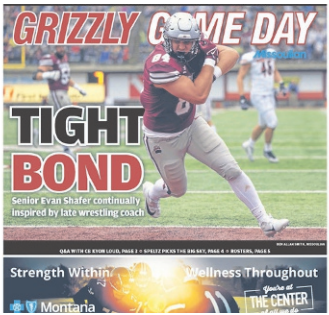


Grizzly Game
Day college
football special
section

INSIDE



Historical Museum
at Fort Missoula
celebrates 50 years
with 'Everyday
Treasures' exhibit

ENTERTAINER, A9

Thursday, September 18, 2025

WHERE **YOUR STORY** LIVES

missoulian.com • \$3

LIGHTHISER V. TRUMP

JUDGE SHOWS SKEPTICISM



BEN ALLAN SMITH PHOTOS, MISSOULIAN

Some of the Lighthiser v. Trump youth plaintiffs make their way to the Russell Smith Federal Courthouse on Wednesday morning.

Testimony continues on second day of federal climate case

SAM WILSON
sam.wilson@missoulian.com

A federal judge in Missoula on Wednesday appeared skeptical of a request by 22 young plaintiffs to halt to a flurry of energy-related actions by the Trump administration this year.

The plaintiffs are alleging that actions following a trio of executive orders issued by President Donald Trump are endangering their federal rights to life and liberty by speeding up fossil fuel development and worsening the negative impacts of climate change.

Nearing the end of a two-day hearing on the case, U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen asked the plaintiffs

Please see **LIGHTHISER**, Page A2

■ **ONLINE:** For the most up-to-date news on the *Lighthiser v. Trump* case or to read about Tuesday's testimony, visit [Missoulian.com](https://missoulian.com).



Milo Merritt-Hagen, right, and Cal Thompson, friends of the plaintiffs in Lighthiser v. Trump, stand near the Russell Smith Federal Courthouse as the plaintiffs make their way into court on Wednesday morning.

Montana Dem Party vice chair resigns 3 days after his election

VICTORIA EAVIS
victoria.eavis@lee.net

The brand new Montana Democratic Party vice chair resigned Wednesday afternoon only three days after he was elected to the position by more than 100 delegates at the organization's convention this past weekend.

Max Johansen's resignation came after he made comments to reporters at the convention that were critical of former

Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, which led Tester to eviscerate Johansen on his podcast a couple days later.

Johansen, the chair of the Park County Democrats, said Tester failed to adapt to the changing political landscape over the past several years, calling him part of the "old guard" that "represents a philosophy that no longer serves the interest of

Please see **JOHANSEN**, Page A4

City Council advances plan to let Missoula voters fill vacancy

GRIFFEN SMITH
griffen.smith@missoulian.com

A vacant Missoula City Council seat will likely remain unfilled for the next two months after council gave initial approval Wednesday to suspend its rules and allow the November election to play out to fill the spot.

Ward 1 Councilor Jennifer Savage vacated the seat on Sept. 5 to comply with state law after she filed for reelection in

Ward 3, the Missoulian previously reported. Under council rules, the open seat is supposed to be filled within 30 days.

On Wednesday, council leadership proposed suspending its rules to wait for the results of the upcoming Ward 1 election in November, arguing that appointing a placeholder would be less

Please see **COUNCIL**, Page A4

GET THE
FULL BENEFITS
OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION!

Activate your digital account to get updated stories, videos, and hundreds of additional puzzles and comics. Visit missoulian.com/activate and download our app for the E-edition and breaking news on the go!

Weather
Plenty of sunshine
High 82 • Low 47
FORECAST • A12

Inside

Classified	B7	Opinion	A5-A6
Sports	B1	Obituaries	A8
Markets	B5	Weather	A12



6 18134 41215 8