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Pistol Range Closure

The pistol range at the Dillon Rifle and Pistol club will be closed on Sunday November 8th, 2026 from 10 am to 4 PM

The Children's Christmas Giving Tree

The Children's Christmas Giving Tree is organizing for Christmas 2026! Applications can be picked up at, and returned to, Rattlesnake Creek Alpaca store, 23 S Idaho St. Dillon. The tags will go on the Tree as soon as the applications are returned. The Giving Tree ensures that underserved Children in Beaverhead County receive a gift under the Christmas Tree. Community Members and organizations pick a tag from the Tree and return the wrapped request. Santa's Elves take it from there! Questions? Contact Rachel Hankinson 406-660-1742 or Gail Kuntz 406-660-2528

From rural Montana to the ER: Direct entry nursing program helps Montana Tech student pursue nursing dreams

There's nothing quite like the feeling of saving a life.

"When you work in the emergency room, often you're actively saving someone's life," Montana Technological University nursing junior Maren Ness said. "One minute you're sitting doing paperwork, and the next someone's coding and you're jumping in… It's just crazy, and I love it."

For Ness, moments like those have reinforced a career choice she made years ago.

Ness is from the tiny Hi-Line community of Rudyard, and nursing runs in her family. Ness began working as an aide at age 15 and earned her certified nursing assistant license at 16. Since then, she has worked in healthcare facilities while traveling across Montana as a CNA. She now works at St. James Hospital in Butte.

"I always wanted to do nursing," Ness said. "I never thought of anything else."

Her experience as a traveling CNA took her to communities across Montana, including Chester, Ekalaka, Eureka, and Ennis. The work gave her an opportunity to meet patients from different backgrounds and see how health care needs can vary between communities.

When it came time to choose a college, Ness toured two nursing schools. She found that the tight-knit community of Butte and small class sizes at Montana Tech were the perfect fit. Her decision also came with an important advantage: Ness had been selected for Montana Tech's Nursing Scholars Edge Direct Entry Program.

The Nursing Scholars Edge Direct Entry Program selects 25 Montana high school seniors for direct entry into the clinical portion of Montana Tech's Sherry Lesar School of Nursing. Students selected for the program must maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA while completing prerequisite coursework, but do not have to compete for a seat in the program like others

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accepted to pre-nursing.

For Ness, knowing her clinical seat was already secured took a significant source of stress out of her first years of college.

"It was nice knowing, even though you have to keep up the GPA, you already made it into the program," Ness said. "You're already there. You just have to get through the prerequisites."

More importantly, she said, Nursing Scholars Edge allowed her to concentrate on becoming a better nurse rather than preparing to compete for placement in the nursing program .

"I could focus solely on my classes," Ness said.

After graduation, Ness hopes to work in critical care, ideally in an emergency room or intensive care unit. She is considering staying at the hospital where she already works, but she has also thought about pursuing opportunities at a major medical center such as Mayo Clinic or Cleveland Clinic.

Wherever she ends up, she knows she wants an environment where no two shifts are quite the same.

"I have to be running my whole 12-hour shift," Ness said.

She encourages Montana high school students interested in nursing to apply for the Nursing Scholars Edge Direct Entry Program. Applications are open now. Applicants must have a 3.5 high school GPA to be considered. Students who apply to Montana Tech and have a qualifying GPA will be able to access the application through their personal URL, or PURL page. Applicants will be asked to submit a high school transcript, résumé and responses to essay questions through their personal URL, or PURL page. The initial application window closes at 4 p.m. on Jan. 15.

Questions can be directed to nursing@mtech.edu.

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Programs/Group Exercise
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Body Blitz (T,TH, – 5:45am), Biker Blast (M,F – 5:45am), Yoga Strength (T,TH - 7:00am),
Yoga (M,W,F - 12:10pm), Senior Fit (M,W,F - 9:00am), Rapid Burn (M,W, - 8:30am),
Interval Strength (T,TH - 8:30am), Strength & Conditioning (M,W-5:30pm),
Ride to Rhythm (T,TH - 5:30pm), Chair Yoga (M,W - 10:00am),
Restorative Yoga (T,TH-9:30am), Pilates (M,W-5:45am)

Adventures in After School Program
This program starts in September and gives participants a more in depth programming while giving parents flexibility to fit work schedules. Children will ride the bus to the Y, have a snack, and then be involved in the camp offered for that week. You may sign up for a week or the month, it's up to you. Children in K-5th grade are eligible to join. Camp will end at 5:30pm each day. Camps will be offered all school year long with the exception of school holidays. Full and half day programs will be offered on school's out days for an additional charge. A separate registration is required.

AFTER SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
First in the After School Series (Nov. 9th-Nov. 13th) is "Caring for our furry friends"
Children will be learning how to care for animals. Field trip to the Animal Shelter.

YMCA Swim Lessons
Fall swim lesson #3 starts November 30th. Spots are limited, sign up soon!

YMCA Swim Team
Join our team from 4:45-5:45pm every Tuesday and Thursday.

First Aid & CPR Training
Learn skills that save lives by joining our community training course on November 17th and/or 19th. Courses will be held at the YMCA's conference room starting at 5:30pm. Spots are limited so register today!

Mens Basketball League
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 6:00am-7:00am.
Members free and all others $8.00/day.

YMCA Online Registration
Online registration for programs available now. Please visit www.swmtf-ymca.org

YMCA's have long been at the forefront of serving their communities and making a positive difference in the lives of everyone who participates. Please consider a gift today.
Strong Family Campaign
Exercise your heart in more ways than one, give and join!
The purpose of this campaign is to generate funds to support programs, activities, scholarships and services for all members of our community regardless of age or ability to pay. Please help us reach our 2026 campaign goal. Thanks for your continued support of the YMCA!

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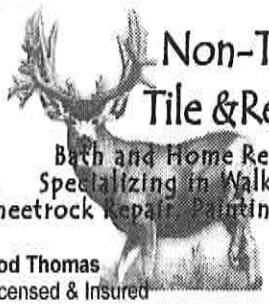
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Beaverhead County HS Activity List

11/4	RBHI Screening	BCHS	
11/4	AIM Higher Workshop	Butte High	8:00-2:00 pm
11/5-7	Volleyball @ Divisionals - overnight	Hamilton	Thu: 4 pm
11/5	End of Quarter 1	BCHS	–
11/5	FFA Meeting	Vo-Ag	6:00 pm
11/6	Football Playoffs - Quarterfinals	Away	TBA
11/9	All School Academy - Sch. #11	BCHS	9:57-10:23 am
11/9	Booster Club Meeting	Seminar Room	6:00 pm
11/10	RBHI Screening	BCHS	
11/11-12	State Send-Off - Volleyball	Auditroium	TBA
11/11-14	Volleyball @ State - overnight	Bozeman	TBA
11/12-14	FFA @ Bozeman - overnight	Bozeman	8:00 am

Rotary Club of Dillon Luncheon

Rotary Club of Dillon Luncheon will be Wednesday, November 4th at 12 Noon at Barrett Hospital Foundation Conference Room, 90 MT Hwy 91 S. in Dillon! Rotarian Jack Winkle will be our host, and his featured speaker will be Chief of Police, Joel Stewart of the Dillon Police Department to give us an update! Guests are welcomed, and ALL ROTARIANS are encouraged to attend.

Menu: Chicken Tortilla Soup with Cheddar (GF), Crackers, Dinner Rolls & Butter (3ea GF bread), Mexican Quinoa Salad (GF) Dessert: Chocolate Fudge Oat Bars (GF)

BEAVERHEAD COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION

We will be closed on Tuesday, November 17, 2026.

The Food Pantry will be open on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, from 2–7 p.m. to hand out Thanksgiving items.

We will be closed during Thanksgiving Week.

CALLING ALL SENIORS

Lunch at the Senior Center, 126 S. Montana St. on Wednesdays from 11:30 am to 12:30.

November 4: Tamale pie, cornbread topping, vegetable or salad, fruit or juice, dessert

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FWP seeks licensed angler for position on Future Fisheries review panel

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' Future Fisheries Citizen Review Panel is seeking a current resident licensed angler to fill a two-year term.

FWP's Future Fisheries Improvement Program (FFIP) grants approximately $1 million annually for projects to improve and restore Montana's wild fish habitats. The 14-member citizen review panel meets twice a year to review proposals and recommend projects to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for funding.

Panel members are appointed by the governor, or his representative, and must represent a variety of interests including conservation districts, commercial agriculture, irrigated agriculture, silviculture, fisheries restoration, Montana anglers, members of the Montana House of Representatives and Senate, high school students, mining reclamation, fisheries and one ex-officio member from the Montana Department of Transportation.

The commitment includes biannual proposal review and meeting attendance in mid-June and mid-December. This is a volunteer position, but travel and per diem are provided.

For more information, contact Bailey Duxbury at 406-565-6995 or FWPFFIP@mt.gov or visit the website svc.mt.gov/gov/boards/ and use the dropdown for the Future Fisheries Review Panel. Applications are located at svc.mt.gov/gov/boards/apply.aspx, and the position is open until filled.

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Health Minute: Wool Dryer Balls

Meet the Fuzzball That's Coming for Your Dryer Sheets

Picture what you'd get if a tennis ball had a baby with a coconut, then dressed up in a cozy wool sweater. That's the wool dryer ball: about the size of an orange, with a dense, felted texture that feels a little like a coconut husk's distant and much softer cousin. Simple, tidy, and honestly rather chic tumbling around in natural wool shades of dark grey or creamy white.

Here's the not-so-cozy truth about traditional dryer sheets. That "fresh linen" smell often comes from a blend of synthetic fragrances and chemical coatings that heat up and release volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into your, clothes, laundry room and out your dryer vent. Two of the compounds found venting from dryers using scented products are acetaldehyde and benzene. Acetaldehyde irritates the eyes, skin, and airways, and the EPA classifies it as a probable human carcinogen (cancer-causing agent). Benzene is a known human carcinogen and can cause headaches and dizziness with even short-term exposure. Fragrance chemicals and the softening agents on dryer sheets are also common triggers for asthma and skin irritation. And the sheet itself? Most are made of polyester, which is plastic, and tumble drying is a known source of tiny plastic fibers in our indoor air. Micro- and nanoplastics have now been found in human blood vessels and brain tissue, where early research links them to higher risk of heart attack and stroke. A lot of baggage for such an innocent-looking little sheet, I know. Luckily, you have healthier options that won't break the bank.

Enter the wool dryer ball. Swap out the dryer sheets, toss a few of these in with your wet laundry, and watch them bounce around like tiny, well-dressed acrobats, separating clothes and letting warm air circulate. The result? Softer, fluffier laundry that can dry up to 25% faster, which saves energy too. No chemicals, no plastic, no drama.

A few tips from the shop:

More is merrier. Use at least 3 balls, or 6 for big loads. A good set lasts for years.

Miss the scent? Add a few drops of your favorite essential oil and let it soak in before tossing the balls in to go to work.

Static is a sign of over-drying. If your socks are clinging together for dear life, dial back the heat and/or time a bit.

Pet parents, rejoice! The wool acts like a fur magnet. Just dampen your fingers and pull the hair off before the next load.

Mighty Oak Mercantile, 34 N Idaho, Suite 1, Dillon, carries bulk New Zealand Wool Dryer Balls in dark grey and creamy white. Ditch the chemicals and let the felted wool do the work.

Written by Amber Barone BSN,RN Holistic Nurse

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Terminus Distilling Company Updates

Katrina & Derek Lewis

October 2026

Building

Derek moved all the equipment into the Production Room. He then framed the final section of wall and installed the forklift-sized doors in the warehouse. It's great seeing the still and tanks in their space.

Last month, we talked about the early history of Williams Feed. For many years, people came for their feed and seed needs. We found a set of grain bag stencils with the following names: Otha Graham, Katie Hren, Gary Giem, Roy Forrester, Stephen P. Gall, Don Blomquist, Neil Benson, Carl Balkovetz,



George Broskle, Carl Bolick, Mary Holt, Thos. D. Holt, Charles Joyce, Arlo Jones, Elsie Laden, Fred W. Brown, Peterson Brothers, Holger Carlson, Margaret Ehlman, Howard Childs, George Laknar, Hazel Laden, Lee Martinell, Anna Mcmurchy, Joe Metully, PJ Morton, Mrs. R. Nygren, S&J Nyhart, Ella Olson, Roscoe Pilon, John Plutt Jr., Allan Raddatz, Edward Rebich, James Rebich, William Rebich, R&J Ruegsegger, J. E. Selway, Lois Schonenberger, Ben Slanger & Son, Gilmer H. Smith, Mrs. Paul Stark, Ella Tallent, Lamar Thomas, Lloyd Thomas. Let us know if anyone on this list has stories about coming to our building.

Business / Community

With summer behind us, we have generally moved our specials from slushies to milkshakes. Pumpkin Spice has been the clear favorite, with Maple Pecan close behind. Katrina is partial to the Vanilla milkshake, especially when paired with an Apple Cider slushie – it tastes just like Apple Pie a la Mode. This month, we also adjusted hours to Friday / Saturday 12-6pm which has been a good change.

We now have an ad in The Dillonite on the inside of the back page, right hand column. For those of you afar, you can check The Dillonite online. We update weekly with the current menu.

Do you love eggnog? We do. Keep your fingers crossed – if all goes well, we will be able to start non-alcoholic eggnog production in time for the holidays. This will involve

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a successful application for a Grade B Dairy Plant License – we'll keep you posted.

Back in April, we reported that the Fifth Circuit Court ruled against the federal ban on home distilling, which stopped enforcement in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Eleven days later, the Sixth Circuit upheld the same ban, saying Congress can use it to protect tax collection. Now the Supreme Court has agreed to settle the split, with a decision expected by June 2027. A win for the Fifth Circuit's side would likely end the federal ban everywhere (though states would still set their own rules). Right now, any home distilling is a federal crime, even while homebrewing and home winemaking are legal.

As we've mentioned in the past, we're members of the Montana Distiller's Guild. Several years ago, the Guild made plans for a blend of whiskies produced by Montana distilleries. Derek spent last Thursday and Friday up at Headframe in Butte, helping with blending and bottling the finished product, TrailBlazer Whiskey. If you're able to get a bottle, it is delicious. And, 100% of proceeds go to advocating for initiatives that will help our field (like increasing our current legislatively-limited pour limit of 2oz per person per day).

Distillery

We've had our 'First Winter' and 'Second Fall'. Thankfully, that has brought some much-needed precipitation. With the turn in temperatures, our Apple Cardamom shrub and Mulled Apple Cider have been selling out. November will bring a focus on punch, both hot and cold. Katrina has rounded up recipes including Golden Punch, Old-Fashioned Tea Punch, Cranberry-Maple Punch (thank you Laura!), Mulled Apricot Nectar, and Wassail. Keep an eye on social media (and The Dillonite!) for the schedule.

We highly recommend Glacier Distilling's Reasonable and Prudent, a blended whiskey finished in stout barrels. As they say, is "crafted without excess, [and] meant to be enjoyed the same way—responsibly."

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Town Pump has offered to match financial donations to the Beaverhead Community Food Pantry, dollar for dollar, up to $20,000. Donations received September 1 through November 30, 2026, count toward our goal. Raising the full $20,000 means $40,000 to help stock the pantry.

Our pantry serves about 150 families each week. As food costs rise and more families need help, your gift helps us purchase milk, produce, eggs, yogurt, cheese, canned goods, and meat.

The pantry is run entirely by volunteers, with local businesses and organizations lending equipment, donating food, and helping when needs arise. This match is another way our community can keep food available for families who need it.

THREE WAYS TO GIVE

Online: Visit www.beaverheadfoodpantry.org, open Donations, and use the PayPal Donate button.

By mail: Make checks payable to Beaverhead Community Food Pantry or BHC Food Pantry. Mail to P.O. Box 1356, Dillon, MT 59725. Please allow time for your gift to arrive by November 30.

In person: 131 E. Helena St., Dillon. Call 406-660-4500 to arrange a donation drop-off.

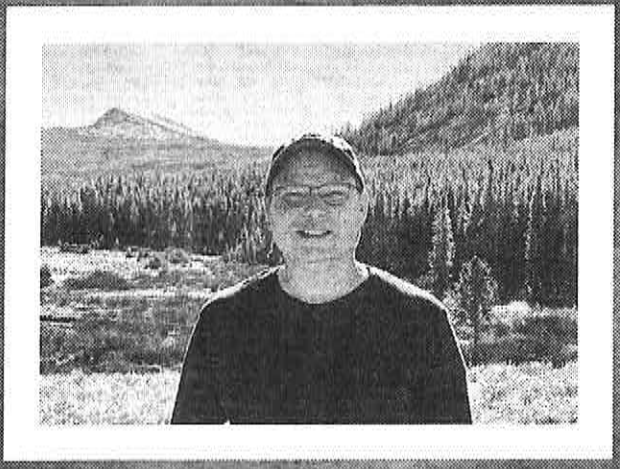
Beaverhead Community Food Pantry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Donation receipts for tax purposes will be sent in January 2027.

Thank you for helping us make the most of this match.

TALK OF THE TOWN

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Dr. John R. Henris will present "Fisheries and Progressive Era Conservation in Dillon and Southwest Montana, 1898–1920", focusing on the seasonal summer "fish trains" operated by the Oregon Short Line (Union Pacific) between Butte and Dillon, and sometimes Armstead, from 1898 to 1920. More broadly, he will explore how Dillon and Beaverhead County residents actively participated in the development of recreational fisheries in Montana during the Progressive Era.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

5:30 - 7:30 PM | ANGLER VILLAGE - 335 S. ATLANTIC

The Fick Faculty Speaker Series is more than a lecture series—it is a bridge between campus and community. By highlighting innovative faculty work, the series fosters collaboration, celebrates experiential learning, and reflects Montana Western's commitment to student success.

THE UNIVERSITY of MONTANA WESTERN

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Sunday PM 6:00
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7/18- WC BILL

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Caramel Apple Slices

Discover unique finds from over 20 vendors!

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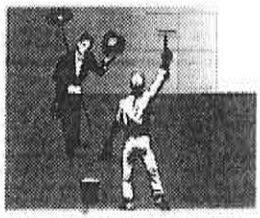
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Beaverhead County Road Department (Dillon Area) is hiring:
Full-Time Operator –Operates heavy equipment, performs maintenance, repair, and record keeping for roads and bridges maintained by Beaverhead County. Heavy machinery includes (loader 3+ yards, motor patrol, dump truck with trailer, dozer/ excavator, distributor, crusher); perform snow removal on a 24/7 winter on-call basis, install/repair culverts, and execute minor shop maintenance/welding.
Requirements: Valid Montana Class A CDL (Type 2) required within six months of hire. Must reside or relocate within 25 road miles of Dillon Area headquarters and maintain a working telephone. Pre-employment drug screening required. High school diploma or equivalent with background in heavy equipment, mechanics, or welding preferred.
Benefits & Union: Health insurance, sick leave (after 3 months), vacation leave (after 6 months, accruing from hire date). Mandatory membership in the International Union of Operating Engineers (I.U.O.E.) within 30 days of employment. 6-month probationary period.
Full job description and application for employment can be found on Beaverhead County Website.
To be considered, applications must be submitted with a resume, and 3 professional references to Theresa Eathorne, Beaverhead County Human Resources, 2 S Pacific St., Ste 9, Dillon, MT 59725 or email teathorne@beaverheadcountymt.gov.
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