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Lee Davis Derksen, 79



Lee Davis Derksen
passed away January 03, 2025.

The second child of
Ruben B. ("Derk") and
Mildred A. Derksen, Lee
was born August 22, 1946 in
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin.
Following WWI service in the
army, Lee's father Derk was
employed by the University of
Minnesota's top secret national
defense aeronautic testing
facility at Rosemont, MN. The
family moved from Wisconsin
to be near Derk's work but
both housing and automobiles
were in short supply following

WWI. They moved into a rental at Lake Minnetonka, MN
where Derk carpooled in his unreliable pre-war clunker, paying
for rides when his car wouldn't start. From there they moved to
Coats, MN where Derk could walk to work. In 1950 they were
finally able to obtain a new car, and they purchased a home
in Randolph, MN. From 1952 to 1964 Lee attended grade
school and high school in the tiny southern Minnesota railroad
and farming community of Randolph. After high school Lee
attended one year at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN before
transferring to the University of Minnesota School of Forestry
where he graduated with honors in 1968.

Growing up in southern Minnesota and visiting grandparents
in Wisconsin, Lee learned to fish before he entered grade
school and was a duck and pheasant hunter as soon as he was
old enough to buy a license. Lee and his older brother Dirk
and Lee's lifelong friend Greg Elstad spent many happy days
on duck marshes and lakes throughout the state and later
made duck hunting trips to Arkansas. Lee was also a railroad
fan and with his close friend Greg, often bicycled to watch the
evening passenger train come thru Randolph. From the time he
was 14 years old, Lee found summer employment stacking hay
on wagons towed behind hay balers and after he turned 16 as a
records clerk at remote pea vineries owned by Green Giant Co.
In 1967 Lee worked a summer temporary forestry job in Salmon,
Idaho but was able to spend a week in Dillon, MT fishing with a
friend. That was when Lee made the decision that someday he
would live in Dillon. On graduating from forestry school in 1968,
Lee acquired permanent employment in the Selway Bitterroot
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1969 Lee took a 4-year leave of absence from his forester job to join the U.S. Navy. One of his first Navy assignments was to guide a frigate missile, dry-docked for overhaul in Philadelphia, PA Naval Shipyard. It was in Philadelphia where Lee met the love of his life, Janet Lee Black who was a regular at U.S.O. Janet and Lee were married June 25, 1972, in Janet's hometown, Hialeah, Florida.

Shipboard Lee was a Missile Gunners Mate and advanced to E5 on board the guided missile destroyer escort U.S.S. Brooke DEG-1 Home port in San Diego. Lee made cruises to the Western Pacific including the Gulf of Tonkin off Vietnam, the Russian held Kuril Islands north of Japan and the Bering Sea north of the Aleutian Islands in Alaska. They stopped at ports in Japan, the Philippine Islands, and the Aleutian Islands.

Following his Navy leave of absence, Lee returned to work as a timber forester in Pierce, Idaho, Powell, ID and Sula, Montana moving 4 times in 7 years. In 1980 he took a job in Bonners Ferry, Idaho where Lee & Janet built their first home. Lee and Janet hunted Idaho for elk, whitetails, ducks, geese and upland birds and made annual trips to saltwater to fly-fish at Key West, FL and hunt geese in Saskatchewan. But every year on his birthday you would find Lee fishing in the Beaverhead River near Dillon. When an opportunity for a job in Dillon, MT became available in 1986, Lee leapt at the chance, he worked 15 years as a forester in Dillon and retired from forestry work in 2001.

After retirement Lee spent time working on home improvements and various projects around home, mostly involving hunting, fishing, camping and later, modeling the railroad he watched in his youth.

Lee learned Karate at the Dillon Karate Club and advanced to earn First Dan Black Belt honors before knee surgeries left him unable to participate.

Lee was preceded in death by his wife Janet, his Mother Mildred and his father Ruben. He is survived by his older

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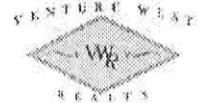
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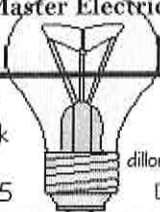
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brother Dirk Derksen of Anchorage, AK, younger sister Suzan Rutten of Northfield, MN and younger brother Bruce Derksen of Red Wing, MN

Lee loved living in Dillon with his wife Janet. He also enjoyed Karate, running, bicycling, gardening, hunting big game and waterfowl, fishing trout and walleyes and building gear for all of their interests. He was a fly tier, rod builder, decoy carver, crank-bait carver and much more. He especially loved camping with Janet at Canyon Ferry Reservoir and fishing late evenings for walleyes

Lee acquired anxiety/depression, probably as a result of a childhood bout with rheumatic fever but went undiagnosed until he was over 50 years old. He self-treated with alcohol until an esophageal ulcer forced him to give up alcohol, then he ran several miles a week until knee surgery forced him to abandon running. In later years, Lee was treated with medications for anxiety/depression, especially during the short winter days. Anxiety/depression affects about 18% of the population at some time during their life. Unfortunately, mental illness is a subject that many people don't want to confront or talk about. Thus, people sometimes go untreated for years without even knowing what they are fighting. Alcohol and certain street drugs are commonly used for self-treatment by undiagnosed people. In the years following his retirement Lee was very open about his illness and interested in helping others fight anxiety/depression.

Lee was a Christian, baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith. He is now at home with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lee requested those interested make tax deductible donations to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America.

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

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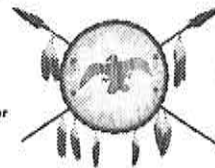
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Dillon City Council Votes Down Director of Operations Appointment Amid Tense Meeting

Jeremy Crawford, Southwestern Montana News

The Dillon City Council met Wednesday evening with only six members present, as two council seats remain vacant.

The meeting opened with public comment, where former Mayor Mike Klakken asked the council to reconsider holding closed sessions at the beginning of meetings, noting that members of the public are often required to wait outside in cold conditions.

Next, Eric Wendland addressed the council regarding what he believes was an illegal action taken by the City of Dillon and city engineer Jeremy Fadness. Wendland stated that an exploratory test hole was dug in work related to a Special Improvement District (SID) to verify whether it met code requirements.

Wendland alleged that the city violated multiple laws by failing to obtain proper permits and by not providing the required 24-hour notice prior to digging. He requested that the city select a different engineer for the SID moving forward, stating that those involved would no longer work with Fadness.

The council then moved on to the appointment of city officers. All positions passed unanimously until the vote for Director of Operations. When it came time to call the vote, no council member initially stepped forward. Councilman Dean ultimately brought the item forward, prompting discussion regarding the director's performance.

During the discussion, questions were raised about the scope of the director's responsibilities and whether adequate training and direction had been provided by the mayor. Mayor McGinley acknowledged that he may not have provided sufficient direction but noted that the director had received extensive training through workshops.

In recent meetings, tensions between the Director of Operations and certain council members have been visible, with some members expressing concerns about transparency. The council ultimately voted 4-2 against reappointing the Director of Operations. As a result, the city will now begin the process of seeking a new Director of Operations.

The council also reviewed the reappointment of citizen board members, which proceeded without issue. However, the appointment of council members to various boards was tabled, as some council



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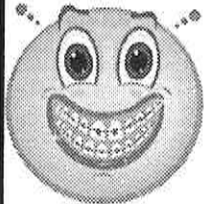
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members stated they had not been given enough time to review the available positions and responsibilities.

Public comment concluded the meeting, with Mayor Klakken again addressing concerns regarding discrepancies in the SID calculations. A local businessman also spoke, criticizing the council for voting against retaining the Director of Operations.

The meeting was then adjourned.

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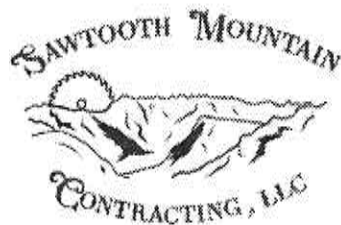
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Secretary Christi Jacobsen: 'Proud my votes helped generate nearly \$81 million for Montana schools'

Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen was proud to cast votes as a member of the Land Board that helped generate nearly \$81 million in revenue for Montana schools. Secretary Jacobsen was joined by her Land Board colleagues and officials with the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) in making the announcement in December.

"In 2025, I voted to approve a significant number of projects across Montana, including supporting the logging and timber industries, natural resource development through competitive oil and gas lease sales, protecting public access, and ensuring our Montana farmers and ranchers stay in production through our state trust lands," said Secretary Jacobsen. "It's great to see Montana's trust beneficiaries, including our K-12 schools, benefit from our state trust revenue."

Secretary Jacobsen has supported numerous natural resource projects throughout the year, including voting to approve more than \$10 million in logging and oil and gas projects during May's monthly meeting. She also stood for Montana values at the October Land Board meeting, championing public access while protecting surface and mineral rights.

"I will always support Montana's identity as the Treasure State and its reputation as the Last Best Place," she said.

State Trust Lands generated numerous improvements in Fiscal Year 2025. Secretary Jacobsen voted to support Montana's farmers and ranchers, helping to increase revenue in the state's agriculture and grazing leases. Montana's mineral management generated nearly \$48 million in revenue, representing a nearly \$5 million increase from the previous year. Additional resources, such as oil and gas, coal, and gravel leases, also generated significant revenue.

Since Secretary Jacobsen took office, the DNRC has invested \$337 million into Montana's public schools and institutions.

DILLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #10 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

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Workshop Dates:

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11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

3:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 22, 2026

11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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Participants (students and parents) should create and bring their FSA ID to the workshop. To complete an FSA ID, visit <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>. The FSA ID is required to submit the FAFSA and must be created online at least three days prior to submitting the FAFSA.

For helpful tips and more information about creating and using the FSA ID, visit <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/creating-using-fsaid.pdf>.

Computer access will be available for workshop participants, or attendees may bring their own laptops or devices. Participants are also encouraged to bring a copy of their 2024 federal tax return and related documents in case they are needed for the tax section of the FAFSA.

For more information about the FSA ID creation process or other questions, please contact the University of Montana Western Office of Financial Aid at 406-683-7511 or finaid@umwestern.edu.

Dillon Public Library upcoming program

Computer Class- Friday, January 16, 2026 at Dillon Public Library at 11:30 a.m. (The Computer Class was previously scheduled for the 17th, but had to be changed to a day earlier) Stop by or call Dillon Public Library to sign up 683-4544 (Limited spots for reservation)



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BEAVERHEAD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 COMMISSIONERS ROOM - COURTHOUSE DILLON, MT AGENDA

9:00 A.M.	Pledge of Allegiance Update on County Projects <i>Public Comment</i> Commissioners Report <i>Public Comment</i>
9:30 A.M.	Discussion & Action- Resolution 2026-04 City/County Precincts <i>Public Comment</i>
12:00 P.M.	ADJOURN
1:30 P.M.	Discussion- County Planner End of Year Report <i>Public Comment</i>
2:00 P.M.	Discussion & Action- Rust Minor Subdivision Final Plat Approval <i>Public Comment</i>
2:30 P.M.	Public Comments Under County Jurisdiction Not on Agenda <i>Public Comment</i> New Business / Other Topics of Discussion <i>Public Comment</i> Payment of Invoices <i>Public Comment</i> Action on Previous Meeting Minutes <i>Public Comment</i>

The Little Food Pantry

The Little Food Pantry has been moved from the Vibrant Lives building on Bannack to the Dillon Public Library, in front of the parking lot.

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5/13 PD

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THANK YOU

1/9-22 PD

My dog Jake wants to thank all the generous folks who filled his freezer with deer, elk and moose. We think he now has enough meat to last him until the 2026 hunting season, when we will be again asking for donations. During the interim you can always donate by calling 406-498-6198.

Thanks again to the community!
Catherine Cain

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11/19 - WC BILL

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Full-time Office Assistant position for busy heavy civil construction company. Experience in MS Word/Excel required. Must pay great attention to detail and have excellent communication and organizational skills. Must have the ability to prioritize and manage multiple tasks in a fast-paced environment while maintaining a high level of accuracy. Health/Dental/Vision/PTO/Simple IRA Match. Pay is DOE. No phone calls. Please send resume with work references to mcolemanconstruction@gmail.com.

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12/16-2/17 PD

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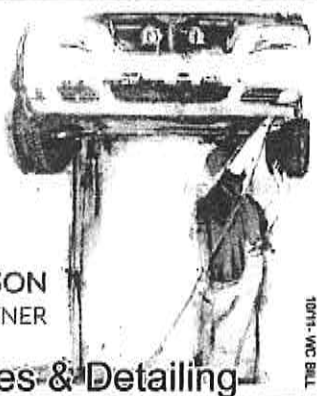
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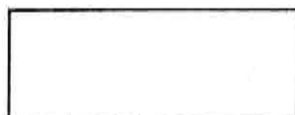
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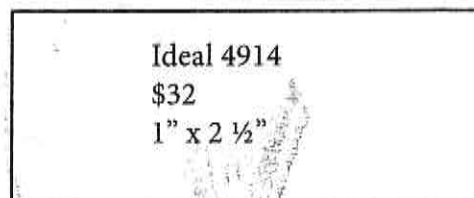
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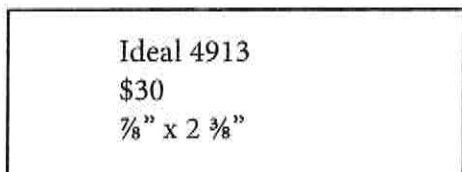
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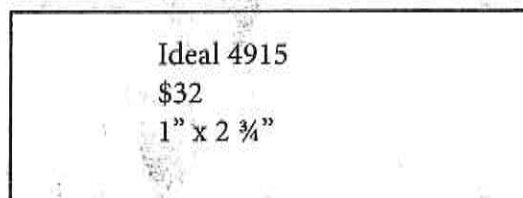
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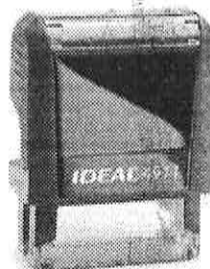
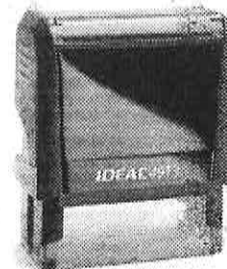
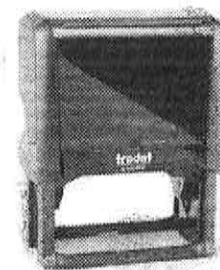
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11/12-2/13 BILL P

COUNCIL OPENING

Replacement needed for the vacancy on the City of Dillon City Council for the First and Fourth
Wards

First Ward of the City of Dillon is that portion of the city:

- Beginning at the intersection of the City limits and the southeastern end of Cornell Street.
- First Course proceeds northwest along the City limits and then along Cornell Street to its intersection with Dakota Street;
- Thence Second course extends northeast along Dakota Street to its intersection with Center street;
- Thence Third course extends east along Center Street to its intersection with Spruce Street;
- Thence Fourth course extends north on Spruce Street to its intersection with Vigilante Drive;
- Thence Fifth course extends east along Vigilante Drive, extended, to the eastern limits of the city including the area of Vigilante park.

Fourth Ward of the City of Dillon is that portion of the city:

- Beginning at the intersection of Cornell street and Nelson street;
- Thence First course extends northwesterly along Cornell Street to its intersection with Dakota Street;
- Thence Second course extends northeast along Dakota Street to its intersection with Glendale Street;
- Thence Third course extends northwest along Glendale Street to its intersection with the Union Pacific railroad tracks;
- Thence southwesterly along the railroad tracks to their intersection with the City limits.

Every resident of the City of Dillon, who is 18 years of age or older, a citizen of the state of Montana, is eligible to hold the office of council member for the ward in which he/she resides. Please submit a brief letter of interest to: City of Dillon, 125 N. Idaho St, Dillon, MT 59725, these positions will be filled January 21, 2026.

1/5, 8, 12, 15 BILL



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START FRESH: BUILD GOOD MENTAL HEALTH HABITS FOR THE NEW YEAR



As another year comes to a close, many of us take time to reflect. What went well? What would we like to improve? A new year offers a fresh opportunity to focus on our mental health and emotional well-being, no matter our age.

For older adults, focusing on your mental health can improve your mood, strengthen relationships, and increase resilience. You don't need to make sweeping changes to see improvements. Small, consistent habits can have a big impact over time.

Focus on What Matters Most

When setting goals for the new year, try to focus on areas that truly support your peace of mind. That could mean reducing stress, building social connections, finding new interests, or taking more time to relax and reflect. Mental health habits should feel personal and meaningful to you.

Setting realistic goals is another important part of building healthy habits, especially for older adults. Instead of aiming for drastic changes, focus on small, achievable steps that fit your current lifestyle and energy levels. Goals that are specific, manageable, and meaningful are more likely to become lasting habits and help you feel motivated instead of overwhelmed.



See the next page for more.

Start Simple and Build Slowly

Instead of overloading yourself with resolutions, try starting with one or two small goals. For example:

- Write down three things you're grateful for each day.
- Spend 10 minutes outside in the fresh air.
- Call or visit a friend once a week.
- Try a relaxing activity like reading, listening to music, or meditating.



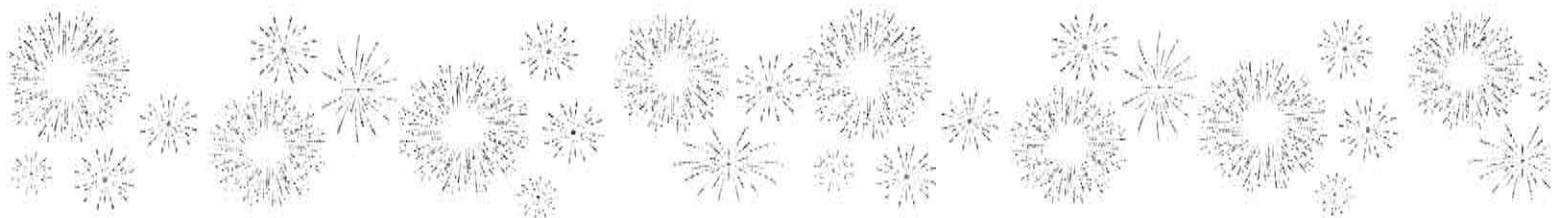
When mental health goals are simple and manageable, you're more likely to stick with them and feel encouraged by your progress.

Make it Easy to Stick With

Look for ways to work new habits into your regular routine. Set a gentle reminder to pause and check in with yourself. Keep a notebook by your bed for reflections or journaling. Post uplifting notes or quotes where you'll see them. And be kind to yourself. Progress doesn't have to be perfect to be powerful.

Stay Connected and Accountable

Mental health thrives on connection. Talk to someone you trust about your goals or how you're feeling. Join a local group, visit a senior center, or participate in community activities that lift your spirits. Just knowing you're not alone can be incredibly grounding.



Look Forward with Kindness

This new year, try to offer yourself more compassion and patience. Forming new habits for your mental health is not about fixing something that's wrong, it's about supporting what helps you feel calm, capable, and connected. Celebrate your wins, learn from the tough days, and keep moving forward.

You deserve a new year filled with clarity, comfort, and care. Here's to supporting your mental well-being one step at a time.

WE CAN HELP.

Our hospital-based outpatient program is designed to meet the unique needs of older adults experiencing depression and/or anxiety related to life changes that are often associated with aging or a chronic diagnosis. Anyone can make a referral to our program, including self-referrals, provider referrals, or community consultations.

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Look What We Did, Beaverhead County!

YOUR CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP. YOUR BUSINESS INVESTMENT. YOUR COMMUNITY IMPACT.

The Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce/Beaverhead Tourism & Development Council merged boards & operations with the Beaverhead Development Corporation/Dillon Main Street to help further promote economic development for Dillon and Beaverhead County.

189 Chamber Members Beginning 2025 **→** **194** Chamber Members Beginning 2026

The merger brought a couple of name changes:

Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce, Tourism & Development - Beaverhead Tourism & Development Council - Dillon Main Street.

IT ALSO CREATED MORE RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ability to leverage investment income to assist with matching grants, such as providing a \$30,000 match the Urban Renewal District for the City of Dillon.• Main Street Montana grant for planning of Wayfinding signage in Dillon. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnering with community leaders to apply for the Montana Tourism Development Grant that will be applied later this year.• An endowment, which as it grows, could help provide further financial support to hire additional human resources. |
|---|--|

250+

Visitors who stopped by the Indoor Campsite at the Dillon Visitors Center.

Countless

Visitors to the 24-hour Visitor Information Kiosk in the Dillon Visitors Center.

1,095

Social Media Posts Made to Promote Chamber Businesses & Events

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12 Board Meetings
42
19 After Hours Mixers & Monthly Lunch & Learns
10 Ribbon Cuttings for New Businesses
1 Annual Community Awards Gala

\$16,000

Total Revenue From Our Chamber Sponsorship Opportunity AKA - The Total Resource Campaign

2025

**MONTANA GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE
MARKETING CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR!**

Beaverhead Treasure Hunt continues to be a community favorite. Now, in its 6th year, our partnership with the University of Montana Western's Glass Program continues to be a strong success. Stay tuned for new treasures in 2026!

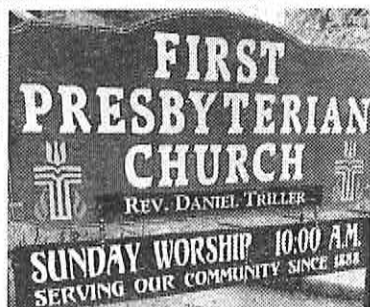
**2024-25 REGIONAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM GRANT RECIPIENT**

Beaverhead Treasure Hunt - Awarding \$44,000 for out of area marketing!

***A heartfelt thank you to our amazing sponsors
and Chamber members for making 2025 remarkable!***

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

JOIN US IN PERSON
In our Sanctuary | 10 am

OR FROM AFAR
via Facebook Live | 10am

24 SOUTH PACIFIC ST

406.683.2653 | www.fcdillon.org

12/5 - WC TH/F

Big Sky Missionary Baptist Church

Dillon, Montana
3148 MT Hwy 91 N
Dillon, MT 59725
(406) 683-9409

JOIN US FOR OUR
SERVICES:

Sunday School

10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship

11:00 AM

Sunday Evening Worship

6:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Study

7:00 PM 11/10 - WC F

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11/7 2019



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Jordan Harmon at: 406-925-0615
Gary Caprara at: 406-580-1574

Beaverhead Senior Center is now open for Wednesday Lunches and all other activities

1/8-14 BILL



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Cell: 406-596-7003

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Nick Panziera
406.596.1803

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2/28 PD



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& TOWING, LLC

Brandon & Torie Turney ~ Owners
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Dillon, MT 59725

406-683-3500
406-683-6273 fax

~WE ARE AVAILABLE 24/7~

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12/9-1/9 PD



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Dillon, MT

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Office: 406-683-5102

Anna Cossel 406-303-6981

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Bruce Mawyer 406-303-6990

3/3-WC BILL

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1/2-12 BILL

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1/2-2/2 PD

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Pastor Sue McNicol

All Welcome!

131E. Bannack and 683-4594



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12/10-1/10 PD

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Christ Centered Worship

Sunday Services 12 Noon

33 N Washington

for more information contact
Pastor Ken Stensrud (684-5153)
or **Harriet Allen (683-6400)**

The Giving Tree has commenced its **27th year** of spreading hope and generosity, our community has blessed **186 children (69 families)** with Christmas gifts in 2025. For nearly three decades, this tradition has reflected the heart of our community—coming together year after year to ensure children feel remembered, loved, and celebrated. We are deeply grateful to everyone who continues to support this meaningful mission and helps carry its legacy forward.

With extra gratitude to our behind the scenes elves: Judy Tash, Brayden Hankinson, Hanna McParland, Brittany Allhands, Trey Hankinson, Janice Rule, Tracy & David Roberts, Dale Wilson & Cody Hankinson

Sincerely,

Gail Kuntz & Rachel Hankinson

1/6-12PD

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1/8- WC BILL



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8/25- WC BILL

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8/14 WC BILL



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11/12-2/13 BILL P