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Suggestions made on museum issue

By Elaine Spicer

Betty Alm, representing a group called "Friends of the Museum", met with the Beaverhead County Commissioners Monday to present a document to them which details the group's concerns over a Renewal Plan addressing Beaverhead County Museum operations proposed last winter. Alm's document lists nine requested changes to the plan, suggestions for restructuring the plan, and questions on the plan's content.

Also presented was a "Proposed Solution for the Management Gridlock at the Beaverhead County Museum" by Mike Ryan, acting as a concerned citizen, though Ryan is also the chair of the Museum Association.

Ryan's proposal is to solve, in writing, the differences between the museum trustees and association directors regarding the renewal plan by January 1, 2005. The document continues to propose that, if said agreement is not made and those entities or their members do not show a "good faith" effort move forward, that one of two recommendations follow.

His suggestions are: one, to close the museum and declare a "cooling off period"; and two, to remove every member of the current Museum Board of Trustees as well as the Association Board of Directors.

Commission Chair Mike McGinley said the commissioners will meet again with those involved in an effort to bring the conflict to a resolution.

Pedestrian path eyed on Sweetwater Road

By Elaine Spicer

A new pedestrian path may be in the works for Beaverhead County, according to Commission Chair Mike McGinley. Beaverhead County Grantwriter Frank Mastandrea has been given the go-ahead by the commissioners to determine what would be involved in creating a path along Sweetwater Road, already a popular area for walking and cycling, McGinley explained.

After driving the route to "eyeball" the potential path's route, McGinley notes, "it's doable in a way that would be safer than it is now." Currently, pedestrians and cyclists use the road surface. Preliminary work to be done by Mastandrea includes determining the width of the road's right-of-way, the status of the road itself, and answering concerns over power poles located on each side of the road.

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Council meet planned

The Dillon City Council will be meeting Wednesday, Nov. 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the council room.

Among the agenda items are the mayor report, resolution for SID 35, Request for Proposals for the Dillon Sewer Main Extension Project, Resolution for SID 35, Helena Street railroad crossing, and reports of officials and committees.

The public is invited to attend.

Lima meeting to set priorities for area

The City of Lima will host a priority setting meeting on Tuesday November 9 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Lima Elementary School multipurpose area.

The community is invited to attend this follow-up assessment meeting which will be conducted by Gloria O'Rourke of the Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) and members of the Resource Assessment Team.

The Lima Assessment Report will be presented and discussed; copies of the report will be available, prior to the meeting, at the Lima City Office. Call Mike Strang, 276-3745, if you have questions concerning the meeting.

Burgess benefit Nov. 6 at Elks

A benefit for Susie Burgess will be held November 6 at the Dillon Elks Lodge, to help with medical expenses.

The Spaghetti Feed and Silent Auction begins at 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person or \$15 per family.

Donations may be made at State Bank and Trust in the name of Susie Burgess Medical Fund.

Silent auction items are also needed. Call 683-6607 or 683-2545 for information.

Fun at the polling place...



Happy judges

Tom Satterly and Betty Wauty enjoy a joke with other election judges at the Senior Citizens Center Tuesday morning. A large local turnout, perhaps a near record, appeared to be turning out Tuesday for what promised to be a barn-burner close race nationally. Several precincts actually ran out of ballots and required a special printing late Tuesday. Locally, the county commissioner race between Republican incumbent Mike McGinley and independent Mike Klakkan is the only contested one in the county, but state and national races promised a long evening Tuesday night for the Clerk and Recorder's office. See page A-3 for latest results.

WRC receives domestic violence awareness grant money

The Women's Resource Center (WRC) in Dillon is the recipient of a \$15,000 grant from the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation, as part of the foundation's support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The grant will support the shelter's ongoing efforts to help women affected by domestic violence.

The Women's Resource Center is one of 100 shelters throughout the country, each of which will receive a \$15,000 grant from the foundation during the month of October. This is the sixth time since 2000 that the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation has awarded grants to selected women's shelters throughout the United States.

"I am thrilled to accept this grant from the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation on behalf of Women's Resource Center," said Therese Rawson, General Administrator. "Domestic violence is a significant and growing problem, one that affects millions of women, men and children. This grant will help us continue our work to protect, educate and care for victims of domestic abuse."

The grant funds will be used by the local agency to make improvements at its safehome, including new electrical service, some updated wiring and roof work. With help from community do-

See GRANT on page A-3

See SIDEWALKS on page A-6

iSafe helps guard DMS students

By Elaine Spicer

The Internet and safe use of it were the topics of several presentations last week at Dillon Middle School by Ann Minckler from the Division of Education Research and Service at the University of Montana.

The talks were presented to seventh and eighth graders, fifth graders, and the general public in an effort to improve the safety of students, with a focus on a program called "i-SAFE America", which, as described by Minckler, "promotes in kids the safe use of the Internet by educating the kids that they can be responsible for their own behavior."

The program is a non-profit Internet safety education foundation with a mission of teaching young people to take control of their Internet experience by giving them the knowledge necessary to act safely and responsibly while exploring the Internet.

Minckler continued, "parents teach their kids to be safe in the community but not necessarily on the Internet."

The goal of her talk was to raise awareness on the part of students who use the Internet regularly for both educational and personal reasons. She explained how students can be sure their use of research materials doesn't infringe on "intellectual property issues", and focused on the subject of Internet predation.

Dillon Middle School will be one of only six schools across the United States to benefit from a new program called "i-STIK", a pilot program providing identification tools for students' use of so-called "chat rooms", said Minckler. The tool allows students to be sure that they are talking to people within their own age group. The program is free to participating schools.

The programs i-SAFE America and VeriSign recently announced the new i-STIK, a portable tool that can be inserted into USB ports to help safeguard the integrity of a youth's online experience.



Internet awareness

Ann Minckler of the Division of Education Research and Service at the University of Montana gives an overview of the new i-SAFE and i-STIK programs being offered locally at Dillon Middle School. Both programs help to make youths safer while accessing the Internet.

Elaine Spicer Photo

It allows kids and teens to enter an age-centered chat rooms with confidence that everyone logged in will be who they say they are. Chatters' actual ages and genders can be confirmed from the i-STIK.

Since Dillon Middle School has been chosen as a pilot school for the i-STIK program, students will receive their i-STIKs in the next several weeks according to i-SAFE CEO Teri Schroeder.

Schroeder was part of a Dateline NBC investigation which aired in September 2004, in which hidden cameras were used showing volunteers posing as 13 and 14 year olds in chat rooms.

Reporter Chris Hansen caught on tape 18 adult males in just two days in the documentary.

Safeguarding Internet use is important, Minckler noted, because statistics say that one in every 33 kids "has

SID eyed again for downtown sidewalks

By John Barrows

It was a totally different atmosphere from just a few months ago when an attempt to pass a Special Improvement District for Montana Street South for sidewalks, new lights and some shrubbery went down to defeat by property owners.

Monday night, at a special informational meeting called by Mayor Marty Malesich, property owners in the five block area from Helena Street to Orr along the east side of Montana Street South seemed much more encouraged by the wording of the new attempt to improve the appearance of the commercial area.

A major impetus for the improvement, Malesich said, is the plan for the city to let bids soon on the paving and storm sewer project along South Montana, which is planned to be completed by June 15.

A part of that project includes new curb and gutter on the east side of the street, which would mean the existing sidewalks would not line up, requiring replacement.

The project as proposed by the city would be only for the sidewalks, and would be paid for over a period of 10 or 20 years, through a Special Improvement District.

The project did not include lights or shrubbery, but would keep the existing wooden light poles, but providing for conduit in the new sidewalks in case they would at some time be replaced.

The street project, which is part of it, is not being paid for by SID but by a variety of other sources, including the city's street maintenance fund, water and sewer funds and for a later phase for lights and sidewalks on portions of the west side of South Mon-

received an aggressive solicitation from someone on the Internet to meet a cyber friend in person.

And, one in five young people receives an "inappropriate" email message on a daily basis, she said.

These statistics hit home particularly in Dillon, with the recent guilty plea of a local LDS Church official in an FBI Internet sex solicitation case.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has even created a task force in the state of Montana which concentrates on child predation on the Internet, she added. "We live in Montana and think we're isolated," said Minckler, "but here isn't here when it comes to the Internet."

Minckler stressed that young people often believe the people they're 'talking to' via email and Internet programs are being honest about themselves, when it is a real possibility that they are being lied to.

Another facet of the Internet issue is whether or not young people identify themselves when they are conversing with someone. "I was impressed with the seventh and eighth graders [at Dillon Middle School]," she noted.

"They know the Internet is real. They're real savvy in picking cyber names that don't have identifying information." Some of the students she talked to have "buddy lists", which ensures they know everyone on the list, which she cautions means those "buddies" shouldn't be people you've met online.

"Pedophiles profile kids and invite kids to a more private place to chat," noted Minckler. "You have to be careful with what you're saying, be sure you're not giving out information that you can be identified with."

Another concern is that a person can be logged into a chatroom, but basically sit on the sidelines so others will forget they are there. "Kids will

See iSAFE on page A-3