Register! Educate! Vote! Use Your Power!

The 2018 Primary Election is fast approaching and this election season is shaping up to be one of the most critical for the programs and services that many individuals with disabilities and families rely on to live and work in their communities.

National, state and local election outcomes will impact our communities, and our lives, for years to come.

As you may be aware, many statewide budget and service reductions that greatly impacted the lives of people with disabilities recently went into effect. As we prepare for the 2019 legislative session we will need all hands on deck to try to restore this funding and ensure our tax dollars are helping, not hurting, all Montanans...and that begins with the voting process!

So, what can you do? You can RevUP! Register to vote, educate yourself on candidates and ballot initiatives, and cast your vote - in primaries and on election day!

One in five voters has a disability. Our community can play an important role in the outcome of elections.

To find out about your voter registration status as well as who your candidates are for the June 5th Primary Election, please visit your “My Voter” page at https://app.mt.gov/voterinfo/.

Keep learning! Talk to people in your community. Watch debates, read the news, and research positions.

With your help, we can use our power to make sure the disability community is heard loud and proud.

RevUP Montana!
Lake & Sanders County - Ronan

Summit’s Lake and Sanders County office in Ronan has had some great activities recently and has more planned! IL Specialist Betty LaFountain and Peer Advocate Mariah Armstrong-Johnson completed a Building Advocacy and Learning Leadership Skills (BALLS) training with Charlo High School juniors and seniors on March 6. After a short break, they will facilitate another BALLS training with freshman and sophomore students at Charlo HS starting March 20. Betty and Mariah have loved working with the students, and they say they learn a lot from the students every time they meet.

Summit Ronan completed a WRAP training this winter that went so well all the participants chose to continue meeting at the office weekly. The group will be an ongoing WRAP support group, which fits perfectly with the peer support nature of Independent Living and WRAP.

Staff from Lake and Sanders Counties are mindful of the victims and loved ones impacted by the many suicides in the area. Their efforts and plans are focused on whatever help they can provide with the issue. As they work with people of all ages and plan activities, they hope to increase individual and collective confidence and self-esteem. They look forward to a time when people in crisis get the help they need.
Ravalli County - Hamilton

Summit is proud to announce its new Ravalli County Coordinator in Hamilton, Kwanele Ngema, who has been working in that office as IL Specialist. Kwanele is quickly learning his new duties and plans to introduce some new programs this summer. Summit plans to seek a new part-time IL Specialist to help implement those programs.

In preparation for the spring and youth transition Services, the Hamilton Transitions crew met with Darby High School staff to discuss possible collaboration on activities this spring and hopefully coming fall.

We are also excited to announce two awards won by Hamilton Special Education Case Manager Jan Witt. The Montana Council for Exceptional Children presented its 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award to Ms. Witt at the state conference. The very fitting award recognizes her for having made continued and sustained contributions to the education of children and youth with exceptionalities. Ms. Witt has dedicated her 46-year career to creating opportunities for youth with a variety of challenges!

A few minutes later, the Montana Council of Administrators in Special Education presented Ms. Witt with the 2018 Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes her contributions to not only the education of exceptional youth, but also the lifelong impact she has had on so many young lives. She has helped many exceptional young people find success and purpose, and her transition program was recognized as being exemplary. Ms. Witt is and has been a great friend and advocate of Summit, so we proudly recognize her awards.

Summit wants to recognize Becky Burke for her dedicated work as former Ravalli County Coordinator. She has been committed to Summit’s programs and consumers for a long time, and her work is greatly appreciated.

Looking for Summit Events?

To make it easier to find Summit events that are being held throughout Western Montana, we are now listing all of our events on our website. To find a Summit event or class happening near you please go to:

www.summitilc.org/calendar

Lake Sanders Art and Activity Group
2018 Disability Milestones

50th Anniversary of the Rolling Quads
news.berkeley.edu/2010/07/27/roberts/

50th Anniversary of the Architectural Barriers Act
www.access-board.gov/the-board/laws/architectural-barriers-act-aba

50th Anniversary of the Special Olympics
https://www.specialolympics.org/50th.aspx

50th Anniversary of Fair Housing Amendments Act
https://www.hud.gov/fairhousingis50

45th Anniversary of 504
www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/disability/index.html

40th Anniversary of the Gang of 19
history.denverlibrary.org/news/we-will-ride-origin-disability-rights-movement-denver-0

40th Anniversary of federal funding for Independent Living
www.ncil.org

35th Anniversary of ADAPT
www.adapt.org

30th Anniversary of Deaf President Now
www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/deaf-president-now
Summit Crossword

Across

4   Montana town named after the daughter of the famous Sioux chief, Sitting Bull.
6   Location of the first recorded gold discovered in Montana.
7   Montana State flower.
8   Montana State Fish.
10  Largest natural lake in Montana.
13  Montana state tree
14  Only city in Montana with a population of over 100,000.
15  In 1965, the first one of these in North America was built at Lolo Hot Springs.
16  Montana State mammal.

Down

1   The highest peak in Montana.
2   Montana’s first territorial capital.
3   Montana County with the largest county park in the United States.
5   Montana’s economy is primarily based on this.
9   The first Montana governor.
11  Montana’s name derives from the Spanish word meaning this.
12  Montana rivalry starting in 1897.

Answers will be posted on the newsletter page of the Summit website one week following the release of newsletter.
Accessibility and the Voting Process

In Montana there are several methods people with disabilities can vote an accessible, private ballot. These methods include the ability for individuals to request an electronic absentee ballot, have a designated agent assist them with the voting process, or use an accessible AutoMARK voting machine at the polls.

The AutoMARK is a ballot-marking system designed to provide privacy and accessibility to voters who are blind, vision-impaired, or have a disability or condition that would make it difficult or impossible to mark a ballot by hand. The technology also provides language assistance to voters who are more comfortable speaking a different language or who need help to better understand written instructions.

Individuals with a disability can also request to have a ballot sent to them electronically. This method of voting allows individuals to use their own personal computers, which are set up to meet their specific needs, to mark their ballots and then mail the ballot back to their county elections office. Individuals with a disability can request an electronic ballot by completing and submitting an Application for Electronic Absentee Ballot form on the Electronic Ballot Request System or ERBS at https://sos.mt.gov/elections/disabilities.

A voter who is unable, due to disability, to provide a signature may also apply to the election administrator to have another person designated as an agent for the purposes of providing a signature or identifying mark required and for delivering the voter’s absentee ballot application to the county election administrator, and for providing any other assistance to the voter throughout the registration and voting process. Individuals with a disability can request an electronic ballot by completing and submitting an Application for Designation of Agent by an Individual with a Disability form on the Electronic Ballot Request System or ERBS at https://sos.mt.gov/elections/disabilities.

County Election Offices

If you have questions or need further assistance with the voting process, you may also contact your County’s election office.

**Flathead County**
Debbie Pierson
800 S Main
Kalispell MT 59901
(406) 758-5535
electionweb@flathead.mt.gov

**Mineral County**
Staci McGrew
Box 550
Superior MT 59872
(406) 822-3520
smcgrew@co.mineral.mt.us

**Sanders County**
Nichol Scribner
Box 519
Thompson Falls MT 59873
(406) 827-6922
nscribner@co.sanders.mt.us

**Lake County**
Kathie Harding
106 4th Ave E
Polson MT 59860
(406) 883-7268
kharding@lakemt.gov

**Missoula County**
Dayna Causby
200 W Broadway
Missoula MT 59802
(406) 258-4751
electioninfo@missoulacounty.us

**Lincoln County**
Leigh Riggleman
512 California
Libby MT 59923
(406) 283-2301
leigh@libby.org

**Ravalli County**
Regina Plettenberg
215 S 4th St., Ste. C
Hamilton MT 59840
(406) 375-6550
rplettenberg@rc.mt.gov

For More Information on Voting, Go To:
http://sos.mt.gov/elections
BASE stands for home base, like in hide and go seek. In life, you have to establish a BASE first, that’s where we come in.

**BASE EVENTS**

**Game Night (GN)**  
- Thursdays weekly, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Youth Opening Doors through Advocacy (YODA)**  
- 2nd & 4th Wed monthly, 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Base Art Group (BAG)**  
- Fridays weekly, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Adaptive Yoga**  
- Wednesdays 4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**BASE SHOWCASE**

**BASE First Friday Event**  
**Friday, April 6**  
**725 West Alder St. Suite #4**

**Live Performances**  
Comedy, Poetry, Music, Improv  6pm - 7:30pm

**Featured Local Artist**  
Photographer Lenny Peppers 5pm-8pm

**WANT TO PERFORM?**

If you want to perform stand up comedy, poetry, music or improv. Please contact Summit at 728-1630 ext. 161

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**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**Quickie Wheelchair**  
$500 OBO. Call Janet (406) 721-3751

**Symmetry Stander**  
Call Madison (406) 670-9388

**Braun Vangater Wheelchair Lift**  
Almost new wheelchair lift with 600 LB capacity. $2000 OBO. Call or text Tyler 406-925-9846

**Summit Pinnacle Chair stair lift**  
Gently used, works great. 2 remotes. Straight line - mount rope L. Pick up in Missoula. $1,300 OBO. Call Diane at 360-4061.

**Garaventa Super-Trac Portable Wheelchair Lift for stairs.**  
Purchased new for $12,000 and used only a few times. Will sell for $2,500 OBO. Contact Jacob Francom, Troy Public Schools, jfrancom@troy12.org, (406) 295-4520.

**Acorn Stair lift**  
For going up to 6 stairs while seated. $500 OBO. Call John at 546-7003.

To get listed contact Tyler Stosich at (406) 728-1630 or email tstosich@summitilc.org.

Or, list and find items on the MonTECH exchange:  
http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/mtdb/

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Summit is funded in part under an agreement with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Any statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department.
Support Summit Independent Living
May 3, 5PM to May 4, 10PM

https://goo.gl/80NWq7
https://goo.gl/49WCPu

We rely on donations from people like you to continue to provide services to people with disabilities and their families.

For more information call: 406-728-1630

You can always sign up to get this newsletter by email by contacting: missoula@summitilc.org