



Harvest on the Hi-line by Kim Woodring.

Toole County is made up of 1,915 square miles and has a population rate of 2.8 persons per square mile. The incorporated city of Shelby, population 3,376, serves as the county seat. Other Toole County cities and towns include Ethridge, Galata, Kevin, Oilmont, Sunburst, and Sweetgrass. Situated in northern Montana, Canada provides the northern boundary, with the Marias River flowing along a major portion of the southern boundary.

Mining, agriculture, utilities, and transportation and warehousing are competitively positioned for growth and new business opportunities. These capitalize on the county's geographic location (major rail service, east/west & north/south highways, on the Canadian border, access to raw materials).

Toole County MSU Extension's 4-H program is unique in Montana because of the four-county Marias Fair, held at the Marias Fairgrounds outside of Shelby. Our 65 4-H members join together with Pondera, Glacier, and Liberty County to exhibit projects and sell their livestock at the Marias Fair.

MSU Extension Toole County and Alliance for Youth Partner Receive SAMHSA Grant for Rural Youth Opioid and Stimulant Misuse

Through statewide collaborations with MSU Extension, partner schools, and existing opioid response networks, this project will provide outreach, education and technical assistance in an effort to reduce opioid and stimulant misuse among rural and tribal youth throughout Montana. Through our efforts, we aim to provide youth and their caregivers (whether at school or at home) with the tools to converse honestly and openly about this issue, and information about treatment and recovery options to support youth who may need such services.

MSU Extension Agent Alice Burchak and the Alliance for Youth Prevention Specialist Mary Miller will facilitate the grant at Shelby High School. The first year of the grant will include organizing a focus group of professionals who work with youth such as teachers and other community leaders. The focus group will meet with the MSU Extension State Grant

Team to provide feedback to the group and how to address the issues. The second step in the first year of the grant will be to survey high school students about their knowledge and experience with opioids and stimulants. The Extension State team will utilize the information gathered from the eight participating schools to create curriculum and outreach for the participating schools in the second year of the grant.

If you would like further information on the grant, please feel free to contact MSU Extension Agent Alice Burchak by email at aburchak@montana.edu.

Toole County 4-H Implements a Robotics Program

Robots are all around us. From the food we eat to the cars we drive, robots help make our lives easier, more efficient, and simply more fun! The field of robotics is expanding at a rapid pace. Toole County 4-H wanted to provide youth with the skills for a possible future career in this field.

MSU Extension Agent Alice Burchak and Leader Barb Larsen applied and were awarded a grant for 3 Rivers Communications to start a 4-H Robotics Program.

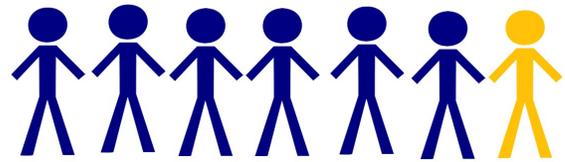
Two different youth groups met monthly during the 2019-2020 4-H year for the Robotics Program afterschool at the courthouse. Burchak facilitated the Cloverbud program using Lego's WeDo kits. Youth ages 5-8 received hands-on experience designing, building, and programming small robots. The youth started out with simple robots with changing color lights and finished up the year building Milo the Roving Robot, which moved backward and forward and picked up items.

Barb Larsen facilitated the second group of youth who were in third to fifth grade and utilized the EV3 kits. At the start of the year, members were reading build plans for robots that utilized sensors, motors, and gears. After robots were built, youth learned how to program the robots to perform tasks. For the final project to exhibit at fair, youth designed, built and programmed the robots on their own.

4-H Achievement Day

Toole County hosted their annual achievement awards day in November. All three clubs had members in attendance. The Kountry Kids, the West Butte club, and the Blazing Saddles Club celebrated the achievements of our hardworking 4-H members this year with awards and a PowerPoint slideshow of winners.

Despite this difficult and strange year, we were fortunate to celebrate the end of the 4-H year in person with two noteworthy awards. Delaney Clark won the Ben Sisk award, which is given by the Sisk family in honor of their late son Ben. 4-H is often a part of generations of families, and Clark's father, Travis was awarded the Ben Sisk honor in 1995. We also presented



**One in seven high school students has taken
prescription drugs
without a doctor's prescription.**

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Montana, 2017.





Previous Page: (top) Zoriah Done, Daviah Doane, Dax Nelson, and Oran Nelson at the pumpkin patch by Jayleen Nelson; **(center)** Opioid graphic by Alice Burchak; **(bottom)** 4-H Achievement Day by Kim Woodring; **This Page:** Cloverbud Robotics Club by Alice Burchak

Jadis Scarborough the UR Awesome award, which is given to a 4-H'er that shows kindness, responsibility, and a passion for 4-H. Our teen leaders and 4-H Ambassadors handed out awards and had a great time celebrating our achievements for the year.

You-Pick Pumpkin Patch

The Community Garden in Shelby hosted their annual You-Pick Pumpkin Patch in October. This annual event is a great way to showcase agriculture in our small community. Many people do not realize that we even have a Community Garden, and they are delighted to see the different shapes and sizes of pumpkins and gourds. This agri-tourism event is also a great economic driver for the community of Shelby. The pumpkin patch is advertised in the local paper, radio, and Facebook, so many families will drive from neighboring towns to give their kids the experience of picking pumpkins. After the pumpkin are picked, families often shop and eat lunch in Shelby. The fee that the garden collects for pumpkins goes directly back into the community and right back into fixing up the community garden and planting pumpkins and gourds for next year. After the pumpkins were picked through, some remaining pumpkins were donated to the local elder care facility. The residents of the facility were able to paint the pumpkins and they had a great time. This project reaches and supports many community members, from planting through harvest.

Toole County Staff



Montana State University Extension is an ADA/EO/AA Veteran's Preference Employer and provider of educational outreach.

Alice Burchak
FCS Agent

Kim Woodring
Ag Agent

Anna Hintz
Administrative Assistant.