



### Old Building, New Purpose

After sitting empty for years, the old Kmart building in Glendive is being repurposed by multiple organizations. After working to secure the lease for months, Makoshika Elite Gymnastics Academy (MEGA) began work on the building in early November 2020. The building has over 40,000 square feet of space and most of it has been filled. MEGA Minds preschool is starting up which will include a tumbling & movement component. Along with MEGA, Makoshika Wellness will be moving into this location, allowing them to expand their current gym offerings and adding another classroom. Eastern Montana Martial Arts Academy has renovated a space to continue teaching and practicing Tae Kwon Do. GROW will be doing recycling in the bay area, as well. There is still space in both the bay area and center of the building for potential expansion. MEGA and the preschool started classes on January 4<sup>th</sup> and Makoshika Wellness reopened on January 18<sup>th</sup>

Before



After

### this issue

Quote of the Quarter  
Old Building, New Purpose  
EPEDC Annual Report

#### EPEDC Annual Recap

Throughout 2020 EPEDC has assisted with grants both COVID-19 related and beyond. In our five-county region we helped to secure over \$2 million in grants, assisted over 100 businesses and participated in over 20 community projects. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this funding was critical to keeping many businesses open and to keep our local economy afloat. These grants were from the COVID Relief funds through the state, TC Energy, OneOK, BSTF, DLA and other grant programs.

EPEDC assisted in the application of four MT Historic Preservation Grants (MHPG). The MHPG applications have been scored and two of the applicants the Dion Building and the O'Fallon Historic Museum both ranked high enough to receive funding for their projects. These funds have yet to be awarded as they must be approved through legislature.

Thanks to additional funding through the Economic Development Administration, EPEDC was able to hire two new positions. Alissa Miller as our new Food and Ag Development Assistant and Melissa Higbee as our new Downtown Development Specialist, they are both located in the Baker office.

"Celebrate endings—  
for they precede new  
beginnings."

- Johnathan Huie

#### Contact Information

Please submit comments or  
questions to:

#### Baker

##### Beth Epley

EPEDC Executive Director  
Phone: (406) 853-6471  
[eepley@epedc.com](mailto:eepley@epedc.com)

##### Alissa Miller

Food and Ag Development Assistant  
Phone: (406) 852-3735  
[fada@epedc.com](mailto:fada@epedc.com)

##### Melissa Higbee

Downtown Development Specialist  
Phone: (307) 620-5612  
[dds@epedc.com](mailto:dds@epedc.com)

#### Glendive

##### Dara Deines

Community Development Specialist  
Phone: (406) 939-3864  
[cds@epedc.com](mailto:cds@epedc.com)

**Next Board Meeting:**  
**April 21, 2021**  
**9:30 AM**

**The EPEDC serves the following counties and municipalities: Carter County, Dawson County, Fallon County, Prairie County and Wibaux County, as well as the City of Baker, the City of Glendive, the Town of Plevna, the Town of Richey, the Town of Terry and the Town of Wibaux.**



**Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation  
PO Box 321  
Baker MT 59313**