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Today's Date Should Be: *Tuesday, August 16, 2022*

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FWP seeks comments on recommendations for Madison River use

Informational meetings scheduled in southwest Montana

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is seeking comments from the public on a set of recommendations for commercial-use and recreation management on the Madison River, one of the most popular fisheries and recreation destinations in the state.

Public input in this process is especially important because it could inform recreation management for other rivers in Montana.

The recommendations were developed by a 12-person work group representing a variety of interests that the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission tasked with looking at management solutions for commercial use and recreation on the Madison.

A public comment period on the recommendations is open from Aug. 15 to Oct. 14. People can review the full recommendations and learn how to submit comments by visiting https://fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/madison-river-workgroup/public-comment.

FWP staff will also host several meetings to share information about the recommendations and answer questions. Comments on the recommendations won't be recorded at the meetings, but attendees will be given information on how to submit comments. Meetings will be in the following locations, each beginning at 6 p.m.:

- Sept. 6: Bozeman Comfort Inn, 1370 N. 7th Ave.
- Sept. 7: Ennis Elementary School cafeteria, 223 Charles Ave.
- Sept. 8: West Yellowstone Convention and Visitors Bureau, 30 Yellowstone Ave.
- Sept. 13: Montana Tech Student Union Building in Butte, 1300 W. Park St., room 204
- Sept. 14: Virtual meeting via Zoom. Members of the public who wish to ask questions during the virtual meeting must register in advance by visiting https://fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/madison-river-workgroup/public-comment. Registration will open on Aug. 15 and close at noon on Sept. 13. Registrants will receive a link to join the meeting. The meeting can also be viewed by nonparticipants on FWP's website and YouTube channel.

Madison River work group

The Madison River work group focused specifically on developing recommendations to the commission on four areas:

- The allocation of commercial-use trips to outfitters.
- A process to permit new outfitters on the Madison River.

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- Rule language to address all recreational use on the Madison River, including the walk/wade and rest/rotation sections.
- Consequences of permit violations.

The work group finalized its recommendations in May and presented them to the commission in June. Instead of initiating rulemaking, the commission then directed FWP to seek comments from a broader public on the recommendations for a longer comment period than the rulemaking process requires. FWP will report back to the commission on Dec. 16.

The work group developed recommendations for managing commercial-use, non-commercial recreation and commercial watercraft rental delivery permits; vessel requirements on the upper Madison River; and recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management for managing non-commercial float permits in Bear Trap Canyon.

Highlights among these recommendations include:

- A new Madison River commercial-use permit that would allow for the transfer of trips between permit holders.
- Implementing a commercial-use cap, which was adopted by the commission previously, to limit commercial users to the number of trips they reported in 2019 or 2020, whichever is higher.
- A mandatory, unlimited Madison River float permit for noncommercial users. The permit would allow FWP to gather data on use, which may help inform future tools for recreation management.
- Developing a comprehensive Madison River recreation plan that addresses all forms of recreation.

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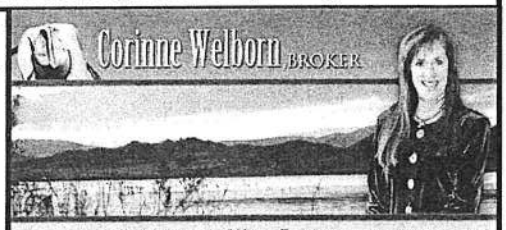
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Blessing of Friends

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We chose a dried-up creek bed, lit a fire, and fried our lunch.
Each cowboy moved in by the heat. Dang sure a hungry bunch.
We gobbled down the usual, brown sugar sizzled Spam. And a
box of Town House Crackers smothered with strawberry jam.
The frosty mountain air still held a cold and nasty bite. So, we
tossed more sagebrush on the flame and watched the shrubs ignite.
The smoke from arid sagebrush had us moving 'round the fire.
One cowboy sat right through the smoke. His words would
soon inspire.
He said, "The Good Lord's blessed me, been a cowboy all my life.
I've got five kids, a favorite dog and best of all my wife.
"Ain't sayin' life is easy, cuz it's usually dang hard work.
And sometimes life can throw a curve that'll drive you
plumb berserk."
He said, "I've had some broken bones from a well-intended hoof."
His gnarled and twisted fingers were a picture of the proof.
He said, "My heart's been broken which I thought would never mend.
But time has healed the pain and helped me be a better man."
And then he said, "I've worked all day and never gave much thought
to how much we've been given, well deserved or even not.
"But today I look across this burning sagebrush, smoky fire. I see
that we've been blessed with those whose friendship we aspire.
"Each friend has his own talent that contributes to this group.
We even have a cowboy who gets rid of all the poop.
"So, today I'll thank the Lord for all you cowboy friends of mine.
Just know that we're a special group of men who've
grown up fine."
And when he'd finished speaking not a cowboy said a word.
We all were contemplating 'cuz our souls had just been stirred.
We finished up our spam and then we headed down the trail.
Each cowboy witnessed God's great land, that day in more detail.
At night we all gave thanks, too many blessings to keep score.
Yes, we're all a bunch of cowboy friends. How could we ask
for more?

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Barrett Hospital & HealthCare Recognized for Improvement in Patient Care

Barrett Hospital & HealthCare was recently awarded the Montana Rural Healthcare Performance Improvement Network's Quality Improvement Award for its work on patient medication education.

The Montana Rural Healthcare Performance Improvement Network (PIN) is a voluntary membership of 49 critical access hospitals throughout the state. Through this Network, member hospitals are able to benchmark their performance with their peers on a variety of financial, utilization and direct patient care measures that encourage safe, effective, patient-centered care delivery in even the most remote communities of the state. PIN quality of care measures are based on national benchmarks, but are tailored to reflect the realities of the state's rural population.

Barrett Hospital & HealthCare has demonstrated a commitment to its community and the region it serves through its involvement with the MT Rural Healthcare PIN. Throughout the last year, PIN members focused on four core improvement areas; patient satisfaction and engagement, transitions of care from the emergency room, emergency room stay times, assessment and provision of influenza immunizations for inpatients, and influenza immunizations for healthcare workers. Award winners are required to demonstrate measurable improvement in one of the previously mentioned quality of care focus areas over the previous year and show consistent participation in the PIN's data programs. Applicants are also required to demonstrate an active and leading role in supporting PIN quality improvement efforts by participating in PIN events and sharing with peers throughout the state.

The mission of the MT Rural Healthcare PIN is to develop and provide a collaborative support system which will enable small rural hospitals to have the ability to deliver quality care and achieve customer satisfaction. PIN activities are supported by the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program, which provides funding to spur quality and performance improvement activities, stabilize rural hospital finance and integrate emergency medical services (EMS) into existing health care systems. The program encourages the development of cooperative systems of care in rural areas to increase efficiencies.

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Jeremy Alvarez, Chief of Police for the City of Dillon, will be the guest speaker at the Dillon Rotary Club meeting on Wednesday, August 17th at noon.

Visitors are welcome to attend, and anyone interested in learning more about the Rotary organization is invited to be a guest for lunch. The Rotarians meet in the Guild Hall of St. James Episcopal Church, located at 203 East Glendale Street. For more information about the Rotary Club, email Matthew Fullerton at matthewfullerton@me.com .

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Montana Supreme Court votes to protect their own jobs, deprive right to decide election methods

In response to the state Supreme Court's self-serving 5-2 decision to uphold a lower court ruling that Montanans do not have the right to decide how they elect their Supreme Court justices, Attorney General Knudsen issued the following statement:

"Opinions from the Montana Supreme Court have become little more than the rubberstamping of Democrat Party policies with a thin veneer of poor, tortured judicial reasoning. This is perhaps their most shameful and self-serving ruling yet. In order to protect their own jobs, Justices Gustafson, McGrath, McKinnon, Sandefur, and Shea deprived every Montanan of their right to decide how we elect Supreme Court justices."

House Bill 325, sponsored by Representative Barry Usher of Billings, would have allowed voters to choose if Montana should elect Supreme Court justices by district instead of statewide, as is currently done. The question would have appeared as a referendum on the November ballot.

Representative Usher issued the following statement in response to the ruling:

"If anyone needed irrefutable proof that our state Supreme Court is a corrupt institution in dire need of reform, this is it. By not disqualifying themselves, each justice violated the law and their own code of judicial conduct. Montanans have the right to determine the method of Supreme Court elections, not activist left-wing judges who don't want to be accountable to the people they are supposed to serve."

Attorney General Knudsen had called on the Supreme Court justices to disqualify themselves from the case because each "has a significant personal interest in how and where they must campaign to keep their jobs."

"Montana's constitutional system rests on the bedrock assumption of 'an independent, fair, and impartial judiciary' which can only be preserved through 'the appearance of judicial propriety and independence,'" the motion to disqualify read. "

Additionally, the Montana Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 2.12(A) reads: "A judge shall disqualify himself or herself in any proceeding in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned."

The justices denied Attorney General Knudsen's motion and instead took the case, ruling on an issue where each has a significant personal interest.

"Our historical judicial restraint is rooted in the people's reservation of their right to change the laws or the Constitution through the initiative and referendum process," Justice Beth Baker wrote in her dissenting opinion. "Quite simply, we should not be advising on the constitutionality of a measure that has not become law when there is no present threat to disenfranchisement as there was in Reichert. Instead, in an ironic turn, the Court denies Montanans the right to vote so that they cannot be denied the right to vote."

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Wolf stable population numbers through 2021

Wolf numbers and distribution continue to be stable across Montana, according to numbers released Monday in the 2021 Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Wolf Report.

"What the data shows us really isn't surprising," said FWP Director Hank Worsech. "Our management of wolves, including ample hunting and trapping opportunities, have kept numbers at a relatively stable level during the past several years."

In understanding this report, people must keep in mind that population trends are monitored by the calendar year, in this case 2021, which is consistent with how FWP and other agencies have tracked wolf populations since the 1980s and how wolf populations are tracked in other areas. However, the wolf hunting and trapping season ended March 15, 2022. The harvest realized during this first three months of 2022 isn't reflected in the 2021 wolf population estimate.

Another interesting aspect of the data is that wolf trapping efforts were down this license year from past years. This means fewer trappers were on the landscape. Potential reasons for this include unfavorable weather conditions during the trapping season.

The 2021 Montana Legislature approved a suite of legislation that added more tools for hunters and trappers for harvesting wolves. The legislature also passed legislation directing FWP to manage wolves in a manner that would reduce numbers to a sustainable level above minimum recovery goals.

In response, the Fish and Wildlife Commission increased bag limits, allowed snaring outside of lynx protection zones, and extended the season. Additionally, the commission also set harvest threshold numbers in each FWP region and at a statewide scale that required them to reconvene if those harvest levels were met. Ultimately, the commission closed wolf season in southwest Montana early because the pre-established threshold was met.

By the numbers

The estimated wolf population in Montana at the end of 2021 is 1,141. This is down 40 wolves from 1,181 in 2020. This is not a statistically significant difference. In the last 10 years, wolf populations saw an estimated high of 1,256 in 2011 and a low of 1,113 in 2017. The small difference in these two numbers demonstrates a population trend that is very stable.

At the end of 2021, Montana had an estimated 192 wolf packs. This is down from an estimated 198 in 2020. In the last 10 years, estimated pack numbers have fluctuated from a high of 205 in 2012 to a low of 186 in 2017.

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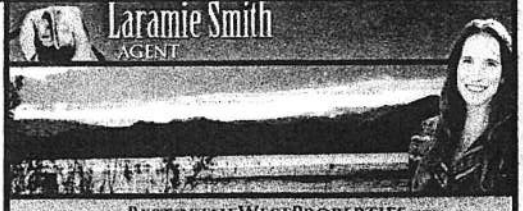
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Western Rodeo Signing of 21 Student-Athletes

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Montana Western Head Rodeo Coach JT Robbins has announced the signing of 21 student-athletes for the 2022-2023 men's and women's rodeo season. Of the 21 incoming athletes, there are 12 incoming freshman, eight transfers, and one athlete that was a freshman on the UMW football team last season. "We're very excited about the level of talent we have this year in every event. The freshman and transfers, coupled with the returning kids give us a chance to compete at a high level and accomplish our goals." coach JT Robbins said.

Cooper Pavkov | Team Roping, Calf Roping | Gooding, Idaho / Gooding High School

Cooper Pavkov joins the Bulldogs from Gooding, Idaho. He was a district champion team and calf roper, as well as an all-around district champion. In June 2022, Pavkov placed first in a round of calf roping and second in a round of team roping at the Idaho State Finals Rodeo. Along with rodeo, Cooper was a three-sport athlete in high school playing football, basketball, and golf. He was named first team all-conference and all-state for football. He is the son of Jeff and Cathy Pavkov and plans to major in business with a minor in farm and ranch management.

Riley Dean | Barrel Racing | Woodruff, Utah / Evanston High School

Riley Dean is a barrel racer joining the Bulldogs from Woodruff, Utah. During her time at Evanston High School, Dean was awarded the Veterinarian Science Award. She is the daughter of Brian and Stephanie Dean and plans on majoring in biology and secondary education with a minor in equine studies.

Hannah Lowell | Barrel Racing | Park City, Mont. / Park City High School

Hannah Lowell joins the Bulldogs rodeo team from Park City, Montana. Lowell was an NFR junior world qualifier in 2019 and 2021 in Barrel Racing. She also played basketball in high school where she won the varsity basketball sportsmanship award twice. The daughter of Eric and Kristi Lowell will be competing in barrel racing and plans to major in business with a minor in equine science.

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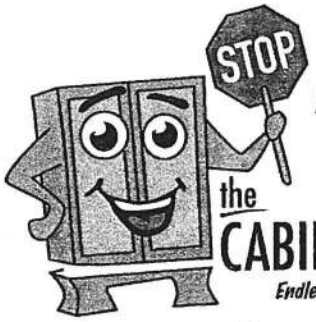
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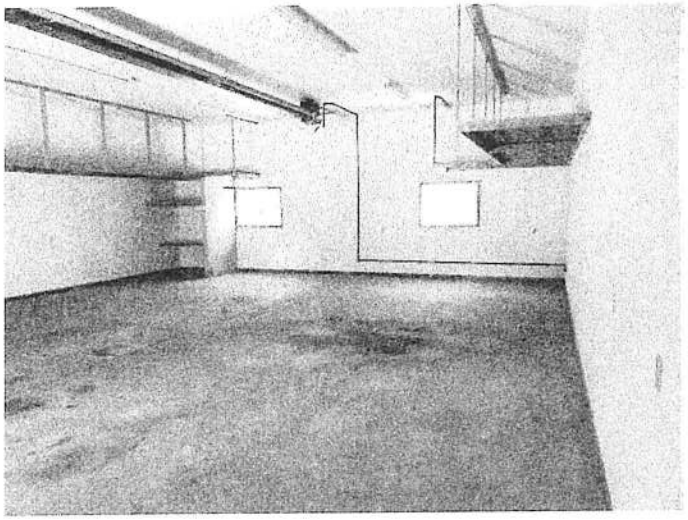
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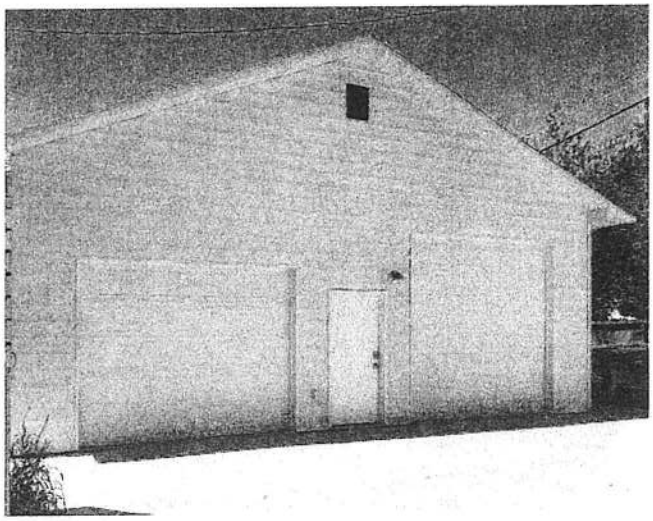
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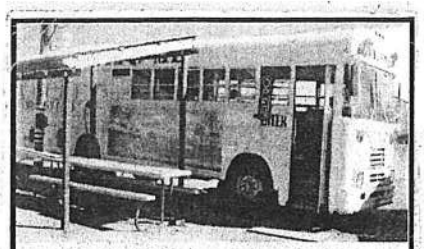


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The Diagnostic Imaging Department at Barrett Hospital & HealthCare invites applications to fill a Diagnostic Imaging II/CT Technologist position to join our team of healthcare professionals. The Diagnostic Imaging II/Computer Tomography Technologist will operate ionizing equipment to produce radiographic and computed tomography images of body regions for diagnostic purposes, as ordered by a licensed medical provider. Incumbents must have the ability to perform both radiologic and computed tomography modalities. The Technologist must possess the ability to communicate effectively with patients and an interdisciplinary health care team. The successful candidate must effectively follow established departmental procedures, work efficiently, and demonstrate the ability to navigate emergent situations.

Minimum Qualifications: Incumbents must be a graduate of an accredited 24-month course of study program in Radiologic Technology, have an active Certification with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (ARRT), as well as an active Radiologic Technologist License in the State of Montana with the Board of Radiologic Technologists. Advanced certification in Computed Tomography/or MRI by the ARRT or demonstrated competency with 1-year experience may be considered. Candidates must also be able to demonstrate evidence of compliance with ARRT continuing education requirements. Basic Life Support (BLS), required. Current employee in good standing.

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This position is a full-time position and is eligible for the full benefit package.

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This is a PRN position.

Sterile Processing Technician

Barrett Hospital & HealthCare invites applications to fill a Sterile Processing Technician position joining our Peri-Operative team. Sterile Processing Technician provides excellent customer service and always exhibits professional demeanor. Manually sorts, disassembles, cleans and/or disinfects instruments, scopes, and supplies per department protocol for assigned area(s). Utilizes critical thinking skills regarding workflow and assignment. Prepares surgical instrument sets and/or trays. Prioritizes production of surgical case cart, floor stock trays and miscellaneous. Wraps, packages, and sets up instrument trays per department protocol. Labels all instrument sets, peel-pouches, etc. Efficiently and accurately loads sterilizers per department procedure and as applicable to assigned area(s). Sterilizes instruments, scopes, supplies and linen using mandated sterilization processes per department protocol. Ensures proper operation of sterilization units through daily quality control testing. Specific duties and responsibilities may vary based upon departmental needs. Other duties may be assigned similar to the above consistent with knowledge, skills and abilities required for the job. Not all the duties may be assigned to a position.

Minimum Qualifications: Minimum of one (1) year work experience in sterile processing or healthcare preferred. Other combinations of education and experience may be considered. Minimum of one (1) of the below must successfully be obtained within two (2) years of hire: International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management (IAHCSMM) or Certified Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD) certification.

This position is a full-time position and is eligible for the full benefit package.

Licensed Practical Nurse – Clinic

***** $5,000 Sign-On Bonus, Retention Bonus and Relocation Assistance Available *****

Barrett Hospital & HealthCare invites applications to fill a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) position to join our Clinic team. The LPN assists in the management of patient flow and assisting physicians with assigned procedures. The LPN also is responsible for taking, screening, and initiating necessary telephone calls to patients, maintaining exam rooms, stocking of supplies, ensuring cleanliness and sterility of necessary equipment, and administration of medications and injections, as ordered by physicians. The LPN is responsible for maintaining complete and accurate electronic medical record documentation. As a member of an interdisciplinary team, successful candidates will have a passion for customer service excellence, compliance, compassion, and genuinely enjoy working with the public. Successful candidates will have a passion for customer service excellence, teamwork, and enjoy working with the public.

Minimum Qualifications: Current Montana LPN licensure and Basic Life Support (BLS) are required. Three to five years related healthcare experience and/or training preferred; or equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered for outstanding candidates.

This is a full-time position and is eligible for the full benefit package.

Patient Account Representative-Registration – Temporary Position

The Patient Financial Services Department at Barrett Hospital & HealthCare invites applications to fill a Patient Account Representative-Registration position to join our team of professionals. The Patient Account Representative is responsible for timely and accurate patient registration tasks and processes. The Patient Account Representative interviews patients for all pertinent account information, verifies insurance coverage, establishes need for pre-authorizations, financial counseling, and recovers co-insurance, deductible and/or self-pay payments, as necessary. The Patient Account Representative ensures the collection of appropriate signatures for treatment, medical records, and insurance processing. The Patient Account Representative displays courtesy and sensitivity in managing difficult or emotional customer situations.

Minimum Qualifications: High School Diploma, general education degree (GED) or equivalent; with one year of related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered **Qualified candidates will be required to complete a Patient Financial Services Departmental Workplace Questionnaire/Survey prior to being considered for a formal interview to assess basic customer service skills and industry related competencies.**

This is a temporary position and is not eligible for benefits.

Medical Technologist

***** $10,000 Sign-On Bonus, Retention Bonus and Relocation Assistance Available *****

Barrett Hospital & HealthCare invites applications to fill a Medical Technologist/Clinical Laboratory Scientist position to join our Laboratory team. The Medical Technologist/Clinical Laboratory Scientist oversees patient specimen collection, processing, testing, and reporting. The Medical Technologist/Clinical Laboratory Scientist assures quality control, quality assurance, maintenance of analyzers and monitoring of accuracy and precision. The Medical Technologist/Clinical Laboratory Scientist must be proficient in analyzer and instrument operation, quality control, calibration, and maintenance. Successful candidates must have a passion for customer service excellence, teamwork and enjoy working with the public.

Minimum Qualifications: Candidates must possess an active Montana Clinical Laboratory Scientist certification or ability to obtain licensure within 45 days of hire. One to two years of clinical post degree training is preferred.

This position is a full-time position and is eligible for the full benefit package.

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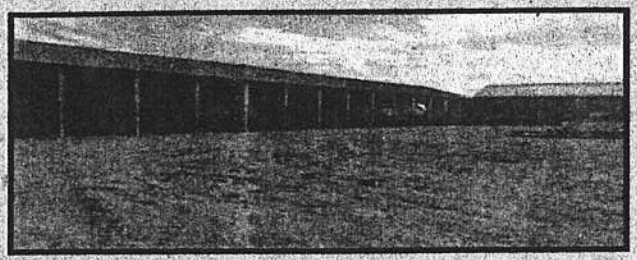
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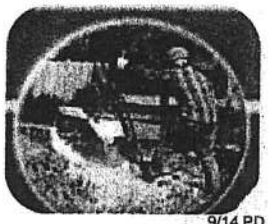
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Come shoot 1 round of Trap in August and get a
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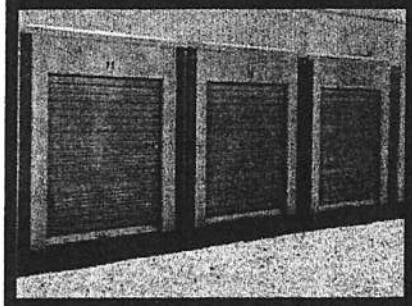
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9/14 PD

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Employment Opportunity:
Job Title: Custodian
Closing Date: August 19, 2022
Starting Date: August 22, 2022
Salary: $12.00/hour DOE
Classification: Part Time
Hours of Duty: 12-20 hours/week, evenings/nights
YMCA job application may be picked up at 75 Swenson Way, Dillon, Montana.
This position is responsible for cleanliness and safety of the YMCA facility. Successful applicant will perform routine cleaning and sanitation procedures throughout the facility as detailed. Cleaning will include scrubbing, vacuuming, dusting, and washing interior windows. Equipment and training necessary to perform duties will be provided.
For further information contact the Southwestern Montana Family YMCA at 75 Swenson Way or call Todd Rouse at 683-9622.
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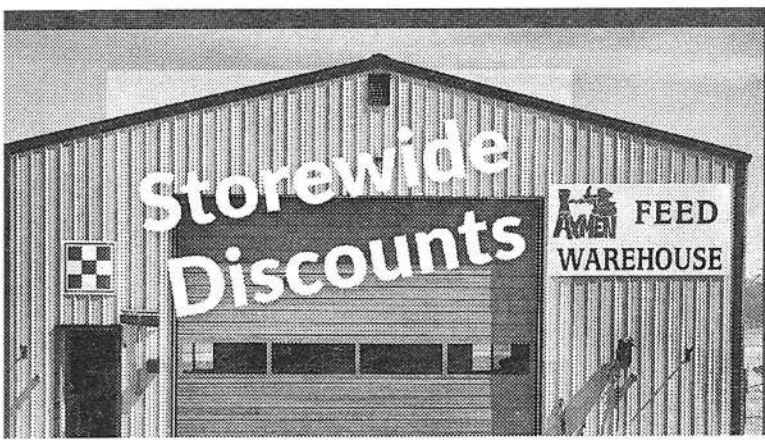
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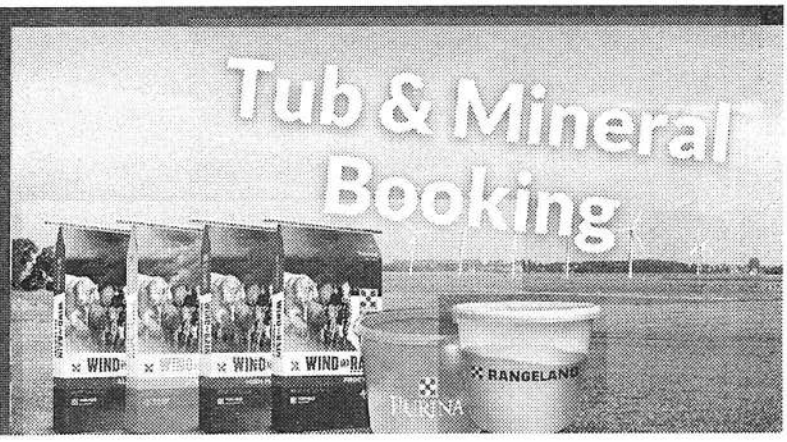
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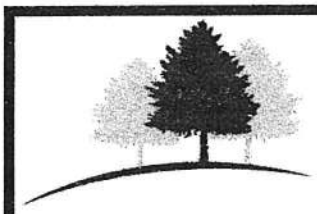


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