

In brief

Tribune's home makers school set next week

Plans for the upcoming cooking school in Dillon are taking shape and looking exciting, according to Home Economist Betsy Kern.

Kern recently visited Dillon to discuss details of the annual program.

"It's going to be an informative, fun event and we are expecting a good crowd," Susie Bramlette, advertising manager of the Dillon Tribune, sponsor of the event, said.

Homemaker Schools of Greendale, Wisconsin, will present the cooking demonstration at the Beaverhead County High School auditorium Thursday, September 25.

The doors for the event will open at 6:30 p.m., and begin at 7 p.m. There is no charge for the program.

The two-hour cooking clinic includes on-stage demonstrations of food preparation, new food products and kitchen shortcuts, along with lots of prizes.

Each person attending receives a free cookbook, and a gift bag with coupons and gifts.

Dozens of free prizes, including bags of groceries, will be given away at the program as well, Bramlette said.

Blood drawing planned here

A blood drawing will be held Tuesday, Sept. 23, at Saint Roses Family Center.

Hours for the clinic are 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

BEA plans open houses in Dillon

Local elementary school students, their parents and families are invited to an open house this Wednesday, September 17, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Mary Innes Elementary School.

On Tuesday, September 23, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. there will be a second open house at Parkview Elementary.

The open houses are sponsored by the Beaverhead Education Association.

Red Rocks water rights reservation hearing set

The Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission will hold a public meeting Sept. 22, at 7 p.m. at the Lima High School Multipurpose room in Lima, regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to settle the federal reserved water rights on the Red Rocks Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

Sen. Charles Swysgood is chairman of the commission's negotiating team, which is responsible for negotiating federal water rights as part of a statewide adjudication that will settle permanently the water rights of federal agencies.

Weather

The Week in Review			
Date	Hi	Lo	Pcpt.
Sept. 9	85	43	-
Sept. 10	85	50	-
Sept. 11	76	46	.42
Sept. 12	73	48	.02
Sept. 13	71	41	-
Sept. 14	79	42	-
Sept. 15	68	40	-

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The Russian connection



Restoration project

A Western Montana College professor, Andrea Easter-Pilcher, recently returned from Kazan, Russia, where she took part in a beaver restoration project designed to improve a declining ecosystem.

Western profs help in Russia project

By Paul Stewart

Two Western Montana College professors have recently completed a wildlife research project which took them deep into the heart of Russia.

Andrea and Brian Easter-Pilcher, both biologists, left Dillon last July, and headed to the Volg-Kama National Nature Preserve, which is located about 475 miles east of Moscow, near the city of Kazan. The preserve, one of 90 others is regarded in Russia as a national treasure.

Andrea had been approached by Yuri Gorshkov, the preserve director, who asked her to work in collaboration with the Russian scientists on a wetlands restoration project. The project involved the reintroduction of beavers to the area, in the hope that their activity would contribute to the restoration of the preserve's ecosystem.

Brian explained that the preserve is effectively an island surrounded by agricultural land. Farming, and irrigation practices have led to waterways and lakes being gradually filled in by carried-down silt and mud. "One lake has been filled in at a rate of one foot a year for the past 30 years," he said.

One possible mitigating effect, beaver draws catching and backing up pools of water, was lost more than 200 years ago when the beavers were trapped out. It is hoped that the reintroduction program, involving a family group of eight, with an additional two adults, will raise the water levels both within the preserve and on adjacent land.

Andrea had completed a study of beavers for her Masters degree. As such she was able to bring to the project a knowledge of colony site selection, population dynamics, food and forage preference, and a host of other pertinent elements.

The couple took up residence in a bunkhouse, living and working with Gorshkov, his wife Tatiana, their two sons, and other preserve scientists and workers, an experience which they enjoyed immensely. While they noticed some minor differences of approach to the work at hand, they found the Russian team to be, "extremely hardworking and very dedicated people." The language barrier was eased by the presence of Tatiana who served as interpreter.

The trip was funded by the Lundberg Foundation, and with some of the money, the couple were able to take along some telemetry equipment. Transmitters would be affixed to the beavers allowing the scientist to track them more efficiently. This delighted the Russian hosts, who were simply unable to afford that level of technology.

"I was surprised how unfamiliar they were with some of the equipment and techniques that we take as a matter of course," said Brian.

He explained that the economic situation in that country, "has taken science off the list of priorities. People tend to more concerned about just making it through the winter."

Away from the rigors of the project, the Andrea and Brian thoroughly enjoyed their exposure to a fascinating and they stressed changing culture.

They spoke of their increased familiarity with one of the great Russian exports, vodka, describing it as "very good."

"And when you toast someone with it," explained Andrea, "you must be very careful to look at them directly in the eyes as you clink glasses. Shy, downward or sideways glances are not appropriate."

They found the people to be very



Attending Western

Dmitri Mitya, 19, returned from his native Russia with Western professor Andrea Easter-Pilcher, where he met her in a beaver restoration project. He will attend Western this year.

generous, though it was clear that they had so little. Before the dramatic changes which took place under Gorbachev's governance, one common complaint was that the shelves in stores were always empty. Andrea explained that in Kazan, a city of 1.25 million people, the shops now are well stocked, but goods are very hard to afford for most people.

with the accompaniment of vodka or beer. The Easter-Pilchers had a standing invitation to use one elderly couple's banya whenever they wished.

Shortly after they arrived Andrea made Russian national television, when she discovered what she thought was a brown bear track. Gorshkov at first poo-pooed the notion saying that there had

"Things are changing since Gorbachev. There is a lot of rebuilding and a lot of commercialization..."

"Things are changing since Gorbachev," she said. "There is a lot of rebuilding, and a lot of commercialization. However much improved as the city is now, life for most people isn't very convenient."

Brian observed that they only came across one dwelling with an adequate hot water supply, all the time they were there.

One aspect of Russian life they heartily approved of was the culture of the Banya. A Banya is a kind of Russian steam bath where house guests are regularly and frequently invited to relax, normally

been no sightings of bears in that area for years. Further investigation however revealed more tracks, confirming the first such discovery in the preserve since 1983. The Director then enjoyed good-naturedly ribbing his Russian colleagues who had allowed the newcomer to get first dibs on such an important find. The local Kazan newspaper thought it notable too, asking in a headline, "What will she find next...the Loch Ness Monster?"

Collaboration will continue between the Easter-Pilchers and the

Preparing for anniversary



Getting ready

Beaverhead County Museum volunteer Bill Tayne and Director of Operations Candi Whitworth, prepare an exhibit for the 50th anniversary of the museum, which will be celebrated next week.

Existing zoning laws found

By Paul Stewart

Contrary to the belief of almost everyone in county government, Beaverhead does in fact have some zoning regulations on the books, explained County Commissioner Spence Hegstad.

He was referring to the discovery of a document signed in 1976 that provides for zoning regulations on the Beaverhead Acres subdivision, located north of town. Last Monday at the commissioner's regular meeting, they met with Planner Rick Hartz, Sanitarian Larry Laknar, and County Attorney Tom Scott to discuss the regulations which said Hegstad, have never been enforced since the document was signed.

"No one has ever enforced them..."

He explained that the matter came to light after a number of people asked the commission to define the status of the zoning rules. "It was brought to our attention that though there have been specific prohibitions and exclusions in place, no one has ever enforced them," he said.

It seems that the regulations designate the area only for single family residences. No structures above two stories, no barns, out-buildings, or garages with room for more than three cars, are permitted.

Hegstad noted that some people in the area are currently out of compliance with the regulations.

"There are a number of questions we have to answer here," he said. "We can't arbitrarily decide not to enforce the regulations that are in place. If we do enforce do we have to go back and confirm who has been in violation? Can we grandfather these things in, and enforce the regulations from this point on? There's a lot to consider."

Scott is currently researching the legal issues raised, and Hartz and Laknar will survey the area to establish how widespread are the instances of noncompliance.

"We need to get a clearer, more complete picture of the situation," said Hegstad.

At the moment however, the options before the commission include:

- strictly enforce the regulations and apply them retrospectively;
- vacate the 1977 decision and drop the regulations entirely; and
- grandfather in existing violations and begin enforcement as of now.

Clearly, the first option is not practical, but legal considerations could hamper the grandfathering alternative. In addition, Hegstad noted, one of the zoning provisions state that any additional construction on the tracts can only be completed after the issuance of a building permit. "Anyone who has built, is not in compliance," he said.

Hegstad explained that the regulations were adopted after one resident announced plans to construct a dipping vat for cattle and sheep, prompting his neighbor to take action. The regulations prohibit any commercial activity in the area, encompassing, vehicles, tools, machines and equipment. However, dentists, lawyers doctors engineers and other similar professionals are not excluded. Another provision limits residents to keeping only one large animal per 25,000 square feet of area within the tract. Chickens, pigs and goats are excluded, while horses, sheep, and cattle are deemed legitimate.

After all the available information is gathered said Hegstad, a public meeting will be held to more fully examine both the situation, and the options before the commission.

On other business, the commission considered bids for a new vehicle for the Sheriff's Department.

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