

Legislative Session Highlights, Beaverhead County Treasure Hunt, Scholarship Scramble & Facility Project Updates

Operations Update <operationsupdate@umwestern.edu>

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[68th Montana Legislative Session Highlights](#)

On May 2, 2023, the 68th Montana Legislature, each chamber in its own way, adjourned *sine die*.

Budget Highlights

HB 2 fully funded the MUS's budget for the upcoming biennium, including one-time-only appropriations for the Seamless System Initiative, the MUS Sprint Degree program, and the One-Two-Free program.

Through **HB 5**, the Legislature authorized just over \$35 million for 28 major repair projects across MUS campuses and agencies; \$7.7 million in supplemental funding for major repair projects authorized last session; \$139 million for 9 capital development projects; and over \$200 million in spending authority only (not state funding) for 9 projects.

An additional \$3.6M was authorized for the **UMW Block Hall Renovation Project**, bringing total funding for this project to \$15.6M.

The funding for a **stand-alone campus storage building on the UMW Campus** has been approved by the legislature at \$1.25M. Current campus stores are housed in the basement of Block Hall which will be repurposed for use by academic programs during the renovation, requiring campus stores to be relocated.

HB 10 was enacted including an appropriation of \$6.1 million for the MUS/UM CyberMontana Cybersecurity Initiative.

Policy Highlights

HB 517: [Constitutional Amendment Regarding Board of Regents](#)

During the Senate's third reading the vote failed to achieve the required number of total votes from both houses for the measure to be placed on the ballot. The Senate then voted to reconsider its action and re-refer the bill to the Senate Judiciary Committee where it was amended and sent back to the floor. The Senate voted 27-23 to send its amended version back to the House, but the bill was not transmitted and failed in process (status: dead).

Bill Highlights

HB 13: [State Employee Pay Plan](#)

Governor Gianforte signed the state pay plan on April 12. One-time-only bonuses were issued in employee paychecks on May 17. On July 1, 2023, the base salary of each employee will increase by \$1.50 per hour or 4%, whichever is greater. This base salary increase will be repeated on July 1, 2024. Implementation of the bill's appropriation for FY 24-25 pay increases will be determined through collective bargaining and Board of Regents decisions.

To learn more, visit the [OCHE Government Relations and Communications website](#) & [Legislative Week in Review page](#).



Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce and UMW Hold Third Annual Treasure Hunt

The Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture and the University of Montana Western Glass Arts Program have partnered for the third year in a row for the [Annual Beaverhead Treasure Hunt](#). One-of-a-kind, beautiful glass art objects, custom-made by UMW Glass students, will be hidden at local businesses from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Over 100 glass “Twisty Doo-Dad” objects made by the students in the University of Montana Western Glass Arts Program, under the instruction of Professor Ruth King and Guest Instructor/Artist Elizabeth Walters, will be hidden in the shops of Bannack, Dillon, Lima, Dell, Grant, Jackson, Wisdom, Wise River, Dewey, and Glen.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Jones, Executive Director, Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture: 406-683-5511 or info@beaverheadchamber.org.

Save the Dates

Visit our [online events calendar](#) for more information and to [submit your scheduled events](#).

May 24-26

- [NAIA Outdoor Track and Field National Championships](#), Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, IN

June 11-17

- [College National Finals Rodeo](#), [Ford Wyoming Center](#), Casper, WY

June 17

- [30th Annual Scholarship Scramble](#), check-in at 7:00 a.m., Beaverhead Golf Course

August 12

- Montana Shakespeare in the Parks Presents "Three Musketeers," 6:00 p.m., Legacy Plaza & Pioneer Federal Amphitheater, UMW Campus



30th Annual Scholarship Golf Scramble: June 17

The University of Montana Western Athletics Department is pleased to announce the [30th Annual Scholarship Scramble](#) will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2023, at the Beaverhead Golf Course. Presented by Pioneer Federal Savings & Loan, the event raises funds to provide opportunities for Montana Western student-athletes while ensuring their success in competition and the classroom.

Details

- 18-Hole Division (Men/Women)
- \$150 – Individual
- \$600 – Team of Four

Schedule of Events

- 7:00 a.m. – Check-in/Driving Range
- 9:00 a.m. – Calcutta
- 10:00 a.m. – Shotgun start
- Dinner and awards to follow

For more information or to register, call 406-683-7391 or email michael.feuling@umwestern.edu.



Gerringa Family Scholarship Supports Future Educators at Montana Western

The University of Montana Western Foundation is honored to share the history and impact of the [Gerringa Family Scholarship](#) and its support of education majors

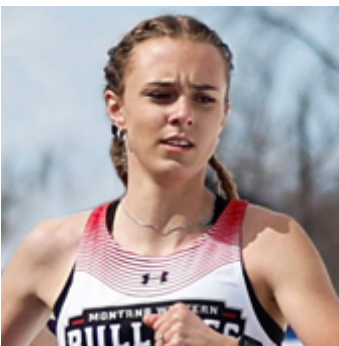
attending Montana Western.

Established in 2021 by Randy, Stephanie, and Michelle Gerringa, the scholarship honors their mother, Clara, and their late father, Bob. The award is gifted annually to a Montana Western student majoring in education. For the upcoming 2023-24 academic year, the scholarship will be awarded to Early Childhood Education major, Jessika Jones. Jones has a passion for teaching and is excited for the opportunities UMW's Education Program and this scholarship will provide.

“When I first went to college, I knew I wanted to pursue a profession that helps children. After one year of studying nursing, I felt as if something was missing. I soon realized that in addition to caring for children, I wanted to teach them– so I changed my major to Early Childhood Education. Upon attending classes and gaining experience teaching children, my heart became full. I knew that the piece that was missing before was the component of teaching. Upon completing my associate's degree in Early Childhood Education, I wanted to further my studies which led me to pursue a bachelor's degree in Pre-Kindergarten through Third Grade Education at the University of Montana Western. I am thankful and excited to become a full-time educator,” said Jones.

To learn more about the scholarship, please contact UMW Foundation Executive Director, Roxanne Engellant: 406-683-7305 or roxanne.engellant@umwestern.edu.

UMW Student-Athlete Taya Brewer to Compete at NAIA Outdoor Track & Field National Championships



UMW student-athlete, Taya Brewer, qualified to compete in the Women's 10,000m at the NAIA Outdoor Track & Field Championships after she ran a personal record of 37:55.71 at the Tom Gage Invitational on May 6.

The meet will be held at Indiana Wesleyan University at Bobcat Stadium in Marion, Indiana. The 10,000m race will be held on Wednesday, May 24, at 7:20pm MT.

[Click here](#) for more information and for livestream options.



Facility Services Project Updates

Block Hall Renovation Project Status

- The schematic design is now complete.
- The project's scope will be the renovation of approximately 80% of the basement and the three floors above ground.
- 100% of mechanical and electrical infrastructure will be replaced and about 75% of the plumbing infrastructure will be replaced.
- The building, when complete, will be 100% ADA compliant.
- The project's schedule is to complete the detail design by the end of summer. The completion of construction bid documents and putting this project out for bid is expected to occur by the end of October 2023.

Wellness Center Project Status Update

- The detail design work by the Wellness Center Project architects and consulting engineers continues and is about 70% complete.
- The final cost estimate is completed and submitted to the Board of Regents (BOR) this month for review with a construction authorization request from UMW. The cost estimate is within our budget of \$3.5M. The BOR will also be considering a request by UMW to increase specific student fees to fund the new build.
- Once the BOR provides authorization, detail design will be finalized, and construction documents created. It is anticipated this project will be ready to put out for bid by October 2023.

Bulldog Sports & Activities Complex

- The civil site plan for the Complex project is 100% complete. This site plan has been reviewed by the City of Dillon, MDT, and DEQ, to ensure all regulatory and program requirements are met.
- All jurisdictions have approved the plans and we are moving forward with our consulting engineers and architects with design and cost estimation work.

- The project team interviewed three potential general contractors for this project. Jeffrey Contracting/R.E. Miller has been selected as the General Contractor.
- Subcontractors and service providers will be interviewed and selected based on their capabilities and availability.
- The overall project schedule is to have a game ready field for Fall 2024.

Campus Storage Facility

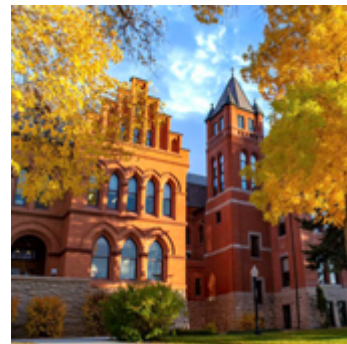
- The funding for a stand-alone campus storage building has been approved by the legislature at \$1.25M.
- Receiving project approval took considerable effort and support from many individuals. We'd like to thank our elected officials, Senator Jeff Welborn and Representative Tom Welch, for their support of this project.
- Several potential options for locating this building on campus will now be evaluated with State A&E to kick off this project in the next few weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact UMW Director of [Facility Services](#), Michael Brown: michael.brown@umwestern.edu or 406-683-7142.

Submit Content to Upcoming Operations Updates

Please share your current projects, initiatives, examples of Experience One, and other updates with us so we can share them with the University Community and [let us know](#) what information you would like to see included in future updates. We'd like to hear from you!

[Submit Content](#)





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