

THIS WEEK

Renowned pianist joins
Glacier Symphony **C1**



MOVIE REVIEW

'A House of Dynamite'
doesn't ignite **C2**



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DAILY INTER LAKE



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

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DROUGHT



THE MIDDLE Fork of the Flathead River at West Glacier last week. (Chris Peterson/Hungry Horse News)

Middle Fork of Flathead dips to record low flow

By CHRIS PETERSON
Hungry Horse News

The Middle Fork of the Flathead River reached a record low flow for Sept. 28 as a drought persists across Northwest Montana, the National Weather Service said in a recent presentation.

The river gauge height at West Glacier dropped to 1.45 feet. It rose slightly after recent rain, but was still less than 1.5 feet.

While July and early August were wetter than

normal in the Flathead Valley, several months were warmer than normal for the water year, the Weather Service noted.

The water year is defined from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

Of particular note was the period from April to the end of May, when snowpack went from being near or above average, to below average. Some areas by the end of May, particularly east of the Continental Divide, didn't have any snow left by May's end.

The water year also ended on a dry and warm trend. The average September temperature in Kalispell was 6.9 degrees above average, with a total of 0.72 inch of rain, which is 62% of average.

Since Oct. 1 of 2024, Kalispell recorded 15.37 inches of precipitation, roughly 96% of average. But the July and August rains didn't make up for the loss of snow, the Weather Service noted.

And across the region,

it's been very dry. Missoula and Butte are 76% and 77% of average, respectively.

The overall dryness is illustrated in cumulative low snowpack.

At the Grave Creek SNOTEL site in the Whitefish Range, from 2023 to 2025 it had an accumulated deficit of 18.1 inches, with every year being below normal, though 2024 was the best year at 1.3 inches below and 2023 the worst at 11.3 inches below normal.

PEACE DEAL

Israel, Hamas agree to first phase of plan

By SAMY MAGDY, SAM MEDNICK
and AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israel and Hamas have agreed to pause fighting in Gaza and release at least some hostages and prisoners in an agreement that was put forward by the Trump administration and would represent the biggest breakthrough in months in the devastating two-year-old war.

"This means that ALL of the Hostages will be released very soon, and Israel will withdraw their Troops to an agreed upon

See PEACE, A6

Book sale generates \$17,000 for county library

By KATE HESTON
Daily Inter Lake

Friends of the Flathead County Library's annual book sale raised over \$17,000 this fall, the most raised since the sale began decades ago.

"It's the highest amount we've grossed, and we're really excited to see what the library will do with that money," said Melissa Wood, a representative for the group, at the September Flathead County Library Board meeting.

Thousands of books were sold from Sept. 19-21, raising a total of \$17,393. Books are collected throughout the year for the annual sale.

Since 1984, the Friends of the Flathead County Library have worked to benefit, improve and enhance the goals of the Flathead

See LIBRARY, A6

Gianforte honors Charlie Kirk at Turning Point rally at MSU

By TOM LUTEY
Montana Free Press

Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte and Ohio gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy headlined a Turning Point USA event at Montana State University Tuesday evening, filling in for Turning Point's founder,

Charlie Kirk, just weeks after the charismatic conservative leader's assassination.

The hours-long conversation, part of the Arizona-based nonprofit's effort to keep its movement advancing under the leadership of Kirk's widow, Erika, swung from Christianity and starting families to ending political violence. The audience

stretched from the center court of Brick Breeden Fieldhouse to the rafters of the south seating area. More than half of the arena's seating area had been tightly partitioned out with a curtain, leaving just enough room for the audience of roughly 3,000.

Gianforte offered a prayer and sermon that lasted near-

ly 20 minutes. The governor recalled meeting Kirk 13 years ago when the Illinois native was still a teenager. Kirk had traveled to Montana looking for donations to start a nonprofit organization to deliver a conservative message to young people. Years later, Kirk would tell Gianforte and his wife Susan that they wrote the second

check Turning Point received.

Most of Gianforte's speech Tuesday talked about honoring Kirk by becoming Christian.

"Who here knows Jesus?" Gianforte asked, triggering a tide of raised hands from the audience. "Praise God. Let me just say if you did not raise

See KIRK, A6

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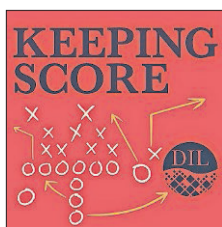
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TODAY'S PODCASTS & VIDEOS



Recap week 6 of Big Sky football from Montana's thrilling rally in Pocatello to Montana State's dominant ground game and Idaho's push for the playoffs. Scan the QR code.



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