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Jean Ann Johnson Death Notice

Jean Ann Johnson, 80, passed away, September 25, 2026 at Pioneer Care & Rehab. She was born on February 26, 1946, in Butte, Montana to Jediah & Lucille (Boerner) Hoops.

The complete obituary will be published once finalized.

Condolences for the family may be posted online at www.brundagefuneralhome.com

Marie Louise Hamilton Death Notice

Marie Louise Hamilton, 70, of Dillon, passed away Friday, October 23, 2026 at home. She was born on January 9, 1956, in Hardin, MT to Samuel Walker & Juanita (Campbell) Walker-Riley.

Services will be Friday October 30, 2026 at the Presbyterian Church

The complete obituary will be published once finalized.

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

Snow and Slick Roads Keep Dillon Volunteer Fire Department Busy With Two I-15 Crashes

Jeremy Crawford, Southwestern Montana News

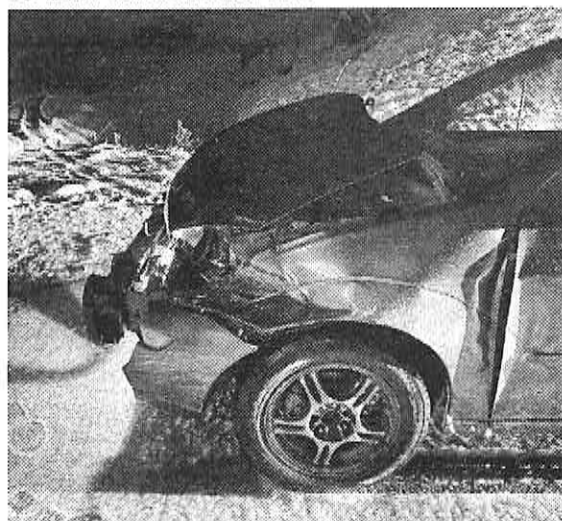
A fall storm that brought rain and snow to Southwest Montana kept the Dillon Volunteer Fire Department busy Friday night and Saturday morning as slick conditions contributed to two separate crashes along Interstate 15.

As temperatures dropped Friday evening, rain transitioned to snow, creating hazardous driving conditions, particularly on bridges and overpasses.

Firefighters responded to two incidents along I-15, including one crash that required assistance freeing an occupant from a vehicle.

Friday Night Crash Near Mile Marker 43

On Friday night, October 23, the Dillon Volunteer Fire Department responded to a single-vehicle crash on Interstate 15 near mile marker 43.



Firefighters assisted in freeing an individual involved in the crash.

Despite the circumstances, no major injuries were reported.

The crash occurred as the storm brought falling snow and slick conditions to portions of the

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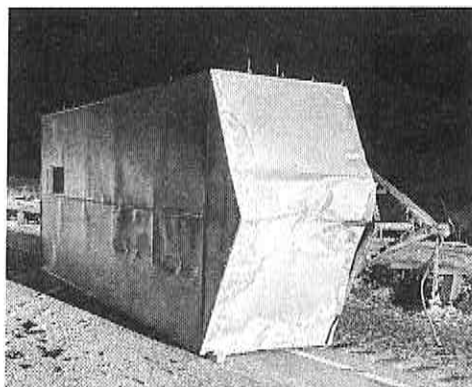
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Saturday
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The following
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called to another
crash on Interstate 15,
this time near mile
marker 52.

According to the information provided, a vehicle pulling a trailer lost control, causing the trailer to roll over.

No injuries were reported in the Saturday morning incident.

Drivers Reminded to Watch for Slick Bridges and Overpasses

The two incidents highlight the changing road conditions that can accompany fall storms in Southwest Montana.

Rain can quickly turn to snow as temperatures drop, creating slick spots on highways, especially bridges and overpasses, which can freeze before surrounding road surfaces.

Motorists traveling Interstate 15 and other Southwest Montana highways are encouraged to reduce their speeds, increase following distances and use extra caution when approaching bridges and shaded sections of roadway.

Drivers towing trailers should be particularly mindful of changing conditions, as slick pavement can make maintaining control more difficult.

The Dillon Volunteer Fire Department's responses to both incidents serve as a reminder that winter driving conditions can arrive quickly, even during the fall months.

For current highway conditions, travelers can check the Montana Department of Transportation's 511 Traveler Information System before heading out.



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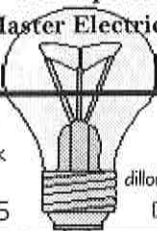
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Monday - Friday | 7:30 am - 4 pm**A Community Conversation**Trails & Route Mapping In and Around Dillon
November 4th, 6:30-8:30pm @ STC Great Room
University of Montana Western

Join Beaverhead Trails Coalition for an interactive community conversation to help us prioritize projects. We want to hear from you about how you use existing trails and what is on your wish list. We'll be looking at and drawing on maps, writing down ideas, and brainstorming possibilities! The best projects are those that the community works toward together.

Bring your thoughts for new projects, improvements, or maintenance. We'll be talking about In Town Trails & Routes, The High Trails, Connections to Subdivisions, and more!

Here are a few projects we have completed in the past few years-

- The High Trails- 1172 acres, 18+ miles of trail open to all non motorized recreation free of charge. More trails and a bike skills park in the works!
- Noble Avenue Trail- Half a mile of trail connecting providing a link from the Laknar Lane area
- Normal Street Bridge- Replaced the historic walking bridge
- Downtown Bike Racks
- Cornell & Selway Parks- We partnered with FWP to make these parks and fishing accesses a reality
- Pigtail Creek Trail- Connector trail from the YMCA to 10 Mile Road

Dillon Public Library events:

Books and Babies 10 a.m. Every Wednesday 10/28/2026 Children welcome to wear costumes this week

Cybersecurity for Citizens This Friday 10/30/2026 11 a.m. FREE Computer Class taught by Tara Stevens from Computer Rescue Service

Halloween plans for Friday 9-5 and Saturday 11-3 Stop by Dillon Public Library. Each child will receive a lighted wand and are welcome to do a Halloween craft. Children must be present to receive wand.

Everyone be safe and warm!

Call the library at 683-4544 with any questions

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Montana Western Men's and Women's Cross-Country Teams Take 21st at Blazing Tiger NAIA Classic

The Montana Western men's cross-country team finished 21st of 27 scored teams and the women's team finished 21st of 28 scored teams at the Blazing Tiger NAIA Classic Saturday morning.

Natalee Stevens was the top women's finisher, clocking a 24:12.6 in the 6k to place 72nd of 344 runners. It marks the fourth time this season that she finished atop the Bulldog women's standings.

The top finisher on the men's side was Ryker Zuffelato with a 27:37.7 in the 8k to place 153rd out of 422 runners. This is the fourth meet in a row that Zuffelato led UMW.

Justene Santi (24:36.3, 93rd), SheaLee Novak (25:30.2, 150th), Madison Lohmeyer (25:58.8, 182nd), and Kaelyn Sangray (27:16.8, 256th) complete the Bulldogs' women's 6k results.

Cael Thilmony (28:02.4, 197th), Gavin Jasper (28:12.2, 209th), Tristan Von Barga (29:10.3, 264th), and Brody Henry (29:34.7, 294th) finish out the men's 8k finishers.

NEXT UP: Next up the Bulldogs head to the Frontier Conference XC Championship in Billings, Mont., hosted by Rocky Mountain on Nov. 6.

Letter to the Editor

Voters of Southwestern Montana

I would like to take this opportunity to endorse Shannon Maness for re-election to HD 70 in the Montana Legislature.

Shannon demonstrates integrity and sincere concern for the residents of our area. He supports private land ownership along with multiple use of public lands. These past two years as our representative to the Montana Legislature he has supported the rights of the hunters and fishermen while respecting the stewards of the land, the private land owners.

Shannon demonstrates common sense in his viewpoint. He is easy to talk to, and responds in a timely manner to one's questions or inquiries.

It has been a privilege working with Shannon on several area related projects.

On Tuesday November 3, 2026 I am going to get out and VOTE. I hope you will exercise your right to vote and support Shannon Maness for re-election to Montana HD 70.

Frances Strodtman-Royer, Rancher, Jackson, Montana



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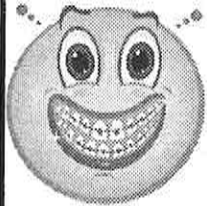
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October 28 Turkey Tetrazzini & Pasta, Vegetable or
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SENIOR ACTIVITIES: Come in play cards, or other
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Tuesday and Fridays Open from 1 to 4 pm

Wednesdays: Open for the noon meal at 10:30 am and
remains open until 4 pm.

**BCHS Choral Ensembles and Jazz Band
Annual Fall Concert, Oct 28, 2026**

Beaverhead County High School's Choirs, and
Jazz Band will present their Fall Concert in the BCBS
Auditorium on Wednesday, October 28th at 7:30pm
The concert is free to the public.

Come join us for a night of great music!

**Montana Events Foundation is hosting the 9th Annual
Run The Boo- 5k & Kids Race.
Saturday October 31st, at Beaverhead Brewing
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Run The Boo is a Halloween themed race. Costumes
encouraged! 5K starts at 10 AM. Kids Race starts at 11
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Both races start and finish at Beaverhead Brewing
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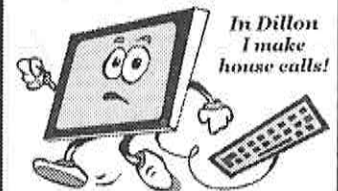
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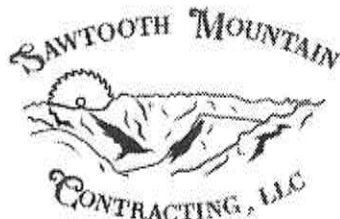
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Secretary Christi Jacobsen: Only a few days remain to participate in YouthVote 2026

Montana Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen is reminding students, teachers, parents, and guardians that time is running out to participate in YouthVote 2026. Montana's statewide student mock election closes Wednesday, October 28.

YouthVote gives students hands-on voting experience and helps them learn about the electoral process. All Montana K-12 students can participate and cast their ballots. Information is available on the Secretary of State's website at <https://sosmt.gov/2026-mt-youth-vote-ballot/>.

"With less than one week remaining, I encourage teachers, parents, and guardians to help their students participate in YouthVote," said Secretary Jacobsen. "This is a meaningful opportunity for Montana students to learn how elections work and make their voices heard while preparing to become eligible voters in the future."

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade vote on age-appropriate races and topics. Middle and high school students vote on candidates and ballot issues that will appear on the official ballot for November's General Election.

YouthVote is hosted in partnership with the Montana Office of Public Instruction.

Letter to the Editor

Please vote NO on CI 132. These rules The Leftists are trying to cement into place forever are why we currently have a very liberal supreme court in Montana !! We need to now who or what we are voting for when we cast a ballot.

That is exactly why I have never voted for a Judge for supreme court, you didn't know what you were getting.

I vote no on CI 132 and the other two liberal initiatives because they walk one party line. Unless Judges are Conservative then those seem to vote on the law!

Ted Ruttenbur

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Prairie Bible Church pg 7

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**Bulldog Football Caps 2026 Home Campaign
 With 47-28 Win Over Simpson**

Montana Western football (3-5, 1-3 FC) defeated Simpson (3-5, 1-3 FC) 47-28 Saturday afternoon in Bulldog Stadium.

"Really proud of the team and how they committed to do what it takes to play winning football," head coach Ryan Nourse said. "The desire, passion, and effort were the highest we have had all year. We kept fighting no matter the situation, good or bad, for the entire game and played with the pride it takes to be a Dawg. It's always bittersweet to play the last home game with the seniors, and I'm so pleased they came away with a win in their last game at Bulldog Stadium."

STAT BREAKDOWN: Western put up 430 yards of total offense, 245 passing yards, 185 rushing yards, six touchdowns, one field goal, one safety, and 24 first downs in the contest. The Bulldogs scored on all six red-zone entries.

Sam Wulff threw for a game- and career-high 176 yards and four passing touchdowns on 13 completions, including a long-completion of 32 yards. Rashard Boone posted 69 passing yards on seven completions with a long of 40.

Santana Luna led the team with 84 rushing yards, followed by Jakob Humphrey (78) and Rashard Boone (31). Humphrey and Boone both ran in touchdowns for UMW.

Seth Shook led all players with 152 yards and two touchdowns on nine receptions. Eli Nourse also caught a TD and tallied 77 yards on eight catches. Colton Cornwell rounded out the group with a four-yard touchdown catch.

The Bulldog defense was relentless against the Red Hawks, registering 73 total tackles (37 solo), 9.0 TFLs for 61 yards, 7.0 sacks for 56 yards, two forced fumbles, one fumble recovery, one safety, six pass breakups, and three QB hurries.

Bryson LeCoure posted career highs in both total tackles (nine) and solo efforts (five). He led all players in total tackles while sharing the team lead in solos with Drew Humphrey. Humphrey and Connor Dunlea tied for second on the team with eight tackles each.

LeCoure and Tyler Schoen led the game with 2.0 tackles-for-loss and 2.0 sacks apiece. LeCoure capped his standout day with a forced fumble and fumble recovery and one QB hurry.

Romeo Simpson and Carter Petre both tallied two pass breakups while Schoen and Tyson Beckles added quarterback hurries.



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Maclain Burckley was a perfect 6-for-6 on PATs and drained a 15-yard field goal. He also averaged 42.7 yards over three punts and 64.4 yards across five kickoffs. Trevin Thorpe averaged 52.5 yards on two kickoffs.

Colton Cornwell returned a kickoff for 87 yards while Nourse tallied three returns 101 yards, including a long of 62.

GAME SUMMARY The visitors got on the board first with a 13-yard touchdown pass from Ya'j Vance to Talan Ramirez to go up 7-0.

Western earned a tackle in the endzone for a safety, making it 7-2 after the opening period.

A four-yard touchdown pass from Sam Wulff to Colton Cornwell put the Bulldogs in the lead 40 seconds into the second quarter. They would not trail again in the contest.

Seth Shook caught back-to-back passes from Wulff (18 and 32 yards) to make it 23-7 in favor of the Red and Black.

D'Ante Benjamin ran in a score for Simpson with 4:25 remaining in the half, but Hinrichs missed the ensuing kick, bringing the score to 23-13.

Jakob Humphrey rushed in a two-yard touchdown with 28 second remaining to propel the Bulldogs to a 30-13 lead as the teams headed to the locker rooms.

SU scored twice in quick succession at the start of the second half, one on a Benjamin two-yard run and once on an 85-yard Dominique Ruff fumble recovery. It cut the deficit to just two, 30-28) with 10 minutes left in the third quarter.

Eli Nourse gave UMW some breathing room back on a five-yard TD pass from Wulff, putting the Bulldogs up 37-28 with 15 minutes of action remaining.

Western weathered the storm and smothered the Red Hawks offense for the remainder of the contest, including posting five fourth-quarter sacks.

Maclain Burckley made it 40-28 on a 15-yard field goal midway through the final frame.

Rashard Boone put a cap on the day with a 25-yard rushing touchdown to seal the 47-28 victory.

LOOKING AHEAD The Bulldogs are on the road for the final two games of the 2026 regular season. Up first, they travel to La Grande, Ore., to take on Eastern Oregon Oct. 31.

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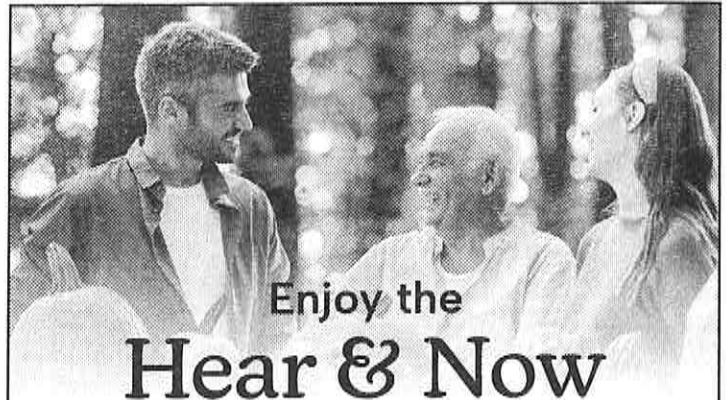
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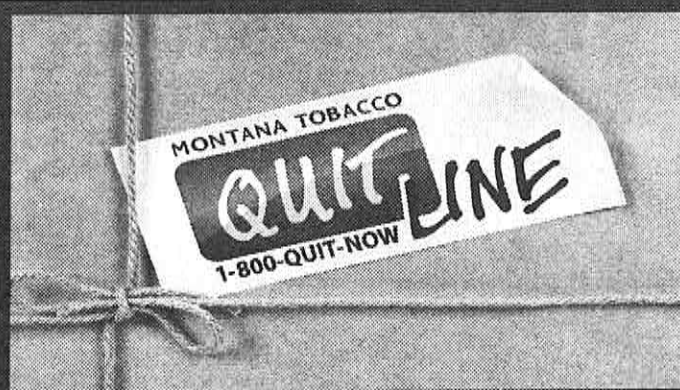
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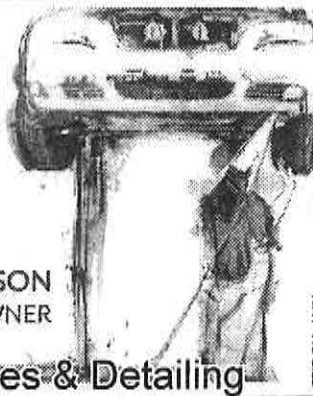
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR - Changing Dillon's Form of Government

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.

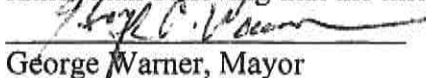
A municipality should carefully consider how much authority it wants concentrated in an appointed administrator and how it will preserve long-term policy direction through leadership transitions. As the ballot initiative is written, the city manager is an employee and is not under oath of office yet 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

Paid for by George Warner (1315 Montana Hwy 41, Dillon, MT 59725) and Michael Klakken (835 E. Morse, Dillon, MT 59725)