



*Building Awareness & Advocating Change for People with Disabilities*

**Celebrate. Learn. Share.**

**ADA 33** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ 1990 - 2023 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

On July 26, 2023 we will celebrate the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This important civil rights law works to provide people with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in society, whether that be in pursuit of an education, employment, transportation, or basic social engagement alongside people without disabilities.

The ADA was the first comprehensive declaration of civil rights for people with disabilities prohibiting discrimination solely based on a person's disability status, and expanded opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in the mainstream of American life, to enjoy employment opportunities, access goods and services, and be treated as equal and valued members of society.

While there is much more work to do to ensure equal access to employment opportunities, the voting process, health care, and many other life areas, in addition to reducing attitudinal barriers, labels, and stigmas that are still too often prevalent, it is important that we take time each July to celebrate the anniversary of this landmark legislation and recognize the hard work and sacrifice that many disability advocates and policymakers who have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of people living with a disability and to recommit ourselves to continue working towards a more just, accessible, and inclusive society.

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## Summit ADA Picnic 2023

Wednesday, June 21st was a perfect day for Summit's annual ADA Celebration Picnic, hosted along with the Adaptive Recreation Clinic at the Meadowlark Shelter at Fort Missoula. Around 200 individuals stopped by to enjoy Firehouse Sub sandwiches, cake, Baskin-Robbins ice cream, lawn games, and of course, the stars of the show: the adaptive bikes, scooters, wheelchairs, kayaks, and more!

"We want to give a special shoutout to the following for helping us put on an amazing day: DREAM Adaptive Recreation, City of Missoula, @Community Medical Center, Norco Medical, MonTECH, Moving Mountains Therapy Center, Rural Institute, Baskin-Robbins, Firehouse Subs and so many more!

This was our most successful ADA celebration yet, and we cannot wait to see how next year turns out. We would also like to invite you to come to Out to Lunch Wednesday, July 26 where we will be tabling to celebrate the exact day, 33 years ago, the ADA was signed and permanently became a part of American law!"



**Western Montana Fair in Missoula is doing a special ADA hour at the Fair this year. The ADA hour allows persons with disabilities and their caretakers to access the Fair carnival for free on Sunday, August 13th from 11am – 12pm.**

**The person with a disability and their caretakers just need to get a special wristband from the Fair office Sunday morning. This will allow them to ride specific carnival rides for free during that hour without waiting in lines.**

**If you have any questions please reach out to Tenzin at 406-258-3248**



**There are many stories behind the meaning and tradition of the dream catcher. The most common meaning of the dream catcher, originating from the Native American Ojibwe tribe, is that it filters the bad dreams away, protecting you from evil and negativity. The dream catcher was created to capture the all dreams and filter out the bad ones. The legend of the dream catcher is to only let the good in and protect ourselves from evil. The good dreams find their way through the center of the circle while the bad get caught and with the first sign of daylight they disappear.**

**Summit Independent Living holds an Arts and Crafts event every Thursday from 1:00-3:00 pm in Ronan to serve the community. As a part of carrying on traditions and learning, this group provides a sense of community and fellowship with those who are interested in creating and crafting. All are welcome.**

**For more information please call (406) 215-1604**

**Disability Pride Month is celebrated every July and is an opportunity to honor the history, achievements, experiences, and struggles of the disability community. Why July? It marks the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, landmark legislation that broke down barriers to inclusion in society.**



## New Homes Going Up for Tribal Members

• By Liz Dempsey Char-Koosta News

**PABLO** — The Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority (SKHA) recently celebrated the opening of the first five out of 47 high-quality, affordable homes as part of their “Quality Homes for Quality of Life” campaign. The initiative aims to address homelessness and overcrowding on the Flathead Indian Reservation. Jody Perez, the executive director of SKHA, expressed the joy, peace, and happiness that individuals will now experience as they feel safe and secure in their own homes.

SKHA serves as the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes’ tribally-designated housing entity and is the largest property manager on the Flathead Indian Reservation, overseeing an inventory of over 500 units.

While 47 homes across different parts of the reservation are currently in various stages of development, the opening of Agate Court in Pablo marked a significant milestone. These initial five units are available to households that qualify for SKHA’s Low Rent Program. The development of Agate Court was prioritized based on the analysis of SKHA’s waiting lists, which revealed over 100 households in need of a 2-bedroom rental unit in the Pablo area, with an average waiting period of 2.5 years.



## Ronan Office Update

### Howdy from Ronan!

Summit’s office in Ronan that serves Lake and Sanders counties is now open Monday – Friday with public office hours from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Vanessa Cassens joined the Ronan staff on June 12 and is serving as our new Independent Living Specialist. She has many years of experience serving people with disabilities at Western Montana Mental Health, and the Poverello Center among others. She will be a great addition to our team.

The Ronan office is been quite busy this spring and summer. We recently joined the Ronan Chamber of Commerce and Polson Chamber of Commerce in an effort to further engage with our community. Staff also participated in Polson High School’s first Youth Transition Fair in May to help improve transition services and increase the number of youth with disabilities who achieve their desired post-school outcomes. The Arts and Crafts class is up and running and is now on Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Ronan office conference room. New participants are always welcome.

Ronan staff will be actively doing outreach work across Lake and Sanders counties with the goal of improving service delivery across this service area.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our classes and workshops please call 406-215-1604.



## Hamilton Office Update

### Hello from Hamilton!

Summit's office in Hamilton is hosting a number of activities in The Refuge each week.

#### Rainbow River

A new LGBTQ+ group is meeting on Mondays, HERO Squad meets every other Tuesday morning.

#### Art Expressions

Meets on Tuesday afternoons

#### People First

Meets on Wednesdays,

#### Thank Goodness It's Art Friday

Meets on Fridays.

**For more information about these groups call 406-363-5242, Ext. 3.**

On June 7, Hamilton office staff began doing outreach at the O'Hara Commons and Sustainability Center's Wednesday afternoon Farmer's Market at 111 S 4th Street in Hamilton. Staff will be tabling at the Farmer's Market every other Wednesday from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. across the summer season

For more information please call 406-363-5242

## Kalispell Office Update

### Greetings from Kalispell!

Summer is upon us and we hope you are enjoying the sunshine! We are thrilled about our new arts and crafts group:

#### Third Wednesday Crafternoon

The group meets each month on the third Wednesday from 2-4p.m. Participants can try a provided project or work on something of their own. Abilities of all kinds are welcome to join the fun! Upcoming meetings are July 19th and August 16th.

Our youth group, **YODA**, continues to meet in-person monthly. We continue to promote team building with group activities that focus on collaboration and, of course, fun! Upcoming meetings are July 25th and August 22nd.

Kalispell is also looking to hire an Independent Living Specialist so please reach out to Diana for more details.

Please contact Dianna at 406-257-0048 ext. 3 or [dkintzler@summitilc.org](mailto:dkintzler@summitilc.org) if you are interested in joining us for the YODA meetings or Art group!



#### SUMMIT BOARD

Molly Blair  
Susanne Meikle  
Gabrielle Broere  
Peter Drakos

Michelle McLane  
Kelly Sellars  
Sherene Ricci  
Tom Seekins

## SUMMIT STAFF

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**SD-CFC/PAS Coordinator**

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Tyler Stosich

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**Independent Living Specialist**

Vacant

**SD-CFC/PAS Specialist**

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**Program Support Specialist**

Linda Thornbrough

### Lake County

**County Coordinator**

Alan Fugleberg

**Independent Living Specialist**

Susan Morris

**Independent Living Specialist**

Vanessa Cassens



# New Summit Staff

## Devon Harris

### SD-CFC/PAS Coordinator



Hello, i'm the new SD-CFC/PAS Coordinator here at Summit ILC! I have spent the last several years, in Missoula, working as a case manager in the mental health field and as a housing and service coordinator for homeless veterans. I am passionate about people! In the immortal words of SPOCK-"The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few; or the one. When I look beyond me, I see the many people Summit is able to help and I am proud to be a part of that!

I am a closet nerd, who loves to watch sci-fi, read, and write my own stories. I am described by many as a Big Bowl of Sunshine, with a giant side of sarcasm. I am the new Nana to a puppy named Argyle and the proud mom of a disabled Veteran! I speak fluent pig-Latin, and firmly believe I should be royalty! And Yes I wear a Tiara!

## Theresa Martinosky

### Program Support Specialist



My name is Theresa Martinosky, and I am the new Program Support Specialist in the Missoula office.

I have lived in Missoula for 43 years and this is definitely home. My two sons were born and raised here and I have two granddaughters that I adore. In 1993, I received a BA in education/special education from the University of MT and I worked in special education for nearly 10 years. In 2000 my partner, Dustin, and I met. He soon introduced me to Summit ILC. Together Dustin and I were involved in many avenues of disability advocacy, especially in state politics. We sat on the grant committees that helped form the Big Sky Bonanza waiver and Community First Choice as well as various other task forces and committees. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead

## Vanessa Cassens

### Independent Living Specialist



I am thrilled to be working on the Summit team in my new position as an Independent Living Specialist in Ronan, located on the traditional and ancestral lands of and the Séliš and Qlispé and Ktunaxa people (the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes), respectively. I have long since known of Summit ILC as being a partner and advocate for many over the years. I bring with me 20+ years of experience in mental health and social services fields. As someone who has lived in Montana for most my life, I am excited for this new chapter in Lake County, serving those needing advocacy and support. I am currently a student at Salish Kootenai College and a proud mother of a Bozeman State University graduate. A few things about me; I was born in Cusco, Peru and proud of my ancestral roots. I have lived here most of my life and enjoy the outdoors, music, cooking and spending time with my fiancé, Eric.





# Unmasquerade

October 21, 2023  
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

University Center Ballroom  
University of Montana  
32 Campus Dr., Missoula, MT 59812

**Tickets \$50**

Summit Independent living is hosting its first ever rewards gala with silent and live auctions. In addition I will be heavy appetizers, a no host bar, games, a photo wall, and more!

Our inaugural theme, Unmasquerade: Unmasking Disability is a nod to the many individuals in the disability community who experience having to hide her disability behind a “mask” for fear that their disability may subject them to implicit bias, discrimination, or simply distract others from seeing them for who they truly are.

Masquerading masks will be provided, but we highly encourage just to bring their own if they would like.

# CAMP HORROR

*Film Festival*

CAMP HORROR IS A FILM FESTIVAL A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT FROM THE REST. THIS FESTIVAL CAME TO LIFE AFTER THE ROXY STARTED ITS MONTHLY HORROR FILM SERIES “TRASH TALK”, WHERE TRASHY B-MOVIES GET THEIR TIME TO SHINE AMONGST THE HIGH INDIE ART THE THEATER IS KNOWN FOR.

CAMP HORROR FILM FESTIVAL STRIVES TO BE A HOME FOR GORY CLASSICS, WHILE GIVING NEWER STORIES A PLATFORM. ADD ELEMENTS OF LIVE THEATER, COMEDY AND D.I.Y. SPIRIT, YOU’LL HAVE ALL THE PIECES TO THE BEST FANTASY SUMMER CAMP THIS SIDE OF MT. SENTINEL.

BASE WILL BE SHOWING 10 TO 13 SHORT FILMS SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 AT 2:00 PM AT THE ROXY THEATER IN MISSOULA.

EACH FILM IS WRITTEN, PRODUCED, FILMED, DIRECTED, EDITED, AND ACTED IN BY BASE PARTICIPANTS. THE CONTENT RANGES FROM THE FRIDGE THAT KILLS YOU, TO A DEADLY GAME OF UNO.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AND THE FILMS ARE FREE SO COME ENJOY SOME HORROR.

# BASE EVENTS

725 West Alder, #4 Missoula, MT

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.

## All Abilities Yoga on Zoom

Wednesdays 4pm-5pm (Returning in September)

## BASE Game Night

(Call to verify dates and times)

## Art Group

Fridays 1pm-3pm

## Acting Workshop

Select Fridays 4pm-5pm (Returning in September)

## BASE Film Crew (Call for Details)

## FREE Improv Workshop

Every Thursday (Call for Details)

## BOLD Group

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday monthly 5:30-7:30pm (Call for Details)

**For BASE schedule updates and additional events go to**

[www.summitilc.org/calendar](http://www.summitilc.org/calendar)

or check the BASE Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/base725>

To get involved or to share ideas of new BASE programs, contact BASE [jhoward@summitilc.org](mailto:jhoward@summitilc.org).

**Contact BASE:**

[www.basemissoula.org](http://www.basemissoula.org)

Phone: 406-215-1080

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### Jazzy Pride Wheelchair

\$1000 obo, only 2yrs old  
call: Linda 406-531-4938

### 2014 Dodge VMI Conversion Van

Grand Caravan, 59,000 miles  
\$30,000 obo, call: 406-543-2345

### Shoprider power chair

300lb capacity. Needs battery & charger.  
Free (406) 728-1630

### Symmetry Stander, Quickie Powerchair, Invacare Powerbed, Hoyer lift

Comfortable, easy-to-use seat stander Call/leave message: Tejeanne (406) 865-0221

### Power Scooter

\$500 obo. Please contact Adrian:  
(406) 263-8650

### Adult Tricycle

Schwinn 26" tricycle, bike pump included.  
\$500obo (406) 721-1698

### Wheelchair Lift

Ricon wheelchair lift model #S1231  
G00100100. \$400obo.  
Contact: Cory (406) 471-3314

### Silver Spring wheelchair ramp 10' L x 36" W

Made of high-strength light weight aluminum. \$297obo. Contact:  
[tamera144@gmail.com](mailto:tamera144@gmail.com) or 406-363-4898

### Smart Talker text scanner

Slightly used, \$700. Contact Larry at 406-633-4036 or [ketch1969@gmail.com](mailto:ketch1969@gmail.com)

**Nova Walker, Quontum 600 power wheelchair, Commode, 2 Transfer Benches, Beezy Manual Wheelchair.** Call Gary (406) 224-5527 or [garylee032051@gmail.com](mailto:garylee032051@gmail.com)

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

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

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.

# Share Your Voice about the Big Sky Waiver!

## Member Advisory Council Mission Statement:

The Partners in Home Care Member Advisory Council is a representative body of members, family members of members, agency staff, and other supporters working together to optimize Big Sky Waiver home and community-based services.

We strive to increase the right of every member to dignity, access to premium quality care, and chosen lifestyle by promoting program management, policies, and regulations consistent with self-determination.

Our advisory council uses ongoing, member-directed meetings, discourse, and input to affect positive program development and operation. Member Advisory Council benefits are recognized through daily program utilization and long-term program vision.

## How to get involved:

**Join the Member Advisory Council!** If you would like to participate or have further questions, please contact Dana at 406-880-8158 or Abby at 406-544-8045.

## JOIN US!

Join us at Out to Lunch on Wednesday, July 26th from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Caras Park in Downtown Missoula to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act!



## BECOME AN ADVOCATE



Scan to sign up for email alerts, view posted alerts, or even see what legislation we are tracking.



The Montana Centers for Independent Living Action Alert system is an email listserv and online portal designed to inform you about current local, state, and national issues that affect the lives of people with disabilities.

This publication is available in alternative format on request. Please call 1 (800) 398-9002.

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