



# 20 UNDER 40

Recognizing 20 outstanding community members up to age 40

JULY 2020



# CONGRATULATIONS! KATY PETERSON

VP of Communications & Member Engagement

Your communications leadership is supporting  
the health of Montana communities.

**RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF  
20 OUTSTANDING  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
IN HELENA UNDER AGE 40.**



# INSIDE

Amanda McGowan.....4  
 Kamille Kirchberg.....5  
 Brian Lee.....6  
 Katy Peterson.....7  
 Jolene Lloyd.....8  
 Amy Emmert.....9  
 Claire Pichette.....10  
 Erik Rose.....11  
 Joe Mitchell.....12  
 Tara Wells.....13  
 Brenden Craig.....14  
 Jared Engels.....15  
 Rachel Supalla.....16  
 Kelsee Dalton Watts.....17  
 Keif Storrar.....18  
 Cody Salo.....19  
 Luke LaLiberty.....20  
 Becca Dudek.....21  
 Corinne Moore.....22  
 Ryan Evans.....23

A publication of the Independent Record



2222 Washington St., Helena, MT 59602

406-447-4074 – helenair.com

© 2020

# CONGRATULATIONS to this year's 20 Under 40 winners

Helena is home to countless young professionals who are making our community a better place, and the Independent Record is pleased to recognize 20 of them in this year's "20 Under 40" publication.

From the nearly 100 nominations submitted by people in our community this year, the individuals honored in this annual publication were selected for their outstanding professional achievements as well as their service to the community by the age of 40.



During a normal year, we would also invite the public to celebrate their accomplishments at a luncheon co-sponsored by the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce. Although it's hard to say whether this will be possible in the coming weeks or months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will continue to monitor the situation and evaluate our options.

Whether we get the opportunity to honor these young leaders in person or not, we invite our readers to join us in thanking them for everything they are doing to make our area such a great place to live and work.

Helena has a bright future ahead because of young people like these, and we hope you enjoy reading their stories as much as we enjoyed writing them.

*Anita Fasbender*

**Anita Fasbender**  
 President  
 Independent Record

# AMANDA MCGOWAN

Animal Center Veterinary  
Hospital of Helena



THOM BRIDGE, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Amanda McGowan

*Congrats!* **MANDY MCGOWAN**  
Thank you for sharing your incredible energy,  
professional expertise and your gracious heart.

**animal center**  
Veterinary Hospital

1301 Cedar St. • 442-3160 • [animalcenterhelena.com](http://animalcenterhelena.com)

**CHRISTINE SULLIVAN**  
[christine.sullivan@helenair.com](mailto:christine.sullivan@helenair.com)

**D**r. Amanda “Mandy” McGowan, 39, works diligently as an award-winning associate veterinarian at the Animal Center Veterinary Hospital of Helena.

Independent Record readers voted her as the runner-up for best veterinarian in the “Best of Helena” contest last year, and she tied for first place this year.

When McGowan is not doing blood work, taking X-rays or checking for signs of infection or disease, she is

helping to fill sandbags for flood victims, working with 4-H members during shows and stocking shelves at Helena Food Share.

“I don’t have one main place I like to volunteer, I like to volunteer at various little ones,” she said. “I have a new respect for filling sandbags.”

McGowan’s love for volunteer work around the Helena Valley stems from a rather nostalgic root.

“I’m a past 4-H member, and 4-H helped me out with getting a career and scholarships that I wouldn’t have had otherwise,” McGowan said. “And as far as 4-H goes, I help judge the fair and do workshops for vet science, and 4-H girls learn how to ride as well. For the young members, 4-H has lots of animal projects and leadership opportunities for them.”

McGowan was born and raised in Helena and is a 1999 graduate of Capital High School. She earned her bachelor’s degree in biology in 2003, and in 2007 she graduated veterinary school at Colorado State University before finding her way back home to Helena.

“It was one of those things that I knew I always wanted to be a vet when I was little. That, or a mathematician,” she said.

For 13 years, she has helped countless animals and families recover and cure their pets, and in some cases, their best friends.

“The clients is what keeps me motivated, and their loving pets we help and their great, unique, personalities. I love having great relationships with clients and they seem truly grateful,” she said.

McGowan has been with the Animal Center Veterinary Hospital of Helena for five years and has no plans of leaving any time soon. She said the staff is what keeps the organization afloat.

“I definitely have amazing co-workers, and I have passion for Helena,” she said. “Helena shaped me to be who I am today and I had a lot of help of when I was younger, to help get me into veterinary school. And at the end of the day, I just want to pay it forward for those who have helped me out.”

She continued, “And our job is pretty emotional, it can be really tough, and I have a great staff that helps support me at the animal center being an animal advocate – we couldn’t do it alone.”

# KAMILLE KIRCHBERG

Caring Foundation  
of Montana

## LACEY MIDDLESTEAD

For the Independent Record

It's been said that there's no such thing as a small act of kindness because every act creates a ripple effect with immeasurable impacts. The work of Kamille Kirchberg, Care Van Coordinator for the Caring Foundation of Montana, has incited waves of kindness across the state.

The Caring Foundation of Montana works to ensure that all Montanans have access to preventative health care services, regardless of insurance coverage or ability to pay. Their Care Van Program, created in 2014, utilizes a mobile clinic to provide services like immunizations and other health screenings to people.

Kirchberg first joined the Caring Foundation in 2018. She shared that her education in public health and previous experience with AmeriCorps inspired her desire to serve people in local communities.

"During my terms with AmeriCorps, I worked with health-related organizations across the state, so I saw firsthand the chal-

lenges and barriers that many rural communities face when it comes to access to services and was excited for the opportunity to help break down some of those barriers," said Kirchberg.

According to Kirchberg, the Care Van annually racks up around 25,000 miles with some 200 clinics in 42 of Montana's 56 counties.

"Through her work, Kamille has expanded the reach and quality of what was already a highly successful program," said Jesse Zentz, manager of community relations at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana. "She has guided the Care Van to its two most successful years in 2018 and 2019 by providing access to 11,000 immunizations, 3,014 dental screenings, 647 sports physicals, and 1,031 other varied services at 260 events throughout the state."

"My goal is to make sure everyone leaves the Care Van clinic with a smile on their face, so whether that means making meaningful connections with the adults, or talking to the kids about our mutual love

of Olaf from Frozen, knowing people had a positive experience while getting the preventive health care they need is rewarding," said Kirchberg.

Not unlike many elements of life right now, the COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily grounded the Care Vans as most non-emergency healthcare has halted. But despite this shift, Kirchberg has stayed busy preparing for community health needs in the aftermath of the pandemic.

"This (COVID-19 pandemic) hasn't slowed Kamille as she has assumed additional responsibilities and continues to look for innovative ways for the foundation and program to contribute to community health throughout Big Sky Country," said Zentz.

Despite the pandemic's interruption, Kirchberg maintains a positive attitude and continued passion for her work.

"Meeting community members from all walks of lives, hearing their stories, and letting me be a small part of their health journey is truly an honor," said Kirchberg.



KAITLYN TORGERSON, INDEPENDENT RECORD  
Kamille Kirchberg



BlueCross BlueShield of Montana

Congratulations on being selected to Helena's 20 UNDER 40

## Kamille Kirchberg

Care Van® Coordinator for the Care Van program from The Caring Foundation of Montana® at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana

We're proud of you!



The Caring Foundation of Montana is a non-profit organization administered as an in kind gift by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company. These companies are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

357399.0720

# BRIAN LEE

St. Peter's Health

## CHRISTINE SULLIVAN

christine.sullivan@helenair.com

Brian Lee moved with his family from Boise, Idaho to the Helena Valley in 2018 to take the role of vice president of operations at the St. Peter's Health Medical Group. In June he was promoted to vice president of operations for the entire health care system, overseeing operations in both the hospital and the clinic.

Lee was born in northern Utah, spending his youth in Idaho. He earned his undergraduate degree in public health from Utah State University and a master's degree in health care administration from the University of Minnesota.

Lee spends his free time volunteering at various organizations, such as the YMCA.

"I joined YMCA board of directors, and it's been really enjoyable; we have a great partnership with them at St. Peter's," he said.

He continued, "The YMCA is all about promoting health and wellness to our youth. The Y's mission is to really help youth who are underprivileged in some way, that's really rewarding and that's why I continue to help volunteering there."

He is also a member of the Helena Rotary Club, a youth leader with his church, an executive member of American College of Health Care, a Medical Group Management Association member, and he even finds time to coach baseball for all six of his sons, whose ages range from 7 to 14.

"They are so active in sports and it's a great opportunity to spend time with my kids," said Lee, who played baseball as a young man and expressed a sense of nostalgia and gratitude for the sport.

With his new leadership role, Lee



Brian Lee

KAITLYN TORGERSON, INDEPENDENT RECORD

oversees all medical operations including diagnostics, labs/imaging, physical/occupational therapy, and speech and respiratory therapy.

Lee also served as the co-incident commander for COVID-19.

"I really enjoy my job because every day is different and there's never a dull moment. Our COVID response, as challenging as it's been for everyone in our community, has really fortified our culture and everyone has really stepped up

during this unfortunate time, and I've been fortunate enough to serve as one of our health commanders working with all the amazing staff in March," said Lee.

Lee continued, "And what I love the most, is working with so many different areas: from our wonderful kitchen staff and our techs, nurses, our physicians. Hospitals are honestly like working in their own little city; there's so much diversity in each department and the things we do there and it is an incredible, broad

range of wonderful people."

For Lee and his team of health care professionals, the future is not bleak.

"There has been a lot of little silver linings during this worldwide pandemic. So much good has come out of the St. Peter's Health community," he said.

"Our main focus right now is to keep everyone healthy and keep providing the community with the health resources they need – the health care they deserve," he said.



THE HELENA FAMILY YMCA WOULD LIKE TO SAY....

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to board members Brian Lee and Keif Storrar and  
long-time member Amanda McGowan!

# KATY PETERSON

Montana Hospital Association

**NOLAN LISTER**  
nolan.lister@helenair.com

This year has been extremely challenging for many Americans, but especially mothers and health care workers. Helena's Katy Peterson is both.

The 40-year-old mother of a 3-year-old also works as the vice president of communications and membership engagement for the Montana Hospital Association.

"It's an interesting time to be working in health care and parenting a toddler," Peterson said with a small, knowing laugh.

A Vermont native, Peterson moved to Helena in 2005 to take a job with the State Tourism Office. Peterson is responsible for the "Get Lost (in Montana)" campaign.

But it wasn't long before she was drawn to the health care industry, which she referred to as "dynamic" and later "ever-changing."

"Hospitals have always played a critical role in our communities," Peterson said. "I feel privileged to be able to support Montana hospitals as they respond to this unprecedented challenge."

It's not just Montana hospitals she is supporting. Peterson has also volunteered her time on the YWCA of Helena's board of directors since 2015.

She said she's always felt like she's been

dealt a good hand in life and therefore has an obligation to help others.

"The Y works hard to support women and their children," Peterson said. "(My volunteer work is) an opportunity for me to pay it forward to other women in our community."

YWCA of Helena Executive Director Jen Gursky offered high praise for Peterson. She wrote Peterson brings "invaluable expertise."

"Katy's five years of dedicated leadership and service have included professional expertise that has absolutely moved YWCA-Helena's communication efforts forward," Gursky wrote. "She pushes our board leadership in strategic and forward thinking."

Retired Helena businessman and community volunteer Rick Hays, who nominated Peterson for the 20 Under 40 award, expressed his gratitude for her involvement in the community.

"In addition to producing high-quality results on her jobs, Katy has taken an active part in the community," Hays wrote. "Katy's leadership, professionalism, and expertise in her work as well as her community efforts demonstrate she is an exceptional young leader of Helena and Montana."



KAITLYN TORGERSON, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Katy Peterson

## CONGRATULATIONS!



**Kelsee Dalton Watts**

Your hard work, dedication and commitment to the homeless animals of our community, is exceptional!

### LCHS Board

- Pam Gosink
- Culver Varnado
- Michelle Harbosen
- Vikki Bohlman
- Jenica Wright
- Oliver Goe
- Deborah Butler

[www.lchsmontana.org](http://www.lchsmontana.org)



LEWIS & CLARK  
HUMANE SOCIETY

# JOLENE LLOYD

Century 21

## TOM KUGLIN

tom.kuglin@helenair.com

Jolene Lloyd has found her home helping others find theirs.

The Century 21 real estate agent grew up on the Hi-Line towns of Harlem and Malta before coming to Carroll College in Helena. There she played basketball and earned a degree in health and human performance and happened to meet the owner and broker of Century 21.

“So I always kind of had (real estate) in the back of my mind, but the timing wasn’t always right,” she said.

Lloyd took a job at the VA after graduating and moved for a time to Lewistown with her husband and their children, but wanted to return to Helena.

“It kind of was like the one place that felt like my home. It really does feel like home,” she said.

It was also the chance to try real estate – a job she loves and finds rewarding.

“I think just because buying a home is such a huge decision for people and all sorts of feelings, and if I can be a guide for somebody and help them through the process and be a sounding board and support system, that really makes me happy,” Lloyd said.

Her clients appreciate her work as well, with Lloyd earning the Century 21 president’s award both for production and customer service.

Being in Helena and working in real estate has also allowed Lloyd to spend time giving back. She coaches junior varsity girls basketball at Helena High and served as president of Biz to Biz Helena. Two years ago, inspired both by her work at the VA and her husband, a veteran injured while overseas, she started Homes of the Brave.



Jolene Lloyd

The program helps everyone from military to first responders to teachers purchase homes by giving them a break on the sale commission and helping with closing costs.

“With my work at the VA and my hus-

band’s injury we’ve had to learn a lot on our own about all the different benefits out there, and I really wanted to create this benefit for folks,” she said. “I also have family that are teachers and nurses and a friend

is a policeman, and it’s about the sacrifices that they make.”

Reporter Tom Kuglin can be reached at 447-4076 @IR\_TomKuglin

KAITLYN TORGERSON, INDEPENDENT RECORD



JOLENE, WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!



# AMY EMMERT

St. Peter's Health

**CHRISTINE SULLIVAN**

christine.sullivan@helenair.com

Amy Emmert has made it her mission to help heal the Helena area.

In June, the 34-year-old mother of four and former primary care RN was named the senior director of population health at St. Peter's Health. Emmert's focus is now leading the implementation of "Comprehensive Care Plus" for population health as one of the seniors on the Joint Strategic Operating Council, helping shape, grow, understand and expand the ever-changing health care industry within the Helena Valley community.

Emmert moved from her hometown of Burley, Idaho to Helena 15 years ago to play soccer and study nursing at Carroll College, and she has been here ever since then.

"I met my husband, he is a Montana man, and I never left," she said. "I am so blessed to be here — I will never leave."

"I thought I wanted to be a doctor, but I was more about the passion side, the relationship side and to be able to hold someone's hand during the entire grieving side," she continued. "That's when I shifted gears and decided to focus on nursing specifically, and when I fell in love with primary care."

By 2010, Emmert graduated with her bachelor of science degree in nursing. She quickly landed a career at St. Peter's Medical Group, where her drive and passion for healing through holistic medicine began to take flight.

"I started in primary care, and I found a deep love for that and realized that it is kind of the 'quarterback' of medicine; it really keeps everything together," she said. "It was a bittersweet feeling moving away from primary care, but I realized that I could impact thousands of lives through population health, not just one."

In 2017, Emmert decided she wanted to take a deeper look at every patient, truly dissecting the bigger picture of how to help everyone regardless of their stature or stigma. This is where "Comprehensive Care Plus" came into play.

"The goal of (CPC) and population health is it enables physicians, nurses, health care workers as a whole to identify different pockets of populations; who needs more resources where and how," said Emmert. "Enabling patients who are diagnosed with diabetes, whether they have diabetes or if they are homeless, or both, or if they are healthy, and how do we keep



Amy Emmert

KAITLYN TORGERSON, INDEPENDENT RECORD

them healthy and keep them motivated and involved."

Emmert graduated from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health this last spring, receiving her master's degree in applied science, population health management.

"The biggest challenge is the culture shift of medicine: How do we move to a more holistic care and put the patient in the center to really get the team approach — from primary care which this is how we win and how to get them their healthiest self," she said.

Emmert continued, "The individual patient stories we get to hear, when you build the relationships over time, and you get patients to open up, maybe they don't have a home and maybe they live in their car, and with the team of health care professionals, we can really help them out and identify their own individual stories, individualized health care, and then comes the impact. Or the reason maybe they are 'no-showing' is because they didn't have a car. By helping our program removing stigmas, addressing these issues and do whatever we can and help in their holistic wellness, that's it. That's the goal."

For the future health of Helena, Emmert stated, "The goal is to be the healthiest community that we can all live in."

**THANK YOU  
HELENA**

**FOR SUBMITTING YOUR NOMINATIONS  
FOR THIS YEAR'S 20 UNDER 40**

**WE ARE FORTUNATE  
TO HAVE SO MANY TALENTED  
& HIGHLY REGARDED  
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS  
IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**Independent Record**

other community publications at [helenair.com](http://helenair.com)

# CLAIRE PICHETTE

Helena High School

**MARGA LINCOLN**  
For the Independent Record

Great teaching begets great teaching.

And such is the case for Helena High School science teacher Claire Pichette, who's earned so many teaching awards she could claim her own trophy case.

So, it's no surprise that a former colleague, James Schulz, nominated the 38-year-old for the 20 Under 40 honor.

"Claire Pichette is my hero," he wrote. "Witnessing her uncompromising and passionate dedication to public education and the Helena community has strengthened my belief that the future is in good hands."

She joined the HHS Science Department in 2007, and Schulz wrote "it has greatly benefited from her enthusiasm, work ethic, and student-centered philosophy."

Pichette also volunteers to lead students in a Montana Tech bacteriophage research program and coaches the extracurricular Science Olympiad and Envirothon teams.

Over the last 12 years, these teams have won the Science Olympiad state championship six times and the Envirothon state championship four times.

Her science teams have also competed in numerous national tournaments.

Pichette is uncomfortable getting credit for the student awards, pointing out that her colleagues assist in coaching all the teams.

In October 2019, Pichette traveled to Washington, D.C., to receive the 2017 Presidential Teaching Award, the nation's highest honor for K-12 science and math teachers.

What most people don't know is what Pichette does behind the scenes, wrote Schulz.

"It means literally hundreds of hours of personal time outside of the classroom supporting student success."

What made her choose teaching?

"I had really great science teachers in the Helena schools — especially women biology teachers who were just super engaging and helped me understand how much there is to explain about the natural world," Pichette said.

She particularly recalls a backpacking trip into the Bob Marshall Wilderness with teachers Cheryl Plettner and Dan O'Leary.

"Man, that was a life-changer for me."

Another major influence was her biology professor and thesis advisor at Willamette University, David Craig.



THOM BRIDGE, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Claire Pichette

"He taught behavioral ecology and helped me learn to question why animals do the weird things we see them doing."

"I like the curiosity of it," she said of science. "I like asking questions about why things are the way they are."

"Kids ask a lot of questions naturally," she said. "We're all natural scientists."

When Pichette's not doing science, you could catch her onstage singing with either the Cottonwood Club or Los Marvelitos.

However, music making and classroom

teaching are incredibly altered right now due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pichette also serves on The Myrna Loy Board of Directors.

"I love art and music," she said. "I'm a real appreciator of it."

# ERIK ROSE

Carroll College

**NOLAN LISTER**  
nolan.lister@helenair.com

A 5,500-mile journey from home led one young Helena professional right back to the state he loves.

After the now 33-year-old Erik Rose graduated from the University of Montana, he moved to Kumamoto, Japan, to teach school children English.

While there, Rose hosted and translated for Montana State University President Waded Cruzado and Montana's Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian. The pair were impressed and encouraged Rose to apply for jobs within the state's higher education system.

By 2014, he landed a job in the office of the commissioner of higher education "and took the lead on many critical projects," according to the 20 Under 40 nomination letter submitted by his former and current boss John Cech.

"Going to Japan actually led me back to Montana," Rose said.

He has since gone on to serve on the Lewis and Clark County Literacy Council Board of Directors, helping immigrants

and illiterate Americans better connect with the world around them. Rose spent the last two and a half years as the board's president.

When Cech took his prominent role as Carroll College president, Rose went too.

Rose currently holds the title of Carroll College's director of institutional research and integration. Ostensibly, he's a data analyst helping to improve the college in many ways, including ensuring the institution meets federal data compliance.

"It's pretty broad and encompasses a lot of things," he said of his job, adding that the complexity of it is fulfilling.

"I'm really grateful to President John Cech for nominating me for this award," Rose said. "Moreso, I really appreciate his mentorship."

In speaking with Rose, one gets the sense he wouldn't change a thing about the circuitous route that led him to the family and career he loves.

"We're happy to be in Helena," he said. "I'm hoping to stay at Carroll and continue to contribute. It's one of the pillars of our community."



KAITLYN TORGERSON, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Erik Rose

Carroll   
College

Congratulations to our  
**20 UNDER 40**  
**SAINTS**

Amy Emmert, 10'

Jared Engels, 12'

Jolene Lloyd, 09'

Amanda McGowan, 03'

Katy Peterson, 02'

Erik Rose, *Director of  
Institutional Research  
and Integration*

You continue to make us proud as the motto says,  
*"Not for School, but for Life."*



[www.carroll.edu](http://www.carroll.edu)

# JOE MITCHELL

State Farm Insurance

## CHRISTINE SULLIVAN

christine.sullivan@helenair.com

“You need money to be able to live, right? And what I do is protect people and their money so they can live,” said 34-year-old State Farm owner/operator Joe Mitchell.

Mitchell and his wife moved to Helena four years ago, in June 2016. He and his bride, a Montana native, looked high and low for the perfect place to raise their children and ended up nesting here in the capital city.

Owning your own insurance firm can prove quite the feat when you do not know many people.

“I’m not from here and there’s always that uphill battle, when you aren’t from here and when people know who someone is, especially in the insurance business, they trust them,” he said.

Mitchell grew up in the Fargo-Morehead area of Minnesota with his mother and two siblings. In 1997, the Grand Forks flood took their home, destroying their stable foundation.

They ended up moving to Gardner, North Dakota with his mother’s friend, who later became his step-father. Mitchell said that became an unstable situation, and they later wound up in Hendrum, Minnesota.

“I was an angry young man,” Mitchell said. “And thankfully, I was able to channel that aggression into the sport of football.”

He played college football at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where he double-majored in communications and sociology. That’s when he decided he never wanted to be in financial discomfort again or see others suffer from it.



Joe Mitchell

THOM BRIDGE, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Growing up amid difficult and unforeseen circumstances pushed Mitchell to become a successful business owner,

who now does all he can to help those who may be in a bind like his family once was. While he is too familiar with what it is like to move from place to place with no sense of security and has faced adversity at times, he said he remains “a glass-half-full kind of guy.”

“Just because people are in bad circumstances sometimes, is not something to be ashamed of. You have no idea how much hope you can bring to others by just going through those experiences and persevering. I’ve been there,” he said.

His office works closely with nonprofits like Habitat for Humanity, Helena Food Share, Family Promise and Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Both of Mitchell’s grandfathers were disabled American veterans, he said.

“DAV is a remarkable organization and

I am very proud I try to support them,” he said. “I am extremely passionate about veterans and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms that you and I take for granted every day.”

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the losses his business has experienced as a result, Mitchell remains optimistic about the future.

“This year is great reminder for us all, we will face adversity, and face situations that are hard, but we all have a choice,” he said. “We have to keep trying to push forward. As bad a COVID-19 has been for my business, it made me reconnect with my kids, my wife, old friends, via Zoom and Skype. Although overwhelming at times, it made me really remember why we are all here to begin with and at the end of the day, what really matters.”

**Family.  
Friends.  
Community.**



Joe Mitchell  
406-443-0867  
joe@sfmitchell.com

**We're all in  
this together.**

State Farm® has a long tradition of being there. That's one reason why I'm proud to support our community during these uncertain times.

Like a good neighbor,  
State Farm is there.®

 **State Farm™**

# TARA WELLS

Helena Indian Alliance



THOM BRIDGE, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Tara Wells

**MARGA LINCOLN**  
For the Independent Record

Tara Wells knew exactly what she wanted as a career — that is, until she had a baby.

She was 19 years old and planning to be a choir teacher, but then she met two women who changed her life — RN Orpha Montgomery and Nurse Practitioner Denise Smigaj.

“As I was driving away from the hospital, I was like — I think I want to be a nurse,” she said. “So, I applied to school.

“My goal all along was to be a family nurse practitioner because I had some really great NPs take care of me.

“So, I went to Helena College and got an LPN in 2006 and then finished my RN in 2007 at Helena College.

She worked at St. Peter’s Hospital from 2006 to 2018, while she pursued her degree as a family nurse practitioner, first earning a bachelor of nursing degree online at Chamberlain College of Nursing and then a master’s degree in nursing education and management — on an FNP track.

While she went to school, she also taught nursing clinicals at Helena College.

A co-worker there urged her to apply at Helena Indian Alliance for an NP job opening

Wells was hired on the spot.

Soon, she began working in its Medical Assisted Treatment program for people

with addictions.

“I’ve been running that program since 2018,” she said.

“I just really enjoy seeing someone for the whole 180 (degrees) — going from homeless and using, to having a job. They’re having a relationship with their family again — being a contributing member of society.

“Our success rate is 80%.

“I just really love helping people and taking care of their entire person, their entire body — so their mental health, their emotional health, their physical health.”

Wells, who is the mother of three — a 16-year-old, a 4-year-old and an 11-month old — also owns her own business, Skin Esteem, and works in occupational health at Riverwood Health.

Although she’s a very busy person, Wells earned the praise of a coworker, who nominated the 35-year-old for 20 Under 40 recognition.

“Tara is truly an exceptional nurse and human being,” wrote Emily Michalski-Weber. “She often goes beyond her duties to help others in time of need. She encourages and motivates not only her patients but also everyone she comes in contact with, to be and do their best.”

As to singing, Wells hasn’t given it up entirely, she said. She sings in the shower, in the car and occasionally karaoke.



# BRENDEN CRAIG

First Interstate Bank



KAITLYN TORGERSON, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Brenden Craig

**TYLER MANNING**  
tyler.manning@helenair.com

Community is a priority for Helena's Brenden Craig.

Craig said he has always been a firm believer that a healthy community is im-

portant, and he contributes by giving back through his involvement in various local organizations.

Craig is a native of Kalispell and a graduate of Montana State University in Bozeman. He began working for First Interstate

Bank right out of college in 2003. Craig said he moved from Bozeman back to Kalispell after graduating from college. He wound up in Helena about three years ago.

"I consider myself lucky," Craig said. "I've been able to live and work in three of the best communities in Montana."

Craig was eventually promoted to being the market president of First Interstate for the Helena area. This job essentially means that it's Craig's job to be out in the community forming relationships with other local organizations.

After moving to Helena, Craig joined the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Helena program. He said this led to his involvement with lots of different organizations in the area.

Craig was also chosen by Leadership Helena to represent the group on the chamber's board of directors. Craig started in this position about four months ago.

"I really like it," Craig said. "There is a

lot of good community representation, and I've been getting to know more local business and nonprofit leaders."

Craig is a member of the Helena Rotary Club, which works with local nonprofits to provide aid and services where they can. Craig said the Rotary Club also strives to stay aware of all the different projects going on in the community.

Craig is also on the statewide board of the Montana Council of Economic Education. This organization's goal is to provide Montana youths with a better understanding of Montana's economic systems.

Craig said his motivation comes from helping others and improving his community.

"Brenden is a great leader in our community and really cares about the people that live and work here," Quinton Mergenthaler, an employee of First Interstate Bank, wrote in Craig's nomination for the 20 Under 40 award.

**CONGRATS!**

# Brenden Craig

## We are proud of you!

Your Leadership Helena classmates

Alana • Alex • Alyssa • Andrea • Audrey • Beth • Erica • Gloria • Joe • Kami  
Lance • Mark • Melinda • Ricky • Shawna • Steven • Tyler • Whitney • Will

# JARED ENGELS

Windermere Real Estate  
and Oddfellow Inn and Farm

**LACEY MIDDLESTEAD**  
For the Independent Record

Famed British writer C.S. Lewis said, "You are never too old to set another goal, or to dream a new dream." It only takes a few minutes of chatting with Jared Engels, real estate agent with Windermere Real Estate, to realize this is how he lives his life.

A Carroll College graduate, Engels stumbled into the world of real estate in 2014 after bouncing around different jobs trying to decide what he wanted to do with his life.

"I love getting to connect with people and socialize," said Engels. "I feel like I have great people skills."

While he admits that his entrance into the real estate business was a bit rocky, he stuck it out and continued honing his skills until his efforts began paying off. His focus is on helping clients buy and sell homes in the south central and upper west parts of Helena where people have quick ac-

cess to the trail systems and outdoor recreation.

This past year, Engels continued his real estate business while simultaneously embarking on a new entrepreneurial venture. Along with his husband, Paul Mabie, Engels purchased the property formerly known as the Mountain Meadow Inn, and transformed it into the Oddfellow Inn and Farm.

Situated on 41 acres off Head Lane, the inn features 14 guest rooms decorated in a French country style. In addition to the inn, there is also a working farm on the property featuring 250 animals.

"We want it to be experiential for guests," said Engels about the Oddfellow property. "We want people to have a glass of wine on the patio, read a book in the den, explore the nature trails, and go see the pond."

In recent weeks, Engels also opened a French restaurant, called

Maison, at the Oddfellow property. Featuring an executive chef from Napa Valley, the restaurant boasts a multi-course, farm-to-table concept with produce, eggs, and proteins harvested right from the property farm.

After a lot of sleepless nights, hard work and stress, Engels can finally see that his dream is being realized.

"I like the quiet hours on the property just checking on the pigs and rubbing the pregnant sow bellies," said Engels. "It's about being truly happy and content with where you are. It's nice to know that we've found that here."

At only 30 years old, Engels takes things one day at a time and is always on the lookout for his next adventure.

"As opportunities come up, I'd love to keep putting a stamp on Helena, improving it, and keeping it authentic," said Engels.



Jared Engels

THOM BRIDGE, INDEPENDENT RECORD



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020  
20 UNDER 40 BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS!**

**WATCH FOR DETAILS ON OUR ANNUAL LUNCHEON  
TO CELEBRATE THESE RECIPIENTS, WHICH IS  
TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS FALL.**

**CALL THE HELENA CHAMBER FOR  
MORE DETAILS AT 442-4120.**



**CONGRATULATIONS 2020  
20 UNDER 40 RECIPIENTS!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP  
& DRIVE TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY!**

Interested in learning more about Helena Leaders Network (HLN)? We are a group of business professionals, 40(ish) and under focused on connections, strong leadership, and growing our Helena community! Come check us out!

Visit [www.helenaleadersnetwork.com](http://www.helenaleadersnetwork.com) or call 442-4120 for more info!

# RACHEL SUPALLA

Discovery KidZone

## KASEY FAUR

kasey.faur@helenair.com

When Rachel Supalla founded Discovery KidZone in the basement of her home, it was mainly because she couldn't afford daycare for her four children and she needed to earn some extra money.

If someone then had told her that today she'd be running a school employing almost 50 community members and serving nearly 300 children in three different locations, she probably wouldn't have believed them.

"I was a stay-at-home mom and preschool teacher, and I needed to make \$400 a month to help pay our mortgage," Supalla said. "That was my goal."

Supalla got her start in early childhood education 23 years ago in California, where she taught preschool and kindergarten, but she never expected to someday be the CEO of her own school.

Since Discovery KidZone's founding in 2009, Supalla has not only turned a half-time preschool for five kids into a thriving business, but earned her master's degree in early childhood administration, made a name for herself in the field of early childhood education, raised her family and served her community.

"It's been crazy but awesome," Supalla said.

When she isn't running Discovery KidZone, she serves on the board for the National Association of Early Learning Leaders; trains other early childhood teachers at the local, state and national levels; writes for early childhood publications to share her expertise; works as the head cheer coach at Jefferson High School in Boulder; and volunteers at



Rachel Supalla

THOM BRIDGE, INDEPENDENT RECORD

church and community events.

She works hard and she doesn't plan to stop anytime soon. On June 1, the same day Montana entered Phase 2 of reopening businesses after the coronavirus pandemic hit, she opened Discovery KidZone's newest building.

At the time, Discovery KidZone was open only at 30% capacity, even though the new building was equipped to hold

twice the number of kids as the previous location.

"It was scary at first, but it's been really exciting to see what we've done and how we've flourished," she said.

Her secret? Supalla said she couldn't do it without those around her.

"I have an amazing team. I think you have to empower your leaders that work with you and people on your team to take

things on and be successful," she said. "And my family is so supportive."

For the past decade, Supalla hasn't stopped working. And she doesn't plan to anytime soon.

"I've worked really hard and really fast for a long time, so to reflect on everything we've built and the people we've worked with, met and trained – it's been nice to have a moment to reflect."

From a champion on the court to a champion in the community... the Fighting Saints are proud of you!

**CARROLL**  
FIGHTING SAINTS

**CONGRATULATIONS JOLENE FUZESY LLOYD -  
20 UNDER 40!**



# KELSEE DALTON WATTS

Lewis and Clark  
Humane Society

## CHRISTINE SULLIVAN

christine.sullivan@helenair.com

Raised in Helena, Kelsee Dalton Watts, 27, has made it her life mission to help animals of all breeds and sizes.

Dalton told her parents when she was a little girl that one day, she would work at either a pet store or an animal shelter. Little did she know she would later become one of Montana's youngest executive directors of a nonprofit organization, the Lewis and Clark Humane Society.

Dalton was appointed to the role in 2018 at age 26.

"I am just super, super honored," she said. "My job is so cool and I am just so passionate about what I do and the people I work with."

Dalton began her pet-rescuing journey as a volunteer at the humane society when she was just 14. In 2007, at age 15, she was hired to help clean kennels, walk dogs and provide food and attention to the shelter pets as an animal care specialist.

"I loved animals. I just really, really loved animals, and I had this little dog that made a huge impact on my life when I was younger, and I knew I wanted to help and do more. As soon as I was old enough, I wanted to volunteer, and I did for almost a year, and then they hired me for that position," said Dalton.

Dalton has also held the position of cat adoption counselor as well as a fundraising job, which is not something she ever saw herself doing. Dalton said she left the humane society for two years at one point but ended up coming back.

"I could not stay away. I just fell in love with this work and all the animals, but the real draw is the people – really love the people who I get to help and find a forever friend for," she said.

Dalton continued, "It was definitely a dream of mine and I feel very blessed and privileged to do this job and this work. It was definitely a lot of time and energy to get here, but definitely my favorite job I've ever had. And I work with amazing people and being able to understand every position, which gives me a unique, lucky perspective, when



THOM BRIDGE, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Kelsee Dalton Watts

I work with my staff and I understand all the different pieces – because I get it, and in turn, I am able to fully put my best into it whether we have good or bad days and empower my employees."

She spoke openly about the fundraising challenges the shelter has faced amid the COVID-19 pandemic, but she has high hopes for the future of the shelter.

"It's been interesting – we have all these great plans for fundraising, you know? And the usual annual events that have been canceled this year and for the next who knows how long, in the unforeseeable future, makes things a little tough and kind of scary," she said.

Dalton went on, "With all these plans to try and raise money for the shelter and our animals, it is now all up in the air and now we have to get creative to fill in for these big fundraisers. But despite it, I'm so lucky our community is what it is and everyone is so passionate and generous here."



**JARED ENGELS, BROKER**

20 Under 40 Business Professional  
Award Winner 2020

"Jared, we're so lucky to have you as part of our team."

- Helena Home Team



HELENA  
HOME TEAM

YOUR LOCAL  
REAL ESTATE TEAM

Windermere  
REAL ESTATE

(406) 461-4025  
helenahometeam.com  
55 W 14th St  
Helena, Montana

# KEIF STORRAR

Doubek, Pyfer & Storrar

## NOLAN LISTER

nolan.lister@helenair.com

It is a story Helenans have heard many times: A person works or studies in Helena, falls in love with the community and moves to town permanently.

For 37-year-old personal injury attorney Keif Storrar of Doubek, Pyfer & Storrar, the path to Helena was no different.

Prior to graduating from Alexander Blewett III School of Law on the campus of the University of Montana, Storrar worked for political campaigns and spent a good deal of time in Helena.

"I'd lived here for months at a time, so I knew the community and always liked it," he said. "One thing about Helena that's so great is it feels like a small town community."

With a brother-in-law and sister-in-law living in Helena, and his wife taking a job with the local school district, the Storrars made the decision to relocate to the big town with a small town feel.

Storrar joined the firm then known as Doubek, Pyfer & Fox in 2015. By 2018, the rising Helena professional made partner.

"His hard work and diligent approach are recognized and respected by his clients and opposing counsel," one of Storrar's partners wrote in his nomination letter. "His high ethical standards have earned him the respect of the legal community in Helena and the state of Montana."

As a couple, Storrar and his wife have mentored underprivileged children in the community through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Helena for the past five years. The duo has two young daughters of their own.

Storrar also volunteers his time at the Helena Family YMCA, serving on the board's Camp Child committee.

Long before his days of practicing law, Storrar received a bachelor's degree from UM in the field of wildlife biology, and conservation has remained a fervent cause for him.

Storrar said he was not expecting to be recognized as one of the community's top young professionals.

"I wasn't really thinking about it, but it's certainly an honor," he said. "It's a very big honor knowing people are out there appreciating what I do."



Keif Storrar

KAITLYN TORGERSON, INDEPENDENT RECORD

## Congratulations Keif!

From the tremendous work you do for your clients, to the excellent legal management of our office, the attorneys and staff of Doubek, Pyfer & Storrar are proud of all you have achieved.



307 N. Jackson St.  
406-442-7830  
lawyerinmontana.com



# CODY SALO

## DOWL

### LACEY MIDDLESTEAD

For the Independent Record

For Cody Salo, a civil engineer with DOWL, enthusiasm and vision have been the driving forces behind his success in the engineering industry.

Following in his father's and grandfather's footsteps, Salo pursued a degree in civil engineering from Montana State University, becoming a third-generation engineer.

"It's in my blood," said Salo.

Prior to joining the team at DOWL, Salo worked for Vista West Engineering in Sheridan, Wyoming and Morrison-Maierle in Helena. He transitioned to DOWL in 2014 and quickly advanced to his current position as Mountain West Transportation Manager and Helena Office Manager.

"I'm really appreciative of everything DOWL has done for me," said Salo. "They've given me a great opportunity to focus on transportation."

Being a transportation engineer has always been of particular interest to Salo for its far-reaching impacts on people's lives and local communities.

"I wanted to work on projects that benefit the most people," said Salo.

From the Custer Avenue Interchange and Centennial Trail to the pedestrian bridge over I-15 and accessibility projects at the Montana Capitol campus, Salo has been involved in many recognizable projects in the Helena area.

Salo explained that his current position keeps him busy with a wide variety of tasks. From recruiting new talent and managing staff to coordinating regional projects and various financial and HR responsibilities, no two days are the same.

"I wear enough hats that every day is exciting and different," said Salo. "There's never a dull moment."

Juggling his many responsibilities while staying at the forefront of technology and changes in the industry to deliver the best projects for his clients is an ongoing challenge for him.

"You have to be willing to be involved and convey vision enthusiastically," said Salo. "That's what has helped me be so successful."

During his engineering tenure, Salo has continually advanced himself as a leader in his field. Not only is Salo a 2012 graduate of Leadership Helena but



THOM BRIDGE, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Cody Salo

he was recognized by DOWL leadership with a Transportation Charter Award in 2016. Salo was also selected to participate in the Emerging Leader Initiation Training and Education (ELITE) leadership development program to develop and provide opportunities as a future leader within DOWL.

"His practical design knowledge and easy-going personality has allowed him to work closely with local leaders within the community," said Erin Karlin, a colleague and office manager at DOWL. "Cody has a can-do attitude and is constantly creating new and innovative ideas to not only enhance the DOWL team, but to also deliver high-quality work and service to our clients."

When Salo isn't overseeing one of DOWL's many transportation projects, he seeks solace along Helena's many mountain biking trails. He also stays involved in the community by serving on the board at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church and volunteering at local school events.

"It's important to be involved and meet people in the community," said Salo.



# LUKE LALIBERTY

KLJ Engineering

## TOM KUGLIN

tom.kuglin@helenair.com

Luke LaLiberty's career at KLJ Engineering takes him across the state helping communities improve their infrastructure.

LaLiberty grew up in Cascade before attending college at Montana State University in Bozeman. There he earned a degree in mechanical engineering and was commissioned into the U.S. Army where he served for four years in Colorado.

LaLiberty worked as an engineer in both Wyoming and Montana before coming to Helena three years ago. At KLJ he serves as a project delivery leader for the firm's municipal department – a role that sees him working with governments on infrastructure projects in places such as Helena, Big Sandy and Shelby.

"My job is overseeing municipal projects for cities, counties and state and tribal governments," he said. "So I get to work with a lot of small communities and other municipalities to help make communities better and that the benefit from like utilities, trails and other infrastructure."

LaLiberty focuses primarily on project management but enjoys site visits when the opportunity arises.

"I've always had kind of an attraction to technical fields," he said of choosing engineering. "I like linear thinking and problem solving."

He lives in Montana City with his wife and four kids, and the Helena area has also been a good fit.

"I love working for KLJ and plan to stay there for the long term," he said. "I'm hoping we can expand our business in the region and I can advance in the company. We really like living in Helena – it's a great



KAITLYN TORGERSON, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Luke LaLiberty

central location in the state and we'd love to stay in Helena if we're able."

LaLiberty's volunteer work includes serving on the board of the Helena Bearcats Wrestling Club, helping out with the Helena Engineers Club, and his

involvement with the state chapter of American Council of Engineering Companies. He also enjoys having the outdoors out his backdoor.

"In terms of what I really enjoy and the big reason to move back to Montana is the

outdoors, whether it's skiing, hunting, motorcycle riding, and we've been floating the river a lot lately," he said.

Reporter Tom Kuglin can be reached at 447-4076 @IR\_TomKuglin



CONGRATULATIONS   
**Luke LaLiberty**

20  
 UNDER  
 40

# BECCA DUDEK

Shodair  
Children's Hospital

**CHRISTINE SULLIVAN**

christine.sullivan@helenair.com

As the Children's Miracle Network program director at Shodair Children's Hospital in Helena, Becca Dudek helps battle one of the biggest threats to the well-being of children today.

According to the 2015 Child Mind Institute, the Children's Mental Health Report stated that of the 74 million children in the United States, 17 million have or will have a psychiatric disorder. That's more than all the children with diabetes, cancer and other diseases combined.

Dudek said her main responsibility is to build and maintain a strong relationship with the Children's Miracle Network, a nonprofit organization that raises money for children's hospitals and awareness for children's health issues across the United States and Canada.

"We are the only Children's Miracle Network (hospital) in Montana, and every penny and every dollar goes to the network and the money goes to the patients and patients' greatest needs," said Dudek.

Despite some setbacks related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dudek said the future is still bright for Shodair and the children it serves.

"The biggest challenge about my position that we have right now is Shodair is not your typical children's hospital. We are not able take children with cancer or anything. We take children with mental health and genetic disabilities, which means we are a very unique hospital with the services we provide," said Dudek.

When asked about fundraising goals for 2020 and the ever-uncertain COVID-19 monster lurking around every corner, Dudek said Shodair needs all the financial help it can get right now.

"Last year I raised a little under \$900,000. This year, I'm trying to hit \$1,000,000 but right now, at this point, we are doing as best we can with fundraising need," she said. "We need to get the word out that the fundraising numbers are crucial."

Dudek said the best part of her job is working with Shodair's staff, patients and partners.

"People are finally starting to see Shodair for what it is, the best mental health and genetic hospital in the state for all of Montana," she said.

Dudek grew up in the small town of Hershey, Pennsylvania and came to Hel-



THOM BRIDGE, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Becca Dudek

ena in 2015.

"It was the best decision I ever made," she said. "I am so happy to be in Helena."

Dudek studied public relations and communications at Messiah University in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, where she spent her time outside of the classroom shooting hoops on the women's basketball team. She discovered her passion for mental health as she made moves in other aspects of her life.

"I always saw myself in corporate communications," Dudek said candidly. "I had a lot of strengths in communications, but towards the end of my college career, I started volunteering at nonprofits and I just knew the position would be so rewarding. Since I also struggled with mental health as an adolescent — I became a huge advocate."

# CONGRATS Becca!



Thank you for your help in elevating Shodair in the Children's Miracle Network nationally, and supporting our partners with their campaigns.

## CMN Hospital since 1987



# CORINNE MOORE

Westaff of Helena

**LACEY MIDDLESTEAD**  
For the Independent Record

With human resources, it's all about having the right people with the right abilities in the right place at the right time. For Corinne Moore, branch manager at Westaff of Helena, her mission each day is to try to connect the dots between all of those workplace elements.

Moore's first encounter with Westaff was similar to many people's. After receiving her master's degree in communication from San Diego State she moved back to Helena and approached Westaff about finding employment. Upon mentioning her particular interest in human resources, she was told about an opening at Westaff. One interview later, Moore joined the Westaff team in 2014.

As branch manager and HR consultant, Moore is responsible for a variety of tasks. She provides HR to employers statewide, writes employee handbooks, conducts investigations, coaches business owners, conducts training sessions, and oversees

the temp agency.

"She impacts our community by finding hundreds of people employment and forever jobs every year through temporary staffing and executive recruiting," said Michelle Edmunds, Westaff president and Moore's supervisor.

Ultimately, what Moore cares most about though is improving places of employment and how people feel about their jobs.

"We spend so much of our life at work so we shouldn't have to dread Mondays or feel stressed and burnt out," said Moore. "We (Westaff) love working to turn around company culture and make workplaces better."

Moore shared that she feels the workplace culture is starting to shift and that employers are now willing to fight for their employees and make them want to stay in jobs and ensure they are happy to come to work each day.

"People don't realize how unhappy they are in the workplace until a problem has

been solved," said Moore. "It's rewarding to see those problems get resolved."

"I'm thankful to be part of a generation that wants to get past the task part of work and get down to the people," said Moore.

In her constant pursuit to improve work environments, Moore is also committed to improving herself. She is a 2018 graduate of Leadership Helena and completed the NEXT Level Leadership Bootcamp through Dawson Community College. With the

support and encouragement of her fellow Westaff co-workers, she also studied for and passed an intensive exam to receive her Professional Human Resources certificate from the Human Resources Certification Institute.

"Westaff has given me a lot of opportunities to prove myself and feel my own worth," said Moore.

"Human resources is a never-ending field of opportunities," said Moore.



THOM BRIDGE, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Corinne Moore

hip hip, hooray!

We are beyond grateful to have the fabulous

**CORINNE MOORE**

on our team

**Westaff**  
PROVIDING ESSENTIAL PEOPLE

406.443.7169  
WESTAFFMT.COM

# RYAN EVANS

Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning

## TYLER MANNING

tyler.manning@helenair.com

Ryan Evans is a public servant and baseball coach who is committed to giving back to his community.

Born and raised in Havre, Evans left Montana for about five years to pursue an undergraduate degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration.

He and his wife were living in California at the time, and he worked for the Oakland Athletics baseball team even though he was a Los Angeles Dodgers fan.

Eventually the young couple decided they wanted to move back to Montana, and Evans landed a job with the governor's office of budget and program planning. He has worked in this position since 2008.

During this time, Evans has worked with two different governors and hundreds of legislators. He has worked to craft budgets during eight legislative sessions, something he describes as his office's own World Series.

"Walking into the Capitol every day is one of the greatest privileges of my life," Evans said. "I did always have aspirations of working on big projects that bring people together."

Government work wasn't something Evans necessarily aspired to, but rather something that came to him. Evans said he kept his options open, and subjects like math and economics always made a lot of sense to him.

In his position, Evans and his coworkers are on the front lines making decisions that impact every Montanan. It's their job to ensure the state budget can weather complex and unforeseen circumstances like the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"Ryan's deep knowledge of these issues is coupled with his calm, insightful demeanor, which helps teams navigate contentious problems to produce outcomes," Montana Budget Director Tom Livers wrote in Evans' nomination for the 20 Under 40 award. "He is committed to making government work efficiently and effectively, while his interpersonal skills bring out the best in his colleagues and elevate the level of any workgroup or team he joins."

Outside of work, Evans is a baseball fan and a father. He started working as a volunteer coach for the Helena Babe Ruth Baseball Association in 2012. He still coaches to this day, but has also been put in charge of managing the organization's rookie program.

Over time, Evans progressed into a board position with the organization. Again, Evans said this wasn't necessarily his goal, but rather a result of his heavy involvement.

This summer, Evans will coach five baseball teams. He is also heavily involved in his eldest daughter's team.

Outside of his career and volunteer work, Evans said he hopes to spend some time this summer camping with his wife and three daughters. He is also an avid guitar player.



KAITLYN TORGERSON, INDEPENDENT RECORD

Ryan Evans

## Join Us In Honoring Helena's 20 Under 40 Recipients

Watch for details on our annual luncheon to celebrate these recipients, which is tentatively scheduled for later this fall.

**406-442-4120**

Independent  
Record



# LEADING BY EXAMPLE TO ESTABLISH A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR OUR COMMUNITY



**AMY EMMERT, MAS, BSN, RN**  
Senior Director of Population Health

Amy oversees St. Peter's work to understand the big picture of our community's health, helping to expand outreach and collaboration to improve health outcomes and lower the cost of care for our patients.



**BRIAN LEE, MHA, CMPE**  
Vice President of System Operations

Brian provides poised leadership as co-incident commander for the COVID-19 pandemic response at St. Peter's, along with overseeing operations across our entire system.

*Congratulations on being named to Helena's 20 Under 40.*



St. Peter's Health  
[sphealth.org](http://sphealth.org)