

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Business news and speculation

The **Northside Liquor Store** has sold to Ken Weinheimer of Hamilton. He has also purchased the building formerly used for **Mile High Motors** (just east of **The Motherlode Restaurant**). He plans to remodel the building (corner of Cedar and Sanders Street) over the next couple of



CATHY BURWELL

months and then move the liquor store into the new building. The new building will be greatly expanded and will offer not only liquor, but a greater selection of wine and whiskey. Plus, they will feature the largest humidor in the area with an extensive cigar selection.

The store will be called **Rocky Mountain Liquor**. **Matrix Construction** is fairly new to Helena and located at 7479 Commerce Court Suite C.

They are a locally owned concrete contractor and perform all types of concrete services for residential and commercial clients. They have a great deal of industry knowledge, utilize first rate materials, and use innovative equipment to produce top-quality work at competitive rates. From large scale flatwork to custom home foundations, driveways, sidewalks, etc., they can take care of all your needs. Check them out on their website at www.matrixconstructionmt.com or call Zach Holshue, the owner - you can reach him at 406-461-2822.

It was very sad to see the fire destroy the **Dam Bar** at Canyon Ferry Lake recently. In an effort to serve their customers and lake residents, owners Steve and Nancy Rushford have put in a food truck. I encourage you to stop out and support them - they could really use your support now. I am sure they will offer the same great food options from the food truck as much as they can.

Here's what **MIGHT** be coming:

There is definite movement for a new business to go into the **Macy's Building**. I don't have a name or business type but look for something to come soon! I'm hoping for a large retail store!

There is also something in the works for the **Shopko** building that can't be released until the deal is final but that is definitely good news to hear that the building will not continue to sit empty. I'll give you details when I'm able to. With the new **Chase Bank** framed in now, that area should start to look nice again! Kudos to **Applebee's** for hanging in there through a tough year and sometimes chaos around their parking lot. Stop by and support them!

Plans have been submitted to the city for the long-awaited remodel of the Montana Governor's Mansion. That is good news and greatly needed. The Legislature funded the remodel at the 2019 legislative session (the last year of Gov. Bullock's term) to be done this year. Gov. Gianforte has been residing there but will live in another home during the remodel. Many areas of the mansion are still reminiscent of the '60's when it was built and it is very much in need of updating.

Please see **CHAMBER**, Page D2



Abi Grotbo meets with her mentor.

AJAY PHOTOS

Summer jobs program puts youths to work

NOLAN LISTER
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There was a lot of pride emanating from Performance Square Thursday evening.

Local organization American Jobs for America's Youth honored the nearly 60 teens who completed 2021's Helena Area Summer Jobs Program, the organization's annual summer paid internship program that matches students with employers based on interests and needs.

American Jobs for America's Youth (AJAY) Executive Director Gabrielle Rowley credited the program's partners with its continued success and reach over the years, partners such as the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce and Helena College. Rowley also thanked participating employers who ranged from local governments and big box stores to Montana Free Press and Helena Regional Airport.

"We see these cool connections happening and want to help facilitate more of that," Rowley said. "A program like this is most effective when it comes from the community and is run by the community."

Zoe Brown, 18, just graduated from Capital High School and is bound for the University of Oregon's anthropology department in the fall.

Brown said her money man-



Jaydee Huschka is pictured working with the Life Enrichment/Wellness Department at Touchmark.

agement teacher her senior year told her about the AJAY program.

"I had never even applied for a job before," Brown said.

She was matched with Reach Higher Montana, a Helena-based nonprofit dedicated to helping students pursue educational opportunities and an AJAY collaborator, in the marketing and outreach department from June through August.

Brown said she did a little bit of everything under the department's umbrella, including running focus groups, helping to develop a new website for the organization, and calling foster students to inform them of available scholarships.

"It was rewarding," she said. "It was great to learn that I could make an impact in the lives of other students."

Since its inception in 2017, AJAY has helped secure real world job experience and training with the help of more than 40 area employers for more than 100 students through its Helena Area Summer Jobs Program.

"Every year, we've seen growth and increasing demand from our employers, our students and our

Please see **JOBS**, Page D2

FUTURES FILE

Natural gas price explodes

Natural gas prices have nearly doubled in the past 12 months, reaching \$5.06 per million British Thermal Units (BTUs) early Friday.

(A BTU is the amount of energy required to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit.) It has been over 12 years since prices were

this high, and they could fly sharply higher in the event of a colder than usual winter. Gas, which is the main source

of home heating in the U.S., is also used to generate electricity for manufacturing industrial products, chemicals, and fertilizers.

Supply shortages and demand increases are responsible for the increase.

The supply side was threatened by production shut-downs in the Gulf from hurricane Ida and earlier storms right as total gas in storage was significantly below average. The excessive heat in many areas increased gas use to make electricity for air conditioning. Meanwhile, Europe is facing an acute shortage. Germany is negotiating to buy their gas from the new Russian pipeline.

Russia is Europe's largest

gas supplier, making many countries vulnerable to political problems with Putin. Natural gas for delivery in October traded at \$4.97 per million BTUs on Friday.

Crop report briefly sends grains lower

The much-anticipated report was seen as "bearish" but only pushed prices lower for the few minutes following its release. According to the USDA, the size of this year's corn crop was estimated as 14.996 billion bushels, which was based on a yield of 176.3 bushels per acre. Soybean production came in at 4.374 billion, and that's based on a yield of 50.2 bushels per acre.

China's production of corn was less than expected. Beans tumbled sharply on the report but recovered by closing time to trade 22 cents higher. Toward closing time at the Chicago Board of Trade, December corn traded at \$5.17 per bushel while November beans traded at \$12.86, and December wheat brought \$6.91 per bushel.

Cup of Joe reduces cancer risk

Coffee not only helps kick-start your day, but research from the British Medical Journal also suggests drinking coffee reduces the risk of prostate cancer. Other studies have

Please see **FUTURES**, Page D2



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Makayela Ellison worked at Fuel Fitness in 2020.

AMERICAN JOBS FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH

Jobs

From D1
community," Rowley told the crowd of mostly participants and family members during the ceremony Thursday at Performance Square. "And this year, we were able to expand and include East Helena and Townsend as well."
The nearly 60 teens who participated were placed in paid positions at more than 30 businesses.
Kelly Cresswell is the executive direct of Reach

Higher Montana. Cresswell's organization has sat on the jobs program's steering committee and hired its interns for the past two years.
"It's been a delight," she said. "(The students) taught us as much as we taught them. So if you were ever considering having a student, I would highly recommend it. ... They are so, so capable."
In addition to the internships, the jobs program offers the students basic workplace skills training and mentoring.

Brown said her mentor, Reach Higher programs coordinator Lisa Leland, was instrumental in her success this summer.
"I felt like I always had someone over my shoulder in a good way; I knew she was there for me," Brown said. "And she always asked how my day was going."
The jobs program's adult mentors logged more than 200 hours over the summer, Rowley said.
"If we can support students and employers, it's a win-win for our community," Rowley said.

Chamber

From D1
I've heard that Montana-based restaurant called Rib and Chop House have been looking

strongly at coming into Helena. Rib and Chop House was originally founded in Livingston, in 2001 and are now located in many cities in Montana, Wyoming and Utah. Check them out online at www.ribandchophouse.com.

They feature premium steaks, seafood and award-winning baby back ribs in a family-friendly atmosphere.
Cathy Burwell is president, chief executive officer of the Helena-Area Chamber of Commerce.

US investigating airlines over slow refunds during pandemic

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Transportation Department is detailing efforts it is making to help airline customers who were wrongfully denied refunds after flights were canceled or changed during the pandemic.
The department says in a new report that it investigated 20 airlines over failures to issue prompt refunds to customers, and 18 of those probes are still going.
The department dis-

closed that an examination into United Airlines was dropped in January after the airline took steps resulting in "thousands" of customers getting refunds.
In June, the department announced that it was seeking a \$25.5 million fine against Air Canada, saying the airline improperly delayed refunds for more than 5,000 passengers by up to 13 months. The airline is fighting the penalty.
The Transportation

Department did not identify the other 18 airlines still under investigation in Thursday's report to the White House, but a footnote identified 10 U.S. carriers and 15 foreign ones — a who's who of the industry — that it contacted about the matter last year.
"Air Canada is far from being the only carrier that violated DOT refund rules," Bill McGee, an aviation expert at Consumer Reports, said Friday.

Futures

From D1
shown coffee consumption lowers liver, bowel and breast cancers too.

Arabica coffee futures for December delivery traded at \$1.88 per pound.
Opinions are solely the writer's. Walt Breiteringer is a commodity futures broker with Paragon In-

vestments in Silver Lake, KS. He can be reached at (800) 411-3888 or www.paragoninvestments.com. This is not a solicitation of any order to buy or sell any market.

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MASTERWORKS CONCERT I

OPENING NIGHT
BEETHOVEN'S NINTH
Saturday, 18 Sept • Helena Civic Center

THE HELENA SYMPHONY OPENS SEASON 67 WITH BEETHOVEN'S NINTH SYMPHONY

After nearly 18 months of performing from an empty concert hall, the Helena Symphony returns with the highly anticipated Season 67 Opening Night on Saturday 18 September at 7:30 p.m.!

The long-awaited re-opening of in-person performances begins with the most triumphant celebration of the human spirit — the immortal "Ode to Joy" of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Season 67 will be a powerful and thoughtful celebration of the Helena community and our front-line workers.

"We believe it is important to capture the emotions, the trials, the difficulties, and the triumphs that our community and the human spirit in general endured this past year," says Maestro Allan R. Scott. Season 67 will be a captivating series of Masterworks, Non-Series, and Educational Concerts. "There is no better way to kick off Season 67 than with one of the greatest works of mankind, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Our music-making exists to literally save lives and to promote the spiritual and emotional well-being of our people. The mission of the Helena Symphony is to engage, enrich, transform, and inspire lives through music. Through our online and in person concerts, people across Helena and the country can find a source of community, healing, and inspiration."

Beethoven once described himself as someone "who did everything badly except compose music," and yet he aroused intense personal devotion not only by his music but by his personality, rough and ill-mannered, violent, and wrong-headed though his actions often were. The nature of his personality and the fact he was virtually uneducated, gave his musical utterance a simplicity and a sincerity that are without parallel among the great composers. It is these qualities, combined with his strong sense of humanity and his

inexhaustible power of striving for the ideal, that have earned him his unique place in affections of music-lovers of all types.

The Ninth premiered on 7 May 1824 in Vienna during a lengthy performance that also included three movements of Beethoven's Missa Solemnis and the premiere performance of The Consecration of the House Overture. The Ninth is not a flawless work. Much of the music for the singers, woodwinds, and often the strings was too demanding for the musicians in Vienna at the time and transitions were awkward. Beethoven ignored the requests by the performers to alter the score. Despite the shortcomings in the orchestra and chorus at the premiere (when the sopranos could not reach the high notes as written they simply did not sing!), Beethoven had proven himself to be at the height of his creative powers. While the composer did not actually conduct the performance, he stood on stage attempting to lead the orchestra, soloists, and chorus.

The audience was overwhelmed! Beethoven, completely deaf and trapped by only the sounds in his mind, did not realize that the music ended, and the applause had begun. As a soloist turned the ailing composer to face the audience, the crowd erupted. The police had to be called to ensure that order was maintained. The critics for the most part agreed that Beethoven had launched a new era of symphonic writing; however, they were not entirely sold on the use of voices or percussion instruments in the final movement. Perhaps by adding words it would seem on the surface to remove the intangible elements of a symphony and therefore to destroy the autonomy of music as an independent language. After a more careful look, it is clear that Beethoven only enhances the Romantic motto of searching for the ideal, and maybe even too ideal for society at large today.

KEEPING YOU SAFE IN THE CONCERT HALL: Due to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases and new variants emerging in Lewis and Clark County and the United States, the Helena Symphony will take necessary precautions to keep our musicians, staff, and audience protected. The Helena Symphony will continue to follow CDC guidelines throughout Season 67 and monitor the daily transmission rates within our county. When the transmission rate is high or substantial, audience members will be required to wear a mask while in the concert hall. On concert nights when the transmission is moderate or low, individuals will be encouraged to wear a mask, but are not required to do so. Each member of the Helena Symphony Orchestra & Chorus will be tested prior to rehearsals and prior to each concert. This will ensure each musician present on stage is negative for COVID-19. The Helena Symphony will continue to work closely with the county health department and the city of Helena throughout the Season to ensure the safety of our musicians, staff, and audience. If you have questions about how the Helena Symphony will be adapting to the evolving COVID-19 situation this Season, please call our office at 406.442.1860.

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