

# BIG SKY NEWS

Sandy Wong, Governor | District 5390 | Montana, USA



## Rotary Club of Anaconda launches Safe Escape

On average, nearly 20 people per minute in America are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men per year. One in fifteen children is exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence.\*

The Rotary Club of Anaconda is starting a new program called Safe Escape where club members

help people who are ready to start a new life due to abuse, but they have no support. The club seeks help from anyone who has experience that would be useful to this endeavor. Please email Nikki Powers at etefleurnbp@aol.com if you can help. Write "Safe Escape" in the subject line of the e-mail. The members thank everyone in advance for any support. The fliers accompanying this story represent the club's first fundraising appeal

and explain its mission and how to help. They hope to start helping their first family in September.

The club will host its second fundraiser — a Lobster Fest — on Saturday, October 19 at Anaconda's American Legion.

—See SAFE ESCAPE page 2

**The Rotary Club of Anaconda**  
Announces an ambitious new Community Program

**A FAMILY...**

...gathered around the dinner table. Your sister ladles out potatoes, the spoon too large for her hand. The potatoes slop over the plate onto the table. She laughs. You smile at your mother, then feel a familiar tightening of your chest. Without a word a large hand flashes out and sends your sister reeling. She wails in terror. Your father rises over her and bellows for her to shut up. Your mother rushes over to help and is slammed against the wall. He stalks in with a raised fist. Without thinking and you grab his arm, feel your own arm being twisted, then a dull snap and darkness. Every day this scene plays out in homes across America and too often here in Anaconda. Families living in terror, abuse so severe that the children suffer from PTSD every bit as bad as a soldier returning from war. Usually they stay, in fear for their lives, or self esteem beaten so low they somehow believe they deserve their fate. But once in a while they try to escape. Which is why we need your help.

—SAFE ESCAPE from page 1

The Maine attractions are the live Maine lobsters; thick and fresh from Boston — New England Clam Chowder; and a salty northeast Captain Fred Dailey, chef and New Englander of character, to educate and entertain everyone with the fine art of how to eat lobster.

Tickets are limited. Tables for six sell for \$750. To reserve tables or tickets, contact Korky Deaton at

Korkydeaton@gmail.com, or Sharon at smihelic@swmcfcu.org. Tables are selling fast.

For more details about Safe Escape or the Lobster Fest, email Nikki Powers at etefleursnbp@aol.com.

\* NCADV.org

—by Nikki Powers, Rotary Club of Anaconda



**The Rotary Club  
of Anaconda announces**

# SAFE ESCAPE

*Every day Anaconda families face unspeakable misery and even death as the result of domestic violence. SAFE ESCAPE will help those most at risk to escape.*

*SAFE ESCAPE will fill in the gaps of the diminishing social programs that help these families leave violent homes, often with no money and just the clothes on their back. SAFE ESCAPE will provide clothing, furniture, school supplies, paper products, help with utilities, travel, dental care, childcare, or transportation to a safe environment and more.*

***Just imagine being a young child who lives every day in mortal fear. We can help them...but not without your support.***

*Please donate to SAFE ESCAPE or the Rotary Club of Anaconda. Any donation, no matter how small is appreciated. You may save the life of a parent or child! Please help these families by donating to this important cause!*

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

## TO DONATE:

Pay online by credit card:  
[anacondamtrotary.com/donations/safe-escape/](http://anacondamtrotary.com/donations/safe-escape/)

Pay by check:  
Anaconda Rotary Foundation Inc.  
PO Box 1152  
Anaconda, MT 59711

Postal Customer

Thanks to the following companies and organizations for their generous grants:  
Anaconda Community Foundation, Rotary District 5390, Clearwater Montana Properties and Ed & Grace Silverstein

Proud Sponsor:



Proud Sponsor:



Proud Sponsor:



Proud Sponsor:



Proud Sponsor:



Proud Sponsor:





## RYLA scholarship winners share their experiences learning Service Above Self

Sarah Mueller and Chase Cox, both sophomores at Sentinel High School in Missoula, were so inspired by their Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) experience this summer that they each pursued projects to demonstrate “the real meaning” of Service Above Self.



RYLA scholarship winners Chase Cox and Sarah Mueller at Missoula Rotary Club meeting.

Mueller noticed when she returned from RYLA that the large U.S. map she had once painted on the asphalt playground area at her old school was cracked and faded, so she decided to repaint it.

“This summer, I spent 20+ hours repainting [the map] and asked for support to repair the cracked asphalt and truck marks,” she said. “Teachers were very appreciative. I felt really good by making the community better and knowing the kids will learn a lot.”

Cox said that RYLA really changed his life and “you could tell that many kids were changed from

their week at RYLA.” He was so inspired that he applied to be a junior counselor at next year’s RYLA. Service Above Self has new meaning for him, as well.

Mueller and Cox presented their RYLA experiences to members of the Rotary Club of Missoula at the club’s August 21 meeting. Mueller’s mother Susie Mueller and Cox’s brother Colin Cox were there to cheer them on. Both RYLA scholarship winners thanked the Rotarians for the opportunity to participate in the RYLA experience.



Sarah Mueller begins renovation of the map she created at her old school. The map was cracked and faded before she spent more than 20 hours repainting it this summer.

—See RYLA page 4

--RYLA from page 3

"I knew nothing about Rotary except that I came here [to a Rotary meeting] once to be a Student of the Year," said Mueller. "At RYLA, we did activities like painting; counselors then painted over our work and then we had to fix it right away. I had no idea what I was in for. By the end of the week, we were a really big family of 108. I learned through RYLA that everything is what you make of it. If you look deeper into the meaning of what you're doing, you see the real meaning — Service Above Self."

Cox explained that campers participated in lots of activities and organized into groups. His group was named after female fighter pilot.

"We are a tight knit community and everyone is involved," said Cox, referring to RYLA. "I learned



Sarah Mueller paints states in the northeast U.S.

how to be a leader. Thank you again for this opportunity. I truly am a different person because of it."

—Victoria Emmons, PE,  
Rotary Club of Missoula



Sarah Mueller and friends admire the finished product – a newly-painted map of the United States just in time to begin the new school year. Teachers at the school use the map to teach children about the geography of the country.



From District Governor Sandy Wong

## Literacy Crisis evident in U.S.

*You can read this article because someone taught you how to read.*



The photos are endless. Adorable kindergarteners lining up, their backpacks seemingly too big for them, as the children prepare to march to their new classrooms. Kids from preschool to college age have appeared on my facebook pages of late, their photos posted by their proud parents or grandparents.

How many of those kids will have achieved basic education proficiency and literacy before they become adults?

The statistics worldwide are abysmal. And in the United States ... well, we have a problem here, too. America is experiencing a literacy crisis.

- In the United States, the illiteracy rate has not changed in the past decade (as of 2017).
- Thirty-two million adults (14 percent) in the U.S. cannot read.

- Twenty-one percent of adults in the U.S. read below the 5th grade level.
- Nineteen percent of high school graduates in this country cannot read.
- Of the juveniles who interact with the juvenile court system in the U.S., 85 percent are considered functionally illiterate.
- Seventy percent of inmates in America's prisons cannot read above the 4th grade level.

Globally, the numbers are equally abysmal. Worldwide, 774 million individuals cannot read, 66 percent of which are female. Recent statistics show that two-thirds of students who are unable to read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare.

For Rotarians, September is highlighted as Basic Education and Literacy Month. Rotary Clubs throughout the world include literacy projects in their mix of community and/or international service. It's none too late.

What is your Rotary Club doing to help spread literacy to your community and the world?

Send in your story about how your club is supporting basic education and literacy and we'll include it in a future issue of *Big Sky News* at [District5390.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:District5390.newsletter@gmail.com).

—Sandy Wong, Governor, District 5390



Students from the Interact Club of Butte present the \$1,000 check donated to ShelterBox. Pictured (l. to r.) are Emma Field, Teagan Peters, Rianna O'Connell, Katelyn Rapp and Anna Trudnowski.

## Interact Club of Butte supports Shelter Box, builds floats, plants trees, visits with seniors

The Interact Club of Butte has had a great year! We gained new members, organized community service activities, and raised funds for a Shelter Box.

With our senior members graduating, we elected new officers: Katelyn Rapp, president; Teagan Peters, treasurer; and Emma Field, secretary.

As for volunteering, our club played bingo and chatted with the folks residing at Copper Ridge Health and Rehab; helped Rotarians plant trees near the Lexington Mine; and participated in the

most recent food drive at the Butte Emergency Food Bank.

The club's most significant achievement this year was raising enough money to buy a ShelterBox. These boxes provide immediate relief and aid for people throughout the world who have lost their homes and livelihood due to a natural or man-made disaster. Interact has now purchased two ShelterBoxes for families in need, the first one going to Syria and the second yet to be distributed.

—See SHELTER BOX page 7

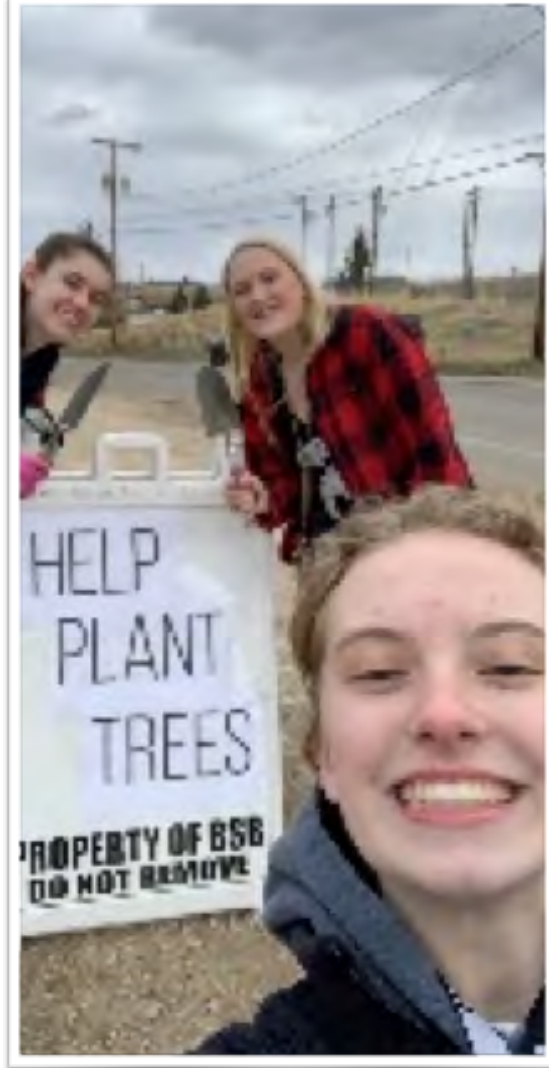


Visiting folks at Copper Ridge Health and Rehabilitation Center were (l. to r.) Katelyn Rapp, Cassidy Duddy and Maddie French.

—SHELTER BOX from page 6

Through fundraising, we were able to collect the \$1,000 needed to purchase the ShelterBox. To raise money, our club decided to hold a gift card raffle with more than ten local businesses donating generously for our cause.

Our club members sold tickets to friends and neighbors, as well as at the Winter Bazaar held at the Civic Center. We were able to secure a free table next to the entrance of the building, and despite the freezing temperatures, our hearts were warmed by the kindness of the attendees. Along with the raffle, we held a bake sale with Interactors bringing goodies of their own. Many Rotarians were truly amazing by taking the time to bake goods and bring them to our table early in the morning. In addition, we had a fun time giving stamps and stickers to the kids that accompanied their parents to the Bazaar. Overall, it was a success and a great bonding experience for the Club.



Planting trees with Rotarians and other community members at the Lexington Mine front to back: Katelyn Rapp, Rianna O'Connell and Emma Field

The Interact Club has since purchased the ShelterBox and members are thrilled to know that we are going to help a family in need. We were also fortunate to work with Rotary members to decorate the 4th of July float in Butte.

—See SHELTER BOX page 8



## District 5390 Calendar

September 5-8: Rotary Zone  
Institute 2019, Denver, CO

February 28-March 1 - PETS,  
Denver, CO

April 17-18, District  
Conference, Fairmont Hot  
Springs, MT

June 5-8, 2020: Rotary Intl.  
Conference, Honolulu, HI

## Special Month

September is Basic Education &  
Literacy Month. Read to a child  
this month.

## Big Sky News

*Big Sky News* is published monthly  
by Rotary District 5390, Montana,  
USA.

District Governor  
Sandy Wong  
Rotary Club of Billings

District Secretary  
Shawna Secker  
Montana's E-Club E-4

*Big Sky News* Editor  
Victoria Emmons  
Rotary Club of Missoula

Address correspondence to:  
Editor, *Big Sky News*

Rotary District 5390  
PO Box 1091  
Billings, MT 59103  
Email: District5390.newsletter  
@gmail.com



Teagan Peters  
plants trees.

—SHELTER BOX from page 7

As for the future, recruiting new people and  
helping our community will be our main focus.

General ideas for volunteering include a trash  
clean-up day, Bingo dates, working at the Food  
Bank, and making care packages for the homeless  
shelter. A BIG thank you to Rotarians Mary Lou

and Bill Spath as they  
have been so  
involved with  
Interact. The  
appreciation  
extends to our high-  
school Interactors  
and all Rotary  
members. Here's to  
a great year and  
hopefully many  
more to come.

—Katelyn Rapp,  
president, Interact  
Club of Butte

## EXTRA EXTRA!

### Read all about it!

ROTARY CLUB NEWS EDITORS:

The next DEADLINE for stories in BIG SKY  
NEWS is September 20, 2019, for the  
September issue. Please send photos  
in .jpg format and stories in Word or Text  
to: Victoria Emmons, Editor, at  
[district5390.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:district5390.newsletter@gmail.com). Please  
rename each photo submitted to indicate  
club name and subject, for example:  
GreatFallsFundraiser. Thank you!