Nearly 9,000 home fires a year involve grills, according to a National Fire Protection Association report. Of all the home fires involving grills, gas-fueled grills accounted for four out of five fires, while 16% involved charcoal or other solid-fueled grills.<sup>1</sup> Gas and charcoal grills each have ardent advocates, who praise the convenience of gas or the flavor of charcoal. Whichever your preferred grilling method, follow these important safety considerations.

### **Gas Grill Safety**

A leak or break was the leading factor contributing to gas grill-related fires, according to the NFPA report.

- Check the gas cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year.
- Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose, which will quickly reveal escaping gas by releasing bubbles.
- If you smell or otherwise suspect a gas leak, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get a professional to service it before using it again. Call the fire department if the leak does not stop.
- If you smell gas while cooking, get away from the grill immediately and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- Never turn on the gas when the lid is closed. The gas may build up inside, and when ignited, the lid could blow off and cause injuries or burns.
- After cooking, make sure you completely close the valve on your gas grill.
- Always store gas grills – and propane tanks – outside and away from your house.

### **Charcoal Grill Safety**

The leading cause of structure fires from use of charcoal grills was leaving or placing an object that could burn too close to the grill, according to the NFPA study.

- Charcoal grills can continue to remain hot for many hours after the flames extinguish. Avoid placing any burnable objects near the grill or moving the grill while the coals are hot. Keep combustible items that may be blown by the wind away from the grill.
- Check for rust damage in metal grills, which may make it possible for charcoal to fall through onto surfaces below and cause a fire.
- Purchase the proper starter fluid. Store out of reach from children and away from heat sources.
- Do not add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited. Never use any other flammable or combustible liquid to get the fire started.
- If the fire is too low, rekindle with dry kindling and more charcoal if needed. Avoid adding liquid fuel because it can cause a flash fire.
- Do not leave the grill unattended.



Yellowstone County HR  
PO Box 35041  
Billings, MT 59107  
406-256-2705 - phone  
406-254-7908 - fax

Keep your BBQ at least 8-10 feet away from the wall of your home.  
Do not grill in your garage or under trees & structures.



## When to see your primary care provider for headache pain



About 50% of people experience headaches at least once a month, 15% at least once a week, and 5% every day or nearly every day. But only a small fraction of these people ever seek a provider's attention, since most headaches are relatively mild and disappear on their own or with the help of an over-the-counter pain reliever, rest, or a good night's sleep. But what about headaches that are severe, occur often, or are unresponsive to nonprescription pain relievers?

Although headaches are rarely harbingers of more ominous disease, it makes sense to see your doctor if you're having headaches frequently, if your headaches interfere with your ability to function, or if you have an existing headache pattern that changes in any particular way. Start with your primary care provider, who can refer you to a general neurologist or a neurologist specializing in headaches if needed.

### Headache testing

Modern medicine depends on tests to diagnose many problems. For most headaches, though, a good old-fashioned history and physical will do the job. In fact, CT scans, MRIs, and EEGs (brain wave tests) look normal in tension-type headaches, migraines, and cluster headaches. Still, these tests can be vital in patients with warning signs or other worrisome headaches.

Because the following symptoms could indicate a serious health problem, seek medical care promptly if you experience any of these:

- A sudden headache that feels like a blow to the head
- A headache with fever
- A headache with convulsions
- A persistent headache following a blow to the head
- A headache with confusion or loss of consciousness
- A headache along with pain in the eye or ear
- A relentless headache when you were previously headache-free
- A headache that is incapacitating



# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Civil Process Officer - \$22.40 per hour

Deputy/Senior Deputy County Attorney - \$84,000 - \$108,161 per year

Detention Officer-\$24.67 per hour

Event Manager - \$68,085 - \$80,100 per year

Juvenile Care Worker - \$24.58 per hour

Maintenance Tech II - \$22.40 per hour

Road & Bridge Foreperson - \$34.00 per hour

Sheriff Clerk - \$18.46 per hour



To apply for any of the open positions listed above, you can scan the QR code or visit the career page at [www.governmentjobs.com/careers/yellowstonecountymt](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/yellowstonecountymt)

