Montana Dental Association

October 2020; Volume 40, No. 5

MDA Secures 30 COVID-19 Rapid-Test Sites for Dental Practices in Montana

Dentists and staff can get results in 15 minutes

HELENA, MT — On October 9, 2020, MDA submitted a formal request to the State of Montana Department of Emergency Services to allow 30 dental practices to serve as testing sites for the new Abbott BiNax Now COVID-19 Ag CARD rapid tests. On October 16, 2020, MDA received confirmation that we have been approved to identify 30 dental practices in Montana as primary testing sites for the 600 dentists and their dental teams. Each of the 30 sites will service 20 dental practices for rapid testing of dental professionals and staff.

These new tests are the 150 million being distributed from the federal government. They are the 15-minute rapid tests, so there's no more waiting for days to get results back. Montana has already received an initial allotment and 2/3 are going to universities and hospitals. The other 1/3 are to be distributed at the discretion of the state, and MDA's allotment fell in that group. The state approved MDA's distribution plan by region for maximum geographic dispersal:



Abbott Binax Now COVID-19 Ag CARD rapid test

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	Dentists	Testing sites
1st District, Kalispell	99	6
2nd District, Missoula	106	5
3rd District, Butte	39	2
4th District, Great Falls	48	2
5th District, Helena	55	2
6th District, Bozeman	88	3
7th District, Havre	12	1
8th District, Lewistown	10	1
9th District, Billings:	125	6
10th District, Glendive	30	2

EDITOR'S NOTE: At press time we still don't have any specifics about how many test kits each site will receive, nor instructions or protocols. For now, it is limited to just dental staff (no patients). Once we get the list of 30 sites to the state, they will follow up with detailed information and instructions. Watch for e-Blasts with new updates.

MMDALEADERSHIP

It Takes a Village . . .

MDA member dentists are the backbone and the heart and soul of our organization and the volunteer leaders that take time out of their busy lives to work on all of our behalf are the lifeblood. Many of you who have served as MDA president in the past will agree with me when I say that it is hard to conceive of the countless hours that so many dentists put in until you have witnessed it.

The committees of the MDA - Government Affairs, Dental Health and Access, Financial Oversight, Membership, and Continuing Education - they do

amazing work! Our Government Affairs Committee has been meeting every 2 weeks at 6 am preparing for the upcoming legislative session and our proactive and defensive positions and monitoring and speaking in interim committees and the Board of Dentistry. Our Dental Health and Access Committee submitted new codes to be considered to be added to the Montana Medicaid covered services in light of COVID. Financial Oversight has been working with the rapidly changing budget in uncertain times. Membership has been working with

our colleagues that weren't sure if they could continue to be MDA members and are starting work on a new project to help local components bring more value to members. Continuing Education will be ramping up its efforts soon to select speakers and courses for our 2022 annual meeting (if you have Ideas or suggestions for this meeting please send them to the MDA office).

It goes without saying that your elected representatives on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee have been working hard to make the big decisions and make

> sure everything comes together. The diversity of viewpoints and breadth of expertise in these groups is amazing.

> As our country faces the current chaos from COVID and political polarization it is great to be part of something that really works. The mission of the Montana Dental Association is "to represent the interests of the members of the dental profession and promote the art and science of dentistry to improve the health of Montanans." and that is just what we are doing. I'd like to highlight



DR. JASON TANGUAY *President*

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Email: info@montanadental.org
Website: www.MontanaDental.org

Mailing Address:
MDA News
Montana Dental Association
PO Box 1154
Helena, MT 59624



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Well, we don't know that exactly-but what we do know is that we've been the Montana Dental Association's endorsed agency for over 40 years! Look to an agency with experience in your industry. Look to PayneWest.

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MDA's Medicaid Lawsuit Dismissed

Al Garver, MDA Executive Director

Recently, the District Court of Helena issued an order and dismissed our legal petition. The reasoning the court gave for this was that the case was moot, largely because the rules we challenged had been superseded and rates restored.

In doing so, the Court basically recognized the seven associations as plaintiffs in the case had already prevailed in great part:

 because of the restraining order in August 2018 that restored the 2.99% cut and the targeted case management.

- the state rule-making restored the 2.99% rate back to July 1, 2018, and
- the retroactive payments for targeted case management reset in the spring of 2019, after the judge restored the temporary restraining order for those rates.

The remainder of the case was about the legality of the rule-making in the first place, and for various reasons, the judge did not believe that such a ruling was appropriate, since the rules had been superseded.

Continued on Page 5





Paper Prescriptions Actually Cost You Time and Money

We all tend to extend a lot of latitude to the familiar, and paper Rx pads are very familiar. However, have you ever paused to calculate a literal monetary cost to the time consumed by you and your staff just to navigate the current paper system?

The following are key attributes of an e-Prescribing solution for all medications, including controlled substances, that can obliterate time-consuming and costly factors.

- Single-click access to the Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR)
- e-Prescribing ALL medications, including controlled substances
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- Comprehensive integration with your practice management system (EHR)
- Hyper-quick searches for drug information using the built-in Lexicomp® directory
- Full patient prescription history of every medication and dose dispensed to your patient by 99% of U.S. pharmacies

This list sheds light on opportunities to speed up



your workflow, protect your patients and improve profit through productivity.

MDA Endorsed Partner, iCoreRx, is cloud-based e-Prescription software that provides these key integrations (and more) as part of your monthly subscription. MDA members receive special pricing on iCoreRx and iCoreRx+PMP (direct access to the MPDR). Learn more and book a demo at iCoreConnect.com/montana or 888.810.7706.

MDA's Medicaid Lawsuit...

(Continued from Page 4)

While we obviously don't agree with the Court's reasoning, we think there is little wiggle room for an appeal. The Montana Supreme Court would probably go along with the general feeling from the District Court's decision that this case is already done. Additionally, there is some bad language in the opinion that might come to haunt us in future cases if it is affirmed by the Montana Supreme Court. The mootness reasoning is especially problematic in that it could arguably allow a state agency to simply change its rules at some later date and avoid any consequences of incorrect rule-making whenever a rule is challenged. That is not how MAPA was designed and it would make future litigation difficult if it is adopted by the Supreme Court.

MDA regrets we were unable to recover the \$822,000 in harm done to Montana dentists, but we firmly believe that the state would not have acted quickly to restore the 2.99% cut, nor provide retroactive payments had the lawsuit not been filed. Instead, the state would have continued with its cuts into the next fiscal year, which would have devastated the community Medicaid service system.

MDA would like to recognize the effort of Beth Brenneman, Staff Attorney for Disability Rights Montana, who led our legal coalition on this case for nearly two years.

Options for Removing Broken Implant Screws



Alex Rugh, CDT Implant Specialist, O'Brien Dental Lab

roken implant screws are an unfortunate reality of implant restorations. Although it is an uncommon situation, it's one that can happen regardless of the implant system being used.

Fortunately, there are tools that simplify the procedure for removing a screw fragment from an implant.

Several companies offer screw retrieval kits. Some are made specifically for one brand of implant, but universal sets are also available that work for several different implant systems.

Regardless of which kit you use, the tools and removal process

are virtually identical.

Each kit comes with a set of centering guides that are each designed to fit perfectly to a specific implant system



Salvin® Implant Rescue Kit

and size. These guides protect the internal walls of the implant from damage during the removal process. The kits also include a handle which is attached to the appropriate centering guide to facilitate placement and stabilization of the guide.

With the centering guide in place and your drill in reverse, use an up and down motion to prepare a 1-2mm dimple in the top of the broken screw.

When drilling is complete, use suction to remove any metal shavings from inside the implant.





With the dimple created, you can now use the retrieval instrument to remove the screw. Do this by placing the instrument into the dimple and rotate it counterclockwise while applying light pressure. You can usually achieve this manually, but if necessary, you may also use a torque driver.

After retrieving a broken screw fragment, it's always a good idea to

test the internal threads of the implant to determine if they are damaged. Test by taking a brand-new screw or guide pin and slowly threading it into the implant. If you feel resistance, the threads may be damaged.

Some kits, such as the one from Nobel Biocare, come with screw thread repair tools to fix internal implant threads that are damaged.

We hope you found this article helpful. If you have any questions or comments, please email us at

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Agreement Reached in Delta Dental of Washington Lawsuit

SEP 23, 2020

A New Beginning with Delta Dental: Today we are excited to announce an important accomplishment in our ongoing dental benefits advocacy on behalf of you and your patients.

Oct. 8 Update: Information on assigning your proxy and voting online is now available here.

Today we are excited to announce an important accomplishment in our ongoing dental benefits advocacy on behalf of you and your patients.

After months of negotiation, we have come to an agreement with Washington Dental Service (referred to as "Delta") on significant amendments to Delta's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws which address the underlying concerns that brought WSDA and Drs. Bradshaw, Irwin and Russell to file a lawsuit against Delta in January 2019. In addition, Delta and WSDA have written a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines the organizations' commitments to work together on several issues of significance to Washington's dental community, including addressing the state's critical dental hygienist and dental assistant shortages.

This settlement, which must be approved by Delta member dentists, is a transformational victory for patients and dentists.

The following are a few highlights of our governance reform wins:

• The process through which dentists are nominated to serve on Delta's Board of Directors and Member Advisory Panel (MAP) has been dramatically altered. Instead of nomination processes run by the Delta Board's Governance and Nominating Committee (a majority of whom are not dentists) or Delta staff, a four-person group made up of Delta member dentists will make all nominations for the MAP and member dentist nominations to Delta's Board of Directors will originate in this group. This group, known as the Member Nominating Panel (MNP), will be comprised of two member dentists appointed through a process controlled by WSDA and two member dentists on Delta's Board of Directors. MNP decisions can only be made with a minimum of three out of four members.

- Going forward, all new member dentists on Delta's
 Board of Directors must have substantial support
 from Delta's member dentists in order to be elected. If
 multiple candidates are running for a Board seat, the
 candidate with the most votes will be elected; if there
 is only one candidate for a Board seat, that candidate
 can only be seated if a majority of the members vote
 in support of that candidate.
- A clearly defined scope for Delta's MAP is now being included in the Bylaws. The MAP is now charged with promoting the exchange of ideas and concerns between member dentists and Delta as well as advising Delta's Board of Directors on policies related to patient care, claims processing, and other topics of interest. The MAP is empowered to provide feedback and suggestions to the Board of Directors and the Board will provide responses. Summaries from all MAP meetings will be shared with Delta members. These reforms provide clear two-way channels between member dentists and Delta leadership to discuss patient care concerns and other important matters.
- Delta's Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation will be amended to clearly state that the Bylaws can only be amended in the manner articulated in the Bylaws. This new language protects the member dentists' governance rights from being modified without the support of two-thirds of voting member dentists and ensures that future governance changes cannot be made without members' knowledge.
- By January 1, 2021, WSDA and Delta will convene a joint task force to work on dental workforce shortages. This task force will explore increasing capacity at existing dental hygiene programs, creating new dental hygiene programs, assessing nontraditional training models for dental hygienists and dental assistants, and exploring the duties that are performed by dental assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries (EFDAs).

Continued on Page 10



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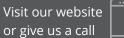
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MONTANA DONATED DENTAL SERVICES (DDS) PROGRAM

Annual Report for July 1, 2019 - June 30, 20202 Fourth Quarter Report for April 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020

Funded by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services -Developmental Disabilities Program, Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation

Highlights

- 131 patients served and \$323,586 in treatment donated.
- Recruited 11 new volunteer dentists.
- \$4.62 worth of care donated for every \$1 spent supporting volunteers.

The DDS Program in Action

"Dennis," 48, lives in Billings and has developmental disabilities in addition to a cleft lip and palate. Also, he suffers from diabetes, vascular disease, hypothyroidism, obesity, and depression. His mother used to care for him until she passed away. His cousin took him in and helps with daily activities. Dennis wore full upper and lower dentures, but they were lost two years ago. Since then, he has suffered without any teeth.

Unfortunately, Dennis could not afford new dentures. While he has held a few part-time jobs over the years, he has not been able to maintain employment and now relies on a Social Security benefit and help from his cousin. He was struggling to make ends meet, and sadly, dental treatment seemed far beyond his reach.

Thankfully, two generous DDS volunteers agreed to help. A general dentist is in the process of donating full upper and lower dentures and a volunteer lab has offered to discount the fabrication of the dentures. Thanks to these caring volunteers, Dennis received more than \$3,400 of treatment that gave him a brand new smile! He commented that he feels better about himself with dentures and that he's "smiling more now!"

Program History

- Established in 1997
- 1,463 total patients served
- \$5,242,518 in total care donated by volunteers
- Statewide Volunteer Network: 199 dentists and 44 labs

The DDS program helps individuals with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile and cannot afford or otherwise access treatment for severe dental conditions. As a result of their ages or disabilities, they cannot work and depend on government assistance for their health care. Medicare, however, does not provide dental coverage and Montana's Medicaid program only provides emergency dental benefits for most adults (individuals with developmental disabilities, however, receive more coverage than others). Moreover, many dentists do not accept Medicaid.

Agreement Reached in Delta...

(Continued from Page 7)

Taken together, the governance reforms and the MOU create a platform for Delta member dentists to have a fundamentally different relationship with Delta. Delta was created by Washington's dentists nearly seven decades ago; these 2020 reforms will be a new beginning where members' governance rights and input are appreciated and considered. In addition, a venue has been created for Delta and WSDA to collaborate on joint efforts to

tackle pressing issues for Washington's dentists, such as dental workforce shortages, more effectively than either organization can accomplish alone. Another significant benefit of adopting these proposed amendments to Delta's governance documents is that these wins become enshrined into the Bylaws and cannot be changed or taken away by Delta leadership in the future.



The American Dental Association Reaffirms Its Position on Dental Amalgam

CHICAGO, Sept. 24, 2020 – The American Dental Association (ADA) supports the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) statement that all dental restorative decisions and treatment options should be made by the patient and the dentist and that the existing evidence shows that dental amalgam is not harmful to the general population. The ADA reaffirms its position that dental amalgam is a durable, safe and effective cavity-filling option.

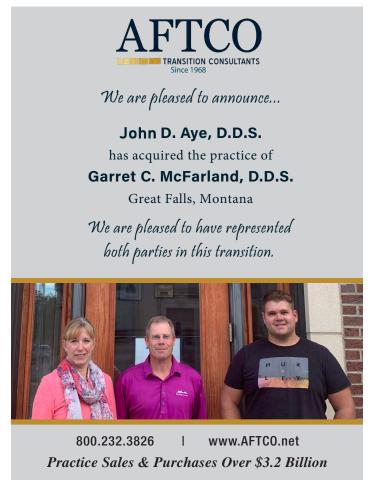
According to the FDA statement, "If you need a filling, discuss all treatment options with your dental provider, including the benefits and risks of using dental amalgam and other dental restorative materials, to help you make an informed decision."

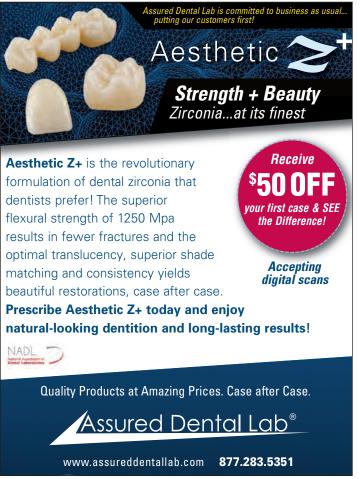
The ADA supports the FDA's recommendation that existing amalgam fillings in good condition should not

be removed or replaced unless it is considered medically necessary by a health care professional.

While the FDA cites certain groups that may be at greater risk for potential negative effects from exposure to mercury, the agency states that "little to no information" is known about the effects dental amalgam may have on these specific groups. There was no new scientific evidence cited as part of the FDA recommendation.

Patients should consult with their dentists to decide which filling material is best for them based on a number of factors, such as size and location of the cavity, patient history, cosmetic concerns and cost. The American Dental Association offers information about all dental filling materials at MouthHealthy.org.





It Takes a Village...

(Continued from Page 2)

one small thing of the many that the MDA has undertaken recently that really illustrates this. The MDA Board directed the Government Affairs Committee to look at the legislative possibility of a new dental team member - the restorative function dental auxiliary (an assistant or hygienist who is trained and certified to place fillings into teeth prepared by a dentist). There was discussion in the Government Affairs Committee about whether Montana dentists and patients would benefit from this new dental team member and it was decided to poll the membership about their knowledge and thoughts on the subject (thank you to all of you who participated in the survey!). After interpreting the results of the survey, the MDA board

determined that now is not the right time to pursue this new dental team member. We had discussions, assessed our members, took varying viewpoints into consideration and made a decision. Although I personally would have liked to see a different outcome, this shows how our MDA really works for our members. (If anyone has questions or concerns about the process, please reach out to me.)

We need YOU to get more involved, that is how our organization works best. If you'd like to get involved on a local level contact your president or board representative. If you'd like to get involved at the MDA level with a committee, let your representative or me know.





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Royal Spanish Dental Kit from 1860

Al Garver

In a recent Wall Street Journal newspaper, an unusual ad for a unique antique dental kit was discovered. An e-mail to the antique dealer in New Orleans identified a price tag of \$148,500. The business allowed us to feature the set and provided a Dropbox link with high resolution photos. Their summary reads as follows:

Truly an incredible piece of dental history, this extensive dental service combines impeccable craftsmanship with a highly important provenance. The set was specially commissioned by Isabella II, Queen of Spain (1833-1868) for her personal physician and dentist, Dr. Louis Ernst. The extensive set brings together tools from the greatest makers in the world, all set in one incredible display.

This impressive set includes over 120 instruments for performing a wide variety of procedures, including general operations, cleanings, fillings, and tooth extractions. Held within two fitted trays, each of the state-of-the-art tools is crafted with the utmost care and precision, and most are marked by their respective makers. Each name is more impressive than the next: Terzano, the Italian maker of scissors; Charrière, the great French maker of surgical instruments; Daran, the Parisian maker of scalpels and dental tools; C. Ash & Son, the London-based dental manufacturer; and Bucquet, the Parisian ebeniste.

The most impressive tools of the set are undoubtedly the highly rare instruments by Daran of Paris. These steel tools are beautifully set into gilt metal and rose agate handles, making for a truly stunning display against the blue velvet-lined interior of the case. The case itself, crafted by Bucquet of Paris, is a work of artistry. Crafted from mahogany with brass fittings, its inner lid bears three gilt coats of arms: the Royal Arms of Spain and Portugal and the Imperial Arms of Austria.

Such an exceptional set boasting the complexity and luxury materials found in this case would only have been made for someone of great wealth and power; it is little wonder that it was commissioned by a legendary Queen of Spain. Early dental kits such as this are very rarely seen on the market, especially those of such unmatched artistry and provenance.

Case signed "Garnerie & Ebenisterie / Bucquet / 10 rue Hautefeuille, Paris"

Most instruments stamped with makers' marks

Circa 1860

29 3/4" wide x 17" deep x 5" high



MDA Welcomes New Members in 2020

Kalispell

Center

Billings

Dr. Camille Gannam

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical

Harvard University

Pediatric Dentistry

Dr. Lon Hinckley

Dr. Kaia Jerde

at Denver

Orthodontics

Missoula

Kalispell

Endodontics

University of Nebraska General Dentistry

University of Colorado

Dr. Donald Lemire

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Tufts University School of Dental Medicine

Dr. Jeffrey Beacham Billings Case Western Reserve University Louisiana State University School of Dentistry **Endodontics**



Dr. Ryan Boswell Billings University of Iowa General Practice

Columbia Falls

Antonio

Billings

Billings

Billings

Orthodontics

Great Lakes

General Practice

Dr. Brian Draayer

General Practice

Ohio State University

Dr. Gregory England

Ohio State University

Dr. Joshua Erekson

Indiana University

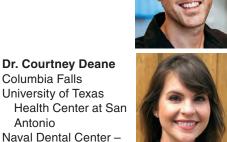
General Practice

Dr. Nicholas

OHSU College of Dentistry





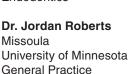








Dr. Seth Perrins Kalispell University of Washington Naval Postgraduate Dental School/Naval **Medical Center Endodontics**









Dr. Brian Spencer Kalispell University of Minnesota University of Minnesota School of Dentistry Orthodontics

Dr. Aaron Stensvad Forsyth Oregon Health Science University General Practice



Dr. Wendy Terry Bozeman University of Washington University of Florida College of Dentistry General Practice



Dr. Lisa Thompson Billings University of Minnesota General Practice

Dr. Mark Vanzant University of Florida 10th Medical Group USAF Academy General Practice

Dr. Victoria Waling University of Texas School of Dentistry General Practice

Dr. Cody West **Great Falls** University of Iowa University of Iowa College of Dentistry Orthodontics

MDA Congratulates Members Who Retired in 2020 Dr. Charles Blackburn Billings Dr. Henry Michael
Billings Dr. Paul Martineau

Sidney

Ferguson Missoula Oregon Health Science University General Practice









I hope this message finds you and your family well. The Consani Associates team has been engaged full time throughout the Covid-19 outbreak working with sellers, buyers and financial institutions.

We are advising buyers to take this time to find an opportunity that looks to be of interest then visit the practice and the community. If the practice looks like it is a good fit, we can structure a sale, including financing, leases and closing documents, and then wait to close when you say that you are ready.

We are doing everything we can to take advantage of the fact that doctors have the time to research opportunities and to prepare for the next steps towards practice ownership.

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Eastern Montana - 2 office location, high production and lots of room to grow. The selling dentist is willing to stay on as an associate and help the practice grow. Both locations are large and able to have multiple providers. Collections well over 1.6 million. Call today to discuss this opportunity. Dr. Jared Franson 208-949-0868 or email 208-949-0868.

General Family Dental Practice in NW Montana - Established practice has a loyal patient base and welcomes an average of 18 new patients a month. Spacious stand-alone building of 1,557 sq. ft. with 3 ops, could expand to accommodate another treatment room. Treatments referred out are molar endo, surgical extractions, implant placement AND restoration, advanced perio, and ortho. Building for sale or lease with option to purchase. For more information, please call Lynne or Donna at 406-389-0123. info@pmaadvisors.org

Quaint office - located on historic Main Street in Boulder. Perfect satellite office for Helena, Bozeman or Butte. At max capacity, was operating 3 operatories, 3 days a week. Email inquiries to charissa.martin@gmail.com.

Whitefish - Live and work in Montana's year-round playground. Busy family practice in Whitefish is looking for a skilled, energetic team player to join us. 9 ops. Doing all phases of general practice. Buy in opportunity for the right person. Please email robertalarsondds@gmail.com or call 406-270-6050. www.alpenglowdental.com

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Classified ads are available at no charge to MDA members.
Contact MDA at 800-257-4988 or info@montanadental.org.
Visit www.MontanaDental.org for more information and opportunities.





District Calendar

District 1 – Kalispell Meetings by Zoom Meet 3rd Tuesday Sept-May @ 6:30 pm

District 2 – Missoula Meetings – TBD Meet 3rd Tuesday Sept-May @ 6 pm

District 3 – Butte Meetings – TBD Meet 1st Thursday Sept-May @ 6:30 pm

District 4 – Great Falls Meetings by Zoom Meet 2nd Tuesday Sept-May @ 6:30 pm

District 5 – Helena Meetings by Zoom Meet 2nd Tuesday Sept-May @ 6:30 pm

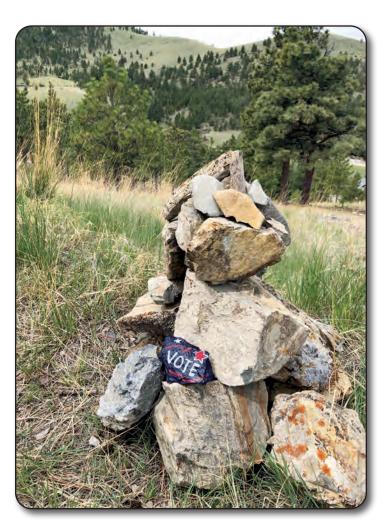
District 6 – Bozeman Meetings – TBD Meet 2nd Tuesday Sept-May @ 6:30 pm

District 7 – Havre Meetings – TBD Meetings 1st Monday Sept-May @ 7:30 pm

District 8 – Lewistown Meetings – TBD Meet every 3rd month @ 6 pm

District 9 – Billings Meetings – TBD Meetings 2nd Tuesday Sept-May @ 5:30 pm

District 10 – Scobey Meetings – None



HELENA, MT—Hikers added a special painted rock to a rock cairn on a trail leading up Mount Helena. It's not often you see a rock cairn serving as a public service announcement. Photo by Al Garver