

# Winning name drawn in “dream home” raffle for animal shelter

**By Nikki Meyer**  
*Of the Tobacco Valley News*

A Washington man stands to become the owner of a riverfront property near Eureka, and the Tobacco Valley Animal Shelter will net a \$100,000 donation.

A drawing was held Aug. 15 from about 46,000 raffle entries to win 32 acres of land and a motorhome. Owner John Clarke offered the property up for a split the pot raffle, and tickets were offered at \$20 apiece since March.

The winning ticket was purchased by Jim Atchison of Vancouver, Washington, shelter director Wendy Anderson said on Monday. As of press time,

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## VALLEY VIEWS



**Tobacco Valley hikers cross a talus field** en route to Wolverine Lakes after climbing the ridge to the north via the Rainbow Trail. From the vantage point views to the west take in Lake Koocanusa and parts of the valley near the border, while to the east were peaks of Glacier Park lying along the North Fork of the Flathead River. **Nikki Meyer photo.**

## First bat of the season tests positive for rabies

**By Traci Street**  
*Of the Tobacco Valley News*

The first bat in Lincoln County this year has tested positive for rabies, and the county health department is urging people to be cautious around bats that seem to be behaving strangely.

The rabid bat was found in the Libby area.

According to county disease intervention specialist Sarah Long, bats are generally more visible and active at nighttime, so if folks see a bat during the daytime, they should be concerned. Bats that don't seem able to fly or are in unusual places are also of concern. Long said people can be exposed to a bat and not even realize it.

If a bat has been found in a house, it can be very difficult to determine if a person in the house has been exposed to the bat, as bat bites can be very small. The virus that causes rabies is carried through saliva, and Long said if there is any reason to suspect human contact, it's best to test the bat. Testing for rabies can only be done by brain dissection. If the bat is unavailable for testing, anyone who has possibly been exposed may have to undergo treatment.

If people find a bat alive and can catch it, she can send it in for testing. She said it's important not to crush the head of the bat, since the brain is needed for testing. Testing is free to the public.

At the Aug. 3 commission meeting, health department director Kathi Hooper informed commissioners that they had sent five bats that had potential human or pet contact for testing at the diagnostic lab in Bozeman. One had come back suspicious, she said, because the brain was too degraded to be able to be tested. Hooper said folks who have a dead bat they want tested should store it in the fridge, not the freezer, until they can get it to the health department.

Long said if a pet ends up with a bat somehow, treatment for the pet depends on their vaccination status. If a pet has a current rabies vaccine, they will need a booster dose and then will have to be under observation for 45 days and have a vet check up at the end of the observation period. Unvaccinated pets require “a lengthy quarantine with a vet check halfway through and at the end of the quarantine period,” Long said in an email. “This is why vaccination is so important!”

## Talent and tradition on display this week as county fair returns with old-fashioned fun

**By Jessica Wood**  
*Of the Tobacco Valley News*

From prize-winning livestock to home-grown vegetables, fairground games to hand-crafted quilts, sizzling fair food to the thunder of bucking bulls, this year's Lincoln County Fair promises a full weekend of tradition, talent, and community spirit to entertain all ages and interests.

From Wednesday, Aug. 20 when swine and sheep showmanship displays are held, until the closing ceremony on Sunday, Aug. 24, visitors can browse the 4-H barns, admire rows of crafts and homemade goods, and sample everything from bobas to burgers at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds. This year, according to fair organizer Pam Rackley, new food vendors, as well as the regular staples, will be serving culinary delights from Thursday.

The Frey Guys from Kalispell will be there serving up a variety of deep friend treats including Oreos and Twinkies. The Montana Pharmacy will offer gourmet hotdogs, Mexican-style street corn, and a variety of candy and drinks, with 100 percent of proceeds going towards suicide prevention measures such as counseling, education, emergency food and housing under the Rocky Mountain Hope Network.

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## Commission postpones vote on new and increased landfill fees to Aug. 20 meeting set for Eureka

**By Traci Street**  
*Of the Tobacco Valley News*

Commissioners did not vote Aug. 13 as planned on proposed increases to trash fees, pushing the vote to Aug. 20.

After a scheduled public hearing for Resolution 2025-26, which proposed an increase in fees for Lincoln County solid waste and refuse, commissioners tabled the resolution after questions brought forth by Commissioner Noel Duram.

The main proposed change was raising the annual residential assessment from \$150 to \$200 per year, with scheduled percentage increases each year following. Other increases included specific amounts for disposing of certain types of refuse or loads.

At the hearing, health department director Kathi Hooper and solid waste manager Bryan Alkire told commissioners that the landfill in Eureka has clocked a record number of visitors this year. Alkire said they had recently installed cameras at the Eureka landfill to get a more accurate count of the number of people they service. Because the operator working at the Eureka landfill was usually working alone and was on equipment when trying to keep an estimate of the number of cars coming and going, the camera recordings have created a

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## FREE FOR ALL

**Organizer Denise Gonzalez**, known to many Eureka students as “Mrs. G.,” presides over the annual School Supply Free-for-All giveaway. She expected to offer supplies to about 100 kids this year. **Nikki Meyer photo.**