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Notice of Passing Wendy Allyn Schmeisser (McKown)

July 17, 1956 - August 14, 2026

Arrangements are under the direction of Affordable
Funeral & Cremation Services. Condolences for the family
may be posted online at www.affordable-fcs.com

Michael (Mike) Mosolf 1938-2026



Michael "Mike" Mosolf,
age 88, passed away on Sunday,
August 16, 2026, at Barrett Memorial
Hospital in Dillon, Montana. He was
born in Tacoma, Washington, on May
14, 1938, to George and Bess Mosolf,
both deceased.

Mike was the eldest of five
children: Pat Stevens (deceased),
Susie Sory, Tim Mosolf (deceased),
and Terry Mosolf.

From an early age, Mike excelled in athletics and was a
natural competitor. After serving in the U.S. Army, he earned
a football scholarship to the University of Idaho and later
played professional football in Canada and Connecticut.
When his playing days ended, he earned his teaching
credential and began a new chapter as a teacher and coach.
His career took him to Puerto Rico, as well as Chowchilla,
Fresno, and Corcoran, California, and later to Twin Bridges
and Heart Butte, Montana.

"I've had a great life," He'd say. He found joy in pursuit
of his passions and inspired all ages through his teachings,
coaching and life style and treasured the friendships he made
along the way.

A devoted outdoorsman, Mike often said, "I'd rather
be outside than inside." He was an activist, athlete,
environmentalist, and conservationist. He loved handball,
hiking, backpacking, hunting, walking his dog, and—above
all—fly fishing.

Mike met Diane Fratis while they were both teaching
in Fresno, California. They married in 1968 and moved to
Corcoran, where they continued teaching and Mike coached.
Their partnership lasted 57 years. In July 1976, Mike and Diane
left their jobs in Corcoran and moved to Dillon, Montana.
There they purchased five old log cabins—complete with a
backyard of outhouses—and the house next door. They spent
years remodeling and eventually created successful rental
properties that brought new friends and a good life.

Fly fishing was what first drew Mike to Dillon, and
outfitting soon became his next calling. His interest in
politics awakened his artistic side, leading him to create large
political posters for public display that sparked conversation
throughout the community. He was also a clever cartoonist,

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and writing letters to the editor became another calling.

At Christmas time we looked forward to Mike's Hook and Bullet News. The cards were original and distinctly created. They became something of a tradition, eagerly anticipated by family and friends, who looked forward to receiving them and often saved and collected them like treasured works of art.

Mike is survived by his wife, Diane; his beloved dog, Ceecee; his sister, Susie Sory; his brother, Terry Mosolf; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family would like to thank Mike's caregivers at Beehive Homes and Barrett Memorial Hospital for their kindness and compassionate care.

Cremation has taken place. A private ceremony will be held at a later date.

Pickleball Courts Open to the Public

Due to "Y" being closed for its annual deep cleaning, the Beaverhead Pickleball Association's (BPA) outdoor pickleball courts at 1573 Overland Road in Chris Kraft County Park will be open to the public from 7am until dark, September 1 through September 7. Non-members who normally use the YMCA indoor courts are invited to play at the outdoor courts at any time.

BPA Memberships are available for less than \$5 per month. To join, download the application at <https://www.pickleballbcmontana.com/bpa-membership-application> and return it with payment to the address provided.

Dillon Jaycees Launch Friends of Maverick Mountain to Rebuild Fire-Damaged Ski Area

Seventy years after starting the Little Skiers program, the Jaycees open a \$2 million campaign to get 250 Southwest Montana kids back on the hill. See the purple insert in today's Dillonite for complete information on how you can help.



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Beaverhead County HS Activity List

8/27 Thu	1st Day of School 9th Grade BCHS	8:15 am
8/27 Thu	Golf @ Frenchtown King Ranch GC	10:00 am
8/28 Fri	1st Day of School 10th - 12th Grade BCHS	8:15 am
8/28-8/29 Fri-Sat	Volleyball @ Western A Tip-Off	
	BCHS/UMW Fri: 10:00 Sat: 9:00 am - V- 9:00 am	
8/28 Fri	Football @ Billings Central Rocky Mtn	7:00 pm
8/31 Mon	Golf @ Corvallis Invite Missoula CC	12:00 pm
8/31 Mon	JV Football @ Hamilton Jamboree Away	3:00 pm

Beaverhead Senior Commodities

Beaverhead Senior Commodities will be available for pick up
Saturday August 29th from 9:00-10:15 @ 761 Kentucky Ave., Dillon.
Please pick up as deliveries are limited.

Questions contact Russ Schwandt @ 406-498-1753.

BCHS TIP OF VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The BCHS will be hosting a tip off volleyball tournament for the
high school August 28th & 29th.

MEETING OF THE MAYOR'S AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FUNDING

City Council Chambers
Monday, August 31st, 2026
8:00 A.M.

Pledge Of Allegiance

- Discuss Finding Additional Funds For The General Fund
- Public Comment On Items Of Significant Public Interest Not
On The Agenda And Within The Jurisdiction Of The City
- Adjournment

KENNEL CLUB QUILTS & RAFFLE

Kennel Club (a 501(c)(3) non-profit) will be selling quilts of all
sizes (baby through queen) at the Farmers' Market on Saturdays. The
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September 12, 2026.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5/\$20.00, and can be purchased at the
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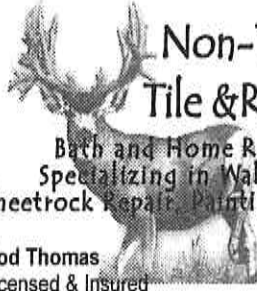
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Sand Creek Fire Aftermath: Cabins Stand Amid Charred Landscape Near Maverick Mountain

Jeremy Crawford, Southwestern Montana News

The Sand Creek Fire was reported at 33,670 acres and 14% containment Wednesday, Aug. 26, weeks after flames pushed through the Maverick Mountain area and jumped the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway, threatening cabins, businesses and places that have been part of the Grasshopper Valley for generations.

Despite the intensity of the fire, all of the cabins in the affected area survived. The significant structural loss in the Maverick Mountain area was the chairlift at Maverick Mountain, which was destroyed by the fire.

Earlier this month, the advancing wildfire threatened Maverick Mountain, Elkhorn Hot Springs, nearby lodges and cabins, and properties along Old Canyon Road.

As the smoke begins to clear from portions of the area, the effectiveness of firefighters' structure-protection efforts can now be seen firsthand.

Southwestern Montana News traveled into the affected area to document the aftermath. A photo gallery is included with an article on Southwestern Montana News on line that shows the dramatic contrast between the charred forest and the green yards and cabins firefighters successfully protected.

All Cabins Survive as Fire Burns Around Them

The smell of smoke still hung in the air as Southwestern Montana News traveled through portions of the fire area. Blackened ground and scorched trees provided a stark reminder of how close the flames came.

Yet along Old Canyon Road, every cabin remained standing.

Around many of the structures, yards were still green and lush. In some places, untouched cabins and vegetation sat only a short distance from areas where the forest had been heavily burned.

Firefighters had installed hoses, sprinklers and other structure-protection measures around threatened properties before and during the fire's advance.

Those efforts did their job.

Turn 180 degrees away from some of the protected cabins, and the scene changes dramatically.

The fire's path can be seen winding through the forest. In some locations, entire rows of trees burned. In others, the fire appeared to



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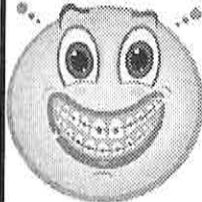
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pick its way through the timber, consuming only one or two trees while leaving neighboring trees standing.

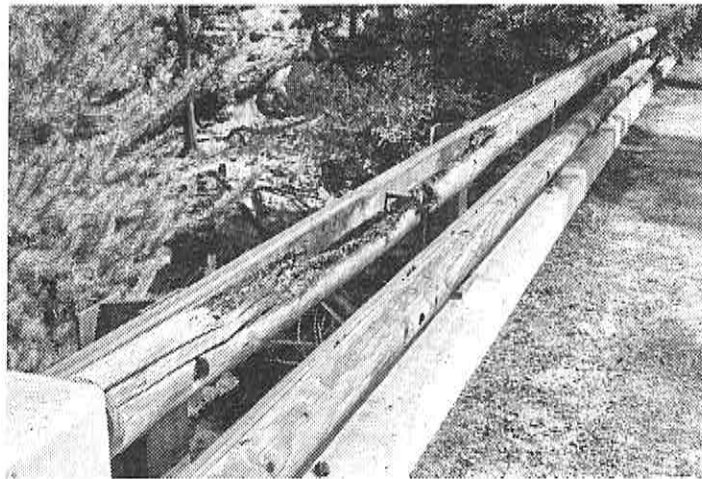
The result is a patchwork landscape that shows just how unpredictably the Sand Creek Fire moved through the area.

Maverick Mountain Chairlift Lost to Fire

While the cabins survived, the fire did cause a major loss at Maverick Mountain, where the ski area's chairlift was destroyed.

The loss of the lift stands in sharp contrast to the successful protection of cabins and other structures throughout the surrounding area.

The fire burned through portions of Maverick Mountain and crossed the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway, creating a significant challenge for firefighters working to protect structures in its path.



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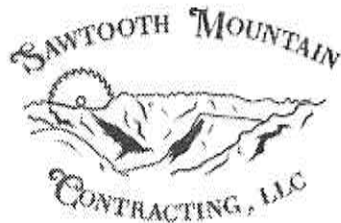
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Veteran's Corner Update #579
Greetings to all of you who read my SW MT Veteran update articles. The big Dillon Fair and Rodeo with their parade is always well attended and considered the best attended weekend of the year in Southwest Montana. Wherever you may be, relax and enjoy this great weekend.

Veteran News Updates:

- Some important warnings to Veterans concerning Cyber scams offering fake benefits. Recently a Military Times reporter reported that 27% of veterans have lost money to scams at sometime in their lives. About 86% of veterans have been met with scams, with military members, veterans, and military families reportedly losing \$684 million to fraud in 2025 alone. The only safe way to avoid these scams is checking with the VSAFE program launched by the VA in 2024 with 8 federal partners that help protect Veterans from scams. The phone number is 1-833-38v-SAFE. Be safe and make the call if you are suspicious that you're getting scammed.

- I've been in the VA Healthcare System for 25 plus years and to check in for an appointment, I was always asked for the last 4 numbers of my Social Security Card. But that has recently been changed because the Federal Electronic Health Record (EHR) for each person now requires they only need a quick scan of their Veteran Identification Card (VHIC) to check in. This not only improves Veteran's privacy, but speeds up check-in time.

- VA footwear benefits are of incredible value for Veterans who have need for them. I am one of those Veterans and am deeply grateful to be a recipient of this benefit. Any VA-enrolled veteran whose VA clinician determines therapeutic footwear is medically necessary can be referred for it. Diabetes is the most common qualifying condition, but also neuropathy, peripheral arterial disease, foot deformities, pressure points, chronic swelling or edema and prosthetic needs can lead to a referral for specialized footwear. It's well worth checking out.

- As the summer winds down, our Veteran Organizations will be meeting on a more scheduled basis and addressing Veteran and community needs. Our motto is "We Serve" as we try to make the world a better place, especially in the community each of us live in. If you are a Veteran, please join us, as helping others is a great reward in knowing you helped make a difference.

Please watch out for the children who are returning to school and walking along our roadways.

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Prairie Bible Church pg 7

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**Montana Western Women's Basketball
 Announces 2026-27 Slate**

The Montana Western women's basketball team is set for a 28-game regular-season schedule in 2026-27, head coach Ryan Sullivan announced.

Sullivan's second season in charge of the program kicks off at home Oct. 22 against Hope International.

The Bulldogs will play 12 more games in Straugh Gymnasium during the campaign, including a non-conference contest against Oregon tech Nov. 13.

The Frontier conference home slate begins with three straight games, starting Nov. 27 against rival Montana Tech and followed by Mayville State (12/4) and Valley City State (12/5).

Bismarck State (1/8), Dickinson State (1/9), Rocky Mountain (1/22), Carroll (1/23), Providence (1/29), MSU-Northern (1/30), Dakota State (2/12), and Bellevue (2/13) round out the home matchups for UMW.

Western will compete in 16 away fixtures, starting with Frontier/Cascade Conference crossover contests against Evergreen State (10/24) and LC State (10/25).

Then the Bulldogs head to the Caldwell Classic where they will face off against College of Idaho (10/30) and Eastern Oregon (10/31).

The final non-conference road match is an exhibition game against NCAA DI and Big Sky member Montana (11/3).

The first conference road contest is schedule for Dec. 12 against Montana Tech, with games at MSU-Northern (12/18), Providence (12/19), Carroll (12/31), Rocky Mountain (1/2), Bellevue (1/14), Dakota State (1/16), Valley City State (2/5), Mayville State (2/6), Dickinson State (2/19), and Bismarck State (2/20) also on deck.

The Frontier Conference women's basketball tournament takes place Feb. 26-Mar. 1 in Butte.

The FC regular season champion will earn an automatic bid to the NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship Tournament. The winner of the conference tournament will also receive a bid. In the event the regular season champion is the tournament champion, then the second berth will be awarded to the regular season runner up.



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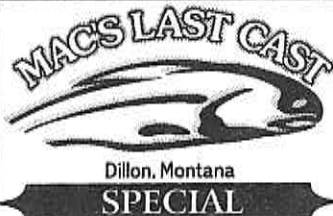
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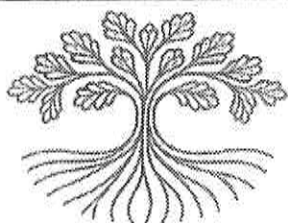


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2026 Bulldog Women's Basketball Schedule

Oct. 22	Hope International	Straugh Gymnasium
Oct. 24	Evergreen State ^	Spokane, Wash.
Oct. 25	LC State ^	Spokane, Wash.
Oct. 30	College of Idaho #	Caldwell, Idaho
Oct. 31	Eastern Oregon #	Caldwell Idaho
Nov. 3	Montana (Exhibition)	Missoula, Mont.
Nov. 13	Oregon Tech	Straugh Gymnasium
Nov. 27	Montana Tech *	Straugh Gymnasium
Dec. 4	Mayville State *	Straugh Gymnasium
Dec. 5	Valley City State *	Straugh Gymnasium
Dec. 12	Montana Tech *	Butte, Mont.
Dec. 18	MSU-Northern *	Havre, Mont.
Dec. 19	Providence *	Great Falls, Mont.
Dec. 31	Carroll *	Helena, Mont.
Jan. 2	Rocky Mountain *	Billings, Mont.
Jan. 8	Bismarck State *	Straugh Gymnasium
Jan. 9	Dickinson State *	Straugh Gymnasium
Jan. 14	Bellevue *	Bellevue, Neb.
Jan. 16	Dakota State *	Madison, S.D.
Jan. 22	Rocky Mountain *	Straugh Gymnasium
Jan. 23	Carroll *	Straugh Gymnasium
Jan. 29	Providence *	Straugh Gymnasium
Jan. 30	MSU-Northern *	Straugh Gymnasium
Feb. 5	Valley City State *	Valley City, N.D.
Feb. 6	Mayville State *	Mayville, N.D.
Feb. 12	Dakota State *	Straugh Gymnasium
Feb. 13	Bellevue *	Straugh Gymnasium
Feb. 19	Dickinson State *	Dickinson, N.D.
Feb. 20	Bismarck State *	Bismarck, N.D.
Feb. 26-Mar. 1	FC Tournament	Butte, Mont.

Bold designated home contest

* Conference matchup

^ Frontier / Cascade Crossover

Caldwell Classic

Beaverhead County School Start Dates

9/8	1st - 8th Grade Students	1st Day
9/10	KG Students	1st Day

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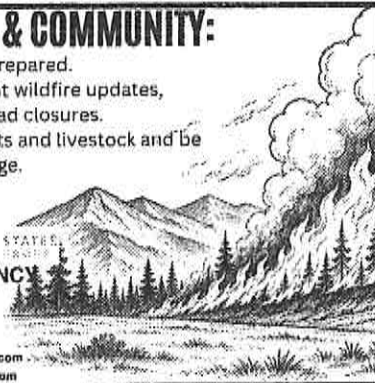
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: COMMUNITY MARKETING & BRANDING FIRM Dillon D-Tour Initiative

Headwaters RC&D, Lead Organization for the Dillon D-Tour initiative under the Montana Tourism Development Grant Program, Montana Department of Commerce, has issued a Request for Proposals seeking a qualified marketing and branding firm to develop a cohesive, community-wide destination brand and marketing plan for the Dillon, Montana community.

The engagement includes a new Dillon community/destination logo and full visual identity system, comprehensive brand guidelines, a community marketing plan, and a base marketing asset package to support the Beaverhead Chamber's digital marketing campaign planned for spring 2027. The selected firm will lead community and stakeholder engagement, including at least one in-person community meeting or open house in Dillon, and will coordinate with a separately procured wayfinding consultant to ensure visual consistency with the new brand.

Full RFP available at: <https://www.headwatersrcd.org/press>

Proposals Due: August 31, 2026, 5:00 PM (Mountain Time).

Proposals must be submitted by email as a single PDF attachment to csunell@headwatersrcd.org, with the subject line "D-Tour Marketing & Branding Firm RFP: [Firm Name]". Questions regarding this RFP are due by August 24, 2026, 5:00 PM (Mountain Time). Full submission requirements and evaluation criteria are outlined in Sections 5 and 6 of the RFP.



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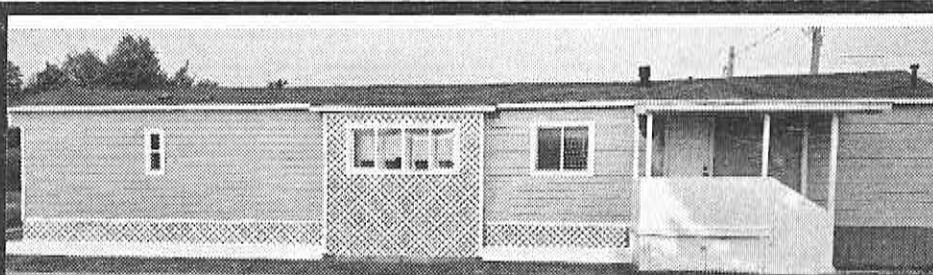


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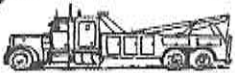
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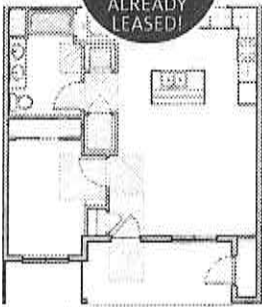
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FRIENDS OF MAVERICK MOUNTAIN

A Dillon Jaycees Fundraising Initiative

Rebuilding the mountain that raised generations of Southwest Montana kids

70

YEARS OF LITTLE SKIERS

250

KIDS SERVED ANNUALLY

\$2M

CAMPAIGN GOAL

OUR STORY

Since 1955, the Dillon Jaycees — a 501(c)(3) nonprofit — have run the Little Skiers program at Maverick Mountain, providing 125 kids with a cost-effective way to ski and snowboard. Counting home school and rural school programs, the number reaches approximately 250 kids annually. For seventy years, Maverick has been the primary winter recreation outlet for this community's youth — an amazing place for kids to be outside, active, having fun and developing life skills.

OUR GOAL

Following the fire, our goal is to provide the infrastructure, equipment, materials, labor, mountain cleanup and restoration, and supplies needed to repair and upgrade the ski area so Maverick can reopen as soon as possible — and stay strong for many years to come.

HOW TO GIVE

Donations are tax-deductible through the Dillon Jaycees and can be made in three ways:

- Directly to the Friends of Maverick Mountain account at any Stockman Bank
- By mail to: Friends of Maverick Mountain, PO Box 460459, Polaris, MT 59746
- A link for credit cards on the website.

ADVISORY BOARD

An Advisory Board oversees fundraising and distribution decisions. Any funds remaining after the rebuild will go toward scholarships and equipment for the kids' programs.

- Jim Harvey • Leslie Cottom • Laurie Moore • Cory Birkenbuel • JM Peck
- Jason Schumacher • Zeno Beattie • Sandi Sloan

THE REBUILD: WHAT IT TAKES

CHAIRLIFT

Two nice, used Poma fixed grip quad lifts, the same make, model and age — recently purchased from Aspen and Jackson Hole — are already on site in the Grasshopper Valley and were undamaged by the fire. What remains to install in addition to engineering and the approval process:

- A new haul rope — approximately 11,000 feet, at an estimated cost of \$200,000
- Full electrical upgrade and com line, top to bottom
- A new AC drive and refurbishment of remaining components — estimated \$500,000
- Installation of at least 18 towers, top and bottom terminals, haul rope, and 120 quad chairs

Industry benchmarks for a fixed-grip chair installation of this length run 2.0 and 2.5 million, depending on helicopter time; a comparable new chairlift installed runs roughly \$4.5 million.

SNOWMAKING

Maverick currently has no snowmaking — rare in today's ski industry, and it's expensive to build. Basic snowmaking on the lower mountain would allow the resort to open by early December most years and stay open longer each season.

A SECOND LIFT

There is an opportunity to add a shorter lift up the left side of the mountain, giving riders of every ability — from beginner to expert — a five-minute ride. This would be ideal for kids and the race team to maximize runs, especially on weekends when the main lift is busy.

BASE LODGE

The lodge itself is a true gem — right down to the shag carpet on the walls downstairs. The immediate needs are practical: expanding the changing bins and cubby areas and enlarging the cafeteria. A small new building for the rental shop and ticket office will provide the space downstairs for everyone to get geared up.

APPROVALS & INSURANCE

The U.S. Forest Service must approve replacement of the damaged lift, new lifts and snowmaking infrastructure. We are hopeful that this will not lead to significant delays.

Insurance will help offset the cost of the lift rebuild. Fire insurance is expensive and hard to obtain, but fortunately they have it. The payout will fall well short of the costs however.