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James Robert Wigen

Nov 15, 1960 --- Jan 31, 2025



Lungs full of crisp morning air, in Montana's Kern Basin. The hum of a finely tuned chainsaw, with razor sharp chain; then the crack of a mighty pine as it hits the forest floor. Jim Wigen has arrived in heaven.

Born James Robert Wigen November 15, 1960, "Jim" graduated from Beaverhead County High School in 1978. He traveled across the western United States for 8 years with Petty-Ray GeoSource. Earning the name "Hardcore" in the first Oil boom.

He was called "Git in the Way" as he worked in the woods for Lyle Klasen and Sherm Anderson. On the side he started his own firewood business. There was nothing he loved more than showing up at people's houses with gigantic loads of firewood. He single handedly kept wood prices in Dillon down for all his customers.

When the Black Gold Rush hit (2nd oil boom); Jim worked in Williston, North Dakota as a Pallet Manager for SLB Schlumberger. Always proud he had survived not one, but two oil booms; in two different centuries.

He worked for both brothers; Fred and Mike Coleman Horizontal Boring. As lube/mechanic, he was fired once for going through a 55-gallon drum of grease in one evening, only to be quickly rehired the next day.

Working was Jim's thing. Always pushing himself and anyone around him to perform at their highest potential. His favorite statement "hurry every chance you get."

Jim was a pioneer of the "tiny house" movement, a self-proclaimed inventor whose design, not quite ready for prime time, predated the current trend. He was a creative soul, always trying to build a new gadget or button to make life easier.

Jim's trucks and chainsaws weren't just tools; they were individuals, each with its own name. Given the sheer number of them, conversations could get interesting, as it became difficult to distinguish between man and machine.

Troubled about his health issues; he found comfort in the story of JOB: "People must have faith in God even in adversity. People cannot know everything happening in the universe and therefore cannot know why certain things happen.

Proceeded in death by his father John Wigen; 3 half-brothers and 4 half-sisters.

Jim is survived by his Son James Wigen; Grandson Hunter, and Mother Myrtle Wigen, all of Dillon. Brothers Andy of Dillon, Mike (Liz) of Ashland, and Ken (Jane) of Wisdom. Sisters Donna Sevalstad, Jennifer Wigen (Tom Pierce) and Kristy (David Bagley) all of Dillon. Nieces Bernice Wigen and Tarna Sevalstad of Dillon and nephew Tyler Bagley of Sequim, Washington.

Jim's kindness touched the lives of many, especially those who were struggling, whether human or animal. Last of his kind, he was a memorable character, and whether you loved him or not, Jim Wigen left a lasting impression and will be missed by many.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held Saturday March 15th, from 1-4 PM at the Dillon Elks Lodge- 27 East Center Street Dillon, MT. Please leave firearms in your vehicles.

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www.anglervillagedillon.com**Beaverhead County Solid Waste Department**

Beaverhead County is planning a prescribed burn of the wood debris pile located within the Beaverhead County Landfill. Beaverhead County has obtained a Landfill burn permit, #LF-306 from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality in order to conduct this burn.

One of the conditions of the permit is to notify all adjacent landowners. Another condition is to have adequate fire resources on the scene during the burn. The Beaverhead County Fire District #2 will provide the fire resources.

The burn is planned for the week of February 24 to February 28, 2025, weather permitting. If for some reason the burn cannot take place during this time, it will take place as soon as possible after that date. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the number above or Nick Hoem at 406-925-1047.

Application deadline for Smith River permits

Applications for a permit to float the Smith River will be accepted through Feb. 15. The permit drawing will be held soon after the deadline.

Permits are required to float the 59-mile section of river between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge and are issued each year through a lottery drawing. Parties of up to 15 people can float with one permit. A person applying for a Smith River permit must be a minimum of 12 years of age at the time they submit their permit application.

Applicants can apply for a Smith River float permit online through the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Online Licenses Service, and pay a \$15 nonrefundable permit application fee.

Links within the notification email to successful applicants will allow them to download and print their float permit, as well as access important and detailed information regarding their Smith River float. In addition to the permit drawing, the public may purchase as many \$5 Super Permit chances as they wish.

The opportunity to purchase chances for the Smith River Super Permit will be available until April 1.

For more information about Smith River State Park visit: stateparks.mt.gov/smith-river/



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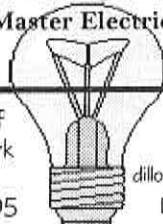
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Rotary Ice Melt



The Dillon Rotary has placed their clock on the pond of ice. If you want to guess when the clock will fall through the ice you can get tickets from Any Rotarian, Pioneer Federal, Womack's Printing & Photo Express, The Bank of Commerce and Stockman Bank.

Tickets will also be available at the upcoming home UMW basketball games.

The prizes is 1st place \$500, 2nd place \$250, and 3rd place \$100.

Rotary would like to thank our sponsors Stockman Bank, Beaverhead Home &

Ranch Real estate, The Bank of Commerce, Taylor Realty, High Peaks Federal Credit Union, Venture West Realty, Womack's Printing Place, Ron & Valerie Fick, Vision Source, Northwestern Energy, Best of the West Properties, Barrett Hospital & Healthcare, Beaverhead Motors, Edward Jones - Dennis Schurg, Pioneer Federal Savings and Loan, Law Office of Jill Gannon-Nagle and our friends at Gracie's Second Hand Store for the use of Logan's Lake.

Great Harvest is Raising Dough!

The sales will benefit the Barrett Hospital Foundation. Come by and meet our new bakery owners here for training. We are featuring King Cakes, Cheddar Garlic Bread, White Chocolate Cherry Swirl Bread, Cashew Crunch Bars, Blueberry Streusel Muffins & Teacakes, Biscuits, Dillon Cookies, and all of your favorites!

This month's featured sandwich is the Portobello Pesto Melt! Visit GreatHarvestDillonMT.com for our full menu.

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UMW's "On the Rocks" Series Speaker Brian Wheeler

The University of Montana Western Environmental Sciences Department is proud to host Brian Wheeler as part of the "On the Rocks" lecture series. Wheeler will present "Beneath the Surface: Water Quality Monitoring on the Big Hole" on Wednesday, February 19, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. in UMW's Lucy Carson Library.

Since 2019, Brian Wheeler has served as the Executive Director of the Big Hole River Foundation (BHRF), working to develop and refine its Water Quality Monitoring Program. As the only consistent annual monitoring program on the Big Hole, BHRF is addressing a critical data gap and providing state water managers with valuable information on the health of this important resource.

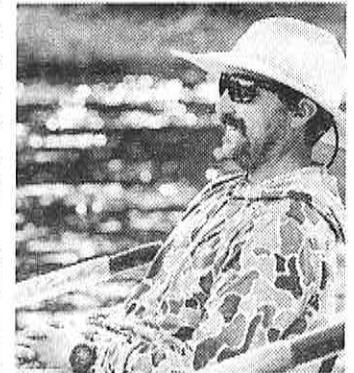
Brian has worked as a fishing and whitewater guide for 20 years and has organized numerous river cleanups as a volunteer. With a deep appreciation for freestone rivers and an understanding of the Big Hole River's importance to both ranching and recreation, he believes water quality is a fundamental concern. Brian holds a B.S. in Anthropology and lives in Dillon with his wife and their four dogs. When he's not rowing or collecting water quality data, he's following his bird dogs across the prairie.

The Big Hole River Foundation's Water Quality Monitoring Project is the only program of its kind in southwest Montana. Focused on monitoring nutrients and aquatic life in the Big Hole, BHRF provides important data annually to the Department of Environmental Quality.

Join us to learn more about this crucial effort to fill a significant data gap in a special watershed.

Prior to the lecture, students in the Environmental Remote Sensing and GIS (ENSC 384) course will showcase their final project poster presentations from 3:30-4:00 p.m. in the library.

For more information on UMW's "On the Rocks" series, please contact UMW Associate Professor of Environmental Sustainability, Dr. Arica Crootof, at arica.crootof@umwestern.edu.



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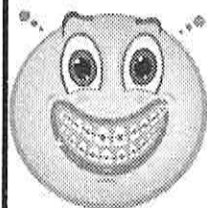
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The Girls Softball Team will be at Safeway and the Boys Baseball Team will be at Town & Country!
Help Support High School Baseball & Softball!

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY STUDY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025
COMMISSIONERS' ROOM - COURTHOUSE
DILLON, MT

all times are approximate

11:30 a.m.

- Call Meeting to Order
- Roll Call- Establish quorum
- Discussion and Action: Budget
- *Public Comment*
- Discussion and Action: Schedule of Regular Meetings and Public Hearings
- *Public Comment*
- Discuss an Overall Plan
- *Public Comment*
- Discussion and Action: Adopt a Public Meeting Policy
- *Public Comment*
- Public Comments and Items Not Listed on the Agenda

12:30 p.m.

- Adjourn Meeting



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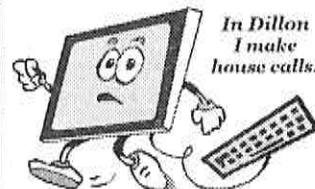
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Thursday

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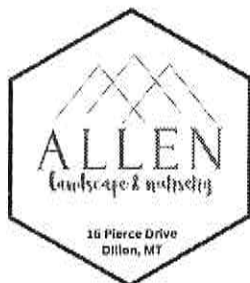
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You could win one of these swoon-worthy prizes:

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- Tuesday: 2 ski passes to Maverick Mountain, courtesy of Maverick Mountain
- Wednesday: Roses from the radio crew, courtesy of Flower Frenzy
- Thursday: Chocolate-covered strawberries and a gift card, courtesy of Town & Country
- Friday: A gift basket full of Valentine surprises, courtesy of Wildwood Floral

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- Mac's Last Cast
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- Flower Frenzy

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Veteran's Corner Update # 294
 By Mike Lawson

Veteran News Updates:

- The Montana VA is asking Veterans to review updates on getting flu vaccines for free. You can get a no-cost flu or Covid vaccine in the community (at any in-network community pharmacy). Check with the VA for a in-network pharmacy in your community. If you have received a flu vaccine in the community, please let your PACT team know so your records can be updated. Now is a good time to get a flu vaccine if you haven't got one yet.
- Driving the DAV Vans we drive Veterans to their appointments and have seen many who were in pretty tough shape. One of the saddest of conditions is seeing a veteran that can hardly breath because of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). This everyday reality affects millions of Americans. Some Veterans were exposed to dust, fumes and chemicals during their military service. COPD is one of more than two dozen presumed conditions related to the PACT ACT. If you're having trouble breathing, get checked out and get treated now before it gets any worst. Detecting and treating a disease early can help slow progression and greatly improve your quality of life. Cutting-edge screenings, treatments and pulmonary care specifically tailored for Veterans are available through VA healthcare. If you have breathing issues, reach out for screening and support and take control of your lung health. Do it not only for yourself but also for your family who love and care for you.
- It's important for our Veteran organizations to get together in fun ways and one of the best ways is over a meal. Our local MCL Detachment #724 got together, here in Butte, for our monthly SOS breakfast this past Saturday. We go to a different local restaurant the first Saturday of each month. This SOS was at Annies on Front street and we had 27 people attend which included members, their spouses and a few daughters. The food was great and people had a great time visiting with one another. The American Legion has a dinner night and I know Deer Lodge, Anaconda and Dillon also have their breakfast or dinner get togethers. It's good way to get out of the house, away from the TV and become a tighter organization.

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Dillon, Montana

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Strong Third Quarter Propels Argos Past Bulldogs

The Montana Western women's basketball team (7-13) dropped their rematch with No. 25 Providence (14-6) 78-66. Kenzi Pedersen led the Bulldogs in scoring with 14 points. Hagy would finish with 12 points and was 4-5 from beyond the arc.

Trinidie Nichols pulled down eight rebounds and scored 13 points. Davis recorded a double-double scoring 12 points and collecting 10 rebounds.

Bethel Helps Bulldogs Defeat Providence

The Montana Western men's basketball team (12-9) avenged an earlier loss to the University of Providence (11-10), defeating the Argos 66-55.

Kevin Bethel had his best game in a Bulldog uniform, setting career highs in multiple categories, including 15 points, six made free throws, eight rebounds, and six steals.

Adedo scored 12 points on 6-10 shooting while dishing out four assists. Ankeny finished with 10 points on 5-6 shooting and added one block. Gruhler pulled down six rebounds to go along with his 13 points. The Bulldogs dominated the paint, outscoring the Argos 42-18 inside. Providence committed 19 turnovers, leading to 20 points for Western.

Beaverhead GOP Announces Annual Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner.

The Annual Beaverhead Republican Dinner is scheduled for Sat., March 15, 2025 at the Frontier Event Center. Speakers will be Dan Happel, Radio Pod cast Host at Patriots Soapbox. Com., Senator Tony Tezak, and Representative, Shannon Maness.

Prime Rib is on the Menu for \$45.00. Please call your reservations in by March 7th to J.S. Turner at 406-660-6831, Nancy Johnson at 406-865-0037 or Danna Harrison at 406-660-1136. Please plan to come for information, food and fun.

Square Dance to your Heart's Content

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2/1 WC BILL

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Wanted to Buy 10/18 - WC BILL

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Buying Guns 3/15 PD

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\$79 trailer safety inspections + 10% labor discount on any needed trailer maintenance or repairs.
(Rates do not include necessary parts, material or supplies)

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Call 406-988-0090 to set up appointment.

HELP WANTED 2/6 PD

Looking for in home care provider for a woman in a wheelchair. Light house keeping, meal preparation, bathing, transportation to and from appointments, light errands. Call (360)584-0884

FOR Sale 2/27 PD

Brother HL-L2405W Printer
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Asking \$60. Jackson Area.
Call 406-834-3161

HELP WANTED 1/3 - WC BILL

Honeybee Hospice is seeking a F/T dedicated and experienced RN Supervisor to join our team. Candidate must be an RN who is willing to oversee the daily operations of the hospice care team as well as address patient and family concerns. Pay will be based on experience and range anywhere from \$95k-105. If interested please send us a resume to care@honeybeehospice.com. 406-498-7149
1000 St. Hwy 91 South.

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406-596-0864 115 Clarks Lookout Rd
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ROOMS FOR RENT 2/25 PD

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Responsible, reputable person in good physical condition. Meat cutting, packaging, etc. Etc. With **\$1200 sign on bonus** after 960 hours **Starting at \$18 - 25 Hour.** (Experienced could be more.) Holidays, vacations, & flexible hours Call 406-834-3533

HELP WANTED 2/26 PD**Seasonal Labor**

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STORAGE UNIT FOR RENT2/5 - WC BILL

9x6 Storage unit for rent available immediately Call 406-660-0852

HELP WANTED 9/19 - WC BILL

Come join a wonderful team at the Super 8! We are seeking full time and part time team members! Even if you have never worked in the hospitality industry, come give us a try- we feel you will love the flexibility and the fun of this job! We have front desk positions as well as room attendant positions available. We work with the hectic schedules of highschool and college and the skills you develop with us can be taken with you anywhere and look great on resumes! We are also looking to fill long term, permanent positions. This is also a great place to work for a semi-retired individual seeking supplemental income! Contact Mandy today at the Super 8! We would love to have you working with us!

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1 and 2 bedroom units.
Second floor.

Newly remodeled. All utilities except internet/wifi included. Coin laundry on site.

Approved pet friendly.

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HELP WANTED 1/5 - WC BILL**Parts Specialist**

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- Basic computer knowledge
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FOR RENT 2/4 - WC BILL

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9:15: Sunday School,
9:30: Adult Bible Study
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8/15-WC BILL

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HELP WANTED

1/31-2/8 BILL

St. Rose Catholic Church is seeking a full-time Office Manager. This position works closely with ministerial staff, volunteers, and parish leaders, and as such, the successful candidate must have excellent customer service skills and positively represent the Catholic Church and its endeavors to members of the community. Computer knowledge of Microsoft Works and Quick Books On-Line is a plus. 30 hours per week, Monday-Friday, with full benefits. Starting wage \$16/hr. with an increase after six months. Call 406-683-4391 or stop by the church office at 226 S. Atlantic St. between 9 am-12 pm to pick up an application and drop off a resume.

HELP WANTED

Carquest of Dillon is seeking a FULL TIME counter sales person, preferably with experience. Pay depending on experience, benefits are available.

Please stop by
204 North Montana St to apply or pick up
an application. Ask for Seth.
406-683-6141

1/30-2/28 BILL

HELP WANTED

Dillon Family Dental is seeking a full-time Dental Assistant to join our professional growing dental team. We are looking for someone who can work in a team-oriented atmosphere and share a commitment to deliver long-lasting relationships with staff and patients. Dental assisting experience is preferred. Pay will be based on experience.

The practice is looking to fill various shifts Monday- Friday 7a-5p.

Job Type: Full-time

Salary: \$16.00 - \$18.00 per hour

Expected hours: 38 per week.

Benefits:

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7/12- WC BILL



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12/5- WC TH/F

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1/7-2/7 BILL

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HELP WANTED 2/3-17 BILL

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Position Title: Deputy County Attorney

Organization: Beaverhead County Attorney's Office

Pay Rate: \$90,000 + per year, Dependent on qualifications

Position Type/Status: Permanent, Full-time, Exempt
Beaverhead County Attorney's Office is hiring for a Deputy County Attorney position. We are looking for an individual who has a passion working for government and wants to make a positive impact in the community.

Position is open until filled and applications will be reviewed weekly.

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Qualifications and Application Requirements

- Degree from an accredited law school and licensed by the State of Montana to practice law
- Resume
- Cover Letter

For questions on this position or on the application process, please call (406) 683-3730 or e-mail paralegal@beaverheadcountymt.gov.

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Express Employment Professionals is seeking Flex Mill Tech(s) for assignment at **Barretts Minerals in Dillon, MT** to produce and package product for customers, and to check specification to ensure quality product. Flex Mill Techs will maintain the cleanliness and safety of the plant. Operate and monitor semi-bulk and 50 lb. packaging centers and milling systems; equipment operation including fork-lift, skid-steer; complete pre-shift inspections; operate and input data into computer systems; . Must be willing and able to stand for most of the work day. Must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen and physical. Wage Starts @ \$25/hour. Applications/

Resumes can be emailed to

Jason.Manning@ExpressPros.com or
700 East Front Street, Butte, MT 59701

Call 406-723-6531 for more details!!

1/29-2/7



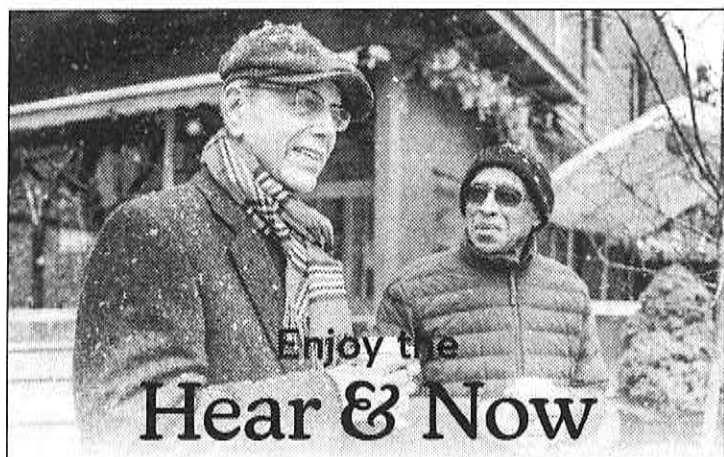
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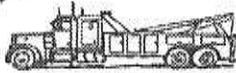
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Jordan Harmon at: 406-935-0615
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Position Requires the Successful Completion of State Insurance Licensing Requirements
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Or Email:
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1/24-31 - 2/7 BILL

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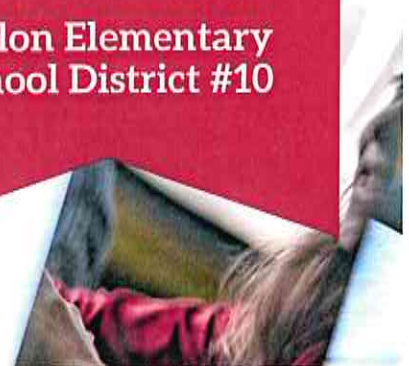


Dillon Elementary School District #10

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

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.

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:

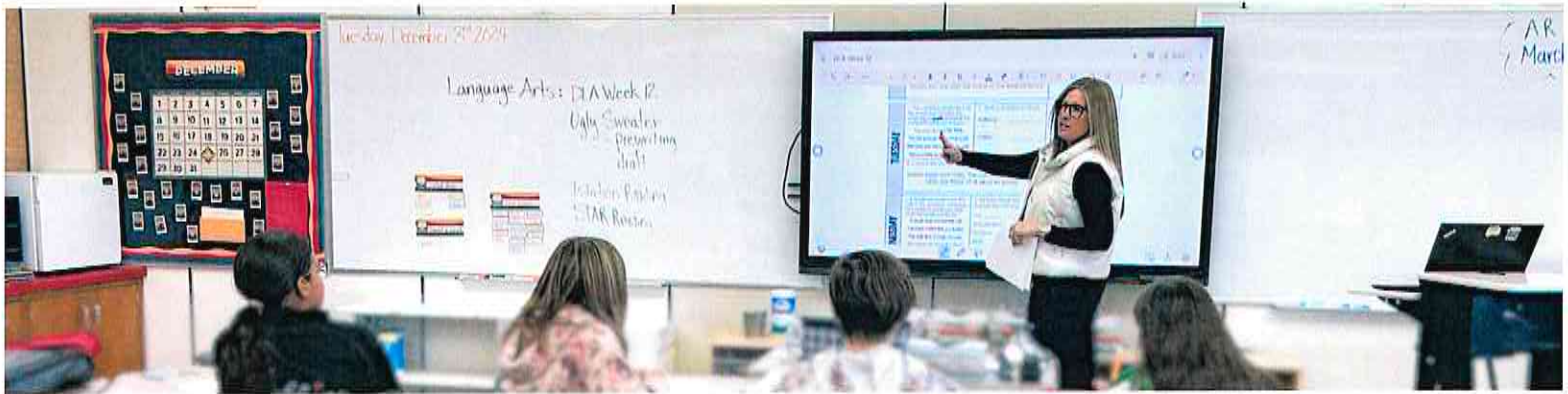
Maintaining and replacing instructional devices is crucial for keeping technology up to date and supporting effective teaching. Annual IT support contracts help our small school manage technical issues, maintain a productive learning environment, and allow educators to focus on student success. We also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

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



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.



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.



\$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.



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.



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.



\$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.

You're Invited to Elementary Technology Levy Information Meetings

Join us for one of three community meetings to provide information and answer questions about the upcoming levy. Each session will be simultaneously available both via in-person and virtually at the following dates and times, taking place in the Parkview Elementary Cafeteria. We encourage you to join us at one of the sessions to learn more about the 2025 elementary technology levy that will appear on the ballot this May!

Tuesday, February 18th at 5:30pm

Tuesday, March 18th at 6:00pm

Thursday, April 10th at 7:00pm

Dillonite Advertiser

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Mardi Gras

Thursday, March 6, 2025
5:30 pm
at 4-H Building
(Fair grounds)

Dinner & Auctions

Wine Pull -
Game of Chance
Menu - Jambalaya
& Mardi Gras Theme Food



\$30 per person
Table of 8 \$220 / 1/2 Table \$110
Advanced Tickets Only

For tickets or to donate to the auctions
Contact Womack's Printing Place
126 N. Montana St. 406-683-4903 or
Trish Chisholm 406-925-1407

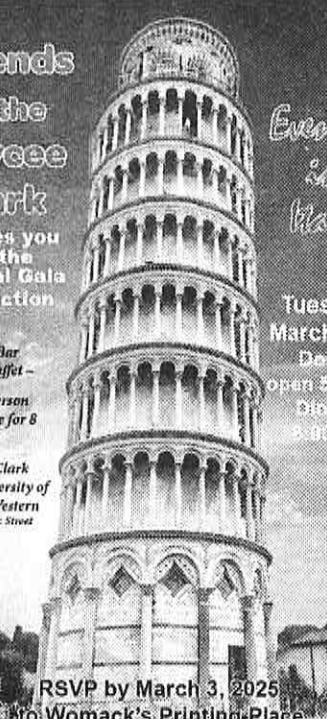
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of the
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to the
Annual Gala
& Auction

No Host Bar
- Italian Buffet -
\$45 per Person
\$360 - Table for 8

Lewis & Clark
Room - University of
Montana Western
710 S. Atlantic Street

Evening
in
Italy

Tuesday,
March 18th
Doors
open 5:30pm
Dinner
8:00pm



RSVP by March 3, 2025
to Womack's Printing Place
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