

RAVALLI REPUBLIC

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WWI nurse
gets a hero's
honor, 107
years later.

NEWS, A5



High-flying Griz
put on a show
while racing to
4-0 start.

SPORTS, B1

Thursday, October 2, 2025

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THE SHELTER GAP

SO MUCH LAND, SO FEW HOMES



SHANNA MADISON, MISSOULIAN

The Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority hosted the United Native American Housing Association conference in the Flathead Valley, taking attendees on a bus tour of area housing in this August 2024 photo

Patchwork of policies stalls building projects on Montana's reservations

NORA MABIE

BLACKFEET RESERVATION — The painting hangs on a wall in Blackfeet Community College President Brad Hall's house. "I like it," said Hall's father, Ted, a retired Bureau of Indian Affairs superintendent. "Because I like the truth." "Allotment Act," by Blackfeet artist Wilbur Blackweasel, depicts a Native couple driving a horse-drawn cart through an open landscape. In the ground in front of them is a metal stake marking their assigned parcel. The General Allotment Act of 1887 (also called the Dawes Act) authorized the president of the United States to divvy reservation land into allotments for distribution to

individual tribal members. Tribal land that was not allotted was deemed "surplus" and opened to non-Native settlement. Allotment supporters argued that private ownership and agriculture would assimilate Native Americans into White economies and society. The policy devastated tribes, disrupting communal ownership traditions and ultimately taking more than 90 million acres of land out of Native American control. The act would later be condemned for contributing to severe health problems and widespread economic instability in tribal communities.

Please see **SHELTER**, Page A4

What the shutdown means for Montana

CARLY GRAF & SEABORN LARSON

Federally funded programs administered by Montana state agencies will continue as normal for at least 30 days, the governor's office said Wednesday, after an impasse in the U.S. Senate led to the first government shutdown since 2018. The federal government shut down at night after Republicans and Democrats in Congress failed to reach an agreement to fund operations into the new fiscal year, halting a slew of services that flow out of Washington, D.C., to the rest of the country. Services deemed essential will persist during the shutdown. Social Security and Medicare payments will still be issued and federal Medicaid reimbursements will be delivered to states. Air traffic controllers and Transportation Security Administration staff will report to work, though they won't be paid until the shutdown ends. Federal law enforcement agencies, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection, will remain operational. Veterans Administration medical centers will stay open and the Indian Health Service can maintain its clinical operations.

Please see **SHUTDOWN**, Page A2

Hamilton lab running with limited staff

JESSICA ABELL
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Funding for the federal government expired just before midnight on Tuesday night after lawmakers failed to pass a resolution to fund the government. Work at federal agencies across the country will be impacted by the shutdown, including the Hamilton-based Rocky Mountain Laboratories (RML). No exact figures have been given as to the number of RML employees furloughed due to the shutdown at this time, but Marshall Bloom, associate director for science management at RML told the Ravalli Republic only a "skeleton crew" would remain.

Please see **RML**, Page A2

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Weather
Clouds, a shower
High 63 • Low 47
FORECAST • A8

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Sat. October 4th
9:00am - 2:00pm

a fundraiser for the Ravalli
County Museum

Sat. October 4th
5:00pm - 9:00pm

a fundraiser for the Ravalli
County Museum

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