



PERSPECTIVES



Winter
23-24

Together Equals Results That Matter.



PERSPECTIVES

A Mountain View Co-op Publication

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Fairfield Construction Update



The exterior is almost done! Our signs should be installed in the next two weeks. Luckily most of the outside work got done before the cold weather hit.



The silver exterior of our new store reflects Montana's big sky. We'll have another logo on this side of the store.



Work is progressing rapidly on the inside. The coolers are now in, and the beer bin is taking shape.



The future home of the Fairfield View Brew Deli. This will be the first location to feature our new menu and signage.



Our new store carries our design themes forward. It will be instantly recognizable as a Mountain View Co-op location.



This Fairfield convenience store will have roughly the same square footage as our stores in Black Eagle even though the lot is smaller.

Looking Back

It's been a year since the grand opening of our South Black Eagle Convenience store. We asked Dave Douglas, our retail division manager, to tell us how it's going.

"Our new casino, The Betting Bin, is doing well. I would say it's meeting expectations, and our expectations were pretty high, to be honest. It's a great location, and our patrons have been enjoying the clean design and quiet atmosphere. I'm really grateful for the excellent employees we have. You can build the nicest store and casino in the world, but if you don't have a great team of people running things, it won't succeed."

"As far as the convenience store, I'd say the thing that has surprised me the most is how long it takes people to change their routines. It makes sense, though. For 18 months this location was closed, and folks got in the habit of going to the north store. Now that the south store is open they're slowly moving over, but we still have days where people are waiting in line to get gas at the north store when there are free pumps at the south. We're getting there, though."

"It's hard to believe how much we've changed the look of this corner of Black Eagle in the past few years. If you remember, we had a three phase plan when we started. First, we built our North Black Eagle store, which was designed to be the area's best truck stop. Next we built and moved into our new corporate office, which brought Mountain View employee that used to work in four different buildings together. That emptied the offices in the former South C-store, which we tore down and rebuilt last year. Along the way we renovated our Black Eagle feed store. The area looks completely different now that it did just a few years ago. It's a massive improvement."



New Faces

Introducing Taylor Wagner, Mountain View Co-op's new energy division manager.

When a new employee starts with Mountain View, we usually spend quite a bit of time explaining how co-ops are different than private businesses. We go over how we're **owned by our patrons**, how we have a **board of directors** that is made up of local producers, and how **we pay patronage** to our customers after a successful year. With Taylor Wagner, though, that wasn't necessary.

Taylor has literally grown up in co-ops. His grandpa, his dad, and his stepmom are all long-time co-op leaders, and Taylor started his career sweeping the floors of the co-op his dad ran when he only 12. "I guess you could say I've been involved with almost every business facet at a co-op. I was a sweeper and laborer for a few years, then got promoted to cashier at one of the c-stores when I turned 15. When I was 18 I moved to the energy department as a bulk oil and farm and ranch supply driver, then at 19 I became a propane service tech. I installed new tanks and ran propane lines for a few years."

Taylor attended Lindenwood University in Missouri and earned a bachelor's degrees in marketing and a master's degree with an emphasis in business management in only four and a half years. When Taylor say's "marketing" he's talking about the skills needed to work in the gas and oil production trade. Those skills served him well when he got his first job after college at Eighty Eight Oil, LLC. "I started out doing pipeline logistics, and after a year I moved up to the trading desk. It was an exciting place to work, and I learned so much. One of the best parts was working with so many different people from so many different walks of life. I traveled all across America and met so many unique, interesting people. I think I learned something from almost all of them."

Now Taylor is putting all of his experience to use at Mountain View Co-op. When asked why he chose to accept this position, he had a clear answer. "Mountain View is a strong co-op with great values and a large reach across Montana. I feel like I can make a positive contribution here, and this position gives me the chance to do what I've always wanted: Work at a co-op in a leadership position and help us be successful."



“

Nothing in history has done more to increase people's quality of life than energy.

-Taylor Wagner

”

Mountain View Co-op: The Energy Division

Meet the folks who power our community. As an integral part of our cooperative's mission, the energy division is dedicated to providing reliable solutions to meet the diverse energy needs of our patrons.

Need propane, gas, diesel, oil, or other energy products or services? We're here to help.



Propane

These folks have been busy lately! Our propane keeps folks warm all across Central Montana. If you need propane for your home or business, call us at 406.453.5900.



Bulk Fuel

Our bulk fuel team keeps our patrons in motion. If you need to order gas or diesel, call Ralph Floyd at 406.401.6025.



Small Propane Tanks

We fill small propane tanks at many of our locations, including our Black Eagle, Brady, Conrad, Dutton, Lincoln, Power, and Ulm convenience stores.



Propane Installations and Service

Need a new propane tank, or want to switch from your current provider to Mountain View? We can do that. Email our team of experts at propane@mvc.ag to get started.



Oil, DEF, and other lubricants

We supply oil, DEF, and many other petroleum products at our farm stores, and we deliver as well. Give Jayce McCurry a call at 406.836.0100 for more information or to order.



Diesel Fuel vs. Cold Weather

by Jayce McCurry, Energy Specialist

If you've been around diesel equipment for any length of time in Montana you know the struggle. The weather turns bitterly cold, and suddenly your truck won't start. Sure, it will crank over, but it won't start. More than likely, your fuel is "gelled up". But what does that mean, exactly?

Unlike gasoline, number two diesel fuel has **paraffin wax** in it. This is usually a good thing. The wax provides a bit of lubrication to the engine, and helps the fuel flow better when it's warm. When the weather turns extremely cold, however, that wax starts to thicken up, and soon it's too thick to pass through the fuel filter. Next thing you know, your fuel filter is clogging up, and the fuel has a harder time passing through to the engine. Soon your diesel engine may start sputtering, have bad performance, or see a big change in your fuel rail pressure. So what can you do to make sure that this doesn't happen to you? Here are a few tips to make sure you keep running in the cold:

1. Watch the weather. It's **much easier to prepare** your fuel for cold weather before the weather turns cold than it is to get a gelled up engine running again in the cold. Your (non-frozen) fingers will thank you for it!
2. If your fuel tank is full of number two diesel, consider adding an **anti-gelling additive**. Some of these prevent gelling well below zero.
3. **Make the switch** from #2 diesel to #1 right before it gets cold. Number one diesel is best for cold weather for one simple reason: The paraffin wax is removed at the refinery, so it simply doesn't gel up. Remember, you can blend #1 and #2 diesel fuel as well. A 50 / 50 blend provides protection against gelling up to -16° Fahrenheit for extended periods, and straight #1 shouldn't gel up until you get lower than -60° Fahrenheit.

A diesel engine will "ungel" and the fuel will flow again when the temperature rises, but it's much better to be aware and prepared so you can avoid trouble and keep running through the cold winter months.





Creating the Ultimate Winter Emergency Vehicle Kit

Winter driving in Montana is unpredictable, so the old saying "Plan for the worst, hope for the best" is good advice before traveling this time of year. Here are a few things that might make the difference if the weather turns bad.

- 01**
CELL PHONE AND CHARGER

- 02**
ICE SCRAPER AND SNOW BRUSH

- 03**
FLASHLIGHT AND EXTRA BATTERIES

- 04**
WARM CLOTHES AND BLANKETS

- 05**
SNACKS AND WATER

- 06**
JUMPER CABLES & ROAD FLARES

- 07**
KITTY LITTER OR SAND


Tired of breaking your back?
You need a lift!



Mountain View Co-op is selling this classic Caterpillar V45C forklift!

Recently overhauled and converted to run on propane, this machine features new tires, a new carb, and can work all day long.

Contact our agronomy division manager, Nate Fairbanks, at 406.453.5900 for more info.

\$15,500

Livestock and Cold Weather

by Madison Schumacher, Black Eagle Feed Store Manager

Humans have it easy when it comes to cold weather. We can put on warmer clothes, drink warm drinks, or even stay inside the house until it warms up. Livestock, however, don't have any of those luxuries. Ranchers have to work extra hard to make sure their animals can survive, and even thrive, in those freezing temperatures. Here are just a few things farmers and ranchers do to ensure their livestock's health.

A full cow is a warm cow. Ranchers give their cows more feed heading into colder weather. This lets the cows add more body fat, which acts as insulation. If you see cattle with snow on their backs, it shows that they have enough fat to retain their body heat. Also, increasing amounts of roughages (i.e. hay/straw) increases the rate of fermentation in the rumen, leading to an increase in internal body temperature.

Make sure they have water available. Cattle drink a lot of water in the winter. It helps to wash down all that extra food! Ranchers brave the elements to make sure their cattle's water sources aren't frozen shut, and some even add insulation and tank heaters to prevent freezing.

Give them a (wind) break. Ranchers often provide wind breaks such as trees, wood fences, or hay bales for cattle to hide behind when the wind chill starts to drop. Reduced wind lets the animals keep more of their body heat, keeps them from shivering, and helps them maintain their fat content. This is especially important if raising meat animals because the first fat that the animal uses for energy is the marbling!

Keep them clean. Winter tends to be a messy season. Snow melts and turns into mud, and that reduces how well a cow's fur insulates them. Ranchers will often move their herds to dryer pastures to avoid muddy areas and areas where snow may accumulate. Moving cattle to dryer pastures can reduce incidences of foot rot, and help keep their condition. Also, when spring rolls around the cattle are ready to get out into the pasture to explore and breed!

Raising animals isn't easy, but Montana's farmers and ranchers always rise to the challenge. By taking extra care of their livestock in bitterly cold weather, ranchers can mitigate the risks and ensure the health, welfare, and productivity of their animals.



What Do Those Signs Mean?

Decoding the secrets of hazardous material placards

Have you ever passed a truck and noticed brightly-colored, diamond-shaped signs? These signs are displayed on vehicles and containers that transport dangerous substances. They communicate vital information about the potential hazards posed by the materials, including flammability, toxicity, and reactivity. This helps emergency responders and the public quickly identify the nature of the hazards present, allowing for appropriate precautions and responses to ensure safety during transportation and handling. Here are a few of the most common signs for our area:



This is the code for diesel fuel. The number 3 at the bottom means that this material is a flammable and combustible liquid.



This is the code for gasoline. See how the signs are different colors? Red signs indicate that the material is flammable.



Crude oil.



This is the code for propane. Notice the "2" at the bottom- Class two means that this is a gas, not a liquid or a solid. Still a red sign, though. Flammable!



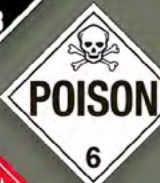
Sometimes the signs just come right out and make it easy. This material is the same as code 1202, diesel fuel.



Hey, a green sign! Green means the substance is nonflammable, for example carbon dioxide, helium, or nitrogen.



Class 8 corrosive materials are nothing to play with. Some examples are hydrochloric acid, sodium hydroxide, and mercury.



Class 6 means poisonous. These containers have either toxic or infectious substances. The skull and crossbones on the sign means "leave me alone"!



Here's one you might see by airports. Code 1863 means aviation fuel.



An orange sign with Class 1 means this truck is carrying explosives. It's a good idea to give these trucks a little extra room!

Mountain View Co-op.

We Take Seed Seriously.

Every great crop starts with great seed.

Last year Mountain View opened a **brand new, state-of-the-art seed facility in Collins**- right in the heart of Montana's Golden Triangle. We equipped it with the latest grain cleaning equipment, including a new debearder, new screens, new indents, and a color sorter. We finished it off by adding the most advanced seed treatment system in Montana. This computerized system applies the perfect amount of treatment and coats each kernel uniformly for maximum protection.

Having the right equipment is half the battle, but it takes dedicated people to provide the service our customers expect and deserve. Leading the charge is **our seed program manager, Graham Grubb**. Graham is no stranger to Central Montana agriculture. He grew up in the Conrad area on his family's farm, and is a Montana kid through and through. He's been our grain buyer at the Collins elevator for years now, and he's excited to take on this new responsibility. Graham says, "We have big plans for our seed program. We're going to improve on how we manage our inventory, our logistics, and our communication with producers. Mountain View has the resources and manpower to be able to do something special when it comes to seed, and I can't wait to get started."

Now we have the right equipment and the right people, but there's one more piece to the seed puzzle: the best partners. We're happy to announce that we will be **partnering with WestBred to have 6 new varieties coming to the Golden Triangle for 2025**. We're spending this crop year growing our certified seed stock, and we'll be launching three new spring wheat lines and three new winter wheat lines in 2025 to bring the best options to our customers. We will still continue to **offer certified Croplan and WestBred seed** now and into the future. We have several varieties that we have proven to have great yield and quality potential. Give us a call for details!

Another benefit of getting your seed from Mountain View is that we're a farmer-owned cooperative, and customers will **receive patronage on seed purchases**, similar to other products they purchase from us.

We're striving to take seed to the next level in Central Montana. If you have questions about our seed program please get in touch with Graham at 406.799.6911 or ggrubb@mvc.ag.



Austin Wakkinen, seed plant operator



Focused on Success.

At Mountain View Co-op, we're committed to providing you with the best seed, treatment, and service.

Spring planting season is fast approaching, and we're offering several varieties of hard red spring wheat from WestBred and Croplan that have been tested and proven to get great results right here in Central Montana.

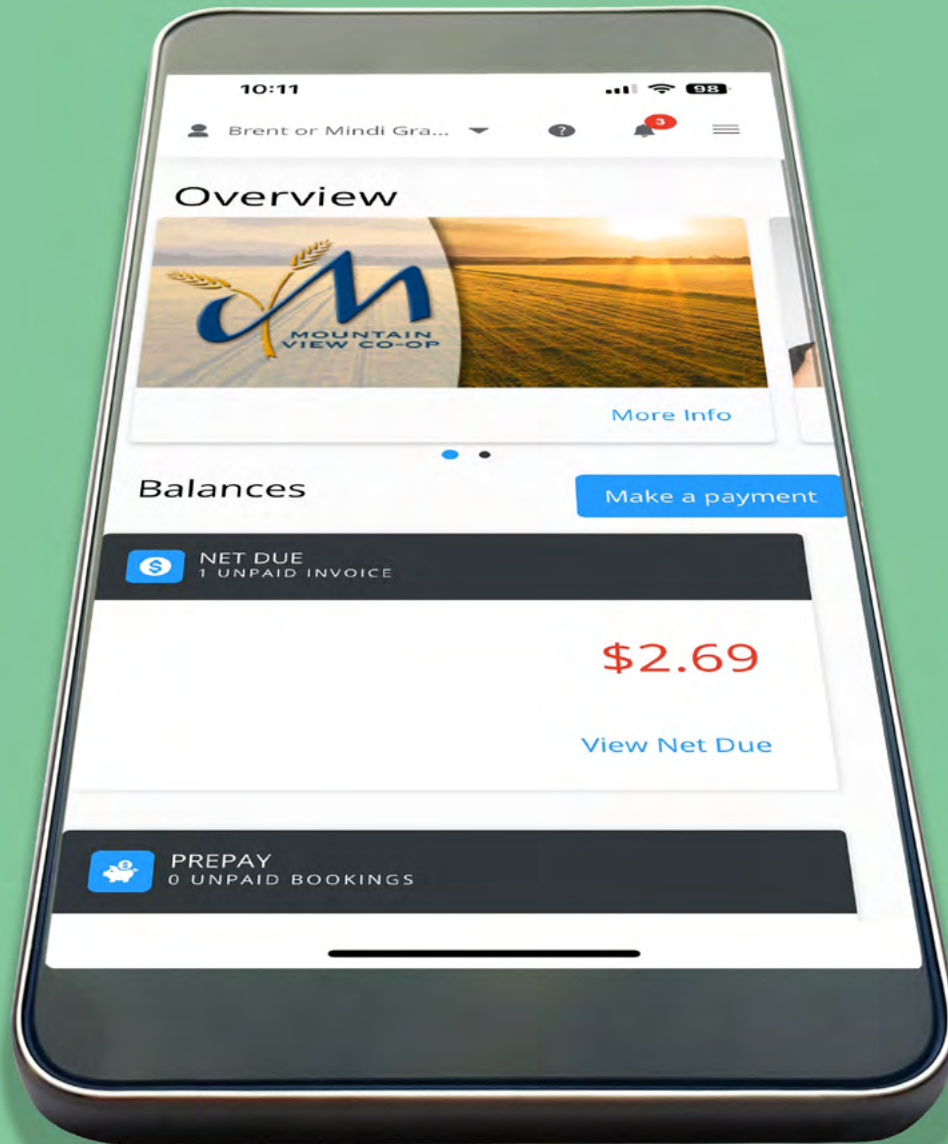
Top off your seed with the advanced protection of our very own Stryker seed treatment. With three levels of protection, Stryker is a powerful fungicide package that protects your crop against Pythium, Fusarium, Root Rot, Rhizoctonia, and much more. Worried about wireworms? Stryker can take care of them.

Questions about seed varieties or treatment? Talk with your local Mountain View agronomist. They have decades of local expertise and the tools to help you maximize your yields.

Mountain View Co-op. Growing in Montana since 1916.



Anywhere, any time.



Discover the **unparalleled convenience** and **efficiency** of the Mountain View Co-op app.

With a user-friendly interface and intuitive navigation, our app provides seamless access to your account anytime, anywhere. Stay connected and in control of your information effortlessly. See your sales history, view your statements, and even pay your bill instantly, right from your phone, tablet, or computer.

Say hello to a streamlined, modern solution that makes working with Mountain View an even better experience. Embrace the future of account management – start using our app today!

Visit mvc.ag/newapp to get started.



Crock Pot Osso Bucco

This is an easy meal that can either be put together and left all day or prepared on the stove as a special dinner. Use the meat of your choice. Traditionally, a lamb or beef is used, but any species will do!

- 4 portions shank, (lamb, veal, beef, elk, whatever is your preference) cut into 1 to 1 ½ inch thick slices
- 1 Tbsp salt (taste and add as you go)
- ½ Tbsp pepper
- 4-6 cloves crushed garlic
- 1 medium onion
- ½ cup carrot
- ½ cup celery
- 1 anchovy paste
- Olive oil
- Butter
- ½ cup flour
- 3 cups of wine, your choice, burgundy or dry white
- 1-2 Tbsp tomato paste
- 16 oz roasted stewed tomato, drained
- 1 can cannellini beans
- 1-2 Tbsp Italian seasoning
- Several sprigs of rosemary or 1 tsp dry whole leaves

Have the meat shank cut into 1 to 1 ½ inch slices; a slice per serving if beef, or more as needed.

Place olive oil in a cast iron pan and get the pan hot; salt and pepper meat, dredge in flour and brown on all sides. While browning, dice the onion, carrot, and celery, and crush the garlic.

Remove the meat and set aside; add the vegetables and garlic into the same pan and add a pat of butter to cook them down. Remove and place in the crockpot. Turn onto high, add one cup of wine to pan and deglaze, adding the liquid to the crock pot.

Place meat in the crock pot on the vegetable mix; add tomato paste, anchovies (crush if whole or fillet), stewed tomato, rosemary, Italian seasoning, and remaining two cups of wine. Ensure the meat is covered with liquid by adding water as necessary, then cover.

If you're home, check on the dinner and stir occasionally; stir and taste for salt and pepper; add beans when meat is tender, around an hour before serving. Serve over rice, pasta, or risotto.

“My wife and I both have long commutes to and from work, so we use our crockpot quite a bit. It’s a good way to use lesser cuts and elevate them, and it’s really handy to come home and dinner is ready without having to cook.”

From the kitchen of Greg Herman, manager of our White Sulphur Springs location.



Bills Piling Up?

Almost all of us have been there from time to time, especially around the holidays. It's not fun, but it's not the end of the world.

Here are a few steps to take if you find yourself falling behind on bill payments.

1. Communicate with your creditors

If it looks like you won't be able to make a payment, contact your creditors as soon as possible and explain your situation. They may be able to provide advice or have temporary solutions. The worst thing you can do is just ignore the problem.

2. Create a realistic payment plan

Create a realistic repayment plan based on your budget. Prioritize high-interest debts and work towards paying them off first.

3. Explore financial assistance programs

Research local or government assistance program that may provide financial relief. There are organizations that offer assistance with utility bills, housing, and more. One of the more popular programs is the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). LIEAP assists eligible Montana residents and families with their heating and cooling costs.

4. Seek professional advice

Personal (and business!) finance can be complicated. You may want to seek advice from financial counselors or advisors to keep you pointed in the right direction.

5. Save for emergencies

It may not seem like it, but you will get through the hard times. Once you're back on track, create an emergency fund to help you weather future financial trouble.

Addressing financial challenges takes time, effort, and commitment. It's important to take action early to prevent the situation from worsening. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to us at 406.453.5900.



Montana's Golden Triangle is the perfect place to grow crops, and the perfect habitat for ring-necked pheasants. These beautiful birds love the open grassland and cropland areas, especially if there's water nearby.

It's easy to tell a male and female pheasant apart. The males are usually about 50% larger, and have much more vibrant coloring on their bodies and head, featuring a classy and distinctive white ring around their necks.