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Twin Bridges Flotilla and Alumni Weekend Celebrates Community With Two Days of Events

Jeremy Crawford, Southwestern Montana News

The annual Twin Bridges Flotilla and Alumni Weekend brought residents, alumni and visitors together July 24 and 25 for two days of games, outdoor activities and community events.

Festivities began Friday evening with pasture golf at the Madison County Fairgrounds. Registration opened at 5 p.m., followed by tee time at 6 p.m.

Saturday's events began with a farmers market at Twin Bridges City Park and the Walter "Lucky" Shular Horseshoe Tournament at the fairgrounds.

A car show, food trucks and swap meet were held at Route 287 Trading Co. The car show attracted a strong turnout and featured a diverse selection of custom-built vehicles, classic cars and modern models.

Other activities included "Fantasies" at the Twin Bridges Public Library, a community barbecue at the fairgrounds and free family activities at Jessen Park. Attendees could also enjoy snow cones and lemonade.

Sauter Balloons joined the celebration by offering free balloon creations at locations throughout town.

One of the weekend's signature events was the Flotilla River Parade. Participants traveled down the river aboard decorated rafts, floats and other watercraft. The parade offered $100 and $200 People's Choice awards.

A rubber ducky race on the Beaverhead River followed the flotilla. Live music at Lost Cabin Bar and The Vault followed the car show.

The weekend concluded Saturday evening with an alumni dinner at Twin Bridges Schools. The program included scholarship awards and Hall of Fame recognition.

The Flotilla and Alumni Weekend provided an opportunity for former residents to reconnect, families to enjoy activities together and visitors to experience the Twin Bridges community.

The event was sponsored by the Twin Bridges Community Association, Three Rivers Communications, Greater Ruby Valley Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Harrington Pepsi and American Legion Post 31.

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Montana Western Football Tickets on Sale Now

Season tickets for the 2026 UMW Football season are now available for purchase, Bulldog Athletics Director Jason Ferris announced.

Montana Western's home schedule includes non-divisional matchups against familiar foes Montana Tech (9/12) and Rocky Mountain (9/19) as well as West-Division contests against Southern Oregon (10/3), College of Idaho (10/17), and Simpson (10/24).

Season tickets are $105 each and secure a reserved seat in sections A-D in Bulldog Stadium.

Single-game tickets go on sale next Monday, August. 3.

2026 Bulldog Football Schedule

Sept. 5	MSU-Northern	Havre, Mont.
Sept. 12	**Montana Tech**	**Dillon, Mont.**
Sept. 19	**Rocky Mountain**	**Dillon, Mont.**
Sept. 26	Dickinson State	Dickinson, N.D.
Oct. 3	**Southern Oregon***	**Dillon, Mont.**
Oct. 10	Carroll *	Helena, Mont.
Oct. 17	**College of Idaho***	**Dillon, Mont.**
Oct. 24	**Simpson***	**Dillon, Mont.**
Oct. 31	Eastern Oregon*	La Grande, Ore.
Nov. 7	Arizona Christian*	Glendale, Ariz.

Bold designated home contest *Division matchup

Do you love 100 things about school?

by Danny Tyree

"Count your blessings, name them one by one…" – Johnson Oatman, Jr.

Unless you're the parent or grandparent of a little chatterbox, you've probably gotten resigned to the two stereotypical terse reactions to the innocent icebreaker question, "How was school today?" (i.e. "Okay" and "You actually pay property tax to support that place? Loo-ZER").

Amy Schwartz's posthumously published children's book "100 Things I Love About School" takes a more joyous, more expansive approach.

(Of course, there is a booming market for books with

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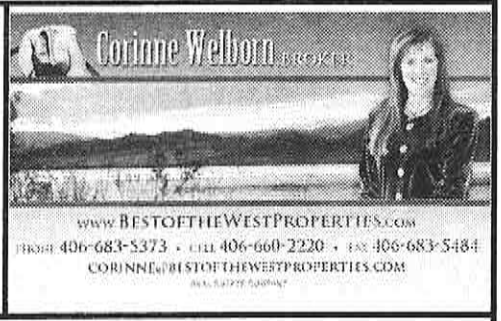

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numbers in the title, like "C Things I Love About Roman Numerals," "100 Pointless, Invasive Medical Tests You Must Experience Before You Die," "Three Quarters of A Thing I Love About 'Don't Worry, Be Happy,'" "100 Things I've Forgotten and Left Behind in Motel Rooms and I Wish One of Them in Particular Would Go Ahead and Sign the Divorce Papers," and so forth.)

Schwartz did omit a few worthy nominees, however.

I recently interviewed some precocious students to flesh out the most lovable aspects of academia.

"I love the karma of school. High-and-mighty hall monitors usually grow up to wear an ankle monitor for stalking. Save the hall pass to communicate with your future cellmate, Eli, why don't'cha?"

"I love that dodgeball doesn't leave any lasting effects. And that the school nurse gives tender loving care to skinned knees. And, oh, yeah, that dodgeball doesn't leave any lasting effects."

"I love that you can kick the can down the road after humiliating yourself in the school talent show. I mean, no one can tell you not to give up your day job until you GET a day job, right?"

"I love that we can still express our religious convictions, albeit under very specific circumstances overlapping secular goals, such as exclaiming, 'Thank God, it's another substitute teacher!' (Who had money down on watching 'Frozen' for the third time?)"

"I love spending all year learning to regurgitate data for the standardized test. Thanks to my education, someday I will grow up to be either an engineer or a paralegal or a momma bird."

"I love Bring Your Grandparents to School Day, except when they get nostalgic about Woodstock and start trying to light up the climbing rope in gym."

"I love seeing the faculty show some humility. They know exactly how to solve world hunger, climate change and gun violence, but a simple head lice outbreak puts it all into perspective."

"I love that I've made peace with the fact that my passing notes in class has contributed to the death spiral of the United States Postal Service. Do you like messing up retirement accounts? Check 'yes' or 'no.'"

"I love Show and Tell, or as we call it now, 'Show and …No, Wait, That Doesn't Fit the Narrative So Let's Discuss Something Else.'"

"I love when the teacher reads us stories like 'The Emperor's New Disdain for Clothing Produced in Israel,' 'Charlotte's Web of Lies About The Mass Exodus of High Earners,' 'Oh, The Places You'll Go, If You Can Hop Over the Steaming Piles of Waste Left By the Unhoused' and 'The Caterpillar Who Quit Being Hungry, Hungry After He Ate the Rich.'"

Quite a bunch of future valedictorians. Maybe one of them can help me write my next book: "100 Danny Tyree Punchlines You Must Decipher Before You Reach Your Limit and Burn Down the Newspaper."

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Montana Department of Justice launches PSA to help bring missing Indigenous people home

The Montana Department of Justice launched a new statewide public service announcement to raise awareness of missing Indigenous persons and help bring them home.

The 30-second spot shines a light on the impact those disappearing from Montana's Indigenous communities has on friends and families and highlights four Indigenous persons still missing in Montana: Ashley Mariah Loring Heavyrunner, James Douglas Limberhand, Shacaiah Blue Harding, and Leo Wagner.

"Behind every missing person is a family at home waiting for answers. This tragedy has had a devastating impact on our tribal communities, and the Montana Department of Justice is committed to being part of the solution," Attorney General Knudsen said. "I encourage every Montanan to visit our missing persons database to familiarize yourself with the faces of those who are missing. One tip to law enforcement could help bring someone's loved one home."

In Montana, Indigenous persons go missing at a disproportionately higher rate. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, American Indian and Alaskan Natives make up 6.4 percent of the Montana population. However, last year Indigenous persons made up 31 percent of missing persons in the state. In 2025, 618 Indigenous persons were reported missing in Montana. According to the Montana Missing Persons Database, as of July 27, 35 Indigenous persons are currently missing in Montana, 8 have been missing less than a year, and 27 have been missing for more than a year.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed and Governor signed into law House Bill 545, sponsored by Tyson Running Wolf and supported by Attorney General Knudsen, providing the Montana Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Advisory Council (MMIPAC), which is administered by the Montana Department of Justice (MTDOJ), with a special revenue account to allow the group to receive donations from any legal source.

Attorney General Knudsen also relaunched Montana's existing human trafficking hotline earlier this year, which allows Montanans to report suspected human trafficking online. The platform, Simply Report, makes it easy for the public to report suspected cases and

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improve law enforcement response times following reports. The platform provides the Montana Department of Justice's Human Trafficking Unit access to reports of human trafficking made via the hotline at 1-833-406-STOP, simplyreport.com, or the Simply Report mobile application in real time. Through a dashboard, agents can monitor tips and dispatch law enforcement officers to the scene to investigate more quickly.

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Centennial Valley Historical Society Annual Picnic

Valley Historical Society will have their annual picnic on Saturday, August 1, 2026 at the University of Utah Center in Lakeview, MT

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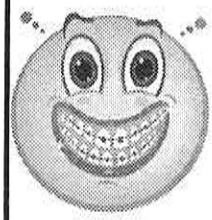

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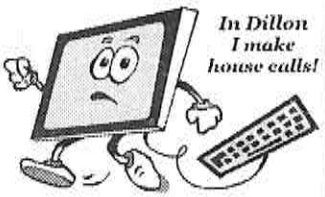

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Montana Farmers Union Endorses I-194, to End Corporate and Dark-Money Election Spending

Montana Farmers Union, one of the state's largest and most influential agricultural organizations, has endorsed I-194, The Montana Plan, adding the voices of thousands of family farmers and ranchers to the growing bipartisan coalition supporting the initiative ahead of the November 2026 election.

The endorsement reflects a shared belief that Montana elections should be accountable to the people who live and work here—not to corporations, wealthy special interests, or dark-money groups that can spend millions while hiding the sources of their funding.

"Currently every statewide elected official in Montana is an out-of-state millionaire or billionaire that had corporate backing and could hide donations in dark money PACs," said Montana Farmers Union President Walt Schweitzer. "The reward for these donors was tax breaks and special rules for the rich. If this initiative passes, it will prevent corporations from influencing our elections and will allow voters to know who is supporting a campaign before they vote."

I-194 would eliminate the power of corporations, unions, nonprofits, and other artificial entities to spend treasury funds to support or oppose candidates or ballot measures in Montana's local, state, and federal elections. Political spending by real people would remain protected, with disclosure requirements ensuring voters can see who is financing election campaigns.

"For Montana's farmers and ranchers, transparent and accountable elections are about more than knowing where campaign dollars come from," said Russell Cleveland, Executive Director of Partnerships for The Montana Plan. "They are about having a meaningful voice in the decisions that shape their livelihoods and communities. From Right to Repair to Country of Origin Labeling and countless other agricultural issues, public policy should be shaped by the people most affected, not by corporations using hidden political spending to buy access and influence."

"Montana Farmers Union's endorsement reflects exactly what The Montana Plan is building: a broad coalition of Montanans who believe elections should be decided by people, not by corporations and hidden donors," said Jeff Mangan, founder of The Montana Plan. "Family farmers and ranchers understand what happens when concentrated economic power becomes political power, and we are honored to have Montana Farmers Union standing with Montana voters in this effort."

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Butte Miners Defeat Dillon Cubs 16-6 Behind Cunningham's Five RBIs

Jeremy Crawford, Southwestern Montana News

The Butte Miners used a fast start and a 16-hit performance to defeat the Dillon Cubs 16-6 on Friday.

Butte took control with five runs in the bottom of the first inning. Kodye Kjersten opened the scoring with an RBI single before Calvin Cunningham drove in a run with a triple. Tegan Duffy added a sacrifice fly, and Matthew Donaldson brought home two more runs with another triple.

The Miners extended their lead in the second inning. Cunningham doubled to left field, Duffy singled down the left-field line and Colt Hassler tripled to left, with each hit producing a run.

Cunningham led Butte's offense, going 3-for-3 with a game-high five RBIs. Cunningham and Hassler finished with three hits apiece, while Duffy, Gunnar O'Brien, Kjersten and Logan Carden each recorded multiple hits.

Butte was also aggressive on the basepaths, stealing six bases. Cunningham and O'Brien each had multiple steals.

Noah Powers earned the win for the Miners after allowing four runs—only one earned—on seven hits over four innings. He struck out three and walked three. Evan McEwen earned the save.

Landon Lovaas took the loss for Dillon. The right-hander allowed seven runs on seven hits over one and two-thirds innings, striking out one without issuing a walk.

The Cubs collected 11 hits in the loss. Kanin Engelhardt and Cooper Clarke led Dillon with two hits apiece. Sawyer Tackett went 1-for-4 and recorded a team-high RBI, while Trenton Moreni stole two bases.

Dillon played error-free defense and turned one double play. Tackett led the Cubs with five defensive chances.

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2. Tucker Zingg	$7,466.33	Crow Agency, MT
3. Wyatt Warneke	$5,809.34	Great Falls, MT
4. Brice Patterson	$5,015.60	Bozeman, MT
5. Jake Kes	l$4,554.95	Tendoy, ID

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6. Tristan Hansen	$4,363.09	Dillon, MT
7. Leighton LaFromboise	$2,742.77	Helena, MT
8. Sam Petersen	$2,362.03	Helena, MT
9. Ty Owens	s$2,306.19	Helena, MT
15. Jeremy Kay	$101.52	Dillon, MT

Montana Rodeo Steer Wrestling Leaders

1. Jake Nelson	$9,747.32	Whitehall, MT
2. Kolby Bignell	$9,623.40	Avon, MT
3. Luke Gee	$6,653.55	Stanford, MT
4. Austin Whitehouse	$6,000.25	Helena, MT
6. Ty Erickson	$4,104.04	Helena, MT
7. Jaret Whitman	$3,961.63	Whitehall, MT
8. Ryder Gaasch	$3,561.42	Dillon, MT
9. TJ Sigman	$2,330.49	Dillon, MT
12. Newt Novich	$2,077.63	Twin Bridges, MT
14. Jaden Whitman	$1,978.70	Whitehall, MT

Montana Rodeo Team Roping (Headers) Leaders

1. Dustin Bird	$8,806.73	Cut Bank, MT
2. Delon Parker	$6,867.21	Worden, MT
3. Brady Tryan	$6,198.94	Huntley, MT
4. Trey Fleming	$6,028.92	Worden, MT
5. Ben Folsom	$4,984.82	Jackson, MT
6. Gavin Beattie	$4,936.05	Helena, MT
8. Shawn Bird	$4,072.55	Cut Bank, MT
15. Coby King	$1,953.20	Dillon, MT
17. Cash Trexler	$1,579.20	Corvallis, MT
21. Konnor Ward	$1,048.10	Dillon, MT

Montana Rodeo Team Roping (Heelers) Leaders

1. Jimmy Cole	$8,806.73	Harlem, MT
2. Derick Fleming	$6,198.94	Worden, MT
3. Brett Fleming	$6,028.92	Worden, MT
4. Ryan Zurcher	$6,007.41	Powell, WY
5. Ike Folsom	$4,984.82	Dillon, MT
6. Sam Levine	$4,936.05	Wolf Creek, MT
16. Kyler Erickson	$1,953.20	Dillion, MT
18. Cole Trexler	$1,579.20	Corvallis, MT
20. Hank Hollenbeck	$1,294.26	Molt, MT
24. Luke Garrison	$1,048.10	Divide, MT

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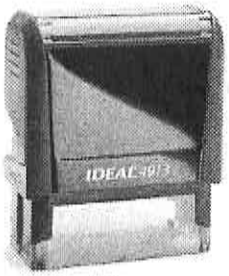

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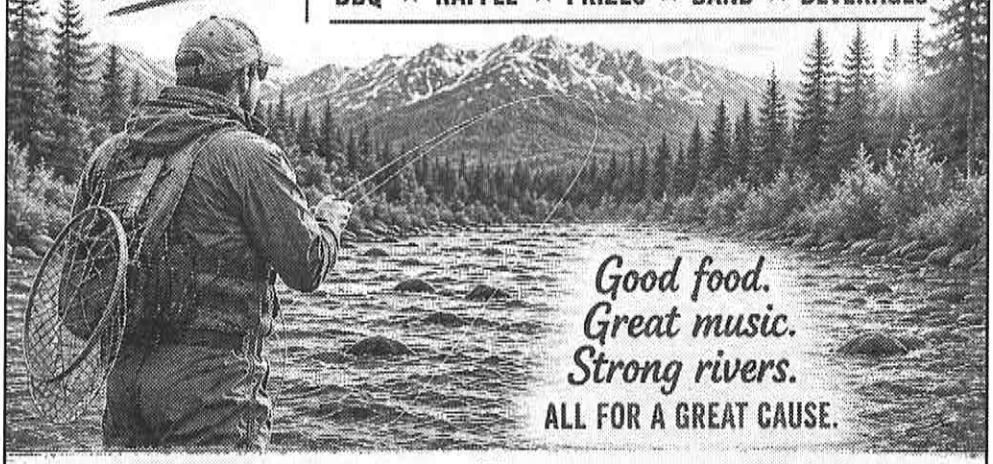

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4/29- WC BILL

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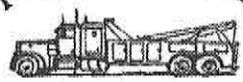
4/21-7/31 BILL

TURNEY REPAIR



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1/8- WC BILL

Dillon Elementary School District #10

Dillon Elementary School District #10 is currently advertising for a:

Food Service - Baker

- **Full-Time School Food Service - Baker** – School District #10 is currently seeking a qualified, positive, pro-active, and team-oriented individual to become the head baker and food service worker for its schools. (7 hours per day/5 days per week for 9 months; 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. daily) The successful candidate will be responsible for baking the school meals for students, as well as other duties as assigned. This is a 9-month position with benefits, including sick/vacation leave, health insurance, and membership in the Montana Public Employees Retirement System. Benefits are prorated off the total hours worked.
- Qualifications: High School Diploma or GED; ability to work in a team relationship; and ability to work with all children.
- Salary: $15.50 to $16.00/hour DOE – There is a 90-day probationary period. The job commences on or around August 31, 2026.

Application Procedure

1) Letter of Interest
2) Completed District Application/Resume
3) Three current Letters of Recommendation

Application Deadline – Open Until Filled

Contact Mrs. Stacy Burgin, District Secretary, at sburgin@dillonelem.k12.mt.us or at (406) 683-4311, option #3 for application materials.

School District #10 is an EEOC Employer and successful candidates must pass a criminal background check, physical, and drug test prior to beginning work

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Whether you're an experienced professional or ready to start your healthcare journey, ***Barrett Hospital & HealthCare*** *has a place for you.*

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Available on the web from: www.dillonite.com
Ad & Insert deadline 3 pm Monday - Friday

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WE BAG ANY SIZE
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3/23-9/22

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2/17 8/16PD

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6/26-9/25 PD

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36 - WC BILL

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1/16- WC BILL

Lazy P Garage, LLC

Joe Panziera
406.596.5098

Nick Panziera
406.596.1803

Brakes, Oil Changes,
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Call for an appointment
205 Bluebird Drive, Dillon, MT

7/9-11/8 PD

7/2-8/1 PD

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A cut above the rest

Our services include:

- Tree removal/Risk assessment
- Pruning/Trimming
- Cabling/Bracing
- Stump removal
- Service drop clearing
- Roof/structure clearance
- Land clearing/Thinning
- Tree planting
- Fire mitigation
- 24 hour emergency service/ storm damage response
- Excavator and equipment services
- Dump trailer services

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2026

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at 406-231-2304
Call or Text Amanda
at 406-231-5180

7/14-8/13 BILL P

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Lawn Mowing
rider or push mower
Regular Weekly Mowing
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4/16-10/14 BIL

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RIDGELINE
RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

6/24-8/31 BILL P

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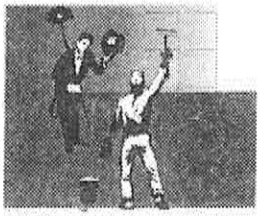
Dillon Rifle and Pistol Club Board Meeting
~ Club Members Welcome ~
When: Wednesday 7/29 @ 7:00 PM
Where: Beaverhead Gun Club
Address: 2155 White Ln (Dillon)
Email: info@dillonrifleandpistolclub.com
Website: www.dillonrifleandpistolclub.com
7/22-29 BILL

KINNEY CLEANING SERVICE



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PO Box 305 Virginia City, MT 59755
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7/8-JW-12P

7/22- WC BILL
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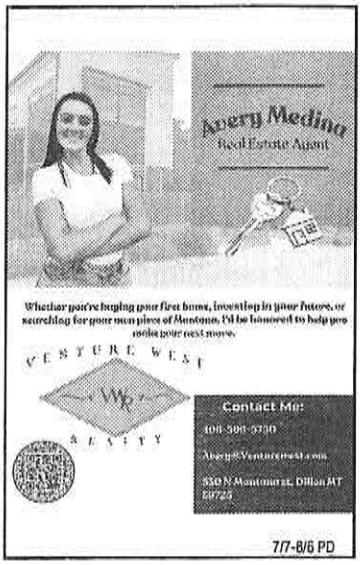
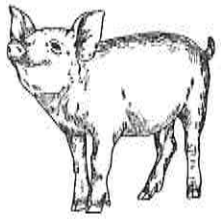
we're looking for a baker to join our team!
If you enjoy working with your hands, love the smell of fresh bread in the morning, & take pride in making delicious pastries, you'll fit right in.
we're looking for someone with:
- baking experience (decorating is a plus!)
- basic kitchen know-how & comfort 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



7/7-8/6 PD

CELEBRATING 25 years
LAKELAND
FEED AND SUPPLY



Customer Appreciation
BBQ AND SALE

Friday, July 31st
11am-2pm

10% off all Lakeland Brand feed, fertilizer, and seed, and pet food!*
Additional discount for prepay accounts.
*Cannot be used in conjunction with other every day discounts

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OPEN HOUSE FOR DOUG'S RETIREMENT

WHEN: THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2026

TIME: 1:00PM TO 5:00PM

WHERE: 233 E GLENDALE

After 37 years of practicing optometry in Dillon, Doug Creger will be retiring on July 31, 2026. This was not an easy decision, as caring for you and your family was one of the greatest privileges of his professional life. Many of you have been with him since he first took over for Dr. English in 1989. He values the trust you placed in him and the friendships he built along the way.

Please stop in, say hi, and wish him good luck in his future endeavors.

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