

Insight airs on KRYK 101.3 FM

Monday through Sunday at 9:50 a.m. and 5:50 p.m.

Recorded interview covering events and activities of North Central Montana.

Host: Janelle Warren

3/31-4/1 – Fair Foundation Board Secretary Christy Owens says their Foundation is to help the Fair with capital improvements. They encourage people to host fundraisers as they're low on funding to make any improvements on the Fairgrounds. They will accept donations for a specific project.

4/2 – Part 1 of 2. Tyler Smith is the new Chairman for the Great Northern Fair Board. Paul McCann decided not to head the fair board again. They are looking for options to raise money in the short and long terms. They may issue a parking fee this year, about \$5 a day.

4/3 – Part 2 of 2. Smith says they are still looking for a night act for the fair. He says that to bring in a professional rodeo or some of these night acts, it can cost them up to \$60,000 and they're not even sure if they will fill the seats. They are thinking about asking to raise their mill levy this year as well.

4/4 – Part 1 of 2. Hill County Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator Dave Sheppard says that Hill County is not likely to have any serious flooding this spring. The snow melt has been slow enough to soak into the ground. Usually, flooding problems are due to spring rain.

4/5 – Part 2 of 2. Sheppard says there are no real concerns about ice jams on the Milk River, as the dry summer last year left the rivers and reservoirs low heading into the winter. There have been no issues with water on the roads as of yet. There is also a program people can download to their phones called Code Red. It will put out information through that system about emergencies or other important local information.

4/6 – The Hill County Commissioners held a meeting to establish what to do in case of flooding in the county. Commissioner Diane McLean says they are trying to be proactive, though they believe there is little chance of any serious flooding. McLean also wants people to sign up for the Code Red System, which would alert them to any flooding in the county.

4/7-4/8 – Part 1 of 2. Two weeks ago, Havre High School Principal Mike Haugen announced he will be leaving his position after only 2 years to be the principal of St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic School. He wasn't expecting this offer, but he's excited for the opportunity. He's also thankful to everyone in the Havre Public School System.

4/9 – Part 2 of 2. Haugen will finish out the school year at Havre High School and begin his duties at St. Jude's over the summer. The High School will have to go through another round of hiring to fill the position.

4/10 – The Havre area Chamber of Commerce was recently designated by the Havre City Council as the local non-profit Convention and Visitors Bureau. Executive Director Jody Olson says that this designation allows the Chamber to access different grants for tourism and marketing of Havre. This designation is based on bed tax dollars and how many hotel rooms there are in town.

4/11 – Part 1 of 2. Hill County Weed and Mosquito District Coordinator Terry Turner is concerned about weeds spreading this year, especially in the areas burned by fire. They received a grant to help with the rehabilitation of the East Fork Fire.

4/12 – Part 2 of 2. Turner talks about the efforts they will be taking to prevent the spread of these weeds this year. He asks that if people see noxious weeds or weeds that normally aren't found in the area to call his office. They will have a meeting on April 24th at Camp Kiwanis.

4/13 – President of Fresno Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited Nate Molstad tells us about their annual Dinner held this weekend. This is their main fundraiser for the year. They will feature beef and Walleye, as well as games, raffles and prizes.

4/14-4/15 – Part 1 of 2. Chairman of Hill County Park Board Steve Mariani says they raised some fees in the park to help make it more sustainable. They did adjust cattle grazing rates to help combat weeds in the park. They also adjusted cabin rates and park permits.

4/16 – Part 2 of 2. Mariani is concerned about weeds spreading throughout the park after the East Fork Fire. There are several fees they didn't change but may change next year. Most fees were only raised slightly.

4/17 – Energy Program Specialist Sarah Solomon with HRDC says the LIEAP will close at the end of April. People can still get heating assistance for this last winter. This application also works for their weatherization program.

4/18 – Part 1 of 3. Superintendent of Schools Andy Carlson says they had regular accreditations this year without any deviations. He also says they have decided not to run a levy or hold any school board elections as the incumbents were uncontested.

4/19 – Part 2 of 3. Carlson says they are searching for a new high school principal, as Mike Haugen is moving to St. Jude's. Beau LaSalle has been named as their new high school wrestling coach as Nathan Fillius has retired. LaSalle wrestled under Fillius and Carlson is excited for the change.

4/20 – Part 3 of 3. Carlson talks about spring sports and how the weather is keeping students from practicing outside. The softball and track fields are still too soft to move equipment on to it.

4/21-4/22 – Part 1 of 2. Great Northern Fair Board Chairman Tyler Smith says they increased and instituted new fees to help make the fair more sustainable. They increased the day use riding fee for the barns. They will also be instituting a \$5 fee per day per vehicle during the fair or \$20 for the week.

4/23 – Part 2 of 2. Smith says they will be replacing the roof of the Bigger Better Barn in May. They are also asking the public for help with building about 10 sawhorses for the fairgrounds. They are also trying to get the board stable enough to hire another manager.

4/24 – Part 1 of 2. The H. Earl Clack Museum has a new manager. Emily Mayer started in March after having worked for the museum from 2002-2004. The museum does have another building to move into, but they are still working on the building.

4/25 – Part 2 of 2. Mayer says the Buffalo Jump will open at the end of May and the extended hours for the museum will also start then. Mayer owns and will continue to operate the Hi-Line Heritage House Museum.

4/26 – MSUN Alumni Foundation Executive Director Jim Bennett says their 2nd Bowtie Ball will be held in Donaldson Hall on Campus. The event is to raise money to restore the building. He says a lot of the improvements already made to the building are due to students getting the space ready for some of the events they've held.

4/27 – Hill County FSA Executive Director Les Rispens says that after the flooding in the area, most fields are doing well, but a lot of smaller structures, like irrigation and small dams have washed out. Rispens wants producers to report their damage before they fix it and, if they can, wait to fix the damage until the FSA can get photos of the damage.

4/28-4/29 – Young Democrat President and State Congressman Jacob Bachmeier hosted at Democrat forum to introduce their candidates to the public. They spoke with Doug Kaercher, Paul Tuss, Mark Peterson, Karen Alley and Randy Randolph, and Bachmeier.

4/30 – Havre School Community Education Coordinator Tiffany Olsen talks about their upcoming edition of spring community education classes. They have several arts and crafts as well as fitness classes.

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May 2018

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5/1 – New Food Bank Manager Samantha Nimmick is getting ready for their annual Peanut Butter Drive. Havre Ford will be parking pickups at Walmart and IGA during the weekend, trying to fill the truck bed. This helps the Food Bank with getting a good source of protein to their clients. They are also in need of perishable items.

5/2 – President of the Fresno Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited Nate Molstad talks about their project to help improve spawning habitat in Fresno Reservoir. They collected about 120 old Christmas trees, bundle them together and drop them in strategic areas around Fresno. They've done this for a few years now and they have seen eggs on the trees.

5/3 – Part 1 of 2. MSU-Northern Chancellor Greg Kegel says their Commencement Ceremony will be on Saturday morning. Their speaker will be Dr. Janine Pease and they will hand out about 353 degrees this year, which is about average.

5/4 – Part 2 of 2. In addition to graduation, Kegel says Northern is getting ready for their Grand Opening of their new Diesel Technology Center, which will be held during the Board of Regents meeting May 23rd. They haven't held classes in the building yet, but they plan to teach a summer class out of it.

5/5-5/6 – Part 1 of 2. MSU Extension Agent Shylea Wingard says that their soil moisture tests showed that, despite the flooding, the soil wasn't as wet as they expected. They think it could be due to last year's extreme drought. Because of the late thaw, many farmers are choosing to plant spring wheat instead of pulse crops.

5/7 – Part 2 of 2. Wingard says that many fields are still wet and farmers are trying to work around them. Several farmers had their irrigation systems damaged during the recent flooding, causing them to lose watering ponds.

5/8 – Great Northern Fair Board Chair Tyler Smith says they will hold a fair this year on July 18-22. He says the Board has had to step up and become more active to get a fair ready for this year. They have most of the events set but may still be looking for acts on Saturday and Sunday night.

5/9 – Smith says the Junior Rodeo is Wednesday, the Main Rodeo will be on Thursday and bull riding will be Friday. They did institute a new parking fee of \$5 a day or \$20 for the week. He says if it works well, they'll keep doing it and if not, they won't. They hope it will help raise their revenue to help sustain the fair into the future.

5/10 – Food Bank Manager Samantha Nimmick says their Postal Food Drive will be this Saturday. The mail carriers will pick up bags of food left near the mailbox and bring them to HRDC. Volunteers will sort the food and take it to the food bank. The food will help them make the bi-monthly food boxes to their clients. They do need volunteers.

5/11 – Part 1 of 2. Karen Alley, a Hill County Deputy Attorney, is seeking the Democratic nomination for the County Attorneys seat. She believes she can be a good leader for the office and wants to get the office organized and re-staffed.

5/12-5/13 – Part 2 of 2. Alley is in favor of the recently approved changes to the County Attorney's office and thinks an extra Deputy Attorney will allow the other attorneys to specialize in different areas of law. She thinks she can provide a sense of security and a smooth transition to the county for the office.

5/14 – Part 1 of 2. Randy Randolph is seeking the Democratic nomination for the Hill County Attorney's seat against Karen Alley. Randolph owns a general practice in Havre and has worked as a court administrator. He believes the office needs a change and wants to make it more approachable.

5/15 – Part 2 of 2. Randolph says he is against the changes that have recently been approved to the Hill County Attorney's office. He believes that the office will suffer without an office manager, which will put more work onto the attorneys.

5/16 – Hill County Commissioner Mark Peterson is seeking the Democratic nomination for reelection to the office. One of his goals if elected would be to fix Highway 232 north of Havre. He's also concerned with the Great Northern Fair and how to handle their budget crisis. He invited residents to come to his office and talk with him if they feel he doesn't communicate with him.

5/17 – Dana Kjersem is challenging Mark Peterson for the Republican nomination Hill County Commissioners seat. She believes she could bring change to the office as well as better communication between the County and its residents. She's concerned about the future of the Great Northern Fair.

5/18 – Current Liberty County Clerk and Recorder Angel Colbry is seeking another term in the office. Colbry says she has already completed trainings and certifications for the position and believes she is the best person for the job. She believes it's an important job and that she is the most qualified candidate.

5/19-5/20 – Current Deputy County Clerk and Recorder, Davin Buffington is seeking the Liberty County Clerk and Recorder office. Buffington believes that the office is in need of a positive change, and she believes that good communication and relations between departments is crucial to the success of the County.

5/21 – Part 1 of 2. Rachelle Fenger is seeking the Republican nomination for the Liberty County Treasurer seat. Fenger has previously worked at the Montana Department of Revenue and believes that one of the most important things for that office is providing good customer service for taxpayers.

5/22 – Part 2 of 2. Fenger believes that she has a variety of experience and skills that will help her manage the office effectively. She believes her opponent doesn't go outside the box or above and beyond in the position and believes she can do a better job.

5/23 – Former Chouteau County Commissioner Jim O'Hara held the seat from 2001 to 2012 and is looking for another term after taking a break from the office. He believes he has the experience necessary to help make the county more successful and wants to find creative ways to keep people in Montana. He also wants to keep the county government efficient.

5/24 – Incumbent Bob Pasha is seeking reelection to the Chouteau County Commissioner position, but first needs the Republican nomination. Pasha is concerned about cuts to government programs and infrastructure.

5/25 – Phillips County Deputy Jerry Lytle is seeking the Republican nomination for the Sheriff's position. Lytle believes the outlying areas of the county need more patrols and says he will work some night shifts with the deputies. He's concerned about the drug problem in the county and he wants to work more closely with the Malta City Council.

5/26-5/27 – Phillips County Undersheriff Burt Peigneux wants the Republican nomination for the Sheriff's office. He's concerned about the drug problem as well as how to handle things after the Keystone pipeline construction starts. He stresses he has worked closely with current sheriff Scott Moran and can do the job well.

5/28 – Josh Kassmier wants the Republican Nomination for House District 27. Some of his big concerns are the budget and forest management. He is a crop adjuster and owns his own business, which he says will help him do the job well. He says the state needs to promote local businesses better.

5/29 – Darrold Hutchinson is seeking the Republican Nomination for HD 27. He previously held the seat and is now after another term after taking a break. He says he doesn't have an axe to grind or any agenda. He wants to keep himself open to what's happening and respond accordingly.

5/30 – Brad Lotton wants the Republican Nomination for District 14. Lotton is a contractor who is ready to semi-retire, which will allow him the time to devote to the Legislature. He wants to advocate for small businesses and help the taxpayers, not the tax users. He would also like to improve workman's comp.

5/31 – Incumbent Russ Tempel wants the Republican Nomination for Senate District 14 for another term. He was appointed to the seat when Chris Hansen left the seat. He's afraid they will have another tough budget to work through and he's concerned about finding and retaining teachers in rural Montana.

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6/1 – Incumbent Bruce Christofferson wants the Republican nomination for the Commissioner of Phillips County against Darla Niebur and Randy Shores. He's a farmer and rancher who's concerned about the roads, the budget and a non profit that's buying acres in the county for a wildlife preserve, which takes away the economic development of the region.

6/2-6/3 – Lynnel LaBrie is seeking the republican nomination for Phillips County Clerk and Recorder against Connie Zanto. She wants to improve the customer relations in the office, though she doesn't have any issues in mind that she wants to tackle. She is currently a recording clerk under the Clerk and Recorder.

6/4 – Executive Director for the Havre FSA Les Rispens will be leaving the office this week. He accepted a position as a Farm Program Chief in the State FSA Office in Bozeman. He has worked in the office for about 7 and a half years. Russell Snedigar will be acting as the interim director and splitting his time between Havre and Malta. They are seeking a permanent replacement.

6/5 – Jim Rowlett is a member of the Hi-Line Cruz'n Association member says the annual Rod Run will take place this Friday and Saturday on the Great Northern Fairgrounds. This year's theme is Cars Across the Border to acknowledge the Canadian participation in the event. The event is free and open to the public.

6/6 – Part 1 of 2. Kirt Miller is a founding member of the Kicks at 6 Summer Concert Series. Sax Cadillac and the Other Brothers and Sistas play every Wednesday at 6 PM in Pepin Park. They have been playing for 18 years now to bring some music to Havre during the summer. They also collect old instruments and fix them up and give them to less-fortunate kids.

6/7 – Part 2 of 2. Miller says they have a different theme every week for their music. They play 15 songs each night. They have an Eagles show, a Beatles show, Beach Boys, Elvis and others. The Streatery Food Truck will be selling food at the event.

6/8 – Part 1 of 2. Head Cook for Lincoln-McKinley schools Carol Wolf says their Summer Meal Programs starts on Monday. All kids under 18 years old can eat breakfast or lunch for free at Lincoln-McKinley and Highland Park schools, regardless of their financial situation.

6/9-6/10 – Part 2 of 2. Adults can eat with the kids for \$3 for breakfast and \$4 for lunch. Every Monday they will serve burgers and on Friday they will have pizza. Kids do not need to be accompanied by an adult. She's hoping to average 60 kids for breakfast and 150 for lunch.

6/11 – Havre Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jodi Olsen says that they are getting ready for their Sounds on the Square summer concert series. The Chamber sponsors the concerts and asks that people bring chairs and food. The concerts will run from 6 to 8 PM. Northwestern Energy and Triangle Communications sponsor the bands and will be presenting a check to the Chamber soon.

6/12 – Part 1 of 3. Greg Jergeson is on the State Transportation Commission and they will be holding a meeting in Havre on June 21st. The day before the meeting, the Commission will be touring areas around Havre to look at the local infrastructure issues. This year, Jergeson opened the event to area legislators, city council members and mayors.

6/13 – Part 2 of 3. Jergeson says they will specifically be looking at Highway 2 between Havre and Harlem. They will be building these roads to be wider and safer than the current roads. It will be 5 lanes wide with a turning lane in the middle.

6/14 – Part 3 of 3. Jergeson says the Milk River Valley is one of the most expensive parts of Highway 2 to fix because of all the water and rivers in the area. There are also multiple owners along the highway. The railroad also wants the roads to be built further from the tracks, to keep long trucks from sitting on the tracks as they wait to turn on to the highway.

6/15 – Christy Edmonds is the Chair of the Back to School Bash, held in the fall. This Saturday they will be hosting a fundraiser with a pulled pork cook off to raise funds for the Bash, to be held in August. They started this last year and partnered with Salvation Army to provide low income kids with new shoes, socks and haircuts.

6/16-6/17 – Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Director of the Nursing Program at MSU Northern Kelly Amtmann says the Board of Regents approved the creation of the new college and Amtmann moved from Butte to take the job. She has several degrees and teaching experience. She decided to move to Havre after visiting when her daughter decided attend MSU Northern.

6/18 – Amtmann says the nursing program at Northern is needed so the Board of Regents decided to expand their offerings. She says this will help grow the program and establish new allied health programs in the community. Amtmann wants to meet people in town to get a better idea about the needs in the community.

6/19 – Superintendent of the Northern Agricultural Research Center Darrin Boss talks about Thursday's Field Day. They will offer tours and talk about some of the research that has been done at the center in the last year. They offer several different tours and speakers. The Field Day ends with an Ag Appreciation dinner.

6/20 – Boss says some of the tours available this year is a variety tour of local crops, specialty crops, soil health, and a livestock tour focusing on recovering from last years' drought. The event is free and registration is not required.

6/21 – Connie Jenkins is the event chair for the Fort Benton Summer Celebration which kicks off tonight. This years' theme is "Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer". They will have museum tours, music, a kids zone, food, a rodeo, a parade, a fireworks show, and an Old West Reenactment at the Old Fort Park. The Celebrations will run through Sunday afternoon.

6/22 – Part 1 of 2. Former Vice Principal Ed Norman has become the new principal for Havre High School after former principal Mike Haugen left after one year. He wants to make sure that the school keeps up with changes in technology and prepares students for college or the workforce. His new duties will start on July 1st.

6/23-6/24 – Part 2 of 2. Norman says they are in the process of hiring a new Vice Principal, now that he's been moved to the Principals position. He says they should make a decision soon. He wants to keep up with changing technologies for the students.

6/25 – Part 1 of 3. Transportation Commissioner Greg Jergeson about their Infrastructure Tour that was held last week. The tour was opened up to members of the public and other government officials. They looked at some spots in the area and talked about the improvements that have been scheduled to be done in the next few years.

6/26 – Part 2 of 3. Jergeson says they travelled to Harlem and looked at needs on the Reservation. They came back to Havre and looked at Highway 232. Then they held a business meeting afterwards as well. He wants to make sure the public is as informed as possible and wants to make the information they use to make decisions available to the public.

6/27 – Part 3 of 3. Jergeson says their next meeting will be in August. They also host teleconference meeting, mostly to award contracts. They always award the contract to the approved contractor with the lowest bid. The earliest some of these projects would get started is the end of 2019 or early 2020.

6/28 – Superintendent for the Northern Ag Research Center Darrin Boss said their annual Field Day was well received despite the rain that forced them to cancel the outdoor tours. Instead, they held their talks inside. They talked about the research that's been done at the center over the past year. Over 320 people attended the event.

6/29 – Erica Farmer with Havre Historic Properties, with Montana Country Boutique, is hosting a Discover Downtown event to bring some more foot traffic to downtown Havre. They will have a Food Truck Competition, live music and vendors. The event runs from 10 AM to 4 PM.

6/30-7/1 – Russell Sneidergar is the new FSA Executive Director in Havre. He held the same office in Malta. He tells us about the Crop Certification Deadline of July 16th. Producers also need to contact their local FSA office if they plan to graze or hay CRP acres.