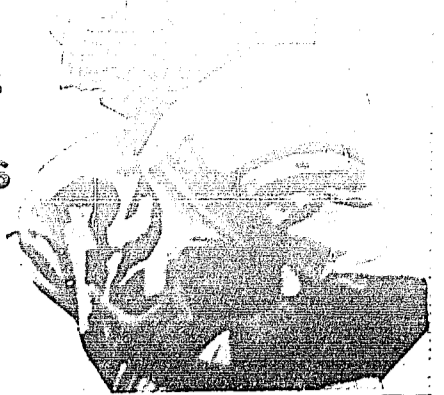


Tribune Examiner

Dillon teams win big ones

Serving Southwestern Montana Since 1881

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September storm

Photo by Cal Jacobson

Young Sabrina Bostwick found Monday's snow to be a pleasant change of pace from summer. She built a small snowman near her parents', Dallas

and Nelda Bostwick, house, at 307 S. Nevada Street. Snow fell most of Monday and continued into Tuesday.

Surprise storm dumps on area

By BRUCE McCORMACK
Editor

An unexpectedly early snow storm dumped as much as six inches of snow on parts of Beaverhead County Monday and Tuesday.

Following a brief hail storm in parts of the Dillon area Sunday afternoon, snow began to fall early Monday morning, before tapering off in the evening. But late Monday night and Tuesday morning the snow began to fall again leaving Dillon with the appearance of mid-January.

All roads remained open, although Monida Pass south of Lima was reported to be changing from slushy to packed snow.

The storm hit Beaverhead County harder than it did Madison County, where Virginia City and Twin Bridges were reporting only a half-inch to one inch of snow on the ground Tuesday morning. The ground was clear in Sheridan Tuesday.

County road foreman Jim Nettick said the storm caught him off guard, but that he had his snowplows deployed as quickly as possible. He said the weather seemed to be a bit lighter past Badger Pass. He added that there was about six inches of snow Monday near the end of the Blacktail Road.

"The ground is not frozen yet, so the snow is not going to stick like it otherwise would," he said.

"I was still wanting to do maintenance work on the roads when this hit," he added. "This is way early for us. We usually don't

plow much until late October and early November."

JACK CHAMPINE OF C&C Farm and Ranch Supply and Art Jenkins at JH Equipment said many of the farmers and ranchers they had talked to were optimistic that the storm would not be too hard on their crops.

"There is a lot of grain down and hay in trouble, but if the snow melts off soon enough and the weather warms up, most people should be able to recoup most of their loss," Champine said.

For hay down in the field, he said, this storm is not yet much worse than several days of heavy rain.

Pick-up guards on a combine can lift grain back up and the hay should pick-up as well, he added.

Jenkins said unless the grain stalk breaks, farmers should be able to get most of their crop back up and cut.

Alfalfa and hay in windrows is in more serious trouble, but it too should be all right as long as the cold, snowy weather passes soon enough," he said.

"Most of the fellows I've visited with are pretty optimistic that good weather will salvage things for them," Jenkins added.

A NUMBER OF short power outages occurred in Dillon Monday. Leonard Johnson of Montana Power said some of the problems were caused by a high voltage line splitter that went bad allowing the lines to arch. Tree limbs hanging down on lines also contributed to the problem.

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Builders' UBC opinions vary

By JULIE SIMON
Staff Writer

[Last in a two-part series]

Several of Dillon construction contractors are planning to approach the City Council next week with suggestions about the Uniform Building Code which some of them see as an unnecessary burden.

The controversy stems from the fact that new City Administrator Bert Reimer wants the code to be enforced consistently to insure public safety and save Dillon from possible lawsuits.

Adopted by the council two years ago but never enforced, the code consists of a set of construction guidelines which are the legal standard for the state and much of the nation.

Reimer, city administrator since June, says the rules provide minimum standards to safeguard health and safety by controlling design, construction, use and occupancy, location and maintenance of buildings and installed equipment.

He contends the city has both a legal and a moral obligation to follow the code as long as it is law. And he points out if the city revokes the code, the state will enforce it from Helena.

All city contractors, however,

aren't all happy with stricter code enforcement.

Clayton Hildreth, who is helping organize the group which will approach the council Tuesday, contends the regulations put an unnecessary burden on contractors.

"We want to tell the council our ideas on the code and to offer them possible suggestions and solutions to what we see as a problem," Hildreth said.

He declined to list details of those alternatives saying the group wants to approach councilmen directly.

Hildreth said so far four contractors are part of the group, and he expects more of the city's 30 builders to join the organization before Tuesday.

CONTRACTOR FRANK Terrill makes it secret that he's steaming about the code.

"To coin a phrase I once heard used by a school official involved in a similar situation—I get so sick of people trying to protect me from myself," Terrill said.

Terrill said he understands the city "really had no choice" but to adopt the code.

But he contends contractors had no problems until Reimer arrived.

He argues the building code is designed for places like New York City but that it doesn't apply well

to Dillon. He contends Reimer is taking a bureaucratic and inflexible stance in enforcing rules not necessary in small towns like this one.

Most of the contractors in the area have been in business for many years and "know what they're doing", Terrill says, contending Reimer doesn't give the builders credit for being competent.

He said the building code and a business license system recently suggested by Reimer have many local people so angry they may try to recall Mayor Connie Nicholas.

Terrill said not only are many code regulations unnecessary, he contends they'll also add 30 to 50 percent to building costs which will have to be paid by the consumer.

He said building code enforcement will prove to be unworkable unless the city takes steps to allow contractors "reasonable exceptions."

"IF I'D HAVE TO SAY whether or not I'm for or against the code, I'd probably say I'm against it," commented another builder, Kenny Grose.

Grose said he understands the need for regulations but pointed out it is hard for builders to adjust to obeying a code when they have been

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Friday afternoon game

Barbeque, parade, football set for BCHS homecoming

A parade, a football game against potentially tough Roman and the annual crowning of the homecoming queen will highlight Beaverhead County High School's homecoming Friday.

Senior girls competing for the queen title are Brenda Munday, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russel Munday; Debbie Buckley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Buckley; Heidi Williams, daughter

of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Williams; and Sheryl Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Johnson.

Miss Munday is the senior class candidate; Miss Buckley, junior class; Miss Williams, sophomore; and Miss Johnson, B-Club.

The winner will be selected by a vote of the student body.

Homecoming week activities began Monday with a Western dress up day themed around "Round 'em up Beavers". Today students are wearing clown costumes; Wednesday, togas; Thursday, punk rock outfits and Friday, blue and gold.

Homecoming events begin with a 10:15 a.m. assembly which will be followed by a parade about 11 a.m. through downtown Dillon.

The Key Club will have its annual fund-raising barbecue at 11:30 in Vigilante Park. The game against Roman will begin at 1:30 p.m. in Vigilante Field. Crowning of homecoming queen will be at half time.

A dance for BCHS students and alumni will be 9-12 in the school gym.



Queen candidates are Sheryl Johnson, Brenda Munday, Debbie Buckley and Heidi Williams.

Dillon Inn moves heaven and earth

The receptionist at Dillon's luxurious new 50-room motel answers the phone:

"Good morning—may I help you?"

The question has almost, but not quite, become routine at the Dillon Inn which opened Aug. 25 after a series of problems which delayed the facility's completion for more than three months.

"We learned a lot—more than we wanted to know, really—about the hassles of getting a new business off the ground," explained Peggy Begin who with her husband Joe manages the motel off the Interstate 15 exit ramp north of the city.

Henry Taylor Jr. and John Sturney of Ketchum, contracted with P-R Construction of Miles City last year to build the new motel on property originally owned by Rod Sinclair.

Their target? A June 1 opening. "Needless to say we didn't make it," Joe said.

Completion of the water and sewer hookups into the city's systems caused the biggest delays.

Working for Sinclair, the Dillon contractors hired to do the job ran into one problem after another, the Begins said. The water table in the area was so high, that workers had to pump out their trenches every morning before the they could continue laying pipe.

Systems had to be routed under the interstate and a creek.

"Nothing was easy," Joe explained, adding that he and Peggy could not even move into their own accommodations at the motel as quickly as they expected. And when they did finally set up housekeeping the couple had to do without water for awhile.

"In the meantime we had hired employees. But they were wonderful about just hanging with us in spite of the fact that we had to keep putting off the opening."

Mrs. Begin pointed out that she

and her husband had been careful to hire "only the very best" people.

"So we worried that we would lose them before we ever got open. They were amazingly patient, though," she said.

All the while the phones kept ringing and the Begins had to turn away prospective clients.

"There's no doubt the inn lost a certain amount of money as the weeks passed," Begin said, explaining most motels do their best business during the summers when the occupancy rate is high and utility costs are relatively low. That's why the Begins were so pleased when they scheduled a grand opening at the end of July.

But after a giant get-acquainted party hosted by the inn for area residents, the inn's opening had to be delayed, again because of water and sewer problems.

On Aug. 6 the Begins began booking their rooms but their hope that smooth sailing was ahead

didn't last long.

On Aug. 17 the state Department of Health and Environmental Sciences informed the motel that



JOE and PEGGY BEGIN

the inn's water didn't meet its standards.

"The city was really nice about it—they gave us the option of staying open and providing drinking water for our guests, but that didn't work out because of the state. So we had to shut down (on Aug. 19) locate our guests and find them other accommodations in town. Fortunately, both the people and the other motels were more than gracious in helping us handle the situation," Mrs. Begin said.

The city re-chlorinated the inn's water lines and on Aug. 25 the motel re-opened.

"And we're open for good now," Peggy smiled, explaining business has been quick to build.

Word of mouth is the most important kind of advertising in the motel business, and Dillon residents seem to be spreading that word. "It helps, too, that other motels are referring guests to us when they are full," Joe said,

explaining he doesn't think the presence of a new business will hurt the existing motels.

On the contrary, the addition of another motel in town will be an extra incentive to travelers to break their trips in Dillon, he said. Peggy noted the inn also hopes to tap a new source of clients. The presence of the inn in Dillon means there are now enough motel rooms in the city to attract conventions, she said.

Naturally, the Begins think the inn, which is equipped with an indoor pool, will attract its share of regular customers too. And as an introductory special, the inn is offering rooms \$26-\$34 compared to the \$28-\$40 the accommodations would normally cost.

"It's a nice place and as soon as people find out about it, we think they'll want to stay here," they said.