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OLD BULL BREWING

SMALL-SCALE BREW TIMES TWO



SHANNA MADISON PHOTOS, MISSOULIAN

Frenchtown's Old Bull Brewing is opening a new location in Missoula. Brewer Shon Gooden, left, and Nic Pestel stand in the brewhouse on Oct. 6.

Frenchtown brewery expands, adds community-based Missoula location

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Nic Pestel was busy on a recent Tuesday afternoon putting the finishing touches on a few new batches of beer he's preparing for the grand opening of his second brewery in the Missoula area.

Pestel started Old Bull Brewing in 2019 in Frenchtown as a community gathering spot, regularly hosting live music, food trucks and events.

It was such a success that he and his business partners are now expanding to Missoula, and they'll be hosting a grand opening for the second Old Bull Brewing sometime in late October at 335 SW Higgins Ave.

It's in a fairly new building, and they've got outside seating, huge windows to let in light, a stage and no separation between the brewing area and the taproom so customers can watch the suds getting made.

"We wanted another community-based brewery," Pestel explained. "That's what I mean: we're not planning on doing distribution (of canned or bottled beer). We want to build small. That's what it was in Frenchtown. It's a small, community-based brewery. And so why not bring it to Missoula?"

Pestel grew up in the small town of Three Forks, so he likes his brewery to foster small town and neighborhood connections.

He's partnered with Wade Gooden of Gooden Construction and building owner Nic Cole of NC Design Studio to create an inviting space. Wade's son Shon Gooden is learning the ropes of the brewing process as well.

Missoula's full of breweries, but there aren't any in that area of town near Pattee Canyon, so Pestel said he's been inundated with neighborhood residents asking him about when they're gonna open.

"We've been getting a lot of buzz about it for sure," he said.

Their four flagship beverages will be on tap in Missoula: the

Please see **BREWERY**, Page A2



The taps at Old Bull Brewing's new Missoula location, set to open later this month, are pictured Oct. 6.

Forstag, Flint stay on familiar ground in first debate

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The first face-off between Republican Aaron Flint and Democrat Sam Forstag for the state's western congressional district race featured plenty of drive-by shots and divergent policy positions with less than a month before Election Day.

The debate hosted by MTN on Thursday touched on affordability, data centers, tariffs, immigration and more in a 30-minute sprint moderated by senior political reporter Jonathan Ambarian.

The debate is available online and will air Friday at 6 p.m. on MTN stations.

Affordability

Both candidates stuck closely to their messaging on the biggest issue this election cycle.

Flint highlighted his support for trades jobs and trades education while promoting mining and timber industry revitalization. As for the short-term, he suggested a suspension of federal gasoline taxes until oil supply moving through the Strait of Hormuz returns to January 2026 levels.

Forstag raised the prospect of federally subsidized housing and lowering costs on healthcare and childcare by levying higher taxes for the wealthy. He criticized hyper-partisanship and said he'd work across the aisle to achieve those goals.

Data centers

Asked whether data centers could ever amount to a "good deal" for

Please see **DEBATE**, Page A3

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

50 released in wrongful arrest lawsuit

KEILA SZPALLER
Daily Montanan

A federal judge has ordered the release of 50 people from jail since the end of July because the U.S. government wrongfully arrested them in Montana, according to Upper Seven Law, representing the plaintiffs.

Andres Haladay, senior legal counsel with Upper Seven, said Wednesday the federal government has continued to ignore an earlier court order that said those arrests were illegal.

The people have been detained on immigration holds, at least some in Cascade County Detention Center.

Sunday, the law firm said it had secured the release of 40 people since the end of July in the class-action lawsuit.

Tuesday, Upper Seven said the U.S. District Court of Montana ordered the release of another 10 people, all found to be wrongfully arrested.

"The rule of law does not differ on the basis of race, language, sex, or immigration status," Upper Seven said in the post. "We will not stand down."

The case started when U.S. Customs and Border Patrol arrested Jesus Verde Hernandez near Lewistown and detained him in the Cascade County Detention Center.

Please see **LAWSUIT**, Page A2