



Acantha photos by Jeff Martinsen

Owner Chad Bouma invites everyone to check out the new Teton Peak Assisted Living facility in the fully remodeled Teton Nursing Home on Main Avenue North in Choteau on Friday and Saturday.

Coming soon Teton Peak Assisted Living opening this fall

By Melody Martensen
Acantha editor

Teton County's newest assisted living facility, Teton Peak Assisted Living LLC, is inviting everyone to attend an open house on Sept. 18 from 3 to 7 p.m. and on Sept. 19 from noon to 4 p.m.

Owner Chad Bouma and administrator Chanel Maroney, LPN, will be on hand to greet people and give them a tour of the 17-room, 19-bed facility that occupies about 13,500 square feet in the completely remodeled Teton Nursing Home building.

The Teton County Commissioners closed the 40-bed nursing home in May of 2016, and 15 months after that closure in August 2017, Bouma purchased the 16,000 square foot building on Main Avenue North in Choteau for \$10. He was the only bidder for the building, which was advertised for sale in March of 2017.

Bouma and his construction company, Highmark Construction, have been working on the massive remodeling job ever since.

On a tour of the facility earlier this month, Bouma said he has completely redone the plumbing and wiring in the newer parts of the building. He has not remodeled the oldest wing, but says that if the building fills up, he will

expand it.

The remodel also included all new windows, painting inside and outside and refurbishing an inner courtyard with stamped concrete and pop-up lights.

The living options in the facility include two studio rooms that don't have their own bathroom but are right across from a common shared bathroom; all other rooms have their own bathroom with a private shower and toilet. The other rooms include two one-bedroom suites with kitchenettes, furnished with refrigerators, a two-burner ceramic cooktop, microwave oven, sink and cabinetry. Three other studio rooms also have kitchenettes, and all the rooms come with flatscreen televisions.

Each room has a vanity, sink and wardroom, and residents will be encouraged to bring their own beds, dressers, chairs and home décor.

The building has wireless internet access throughout all areas and has data jacks for internet access in every room.

The building's common areas include a sitting area with gas fireplace, a TV room, a recreation/gym room; dining room; interior patio and a lawn and seating area outside on the west side of the building.

The entire building is handicapped



Contractor/owner Chad Bouma stands with Teton Peak Assisted Living administrator Chanel Maroney beside the gas fireplace in the reading room of the new facility.

accessible with a handicapped accessible entrance on the west side. All the bathrooms are equipped with handicapped accessible toilets and have options for step-in and walk-in showers and walk-in tubs.

The facility has two laundries, one for residential washing and another for commercial washing.

The commercial grade kitchen will serve daily meal specials and have a menu that residents can order food from. The kitchen staff will serve

three meals and three snacks a day. The dining room also has a coffee bar.

Bouma says the facility is licensed by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services as a A/B category Assisted Living Facility.

Under Montana law, ALF are licensed to provide personal care services to people 18 and older who are sound of mind, pose no threat to other residents, and are generally healthy

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Two of the new facility's suites have kitchenettes; others have a walk-in tub while the renovated facility is decorated with large full-color scenic photos selected by developer Chad Bouma's wife, Angie.



Contact tracing Health Department tracks close contacts to stop COVID spread

By Melody Martensen
Acantha editor

As the number of laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 creep up in Teton County, the director of the Teton County Health Department is encouraging county residents to do their best to cooperate with her staff as they trace close contacts of those who have tested positive to curtail the spread of this viral illness here.

"The message that we're trying to get to people is that active participation in contact tracing is really a great choice to help protect yourself, your family and your community. It's really truly being part of the solution," TCHD Director Melissa Moyer said during an interview on Sept. 10.

Last week, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services notified the TCHD of two more positive cases here. Moyer said one was a woman in her 20s, whose source of infection was related to close contact with another known COVID-19 case within the county. This woman had already been identified as a close contact and was in a 14-day quarantine so there were no additional close contacts to be notified.

The second positive case was a woman in her 50s, whose test came back positive on Sept. 13. Moyer said the source of her infection most likely came from within the county.

As of Monday, the county has two active cases and 20 lab-confirmed cumulative cases. All but one of Teton County's cases have developed only mild illness. However, a Fairfield teenager, Kyona Yeager,

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Updating maps

DNRC working to revise county flood plain maps

By Melody Martensen
Acantha editor

The Teton County Commissioners on Sept. 3 approved the 2020-21 county budget, heard an overview of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's flood plain review for the county and approved a number of housekeeping items.

A large part of the commissioners' meeting was taken up by a videoconference with representatives from the DNRC who outlined the steps DNRC and other partners are taking to update and revise the flood plain in Teton County.

Tiffany Lyden, the outreach specialist for the DNRC Floodplain Management Program, along with bureau chief Steve Storied and staffer Nadine Wadsworth took part in the meeting along with Mark English, the project liaison from FEMA Region 8 out of Denver and Teton County Planner Paul Wick.

Lyden said DNRC is working with the county commissioners, Wick and Choteau's mayor and public works director on the project to update existing flood plain maps and study information in the county. The project is being financed through grant funding from FEMA.

"The purpose of flood plain maps really is to identify areas of flood risk so we can try to keep people and property out of harm's way," Lyden said.

To do this, the partners create maps that show where water would go in a 100-year flood event — an event that has about a 1% chance of occurring along rivers and streams every year, Lyden said. The maps that cover Teton County date back to 1983, and there have been river bed changes and construction changes that could change how flood waters would flow now.

In reality, she said, the 1983 flood plain maps were based on data from the 1977 maps

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TASGA bee, bazaar in Choteau Sept. 18-20

By Vonnie Jacobson
Acantha reporter

The show is a go. The Teton Antique Steam and Gas Association's 37th annual Threshing Bee and Bazaar will be held Sept. 18-20 on the TASGA grounds in Choteau.

Members of the association have worked hard to make sure the event can safely be held with the current COVID-19 health concerns. "The outdoor setting which is spread out allowing for social distancing is a bonus," said TASGA member Sandy Corey. "Besides being outdoors, there have been a few other changes made to make it possible to host the event."

Corey said TASGA worked with the Teton County Health Department to create a working plan for holding the event. "We are all excited to be hosting the annual event and welcome everyone to come and join the fun one day or all three," she said.

The members built a ramp on the side of the church allowing for handicap access into the church and making it possible for one-way flow with an entrance and exit when visiting the building. The same set up with an entrance and exit will be used at other buildings on the grounds. Where needed, volunteers will be doing extra cleaning and food servers will be taking extra precautions.



Acantha photo by Vonnie Jacobson

Ben Wombacher, Dan Lannen, Willis Heron, Dave Klette, Richard Hansmann, Rick and Sandy Corey and Frank and Donna Bemis cut and gather grain donated by Gary Passmore for this weekend's TASGA bee.

The grounds will be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is \$10 a person or \$25 a family and is good for all three days. Children 12 and under are free. Daily activities include a threshing demonstration at 1 p.m. and parade of tractors at 3 p.m. There will also be tractor-drawn train rides for children who are seated in converted storage drums from approximately 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Andy Watson, owner of Big Sky Pottery in Fairfield, will give pottery demonstrations on Saturday and a square dance group will perform at noon on the same day. Also planned for Saturday is a pulled pork dinner at 4 p.m.

Sunday will include a church service at 9 a.m. in the TASGA Country Church led by the Accordion

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