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Dillon Jaycees announce Flint Rasmussen is making his long awaited return to Montana's Biggest Weekend

The Dillon Jaycees are excited to announce that after 30 years Flint Rasmussen is making his long awaited return to Montana's Biggest Weekend on Sunday September 6th! Flint is a 2024 inductee to the National Rodeo Hall of Fame and a University of Montana Western Alum. Flint is also an eight-time PRCA Clown of the Year and a seven-time Coors Man in the Can. He was also featured at the PBR World Finals 26 times! We couldn't be more excited to have Flint returning to Montana's Biggest Weekend! Get your tickets starting Saturday July 25th at the Jaycee building or online Monday July 27th, you won't want to miss this!



Montana Western Student Turns Class Project into Published Research

What began as a class assignment during her freshman year has grown into published scientific research for University of Montana Western student Neleh Bergstrom. Bergstrom, a biology major on the pre-med track, recently co-authored a peer-reviewed research paper in "Plant Signaling & Behavior" with Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Paul Helfrich. Their study examines how electrical signals move through the Venus flytrap, offering new insight into one of the plant's most fascinating characteristics.

The project began several years earlier in Dr. Bradley Wood's Biology 160 course. After developing an interest in how living organisms use electrical signals to communicate, Bergstrom chose to write a paper about the Venus flytrap. Rather than ending with the class assignment, that interest continued to grow and eventually became the foundation for an original research project.

Wood said Bergstrom's accomplishment stands out among undergraduate researchers.

"It's rare for an undergraduate to produce research worthy of peer-reviewed publication only halfway through a bachelor's degree," Dr. Wood said. "Neleh knew as a freshman that she was interested in bioelectricity and began exploring the literature through her BIOB 160 Honors project. Watching that project evolve into a peer-reviewed publication so quickly is truly impressive. I encourage biology students considering graduate or professional school to seek out research opportunities with faculty as early as possible."

Helfrich said the idea belonged to Bergstrom from the beginning.

"This is really Neleh's idea," he said. "I'm someone who can help see research through, but the biggest part of my job is

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Together, Bergstrom and Helfrich set out to answer a question that had received little attention: if a Venus flytrap leaf is injured somewhere other than the trap itself, can the plant still generate the electrical signals that normally cause the trap to close?

To investigate, they applied a tiny, controlled thermal injury to the petiole, the section connecting the trap to the rest of the leaf. They found that the injury frequently caused the trap to close, suggesting the plant functions as a connected system rather than a collection of isolated parts. Their findings support the idea that electrical, hydraulic and chemical signaling all work together throughout the plant.

Box plots of spike-to-baseline ratios for primary and secondary trigger hairs and brands. Primary trigger hairs and brands do not differ significantly, while secondary brands have significantly lower spike-to-baseline ratios than primary brands ($p < 0.001$). Other comparisons are not statistically significant.

"We need to treat this as what it is, which is an integrated system," he said.

For Bergstrom, the publication represents more than a scientific discovery.

"As a freshman, I never imagined my research would lead to a publication. It highlights how much I've grown as a student. Publishing undergraduate research is something I worked hard for, and it's encouraging to know I can do work like this," Bergstrom said. "More than anything, this experience confirmed that I enjoy research and helped shape the direction I want to take with my education."

Bergstrom credits Montana Western's undergraduate research opportunities and collaborative learning environment for assisting in this opportunity. Funding through the Undergraduate Research Program, close faculty mentorship and a supportive Biology Department gave her the resources and encouragement to pursue the project from

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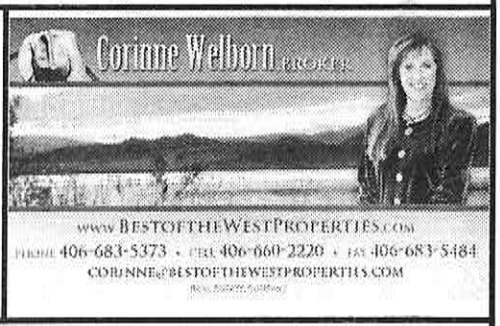
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idea to publication.

"It's so nice to have that one-on-one collaboration," Bergstrom said. "You send an email to one of them and they're so happy to give advice and help. Having that close-knit community really helps with research."

Helfrich said Bergstrom's careful approach to the project was evident throughout the peer-review process.

"I really felt like Neleh didn't leave any stone unturned," he said. "The reviewers commented that the work was conducted very carefully and very intentionally."

Now, Bergstrom is spending the summer conducting research through the competitive ASPET Undergraduate Research Program at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine. As she considers medical school or graduate school after earning her degree, she says the experience has broadened her perspective on the opportunities that research can provide.

She also hopes other students at UMW are inspired to pursue undergraduate research if something sparks their interest.

"I would say grab onto something that seems interesting," Bergstrom said. "Get with a professor and start communicating with them early."

For Helfrich, Bergstrom's success reflects what undergraduate research at Montana Western is all about, giving students the opportunity to pursue their own ideas, work alongside faculty mentors and make contributions to their field of study.

"I routinely tell my students that I have the best job in the world because I get to help them explore their interest in biology," Helfrich said. "This project is a perfect example of curiosity growing into something more. Neleh's interests led to findings relevant to botany, physiology, and ecology, and I'm thrilled to see her research become part of the scientific record."

Those interested in learning more can read the full research article, Thermal petiole wounding triggers trap closure in Dionaea muscipula. For more information, contact Neleh Bergstrom at neleh.bergstrom@umwestern.edu or Dr. Paul Helfrich at paul.helfrich@umwestern.edu.

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Montana wolf regulations proposal released for public comment FWP releases updated wolf estimation tool in 2026 Wolf Report

Wolf numbers in Montana continue to be well above minimums outlined in the Montana Wolf Management Plan, and they are seeing a decline.

As part of the package released for public comment Friday, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks released its annual Wolf Report, along with proposed changes to the Wolf and Furbearer Trapping Regulations. These will be in front of the Fish and Wildlife Commission on Aug. 19 during their regular meeting.

This year's Wolf Report contains two population estimates as FWP is moving toward an updated version of the wolf population estimation tool Integrated Patch Occupancy Model (iPOM). The new version, iPOM 2.0, is yet to be published in a peer reviewed scientific journal, like iPOM.

Under iPOM, the wolf population is estimated to be relatively stable at 1,094 wolves. With iPOM 2.0, the population estimate is lower at 725 wolves.

In developing iPOM 2.0, Montana researchers were able to incorporate much of the wolf data and research they have collected over the past several years. This Montana-specific data, particularly on pack sizes and distribution, provides a more accurate estimate, said Quentin Kujala, FWP Chief of Conservation Policy.

"We're confident in iPOM 2.0 and see it as an advancement in science and modeling," Kujala said. "However, it hasn't been through the same peer-review process as the original iPOM. Until that happens, we want the Commission and the public to see estimates from both models."

By using iPOM 2.0 to analyze wolf population estimates from past years, it shows a steady decline in wolf numbers from 2021. As a result, FWP is recommending a reduction to the 2026/2027 wolf harvest quota to 250. This is down from a quota of 450 last year. Last year 247 wolves were harvested.

The Montana Wolf Management Plan outlines 450 wolves as the minimum number necessary to ensure there are 15 breeding pairs in the state. These are minimum numbers and not a management objective for FWP.

At the Aug. 19 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting, the commission will consider the wolf and furbearer trapping regulation proposal from FWP. Included in that proposal is the annual wolf harvest quota. The

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public can comment on the proposal through Aug. 12.

Commissioners can propose amendments to FWP's proposals and those amendments will be available for public comment if possible. Commissioners can also propose amendments or other proposals at the commission meeting.

The public can comment on commission items in advance, as well as during the meeting by attending in person or virtual via Zoom. The public can attend in person at the Montana Heritage Center or at one of FWP regional offices. The meeting will start 8 a.m. Aug. 19. If you want to attend virtually, you must register online between Aug. 4 and 12 p.m. Aug. 18.

Secretary Christi Jacobsen backs timber projects and ag access during July's Land Board meeting

During Monday's monthly Land Board meeting, Montana Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen voted to approve three timber projects and a slate of easements that will improve natural gas distribution, as well as access for Treasure State ag producers.

Secretary Jacobsen joined her Land Board colleagues in approving two timber sales in Sanders County and another in Fergus County. The sales are expected to generate more than $210,000 for Montana's common schools trust. In addition to the revenue for Montana schools, the timber projects will improve forest health, reduce wildfire hazards, and mitigate Douglas-fir bark beetle impacts.

The easements will generate more than $20,000 for Montana's common schools and public land trusts and include natural gas pipeline easements, as well as access easements that support local agriculture and ranching operations for Montanan producers.

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Veteran's Corner Update

By Mike Lawson

A new education benefit, created through the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, is called the VET TEC 2.0 program and is being implemented by the VA. This is only for programs in computer programing, computer software, media applications, data processing or information sciences. To be eligible, you must have a discharge of other than dishonorable. Length of service of at least 36 months is required and you must be under age 62. If eligible the Veteran can get (1) money for books and supplies (2) money for housing (if you're in school more than half time (3) tuition and fees. This is exciting. To learn more or apply, go to VET TEC 2.0 webpage or get an overview of the VET TEC 2.0 program by watching the VET TEC 2.0 Student Overview webinar.

The VA Bill Take Care of American's Veteran Act , that I mentioned last week, failed by one vote of 211-210 and was pulled. We hope it will be revived and the reduction of benefits for tinnitus and sleep apnea will be taken out of this Bill. Many Veteran groups opposed this Bill for that reason. We as Veterans do have a voice and at least this time it was heard.

It's interesting to learn that China and the US are working together, in China, to recover MIAs.

My grandson got out of the Marine Corps about 5 years ago. He and his wife are ready to buy their first home. He is applying through the VA for a loan. His VA contact is very helpful. We think it will go smoothly. I have purchased 3 homes in my life-time using my VA benefits and things went very smoothly. If you or one of your Veteran relatives are considering the purchase of a new home, please contact a VA representative and get the ball rolling.

Exciting news for Lewistown, Mt. in that the Grand Opening Ceremony for the new Lewistown Veteran Affairs Clinic will take place on August 14, 2026. The location address is 102 Market Drive, Lewistown, Mt.. Lewistown is famous for being in the exact center of Montana. It's in a very rural area and the benefits for area veterans to receive health care, without having to travel 100 miles plus, will be a huge benefit for them.

I'm concerned for our Veterans in the Iran conflict war area. We've lost some already and my condolences to their families. Put them and that whole conflict in your prayers, if you pray. Thanks

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Additional fishing restrictions begin July 22 on several Montana rivers

Rising river water temperatures are prompting more daily fishing restrictions for several Montana rivers.

These restrictions, commonly known as hoot-owl restrictions, prohibit fishing from 2 p.m. to midnight each day. They are designed to protect fish when environmental stressors and angling pressure are both high. When water temperatures are high and flows are low, the additional stress of angling can lead to issues including disease outbreaks, reduced spawning success, decreased growth rates and increased mortality.

Restrictions will take effect July 22 in the following areas:

- Big Hole River from the confluence with the North Fork of the Big Hole River to Dickie Bridge
- Madison River from Eight Mile Ford Fishing Access Site to Ennis Reservoir
- Shields River from the bridge upstream of Wilsall between Jordan Bench and Pinkerton roads to the confluence with the Yellowstone River
- Yellowstone River from the Hwy. 89 bridge near Livingston to the Hwy. 212/310 bridge in Laurel
- Smith River from the confluence of the North and South forks of the Smith River to Eden Bridge
- Upper Clark Fork from the Clark Fork's origin at the confluence of Warm Springs Creek and Silver Bow Creek to the mouth of Flint Creek
- Bitterroot River in its entirety, from the confluence of the East and West forks to the confluence with the Clark Fork River

Fishing restrictions are in effect for additional waterbodies and other sections of some of the rivers listed above. For a full list of current fishing restrictions.

FWP's drought policy provides for angling restrictions when flows drop below critical levels for fish, when water quality is diminished, or when maximum daily water temperatures reach at least 73 degrees for three consecutive days. In cutthroat trout waters, angling restrictions occur when the temperatures reach at least 66 degrees for three consecutive days. Water temperatures of 77 degrees or more can be lethal to trout.

Catch-and-release anglers can reduce stress on fish by getting them to the net or in hand quickly, keeping them in the water and reviving them prior to releasing them back into

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True Nobel Pruning Climbing/ Cabling
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Upstairs Venue Available for Holiday Parties
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Player Promos- Thurs "Nifty 50"
Progressive drawing @ 6 PM!
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406-988-0047

the river. As the summer warms, Montana offers many other angling options with better conditions for fish, including larger lakers or reservoirs or higher-elevation lakes and streams.

Along with monitoring stream temperatures, FWP also monitors stream flows and, in some streams, holds instream flow water rights. FWP's water program can issue a call on junior water users, when appropriate, to contribute to stream flows through the late summer and early fall.

62 new officers graduate from the Montana Law Enforcement Academy

Sixty-two new officers who will serve in 39 agencies across the state graduated Tuesday from the Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA) within the Montana Department of Justice. MLEA provides basic and advanced training for state, county, city, and tribal law enforcement officers throughout the state.

Attorney General Austin Knudsen was in attendance to congratulate and address the graduates.

"I am proud of the men and women who chose to become Montana's newest law enforcement officers," Attorney General Knudsen said. "They will face many unique obstacles as they embark on their career, but I am confident that their training over the last 12 weeks has prepared them for what lies ahead. Congratulations, Class 190!"

Brendan Boily, Dillon Police Department

Jared Weaver, Dillon Police Department

Dillon Public Library This week's programs:

July 23 - Thursday Theme: DINO-MITE DINO-ART
10 a.m. to Noon at Dillon Public Library
Call Dillon Public Library at 683-4544 with any questions

Senior Commodities

Senior Commodities will be available for pick up Saturday July 25th from 9-10 at 761 Kentucky Ave. Dillon MT. Questions contact Russ Schwandt @ 406-498-1753

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Dart Boards
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Granny's grill
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132 N. Montana St.
Thursday - Shredded Beef Quesadilla
Scratch Made Soup - Shredded Beef Fajita
Grill Hours
Mon. - Thur. 11 am - 10 pm
Fri. - Sun. 8 am - 10 pm
BAR OPEN LATER



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Road trips. Campers. Boats. ATVs.
Make sure your summer toys are covered before you hit the road.
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Email: info@nyeinsuranceagency.com

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We are a full service excavating contractor serving Beaverhead, Madison, Jefferson & Silver Bow Counties

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Available on the web from: www.dillonite.com **Advertising deadline 3pm - Monday through Friday**

Maidenrock Bay Spa

Cyndi Cheek-Ascheman, Owner
221 1/2 S. Idaho St | Dillon
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5/8-10/31 BILL

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1/23- WC BILL

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3/14- WC BILL

Dillonite Classified Ads 406.683.4903

Thursday, July 23, 2026

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Call for Rates 406-660-2276
www.rtcrvpark.com

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Ph 610-703-4349 Dillon

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Full line of trailer tires at competitive prices. Skid Steer and Telehandler service available with operator, and a full line of attachments to tackle any job.
Your trailering solutions professionals.
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stockdrivemt.com or find us on Facebook @stockdrivemt

HELP WANTED 5/5- WC BILL
Anderson Fencing is hiring for field/fence workers, full time, competitive pay. Send resume to andersonfencing@gmail.com or come in and apply at 40 Taylor Dr, Dillon, MT 59725.

STORAGE UNIT FOR RENT
6/23- WC BILL
6x10, clean available immediately. $30/month. Rest of this month free. Call 406-660-0853 or text.

HELP WANTED 6/9-8/7PD
UM Western Dining Services is hiring summer help. Servers, dishwashers, cashiers. Meals provided, flexible hours. Apply at the university dining hall in Mathews Hall, 710 S. Atlantic, or call 406-683-7007

WE RENT GOATS. YES, REALLY. 4/29-9/31
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Skip the chemicals. Skip the backbreaking labor. Our hardworking goats clear brush, weeds, and overgrowth naturally!
- Transportation included
- Electric fencing provided
- Full setup & tear down
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Safe. Sustainable. Surprisingly effective. Your pasture, lot, or backyard will thank you.
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Call or text 595-3601 to schedule a free consultation today!

FOR SALE 7/21-27 PD
2003 Ford Taurus LX 153000 miles. New tires, new battery $2000. Call Bill Broere 683-1261

HELP WANTED WC
Are you a reliable, caring & compassionate person that needs a flexible job? Home Care Montana is currently seeking part-time PCAs /CNAs for our Dillon area.
406-582-1680

DILLON MOTORCOACH RV RESORT 10/12 PD
50 Swenson Way, Dillon
Monthly Summer Rate $595
Per Day - $45 including tax Weekly $265.
Call 406-596-5423 or 406-660-7462

HELP WANTED 7/9- WC BILL
Concrete Laborers & Finishers. $22-$30 an hour depending on experience. Call Phillips Concrete (406) 491-3772 or Email brian@phillipsconcreteinc.com

HELP WANTED 4/16 - WC BILL
Montana Energy Alliance is seeking an office assistant. ***Requirements:*** High School diploma of GED, Exceptional customer service skills, Knowledge of Microsoft office (word, Excel) Excellent verbal and written skills, Proficient with 10 key & General computer knowledge, able to answer multi-line phone system, must be able to multi-task, well organized, Must possess valid drivers license & have reliable transportation, must be able to lift 50 pounds. ***Benefits included with full time hire:*** Medical, 401K, Paid vacation. $16-20/hour DOE Montana Energy Alliance is a drug free work place. Please drop resume and cover letter off ***at 300 Cleverly Dr. Dillon, MT*** Montana Energy Alliance, LLC is an equal opportunity Employer.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
7/13- WC BILL
Move In Special Through June 30, 2026
Webster Ln Dillon, MT
40 x 40 Shop
- Private Restroom
- Updated Electrical
- Fully Insulated
- Easy Access for Deliveries
- Designated Parking

40 x 100 Shop/Warehouse
- Private Office
- Common Restroom
- Loading Dock
- Easy Access for Deliveries
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- 14x12 Sliding Door with Man Door
- Designated Parking

Office Space
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- 1 – 12 x 19 Reception Area
- Private Bathroom with Shower
- Storage Room
- Designated Parking
- Customer Parking

Call 18Mile Rentals @ 406-596-1246 for pricing.

HELP WANTED
10/22- WC BILL
MEA is seeking a full time Propane Delivery Driver
Job Duties:
1. Deliver propane to customers
2. Performs simple maintenance on trucks
3. Load and unload product
4. Maintain daily truck reports
5. Assist with taking physical inventories
6. Attends schools and meetings as required
7. Performs other duties as assigned

Requirements:
- High School Diploma or equivalent
- 21 years of age
- Valid Class B CDL including Tanker, Air Break and Hazmat endorsements.
- Must be able to pass a pre-employment DOT physical, drug test and Homeland Security Background test
- Must be able to work with and communicate well with others.
- Proficient verbal and written communication skills.
- Knowledgeable with computers.
- Lifting, pushing, pulling, bending and climbing in and out of trucks
- Must have a willingness to work outdoors and drive in all weather conditions.
- Must maintain a professional image

Montana Energy Alliance is a drug free work place.
We offer competitive wages, benefits and a 401K package. $25- $30/hour DOE. Please drop resume and cover letter off at 300 Cleverley Dr., Dillon, MT Montana Energy Alliance, LLC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED 5/5- ?
Sparkys garage is now hiring line cooks and dishwashers. Competitive pay. Flexible hours. Apply in person at 420 E Poindexter Street

FOR RENT 7/14- WC BILL
Single Family Home available to rent
Dillon, MT
-3 bed/2 bath
-Attached garage
-Huge Master Closet
-Newer build, open floor plan
-Great Neighborhood
-$1,800/month, tenant responsible for utilities
-Absolutely no pets/no smoking
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♦Logs ♦Concrete
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10:30 - Church Service

Pastor Lance Morrison
715 E Bannack, 406-683-5374
oursaviorlutheran@yahoo.com

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Dillon weekday Mass: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 12:10 PM
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Melrose weekend Mass: Sunday at 11 AM

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Dillon, MT 59725
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9/11-WC BILL

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Come out & enjoy our gift shop
Get Montana raised Prime beef
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Get your fuel hot & cold drinks
Lotto tickets & Cabin Rentals
Your one stop shop for your adventures
Fuel • Groceries • Gift Shop
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Yard/Garage/Estate Sale

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Friday & Saturday
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Dillon, Montana
406.683.2735
stjamesdillon@live.com
Services 10 am
2nd & 4th Sundays, Eucharist
1st & 3rd Sunday, Morning Prayer
12/30- WC BILL TH

Dillon Rifle and Pistol Club Board Meeting

7/23 29 BILL

~ Club Members Welcome ~
When: Wednesday 7/29 @ 7:00 PM
Where: Beaverhead Gun Club
Address: 2155 White Ln (Dillon)
Email: info@dillonrifleandpistolclub.com
Website: www.dillonrifleandpistolclub.com

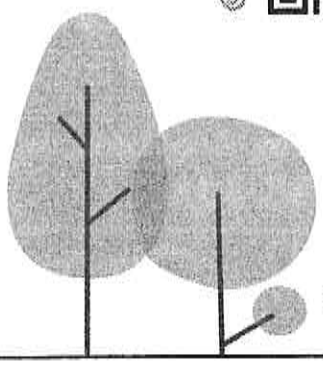
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COMMUNITY DAY OF SERVICE

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12TH, 2026
Dillon MT

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- DIFFERENT TIMES THROUGHOUT THE DAY
- VARIETY OF PROJECTS
- ALL AGES WELCOME

Email erinhughes@justserve.org with questions



Counseling God's Word Conference

Biblical Counseling for the body of Christ with author, counselor, and pastor, Dr. David Edgington

August 8th
9:00 – 2:30

Grace Bible Church
1049 Laknar Lane
Dillon, MT

Registration Closes July 29th!

Scan the code or visit gbcdillon.org to register!

FAQ's

What is the cost to register?

Ages 10 and up: $35 (Lunch Included)
Ages 4-9: $10 (Lunch Included)
3 and under: Free (No lunch included and no registration required)

What is the schedule?

There will be two teaching sessions beginning at 9 am. Lunch is provided on site with your registration. The conference will conlclude with a Q & A with Dr. Edgington after lunch.

Is childcare available?

Childcare WILL NOT be provided, but the church facilities are available to parents. The event will be streamed to the nursery areas.

Is Dr. Edgington only speaking on August 8th?

On August 9th, Dr. David Edgington will be preaching as part of our regular service. This will be along the theme of the conference, but not formally part of the conference.

Will Dr. Edgington's books be available for purchase?

Yes!

I would like to attend but cannot afford to register.

If you desire to attend but are unable to pay the registration fee, please contact us at CGWConferenceGBC@gmail.com

I still have questions.

Contact us at CGWConferenceGBC@gmail.com

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STUMP HUNTER

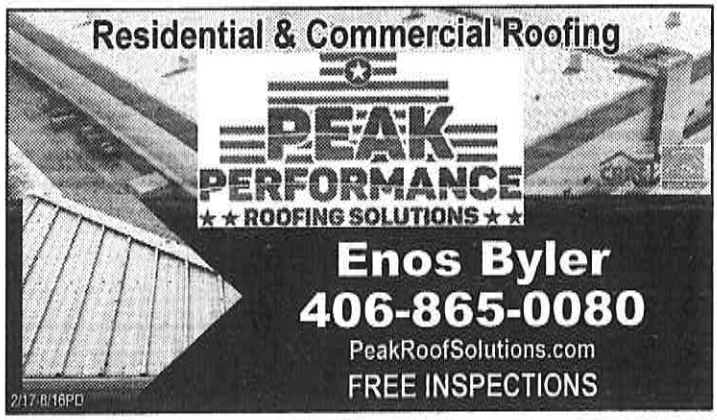
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6/26-9/25 PD

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3/6 - WC BILL

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Nick Panziera
406.596.1803

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7/8-11/8 PD

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1/16- WC BILL

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rider or push mower
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4/15-10/14 BIIL

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6/24-8/31 BILL P

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7/2-8/1 PD

ROOTED SOLUTIONS

A cut above the rest

Our services include:

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- Tree planting
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- Excavator and equipment services
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FOUR O SIX SPRINKLERS 2026

Offering Spring turn Ons, maintenance and repairs, winter blowouts and some landscaping needs!

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Call or Text Amanda at 406-231-5180

7/14-8/13 BILL P

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4/21-7/31 BILL



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THE FIRST AND THIRD WEDNESDAY

August 5 & 19

Call to schedule your appointment today!

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7/22- WC BILL

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we're looking for a baker to join our team!

If you enjoy working with your hands, love the smell of fresh bread in the morning, & take pride in making delicious pastries, you'll fit right in.

we're looking for someone with:

- baking experience (decorating is a plus!)
- basic kitchen know-how & comfort working in a face-paced space
- attention to detail & strong work ethic

complete job description & applications are available in-store at 24 s. idaho st.

406.683.4141



Avery Medina

Real Estate Agent

Whether you're buying your first home, investing in your future, or searching for your own piece of Montana, I'd be honored to help you make your next move.

VENTURE WEST REALTY

Contact Me:

406-599-3750

Avery@VentureWest.com

350 N Montana st. Dillon MT 59725

7/7-8/6 PD

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1/8- WC BILL

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READ THROUGH GOD'S WORD WITH US!

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE" JOHN 8:32

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7/16- WC BILL

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4/29- WC BILL