

# PICKLE BALL

## Learn to Play



### When

Friday, July 31, 2015  
5:30pm to 6:30pm

### Where

Alive After Five  
Main Street  
Anaconda, MT



**B**ring your Pickleball paddle if you have one; a limited number of paddles and balls will be available at the event. Please call the Deer Lodge County Extension office at 406-563-4035/4036 for more information.

There are two youth positions open on the Pickleball Squad for middle schoolers and high schoolers interested in a summer service/leadership opportunity. Committed youth should contact Abbie Phillip at 406-563-4036 to apply.

### What is Pickle Ball?

According to the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA), the game was created in 1965 by Joel Pritchard, congressman from Washington State, on Bainbridge Island, WA (near Seattle). Pritchard and a friend wanted to create a fun game for the entire family to play on an old badminton court located near their homes. They didn't have a full set of badminton rackets, so they started playing with ping-pong paddles, a whiffle ball, and badminton net hung low, like a tennis net, 36 inches high. The game is a hybrid of badminton, tennis and ping-pong. In 1984, the official Pickleball rulebook was published, and the USAPA "was organized to perpetuate the growth and advancement of Pickleball on a national level." By 1990, Pickleball was being played in all 50 states. Today, it is considered one of the fastest growing sports in America.

### Partners

The Anaconda Community Intervention (ACI) program staff, Matt Buerkle and Heidi Nielsen, as well as, the Anaconda Family Resource Center, Deb Cuny (director) and Cynde Cheek-Ascherman (co-director) have partnered with MSU Extension to mentor a small group of youth leaders (the Pickleball Squad) through the process of developing an Anaconda Pickleball League. Billy Holmlund of Anaconda and Frank Rust of Butte have also been very helpful, sharing their knowledge of the game.