

THIS WEEK
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stops in Whitefish **C1**



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THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

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Daines drops bid for reelection to third term

By **MATTHEW BROWN**
Associated Press

BILLINGS (AP) — Republican U.S. Sen. Steve Daines of Montana dropped his bid for reelection to a third term in a surprise withdrawal just minutes before a Wednesday filing deadline for candidates.

Daines, 63, said in a statement that he wrestled with

the decision for months before deciding to retire. He said he looked forward to spending time with his seven grandchildren and more time in Montana.

Montana U.S. Attorney Kurt Alme, who is also a Republican, entered the race shortly before the deadline and almost immediately was endorsed by President Donald Trump.

"Kurt is exceptional, and I will be giving him, based on Steve's strongest recommendation, my Complete and Total Endorsement," Trump said in a social media post.

It is not unprecedented for a lawmaker to wait until the last minute to publicly disclose their retirements, including in scenarios that clearly help set up a

handpicked successor — last fall the House censured Rep. Chuy Garcia, an Illinois Democrat, for how he engineered his retirement and succession plan.

The maneuvering among Republicans came the same day that former University of Montana President Seth Bodnar launched an independent campaign for Daines' seat.

In a video message, he said America's political system is broken and elected officials in Washington are looking out only for people who are wealthy and connected.

"The American dream is getting crushed, and both parties are to blame. They pit us

See **SENATE, A6**

FLOODS



SEVERAL HUNDRED feet of the Logger Trail along Libby Creek were washed out in the December 2025 flood that struck south Lincoln County. (Scott Shindledecker/The Western News)

Lincoln County plays waiting game on federal disaster funds

By **SCOTT SHINDELECKER**
Hagadone News Network

While the citizens of Lincoln County wait to hear if they will receive federal funds to help clean up the destruction wrought by back-to-back severe weather events in December, the formal request sits on the desk of President Donald Trump — where it's been for nearly two months.

Flooding during the end of the second week of the month was followed by severe a wind the following week. In its wake were tens of millions of dollars in

damage.

Several bridges and roads were damaged or destroyed. A small diversion dam on Flower Creek was also damaged that at the time threatened the city.

The remains of the wind storm are still evident in the chunks of cut up trees still resting in residential yards. Power was not fully restored until nearly Christmas in many places.

After local, state and federal officials worked to determine damage estimates that exceeded \$10 million, Gov. Greg Gianforte sub-

mitted a request Jan. 10 to Trump to issue a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration.

Trump OK'd a request for \$5 million in December for the emergencies that occurred in Lincoln and Sanders counties and the Blackfoot Nation, which put personnel on the ground in the affected communities to help local officials navigate the complex process of seeking assistance.

THE STATUS of the Major Disaster Declaration was one of many topics that came up during a pub-

lic meeting in Libby last Thursday. About three dozen residents attended.

Lincoln County District 1 Commissioner Brent Teske said the county has drafted a letter to Gianforte to see where the request stands.

The Revolving Door Project tracks Trump's disaster policy. In a Feb. 26 update, it said Trump issued 41 major disaster declarations and denied 18. As of this week, 20 weather-related requests are pending.

The declaration is criti-

See **FUNDS, A6**

Murder suspect greeted victim with shotgun, court docs say

By **DERRICK PERKINS**
Daily Inter Lake

The suspect in last weekend's murder in Hungry Horse was waiting for the victim with a shotgun, according to newly filed court documents.

Prosecutors on Monday charged Dylan Austin Olson, 25, with felony deliberate homicide in connection with the Feb. 28 shooting death of 30-year-old David Bollman. Held in the county jail with bail set at \$700,000 since March 1, Olson is expected to appear before Judge Dan Wilson in Flathead County District Court on May 7 for his arraignment.

Olson admitted to shooting Bollman and told investigators with the Flathead County

See **MURDER, A5**

US sinks Iranian warship

By **JON GAMBRELL, ELENA BECATOROS and SAMY MAGDY**
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A U.S. submarine sank an Iranian warship in the Indian Ocean, as Washington and Israel intensified their bombardment Wednesday of Iran's security forces and other symbols of power. Iran launched more missiles and drones as it warned of the destruction of military and economic infrastructure across the Middle East.

The tempo of the strikes on Iran was so intense that state television announced the mourning ceremony for Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed at the start of the conflict, would be postponed. Millions attended the funeral of his predecessor, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in 1989.

The U.S. and Israel launched the war on Saturday, targeting Iran's leadership, missile arsenal and nuclear program while suggesting that toppling the government is a goal. But the exact aims and timelines have repeatedly shifted, signaling an open-ended conflict.

Israel was also trading fire with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group in

See **IRAN, A6**

Sheehy joins scuffle with anti-war protester on Capitol Hill

By **MICAH DREW**
Daily Montanan

Montana Sen. Tim Sheehy got into an altercation with an anti-war protester during a Senate Armed Services Subcommittee meeting that appears to have left the protester with a broken arm.

In a video shared by CBS News' Alan He, three Capitol Police officers are working to subdue and eject Brian

McGinnis, a Marine Corps veteran and Green Party candidate for the U.S. Senate in North Carolina, who shouts, "No one wants to fight for Israel."

Sheehy is seen rushing in to help subdue McGinnis, grabbing his lower leg as the Capitol Police attempt to carry him through the hearing room door.

McGinnis hooks one of his arms around the door frame,

and Sheehy moves to wrap an arm around McGinnis' shoulder and pry him away from the door. An audible snap is heard on the video, and it appears that either McGinnis' lower arm or wrist broke.

Sheehy reposted the video on his own social media account with a statement.

"Capitol Police were attempting to remove an unhinged protestor from the Armed Services hearing. He

was fighting back. I decided to help out and deescalate the situation. This gentleman came to the Capitol looking for a confrontation, and he got one. I hope he gets the help he needs without causing further violence."

In another video showing McGinnis being escorted away, he expresses support for a Free Palestine, and the indi-

See **SHEEHY, A6**

TODAY'S PODCASTS & VIDEOS



Northwest Montana's wildest headlines are front and center this week on News Now with your host Taylor Inman. Scan the QR code.



NATION

Senate Republicans vote down legislation to halt Iran war

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