Best Feature Photo
Division 5 &
Mel Ruder Photograph of the Year Award
2017 Better Newspaper Contest
By Larry Mayer, Billings Gazette

Titled: Coyote vs. Pronghorn

Judge’s comment: Very special photo since this wasn’t staged and the look on the coyote's face is very impactful.
**MNACalendar**

**July**

1. Annual deadline to file a County and Municipal Sworn Statement of Circulation
2. Independence Day - MNA office will be closed
3-4. Member Educational Opportunity: Online Media Campus: Cyber Security: What is Your Newspaper’s Liability?
   Register at [http://onlinemediacampus.com/](http://onlinemediacampus.com/)
   Register at [http://onlinemediacampus.com/](http://onlinemediacampus.com/)
20. Member Educational Opportunity: Online Media Campus: Effective Prospecting: Five Steps to More Conversions
   Register at [http://onlinemediacampus.com/](http://onlinemediacampus.com/)
21. Deadline to submit articles for the July Press Pass
   Register at [http://onlinemediacampus.com/](http://onlinemediacampus.com/)

**August**

18. Deadline to submit articles for the August Press Pass

**September**

4. MNA office will be closed for the Labor Day holiday
4. National Newspaper Carrier Day
15. Deadline to submit articles for the September Press Pass
15. MNA & MNAS Board of Directors’ meeting, Great Falls

**October**

1. Deadline to file USPS Statement of Ownership, Management & Circulation Form 3526
1. National Newspaper Week
20. Deadline to submit articles for the October Press Pass

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**Thanks**

- To John Sullivan and Yellowstone Newspapers for hosting the Saturday, June 17, hospitality room and President’s Reception.
- To the educational session presenters of the 132nd annual convention: John Thomas Cribb, Cribb, Greene & Cope; Summer Goddard and Nicole Tavenner, Valley Journal; John MacDonald, Consultant and MNA Lobbyist; David Keyes, Laurel Outlook, and Mike Reilly, Google and Society of Professional Journalists.

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**Montana Newspaper Association**

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**Our Mission:**
To advance and sustain the news publishing industry in Montana.

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June 23, 2017
We must build relationships with the next generation of newspaper readers

By Jacques Rutten, publisher, Lewistown News-Argus and MNA past president

As my term as president of the Montana Newspaper Association comes to a close, I have been thinking a lot about the future of community newspapers.

Nine years ago, when I came on the MNA board, we were in the early stages of what some called a global financial crisis. Many businesses suffered in the years that followed, and newspapers were not immune to the struggles. The financial crisis coincided with an explosion of digital news outlets, including social media.

The economy has improved since that time, but newspapers are still facing some major challenges. In my view, our most daunting challenge is also the most important one: connecting with young adults and eventually converting them to newspaper readers.

It’s no secret that few people between the ages of 18 and 30 are getting their daily news from a printed newspaper. That is nothing new. None of my friends subscribed to a printed newspaper when they were in their 20s. That began to change, however, when they started getting married, having kids, paying taxes and paying attention.

At some point, they wanted to know who was leading their city council, or why the school board proposed the latest levy, or how the local basketball team did over the weekend. That is usually when people begin to grasp the importance of their local newspaper, and if we are doing our job well, it usually means we have a subscriber for life. It is a pattern that has repeated itself for generations, and one I would like to see continue for decades to come. But I am worried something has changed in recent years.

The digital revolution has turned the newspaper world upside down, opening some new doors while closing others. Social media, in particular, has radically altered the way young people are consuming news. That was driven home to me last fall during our heated election season. My 19-year-old son, who doesn’t watch TV, listen to radio and rarely reads newspapers or magazines, suddenly became a geyser of information about the various candidates. When I would ask him where he had heard a particular claim, his answer was invariably Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or some other social media site.

On the bright side, he is getting more news fed to him than I ever did at his age. My concern is that very little of his news comes from trained journalists or people even pretending to be unbiased in their reporting. It bothers me to think those social media sites have become his trusted place to go for news, and it makes me question whether he or his younger sisters will ever become regular readers of a printed newspaper.

Newspapers have shown they can compete in the digital world. Some have even become quite good at it — at least in terms of generating clicks and hits. But the hard lesson a lot of us have learned in the past decade is that for all but a select few, digital just doesn’t pay the bills like print does.

Websites and mobile devices are great for getting news out there, but if most small papers had to rely on digital for paying salaries, I suspect our newsrooms would go from small to non-existent in a hurry.

For that reason, I have heard some frustrated publishers say they are giving up on digital — giving up on trying to attract young readers — and going back to print only. “That is where the money is and that is what we do well,” they say.

On the surface that seems like a noble strategy, and it may pay off in the short-term. Over the long haul, however, I’m convinced that way of thinking will be a death sentence for printed newspapers.

Instead, I think we need to continue with what a lot of us are already doing — taking a balanced approach that is print heavy, but with a growing focus on digital. Most importantly, we must make a concerted effort to reach out to young people. We must develop a relationship with the young adults and it must begin in the digital world, because that is where they prefer to operate. Instead of abandoning social media and our websites, we must improve them. And here’s the real challenge: we need to do those things while maintaining the quality of our print edition.

The digital efforts may not generate a lot of revenue immediately. But if we can establish a relationship with young people now — if we can earn their respect and gain their trust as the place to go for local news — then I am confident we can convert them to print subscribers in the future, just as we have with so many generations before.

Will it be easy? Absolutely not. In fact I see it as a fight for the future of printed newspapers. But if you love newspapers as much as I do, I hope you will agree it is a battle worth fighting.
Following the passage of SB 2, the MNA agreed to put together a brief “paper” on its understanding of the ramifications of the bill for the Montana Association of Counties, which MACO distributed to its members. Our effort was to inform commissioners that the law signed by the governor no longer allows commissioners to meet at “any time” to discuss, hear or take action on county business; that all county business must be done in a properly-noticed meeting. The MNA took no formal position on the final version of the bill, and we believe that the press and public will need to keep a watchful eye on commissioners to ensure they follow the new law.

SENATE BILL 2: WHAT DO THE CHANGES MEAN FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS?

The 2017 Legislature approved Senate Bill 2 that makes several important changes to state law regarding meetings of county commissions, MCA 7-5-2122. It is critical that commissioners understand the changes and ensure that they are complying with the law. The changes should also provide some comfort for commissioners concerned about accusations that their presence at certain events could constitute a violation of Montana’s open-meetings laws.

Senate Bill 2, which was approved by both chambers and signed by the governor, was intended to address several issues that arise due to the fact that most county commissions in Montana consist of just three members. Commissioners have had concerns for years that any time two of them are together – whether at a social function or a gathering of another entity – they could be accused of violating Montana’s open meetings statute because a quorum of commissioners is present. Separately, press and open-government advocates have been concerned about language in Montana law prior to 2017 that allowed commissioners to conduct business at any time, without expressly requiring public notification that business was being conducted.

Senate Bill 2, sponsored by Sen. Pat Connell, R-Hamilton, attempts to address both issues. Prior to 2017, MCA 7-5-2122, titled “Meetings of county commissioners,” required governing bodies of counties to pass a resolution establishing a “regular meeting date,” and required the commission to notify the public of that date. The statute also granted commissioners authority to meet “at any time” at the county seat “for the purposes of conducting county business.” But a sweeping 1998 Montana Attorney General’s opinion held that county commissioners cannot comply with the state’s open-meetings law by simply stating that they may meet at any time during the regular work week to conduct business. The opinion went on to say that specific dates and times of meetings must be provided to the public in advance to let citizens know when a quorum will meet to discuss, hear or act on any issue of significant public interest.

Senate Bill 2 formally adopts and codifies that attorney general’s opinion. MCA 7-5-2122 now specifically states: “County business may only be conducted during a meeting as defined in 2-3-202 for which notice has been properly given.” This change satisfies concerns raised by open-government advocates and the Montana press.

However, Senate Bill 2 also attempts to address concerns of county commissioners. MCA 7-5-2122 was amended to make it clear that the mere presence of a quorum of commissioners at an event, function, gathering or meeting of another entity does not constitute a public meeting as defined by MCA 2-3-202. That existing statute already notes that a meeting is not just the convening of a quorum. It is the convening of a quorum “to hear, discuss or act upon a matter over which the agency has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.” The new language makes it clear that so long as commissioners take care not to hear, discuss or act upon matters over which they have authority, their presence together outside of their own meeting is not a violation of MCA 2-3-202.

The Legislature went a step further though, acknowledging that it is not unheard of for commissioners to end up together at an event where – without their prior knowledge or ability to notify the public – county business may come up. Legislators amended SB 2 to require that if such a situation arises and a quorum of the commission remains at the event, those commissioners must provide a detailed report at their next public meeting. That report must include “the name of the event or meeting, the name of the persons involved, the date and location of the event or meeting, and a brief summary of the issues discussed or heard.” It continues that “If the commissioners’ presence at the unnoticed meeting or event is reasonably expected to precipitate ensuing consideration of any issue by the board of county commissioners, details associated with the issue discussed or heard must also be included in the report.”

The purpose of this section was to give commissioners the opportunity to “self-report” any instances where a quorum unintentionally ended up in situations where county business is discussed without the required public notice being given. It is not intended to be, nor should it be used as, an excuse for not notifying the public of meetings or events where it is known in advance that county business may be a topic of conversation, regardless of the format in which the conversation may take place. It is strongly recommended that commissioners take care to avoid such situations because the reporting requirements could be substantial.

Continued on Page 5
FAQS:
Q. If I go to lunch with another county commissioner, am I violating Montana’s open-meeting statute?
A. A quorum of commissioners simply going to lunch is not a violation. However, discussing any issue over which the commission has “supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power” would be a violation of MCA 2-3-202. Lunchtime conversations should be limited to non-business, unless proper notice is provided in advance. As a general rule, even the appearance of impropriety should be avoided.

Q. If I attend a social function as an individual, and other commissioners attend the same event, does that constitute a meeting of the quorum?
A. No. The mere presence of a quorum of commissioners at an event, meeting, gathering or function of another entity, whether by chance, happenstance or on purpose, does not on its own constitute a meeting. It would violate MCA 2-3-202, however, if commissioners used such a gathering or event to “hear, discuss or take action” (MCA 2-3-202) on any issue over which they have authority. If there is any hint that county business may come up, it would be advisable to avoid having a quorum present.

Q. If all three commissioners attend a social function together, but there is no expectation of any county business being discussed, heard or acted on, do we have to notify the public in advance?
A. No. However, it would be ill-advised to plan any meeting of a quorum of commissioners WITHOUT notifying the public – whether through a formal posting as laid out in MCA 7-5-2122 or through notifications on commissioners’ individual calendars. Commissioners intentionally convening as a group outside of their regularly scheduled meeting could have the appearance of impropriety.

Q. As commissioners, are we allowed to take action on a county matter outside of our regular meeting?
A. No. MCA 7-5-2122, as amended by the 2017 Legislature, codifies a 1998 Attorney General’s opinion that the public has an absolute right to be notified and to be present when county business is heard, discussed or acted on. No business should be discussed, heard or acted on without the required advance public notice.

Q. Does a commission have to provide public notice if a quorum of commissioners plans to attend a meeting of another board or group?
A. Generally, No. If commissioners are attending another board’s meeting and no issues over which the commission has any supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power are expected to heard, discussed or acted on, public notice by the commissioners is not required. However, if the other entity is subject to Montana’s open-meetings law, it would be required to do so. It is strongly advised that commissioners let constituents know if a quorum of the commission will be present at another entity’s meeting, even if that notice is informal, such as through an individual commissioner’s public events calendar.

Q. If a quorum of commissioners is present at an event or meeting of another entity and other parties begin discussing county business or want the commissioners to do so without advance warning, what should we do?
A. You have several options. The most prudent action would be to advise those in attendance that outside of a properly noticed commission meeting, a quorum of commissioners may not discuss any issue over which they have supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power. If they insist, commissioners should ensure that a quorum is not present. The “self-reporting” amendments to MCA 7-5-2122 were not intended to allow commissioners to stay and continue discussions without providing public notice. They are intended to address those unique situations where unavoidable discussions may need to occur without the ability of providing advance public notice. In those situations, detailed reports are required to be presented at the commission’s next public meeting. While it’s understood there will be instances in which public notice cannot be given in a timely fashion, commissioners should make all efforts to avoid any appearance that a quorum is hearing or discussing any matters outside of a regular meeting.

Q. Could commissioners face legal action if they fail to comply with the revised MCA 7-5-2122?
A. Yes. The Montana Supreme Court has ruled that any person may bring civil legal action against a government entity that fails to comply with Montana’s open-meetings laws, regardless of whether that person had any direct, personal standing. If a court determines a violation has occurred, any actions taken may be voided and legal fees may be awarded to the plaintiff.

Q. Are there any exceptions to the Open Meetings laws?
A. Yes. For instance, meetings may be closed by the presiding officer upon a determination that an individual’s right to privacy clearly exceeds the public’s right to know. However, that right can be waived by the individual. The presiding officer also must state in an open meeting the reason for closing any portions, providing a general explanation of each item to be discussed. A public meeting may also be closed to discuss litigation strategy, as long as both parties are not public agencies, in which case the meeting must be open.
We could have been peddling diamonds today instead of newspapers, but my grandfather Burley Bowler, a Canadian immigrant, journeyman watchmaker and jeweler, embraced newspapering instead (MNA president in 1959 and Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame 1976).

He made the transition after moving to Montana, where he became the editor, printer, manager and owner of a series of newspapers in northeast Montana.

In 1921, Bowler was loaned by the Plentywood Pioneer Press as editor and manager to the Scobey Sentinel. In 1924, Bowler purchased the two-year-old Daniels County Leader and later bought and closed the Sentinel. Burley and his wife Maude had four children, of which two became Montana newspapermen. Duane was editor at the Billings Gazette for many years, and Larry (2005 Hall of Fame) owned the Daniels County Leader.

Larry and his wife Beth owned newspapers in North Dakota and Wolf Point before WWII, after which they returned to operate the Leader.

Two of their six children entered the field of journalism. Printer was an adjunct professor at U of M Journalism School until his death in 2014, and Burley owns the Daniels County Leader with his wife Rozlynn.

As third-generation owner, I started at the Leader while in the first grade, stoking the coal furnace after school, graduating to typesetter and Linotype operator, and became a pressman at 12 years of age. In high school, I worked my way into the business, heading up collections, selling advertising and working as a job printer.

My high school sweetheart, Roz, had been helping out at the Leader part-time in high school and started full-time in 1972 as bookkeeper and typist. We were married in 1974 and have been continuing our education at the University of the Daniels County Leader since. We have four grown children.

Roz and I became owners of the Leader in 1996. The Leader suffered a devastating fire in November of 2006, but thanks to a dedicated staff we never missed an issue. Until the spring of 2016, we continued to print our paper in-house.

We’ve been fortunate to have been part of many successful and worthwhile projects, often working harder at promoting the community than reporting the news. The Leader plays an active role in raising substantial money for community projects through our unique and proven “paper-thon” method.

I’ve served on the MNA board, was chair of our chamber and golf club, and we’re active with three community foundations. I’m also vice-president of Prairie Communications (KCGM - fm), founded by my father. Roz and I headed up a project to save our movie theatre. We serve daily on an all-volunteer board, which operates the theatre for a local foundation.

Roz is never idle and works constantly on the Leader. She’s been a religious ed teacher for over 20 years, has been active since high school with women’s church groups, women’s golf league and bowling leagues, has served as the chamber secretary, and as treasurer for Scobey Baseball for over 15 years. She’s the one who quietly gets things done while the rest of us look busy.

We have been blessed with a giving community and a great staff. Milt Gunderson has worked at the Leader for 60 years, Mike Stebleton for 20 years and Vera Lynn Trangsrud for 19 years. Having such a dependable staff makes it difficult to hire anyone else as we seem to slowly work ourselves into the corner, toward our last deadline.
Suzanne “Sue” Hart was born April 15, 1936, in Detroit, Michigan, to Truman and Mayetta Toohey Smith. She was raised and educated in Detroit and White Plains, New York. In 1958, she moved to Missoula to attend the University of Montana. She received an M.A. in English and joined the faculty of the English Department at Eastern Montana College (now MSU Billings) in 1961.

It was the move to Montana that began her long association with the Gilluly family and journalism. She married Richard Gilluly in 1959, and they had four children: Kathleen, Mary, Michael and Margaret. Although she later divorced Dick, she remained close to the Gillulys her entire life, occasionally collaborating with in-laws or editing family projects. She was Sam Gilluly’s first proofreader for “The Press Gang: A Century of Montana Newspapers, 1885-1985.”

At MSU Billings, Sue found a home. In addition to teaching writing and literature classes she developed and taught five courses: Montana Writers, Montana Memoirs, Adolescent Literature, Magazine Article Writing, and Women in Literature and the Arts. She served many years as the faculty advisor for “The Retort,” and fought for scholarships for student journalists. Throughout the 50-plus years she taught, she was a frequent contributor to a number of magazines and professional journals. She also developed a local access channel television interview program that grew out of her “Montana Books and Authors” column that appeared in weekly newspapers. Sue traveled the state making presentations for the Montana Committee for the Humanities (now Humanities Montana) Speakers Bureau because she truly loved sharing her knowledge of the state’s writers, many with whom she shared personal experiences. For many years, she shared the stories of friends and others she admired in the quarterly “Montana Senior News.” She was the recipient of a Governor’s Humanities Award, a Governor’s World AIDS Day Award, the Montana Historical Society’s Board of Trustees’ Educator Award, a WILLA Award from Women Writing the West, and three Faculty Excellence Awards from MSU Billings, in addition to being honored by the Billings YWCA in its Salute to Women in 1996.

Sue worked with Montana PBS on the production of two documentaries: “Paradise & Purgatory: Hemingway at the L-T & St. Vincent Hospital,” and “Gravel in her Gut and Spit in Her Eye-The Life of Dorothy M. Johnson,” for which she wrote the script and co-produced. The latter was a Spur Award finalist in the Best Documentary Script category in 2006.

In 2000, she married her longtime friend, Livingston novelist Richard S. Wheeler. They enjoyed 13 years together, sharing their interests in Montana history, research and writing, and entertaining their many friends in both Billings and Livingston.


Flathead Beacon celebrates 10 years
By The Beacon Staff

On May 23, 2007, the Flathead Valley woke up to a new resident: a 24-page journal called the Flathead Beacon.

Five-hundred-and-twenty issues later, the newspaper has grown to 64 pages most weeks, some editions even larger. Initially, the newspaper printed 7,000 copies, but now distributes between 20,000 and 25,000 weekly copies. The newspaper website has thousands of views every day. The company has added a whole new division called Flathead Beacon Productions, which services our clients and other customers with their digital, social, and video needs. And the highly popular Flathead Living magazine has been added to the Beacon family.

More than any other aspect of the Beacon’s success, you, the reader, is uppermost in our minds. We think of you every issue. Have we reported the news accurately? Have our investigations created a response? Has the Beacon made a difference in the valley? We believe we have, and we’re so proud that you let us be part of your family.

The 10th anniversary issue can be viewed at: http://flatheadbeacon.com/2017/05/16/10th-anniversary-issue/
Sanders County Ledger sold to Annie Wooden

After nearly 64 years of family ownership, the Sanders County Ledger is changing hands.

Owners Tom and Bina Eggensperger announced that they have reached an agreement with Annie Wooden of Thompson Falls to acquire the Ledger operation.

The sale agreement was reached in May and Wooden formally took over operating the business June 1.

The Eggenspergers said that over the years they have received interest and offers for the business, but never felt the fit was good for the community or the employees.

When Wooden approached them, the conditions seemed ideal. The daughter of Gene and Barb Wooden, longtime area residents, Annie graduated from Thompson Falls High School. She then attended North Idaho College, received a degree in journalism from Colorado State University, and then an MBA with marketing concentration from Keller Graduate School of Management. She worked for newspapers across the country, including the Knoxville News-Sentinel and Dallas Morning News, before returning to Thompson Falls. She spent the last several years employed with the state’s Department of Health and Human Services.

She described owning and operating the Ledger as “her dream job.”

She’s no stranger to the operation, having worked here as an intern and then managing the office and classified advertising department when she moved back to Thompson Falls.

Tom and Bina are the longest owners of the newspaper, having acquired it in 1983 from K.A. “Doc” and Gladys Eggensperger, who originally purchased the paper in 1953 from Irene Dunlop.

Wooden, who will formally own the operation under Wooden Enterprises, said she sees no changes for the operation in the near future. She said she is excited to work with the “exemplary” crew of employees and contributors to the operation, and plans to continue a strong commitment to news and effective advertising.

The Eggenspergers plan to stay on with her for the near future to lend a guiding hand and help in the transition.

Sworn Statement of Circulation

July 1 is the annual deadline to submit a Sworn Statement of Circulation to your county and city clerk and recorder.

This link will provide you with the details of the printing contract process for counties: http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/18/7/18-7-411.htm

This link will provide you with details of the printing contract process for cities/municipalities: http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/7/1/7-1-4127.htm

This link will provide you with the circulation forms: http://www.mtnewspapers.com/annual-sworn-statement-of-circulation/

2017 Better Newspaper Contest Awards

Congratulations to all our first, second and third place winners of the 2017 Better Newspaper Contest Awards at the 132nd annual convention of the Montana Newspaper Association held on June 16 & 17 in Lewistown, MT.

The top awards were presented to:

Billings Gazette: The Sam Gilluly Award for Best Daily
The Big Timber Pioneer: The Thomas Dimsdale Award for Best Weekly
Larry Mayer, Billings Gazette: Mel Ruder Photograph of the Year Award
The Big Timber Pioneer: Division 1 Newspaper General Excellence
Choteau Acantha: Division 2 Newspaper General Excellence
Lewistown News-Argus: Division 3 Newspaper General Excellence
Flathead Beacon: Division 4 Newspaper General Excellence
Billings Gazette: Division 5 Newspaper General Excellence

The full presentation of all awards and examples of the winning entries can be found online at: http://www.mtnewspapers.com/awards2017/presentation.php
Perry Backus joins the Missoulian

Reporter, photographer and editor of the Ravalli Republic for nearly 10 years, Perry Backus joins the Missoulian as bureau reporter in Polson.

Backus says, “While I’m looking forward to seeing new country and learning about issues different from what I’ve found during my time here in the Bitterroot Valley, most of all, I will miss the people who have welcomed me into their homes and shared stories about their lives with me.”

Both the Missoulian and Ravalli Republic are owned by Lee Enterprises.

Ravalli Republic hires experienced journalist Eve Byron

The Ravalli Republic has hired longtime Montana Journalist Eve Bryon. Eve has been a journalist in Montana and Colorado for 30 years, including 21 years at the Helena Independent Record. She has covered natural resources, city and county government, cops and courts and served as assistant city editor.

Byron taught journalism at Carroll College as an adjunct and most recently served in communications for The National Institute on Money in State Politics, and for the Montana State Library. She also covered federal and state courts for the Courthouse News Service.

Growing up in Minnesota, Byron developed a deep love for the outdoors. Beyond all that, she also enjoys a nice pint of stout.

Warren Jeffrey Herman

Warren Jeffrey Herman, 73, a lifelong resident of Missoula, passed away at home on Wednesday, May 31, 2017, after a contentious battle with COPD.

“Jeff” was born in Missoula in 1943. Jeff’s first claim to fame was when he played hooky on his very first day of school because his “heart quit beating.”

Jeff attended the University of Montana, studying journalism and history. Jeff served for four years in the United States Air Force beginning in 1965, mainly stationed in Aviano, Italy. On December 18, 1965, he married the love of his life, Susan Williams, also a Missoula native. They recently celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary.

He began his full-time 32-year career at the Missoulian newspaper in 1970, where he proceeded to work in many capacities including sports editor, columnist, reporter, feature writer, copy editor and special projects editor. He founded the state’s first weekly Outdoors section and wrote several fly-fishing publications. Jeff received the Missoulian’s first ever Pulitzer Prize nomination with colleague John Stromnes in 1977, nominated by the President of Long Beach State University, for a series of articles on mail-order and phony credits for college athletes, which had ramifications on college sports throughout the West. He was the first sportswriter in the state to cover horse racing on a regular basis, and in 1986 was given an award by the Fair Board and United Tote for his efforts and contributions.

Jeff was a meticulous, curious and focused editor, grilling writers about their story to make sure they’d checked this fact or asked that question. In those pre-internet days, fact-checking could involve calling a historian or public official at midnight to find an answer; Jeff did it without apology. Off deadline he loved his practical jokes — like sending newsroom newbies to other departments searching for ever-elusive “page stretchers” to squeeze more news into the paper. He also enjoyed many years of the annual costumed “Fups” softball tournament with his fun-loving Missoulian colleagues.

Jeff had an innate interest in the outdoors and had memorable encounters with wild creatures: he was bitten by a rattlesnake, buff charged by an angry black bear, kicked by an elk, run over by a horse (at least twice), and kissed by a giraffe. He enjoyed a lifelong passion for fly fishing on the East Fork of the Bitterroot, harvesting salmon flies on the Blackfoot, bird hunting, and was an avid fan of college and professional sports.

Jeff was passionate about music, including favorite artists Buddy Holly and Creedence Clearwater Revival. He was an avid reader, with a particular interest in Western history and Civil War history. He also enjoyed researching family ancestry, playing cribbage and pinochle, golfing, summertime water balloon and unlawful bottle-rocket battles, the occasional M-80 blast, friendly pranks, clever puns, tracking the weather in detailed weather diaries, telling embellished and highly improbable stories, and spending quality time with his wife, two children, daughter-in-law, and four grandchildren, along with a motley assortment of beloved family pets.
**Duplicate 2017 BNC Plaques – Order Form**

If you would like duplicate copies of First Place plaques, please complete and return this form by Friday, July 7, 2017, by email to Jim Rickman, jim@mtnewspapers.com.

The cost of the duplicate plaque is **$30.00 each for the BNC Category winner plaque**, and **$40.00 for the larger plaques** (Division General Excellence, Best Weekly, Best Daily and Mel Ruder Photograph of the Year Award), plus one-time $10.00 shipping and handling fee.

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Total Due for Plaques $________

+ shipping $10.00

Total $________

MNA will invoice the newspaper for total amount due.

June 23, 2017
Design, sales and newspaper management will be the focus of our upcoming webinars.

The educational webinars are brought to you as a member service of the Montana Newspaper Association, in conjunction with the Iowa Newspaper Foundation.

For more information about each webinar, and to register, go to: http://www.onlinemediacampus.com/webinars/

An advanced registration of $35 is required to avoid paying a late fee.

We encourage members to make the webinars a group educational event by gathering around a single monitor or projected image to take advantage of the one registration fee. Please allow a few minutes for discussion after the training.

Advanced registration will allow you to view the webinars at any time after the presentation date.

Thursday, July 13, 2017
Cyber Security: What is Your Newspaper’s Liability?
Presenter: Steve Wyss, Affinity Group Underwriters
What happens if your newspaper is hacked and the all the paper’s information—financial and other types, falls into the hands of hackers? This webinar will help you understand what hacking consists of; how you can be affected; what you have to report to local, state and federal governments; what will need to be done to correct the problem, and how much it may cost to complete everything necessary to do this.
Register by July 10

Thursday, July 20, 2017
Data Viz: Using Info.gram, Piktochart, Google Fusion, Plot.ly, Graphiq
Presenter: Tim Schmitt, Gatehouse Media
Bring your stories to life online with interactive charts and graphics using Info.gram, Piktochart, Google Fusion, Plot.ly and Graphiq. Your readers will experience your stories in a richer way as they hover and click on these multimedia elements. Plus, you’ll improve the coveted time-on-site metric. We’ll show you how to use the tools and offer examples.
Register by July 17

Friday, July 28, 2017
Effective Prospecting: Five Steps for More Conversions
Presenter: Mike Centorani, Sales Transformation Now, Inc.
How would you like to get more appointments while making less calls? Contrary to popular belief, prospecting or cold-calling is not a numbers game. It’s a quality game. This session will teach you how to get more appointments by working smarter, not harder.
Register by July 25