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Wapiti Players

It has been over a decade since the Wapiti Players have put on a production at the Dillon Elks' Lodge. However, in April 2024, the Wapiti Players will return. Plans are being made to bring back this popular event. Show dates are set for April 5 & 6 and April 12 & 13, cocktail hour at 6:30 pm and show at 7:30 pm.

This year's production is billed as 1959 Pink Thunderbird, two one-act comedies, Laundry and Bourbon and Lone Star, by James McClure. These two comedies beg to be presented together. Each show pursues the same timeline – the 1970s in Maynard, Texas – and let the audience get to know three quirky housewives and an errant husband, his younger brother and a local Junior Chamber of Commerce member.

Laundry and Bourbon takes place on the front porch of Elizabeth and her husband, Roy's home on a hot, summer afternoon. Elizabeth and her friend Hattie are whiling away the time folding laundry, watching television, sipping bourbon and Coke, and gossiping about the secrets of small-town life. Soon they are joined by the self-righteous Amy Lee who can't resist blurting out gossip about Elizabeth's husband, Roy.

Lone Star takes place in the same small town as Laundry and Bourbon but rather than a porch, the show is set in the cluttered backyard of Angel's Bar. Roy, once a local high-school hero, is back after his service in Vietnam and trying to reestablish his position in the community. He is joined by his younger brother, Ray. Soon Roy sets about consuming a case of beer while regaling Ray with tales of his military and amorous exploits. Gradually, the audience learns what Roy cherishes above all: his Country, his wife and his 1959 Pink Thunderbird. With the arrival of Cletis, the fatuous, newlywed son of the local hardware store owner, the underpinnings of Roy's world begin to collapse.

The shows are being directed by Virginia Cook with stage manager, Darla Cherney.

Auditions will be held on February 6 and 7 at 7:00 pm at the Dillon Elks' Club. Auditions are open to everyone. Anyone wishing to be a part of this production should come to one of the audition dates.

Letter to the editor:

By Delores Gregory

Let us have a little 44-year history lesson. Bob & I moved to Dillon and bought our home in 1980. Of course, in buying on a river, I did ask the question of Kathryn Durant, a close by neighbor, if it ever flooded there. Her comment was "not since they built the dam". I felt very comfortable as it was quite obvious the opposite side of the river was much lower.

Bob and BJ had to remove their sand bags and have the Corp of Engineers put in a new bank at the cost of \$15,000.00 out of their pocket. We removed our sand bags because they were not very attractive but the dike on the other side of the river remained and never engineered by the Corp of Engineers. Against all flood plain regulations.

The next incident we had happen (and I am not home to look up dates) were the straw bales and rocks put in the river to divert water down the ditch that runs by McCollum's used for irrigation by those

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folks that live out on Laknar. In the winter ice would build up and start backing water up on us. Because that was against flood plain regulations, we hired RE Miller to clean it out because I was tired of approaching the County with it and nothing being done. They were able to obtain the permits needed to do so. I divided the bill among the users that I was told used the ditch and sent them a bill. Wade Hansen threatened to sue me, words were exchanged and he backed off. Craig Hansen sent me a \$5.00 check which was like a slap in the face. Still have the check at which I never cashed and I will produce and show Lisa Hansen when I get home because she just cannot believe it and would like to see the check. None of the other users responded.

They now have a nice approved diversion that they still seem to have problems removing the boards before November 1st, and I have to go to East Bench to have that happen.

Next came the ice jam of February 1981 I do not remember any ice jam in 1983 so it must not have affected us. BUT, then in June of 1984 the dam over filled and water poured over the spillway. When that happens there is no controlling the water coming down the river. However, we still did not flood. The basement had water because of seepage, (flood insurance would not cover that as water must run across the top of the ground). They sand bagged across the river from us and then came the pit run gravel dike. (Dave Altenburg owned that at that time) and Rick Hartz owned the little log cabin across the river on the corner next to where the old one-way bridge was. Bob and BJ James owned the house and property that was moved where the fishing access and park are now and the new Laknar Lane bridge was put in. Bob and BJ had sand bags braced by 2x4's so the water would not push them over. Our bottom part got wet and I could not plant a garden that year. After the gravel was poured over top of all the sand bags across the river, we had to put up a couple rows of sand bags just in case. Don Puyear owner of Paul's Motor Company sent the shop crew out to help us. Paul Craft can attest to that. He worked there at the time. Of course everyone on both sides of the river wanted to protect their property and I sure didn't have a problem with that, BUT all should have been removed after the flood was over. Not left to push water on someone else. 9. A cold front was predicted as it was this January. I was working for Ted Hazelbaker in the Title Company. Around 3:00 to 3:30 P.M.

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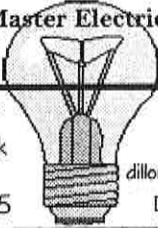
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I was walking the mail to the post office. On State Bank's thermometer (now Bank of Commerce) it registered 40 above. It started clicking down degree by degree and by the time I got home at 5:00 slush was rolling down the river and the temperature went to 35 below zero. The river started freezing and by morning it was froze over as it was this year, however water went around our shed on the bottom not up to the windows and we had no leakage in the basement. Water flow at the dam had been deceased ahead of time and flooding was minor.

Ice builds up every year along the banks but flooding only exists when temperatures drop rapidly. Gradual cold for a week or so that goes below zero does not seem to cause as much problem.

There was plenty of warning for this past cold front was coming. I even saw it on my phone in Apache Junction, Az. That is only common sense. The more water flowing, the more water to freeze and the more ice to move somewhere because water will start rolling over the ice.

Not being home and when I received the pictures and the phone calls, I panicked. I began making phone calls and leaving a lot of messages because it was Sunday January 14th, 2024 and no one seemed to be home.

RE Miller called me back and I had them on alert to put a berm around our house if need be. Friends and neighbors watched the basement and put in a sump pump. The county commissioner I left a message for did phone me back. Made light of the flood and what was happening and told me I may have to pick up a couple extra sticks this spring.

Monday morning after receiving more pictures and phone calls, I phoned the commissioners office and said "for God's sake why didn't somebody get ahold of the powers to be and turn that dam down. I was told there has to be a disaster before they can ask the Bureau of Reclamation to do that and it has to go through Nebraska. "THAT IS THE STUPIDEST THING I HAVE EVER HEARD". You mean to tell me, you know a disaster is going to happen and you know from history there will be massive flooding if you do not turn the dam down and you cannot do anything about it to prevent it. I hung up on him!!!!

I have complained over the years about the rules not being followed in the floodplain and pushing water onto others. Now they have huge straw bales on top of the gravel dike. Rules are specific in the floodplain manual. These need to be removed. All they have ever done in that Courthouse is blow smoke up my *** about that dike. Sweep things under the rug.

Since common sense does not prevail and it is not very common anymore, there needs to be a board put up in the county planner's office, county commissioners' office, the flood plain administrator's office, and the disaster and emergency services office with protocol to follow when you know in advance there is going to be a drastic drop in temperature.

#1 Before the disaster strikes, inform the Bureau of Reclamation that the water flow from the dam needs to be decreased.

#2 Turn the damn Dam down.

This disaster as wide spread as it was could have been avoided.

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- **Soroptimist Purses with a Purpose** Saturday, February 10, 2024 5:00pm-10:00pm Elks Lodge
- **Friends of Jaycee Park Annual Fundraiser** Dinner & Auction March 19th UMW Lewis & Clark 5:30 pm



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A Snail's Pace

Bryce Angell

We'd saddled up our horses at the trailhead in the Park. For a ride through Yellowstone in hopes of getting done 'fore dark.

We started at Old Faithful on a brisk October day and were aiming for the Ranger Station thirty miles away.

I could hear the click as saddle bags were buckled in their places. I don't believe I've ever seen so many grinning faces.

The horses' breaths were steaming in the cold October air. An hour into daylight, not a minute's time to spare.

With four new lady riders who'd be bringing up the tail, our traveling would be slower than a ninety year-old snail.

The ladies were beginners. I'm not saying they weren't smart. But they made the biggest blunder stopping at a Mini-Mart.

The gals tanked down on Diet Coke like there was no tomorrow. If only they'd have realized no daylight time to borrow.

We'd barely left the trailhead, only rode a mile or so. When their Diet Coke would travel south. So then they had to "Go."

We helped the ladies climb on down. Into the woods they went. Then helped each one back on her horse, just like a proper gent.

The snail brigade moved down the trail but stopped when (wouldn't you know?) Another lady called out loud, "I really gotta go!"

So once again we helped her down and then back on her steed. I warned them all, "We're running late. We should pick up the speed."

We rode a few more miles, and then I heard a desperate plea, "I know we're short of time, but please, I really gotta pee!"

How many times in one day can a person really go? I hesitated asking 'cuz I didn't want to know.

We stopped along the river's edge and wolfed down every bite. We'd soon be riding in the dark and trust the horse's sight.

Our day was done. The sun went down. The ride had gone too slow. But after dark I never heard, "I really gotta go."

We finally reached the station. Yes, our patience had been tried. My body was a total wreck. I'd say completely fried.

So next time when you ride with us, please take my sound advice. "Leave all the soda pop at home! Next time we won't be nice!"



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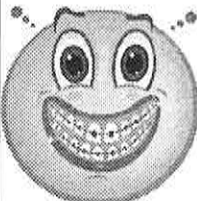
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Dillon Little Guy Wrestling Sign ups

Dillon Little Guy Wrestling Sign-ups are now open! Gear pick-up date has changed to 5:30 pm January 31st at the BCHS main gym lobby. Go to dillonlittleguywrestling.com for sign-ups, further information and assistance.

Fish and Wildlife Commission to Meet

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission will hold a virtual special meeting Tuesday, Jan. 30, at 3 p.m., to review the wolf harvest and quota in FWP Region 3.

The 2023 wolf regulations set the quota for Region 3 at 52 wolves. The regulations also stipulate that the commission shall meet when the quota is within 25 percent of being filled. As of Jan. 29, the wolf harvest in Region 3 is at 40 wolves.

People interested in commenting must sign up online by 2 p.m. on Jan. 30. The meeting will also be streamed live on the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks website.

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Strong Second Half Helps Bulldogs Put Out Lights in Havre

The Montana Western men's basketball team (10-10, 3-4) got back on track with a conference road win at MSU-Northern (9-11, 1-6). The Bulldogs won by a final score of 66-58 after a strong second half propelled Western to the win.

Abi Adedo led the Bulldogs in the win, totaling 23 points and hitting a perfect 7-7 from the free throw line.

How It Happened: Adedo and Jalyn Stepney led the Bulldogs with double-digits in scoring through the first half power struggle with the Lights. Adedo's 13 points led all scorers in the half as Western went 11-22 from the field and a near perfect 8-9 from the free throw line.

Trailing seven with 11:02 on the clock, the Bulldogs surged back to tie the game at 19 all on a 7-0 run that saw Adedo capitalize on an and one opportunity off a foul from the Lights.

Down 32-27 with a minute and a half to play until the half, Michael Haverfield and Stepney each utilized trips to the free throw line to bring the score back within one. Stepney slammed it down with 29 seconds left and sent the Bulldogs into the half up 33-32.

Lights' guard Dae'Kwon Watson led the second half push for the Lights as they went 9-0 from the break.

Jackson Burckley's layup broke the run and set Western off on an impressive second half surge. Behind Adedo and Christian Pitcher's eight points, UMW would outscore the Lights 27-10 across the next 13 minutes and drain three of four shots from the arc.

Up 60-53, Watson made a mid-range jumper that was paired with a triple to cut the lead back to four. Despite the scare, the Bulldogs would finish the come from behind win by a final score of 66-58.

Dillon Rink Day

Thanks to everyone who came out for the first annual Dillon Rink Day!

Winners:

- Rink Plink - Youth Division: Carsyn Davis
- Rink Plink - Novice Skater Division: Collin Peterson
- Rink Plink - Expert Skater Division: Derek Lewis
- Chili Cook-Off: Carly & Jarrod Pulliam
- Curling Tournament: The Jug Slyders (JR, Sam, Kolton, Carsyn)

For rink information and news, follow the Dillon Amateur Hockey Association (DAHA) on Facebook. Many thanks to Beaverhead Brewing for hosting Pint Night + awards ceremony.

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BEAVERHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
 THURSDAY February 8th, 2024
 Commissioner's Room, County Courthouse
1:00 PM REGULAR MEETING
****All times are approximate****
1:00 P.M. Minutes and Reports
 • Minutes of January 11th meeting
 • Planning Board Member Reports
 • Planner's Report
 • Public Comments & Questions
1:30 P.M. Western View Minor Sub.
2:00 P.M. Kelly Rowe Mock Development Plan –
 New Subdivision Regulations
3:30 P.M. Public Comments & Questions of Non-
 Agenda Items
 Adjourn

Hunting for female mountain lions
closes in Lion Management Unit 110

FWP hires additional staff for fish monitoring
 FWP recently hired a new fisheries technician based in Dillon to support efforts in the Big Hole, Beaverhead, Ruby and Madison rivers, including upcoming studies with MSU. That work will include three PhD students and support staff who will begin studies on recreational use, adult trout mortality and juvenile trout recruitment in 2024 on the four rivers.

In the Big Hole and Beaverhead rivers, FWP staff and anglers have observed clinically diseased adult fish with apparent increasing frequency in recent years. FWP has conducted health assessments in those rivers. However, disease in fish is a complex interaction among the fish host, potential pathogens and environment, which poses challenges in determining the primary cause of fish health issues.

FWP staff have detected the parasite that causes proliferative kidney disease in the Big Hole River and many other rivers across Montana using molecular testing methods. However, staff have yet to see the disease manifest itself in fish in the river. It is also unclear whether the observed fungal infections or lesions are the primary cause or secondary effects of another disease. Thus far, testing has not identified any bacteria or viruses that are common fish pathogens.

For more information about FWP's response to trout declines in the Big Hole, Beaverhead and Ruby rivers, visit bit.ly/3Scbf9X.

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Bulldogs Open Track & Field Season

Western track & field team traveled to Idaho State University where they kicked off the track and field season.

Malia Cox competed in both the women's long jump and the women's 200m race. In the long jump, she recorded a 4.38m to place 23rd in a field of 25. She also recorded a 29.82 in the 200m race, good for 28th in a field of 30.

Justene Santi also competed in the women's 800m race and the women's mile. In the 800m, she finished with a time of 2:49.77 and placed 32nd overall. She also raced in the women's mile where she finished in 31st with a time of 6:12.73.

On the men's side, Brody Henry competed on the track in both the men's mile run and the men's 800m race. Henry finished in 25th in the 800m race with a time of 2:08.18. He also finished 40th in the men's mile with a time of 4:50.67.

Two Bulldog men also competed in the men's shot put. Carson Bain threw an 11.29m and placed 21st. Tad Tackes finished in 25th after recording a 10.02m.

Skylights Sink Bulldogs in Havre

The Montana Western women's basketball team (11-9, 3-4) lost a road game with the MSU-Northern Skyights (10-10, 4-3) by a final score of 69-51. The loss marks the first loss to the Skyights since 2020-21 season when the Bulldogs lost by two points on the road.

How It Happened: The Bulldogs got out to a fast start, taking a 12-5 lead early in the game. Northern answered and mirrored Western in scoring through the final minutes of the first quarter and the Bulldogs held a 17-15 lead heading into the second frame.

Despite a promising start following a three-pointer from Jordan Sweeney, the Bulldogs sunk into the background as the Skyights raced on to outscore the Bulldogs 18-9 in the second quarter.

Following the half break, Western's offense began to click. Kyla Momberg made a layup that kicked off a run that saw the Bulldogs bring the score back to a two-point deficit with 4:17 left in the third.

MSU-Northern continued to fight back, going 8-10 from the field in a 18-2 scoring run that took them into the fourth quarter up 57-40 with 7:18 to go.

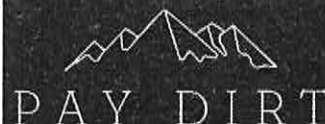
A triple from Shainy Mack paired with a bucket on a successful drive to the hoop from Isabella Lund gave Western hope with just under seven minutes to play. Despite the spark, the Skyights outscored the Bulldog women 11-6 in the final minutes and capped the game out on top 69-51.



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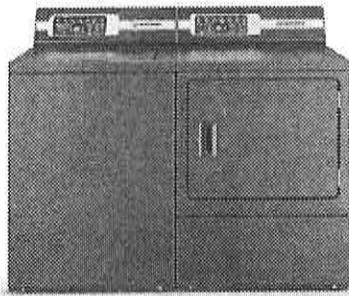
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1/11- 2/5 BILL

The Dillon Police Department is accepting applications for a probationary patrolman. Requirements include possessing high ethical standards, and the desire to serve and protect in a community-oriented police department. Applicants must be 18 years of age, no felony convictions, and adhere to Montana Code Annotated 44-1-401. Starting salary is \$21.50 an hour, increasing to \$24.50 an hour after the first year and requirements are completed.

POST certified applicants may be considered at a higher rate if hired. Competitive insurance and several other benefits. Police Officer Standards in Training (POST) applications and additional information can be located Forms and Other Documents - Montana Department of Justice (dojmt.gov) Applications may be emailed to dillonpd@beaverheadco.mt.gov Other questions may be referred to Chief Jeremy Alvarez at (406)683-3714 or jalvarez@beaverheadco.mt.gov Closing date is open until filled.

1/30-2/28 PD



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4/15 PD

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1/3-2/2 BILL



Amanda Cooper

Realtor

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1/24- WC BILL

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1/8-2/8 BILL



DILLON MT DOWNTOWN WINTER BAR OLYMPICS & POKER RUN Saturday, February 3rd

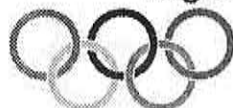
Registration - Noon at Mac's Last Cast

Start Time: 1 p.m.
4 Person Teams

Must be 21 to Enter

\$10 Entry Fee per Person \$5 for Poker Run

Includes Chili Dogs, Door Prizes, Team Costume Prizes



Cranny's Kupfer Club	The Office	The Moose	Klondike	The Office
Roll for Pairs	Shuffle Board	Washer Toss	Ring Toss	Shuffle Board
Mac's Last Cast	Knotty Pine	Golden Bar	Beaverhead Brewing	Dillon Elks
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Payout 1st, 2nd & Best Individual - Please Drink Responsibly
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1/29-2/2 BILL