

THE POST RIDER

Marias River Livestock Association, 72 Sweetgrass Hills Rd, Sweet Grass, MT 59484

7th Annual Prime Rib and Rib Tickler

By Carrie Sue Lerum

After a long winter and a busy summer it's time to celebrate another year wrapping up.

Marias River Livestock Association (MRLA) is busy preparing for the 7th annual Prime Rib and Rib Tickler Dinner. On Saturday, November 10th the Shelby Civic Center will be where you can find tasty prime rib and deep belly laughter.

The evening will start off with everyone enjoying Dr. Dick Kinyon's mouthwatering prime rib that will be slow roasted to perfection with his trade mark seasonings. Our local 4-H'ers will help serve the meal that includes salad, rolls, potatoes and a scrumptious dessert that was baked in Dr. Kinyon's Dutch ovens. The Coyote Club will be catering the beer, wine and spirits.

Immediately following dinner there will be door prizes donated by various businesses will be given away. Then there will be a live auction to raise funds for MRLA youth activities that happen all throughout the year. Jeff Flesch will auction off three items, a handmade knife donated by Jody Martin of Martin Knives from Shelby, a custom-made coffee table donated by Casey Buffington of Ledger, MT, and 3rd a custom metal artwork in the shape of the state of Montana with your choice of Bobcat symbol, Griz symbol, or your brand in the middle donated by Allison Custom Design from Fairfield, MT.

Our Bull Bucks Plus drawing will be bigger and better this year. Fifteen area seed stock producers have each generously put \$100 into the "pot". At this point in the evening a lucky winner will be drawn and they will receive a **\$1500.00 voucher** that can be used toward the purchase of seed stock from any of the participating breeders. They may be used at any of the breeder's sales, breeder consignment sales or at private treaty sales for the upcoming year. (see pg 6) In order to win, you must be an active member so be sure to renew your membership at the Event or before. You can use the membership renewal form on page 4 to jump in early.

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Tickets go on Sale Oct 10th 2018

Prime Rib and Rib Tickler
November 10, 2018
With Cara Ayres, Cara Bout Ag
and of course
Prime Rib Dinner, Bull Bucks Plus
and Fund Raiser Auction

Gernaat, Garcia elected as Directors at Fall Membership Meeting

By Trina Jo Bradley

Vice President, Marias River Livestock Association

The Marias River Livestock Association's Fall Membership Meeting was held Tuesday, Oct. 2 at Ringside Ribs in Shelby. 24 members were in attendance.

The meeting kicked off with a short presentation by President Matt Connelly of the Valier FFA Chapter, along with members Delaney Aiken and Shiloh Neal. The students explained how their heifer auction works every year, and how valuable it is to the club, not just as a fundraiser, but also as a hands-on work experience for all the FFA members. They would like to expand the heifer program so all five FFA Chapters on the highline can have the opportunity to raise a heifer in their program and auction it at the Marias Fair. If anyone is interested in donating a registered or commercial heifer to their program, contact Connelly, Aiken or Neal at Valier High School, (406) 279-3613.

Karoline Rose, KRose Cattle Co., and Gary Buffington, Basin Coulee Cattle Co. and Northern Video Auction representative, were the guest speakers for the meeting. They talked to the members about marketing alternatives, timing shipping to coincide with the right market, online and video marketing advantages, and many other topics. The members had the opportunity to ask questions of both Rose and Buffington, which led to a valuable discussion about cattle marketing in the future.

During the business meeting, an election was held for both the at-large director and Glacier County director. The at-large position was held by Clayton Gernaat, who was finishing out a vacancy. He was re-elected to another two year term. The Glacier County directorship was held by Marvin Kimmet, who, after serving two terms, decided to retire from the board. Dennis Garcia of Cut Bank was elected to his seat for a two year term.



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A short update was given by MRLA secretary Carrie Lerum on the upcoming Prime Rib and Rib Tickler, which is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 10 and will feature the show "Cara Bout Ag." Everything is going smoothly, and tickets for the event go on sale Wednesday, Oct. 10. To purchase tickets, contact Rick Schock at 937-6400, or any board member. Don't miss this great night of food, fun and celebration!

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Chronic Wasting Disease in the Sweet Grass Hills

By Maggie Nutter

The 2017 hunting season brought changes to part of the 401 Hunting District. A mule deer buck harvested north of Chester, in the East Butte area close to the Canadian Border, tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in November of 2017.

The area was under surveillance by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for CWD so the discovery was no surprise. Deer in Alberta, Saskatchewan and North and South Dakota are all known to suffer from the disease. It was simply a matter of time before it was found in the northern Montana deer population. In addition, six infected deer were found in south central Montana during the 2017 surveillance.

Marias River Livestock Association working with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks will hold a meeting for land owners in the Sweet Grass Hills about the CWD Management Plan, will be held Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 7:00pm at the Whitlash Hall in Whitlash. FWP will hold meetings for the general public in Shelby and Chester at a later date, yet to be determined.

The goal of Montana FWP is to slow or stop the spread of the CWD into other areas of Montana. The Chronic Wasting Disease Management Plan focuses on high-priority areas which in our case is a section of Liberty County on the east side of East Butte and traveling from the Canadian Border south to Highway 2. The plan is to test deer, elk and moose which hunters harvest in the area designated as CWD positive and to restrict the movement of whole carcass, whole heads, brains or spinal column from any of the cervids harvested in that area.

Whole carcasses or parts containing brain or spinal tissue are not allowed to leave the Transportation Restriction Zone (TRZ) which is made up of Toole, Liberty and Hill Counties. Meat that is cut and wrapped or removed from the bone can leave the Transportation Restriction Zone. Hunters living outside of Toole, Liberty or Hill county need to ensure they are not transporting any inappropriate pieces and parts.

Check stations will be set up in Chester and Shelby for the collection of the Retropharyngeal lymph nodes and other samples needed for CWD testing. The staff at the Check Stations will also be watching for any signs of bovine Tuberculosis in the cervids. While there is no known bTB in Montana wildlife there has been cases of bTB in cattle in Alberta, Montana and South Dakota in recent years.

Rib Tickler Cont from Pg 1

Last, but certainly not least, will be the entertainment for the evening. MRLA is bringing in Cara Ayres, an entertainer from Rogue River, Oregon. She runs a ranch there with her husband and family. Cara has created her "Cara Bout Ag" act to perform custom-made comedy and music like "You're the Grain in My Combine" and "You Make Me Feel Like an Agricultural Woman".

Tickets are \$30 each and go on sale October 10th. Where else can you take a date to a prime rib dinner and entertainment for \$30? Call any MRLA director **for tickets or call Rick Schock at (406) 937-6400. Tickets sell fast so be sure to call soon.**

Marias River Livestock Association is an organization that has members in Toole, Glacier, Pondera, and Liberty counties. MRLA supports the livestock industry and the survival of its environment and lifestyle through educating producers and the public about local, state and Federal issues and concerns in the livestock industry. We also strive to promote interest in livestock production and agricultural business to the youth of our communities.

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You have a say! Submit your grizzly bear comments!

By Trina Jo Bradley, Vice President, Marias River Livestock Association

Grizzlies have been more active than ever this year, and there aren't many people on the Rocky Mountain Front and plains immediately to the east that haven't been somehow affected.

The following can be read on the FWP website (www.fwp.mt.gov):

"The NCDE (Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem) conservation strategy identifies a demographic monitoring area (DMA) that is home to the core population of grizzly bears in the NCDE. The DMA is comprised of the primary conservation area (which includes Glacier National Park and parts of five national forests including the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex), and an area identified as zone 1, which is a buffer zone outside the primary conservation area. The objective in this area, as detailed in the conservation strategy, is continual occupancy by grizzly bears, which will require maintaining good habitat conditions and adhering to population criteria. Precise population estimates are difficult to obtain. The population objective for the DMA aims to continually maintain a population size above 800 bears with at least 90 percent certainty. Effectively, this would mean managing for a population of approximately 1,000 grizzly bears in the DMA."

"Public comment for proposed grizzly bear population for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) grizzly bear population administrative rule will be open August 24, 2018 and close Oct. 26, 2018. The rule will provide a regulatory framework for the NCDE population objectives outlined in the conservation strategy recently completed by the NCDE subcommittee of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee."

So what does this proposed rule say? To put it in simple terms, once NCDE grizzlies are delisted, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks agrees to "maintain a well-distributed grizzly population" by monitoring and documenting the populations of both females with offspring and adult males within the DMA, using a six year average.

Continued on page 6

Marias River Livestock Membership Application

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

DATE _____

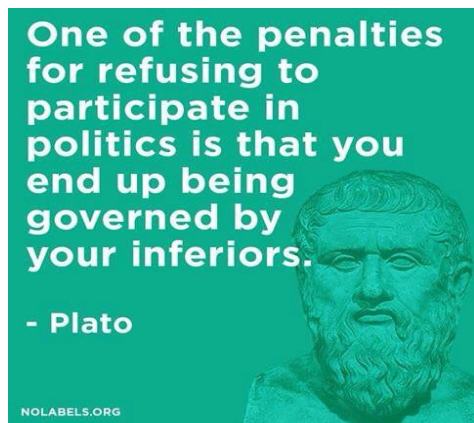
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Marias River Livestock Association
 Mail To: Carrie Sue Lerum
 PO Box 56
 Galata, Mt 59444

Active Membership is per individual not per ranch or corporation.
 This is a new membership ____
 This is a renewal ____

____ Active Member \$50
 Any individual 18 years of age or older, active in the livestock production industry in the counties of Glacier, Liberty, Pondera, or Toole, Montana is eligible for active membership in the Marias River Livestock Association

____ Youth Member \$10
 Youth are under 18 years of age and interested in learning about livestock production, promoting the livestock industry and willing to volunteer 5 hours a year.

____ Associate Member \$50
 An individual, firm, corporation or partnership, no matter where it's or his/her place of business or residence may be eligible for non-voting Associate Membership



Keeping Communities Safe From Grizzlies

By Wesley Sarmiento

Concerns over the increasing numbers of grizzly bears on the prairie are well founded and so Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks hired me as the new bear management specialist in July of 2017. It's been a busy first year and I think we have made some really good progress in making our communities safer from grizzly bears. Since grizzlies are still a federally protected species we are limited in what we can do on the ground – for example hunting seasons aren't possible for the time being. Not only is hunting not allowed on threatened species, but managers like myself are constrained by what actions we can take – for example I need federal permission and a specific reason to trap a grizzly bear. While we have done a lot of trapping (over 112 snare nights and 114 culvert trap nights) in attempts to capture grizzlies, the reality is that grizzly bears are hard to capture; especially on the prairie where they are at lower density, roam widely and rarely return to the same location two days in a row. That's why they call it trapping and not catching. As such grizzly bear trapping on the prairie has low yields and so we have concentrated our efforts on activities that will be more effective at keeping our communities safe.

To complement our grizzly bear trapping efforts to keep communities safe we have focused on education and conflict prevention. It's a lot more effective to prevent a human-grizzly conflict, than to respond to one after the fact. Over the past year we have participated in over 66 grizzly bear education events. Our education program specifically addresses human safety and property protection. We have given bear aware safety presentations to over 1,300 kids across 22 different schools. Additionally, we have also participated in dozens of 4-H workshops, community fairs, meet and greets, and evening presentations to over 1,106 adults. We are always willing to do more school programs and community meetings – just ask! During these events we often solicited suggestions on what folks would like to see out of this new grizzly bear management position. Of course, some of the management actions requested are out of our control until grizzly bears are removed from the endangered species list.

People in the prairie communities frequently requested there be fewer grizzly bears in the area, and specifically want grizzlies to stay away from homes, towns, and livestock. For as long as grizzly bears remain a protected species that prevents much in the way of top-down population regulation (e.g. hunter harvest).



Bear management specialist, Wesley Sarmiento, gives a bear aware presentation to a Shelby High School class. These presentations specifically addressed human safety and property protection.

We can, however, reduce the number of grizzly bears the area can hold by removing any non-natural food that would allow the bear population to increase (bottom-up population regulation). More food means more bears - so this is one reason it is so important that we prevent grizzlies from eating apples, pet food, grain spills and livestock carrion. The other reason it is so critical to keep grizzlies from getting non-natural food is the bears began to learn to seek out homes for an easy meal. When they learn to get food around homes they will often do so only during the night and only for a short time period to avoid being caught. Which brings us back to the trapping – it's a lot more efficient to prevent a bear conflict than to be chasing a bear that never returns to the same spot.

So overall, my job over the past year has really revolved around reducing the amount of food available to grizzly bears. That means picking up half-rotted carcasses from winterkill livestock to roadkill deer. The glamor of trapping grizzlies quickly fades after a good maggot shower or green roadkill deer juice in the eye. Beyond removing dead animals, we have helped protect both people and livestock through six different electric fencing projects that we helped get funding for and build. We have also been busy vacuuming up rotten grain – which smells like a certain something stuck to the bottom of the boot. Luckily, we were awarded a grant to purchase a large vacuum trailer and thus we have helped producers clean up more than 6,000 pounds of spoiled or spilled grain. All said - that's over 6,000 pounds of less food for the bears, not counting the over 200 animal carcasses that we have removed.

Submit Your Comment --Continued from page 4

MTFWP will also monitor and document reported and unreported mortalities for both independent females and males in the DMA to maintain a population of no fewer than 800 bears, also using a six year average. The NCDE subcommittee estimates the current DMA population to be approximately 1,029 grizzlies in the DMA. (Chapter 1, Draft Conservation Strategy)

KEEP IN MIND THAT THE POPULATIONS IN ZONES 2 AND 3 WILL NOT BE COUNTED TOWARD THE DMA POPULATION, NOR WILL THE MORTALITIES IN ZONES 2 AND 3.

Another piece of important information to note is that the border of Zone 3 has not been decided upon. Currently, the proposed Zone 3 eastern border runs from Havre to Fort Benton to Big Timber, but it could expand to include the entire eastern half of the state. Any grizzlies inside that border will be considered delisted.

Don't know what to say? Here's my statement – feel free to use it as a base and add your personal opinion!

Remember, the comment period is STRICTLY to collect comments and opinions on the Proposed Rule. It is NOT a place to make complaints, comment on grizzlies as a whole, voice your opinion about certain bear biologists, etc.

"As a rancher in Zone 1, I am accustomed to seeing grizzlies on a regular basis. Our ranch is situated on Birch Creek, about 20 miles east of Swift Dam, which provides acres of perfect habitat for bears and other wildlife.

I am encouraged by this proposed rule, specifically because it will not base population numbers on just one year, but a six year average. I am also happy to see that the population and mortalities will only be monitored in the PCA and Zone 1. Since our population of grizzlies is already much higher, (estimated at 1,000 bears in 2017 by FWP) I have no concerns about our numbers dropping any lower than 800. Considering the number of females with three and four cubs that have been sighted on the Rocky Mountain Front, I am confident that the grizzly population is thriving and will continue to do so."

Comments can also be submitted by mail to Grizzly Bear ARM, Wildlife Division, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, P.O. Box 200701, Helena, Montana, 59620-0701; or e-mail FWPGRIZZLYBEARARM@mt.gov, and must be received **no later than Oct. 26, 2018.**

Comments can also be submitted online at bit.ly/Grizcount (this link is case sensitive)

BULL BUCKS PLUS 2018–2019

Apex Angus– Sale March 5, 2019 at 1:00pm
www.apexangus.com

Bobcat Angus– Sale Jan 26, 2019 at 12:30 Western Livestock Auction www.bobcatangus.com

Connelly Angus– Feb 26, 2019
www.connellyangus.com

Diamond D Angus www.diamonddangus.com

Enneberg Angus Ranch 845–4901 Private Treaty

Flesch Angus– Sale March 8, 2019
www.fleschangus.com

Gillespie Show Cattle– 337–2941 or 949–4453
www.gillespieshowcattle.com

Hawks Angus– Private Treaty 432–5355
www.hawksangus.com

Holden Hereford– Sale March 11, 2019
www.holdenherfords.com

Kicking Horse Ranch Gelbvieh Sale March 21, 2019
www.kickinghorseranch.com

O'Hara Land and Cattle– April 2019
www.oharalandandcattle.com

Superior Livestock Video Auction– Steve Reverts
450–4586

Tomsheck Angus– bulls and bred heifers by Private Treaty 937–3726

Timber Coulee Columbia– 937–2775

Turner Angus– Sale April 2019 434–2823
www.TurnerAngus.com



Ben Taylor Inc. is currently owned by Greg and Peggy Taylor. The original business was started by Greg's father, Ben Taylor, in 1946 with a gas station and a bulk fuel operation to service the local farmers. Ben Taylor was forward thinking and continued to add other farm related products to meet his customer's needs. Customer service was always Ben's number one priority. Propane, farm chemicals and supplies for drilling companies were all available for delivery.

Greg Taylor has always worked at BTI but officially joined the company when he returned from college in 1983. Since then BenTaylor Inc. has continued to expand with the addition of Taylor's True value Farm Store and Main Street Convenience. BTI Feeds in Cut Bank, started in 1994, sells many kinds of animal feeds, Crystalyx, and ranching supplies such as panels and branding supplies. This store focuses on the local ranching community and is extremely supportive of 4-Hers.

In 2017, Ben Taylor's moved chemical and oil warehouse to KW Insurance office on Swayze Road in Sunburst to help serve the north Toole County community.

BTI has added bulk plants and Cardlock services in Cut Bank, Sunburst and Valier which also has a Farm Store and a Tire Shop. In 2014, Ben Taylor Inc. purchased Simons Petroleum in Shelby and Cut Bank and continues to operate those businesses as a separate division.

Providing quality products and services to the farming and ranching communities continues to be Ben Taylor Inc.'s main focus.

Contact Information

Shelby bulk plant: 434-5546 or 1-800-824-8366
 Valier: 279-3365 or 1-866-279-3360
 Cut Bank: 873-2812 or 1-888-978-2812
 BTI Feeds: 873-4433 or 1-800-873-0336



Greg Taylor in front of Ben Taylor fuel delivery truck. Notice that the phone number is still the same- 434-5546.



The late Ben Taylor with his Granddaughters, Greg and Peggy Taylor's children. Ben Taylor was a household name and helped the farming community grow by providing the supplies that were needed.

Thank You!! Ben Taylor Inc.
For sponsoring this edition of the Post Rider

**Marias River Livestock
Association**

PO BOX 56
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