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Today's Date Should Be: **Tuesday, February 24, 2026**

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Jasmine Kidisha Streight Correction

Jasmine Kidisha Streight, 29, of Dillon, passed away Thursday, February 19, 2026 at Barretts Hospital & Healthcare with her family by her side. She was born on May 27, 1996, in Salt Lake City, Utah to Tracy Streight & Mandy (Coon) Lyon.

The complete obituary will be published once finalized.

Arrangements are under the direction of Brundage Funeral Home. Condolences for the family may be posted online at www.brundagefuneralhome.com

Sexually Groomed/Trafficked Youth in Our Community:

How we all can take part in the solution.

February 24, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at Dillon Public Library

This presentation is in conjunction with a grant received from Montana Children's Trust Fund. The grant is allowing authority figures to present information that brings awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect to our community.

The public is welcome to attend and there will be a light snack provided. An activity will be available for children that come with parents/guardians.

Presenters:

Natalie Paulbeck draws from both lived experience and professional expertise to bring trauma-informed perspective and conversation about sexually groomed/trafficked youth in our community. She speaks candidly about the realities of coercion, manipulation, and systemic gaps that leave youth vulnerable. With a Master's in Forensic Human Services and over ten years' experience working with youth in this field, Natalie works partners with communities to better understand how grooming operates and how we each can respond in ways that protect youth without creating further harm. Her work centers around accountability, resilience, and practical strategies for prevention and intervention.

Joel Stewart is our Chief of Police with 10 years' experience in law enforcement in our community.

Known for a leadership style rooted in service and compassion, Chief Stewart has prioritized strengthening partnerships with advocates, social services, and prosecutors to ensure survivors are met with dignity and coordinated support. Chief Stewart is committed to building trust between law enforcement and the community while advancing policy that protect vulnerable individuals and hold offenders accountable.

Chief Stewart attends the Children's Justice Alliance conferences, is a part of a monthly Multidisciplinary Team involving child abuse, and regularly holds educational sessions for the MT Youth Challenge Academy.

Outside of work, Joel sits on the Board of the Women's Resource Center.

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Secretary of State's Office \$1 million subgrant to counties for enhancing security of elections

Montana Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen announced today that the Secretary of State's Office is providing \$1 million in Help America Vote Act (HAVA) allocation to Montana's county election offices to enhance and upgrade security measures for Montana elections.

All 56 counties can request the funding, which must fulfill certain objectives related to election security, including:

- Implementing election security requirements in Montana Administrative Rule,
- Hiring third-party security assessments and implementing recommendations,
- Installing security and surveillance cameras.

"It's imperative that we ensure security, both physical and cyber, to protect our Montana elections," said Secretary Jacobsen. "Since I was elected, we have made it a priority to upgrade and enhance security measures for our elections. The Department of Homeland Security has designated election systems as 'critical infrastructure' across the country, so it's necessary for Montana to implement the proper security protocols to protect our elections, train our state and local election officials, and provide confidence to voters across Montana."

Secretary Jacobsen and the Secretary of State's Office have adopted comprehensive rules to strengthen election security, including requirements for security awareness training, physical security safeguards, and other protective measures that are now in place statewide.

Beyond routine training and updates, counties are encouraged to continually bolster their security posture. To support that work, the Secretary of State's Office has previously provided subgrants to Montana counties to implement security assessment recommendations and put additional security measures and procedures in place.



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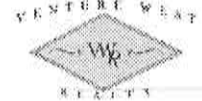
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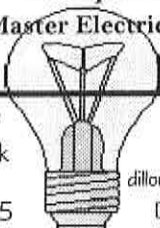
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Letter to the Editor

Representative Shannon Maness
HD 70, Dillon

Partisan Elections

Lots of recent news has been coming out about whether our judicial elections in Montana should be partisan or not. There is even an effort underway to change our state constitution to specifically state that our judicial elections will never become partisan. It was a big topic in this year's legislative session, and many attempts to create partisan races failed in both the House and Senate. I believe every elected position in the state should have a party label affiliated with the candidate if they choose. From school boards to mayors to the governor and even judges.

Having a party label next to a candidate's name is simply a tool for voters, similar to how people use brands or labels elsewhere. For example, many visit a church first because its denomination matches their preferences; finding one without that label would be difficult. Likewise, in the grocery store cereal aisle, labels guide your choice. Party labels serve the same function, helping voters select candidates who match their views.

A label on a box of cereal or a party affiliation on a judge doesn't guarantee the perfect selection, but it is a great starting point for a purchase or casting a vote. It is a tool in the selection process and being able to associate with a political party aids voters in that process. Now, it would be nice if every voter had the time and resources to do a deep dive into a candidate's history and judicial decisions, but that isn't always possible, and being able to put a party next to their name (just like almost every other race on the ballot) would aid voters in making a better decision to elect someone that aligns with their beliefs.

Some argue that a judge shouldn't let personal political leanings affect decisions. I find this argument weak and invalid. If a judge runs as a Democrat, it signals that the judge likely views the Constitution as a "living document" to be interpreted through the lens of contemporary society. If the judge runs as a Republican, many assume they prefer an "originalist" approach, one that rules by the text itself. Party labels aren't perfect guides to a candidate's beliefs (we all know of politicians that campaign one way but vote another), but they are one more tool voters use when choosing leaders.

A common example of this interpretive difference is the 2nd amendment. We can easily describe how two judges might rule differently on this issue, depending on their political leanings. We often hear arguments like, "The founding fathers didn't want citizens owning military weapons!" or, on the other side, "To keep and bear arms shall not be infringed means exactly that—no government interference." Hearing these positions, you can likely infer a person's political leanings.

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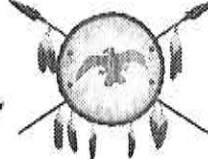
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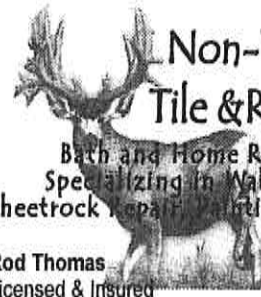
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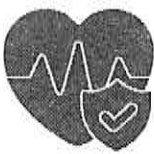
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What exactly is the opposition to partisan races in Montana? What are their motives? Right now, the two main groups pushing this agenda are the Democrats and the left-leaning Republicans. There are a few purists who believe in the "independence" of the Judiciary, but I believe that the ship has sailed, and our judicial races are just as partisan as any other, with partisan groups spending large amounts of money to support their candidate. We have even had Supreme Court candidates campaign on how they will rule on certain topics. The party label is simply the last thing missing, and that is what the opposition wants to keep out. Our judicial system in Montana is the last remaining hope for leftist policies in our state. In the last few election cycles, we, the people, have voted overwhelmingly for conservative ideas and principles. The democrats need the judiciary the way it is currently to overturn legislation that they oppose, and the left-leaning Republicans need the judiciary to strike down laws that they voted for because of constituent pressure, but don't personally support. Even when candidates in other races use party labels and publicly claim how they will vote, the citizens have clearly shown that they want our state to be run a certain way by sending those candidates to Helena. Not one single state office is held by a democrat, and both chambers of the legislature have a republican majority. Ironically, the republicans had a supermajority until the last redistricting process. That panel of people had a left-leaning majority because of our Judiciary.

Those opposing partisan judicial races would have you believe that Montanans want our judicial races to stay the same and never be able to change, and that they are happy with our Supreme Court. I believe that is nonsense. They would have you believe that a state that completely supports one party and its agenda, for the most part, wants our Judiciary to actively negate the will of the people. The people of Montana have made it very clear that they reject "woke" ideology and have spoken by sending legislators to Helena to put a stop to it, but our judicial system has repeatedly stopped these laws from going into effect. Personally, I believe that these issues aren't so much "constitutional" issues as they are societal issues and what a society deems to be acceptable behavior. Those opposing party labels tell us this is what the people want, and we should continue along the same path as we have been on. The simplest explanation is often the correct one. If we allow judges to run with a party affiliation, our Supreme Court would be drastically changed, and the left would lose its last foothold in our state. They refuse to allow that to happen, and we will see untold amounts of money being spent this year to change our constitution so that we can never have partisan judicial races. Don't fall for the short sound bites, scare tactics, or signature gatherers telling you to sign petitions. I encourage you to resist this effort.



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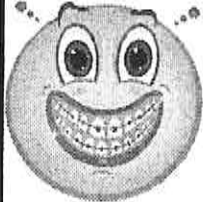
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By the order of the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission, LMU 320 shall be closed to all hunting of male Mountain Lions one-half hour after sunset on Sunday, February 22nd, 2026.

LMU 319 shall be closed to all hunting of male Mountain Lions and LMU 680 shall be closed to all hunting of female Mountain Lions one-half hour after sunset on Monday, February 23rd, 2026.

LMU 340 and LMU 123 shall be closed to all hunting of male Mountain Lions one-half hour after sunset on Tuesday, February 24th, 2026.

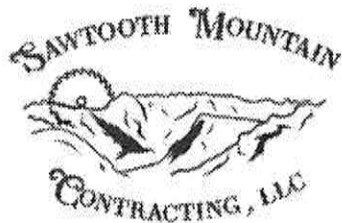
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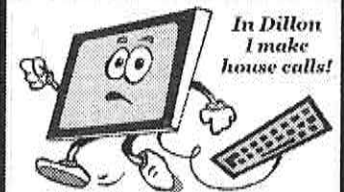
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City Council Chambers
Thursday, February 26, 2026
8:00 A.M.
AGENDA

1. Call To Order
2. Discuss/Recommend Ray Lynch Park Repairs
3. Public Comment on Items of Significant Public Interest Not on the Agenda and Within the Jurisdiction of the City

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, February 25th, 9:00 A.M.

Soroptimist Purses with a Purpose

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Prairie Bible Church pg 7

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Davis Double-Double Leads Bulldog WBB

The Montana Western women's basketball program (12-13, 10-11 FC) earned the season sweep over Providence (15-12, 11-10 FC) 71-67 Friday evening.

Keke Davis was the spark for the Bulldogs, shooting 78.6 percent (11-14) from the field for 29 points while also pulling down 11 boards.

"That might have been our best win of the season," head coach Ryan Sullivan said. We were down five late and had incredible resolve to battle and get stops down the stretch. Keke Davis had an unbelievable game and was a big difference maker for us offensively. Really happy for her to see that success tonight. Isabella Lund did a great job of finding her teammates and finished with seven assists."

STAT BREAKDOWN - UMW shot 45.3 percent (24-53) from the floor, 31.3 percent (5-16) from downtown, and 75.0 percent (18-24) from the charity stripe.

The Bulldogs tallied 31 rebounds, 14 assists, six steals, and three blocks.

They posted 38 points in the paint, six points off turnovers, four second-chance points, and 17 bench points.

Bulldog Men's Basketball Topples Providence

The (RV) Montana Western men's basketball program (19-8, 14-7 FC) defeated Providence (5-22, 5-16 FC) 85-62 Friday evening.

The Argos led by seven halfway through the first half, but Western's relentless offense quickly put the game out of reach of the hosts.

"Great win for our guys on the road," head coach Patrick Jensen said "I thought our defense really improved after a slow start. Quick turnaround and have to be ready to go tomorrow."

STAT BREAKDOWN - UMW shot 49.3 percent (35-71) from the field, 35.5 percent (11-31) from deep, and 44.4 percent (4-9) from the foul line.

The Bulldogs registered 40 rebounds, 17 assists, eight steals, and two blocks.

They earned 30 points in the paint, eight points of turnovers, 13 second-chance points, and 28 bench points.

Emanuel Steward posted a game-high 19 points, followed by Kyle Gruhler (16).



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Western Women's Basketball Earns 73-64 Victory

The Montana Western women's basketball program (13-13) ended the regular season with an important 73-64 win over MSU-Northern (16-11) Saturday.

The Bulldogs showcased excellent perimeter defending, holding the Skylights to just 25.9 percent from beyond the arc.

Western also took care of the basketball, turning it over just 10 times to tie for the second-lowest total of the season.

"We had great contributions from everyone today," head coach Ryan Sullivan said. "Our bench energy was great and our girls battled for 40 minutes. Really proud of the growth we demonstrated this season and I am thankful for our group. Really happy we get another week together with an opportunity to earn more!"

STAT BREAKDOWN - UMW shot 45.8 percent (2-59) from the floor, 31.3 percent (5-16) from three, and 82.4 percent (14-17) from the charity stripe.

The Bulldogs grabbed 34 rebounds, eight assists, and nine steals in the contest.

They registered 38 points in the paint, 13 points off turnovers, eight second-chance points, and 18 bench points.

Bulldog MBB Hangs On for 83-79 Win

The Montana Western men's basketball program (20-8, 15-7 FC) held off (RV) MSU-Northern (16-12, 11-11 FC) 83-79 Saturday in the final regular season game of the season.

The win is the Bulldogs' 20th of the season and marks their first 20-win season since 2017-18, when they went 27-8 and earned a trip to the NAIA quarterfinals.

"Huge team win, we had a lot of guys step up," head coach Patrick Jensen said. "Proud of the guys for staying together and finding a way to win on the road."

STAT BREAKDOWN - UMW shot 51.7 percent (31-60) from the field, 37.5 percent (9-24) from distance, and 60.0 percent (12-20) from the line.

The Bulldogs tallied 30 rebounds, six assists, and eight steals. They posted 40 points in the paint, 12 points off turnovers, seven second-chance points, and 11 bench points.

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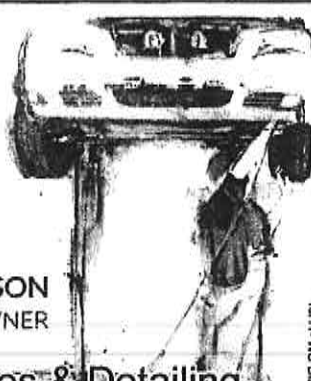
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2/23-27

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- Easy-access outdoor parking for your RV, camper, or boat.
- 535/spot
- Bring your own lock.
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JOEL LONGIE & TIM MASON FRI FEB 20

ANDREW LONGAKER SAT FEB 27

KARAOKE SAT MAR 21

BETH & PHIL FRI MAR 27

RECKLESS ROOSTER SAT APR 4

UPSTAIRS
LINE UP!



LIVE
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2/19-24 BILL

2026 BEAVERHEAD COUNTY REPUBLICAN ANNUAL

Lincoln-Reagan Dinner

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 AT 5:30 PM

FRONTIER EVENT CENTER
102 E. HELENA STREET, DILLON



Keynote Speaker:

**Matt Regier- President
of the Montana Senate**

REPUBLICAN
CENTRAL COMMITTEE
MONTANA

- and other candidates for elected offices

SOCIAL HOUR 5:30 - 6:30 PM

PRIME RIB DINNER- \$50 PER PERSON

LIVE AUCTION | RAFFLES | 50/50

Dinner is Prepaid Only.

Reservations must be PAID by March 1st

Sponsor Tables available!

Contact: J.S. Turner (406) 660-6831 ~ Womacks-

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