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# 2025 DALY DAYS CELEBRATION

## BRING IT HOME TO THE MANSION

**RACHEL CRISP PHILIPS**  
for the Ravalli Republic

Summertime in the Bitterroot brings the boon of Daly Days to Hamilton and the surrounding area. This highly anticipated annual festival connects community and commerce with the rich local history of the Bitterroot Valley. Celebrated with a multitude of festivities from across Downtown Hamilton, to the Daly Mansion and the Bitterroot Brewfest.

Kicking off at the Daly Mansion at noon on Saturday, July 26, Daly Days celebrates the heritage of Hamilton with a variety of activities on the mansion grounds. To start, the Daly Mansion will be hosting a special discount for half-price tours with historical reenactors throughout the day, from noon to 6 p.m.

Aside from special events such as Daly Days, the Daly Mansion also offers regular, full-price tours at set times through the summer from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. During regular hours, tours of the grounds are \$15 for adults, \$14 for seniors or military, \$8 for ages 6-17, and free for children 5 and under.

For superior snacking, the Daly Mansion volunteers will be vending pretzels on the porch from noon until sold out. These tasty, twisted treats won't last long, so be sure to grab them while they're hot.

Also at noon, there will be the opportunity to help build a penny portrait of Marcus Daly with the Bitterroot Discovery Children's Museum. With 10,000 pennies collected from the community, this project is a great opportunity for all ages to participate



PROVIDED PHOTO

The Daly Mansion will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Hamilton's Daly Days celebration on Saturday, July 26.

in creating this unique piece of local art.

And for the young, as well as the young at heart, a Kids' Garden Party will be held throughout the day from 12:30 to 5 p.m.

Live music will highlight the festivities all day long, with shows by the Bitterroot Acapella Society, the Bitterroot Community Band, as well as the Bitterroot Ragtime Society.

As afternoon drifts into dusk, the entertainment continues into the evening with performances by The Dead and Down and the Timber Rattlers. Pouring a plethora of pints from 3 to 8 p.m., the Brewfest offers an open atmosphere to revel with old friends

or to forge new friendships.

Admission to the Bitterroot Brewfest is free to enter, with the option to purchase a commemorative glass and unlimited tastings for those who wish to partake. General admission is \$35 in advance, or for \$40 at the gate on the day of the event. Extra perks are also available with VIP admission for \$75 in advance, or \$80 at the gate.

For safety and convenience to and from the event, the Bitterroot Brewfest offers a free shuttle from 3 to 9 p.m. Drop-off points will be at the Hamilton Downtown Public Parking Lot, across from the post office, and at the Hamilton High School

**With 10,000 pennies collected from the community, this project is a great opportunity for all ages to participate in creating this unique piece of local art.**

parking lot. There will also be free parking at the Daly Mansion.

Daly Days brings a memorable day of family-friendly fun, along with an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful Montana summer in the company of kin and neighbors alike. In addition to the event activities on the Daly Mansion grounds, there's always more to discover in downtown Hamilton, such as the Hamilton Farmers Market on Saturday morning, plus a variety of swell opportunities to shop small during your visit.

The Daly Mansion Preservation Trust would like to thank Farmers State Bank as the Main Grounds Sponsor for the 2025 celebration. While the Daly Days festivities help to bring much-needed donation dollars into the local community, contributions, and volunteers are appreciated year-round at [dalymansion.org/how-can-i-help](http://dalymansion.org/how-can-i-help).

The historical Daly Mansion is located at 251 Eastside Highway in Hamilton, MT, and can be reached at 406-363-6004 or [dalymansion.org](http://dalymansion.org). For more information on the Daly Days celebration, or to arrange a tour, contact the Hamilton Downtown Association at 406-360-9124 or visit [hamilton-downtownassociation.org](http://hamilton-downtownassociation.org).

*Please note that dogs are not allowed on the grounds of the Daly Mansion.* 🚫



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# BITTERROOT BREWFEST CELEBRATES 30TH YEAR

**RACHEL CRISP PHILIPS**  
for the Ravalli Republic

This year heralds a new landmark for the 30th annual Bitterroot Brewfest as the event enters its third decade of celebrations and libations. With over 60 Montana beers and a dozen food trucks, the event is hosted by the Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce and takes place on the Daly Mansion grounds during Daly Days, Saturday, July 26 from 3 to 8 pm.

The family-friendly festival is free to enter, and tickets to imbibe can be purchased in advance for \$35, or for \$40 at the gate on the day of the event. All general admission tickets include a commemorative pint glass with unlimited tastings. VIP admission is also available for extra perks, such as a limited-edition beer stein with unlimited tastings, VIP restroom access, and a VIP swag



The 30th annual Bitterroot Brewfest will take place from 3 to 8 p.m., Saturday, July 26 on the grounds of the historic Daly Mansion in Hamilton.

FILE PHOTO

**The family-friendly festival is free to enter, and tickets to imbibe can be purchased in advance for \$35, or for \$40 at the gate on the day of the event.**

bag filled with local goodies. VIP admission is \$75 in advance, or \$80 at the gate.

This year's pint glass sponsors are 2nd Street Sushi, A2Z Personnel, Big Sky Eye Care, Bitterroot Brewing, Bitterroot Furniture and Sleep Gallery, Higherground Brewing Co., Iron Horse Athletic Club, JKL Electric, Kiln Media, Massa Home Center, Trail West Bank, UPS, Wetzsteon Electric Inc., and Willow Mountain Veterinary Clinic. The main event sponsor is —>

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AZZ Personnel and the entry tent is sponsored by First Security Bank.

For safety and convenience to and from the event, the Bitterroot Brewfest offers a free shuttle from 3 to 9 p.m. Drop-off points will be at the Hamilton Downtown Public Parking Lot, across from the post office, and at the Hamilton High School parking lot. There will also be free parking at the Daly Mansion. The free shuttle service is sponsored by Lube Quick Inc. and Reliance Automotive and would not be possible without community contributions such as theirs.

Of course, the only thing that a Brewfest needs aside from beer, is some good tunes and great grub. This year's entertainment features The Dead and Down, an exploratory roots-rock band, from 3 to 5 pm, followed by the energetic bluegrass of the Timber Rattlers, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Live music is sponsored by Caras Property Management Co., The Paper Clip, Partners in Home Care, Pure West Christie's International Real Estate, Ravalli

County Credit Union, and the Ravalli Republic.

**Whether you're a local or just visiting, solo or with family, the 30th Annual Bitterroot Brewfest is a wonderful way to spend a sweet summer day in one of Montana's friendliest communities.**

With multiple food options to fill your belly with something more solid than suds, there's no reason to wander around hungry. The food truck selection this year includes the Bitterroot Soda Shack, Freestone Ice Cream, The Frosted Lemon, Horns Fins & Feathers, Pattie Wagon, Portable Pizza Palace, River City Eats, Servin' Thyme Food Truck, Taco del Sol, and Wok-ee Mountain Asian Cuisine.

Whether you're a local or just visiting, solo or with family, the 30th Annual Bitterroot Brewfest is a wonderful way to spend a sweet summer day in one of Montana's friendliest communities.

For more information on the Bitterroot Brewfest, or to purchase advance admission, please visit [bitterrootchamber.com/bitterroot-brewfest-2025](http://bitterrootchamber.com/bitterroot-brewfest-2025) or call 406-363-2400.

Please note that dogs are not allowed on the grounds of the Daly Mansion. 🚫



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# SEE YOU AT The Daly Mansion



**RAVALLI REPUBLIC**

# RAVALLI COUNTY MUSEUM CELEBRATES LOCAL HISTORY



Nicole Perry performs a traditional Salish Round Dance on the lawn of the Ravalli County Museum during the Bitter Root Day celebration in Hamilton on Saturday, June 14.

JESSICA ABELL,  
RAVALLI REPUBLIC

## RED LIGHT DISTRICT TOURS OFFERED DURING DALY DAYS

BY RACHEL CRISP PHILIPS  
for the Ravalli Republic

Residing in the historic Ravalli County Courthouse building in downtown Hamilton, the Ravalli County Museum houses historical collections in a curated repository of the Bitterroot Valley's artifacts and archives. The building itself holds its own provenance, having been designed by one of Montana's most prominent architects, A.J. Gibson, and built in 1900.

During this year's Daly Days celebration on June 26 the museum will offer a special themed walking tour of historic Hamilton's

Red-Light/Restricted District. Tour creator Sophia Etier leads the way to uncover the most colorful parts of the town's past and learn about the characters who shaped the scene. Available by reservation and starting at 10 a.m., tickets are \$12 for museum members, \$15 for nonmembers, and all participants must be age 16+ for this tour.

Preservation, interpretation and exhibition of the historical and cultural heritage of the Bitterroot Valley and its people are the primary missions of the Ravalli County Museum. The museum's collection focuses on local history, natural history, and the art and culture of the Bitterroot Valley, including elements of indigenous heritage in conjunction with the establishment of Montana's first white settlement.

The Ravalli County Museum is heavily involved with the local community, hosting a diverse offering of cultural →



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Music by Shane Clouse • 7p to 10p

Lewis & Clark Park

Music by River City Rhythm • 7p to 10p

Saturday, Aug. 2nd  
9 am - 10 pm  
Main Street

Grand Parade • 11a  
(lineup starts at 9am at SteviHigh)

Lewis & Clark Park

Music By 406 • 7p to 10p

Local Brewery: Blacksmith Brewing Company

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### Beer Garden

Friday 4pm-10pm  
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heritage events throughout the year. Some of the museum's most popular celebrations include the annual McIntosh Apple Day and Liquid Cider Night festival on Oct. 4, as well as June's Bitter Root Day, which celebrates the residents of Ravalli County and the living culture of the Salish people.

Later this year, the museum will welcome the talents of musicians and poets from across all of Western Montana at the Cowboy Music and Poetry Museum Fundraiser, Sept. 6. Enjoy the artful Western tradition of using storytelling, humor and nostalgia to depict the life and culture of cowboys on the American frontier while helping to support museum operations.

Inside the museum itself, the Ravalli County Museum features rotating exhibitions year round in addition to its permanent displays. Some of the current exhibits include "Bertie Lord, Photographer," "The Bitterroot at War: Vietnam Era," "Fishing in the Bitterroot," "Homesteading the Bitter Root," "The Montana Cafe: A Hamilton Downtown Icon," and "Tools of the Trade: The Cron Collection."

For those unable to visit the Ravalli County Museum in person, there are several virtual exhibits that can be explored from the museum's website. Virtual →



**ABOVE:** Preservation, interpretation, and exhibition of the historical and cultural heritage of the Bitterroot Valley and its people are the primary missions of the Ravalli County Museum.

**MICHELLE MCCONNAHA, RAVALLI REPUBLIC**

**LEFT:** A young drummer from the Flathead Reservation performs during the Bitter Root Day celebration at the Ravalli County Museum in Hamilton on Saturday, June 14 as Salish dancers perform behind him.

**JESSICA ABELL, RAVALLI REPUBLIC**

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exhibits of “Welcome to the Ravalli County Museum,” “Ice Age Floods: Discovering Glacial Lake Missoula and Geology in Montana,” “The Montana Cafe: A Hamilton Downtown Icon,” “Life in the West,” and “Miner/Trapper Cabin” are among some of the topics available online.

With over 60 years of collected donations, many from original pioneer families, the Ravalli County Museum houses a variety of archival material from the turn of the century and earlier. A searchable database and staff archivists help to provide researchers with a trove of historical artifacts. Highlights of the museum’s Artifact Collection include a vast newspaper collection, genealogical sources, the work of regional photographer Ernst Peterson, Victorian era household fixtures, and vintage clothing.

Along with these connections to the scholastic community, the museum offers lifelong learning programs and family activities to connect with the public. The Children’s Discovery Room boasts a new makerspace, with a magnet wall, puzzles, and games for visitors of all ages to learn, create and enjoy time together. Every Saturday morning from 10 am – 12 pm, families gather for free Saturday Learning Adventure activities that engage creativity



MICHELLE MCCONNAHA, RAVALLI REPUBLIC

**LEFT:** Inside the museum itself, the Ravalli County Museum features rotating exhibitions year round in addition to its permanent displays. **RIGHT:** Ravalli County Museum volunteer Theresa Nowling of Smithfield, Utah stirs the giant pot of apple butter as it simmers at the 45th annual McIntosh Apple Day celebration in Hamilton on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024.

**With over 60 years of collected donations, many from original pioneer families, the Ravalli County Museum houses a variety of archival material from the turn of the century and earlier.**

while teaching skills, and offering a space to discover joy.

The Ravalli County Museum is open from

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays from May thru September, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on

Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. The museum is closed on Sundays and Mondays. Regular admission is \$10 for individuals 6 and up, \$30 for a family, and \$8 for seniors, veterans, and students. Free entry is available every Thursday, and half-price admission on Saturdays. The museum is located at 205 Bedford St. in Hamilton, and can be contacted at 406-363-333, or [ravallimuseum.org](http://ravallimuseum.org).

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Bailey Jessop, a Montana native from the Bitterroot Valley, enjoys everything about Montana and is passionate about helping clients navigate the buying and selling process with confidence and ease.



# BITTERRODDERS CLUB HOSTS DALY DAYS CAR SHOW

**SATURDAY, JULY 26 AT  
THE RAVALLI COUNTY  
FAIRGROUNDS**

**RACHEL CRISP PHILIPS**  
for the Ravalli Republic

Few things pair so well as cool classic cars and leisurely summer days, as the Bitterrodders' Car Club would certainly attest. With seasonal spirit, these local auto enthusiasts are revved up to present the Daly Days Car Show again this year on Saturday, July 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Located on the carnival lawn at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds in Hamilton, the Bitterrodders' Daly Days Car Show is an annual favorite that complements other Daly Days events for a full day of family fun around town. →



**With seasonal spirit, these local auto enthusiasts are revved up to present the Daly Days Car Show again this year on Saturday, July 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

The Bitterrodders Car Club will host their annual car show as part of the Daly Days celebration at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds in Hamilton on Saturday, July 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**JESSICA ABELL, RAVALLI REPUBLIC**

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PROVIDED PHOTO

Ron Curtis was awarded the Police Chief's award for the 11 Model T at the 2023 Daly Days Car Show. Curtis is standing with the Patriot Girls as he receives his award from Hamilton Police Chief Steve Snavelly.

With free admission to the public, there's little reason not to meander through the massive meetup of custom builds, muscle cars and vintage rides. Or perhaps park your own four-wheeled beauty among the competition for a \$20 entry fee. An automotive swap meet is also an option for \$20 per spot.

Of course, a day at the fairgrounds wouldn't be complete without food trucks and entertainment. While a variety of vendors serve up sustenance throughout the day, a visit from the ladies of Patriot Pin Up would provide a feast for the eyes. The members

of Patriot Pin Up Inc., Montana, volunteer at many events to honor veterans and servicemembers of the United States, as well as prepare and pack care packages for active-duty military members.

Whether a gritty gearhead or simply a fan for nostalgic beauty, the Bitterrodders' Daly Days Car Show is a crowd-pleaser across all ages and interests.

The Daly Days Car Show is sponsored by Car Quest Auto Parts, Jerry Wessels Tire Center, Napa Auto Parts, and O'Reilly Auto Parts.

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 30 YEARS JULY 26TH 3-8PM HAMILTON, MT

# HARDTIMES BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 16TH YEAR



Local favorites Lochwood perform at the 2023 Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival.  
**JESSICA ABELL,**  
RAVALLI REPUBLIC

**JESSICA ABELL**  
jessica.abell@ravallirepublic.com

The 16th annual Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival is set for July 25-27 just south of Hamilton with 14 bands, including four new ones: Blue Point, Release the Squirrels, Mark and Ron, and A Well-Beaten Path.

The festival features traditional bluegrass, a gospel show, and a band contest. "The thing about our festival that makes us unique is we are about traditional bluegrass, nothing else — that's really hard to find anymore," said festival organizer Mike Conroy. "This is just straight hardcore bluegrass. That's what we like."

This year's artists include the Johnny Campbell Band, 93 North, Ladd Canyon Ramblers, Song Dog Serenade, Kentucky Sky, Montana Standard and Pinegrass to name a few. Musicians hail from Montana, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Tennessee.

"Blue point is a brand-new young band

out of Missoula," Conroy said. "They're probably in their 20s, I would guess, and we saw them this spring, and they just blew us away because they're playing the old traditional bluegrass and really doing a great job of doing it. That's pretty exciting, having young people playing."

The festival emphasizes family-friendliness, with ample shade. Lawn chairs are recommended. Camping opens Thursday morning, July 24, at 8 a.m. with first-come, first-served shade spots.

"We've got plenty of vendors this year, so we'll have lots of food there," Conroy said. "Bring your lawn chairs. That's the biggest thing you could tell people, bring your lawn chairs."

Conroy and his wife Terry host a two-hour gospel show Sunday morning.

"We just have a sign-up sheet there. There are bands that sign up, and people just come up out of the crowd, and —>

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we back them up if they want, and they can sing songs," he said. "It's kind of one of my favorite parts of the festival actually because it's so casual and it involves everybody?"

This event is hosted on private land at the end of Forest Hill Road (424 Forest Hill Rd, Hamilton, MT 59840) about 15 minutes south of Hamilton. Camping opens on Thursday morning, July 24, at 8 a.m.

Attendees are advised to bring cash as credit cards are not accepted due to the lack of reliable internet. Dogs on leashes are welcome.

For more information call 406-821-3777 or visit [hardtimesbluegrass.com](http://hardtimesbluegrass.com).



**LEFT:** A young girl dips her toes in the creek running through the Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival grounds in this 2023 photo.

**FAR LEFT:** A musician at the 2023 Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival south of Hamilton.  
**JESSICA ABELL PHOTOS, RAVALLI REPUBLIC**



**JESSICA ABELL, RAVALLI REPUBLIC**

A wall behind the homemade stage at the Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival pays homage to musicians who have played in years past.



**PROVIDED PHOTO**

The 16th annual Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival is set for July 25-27 just south of Hamilton.

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# SIXTH ANNUAL BITTER ROOT LAND TRUST BARN DANCE

BY RACHEL CRISP PHILIPS  
for the Ravalli Republic

In tandem with other Daly Days activities, the Bitter Root Land Trust's annual Barn Dance is back for its sixth year of celebrating conservation, this year at the iconic Lazy KD Ranch in Darby. With live music, buffet dinner, drinks, silent auction, and of course dancing, the funds raised at this event help the Bitter Root Land Trust to protect local wildlife habitat, agricultural land, water, and open lands in perpetuity.

The sixth annual Barn Dance takes place Saturday, July 26, from 5:30 p.m. 'til sundown at Durland's Lazy KD Ranch at 2519 Old Darby Road in Darby. Tickets are \$25, free for kids 6 and under, and available at [bitterrootlandtrust.org/events](http://bitterrootlandtrust.org/events).

**With live music, buffet dinner, drinks, silent auction, and of course dancing, the funds raised at this event help the Bitter Root Land Trust to protect local wildlife habitat, agricultural land, water, and open lands in perpetuity.**

Admission to the fete includes almost everything for an entertaining evening out, while also helping to preserve Montana's unique lands and habitats. →



JESSICA ABELL, RAVALLI REPUBLIC

The sixth annual Bitter Root Land Trust Barn Dance takes place Saturday, July 26, from 5:30 p.m. until sundown at Durland's Lazy KD Ranch at 2519 Old Darby Road in Darby.



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As soon as the doors open, live music and dancing begin, along with the opportunity to survey what the silent auction has to offer. The available auction items this year include an assortment of valuable lots; from locally curated jewelry, to a deep sea fishing trip.

Although the event's popularity has outgrown the limited space of a real barn, the Stock Farm Club provides a large event tent to shade and shelter partygoers. Throughout the night, the Rainbow Bar hosts a full cash bar with beer, wine, spirits, and nonalcoholic beverages. There will also be complimentary water courtesy of Culligan, as well as a Kiddie Corral and lawn games.

At 6 p.m., dinnertime arrives, featuring barbecued tri-tip from Hamilton Packing Co., locally sourced fresh green salad, macaroni and cheese, and home cooked beans. A short program follows, highlighting the Bitter Root Land Trust's conservation work to protect farms and ranches, wildlife habi-

tat, and Bitterroot River and stream frontage, as well as the public's role in making it all possible.

The night continues with more dancing, set to the sounds of Texas country artist Zach Aaron. As the night wanes, the silent auction concludes at 8:30 pm before the event's end at 10 pm.

Parking for the Bitter Root Land Trust Barn Dance is free, and located in a field on the ranch with parking attendants available to assist. Please note that no physical tickets are required for event entry, as names and ticket quantities will automatically be added to an electronic guest list upon purchase.

For questions, please contact Bitter Root Land Trust Communications Director, Stephanie Sipe at 406-375-0956 or visit [bitterrootlandtrust.org](http://bitterrootlandtrust.org).

Please note there may be road construction on U.S. Highway 93, so plan for an additional 20-30 minutes of travel time. 🚧

The sixth annual Bitter Root Land Trust Barn Dance takes place Saturday, July 26, from 5:30 p.m. until sundown at Durland's Lazy KD Ranch at 2519 Old Darby Road in Darby.

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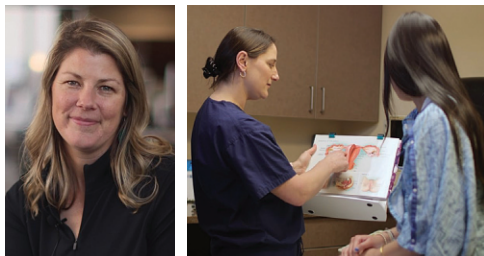
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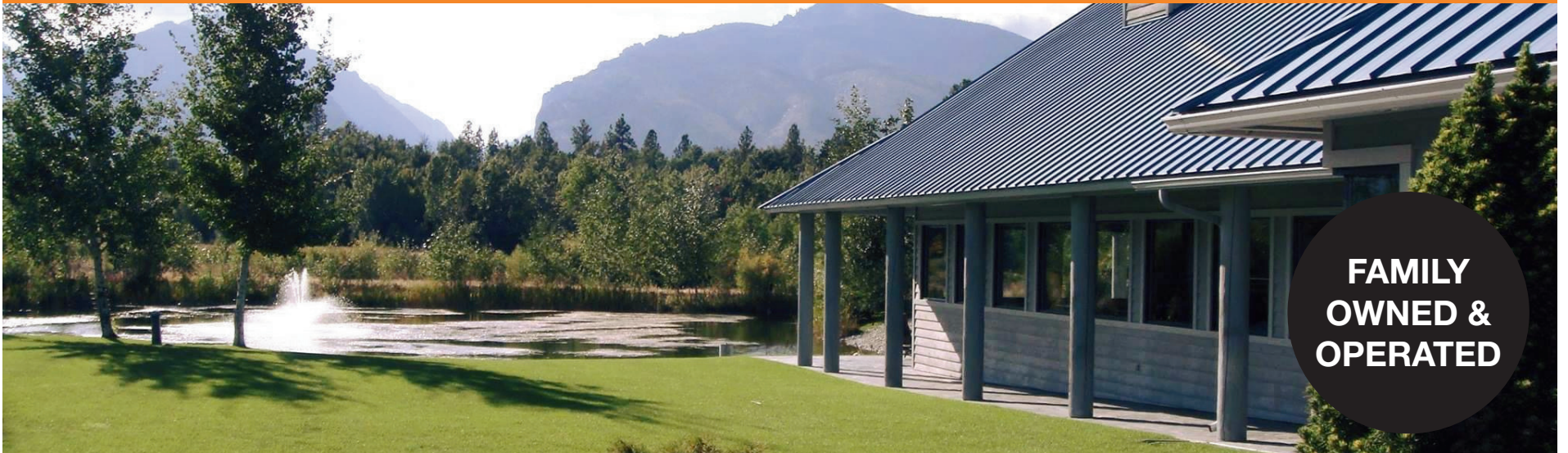
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