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Today's Date Should Be: **Thursday, January 23, 2025**

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UMW and MCH Host 2025 Colt Challenge & Sale

The Annual Colt Challenge and Sale, hosted by the University of Montana Western and the Montana Center for Horsemanship, will take place March 28 and 29, 2025, at the Montana Center for Horsemanship in Dillon, Montana.

Students and colts compete in a series of events that demonstrate their wide range of abilities on the first day, and the following day, a public auction features the colts for sale, with all proceeds reinvested in the program to provide scholarships to Natural Horsemanship majors at the University of Montana Western.

This year we will also host our inaugural Alumni Horse Sale where past colt sale students will have the opportunity to showcase their horsemanship skills and their post-graduation accomplishments. There will be six alumni horses ranging from 3-11 years old. We are thrilled to showcase older horses and give buyers an opportunity to purchase horses with extra real-world experience.

Schedule of Events:

Friday, March 28
Colt Challenge: 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, March 29
Preview: 10:00 a.m.
Lunch: 11:30 a.m.
Sale: 1:00 p.m.

Each colt receives approximately 90 days of Natural Horsemanship training from equine students in the Natural Horsemanship/Equine Studies Bachelor of Science Degree program at Montana Western, under the guidance and leadership of the MCH Natural Horsemanship instructors. This year's event will showcase 18 quality colts donated by some of the finest ranches in the region.

The young horses are familiarized with all settings inside and out. They are also exposed to a variety of situations including working with cattle and ropes, loading and unloading from trailers, and many other scenarios a horse and rider might encounter in ranch-work or recreational riding. Simultaneously, both students and instructors develop an in-depth feel for each horse, enabling them to accurately convey this knowledge to potential buyers.

The horses and students are featured on Facebook leading up to the main event with information about the colts including their color, conformation, personalities, and skills. More information about the 2025 Colt Challenge and Sale, including the sale catalog, is available on the University of Montana Western website.

Those interested in attending the auction can do so in person, online, or by phone. To bid online, participants must pre-register at least one day prior to the sale. To pre-register, please visit bid.northernlivestockvideo.com and click "Get Approved to Bid." Participants can then bid online via desktop by visiting www.northernlivestockvideo.com the day of the sale or by downloading the Northern Livestock Auction mobile app.

To bid by phone, pre-register by calling Northern Livestock Video Auction at 866-616-5035 before the sale day to obtain a bid number. Bidders can then phone in the day of the sale by calling 406-245-0889.

The sale order will be posted on Friday, March 28 by 5:00 p.m. on the Montana Western Colt Challenge and Sale website and Facebook page.

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The Annual Colt Challenge and Sale corporate sponsors include CHS Inc., New Generation Supplements, Rocky Mountain Supply, and Zinpro Performance Minerals in partnership with the University of Montana Western and the Montana Center for Horsemanship. Saturday's complimentary lunch is sponsored by Beaverhead Motors and Bryan and Marcia Mussard of Reminisce Angus. Thank you to Stockman Bank for sponsoring this year's saddle for the Colt Challenge winner. We wish to thank our sponsors for their generous support of the event and the students in the program.

The Equine Studies Department at the University of Montana Western offers the nation's only Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Horsemanship with options in management, psychology, science and instruction, and was ranked among the "Best Equestrian Colleges" by ThoughtCo.com.

The Montana Center for Horsemanship is the first and only equine center in the United States that is devoted expressly to promoting natural horsemanship. With its stables, arenas, riding areas, and instructors, the center serves as the primary facility and progressive teaching resource for Montana Western's Natural Horsemanship BS curriculum.

The MCH teaches the 'La Cense Method,' which was developed under William Kriegel, owner of Haras de la Cense in France. Mr. Kriegel is also co-founder of MCH, and he has been involved in Natural Horsemanship for many years. The La Cense Method is a progressive, step-by-step process that blends the best of traditional horsemanship training with the art of training and riding horses—all in a manner that works with a horse's behavior, instincts, and personality. Taking a positive and respectful approach, the La Cense Method gradually builds trust, and frees the horses to be confident in all they are asked to perform.

For more information about the Colt Challenge and Sale, please contact Head Natural Horsemanship Instructor, Eric Hoffmann: eric.hoffmann@umwestern.edu or 406-925-1499.

Power Outage

A power outage yesterday morning reported that 470 out of 4,953 tracked meters (9.49%) were without power in Beaverhead County.

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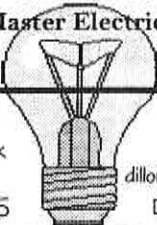
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Montana Department of Transportation Hosts Meetings on MT-41 North Project

Jeremy Crawford, Southwestern Montana News

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT) held both in-person and virtual meetings on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday to discuss the upcoming construction plans for the MT-41 Stone Creek North project. The meetings took place at the University of Montana Western (UMW) and provided an opportunity for the public to learn about the project and ask questions.

The MT-41 project will begin where MT-41 crosses over Stone Creek and continue past Beaverhead Rock, ending just before Point of Rock Cemetery. The projected start date for the construction is set for 2027. MDOT plans to implement several improvements, including:

- Realigning the roadway north of the Beaverhead River.
- Reducing the vertical grade (steepness) of hills.
- Adding 8-foot shoulders to the roadway.
- Installing shoulder rumble strips and replacing centerline rumble strips.
- Flattening steep slopes along the road.
- Replacing the Stone Creek Bridge with a concrete box culvert.
- Replacing the Beaverhead River Bridge with a new structure.
- Upgrading guardrails and drainage systems.
- Constructing wildlife barrier fencing near the Beaverhead River bridge.

This project aims to enhance safety on a section of roadway originally paved in 1959 and last improved in 1988, with a chip seal applied in 2011. The roadway is considered narrow by today's standards and experiences significant semi and heavy traffic.

Currently, the project is in its final design phase, and MDOT is beginning the right-of-way acquisition phase, which involves approximately 45 acres and impacts around 17 individuals. The department hopes to finalize engineering designs by 2025 and commence construction in 2027.

During the meetings, attendees had the opportunity to hear from engineers regarding plans to widen the road, traffic control during construction, and what to expect as the project progresses. Biologists also discussed plans to install a taller bridge to aid wildlife, mitigate work near sensitive wildlife areas, and manage construction around both the Beaverhead River and Stone Creek.

For those interested in staying informed about the project, MDOT encourages individuals to reach out to Brandon Coates at brandon@rbci.net.

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Beaverhead County Resource Use Plan

All meetings will be held in the Commissioners Room at the Beaverhead County Courthouse. All meetings will have time for Public Comment.

Meeting: January 28th at 4:00pm

Discussion Topics: Soil; Air Quality; Water Resources; Forage Allocation/ Livestock Grazing

Meeting: February 11 at 4:00pm

Discussion Topics: Vegetation; Forest/Fire Management; Land Changes, Acquisitions, and Sales; Recreation and Tourism

Meeting: February 25 at 4:00pm

Discussion Topics: Wildlife; Special Designations; Wilderness Designations/ Roadless Areas; Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC'S)

Meeting: March 11 at 4:00pm

Discussion Topics: Wild and Scenic Rivers; Introduced, Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species, recovery Plans and Experimental Populations; Public Access; Cultural/Historical/Paleontology Resources

Meeting March 25 at 4:00pm

Discussion Topics: Off Highway Vehicles (OHV); Wild Horses; Energy and Mineral Resource; Fisheries

Meeting: April 8 at 4:00pm

Discussion Topics: Mitigation/ Habitat Improvement; Transportation; New Topics of Discussion Not Previously Mentioned

Meeting: April 22 at 4:00pm

Discussion Topics: New Topics of Discussion Not Previously Mentioned; Finalize Plan



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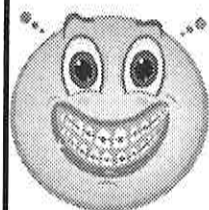


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BEAVERHEAD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Interviews with Superintendent/Principal Finalists
Room 106, January 28, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER
 - 1.2 Determine a Quorum as being present.
 - 1.3 Pledge of Allegiance
2. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS
 - 2.1 Casey Elliott, Dillon Tribune
 - 2.2 BFT Representative
 - 2.3 Student Council
3. PUBLIC COMMENT/COMMUNICATION
4. Interviews with Superintendent/Principal Finalists Schedule
 - 1pm - Ator (in person)
 - 2pm - Lagge (in person)
 - 3pm - Patterson (in person)
 - 4pm - Rutledge (zoom)

Facilities Manager Jack Bergeson will lead a facility tour for each in-person finalist immediately following the conclusion of their interview.

5. ACTION ITEMS (Motion, Second, & Vote)

5.1 Discussion and potential action on superintendent/principal finalist interviews - executive (closed) session possible in accordance with Section 2-3-203(3), MCA for the limited purpose of employment reference checks where board chair determine that individual privacy rights clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure. Trustee deliberation and possible vote to authorize MTSBA to make offer of employment to finalist on behalf of the District.

6. ADJORNMENT AND NEXT BOARD MEETING

6.1 Next Board of Trustees meeting February 10, at 7 pm.

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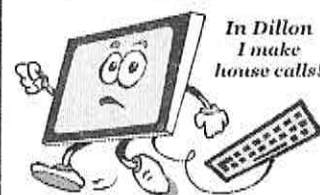
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Beaverhead County HS Activity List

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|--|------------------|
| 1/23 | Thu | Wrestling vs Columbia Falls/Whitefish Home | 4:00 pm |
| 1/23 | Thu | Boys & Girls Basketball @ Hamilton | |
| | | Doubleheader-Girls Sub-varsity @ HMS | |
| | | Away B-3/4:30/6:00 pm | G-3/4:30/7:30 pm |
| 1/24-1/25 | Fri-Sat | Wrestling @ Class A Duals - Park | Fri-10/Sat-9 am |
| 1/24-1/25 | Fri-Sat | Speech & Drama @ Divisional Polson | 8 am |
| 1/24-1/25 | Fri-Sat | FFA @ Fergus - Overnight Away | 9 am |

This Week in Bulldog Athletics

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Montana Western Men's Basketball team (10-8) enters the week on a three-game losing streak, having recently fallen to No. 11 Montana Tech, and No. 19 Rocky Mountain. The Bulldogs look to bounce back as Frontier Conference play continues this week facing Carroll College on Thursday Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. in Helena, Mont. at the P.E. Center. The following game will be home against MSU-Northern on Saturday Jan. 25 at 4 p.m. in the Straugh Gymnasium.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Montana Western Women's Basketball team (7-10) heads into the week with momentum from an exhilarating win over RV Montana Tech, despite a tough loss to No. 20 Rocky Mountain. The Bulldogs are set to continue their Frontier Conference play, taking on Carroll College on Thursday, Jan. 23 at 5 p.m. in Helena, Mont. at the P.E. Center. They will then return home to face MSU-Northern on Saturday, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. in the Straugh Gymnasium.

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Veteran's Corner Update # 292
 By Mike Lawson
Veteran News Updates:

- In a follow-up of the Marine Toys For Tot's report from last week, we were relieved to get our After Action Report submitted to the Marine TFT's Foundation. We got some figures from National concerning the nation-wide Marine TFT's Campaign. There are a total of 873 Campaigns in our 7 Regions across the country with 96.91% having completed their "After Action Reports." As of right now 14,863,981 gifts were collected nationwide with a value of \$222,959,718.00. There were 29,815,197 toys distributed, that went to 12,425,350 children and 513,466 At-Risk Children. There were 47,679 volunteers who were instrumental in making this happen. These are amazing statistics, especially knowing we helped 13 million kids have a happy Christmas or others with gifts when in need. Many thanks to those of you who donated and are part of making the Marine TFT's Campaign across our country so successful.
- I've had married members of my family who served or are serving in the military. The spouses of any military member is to be commended for their service in supporting their spouse who may be on deployments away from home and family, at various times. The raising of their children and taking care of the home-front, falls on their shoulders. Many are looking for work to help ends meet. The VA has become the first Federal Agency to sign the 4+1 Commitment, which is a voluntary pledge by employers to adopt important employment policies designed to expand employment and career opportunities for military spouses. If you know someone who could benefit from this, a good place to start is the Veteran and Military Spouse Talent Engagement Program (VMSTEP).
- The VA has made several cancers presumptive for service connection, lowering the burden of proof for Veterans to receive no-cost health care and earned benefits. They are: acute and chronic leukemias, multiple myelomas, myeloid splastic syndromes, myelofibrosis, urinary bladder, ureter, and related genitourinary cancers presumptive for service-connection. Any veteran with any of these, please go to your VA Service Officer and get help.

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Beaverhead County Spelling Bee

The Beaverhead County Courthouse will play host for the 2025 Beaverhead County Spelling Bee. Elementary and middle school spellers from around the county on will convene on Wednesday, January 29 at 1:30 pm in the courtroom upstairs in the Courthouse. Students from all the grade schools, plus those from Dillon Middle School, Lima and local home schools will contend for a trip to the Treasure State Spelling Bee on March 7th in Bozeman.

County Superintendent of Schools Mike Miller is serving as the director for this year's contest.

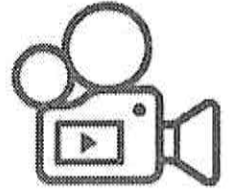
"The six rural schools, Lima's Elementary School, the area home 'schoolers', and the schools here in Dillon have all been invited to send spellers to challenge for a trip to Bozeman in March," said Miller. "We may have as many as 30 area spellers entered in the contest this year, although some schools may choose not to take part."

Trophies for the top two spellers and certificates for all participants will be presented at the conclusion of the event along with donations from local financial institutions to help defray the costs for travel to Bozeman. Three local judges (Jamie Flynn, Deborah McCabe, and Dr. Katrina Kennett) have volunteered, and Deb Sporich, the famous 'Deb from the Bookstore' will be pronouncing the words.

The Treasure State Spelling Bee, now in its 60th year, is conducted along the rules of the Scripps National Spelling Bee organization which furnishes the spelling list used at local and state spelling bees. "At least one speller from each county can be entered in the state bee, while counties with much larger population are allowed more spellers. But it is expected that 60 spellers will converge on the campus of Montana State University at the Strand Ballroom for this year's contest," reported Miller. Only students from schools which are enrolled in the National Scripps organization are eligible to participate in the state bee, although registration is not required for the county bee.

The Montana Television Network sponsors the event and local journalists will serve as judges at the Treasure State Bee in Bozeman.

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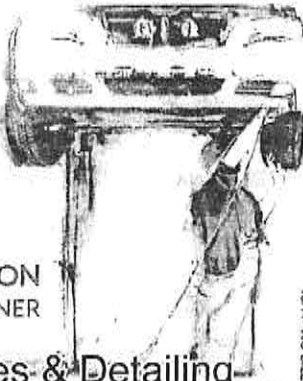
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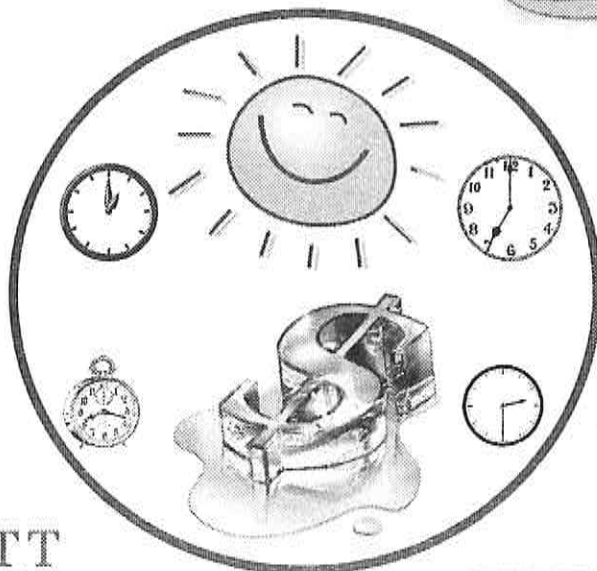


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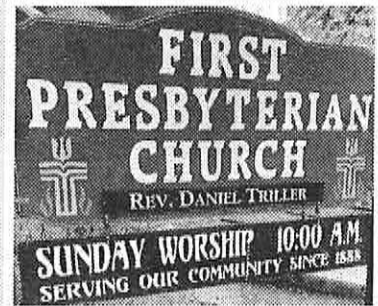
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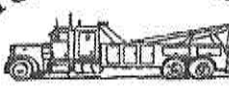
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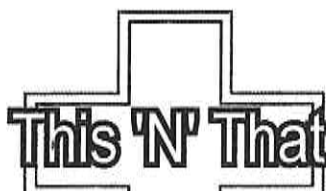
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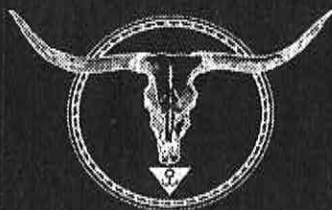
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1/16-30 PD

Dillon Elementary School District #10

2025 Technology Levy



By the Numbers

 **\$150,000** Technology Fund increase to protect student and staff data, purchase student learning software, improve parent communication tools and maintain and replace instructional devices.

 **10 year term for levy**

If approved, the technology levy would remain in place until 2035.

 **\$50,000 - \$1 million**

Monetary losses to school districts following a cyber incident ranged from \$50,000 to \$1 million according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

 **141%**

Increase in technology-related costs over the last 7 years ensuring students and the district can keep pace with technological advancements essential for modern education.

 **14.7% less per-pupil**

Dillon Elementary School District spends 14.7% less per-pupil than Montana's per-pupil average. SD #10 spent \$11,388 per pupil, in contrast to Montana's state average of \$13,346, as reported in the 2022-2023 school year.

 **23 years**

Number of years since Dillon Elementary School District has requested technology funds, despite growing demand. Currently, the district has a \$50,000 annual technology levy.

 **\$275,000 current shortfall**

Current technology costs exceed the existing \$50,000 technology levy by \$275,000. A new technology levy would increase funding and allow general funds to be reallocated to support our students, teachers, staff, and community.

Learn more at <https://www.dillonschools.org/page/2025-technology-levy> or scan the QR Code.



Dillon Elementary School District #10

2025 Technology Levy



Dillon Elementary
School District #10



Why is Dillon Elementary asking for a technology levy increase?

Dillon Elementary School District #10 is asking for voter approval of a \$150,000 technology levy increase in the May 2025 election to help maintain and update critical educational technology. This additional funding will support the following:

- Protecting Student and Staff Data
- Purchasing Student Learning Software
- Improving Parent Communication Tools
- Maintaining and Replacing Instructional Devices

The Dillon Elementary School District technology levy will provide sustainable funding to maintain a safe learning environment, ensure reliable access to educational resources, purchase parent communication tools and digital learning platforms as well as maintain and replace instructional devices.

Protecting Student and Staff Data and Privacy:

Annual threat response and cybersecurity subscriptions are vital in protecting student and staff data and maintaining a safe learning environment. In 2023, 22% of all data breaches involved the education sector, highlighting the significant risk and need for effective data protection measures.

Purchasing Student Learning Software:

Annual software fees for student assessment and learning tools are essential to the success of our students. The variety of educational resources provides personalized learning experiences, allowing students to progress, addressing their individual needs in an effective and enjoyable way. Additionally, it offers valuable data and insights to help us track progress, identify areas for improvement and tailor instruction to better support student achievement. Technology directly impacts our students' success.

Improving Parent Communication Tools:

Effective parent communication technology is crucial for fostering a supportive school community focused on student success. These funds will enable timely updates and the purchase of tools that enhance collaboration between parents and educators, improving student outcomes. Additionally, communication technology supports both administrative functions and the diverse needs of students.

Maintaining and Replacing Instructional Devices:

Maintaining and replacing instructional devices is crucial for keeping technology up to date and supporting effective teaching. Annual IT support contracts help our small school manage technical issues, maintain a productive learning environment, and allow educators to focus on student success. We also need repairs for devices used in state-mandated assessments.

How much would this cost me?

Tax Increase Estimate	
\$8.01 per year	Estimate for a home with a market value of \$100,000
\$24.02 per year	Estimate for a home with a market value of \$300,000
\$48.03 per year	Estimate for a home with a market value of \$600,000

Please visit the website below for additional tax estimates and information.

Learn more at <https://www.dillonschools.org/page/2025-technology-levy> or scan the QR Code.

