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Theresa Lea Torrance

Theresa Lea Torrance, born Theresa Lea Klakken on October 9, 1960, in Superior, Montana, passed away September 24, 2026, at Billings Clinic Hospital, Billings, Montana, while awaiting a medical procedure.

Theresa's mother, Alice Klakken, later Alice Knorr, in 1968 moved her three children, Mike, Karol and Theresa from Superior, Montana to Dillon, Montana, after the death of her husband and the children's father, Albert Klakken.

Theresa graduated from Beaverhead County High School in 1978 and then moved to Spokane, Washington to attend Kinman Business University where she received a degree in accounting in 1979.

In fall of 1979 she moved to Louisville, Kentucky, to further her education in accounting and computer technology at Sullivan Junior College of Business. Theresa had a life-long love of horses, especially Thoroughbreds. In Louisville she was able to attend the Kentucky Derby an important event on her wish list. In 1981 she met her husband, Michael Torrance. They married in Dillon, Montana in 1982.

She had a son, Daniel, born October 9, 1986 in Mesa, Arizona and later another son, Cody, born October 17, 1989 in Spokane, Washington. At this time she was divorced. It was a struggle being a single mom, but the boys never wanted for anything and were loved dearly by her.

She moved to Seattle after the birth of Cody to take an accounting job at a company called TransFair. It was a new, small business with a handful of employees when she joined them in 1990. She stayed with the company 30 years during which time the company grew to several hundred employees. She was the Director of Finance with about 50 employees in her department. She enjoyed the success her hard work brought her and also the admiration of her peers.

In the fall of 2023 she retired from the company and moved to Dillon with the intention of helping her mom and step dad, Dr. Gordon Knorr. Sadly, Alice died only a few months after her arrival and Gordon followed nine months later.

She is survived by her two sons Daniel Torrance and Cody Torrance; sister Karol Klakken May, brother Michael Klakken, aunts Barbara Thompson and Sandra Loveland and many cousins. She was a loving, kind person who had many friends. She will be missed by all.

The Celebration of Life gathering is scheduled for November 7th at 1pm at the Beaverhead Golf Course Club House in Dillon, Montana.

In place of flowers please make a donation to <https://championsretreat.org/> Her passion for Thoroughbreds was known to all who knew her well.

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COURT REPORT OCTOBER 19, 2026

CASE: White vs Walsh

This case involves the disposition of the
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Opening Statements have been presented.

Testimony is in Process

Senior Commodity Boxes

Beaverhead Senior Commodity boxes will be available for pick up only on Saturday, October 24th from 9:00-10:30 at 761 Kentucky Ave., Dillon. Questions contact Russ Schwandt at 406.498.1753 Please bring an empty box.

AMERICAN LEGION POST-20: MEETING

Wednesday, 04 November 2026/ 6:00 PM

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Additional information: Mark McGinley (406-865-0119).

Beaverhead County HS Activity List

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|-----------|---|-------------------|
| 10/22 | Volleyball vs Frenchtown Home | 4:15/5:30/7:00 pm |
| | Sr. Night Approx. | 6:30 pm |
| 10/23 | State Send-Off - Cross Country Auditorium | 11:50 am |
| 10/23 | Tier II Meeting Staff Lounge | 12:00 pm |
| 10/23- 24 | Cross Country @ State Billings overnight | |
| | Amend Park | Sat: 11:00 am |
| 10/23 | Football vs Butte Central Home | 7:00 pm |
| | Sr. Night ~ FB, Golf, Cheer approx. | 6:45 pm |



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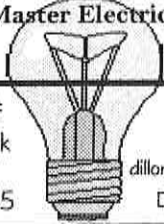
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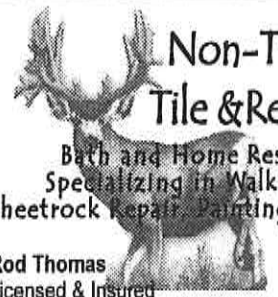
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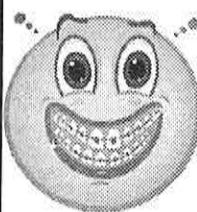
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October 21 Hearty Baked Potato Bar, Lots of condiments, Vegetable or Salad, Fruit or Juice and Dessert.

October 28 Turkey Tetrazzini & Pasta, Vegetable or salad, Fruit or Juice and Dessert.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES: Come in play cards, or other games, visit, put a puzzle together or simply relax and read a magazine. **Monday Open from 10 am to 4 pm**
Tuesday and Fridays Open from 1 to 4 pm
Wednesdays: Open for the noon meal at 10:30 am and remains open until 4 pm.

Rotary Club Luncheon October 21st
at 12 Noon at Barrett Hospital Foundation Conference Room, 90 MT Hwy 91 S. in Dillon!

The Dillon Rotary Club will host a presentation on Constitutional Initiative 132 (CI-132) on October 21st at 12:00 noon in the conference room at the Pioneer Building, the small brick building next to the clinic. The presentation will explain CI-132, a proposed constitutional amendment that would ensure Montana's judicial elections remain nonpartisan. Montanans believe judges should be elected based on their record and qualifications, which is what we have been doing for about 90 years. We need independent courts to keep judges accountable to the Constitution and not to political parties and their money. All are welcome to attend and learn more about CI-132. Please join us and ALL ROTARIANS are encouraged to attend.

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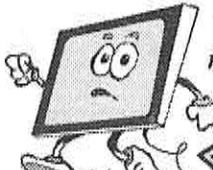
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MYCA & UMW to Host Airlift Event on October 21st

The Montana Youth Challenge Academy, in partnership with the Montana National Guard 1-189th (General Support Aviation Battalion) and the University of Montana Western, will host a statewide Educator Airlift on Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

This unique event brings together high school administrators, counselors, and staff from across Montana to experience the MYCA program firsthand. Participants will fly in from areas across the state, including Missoula, Helena, and Billings. The event is designed to strengthen connections and awareness and help MYCA better serve Montana's youth.

As part of the day's activities, military helicopters are scheduled to land around noon on the south end of campus in the tailgating/parking area.

The south tailgating/parking lot and the adjacent parking lot near the BARC will be closed during the event. Please plan ahead to park in a different lot on October 21 and move any of your parked vehicles from this area by 5:00 p.m. on October 20.

For more information, please contact the Montana Youth Challenge Academy at 406-960-4424.

Tendoy Fine Art Gallery is closing it's doors

After serving Dillon for 10 years displaying and selling the work of local artists, we are sad to announce that we will be shutting the gallery down at the end of October. Tendoy opened its doors in 2016 with the work of artists Mel and Colleen Cheney, Jean James, and Ruth Jackson.

All of the art is currently on sale for 25% off. For early Christmas shopping you will find paintings, photography, pottery, quilling, wood turned bowls, silver and copper work, metal work, and more.

We would like to thank the Dillon Community for it's support through the years.

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Bulldogs Manage Mystics in Four Sets

The Montana Western volleyball team (11-11, 10-5 FC) extended its win streak to six matches with a 3-1 road victory over Bismarck State (8-12, 6-9 FC) Friday evening.

NOTABLES: Lilia Kahalepo earned a career-high in service aces. Savana Warburton posted her fifth double-double of the season. Frazier registered more than 20 digs for the eighth-straight match. Kennedy Lingenfelter hit over .400 for the third time on the campaign. Jaiden Perez tallied over 5.0 blocks for the fourth-straight contest. The Bulldogs reached 100 digs for the third time in the last four outings.

MATCH SUMMARY: The hosts struck first with a 25-23 win after a back-and-forth opening set. The frame featured seven tied and four lead changes.

The Mystics started the second period on a 6-3 run, but the Bulldogs found their footing to get themselves back in the match. The two sides once again traded the lead through the middle of the set before Western went on an 11-6 run to win the set 25-20 and tie the match 1-1.

The third frame continued in the same manner, neither side able to put much distance between them. UMW earned the narrow 25-23 win to take the lead in the match, 2-1.

The Mystics jumped out to an early lead in the final period, 9-4. The Bulldogs dug deep and worked their way back with a 7-1 run to take the lead. They would not relinquish the advantage again in the match, stretching the lead to as many as five before sealing the 3-1 win with a 25-21 set four victory.

Kennedy Lingenfelter led all players in kills with 15 while also posting a team-best .424 clip. Savana Warburton (14) and Jaiden Perez (10) were also in double figures in kills. Jayda Ward (24) and Sophie Worden (23) combined for 47 assists. Lilia Kahalepo registered a game-high three aces. Madisyn Frazier led the game with 25 digs, followed by Warburton with 21. Perez tied for the game-high with 6.0 blocks. Lingenfelter recorded a game-best 16.5 points.

Beaverhead County Museum Board of Trustees Meeting

The Beaverhead County Museum Board of Trustees will meet Wednesday October 21, 2026, at 5 pm at Beaverhead County Museum 15 S. Montana, Dillon MT 59725. The public is invited to attend.



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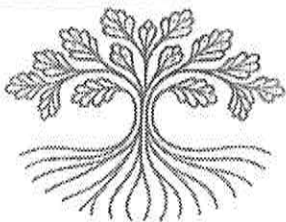
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UMW Volleyball Completes Season Sweep Over Dickinson State

The Montana Western volleyball team (12-11, 11-5 FC) earned its seventh-straight victory with a hard-fought 3-2 road win over Dickinson State (6-17, 5-11 FC) Saturday.

The Bulldogs took the lead early in the opening set and cruised to the 25-18 win to go up 1-0.

The Blue Hawks jumped out to a 7-2 advantage to start the second frame, and led by as many as five more than once in the set. Western steadily pulled their way back into the match, tying the score at 18 apiece. The Bulldogs scored seven of the final eight points in the set to take 25-19 win for a 2-0 lead.

The hosts responded in the third with a 25-17 win to make it 2-1 and forced a deciding set with a 25-21 win in the fourth.

The final period was one of slim margins, with both sides unable to gain a comfortable lead. The Bulldogs led by as many as three in the fifth, but the Blue Hawks pulled back to tie it 13-13. Western snagged the final two points to seal the 15-13 set win and the 3-2 victory.

UMW Football Falls to #1 College of Idaho 52-7 Saturday Afternoon

Montana Western football (2-5, 0-3 FC West) fell to #1 College of Idaho (6-0, 2-0 FC West) 52-7 Saturday afternoon at Bulldog Stadium.

The visitors scored two touchdowns in the opening period to lead 14-0 after 15 minutes of play.

Canyon Sargent forced a fumble near the end of the first, but the Bulldogs couldn't find the end zone on the ensuing drive.

The Yotes increased their lead to 28-0 by the halftime whistle.

College of Idaho put up three more touchdowns in the third frame, bringing the score to 49-0 in favor of the Yotes.

Santana Luna got the Bulldogs on the board with a 77-yard touchdown rush to start the final 15 minutes.

The Western defense held CI to a field goal in the fourth, and the Yotes took the 52-7 win.

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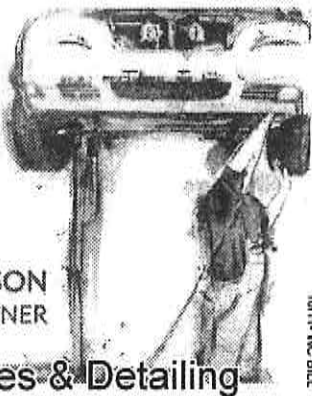
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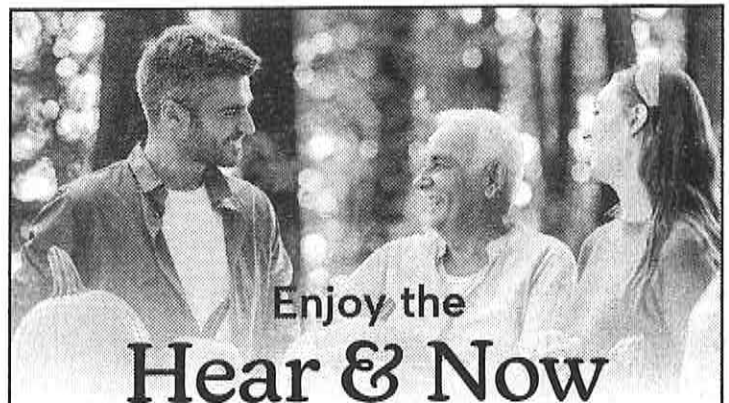
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DESTROYING THE EVIDENCE

The recent Sand Creek fire exposed to many residents of Beaverhead County the neglect and gross incompetence of the USFS. However, many of the people in the cattle business and outdoor sportsmen have previously witnessed the actions and mindset of the USFS that is the opposite of the intended purpose of this bureaucracy-and sadly has been this way for decades. I will present two personal experiences at the end of this opinion letter from over 60 years ago as examples of their mindset that has gotten much worse. For the present example, here is the data on the Sand Creek and Bobcat fires published in the Tribune about 8 or 9 days after the fires were reported: Sand Creek fire: 15,784 acres, 1% contained, 67 personnel. Bobcat fire 7,686 acres, 237 personnel working fire. Sand Creek fire 7.5 miles from Wisdom while the Bobcat fire is 12 miles from Wisdom. What is concerning about this data is the Bobcat fire is not near a populated area while the Sand Creek fire is allowed to threaten Maverick Mountain ski resort, Elkhorn Hot Springs, the Grasshopper Inn, Ma Barnes grocery, a large subdivision, and many homes in the area that the article in the Tribune states have been evacuated. What is wrong with this scenario? How did this happen? The mismanagement by the USFS started decades ago with forest district heads often educated in the eastern USA where forests, populations, and terrain are all completely different. These heads were often rotated in and out of the Beaverhead National Forest before they even had a clear grasp of the forests and the people who live in the area. The bureaucratic mindset is well entrenched in these USFS heads and the politicians that provide minimal oversight and/or who personally benefit or have their friends and special interest lobbies profit from their lack of control. But the group most responsible for the sad state of the USFS are the environmentalists. This group rarely looks at the entire "picture," which results in an outcome that makes the environment worse. For OUR forest, this started when the environmentalists forced the USFS to stop spraying for the Japanese Pine Beetle decades ago, and as an article in the Montana Standard from about 12 years ago stated: more board feet of lumber had been destroyed by this action than Europeans had cut down since they arrived on this continent. I don't know where they got their data, but all you have to do to see the validity of this data is drive through the forests of the 9+ states that are effected. Even the product that had been used successfully to control the diseased trees was sensationally vilified which good science has subsequently shown to not be anything like initially argued by the environmentalists. For ex as probably saved more lives in the world than any other chemical. When people started seeing the forests dying at an alarming rate from the diseases previously controlled, the USFS came up with a bald-faced lie that anyone that has travelled in OUR forests knows is untrue - that the beetle only kills old growth trees. The USFS is not stupid - just corrupted and lazy, so the environmentalists and politicians came up with a good way to hide the destruction of the forests by designating "Primitive" area status to millions of acres (so no roads or vehicles); thus hiding the evidence of the destruction of OUR forests. BUT that wasn't enough as they came up with "Wilderness Study Areas" involve millions of more acres with the similar restrictions. As is not uncommon with a federal bureaucracy, a significant number of these study areas have been "studied" for decades without any decision made- the Pioneers are an example.

Now, let us get back to the mismanagement of the Sand Creek fire. Obviously, the West Pioneers have a very high degree of beetle killed trees which makes it very difficult to control when a fire occurs. Worse, it was not controlled as inside information says that they wanted it to go all the way to Carroll Hill. But the weather had different plans, and the Sand Creek Fire severely damaged the Maverick Mountain Ski Resort, caused the evacuation of hundreds of people, reached over 40,000 acres (many of these acres with such an intense fire that it sterilized the soil), and displaced and killed wildlife, caused health hazards to citizens of Beaverhead County, and polluted streams and lakes.

THANK YOU USFS, POLITICIANS, AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS. Anyone for roasted Spotted Owl or the wolf that was never in this part of the USA? What was the justification for personnel having to travel every morning from the upper Grasshopper all the way to Wisdom for their morning briefings (about 150 miles RT)? Was it because the local USFS office was there, or the restaurants and bars, or its tiny airstrip? I got tired of watching and even more upset when I would see a caravan of often over a dozen USFS vehicles coming up the Pioneer Mountain Byway every morning AND ALL BUT 1 or 2 had only one person in them. How about when they did have a meeting at our fire station, I counted 9 USFS vehicles with their engines running but nobody in the vehicles? How about the fact that day after day the parking area at the Grasshopper Inn had a large area of these vehicles sitting ALL DAY LONG with their occupants asleep or just hanging out? How about the spot fires that were set to burn an area completely then having to call more airplanes and helicopters in when winds spread their fires? How about the lady bragging to my sister that her brother-in-law was on a bulldozer and was getting paid 700 USD/day even when he did not start nor move the dozer an inch? Then, in mid-September contract crews that were eating at the Grasshopper Inn in the evenings (about 20 of them) hired to bulldoze in the fire lines that were made and drag dead timber and fire fallen trees over these fire lines (supposedly reclaiming the damage to private property as well as National Forest and BLM land).

This brings me to the fact that forest fires are big business for the USFS and for all those with whom they contract. A friend of mine who has heavy equipment says that he makes as much on one big fire or a couple of smaller ones as he makes all year long with his very successful business. With the fires in the Wise River area three years ago he made more than he made the entire year AND his equipment never left the staging site near the airport camp. I received the same general information from other contractors - no wonder they come from all over the country to be on fires. I wonder if they are getting paid so very well to encourage reluctance to expose lack of efficiency and unnecessary destruction of this vital natural resource. The forest district also makes out big as well since the more they spend the more they can put in for their next budget. Please don't get me wrong as I have complete admiration for the hot shot crews that risk their lives to try to control forest fires that were purposely let get out of hand, especially in areas with so many dead trees to feed the fires. Also, the contract workers that come in to help control the damage-after the horse is already out of the stall.

How can this incompetence and disgraceful mismanagement of this important natural resource be corrected? 1) meaningful oversight by the USDA and congress, 2) get rid of the management that has perpetuated this atrocity.

They need to realize that they work for the citizens and that the citizens are not their enemy. 3) spray for the Japanese pine beetle and the Spruce bud worm. 4) end this Primitive Area and Wilderness Study Area fraud and start taking care of the forest like you were mandated to do. It will also be a lot easier to fight forest fires and clean up the beetle disaster if you start maintaining the roads in the forest like you used to do, rather than going around campgrounds giving tickets like parking meter maids! Our national forests are preserved for we citizens to enjoy and realize the bounty of its resources - not to restrict this enjoyment and hide and burn up the forest and have a negative impact on the wildlife that calls these spaces home. There was an article in the June 22 Dillonite that indicates that the USFS is going to attempt to reintroduce the industry that it has collapsed, logging. Hopefully this true and the USFS can spend their energies to see that this is done properly. And so we won't have to be buying our lumber from Canada anymore. Then the USFS will not have to burn the evidence of their complete mismanagement of the natural resources that they were to protect.

It is time that residents of Beaverhead County and others living in the western USA stand up and speak up about this assault on our important resource that has been going on for decades. We owe this to our children, their children, and all those that want to come and enjoy our forests and wildlife. The villains have been exposed!

DR. STEPHEN SELWAY (DVM)

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Published by Womack's Printing Place, dillonads@womacksprinting.com 126 N. Montana, Dillon, MT 406-683-4903
Available on the web from: www.dillonite.com **Ad & Insert deadline 3 pm Monday - Friday**

Beaverhead County is accepting applications for a Commission Support Specialist.

This position provides administrative, clerical, and bookkeeping support to the Board of Commissioners, Road Department, Finance, Airport Board, and county boards. Duties include preparing meeting agendas, transcribing minutes, customer service, road closure postings, and recordkeeping.

Requirements: High school diploma or GED with coursework in office practices/bookkeeping, plus at least 2 years of related experience. Must have strong computer, accounting, and communication skills. Requires occasional after-hours meeting attendance. Non-Exempt status.

Application Deadline: October 21, 2026

To apply for this position, complete a Beaverhead County job application, provide a resume and references.

Applications can be found at <https://beaverheadcountymt.com/humanresources>,

or in the Human Resource office at 2 S. Pacific St, Ste 9.

Applicants can submit all documents

to hr@beaverheadcountymt.gov

Beaverhead County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

10/8-21 BILL



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10/19-20

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EVS Technician / Laundry Attendant — \$15.95/hour

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- Restock supplies and maintain cleaning equipment.
- Wash, dry, fold, organize, and document linens and laundry.
- Follow infection control procedures and all safety protocols.

EVS Supervisor / Floor Technician — \$18.00-\$19.00/hour

- Supervise and coordinate daily EVS operations and staff under the direction of the Manager.
- Provide leadership and support to EVS team members and assist with training and onboarding.
- Ensure assigned areas are cleaned and maintained according to facility and infection control standards.
- Perform floor care, including vacuuming, scrubbing, waxing, mopping, and other floor maintenance.
- Monitor cleaning quality and address issues or areas needing additional attention.
- Complete and maintain daily cleaning checklists and other required documentation.
- Help ensure adequate supplies, equipment, and staffing are available for daily operations.

QUALIFICATIONS

No prior healthcare cleaning experience required — comprehensive training is provided for EVS Technicians and Laundry Attendants!

- Strong attention to detail and commitment to cleanliness and safety.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Good communication skills and ability to follow instructions.
- Flexible, reliable, and dedicated with a strong work ethic.
- Supervisor: Previous supervisory, EVS, housekeeping, or floor-care experience preferred.

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Apply online: oneforefront.com/careers

Questions? Contact Human Resources at 406-655-5482 or Cassie.Hamblen@oneforefront.com

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7/16 WC BILL



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9/17-10/31 BILL P

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10/19-11/6 PC

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7/8-11/8 PD

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - Changing Dillon's Form of Government

We, the undersigned, wanted to present to the residents of the City of Dillon why we should keep the Mayor instead of removing the position and hiring a City manager. On November 3, 2026 an option is placed on the ballot to replace the Mayoral and the Director of Operations position with a City Manager. In what follows, we will give our opinions to the electorate on why to keep the two positions by voting NO.

We've been here before. In the early 1980's Mayor Nicholas ran on the platform of replacing the day to day management of the city with a city manager. Within six months the community was in revolt and both the mayor and city manager resigned in disgrace. What followed was the establishment of the Director of Operation position who worked in support of the mayor, our current system of administration for the last forty years. Almost all of our mayors over the past 50 years have given extensive service for more than 10 to over 20 years to our community in various other positions to influence a beneficial continuity of government.

1. Direct accountability to the voters.

The most important advantage of an elected mayor is democratic accountability. Residents can question their mayor, evaluate the mayor's performance, and vote for a different candidate if they are dissatisfied.

A city manager will be appointed by the governing body (i.e. City Council) under Montana's statutory commission-manager form of government. The manager serves at the council's will, rather than being directly elected by city residents. This creates a different chain of accountability. For Montana communities, local government should be responsive first and foremost to the citizens it serves. Keeping an elected mayor preserves a direct connection between municipal leadership and the voters.

The public should not have to persuade a city council to replace an administrator/manager before it can change the direction of its local government.

2. A mayor provides a recognizable voice for the community.

In smaller cities, residents often value personal relationships, familiarity, and accessibility in their local leadership. An elected mayor provides a recognizable point of contact for citizens, local businesses, civic organizations, and community groups.

A mayor can listen to concerns about streets, infrastructure, public safety, economic development, housing, and growth, and then bring those concerns before the governing body. An appointed manager can perform many administrative functions effectively, but the elected mayor represents the community through a public mandate.

3. The mayor can establish a community vision.

Cities need more than efficient administration. They need decisions about what kind of community they want to become.

An elected mayor can help establish priorities for infrastructure, downtown revitalization, economic development, housing, parks, and responsible growth. Residents can hold the mayor accountable for communicating that vision and working toward it.

A city manager's primary role under Montana's statutory commission-manager model is administrative: managing departments, enforcing laws and ordinances, recommending measures, and advising the council on municipal finances. Unlike a mayor, the city manager can't veto ordinances or resolutions that the City Council has passed especially financial matters.

4. Local knowledge matters for the City of Dillon.

Montana communities differ substantially in their economies, geography, infrastructure needs, development pressures, and traditions.

A mayor who lives in the community and regularly interacts with its residents can bring firsthand knowledge of local concerns to municipal decisions. This knowledge can be particularly valuable when setting priorities for limited public funds or balancing growth with the character of an established community.

A professional city manager may bring valuable expertise, but professional credentials alone do not guarantee an understanding of local history, neighborhood concerns, or community expectations.

The best approach is to use professional expertise to support local leadership rather than replace local representation.

5. Planning and zoning should remain accountable to the public.

Planning, zoning, subdivisions, housing, and future growth can have lasting consequences for property owners and the entire community.

An elected mayor can help ensure that these issues receive public attention and that the governing body's decisions reflect community priorities. Professional planners, zoning administrators, engineers, and legal advisers can provide the technical expertise needed to evaluate proposals properly.

The goal is not for a mayor to bypass established zoning procedures or substitute personal preferences for the law. The goal is to ensure that growth and development policies remain accountable to elected representatives and the public.

The City of Dillon should retain both professional technical assistance and democratic oversight.

6. Retaining a mayor may be more financially practical.

A city manager position brings a salary and potentially additional benefits, recruitment expenses, professional development costs, and other employment-related obligations. The actual cost depends on the city's existing staffing structure and the manager's compensation.

Before changing the form of government, the City of Dillon should compare the full cost of a manager with alternatives such as strengthening existing administrative staff, hiring specialized consultants when necessary, or improving the responsibilities and support provided to the current mayor and department heads. Currently, the Mayor's yearly base salary is approximately \$50,000 along with the Director of Operations yearly base salary of \$39,000 giving \$89,000 for a possible salary for a City Manager without increasing the city's debt. In the State of Montana currently, there are 12 cities and towns out of the 127 that operate under a City Manager form of government. Of these 12, only one has a smaller population compared with the City of Dillon (West Yellowstone). While salary information is limited, of the 12, ten cities are paying at least \$157,500 or more for one city manager and salary information on the other two was not found.

No savings should be assumed without reviewing actual local budget figures. However, a city should not create another senior position without demonstrating how the added expense will improve services, accountability, or efficiency. Especially in smaller communities, public resources should be directed toward measurable municipal needs. Additionally a successful manager will be courted by larger communities with more money and resources as currently occurs with our college chancellors and city police officers.

7. A mayor can provide continuity and stability

Elected mayors provide leadership shaped by local voters and an electoral mandate. They can help maintain long-term community priorities through changes in department personnel and administrative practices. City managers can also offer continuity, and they may be particularly effective at maintaining institutional knowledge. However, under Montana's statutory commission-manager model, the manager serves at the City Council's will. A change in council leadership can therefore affect the manager's tenure.

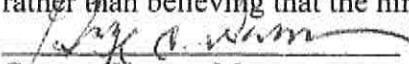
A municipality should carefully consider how much authority it wants concentrated in an appointed administrator and how it will preserve long-term policy direction through leadership transitions. As the ballot initiative is written, the city manager is an employee and is not under oath of office yet this position would be the leader of the police department. If it remains consistent with past practice or contrarily, the police department would not have the oversight it traditionally has had and could leave management to the politically strongest council member.

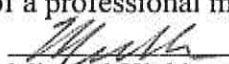
Conclusion

The City of Dillon should carefully consider the long-term consequences before replacing an elected mayor-led structure with a city-manager form of government.

An elected mayor provides direct voter accountability, recognizable community leadership, local knowledge, and a public voice for the city's priorities. Professional staff and department heads can support that leadership without necessarily requiring a separate city manager position.

The central question is not whether professional administration is valuable. It is whether creating an appointed city manager will produce enough additional benefit to justify its cost and the change in the city's system of accountability. Without dedicated, honest people willing to serve Dillon and without sufficient resources and funding directed to maximize beneficial returns in services it is irrelevant as to the form of government you choose, it will fail. We believe that your current form of government is superior to attract capable candidates rather than believing that the hiring of a professional mercenary is a long term answer.


George Warner, Mayor


Michael Klakken, Mayor