

Lewistown Area Chamber of Commerce News

APRIL 2020



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Chamber Chatter

It is a snowy morning as we compile this month's newsletter and the main topic of conversation across the region/country/world is the spread of COVID-19. If you haven't followed the Chamber on Facebook or in our mass emails, please consider doing so now. We are passing on information in an attempt to keep individuals and businesses up to date on economic impacts, Small Business Association loans, grants, health and safety regulations. There have been multiple webinars, surveys and other informational opportunities. If there is something specific you are looking for, send us an email or message and we'll look for it!

At this time, the Lewistown Area Chamber of Commerce is open and conducting business as usual. HOWEVER, if you have business with the Chamber (exchanging Chamber Bucks, needing brochures or maps, Chokecherry or Train reservations) you can call ahead and let us know you are coming. We will prep the information for you and if you wish to pick it up outside the office on the bench, rather than coming in, we can accommodate that. We have placed a waterproof container outside our front door for your convenience. We don't want anyone to feel uncomfortable about doing business with the Chamber during this time. We have been disinfecting as each person comes to the office and have been as fastidious as possible with our own health and safety. We take yours as seriously as our own.

On a lighter note, we had a fabulous time with Ladies Night Out in March. Lewistown News-Argus provided a fun and informative evening for the visitors. We had a good time. www.lawed.com



Train Happenings:

One of the most notable structures we encounter on our trip with the Charlie Russell Dinner Train is the Sage Creek/Hoosac Tunnel. The tunnel is approximately 2,014 feet long and stands an average of 20 feet high. The tunnel is arched so it is higher in the middle (21 feet) than on the sides (16.5 feet). Before I tell you any more, I want to first calm your fears. While we are traveling through the tunnel we slow the train down to around 5 to 8 mph, we keep all hands, feet, and loose articles of clothing secure during passage, and we have an outstanding success rate of 100% for traveling through the tunnel without incident.

Continuing on. The tunnel construction began in 1912 by Twohy Brothers Company out of Portland, Oregon in August of 1912. (1) They began construction on both the east and west sides, the majority of all the work was done by hand and some steam shoveling. They used teams of horses to create the 0.5% grade through the tunnel. The different soil and rock types they encountered slowed their progress. Once complete they used timber to line the tunnel and the tracks reached Denton in October of 1913. (2)

Lining the tunnel with concrete was done soon after the completion of the tracks and the tunnel was easily maintained for the next 70 years. Easily maintained in this case could mean really just sticking to that 100% success rate of travel, because, when Central Montana Rail took control of the tracks in the early 1980's the damage caused by permeable soils and drainage issues had left a portion of the track collapsed and water along the track bed. Don't let that fear creep back in; CMR overhauled the drainage system, repaired the concrete, and laid new track in the 1980's rehabilitation project. (3)

The Sage Creek/ Hoosac Tunnel is in my opinions is the most unique feature on our journey with the dinner train. To see the tunnel first hand, call us at the Chamber to book your ride!

~ Karisa

- (1) *Fergus County Argus* [Lewistown, Montana], June 28, 1912, p. 1; August 9, 1912, p. 1.
- (2) *Denton [Montana] Recorder*, July 24, 1913, p. 1; September 25, 1913, p. 1; October 9, 1913, p. 1; October 23, 1913, p. 1.
- (3) Interview with Dick Ross, Montana Department of Commerce; Denton, Montana, March 27- 29, 1990.
- (4) National Register of Historic Places; Lewistown, Montana; undated



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT ON:



FOSSUM
MATERIALS
A CENTURY COMPANY

More than 40 years after its founding, Century Companies, Inc. has remained true to its original mission: to deliver high-spec, high-quality civil infrastructure to rural America. The company's history and reputation are unrivaled in the northern Rocky Mountain region and high plains of Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas.

The company manages a wide variety of civil-construction projects and performs road building and improvement, aggregate crushing and surfacing, asphalt paving, concrete production and paving, underground pipe and site work of all types. The company also owns and operates, in the most remote and unforgiving locations, a fleet of portable asphalt plants, a large aggregate crushing operation and a portable concrete production plant. Producing high-specification material for a wide range of uses in difficult places is Century's expertise. The company specializes in managing and self-performing projects that include the construction and improvement of public facilities, roads, streets and sidewalks, airport runways and infrastructure.

The success of the company is directly reflective of the more than 160 employees that remain extremely loyal to the company. Employee turnover is far below the industry average thanks to an outstanding company culture and an unrivaled wage/benefit program. While some work year-round managing and planning for projects, others return each season to take on the new challenges. Most live in communities in Montana, but some travel from distant states to return each season to work with their Century crews.

In early 2019, Fossum Materials was added to the Century Companies, Inc. organization. Based in Glasgow, MT, Fossum Materials formerly served the market as Fossum Ready Mix, a regional supplier of gravel and ready-mix concrete serving north central Montana.

WELCOME

Renita Lucy-Moline, CPA

Montana Council, Boy Scouts of America

Montana Job Service

Make It Happen!

Central MT Community Health Center

LADIES NIGHT OUT

The April 13, 2020 Ladies Night Out will be held at Keystone Christian Supply. Keystone is a new Chamber member this year and is excited to host the ladies for a tour!

Call 535-5436 to let us know you will be attending!

Members in the News

Central Montana Medical Center: For the safety & health of our staff and patients CMMC will be going into a modified lockdown. Use the main clinic entrance with the exception of DME & Judith Peak Rehab. Show up a little early to scheduled appointments to allow time for illness screening upon entry. We are not allowing any visitors to the facility.

Boys & Girls Club Families: we have people of the community who are willing to help your family with needs of food or supplies during this school closure. If you need help in any way, email director@bgclublewistown.com or call (406) 366-3919 or (406) 535-2257.

Benchmark Masonry, Inc. has multiple full-time employment opportunities. To apply, please go visit: <https://www.benchmarkmasonryinc.com/open-positions.html>

Great Falls Development Authority reports Great Falls, MT made www.ChamberofCommerce.org's 2020 list of Best Small Cities for Business for the second year in a row!

Snowy Lanes: Due to recent concerns over COVID-19 we will be closed until at least March 31st. We are sorry if this causes any complications with plans.

The Chamber tries to keep apprised on all closings and cancellations we would ask for your patience as hours and programs are constantly changing. Please check our email blasts or find us on Facebook to follow the updates. EnjoyLewistown is also posting. Thank you!

In lieu of coupons we are sharing information on the COVID-19 recommendations for employers

In advance of employee illness:

- Determine whether flex working is an option.
- Create an employee communications plan: Establish a process to communicate the latest Coronavirus information to employees and business partners. Anticipate employee fear, anxiety, rumors, and misinformation, and plan communications accordingly.
- Decide how to handle spikes in absenteeism: Determine how you will operate if absenteeism spikes from increases in sick employees, those who stay home to care for sick family members, and those who must stay home to watch their children if dismissed from school.
- Coordinate with state and local health officials: Coordination with state and local health officials is strongly encouraged for all businesses so that timely and accurate information can guide appropriate responses in each location where their operations reside. Given the intensity of an outbreak may differ according to geographic location, local health officials will be issuing guidance specific to their communities. Also, employers should take the time now to learn about plans in place in each community where they have a business by contacting their local public health department.
- Make a business continuity plan: Be prepared to change your business practices if needed to maintain critical operations (e.g., identify alternative suppliers, prioritize customers, consider digital meetings, or temporarily suspend some of your operations if needed).
- OSHA requirements: Identify possible work-related exposure and health risks to your employees. At the time, there is no specific Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard covering the Coronavirus. However, some OSHA requirements may apply to preventing occupational exposure to the Coronavirus. OSHA has more information on how to protect workers from potential exposures to the Coronavirus. Health confidentiality: If an employee is confirmed to have the Coronavirus infection, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to the Coronavirus in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Employees exposed to a co-worker with confirmed Coronavirus should refer to CDC guidance for how to conduct a risk assessment of their potential exposure.



All Lewistown Public Library materials currently checked out will be due April 21, 2020.

*Inserts due for next month's edition of the LACC
News by Monday, April 20, 2020 at 5:00 PM.*

Coupons and News Items due for next month's edition of LACC
News by Friday, April 17, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

***If you would like to have your business in
the Members Spotlight, please contact us
to reserve a spot!***





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Lewistown Area Chamber of Commerce

408 NE Main

Lewistown, MT 59457

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2020 Officers

Kevin Myhre- President

Dennis Descheemaeker -Vice President

Jeff Whitcraft, Secretary

Ronda Jensen, Treasurer

2020 Board of Directors

Kim Ferrell

Lonnie Mannin

Ralph Mihlfeld

Todd Smith

Scott Chauvet

Abbey Wichman

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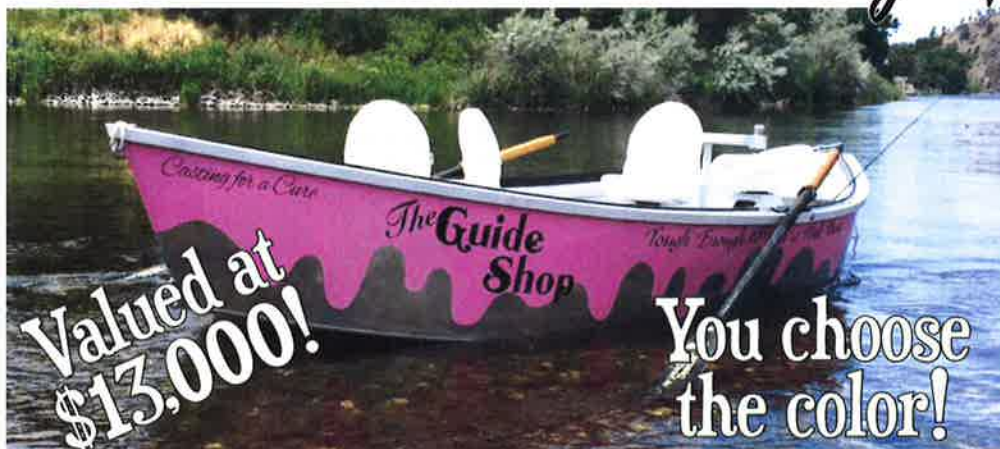


Drift Boat Raffle

For **3D**

Mammography

Drawing April 1st, 2020



**TICKETS
\$100 EACH
ONLY 150 SOLD!**

Package Includes:

16' long by 72" wide, Low Side Drift Boat with Grey Zolo Paint Inside, 6" Stripe Painted Outside to Winners Choice of Color & Galvanized Trailer with Certificate of Origin, ready to license. Set of Sawyer 10' Oars, 3 Cup Holders, Movable Deluxe Padded Swivel Seat on Pyramid Stand, Deluxe Padded Swivel Seat on Rowers Seat, 3 Position Oar Lock Blocks and Brass Oar Locks, Lungs Anchor System with 25lb Anchor and Rope, Dry Storage, Tread Plate Floor, Bow Eye and Bow Rope
Winner may purchase other options if desired.

Tickets Available at:
Paypal @ www.cmmc.health/driftboat
Central Montana Medical Center
Sports Center & Ace Hardware



Medical Center Foundation Advisory Board:
Dr. Bennett, Bob Bjelland, Debbie Bricker, Jerry Carpenter, Valerie Carr, Neysha Humphreys, Karen Kuhlmann, Jeana Noel, Debbie Pratt, Laurie Ray, Carol Swanby, Ann Tuss, Nancy Weaver & Jim Wier

Winner responsible for taxes and licenses.

The Oak Ridge Boys

20/20

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020

Fergus Center For the Performing Arts • Lewistown, MT
Doors open at 6:30pm Concert at 7:30pm



A benefit for **3D** Mammography

Welcomed by:



Reserved Tickets available at:
The Wild Iris Floral & Home Store
415 W Janeaux • 406-535-2737



General Admission Tickets ONLY available at:

Lewistown Art Center 406-535-8278
CMMC Gift Shop & Cafeteria or online at www.cmmc.health/oaks

All Tickets & Group Sales: Karen Kuhlmann at 406-538-4575 • kbkuhlmann@midrivers.com
Information: CMMC Foundation • Ann Tuss at 406-535-6309 • atuss@cmmccares.com