

# DILLON TRIBUNE

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MAKING HEADLINES SINCE 1881 • DILLON, MONTANA • 75 CENTS

## IN BRIEF

### Formal fundraiser set for Thursday

It's "A Formal Affair" this Thursday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Depot Theatre, when the annual formalwear fundraiser for Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Dillon is held.

Formals will be modeled by Beaverhead County High School Key Club members and will be available for purchase. Both donated dresses and new ones will be offered for purchase. The event will feature dresses by the KnockAbout, Calamity Jane, and Thomas's. Goods and services and discounts will be offered by local merchants, including Wildwood Floral, Stephen's Floral, Le Cut, and the Razor's Edge.

Bring the guys for tuxedo measurements. All proceeds will benefit the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Dillon.

### Sets breast cancer awareness events

Barrett Hospital and HealthCare is sponsoring several Breast Cancer Awareness Month events.

The first, Saturday, October 16, will be the annual Pink Ribbon Walk. The walk begins at the hospital's Professional Services Building Lower Level Conference Room at 10:00 a.m. The walk is an opportunity to honor loved ones who have been touched by the disease. Door Prizes, refreshments, balloons, ribbons, and women's health information will be available.

The second event is a presentation, "Cancer Genetics: Hype and Hope", by John Johnson, M.D. who is geriatric and pediatric board certified. The presentation is part of the Barrett Hospital and HealthCare Community Education Series. The presentation will be offered Tuesday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Professional Services Building Lower Level Conference Room. For more information, call 683-3000.

### Novelist reads his work at The Cup

The second reading of the University of Montana-Western's English Department's Fall Series "Dances With Words" is Thursday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m. at The Cup, located on the lower level of the Swysgood Technology Center.

The second reading features Missoula novelist, Neil McMahon. McMahon attended Stanford and spent thirty years as a carpenter. He has published four novels that feature San Francisco EMT physician, Carroll Monks. He is currently working on his fifth novel, a "stand alone" set in Montana. McMahon's work has been published in "Atlantic Monthly" and "Big Sky Journal," and featured in "Montana's Best Short Fiction."

### Club hosts Dutch resistance speaker

Author Hanneke Ippisch will present "A Story of Resistance in Holland During World War II" as part of the Free Speaker Series of the "Building Tolerance Club" of the University of Montana-Western is Tuesday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Great Room of the Swysgood Technology Center on the Western campus.

Ippisch was born in Holland in 1925. At the age of 18 she joined the Dutch Resistance, escorting people in hiding to different locations, and bringing them supplies. During Ippisch's career in the Resistance, not a single person she was transporting was ever captured. She then became the personal courier to Walraven Van Hall, the leader of the Dutch resistance. Near the end of the war, Ippisch was captured, held for over six weeks in prison, and released a week before the war officially ended. She is the author of "Sky", part one of her biography and "Spotted Bear", a children's story. Part two of her biography and a collection of short stories will be published soon. Ippisch has spoken at over 350 schools in Montana and across the United States about her story.

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### Beat of a different drummer

Obo Addy's Okropong performed to two large crowds last week at Beier Auditorium, one a collection of young people involved in area music programs, the other in the first of three performances in the Southwest Montana Arts Council Showcase Series. Not only were audiences treated to Addy's drum stylings from Ghana, but to renowned Ga dancers with stunning African costumes. Elaine Spicer Photo

## Schweitzer declares support for Montana Youth Challenge Program

Gubernatorial candidate Brian Schweitzer has declared his support for the Montana Youth Challenge Program in a press release forwarded by his campaign.

Schweitzer refers to the program, based at Dillon's University of Montana-Western, as "an important tool in helping at-risk Montana youths develop the educational skills and abilities they need to be productive and active members of their community."

"The Youth Challenge Program is a voluntary second chance for at-risk youths who want to get their lives back on track," Schweitzer said. "A high

school education is one of the most basic and important assets anyone can have when looking for a good paying job."

Associated with the National Guard and funded in part by the State of Montana, the Youth Challenge Program has helped hundreds of young adults turn their lives around and achieve the dream of a high school education. In August, the program graduated its 10th class of students, with 75 former high school dropouts completing the program. Schweitzer hopes to tour the program facilities in Dillon later this month.

The program, which enrolls students ages 16-18, provides a highly structured environment for at-risk youths who want help in turning their lives around.

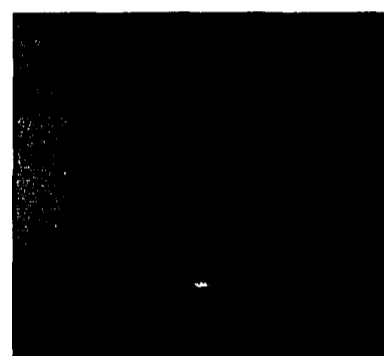
The program consists of three phases: a two-week pre-challenge, a 20-week alternative educational residency program and a one-year mentorship phase.

"The Montana Youth Challenge Program is about opening doors and creating new opportunities," Schweitzer said. "As Governor, I'll see to it that we preserve funding for this critical program here in Montana."

## Congdon in critical condition after horse accident

By Elaine Spicer

Beaverhead County officials and citizens continue to await information on the medical status of Deputy Beaverhead County Attorney Wally Congdon, who suffered life-threatening injuries in a horse accident last week.



Wally Congdon

According to Beaverhead County Sheriff Bill Briggs, dispatch received a 911 call for the Lima Ambulance to respond to Congdon's ranch at Dell on Wednesday, October 6 at about 3:30 p.m.

Congdon had been bucked off his horse as he was remounting after checking his saddle. He sustained serious head injuries.

Congdon was immediately transported by the Lima and Dillon ambulances to Dillon, where doctors and staff at Barrett Hospital and HealthCare worked to stabilize him. The Missoula Life Flight helicopter then transported him to St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula, where he underwent surgery to relieve pressure caused by a blood clot on his brain.

According to Briggs, the initial surgery was successful and Congdon began to show signs of improvement by mid-day on Thursday. Congdon's family has said his status is a "wait and see" situation, and his loved ones remain hopeful. He is listed in "critical" condition and is in the intensive care unit.

"There is reason for hope," said Wally's wife Ann Congdon Tuesday. "He's holding steady. The injuries were to his head, the rest of his body seems uninjured. It's going to take weeks until we find the extent of the brain damage."

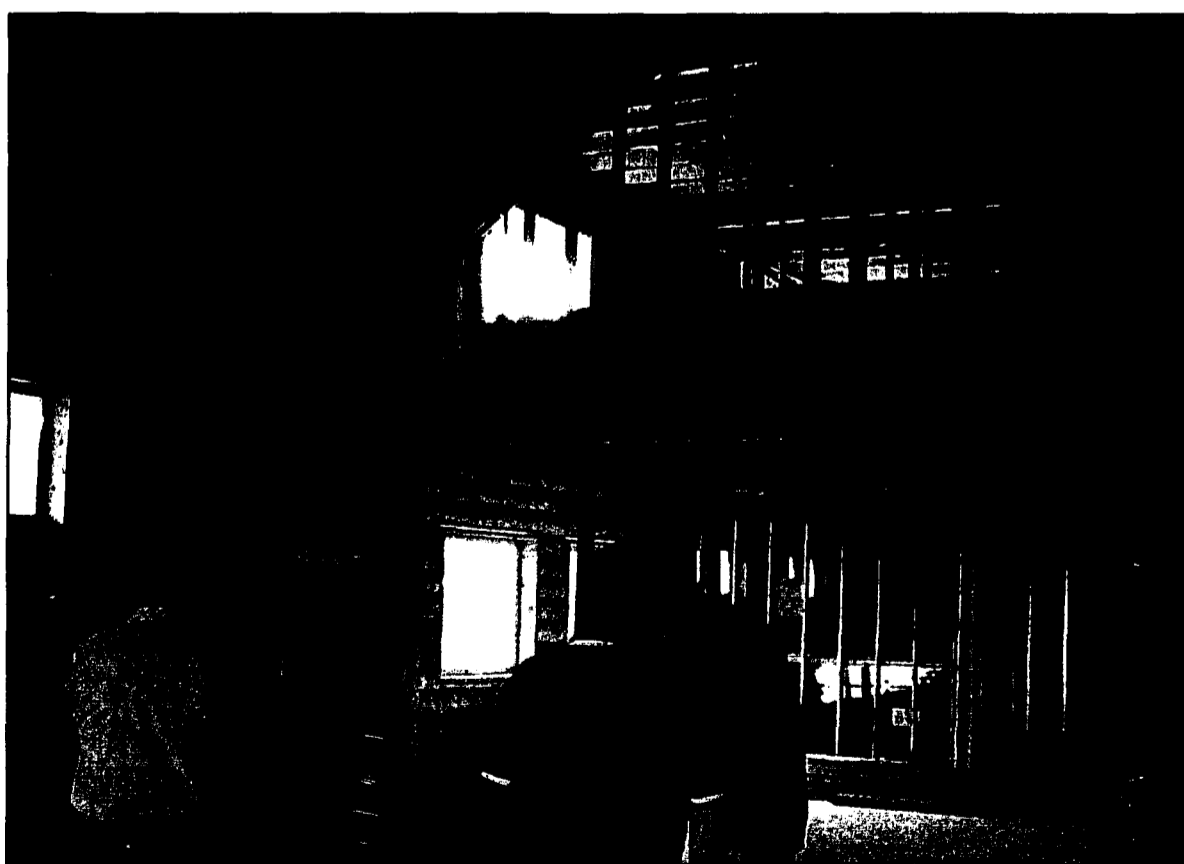
Ann expressed thanks to all of Wally's friends and colleagues for their support. "The whole neighborhood of folks in the county have stepped up to help," she added, noting assistance received on their ranch and personally. "He has so many people who care about him. There has been an immense number of people asking about him and visiting and sending their prayers."

"We are hopeful that he will continue to improve and return to his family and home soon," said Briggs. "His absence leaves a significant void in the community and county operations." Noting a sentiment which seems prevalent in the area, Briggs added, "there have been too many horse-related and motorcycle accidents this year."

Beaverhead County Attorney Marv McCann commented the accident and Congdon's ensuing hospital stay have "obviously been a terrible blow to our office. From a practical perspective, my experience is criminal and his is civil. We complement each other, we work very well together."

"From a personal standpoint," added McCann, "Wally was the first person I met in Beaverhead County. He's a good friend and one of the nicest guys I know. This is hard. I expect him to walk through the door. Often we say 'this couldn't have happened to a nicer guy', but for good things. This time, we're saying it about Wally's accident, it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy."

McCann remains optimistic about Congdon's future, saying, "he'll be



### Open house

An open house was held Saturday at the still under construction Camp Fortunate Visitor Center building. Plans and ideas for the building, which will house the Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce and Travel Montana Visitor Information Center, are being discussed. Due to the fact that hoped-for grant funding was not obtained, the building will be brought to a weather-proofed status for the winter and grants will continue to be pursued for completion and opening of the facility and its offices, said Beaverhead County Commission Chairperson Mike McGinley. Photo courtesy Katie Bump

## Ideas eyed for visitor center building

People in Dillon have been watching the Camp Fortunate Visitor Center building being raised. The log walls and timber-framed cathedral ceiling, by Paul Rust of Summit Log Homes, create a large, welcoming space where visitors will be treated to a new view

of Dillon. From the big windows facing north down Montana Street, you can see beyond the Super 8 Motel.

A "Construction" Open House was held last Saturday at the still under construction visitor center located in downtown Dillon. "People have been

curious about the project, so we wanted to offer folks a chance to see how it's shaping up," said Beaverhead County Commission Chairperson Mike McGinley.

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