

# At the Chamber Social...

## Area businesses, individuals honored

The Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce presented its annual awards to its members at an appreciation social held recently at the Beaverhead Golf Course Country Club.

Guests enjoyed appetizers donated by local restaurants and decadent desserts made by Beaverhead County High School Culinary Arts Classes along with chamber board members and their spouses. Awards were presented and a total of 20 new businesses were recognized.

Business awards were presented to the following:

**Small Business of the Year:**  
C&C Farm and Ranch Supply

**Medium Business of the Year:**  
Quality Supply

**Large Business of the Year:**  
R.E. Miller & Sons, Inc.

**Customer Service Award:**  
Stephens Greenhouse and Floral

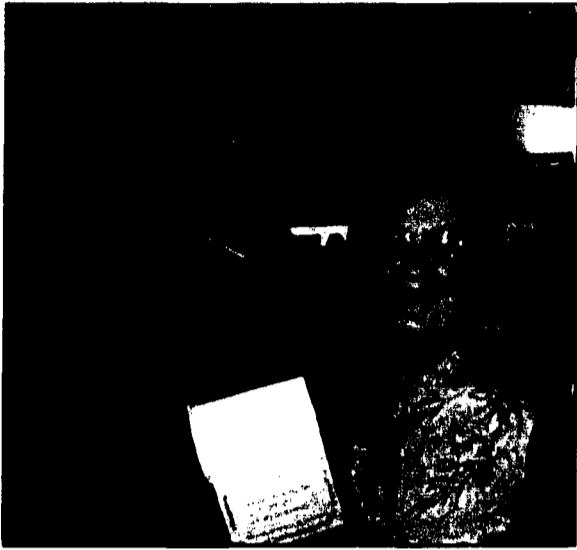
**Beautification Award:**  
Tyler Hoerning Motors

**Community Service Award:**  
Kiwanis

**Ag Producer of the Year:**  
Centennial Livestock/Cross Ranch



**Medium Business of the Year: Quality Supply**



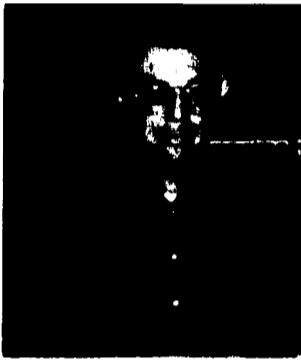
**Small Business of the Year--C&C Farm and Ranch Supply**



**Community Service Award-- Kiwanis Club**



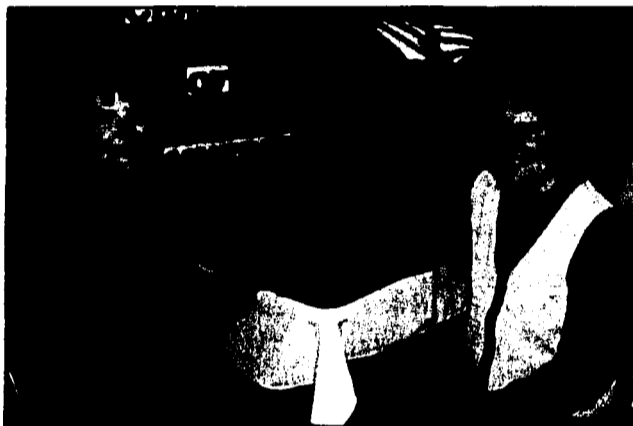
**Customer Service Award: Stephens Greenhouse and Floral**



**Large Business of the Year--R.E. Miller & Sons, Inc.**



**Beautification Award-- Tyler Hoerning Motors**



**Ag Producer of the Year--Centennial Livestock/Cross Ranch**

## Officer

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The sole reason for the Resource Officer, Hansen said, is "not to detect criminal activity," but to enhance communication between the students and law enforcement."

Bob Forrester, the student representative to the school board, said he felt Livingston had more problems on campus than Dillon and that "it's going to look like a cop is here."

Chouinard said security is definitely being strengthened and that the officer would be armed.

Hansen noted that "opening chains of communication" was his main goal.

"Anything we can do to foster relationships, we want to do it," Briggs added.

The board voted unanimously to use a Special Resource Officer on a trial basis.

In another matter, the board approved granting a retirement incentive to Ken Kolski, and reviewed the increasing utility bills the school is facing, with the gas bill for December alone reaching \$11,778. The school is experiencing a 40 percent increase in energy and fuel costs, Chouinard said.

## Victims

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program and Donovan.

The Cookseys noted that "The Victim Witness Advocate (Donovan) is unable to serve the victims in Beaverhead County because she receives zero information and cooperation from you and law enforcement," but then noted that while McCann implied she is not available to the county, he has her office phone number in Virginia City, her cell phone number, her home phone number in Butte and access to her fax and e-mail, but do not use them.

They also accused McCann of trying to divert funds from the program, which is funded through June of this year.

In Donovan's letter last week to the commissioners, Donovan claimed McCann refused to work through a "mediation" with Donovan and District Judge Loren Tucker in December.

She also said told the commissioners to "please feel free to call the Madison County Commissioners, Madison County Attorney Bob Zenker, judges, law enforcement and victims in Beaverhead or Madison that I have worked with and ask them about the work I do. It works extremely well in Madison County, why is that if I'm so irresponsible, unaccountable and without supervision.

McCann noted in his letter, and in an interview Monday regarding the letter from the Cookseys, that "I fully support the concept of the Victim Witness Advocate program, and greatly appreciate the value of these necessary services."

In fact, McCann notes, he has worked with the program in five jurisdictions and was responsible for establishing the program in Musselshell County.

McCann became County Attorney on October 2003, coming from Billings to take the position after the resignation of then County Attorney Mike Riley.

McCann explained that Donovan had established the Beaverhead/Madison County Victim Witness Advocate Program in 1997, but that "the relationship between Ms. Donovan and the various criminal justice agencies in Beaverhead County has deteriorated over the years for reasons I am not aware of."

McCann stated the Victim Witness Program has not been functioning in the county, nor providing any services for the County Attorney's office since he came to Dillon, and express the belief

that "as far as I can tell (it) exists only on paper."

McCann praised the staff at the Women's Resource Center for going "above and beyond" in helping with cases requiring victim services.

Currently the Center is renting an office to Donovan, but under the plan advocated by McCann, would be part of a collaborative grant with the County Attorney's office to serve both Beaverhead County and the City of Dillon. Donovan, he noted, has also applied for the same funds from the Board of Crime Control, which will have to make a decision and ward the grant in June.

The City of Dillon, Mayor Marty Malesich said Tuesday, is also in favor of the joint grant with the Women's resource Center, saying he felt the city would be best served under that arrangement.

The immediate talks of funds, referenced in an article in the Dillon Tribune last month, is not related to the grant funds, but rather with the \$25 victim advocate surcharge paid by every person convicted of a criminal offense or DUI charge.

That money, McCann maintained, can be retained by the county or city to pay the expenses of victim advocacy program, "including a program operated by a private, nonprofit organization that provides the services..." which would allow the money being given to the Women's Resource Center.

The commissioners, he noted, agreed and voted to keep that money in the county.

Last year, he noted, the commissioners tabled the motion for

a letter of support and Donovan received the grant without the blessing of the county commissioners. The grant includes approximately \$20,000 that would come to Beaverhead County, McCann said, in addition to the surcharge fees. If the county's grant request approved, next year's grant would go to the county and then to the Women's Resource Center to pay for victim advocacy services.

## UMW count up again

University of Montana-Western Chancellor Richard Storey announced an enrollment increase for the 2005 Spring Semester. As of the Montana University System's official 15th day census, Western's headcount of individual students was 1,094, a 3.2 percent increase over the 1,060 figure for Spring 2004.

In announcing the spring enrollment increase, Storey congratulated the college for its collective efforts in recruiting and retaining students. He paid particular attention to the admissions staff including the student orientation advisors as well as the faculty and staff who helped recruit new students, and advise and work for the success of current students.

"Clearly the move to Experience One and faculty commitment to experiential learning and teaching are factors in recruiting and retaining students," said Storey. "So is our enhanced student advising center."

**Honoring Our Past Leaders**

Look for our Presidents' Day Special Section in this weeks edition of the Dillon Tribune

We are happy to say that each student in Dillon and the surrounding area schools will be given one of these special issues.

DILLON TRIBUNE

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