

DILLON TRIBUNE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004 • VOLUME 123, NUMBER 49 MAKING HEADLINES SINCE 1881 • DILLON, MONTANA • 75 CENTS

IN BRIEF

Lost hunter found safe near Big Hole area

After a 45-year-old hunter failed to report in with his hunting party on Monday, December 6 at 11:00 p.m., Beaverhead County Search and Rescue was activated. A snowstorm hit the area as the search was being initiated in the area of the Continental Divide between Beaverhead and Ravalli counties, northwest of the Big Hole National Battlefield.

Weather conditions made search efforts very difficult with new snow accumulations at the Continental Divide exceeding 18 inches, said Beaverhead County Sheriff Bill Briggs. Four search teams worked on the ground throughout the night and into the early morning hours, he added.

At 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, a briefing was held by Search and Rescue members in regards to plans for the day. Due to heavy cloud cover and low visibility, plans for search efforts were confined to the ground again. At 10:00 a.m., five ground teams were in the search area to relieve those who had worked throughout the night.

Ravalli County Search and Rescue had been working on their side of the divide in concert with Beaverhead County searchers.

At 12:50 p.m., Beaverhead County Search and Rescue Command Post was notified by Ravalli County that their Search and Rescue personnel had located the individual approximately five miles into Ravalli County. The hunter was reported to be in generally good condition, said Briggs.

Holiday Happenings

BCHS plans winter band concert

The Beaverhead County High School Band will offer its Fall/Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the B.W. Lodge Gymnasium.

The program will feature the Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, and Flute Choir.

The concert is presented free of charge and the public is invited to the event.

Dell Christmas dinner set this Friday

The annual Dell Christmas Dinner will be held Friday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, and gravy will be provided by the Dell Homemakers.

Please bring a salad or dessert and your own table service. Everyone is asked to bring two Bingo prizes and two fish pond prizes. (Please have the gifts wrapped and labeled either child or adult, girl or boy.)

Santa will make a visit, there will be a pinata for the kids and everyone can participate in caroling.

Everyone is welcome.

UMW Drama Club hosts craft fair

The 2004 Beaverhead County Craft Fair, sponsored by the University of Montana-Western Drama Club, will be held Saturday, December 11 at the "old" Beaverhead County High School Gymnasium. The event will last from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Spaces are available for booths, which cost \$25 each.

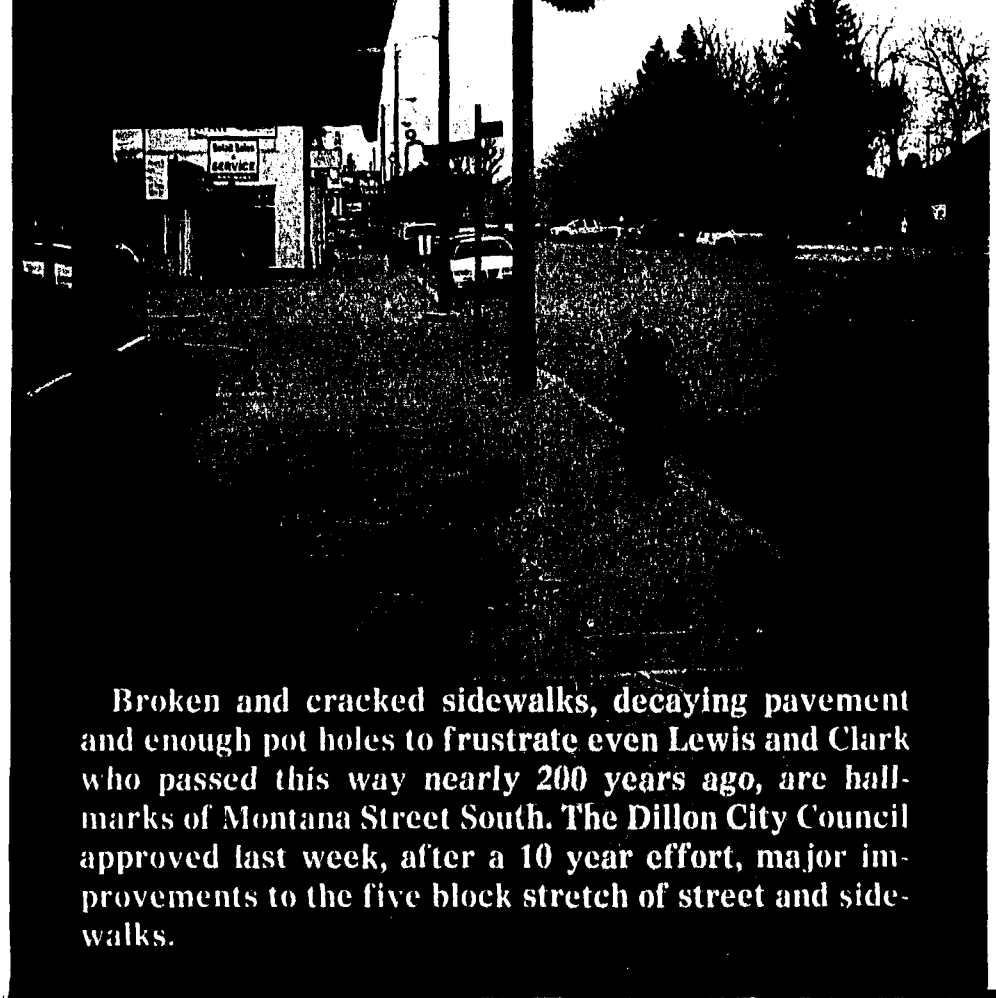
Early set-up will begin at 8:30 p.m. Friday, December 10.

To reserve a booth, call Jason at 925-1654 or 683-6199. Or, stop in at Empire Office Supplies for registration information.

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Montana Street South: It's in the works



Broken and cracked sidewalks, decaying pavement and enough pot holes to frustrate even Lewis and Clark who passed this way nearly 200 years ago, are hallmarks of Montana Street South. The Dillon City Council approved last week, after a 10 year effort, major improvements to the five block stretch of street and sidewalks.

By John Barrows

It's been a longtime coming. Three mayors have worked on it, and nearly 10 years have elapsed since the first steps were taken to make major improvements to Montana Street South, one of Dillon's main business streets.

There have been false starts and log jams. Frustrations and disappointments.

But last Wednesday night, in a dramatic 6-2 vote, the final hurdles were passed in the Dillon City Council and the project, which will include storm drains, new paving and repairs, curbs and gutters and new sidewalks on the east side of the street, was finally underway... ready for bids.

At stake is the revitalization of the downtown area, Mayor Marty Malesich said, and Montana Street South, as an extension of the major improvement work done on the north end of Montana Street this year by the Montana Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the city, is a major component of that dream.

Malesich and the city administration have woven together a combination of different funding sources to accomplish the project, and the battle at City Hall, between the mayor and several council members, has been over how to do just that.

At the November 17 meeting, the mayor lost two of the main components of the plan, as he failed to get enough votes to get the project on track.

Things were different last Wednesday, though, as one council member changed his vote, a brand new council member had a chance to vote and several others, who were absent, showed up to cast favorable votes. The end result is that the project is going to bid and pending a successful bid applicant, will be scheduled for work next spring.

See MONTANA STREET on page A-9

City continues work on business license

By John Barrows

The Dillon City Council is in the process of determining whether or not a general business license will be instituted in Dillon.

The license, requested by a business-oriented group of citizens, would cover virtually all business in Dillon, including those operated out of people's homes, even on a part-time basis. It would also apply to peddlers or transient businesses coming into Dillon to sell merchandise.

The city's judiciary committee, met recently to consider several aspects of the license and made revisions to a draft ordinance that had been written earlier by City Attorney W. G. Gilbert.

It looked at a number of issues, and eliminated a setback requirement that would have meant any nonpermanent business would have to be located at least 50 feet from the street. It also looked at ways transfers would be allowed, and at the idea of special category licenses such as day care centers in residential areas and need for council consideration.

It also looked at independent contractors and their status, such as car

salesmen, real estate salesmen, beauty and hair professionals.

It also looked at the need for zoning compliance certificates to trigger a business application for license.

The need for property forms to be included with the passage of the ordinance was also highlighted, so the council would give its approval on the actual documents used in the process.

The committee decided to present

the ordinance without comment to the council, which it did last Wednesday. The license will be considered by the council at a later meeting.

In another matter last Wednesday, Carolyn Gibson of Sportswear and Design appeared before the council and registered a complaint on being told she could no longer park in the parking lot next to the library.

Council member Swede Troedsson,

who is also a member of the library board, told the council the issue had come up several times before, and the board had put up a sign notifying the public that the parking area was restricted to library patrons only. "We have been receiving complaints they couldn't find parking there," he said.

The property for the lot, Troedsson said, had been deeded to the city for library purposes and it was being restricted to patron use only.

Gibson said she was "tired of getting ousted. It is never full. And lots of people use it for the Post office. You're just running people out of town." Mayor Marty Malesich referred the request to the City Attorney for study.

Malesich noted to the commissioners that he had appointed Mike Riley and John Gutcheck to the new city government study commission. They will join Paul Pilgrim, who was elected to the post. The group will study city government and later bring forth suggestions for improvements.

Council member Mark Krank declined his appointment to the group and another will be named, Malesich said.

Details on hunter death released

More details have been released concerning the death of a hunter near Wisdom, according to Beaverhead County Sheriff Bill Briggs.

On Nov 19, at approximately 4:00 p.m., Sheriff's Deputy Flynn in the Big Hole received information indicating that a hunter might be lost or missing in the Steel Creek area near Wisdom, according to Briggs. Beaverhead Search and Rescue was called out and activated shortly thereafter.

The hunter, 58 year old Steve Martin of LeGrande, California, had not been seen since 11:00 a.m. An acquaintance and Search and Rescue personnel tracked and located Martin at 8:00 p.m., sitting next to a tree.

Unfortunately, when discovered, Martin was not conscious and did not have a pulse, Briggs said. CPR was initiated and he was immediately transported to Wisdom where he was transferred into the Wisdom ambulance. While transporting him to Barrett Hospital and HealthCare, Wisdom ambulance personnel

See DEATH on page A-2



A chat with Santa

Taylor Nelson has a good chat with Santa and takes a candy cane during the annual Jaycees Breakfast With Santa event Saturday morning at the Vineyard Church.

Flu shots here

Beaverhead County Public Health Department has received flu vaccine and will be offering an immunization clinic for flu vaccine on Thursday, December 9 from 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-5:00 p.m. This will be a flu clinic only.

The following list is the criteria from the Centers for Disease Control for those who will be eligible to receive the vaccine:

- All children aged six-23 months
- Adults 65 years and older
- Persons aged two-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions
- All women who will be pregnant during the influenza season
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities including assisted living
- Children aged six months-18 years on chronic aspirin therapy
- Healthcare workers involved in direct patient care
- Out of home caregivers and household contacts of children aged six months or less

The cost of the flu vaccine is \$15. Medicare Part B will cover the cost of the flu vaccine. For those who have Medicare Part B coverage, bring your Medicare card with you to the flu clinic.

If you have any questions, call 683-4771.