



Oct/Nov 2011

Happy Anniversary, Bishop Insurance!

Happy Anniversary!! October 2011 marks 53 years of service that Bishop Insurance has provided to its customers and staff. Bill and Marcy Bishop began the business in October 1958 with just the two of them handling all aspects of their insurance agency from sales, to accounting, to claims reporting, to making necessary changes on policies to keep their customers' coverages up to date. Through the years, the agency has grown and changed with the purchase of other agencies, advances in technology, updated insurance practices, and excellent abilities of our great staff.

In 1958, Bishop Insurance began business at 212 First Avenue SE in Polson in a structure that was part business and part home to the Bishop family. In 1972, the growing family moved to a home away from the office and by 1985, growth of the agency operation eclipsed the space available in the original building. Bill decided to construct a newer, bigger building that could house several businesses and provide some development to downtown Polson. The present Polson location at 302 First St W was erected and is now occupied by Bishop Insurance, Marc Vergeront of Edward Jones, Dan Fox Homes for Kids and several other offices.



The Ronan office of Bishop Insurance has had a similar evolution. The office originally opened in 1981 when Bill Bishop purchased the Onsager Agency. Since its humble beginning at 104 Highway 93 South, the Ronan office moved to 214 Main St SW and then in August 2001, relocated to the present site at 104 Main St SW, actually about half way between its first and second homes.

The employees at both locations have changed through the years and because of technological advances, procedures have also changed. From the time the agency began, it seemed that the volume of paper grew each year; however, over the last 15 years, we have adopted available systems that allow us to serve our customers and staff while reducing the paper jumble. Operational efficiencies learned from insurance-based instructors and the streamlined design of a computer system built to serve insurance agencies, has made us more efficient, quicker to respond to our customers' needs, and more able to provide the excellent service people want. Our staff continually attends classes and webinars to familiarize themselves with rating and underwriting systems provided by our companies and they learn each new legislative adjustment that the insurance industry is required to follow.

We appreciate our customers and employees, new and old, and we enjoy working with them every day.

November 18th & 19th

Holiday Bazaar—
KwaTaqNuk (Polson)

November 24th

Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run/
Walk (Polson)

November 24th

8th Annual Ronan
Community Thanksgiving
Dinner, at the
Community Center
(Ronan)

November 24th

Free Thanksgiving Dinner
Polson Senior Citizens
Center & Polson
Ministerial Association
(Polson)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR \$100 GAS CARD WINNERS

**AUGUST—Jim Oates
SEPTEMBER—Pat &
Karen Linderman**

WIN \$1,000 IN

GROCERIES !

SEE PG 4



October is Fire Prevention Month!

October is National Fire Prevention Month, a time when we should all be aware of ways to help learn fire safety and prevention. According to the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), most Americans underestimate their risk for fire, and many either lack emergency response plans—or fail to practice them with fire drills.

In October, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sponsored National Fire Prevention Week, with a great message: “home Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat!” One out of three home fires start in the kitchen, and leaving cooking unattended and other unsafe kitchen practices are recipes for disaster.

Annual observances like National Fire Prevention Week and National Fire Prevention Month are excellent opportunities to focus on fire hazards but we should all practice fire safety every day—at home, at work and at play. The NFPA offers a wealth of safety information, fire prevention tips and resources on their comprehensive website: www.nfpa.org. You can also contact your local fire department to learn more about making our home safer from fire, or how you can best participate in fire prevention activities.

Polson Fire Department as well as other volunteer Fire Departments in the valley visited local schools and daycares during the month of October, providing fire prevention tips, tours of the fire trucks and demonstrating some of the department’s fire equipment.

One new piece of equipment in the valley is Polson Fire Department’s 1996 Smeal Ariel Truck. The truck was purchased from a volunteer fire department in Illinois and has a 75 foot ladder. The truck will be used for all structural fires in the city and replaces their 1974 Ariel. The new truck will provide safer and more reliable access to roofs and multi story buildings in the district.



Employee Spotlight – Jenaya Garcia



Jenaya Garcia

In August, Jenaya rejoined the staff at Bishop Insurance. She originally began working at Bishop in January, 2006. She has worked in both the Polson and Ronan offices over the years as the receptionist, personal lines customer service representative in Ronan, and assistant commercial lines customer service representative in Polson. The person that was the receptionist for both offices left the agency in September to pursue other goals and lucky for us Jenaya looked forward to coming back to join our team! She works Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Polson and Tuesday and Thursday in Ronan. We are very happy to have her back; we missed her great sense of humor and her professionalism in dealing with the customers.

Jenaya makes her home in the Polson area with her husband Tracy, daughters Sierra and Megan and sons Tristan and Joe. Be sure to welcome her back next time you are in the office!

Your Identity Belongs to You. Protect It!

A 2009 survey shows that identity theft is on the rise – and it's more likely to start with a stolen wallet than an online phishing expedition.

Researchers at Javelin Strategy & Research reported that the number of identity theft cases increased 22 percent to 9.9 million in 2008.

Crimes of opportunity, such as stolen wallets, represented 43 percent of cases, compared to 33 percent in 2007, indicating an increase in the desperation of criminals.

Women were 26 percent more likely to be victims of identity theft, reporting a higher incidence of lost or stolen information during purchases in stores.

Only 11 percent of cases involved online access.

The smartest way to protect yourself from identity theft is to prevent it from happening to you. However, if your identity is stolen, you'll be able to lessen problems by acting quickly.

Call your credit card companies immediately. Explain what happened, and ask where to send a copy of the police report.

Call and report to the police. Make several copies of police report.

Complete a Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Theft Affidavit and FTC report (call 1-887-ID-THEFT to request the forms).

Call your bank. They can place an alert on your Driver's License number and Social Security Number, and freeze your account.

Call fraud units of credit report agencies: Experian, Equifax, and Transunion.

Fortunately, identity theft protection is available as an endorsement on most homeowners' policies at a small cost. The coverage varies among companies and reimburses certain expenses associated with identity recovery. Customers can also get guidance on how to protect themselves from ID theft before it happens and may receive assistance with identity restoration.



Refer a Friend and Win

Bishop Insurance Service “Spread the Word” Referral Program

Your referrals mean the world to us. We work hard to earn each referral with great service every day. As our way of saying thank you for this business, we’re kicking off our new “Spread the Word” program. Here’s our way to say thanks for all the referrals you’ve trusted us with over the years:

Refer someone to Bishop Insurance and get something back! For every referral, you get a **\$10 Theater Card!** What qualifies as a referral? *A referral is when we get a call for a quote from someone saying you referred them to us.*



There’s more! You will also be entered into our monthly and annual drawings for prizes.

- Each month we draw for a **\$100 Gas Card** from everyone who referred someone to us that month.
- Each month we’ll announce the monthly winner in our newsletter.

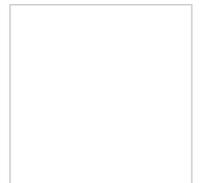
We also have an annual drawing. Each referral you’ve given through the year equals one entry for our drawing in **July, 2012** for a chance to win a **\$1,000 Grocery Certificate!**

That’s it! Give it a Try.

The best part is you don’t even have to be our customer to win (but we’d love it if you were)!



Bishop Insurance
302 First Street West
Polson, MT 59860



[Recipient Name]

[Street address]

[Address 2]

[City, ST ZIP Code]