



May 22, 2014

Commissioner of Political Practices
PO Box 202401
Helena, MT 59620-2401

RECEIVED

2014 MAY 27 A 9:57

COMMISSIONER OF
POLITICAL PRACTICES

POSTMARK

MAY 22 2014

RE: Ethics Complaint

The Women for a Better Sanders County formed in August 2012, to bring a non-partisan look at political issues affecting Sanders County residents. Our purpose was and is to present a fair and balanced view of both sides of an issue and allow county residents to make up their own minds.

This past April, WBSC held a candidates' forum for interested residents to meet both the Democrat and Republican candidates for House District 13. Each candidate was given a set period of time to state their positions. After their presentations the audience was given the opportunity to ask questions. Of particular note, the candidate promoted in the ads that are the subject of this complaint declined to attend.

On May 14th, ads (see exhibits) were placed in each of the county's two newspapers. Unbeknownst to WBSC the person or group responsible for these ads had filed an ABN for the organization cited in the ads. While these ads may not be technically illegal, they most assuredly implies the Women for a Better Sanders County, whose core principle is to remain non-partisan, supports the named candidate. The average person reading these ads would assume it is our group.

As you can see, WBSC had to take out our own ads to inform voters that we did not place these ads. The Commissioners will not receive this complaint until it is too late for a retraction before the Primary on June 3rd. However, we do want to be sure that correct political procedures in the ad's disclaimer and the report for candidate contributions were properly reported and claimed.

An entire week lapsed before WBSC could place their disclaimer. Time enough for numerous absentee ballots to be filed. The WBSC take these deceptive tactics very seriously. The outcome for State Representative HD-13 may hang in the balance.

Sincerely,

Linda Haywood
Treasurer

Certified Mail

THE STATE OF MONTANA

Commissioner of Political Practices
1205 Eighth Avenue
Post Office Box 202401
Helena, MT 59620-2401
Phone: 406-444-2942
Fax : 406-444-1643
www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

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2014 MAY 27 P 12:32

COMMISSIONER OF
POLITICAL PRACTICES

HAND DELIVERED

CERTIFIED MAIL

SIGNED/NOTARIZED

Ethics

Complaint Form (10/09)

Type or print in ink all information on this form except for verification signature

Person bringing complaint (Complainant):

Complete Name WOMEN FOR A BETTER SANDERS COUNTY
Complete Mailing Address PO Box 2443
Thompson Falls, MT 59873-2443
Phone Numbers: Work 406-827-7625 Home 406-827-3234

Person or organization against whom complaint is brought (Respondent):

Complete Name WOMEN FOR A BETTER SANDERS COUNTY (WBSC)
Complete Mailing Address PO BOX 741
Thompson Falls, MT 59873-0741
Phone Numbers: Work _____ Home 406-827-4337

Please complete the second page of this form
and describe in detail the facts of the alleged violation.

Verification by oath or affirmation

State of Montana, County of Sanders

Linda Haywood, Treasurer

I, Women for a Better Sanders County, being duly sworn, state that the information in this Complaint is complete, true, and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.



(SEAL) GILLIAN LOFTHUS
NOTARY PUBLIC for the
State of Montana
Residing at Thompson Falls, Montana
My Commission Expires
March 29, 2018

Linda Haywood
Signature of Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21 day of

May 2014
Gillian Lofthus
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 3/29/18

Statement of facts:

Describe in detail the alleged violation(s), including pertinent dates, and cite the statute or statutes you believe have been violated. Please attach copies of documentary evidence to support the facts alleged in your statement.

If the space provided below is insufficient, you may attach additional pages as necessary.

A paid political ad in the name Women for a Better Sanders County (WBSC) were published in the Clark Fork Valley Press, Plains, MT on Wednesday, May 14th. Copy of ad attached for verification. (Exhibit A) This ad appears to be in violation of MCA 13-35-225. Election materials not to be anonymous -- statement of accuracy -- notice -- penalty. According to the Campaign Finance & Practices for Political Committees brochure the disclaimer "must include the name of the committee treasurer, as well as the mailing address of either the committee or the committee treasurer." Please verify if there has been a violation of MCA 13-35-225 regarding this ad.

Since the average voter can not tell if this ad is by the non-partisan group, Women for a Better Sanders County, or by the committee of the Women for a Better Sanders County (WBSC), an ABN group setup for publicity, the Women for a Better Sanders County found it necessary to take out their own ad clarifying that our non-partisan group "does not endorse ANY candidate." Copy of ad attached for verification. (Exhibit B)

May 22, 2014, is the date the pre-primary report of Campaign Finances, Form c-5, was to be filed for contributions made through May 17th. The Women for a Better Sanders County (WBSC) placed ads in both the Sanders County Ledger and the Clark Fork Valley Press with the first ads appearing on May 14th, a date prior to the disclosure date. Women for a Better Sanders County is inquiring if the disclosure Form C-5 has been timely filed by either the Women for a Better Sanders County (WBSC) or the Candidate named in the ads—Bob Brown.

Complaint must be:

- **signed**
- **notarized**
- **delivered in person or by certified mail.**

Bison Range marks annual Migratory Bird Day

Alex Violo
Valley Press

MOIESE — In a sign that summer is drawing ever closer, the National Bison Range opened its summer driving trails, welcoming interested individuals from throughout the region to enjoy the warmer weather at the refuge.

Visitors headed to the National Bison Range throughout the weekend, with the wildlife refuge celebrating a big day on Saturday, May 10.

The Saturday before Mother's Day marked the annual

opening of Red Sleep Mountain Drive for the summer season, the 19-mile loop through the refuge that climbs 2,000 feet, offering stunning views of the Mission Mountains and the range's furry denizens.

Additionally, it was also International Migratory Bird Day at the Bison Range.

The weekend started early for staff at the Bison Range with the main gate opening at 6:30 a.m.

Birders had to wait a little later in the morning as Ourdoor Recreation Planner at the National Bison Range Complex;

Pat Jamieson led a beginning bird walk tour, starting at 9 a.m. With the cloud cover obscuring the view of the Mission Mountains, Jamieson took the beginning birders on a mile loop around the pond near the entrance of the park, going over the basics and providing tips to those just getting into birding.

"It gives people a taste, shows them how to use binoculars and how to use a bird book," Jamieson said.

The tour also included a group of eighth graders from De La Salle Blackfeet School in Browning, who spent the day

at the Bison Range following the conclusion of the bird walk tour.

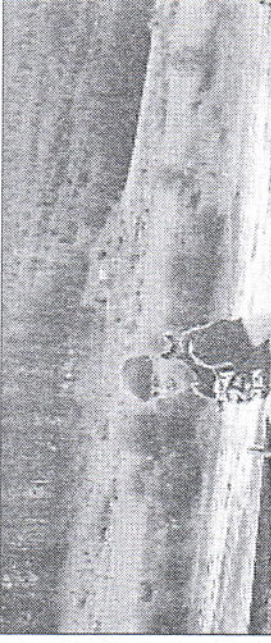
In the initial part of the day it appeared as if the weather would not cooperate as clouds rolled over menacingly, and the occasional downpour sent visitors rushing for cover.

However, as the day wore on, the sun managed to break through the overcast skies, giving visitors and staff, a beautiful day to enjoy the National Bison Range.

Down by the ponds, the See BISON on Page 11



Swans and turtles enjoy the sun at the National Bison Range. Photo by Alex Violo/Valley Press



Bob Brown, HD13 Candidate
is our only choice.
Ad paid for by: WOMEN FOR A BETTER SANDERS COUNTY (WBSC) - 59873-0741

Verticals • Wood Blinds • Cellular • Miniblinds
Pleated • Silhouettes • Slats • Solar Shades

Exhibit A

Mini-clinics prepare for new Plains Day event

Justyna Tomtas
Valley Press

TROUT CREEK – The ultimate test to happen within 60 seconds, while making sure the blank cow in the herd does not get through the gate.

If the cows are brought out in an incorrect order, the participants are automatically disqualified.

The clinic aimed at giving the participants a taste of the sport in a much slower fashion. As organizer Patti Waldoch watched overhead, she guided the riders

through the sport giving them tips and tricks of the trade.

Waldoch has been riding competitively since 2002 and paint can enter up to four times. All levels of players will be kept in mind.

Many of the participants in the mini clinic are looking to enter into the Sunday Funday activities.

Buckles will be awarded to the winners of all classes and this is where the community pitched in to make the event possible. Local businesses in Plains sponsored the prizes.

"I'm very thankful for that.



The idea for the Plains Day event started during the Sanders County Fair.

Waldoch brought some fellow team penners to the demonstration derby and when they got to the grounds, her friends were astonished.

"They were so taken back by how beautiful our fairgrounds was. They said Patti, you have to do an event here," Waldoch explained.

Since then the event has picked up steam. After the fair-

erved and close to 50 pens and stalls are also reserved.

"One of the things is that people can do it on any horse," Waldoch explained. "I started off just like they did with a little trail horse. That's where everyone starts."

The event will be hosted on June 7-8 at the Sanders County Fairgrounds.

Anyone looking for more information is welcome to call Patti Waldoch at 826-3992 or Rae Herman at 849-5752.

Hot Springs Fire tests new equipment while fighting fire

Justyna Tomtas
Valley Press

of the neighbors had to call in the flames.

ger present and so the fire department first knocked down

The equipment is approxi-

Exhibit B

TRAINING/From A1

rounding area. Other departments close to opt out of holding the recertification class.

Dryden explained that if the department did not hold this training opportunity, many of the officers would have to travel back to their departments for the certification and for some that includes a cross-country

travel project because you have all these retired police officers or Chad Cantrell.

that are here in the county or nearby that would like to maintain their qualification and their ability to carry their weapon," Lanzoni said.

The way he sees it, the more good guys carrying a gun, the better off the communities are.

"My personal opinion is the more good guys with guns, the safer everyone else is," Lanzoni explained citing a story that

3584 and ask for either Dryden or Chad Cantrell.

WOMEN for a BETTER SANDERS COUNTY
a non-partisan organization

We do not endorse ANY candidate.

This is not us!



Paid by WBSC
PO Box 2443
T.Falls, MT 59873

Questions?
Call: 847-0047

Bob Brown, HD13 Candidate

is our only choice.

Ad paid for by: **WOMEN FOR A BETTER SANDERS COUNTY (WBSC) - 59873-0741**

IS YOUR VIEW WANTED