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DALY DAYS RETURNS TO DOWNTOWN HAMILTON

STREET DANCE, WIENER DOG RACES, CHALK ART CONTEST, CAR SHOW, BIG-WHEELS RACE AND MORE

JESSICA ABELL | jessica.abell@ravallirepublic.com

Daly Days will return to downtown Hamilton on Friday and Saturday, July 26 and 27 with wiener dog races, chalk art contest, a street dance, the Bitterrodder's car show and a Big-Wheels trike race.

Festivities will kick off Friday morning when local artists line the streets of downtown in a contest that turns the sidewalks of Hamilton into something akin to a scene from Mary Poppins with artistic creations springing to life on every corner.

Passersby can watch as local kids, creatives and artists take part in the fun. Sidewalk chalk art contest participants will check in between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., judging takes place at 6:30 p.m. Categories include teams and families, teens, adult, non-competitive and under 12. Teen registration costs \$5, adult and team registration is \$10.

"This year, we're adding a kid's Big Wheel race, just something fun for the family," Hamilton Downtown Association Executive Director Robin Pruitt said. "We're trying to spread all the activities from one end of Main to the other... So we don't have any spots on Main Street that aren't lively with activity."

Main Street will be closed off to normal traffic on Friday evening in exchange for food trucks, bouncy houses and a mechanical bull. Activities will start at 5 p.m. with the Big-Wheels race for kids age 3-7. Kids will be divided into three age groups: age 3-4, age



Left: Anita Wotkyns and her four daughters Lacy, Ruby, Nora and Isabelle worked together on an entry into the 2023 Daly Days Sidewalk Art Competition. **Right:** Clyde takes the lead at the 2023 Daly Days Wiener dog races in downtown Hamilton.



JESSICA ABELL PHOTOS, RAVALLI REPUBLIC

5-6, age 7. Racers must wear a helmet and have a parent present to participate. Parent waivers must be signed prior to racing.

The outdoor bar on Main Street will open at 5 p.m. on Friday, and the Bear Creek Boys will start off the night's music at 6 p.m. Street dance headliners, the 406 Band, will take the stage from 7-11 p.m.

Described as "small-town, string-ripping dads from Victor," the Bear Creek Boys are known for their eclectic assortment of foot-stomping original and genre-jumping acoustic music spanning the

late 1800s to the present.

Following the Bear Creek Boys, headliners the 406 Band will return to the Daly Days stage with their brand of "Montana-grown, hot-rockin' Country, whiskey-soaked Southern Rock, and slow dance tunes."

Downtown Hamilton businesses will be holding a sidewalk sale Friday and Saturday, with special deals for Daly Days shoppers.

On Saturday, the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast will take place at 7 a.m. under Bell McCall's Main Street storefront, followed by the Bitterrodder's Car Show and a craft market.

The Wiener Dog Races are always a fan-favorite at Daly Days. Races start at 11 a.m. on Main Street and spectator space goes fast as people line up to watch these precious pooches hightail it to the finish line. Dog owners can register their pets in the mini-dachshund, chihuahua or mixed small breed categories.

Those wishing to register for the Wiener Dog Races, Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest, or Big-Wheel kids' race can register online at <https://visithamiltonmt.org/daly-days-registration>

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PROVIDED PHOTO

The Daly Mansion will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with reenactors dressed in period costumes for Hamilton's Daly Days celebration on Saturday, July 27.

DALY MANSION CELEBRATES THE 'COPPER KING'

MICHELLE MCCONNAHA | michelle.mcconnaha@ravallirepublic.com

The Daly Mansion will be celebrate its namesake for Daly Days on Saturday, July 27.

The mansion will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with reenactors dressed in period costumes from the 1910s in the house and out on horseback.

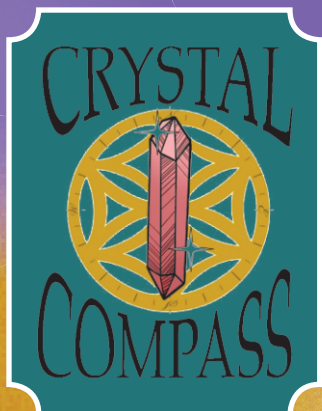
Executive Director Darlene Gould said

she gives basic information to the reenactors about the character they are portraying and they are free to respond to patron questions.

"There will also be a list of questions, like a scavenger hunt, where patrons have to interact with the reenactors to get the answers," Gould said. "Then there will be a prize."

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MICHELLE MCCONAHA, RAVALLI REPUBLIC

Daly Mansion Executive Director Darlene Gould stands in front of a portrait of Marcus Daly in the main entry of the Daly Mansion in Hamilton.

Daly Days is a celebration of Marcus Daly who was an Irish immigrant and one of the Butte “Copper Kings.” He founded the town of Hamilton and helped to create agriculture and commerce in the Bitterroot Valley.

In 1886, the mining magnate purchased the Anthony Chaffin homestead and had it remodeled by the time Montana became a state in 1889. In 1897, the mansion was remodeled to a Queen Anne-style Victorian home. Daly’s wife Margaret had the building remodeled in 1910 by Missoula architect A. J. Gibson into the Georgian-Revival-style home it is now.

The home has three stories — 24,000 square feet — with over 50 rooms, 25 bedrooms, 15 bathrooms and seven fireplaces. The main rooms include a large living room, music room, formal dining room, sunroom, a trophy room, an upstairs sitting room and a third-floor billiard hall.

The mansion was Daly’s summer home. He started the Stock Farm in 1889, bred racehorses and raised cattle. Daly developed much of the irrigation system still in use today, and helped ensure railroad access through the valley. The lumber mills in the valley provided timber for the mines in Butte.

Daly died in 1900. His wife, Margaret

died in 1941 and the mansion sat abandoned for 45 years. The historic Hamilton home reopened for tours in 1987 and has been painstakingly restored over the years.

Gould said that plans for the Daly Days celebration include handmade ice cream and bread samples in the kitchen of the historic home.

“Ruby always dresses as the cook,” Gould said. “She loves to cook. Ruby and Russ Koppes are long-time volunteers at the mansion. Russ will be outside on a horse, he is a real active cowboy.”

On July 27, tours are regular prices, but the mansion grounds are open to the public. The Daly Mansion volunteers will be selling pretzels and lemonade on the north porch from 1 to 7 p.m.

The sale is a tie into the Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce’s Brewfest, which happens on the north mansion grounds from 3 to 8 p.m.

“I know they will have food vendors and lots of beer,” Gould said. “The Brewfest is a good community gathering that moved here for the shade and space.”

Enjoy the cool shade of the mansion grounds, take a tour and learn the history of Marcus Daly the man we celebrate with Daly Days. ☀️

“There will also be a list of questions, like a scavenger hunt, where patrons have to interact with the reenactors to get the answers.”

Darlene Gould

SEE YOU AT DALY DAYS!



RAVALLI REPUBLIC

THE 29TH BITTERROOT BREWFEST

CRAFT BREWS, LIVE MUSIC AND FOOD VENDORS

JESSICA ABELL | jessica.abell@ravallirepublic.com



FILE PHOTO

The 29th annual Bitterroot Brewfest will take place from 3 to 8 p.m., Saturday, July 27 on the grounds of the historic Daly Mansion in Hamilton.

The 29th annual Bitterroot Brewfest will take place from 3 to 8 p.m., Saturday, July 27 on the grounds of the historic Daly Mansion in Hamilton.

For \$35 participants can pick up a glass that comes with unlimited tastings of a variety of craft beers from regional breweries. This year's participants include Bitter Root Brewing and Higherground of Hamilton, Blacksmith Brewing Company in Stevensville, Gild Brewing, Cranky Sam's, Conflux and OddPitch Brewing from Missoula, Butte Brewing Company and Lolo Peak Brewery & Grill, just to name a few. There will also be local hard cider available from Backroad Cider of Hamilton.

Local food trucks and vendors will be on hand to serve attendees a variety of culinary options to pair with a favorite beverage including options from The Pattie Wagon, Portable Pizza Palace, Horns Fins & Feathers, The Gut Bomb, Freestone Ice

Cream and Juniper Juicing, among others.

"Even if people don't drink beer, but they want to come and enjoy the food trucks, or will come and listen to the music, the Brewfest is family friendly," said Courtney Hartelius, Bitterroot Chamber of Commerce executive assistant. "If they don't want to taste the beer, they can still come and listen to the music for free. There's no entry fee other than if people want to do the beer tasting."

Brewfest attendees can dance to the tunes of local favorites, The Big Sky Mudflaps followed by headliners Dammit Lauren!

Formed in 1975, the Big Sky Mudflaps are celebrating 45 years of bringing their unique blend of jazz, swing and rhythm and blues with a healthy dose of Latin percussion to audiences across western Montana and the U.S. They have shared concert billing with artists such as Ray

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Charles, Muddy Waters, Dizzy Gillespie, Dave Brubeck and Riders in the Sky. They have also made featured appearances on the NBC Today Show, as well as on National Public Radio's "Prairie Home Companion."

Headliners, Dammit Lauren!, have performed at many prominent Montana festivals including Billings' Magic City Blues Festival, Under The Big Sky Festival in Whitefish and headlined Big Sky's Music In The Mountains series. The group has opened for several nationally touring acts including Jamestown Revival, Kitchen Dwellers, and local favorites, the Lil' Smokies.

According to the band's website, "Dammit Lauren! is a rock and roll trio formed in the middle of nowhere, Montana." Led by Lauren's distinctive vocals, their music combines melody with unconventional chords and driving rhythm. The band focuses on original music, blending their assorted backgrounds for a soulful alternative rock sound with pop hooks.

Free shuttle buses will be available for transportation to and from the event, picking up at the downtown Hamilton public parking lot and Hamilton High School. Attendees are encouraged to use the shuttle service as parking is limited on



PROVIDED PHOTO

The Big Sky Mudflaps will be playing at the 29th annual Bitterroot Brewfest Saturday, July 27 on the grounds of the historic Daly Mansion in Hamilton.

the Daly Mansion grounds.

The Bitterroot Brewfest is sponsored by the Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce, who started the event in 1995.

"The chamber is really grateful for our sponsors," Hartelius said. "A lot of the things at Brewfest are able to happen because of their support." ☺



PROVIDED PHOTO

Brewfest headliners, Dammit Lauren!, have performed at many prominent Montana festivals including Billings' Magic City Blues Festival, Under The Big Sky Festival in Whitefish and headlined Big Sky's Music In The Mountains series.

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LAKE COMO TRIATHLON

A RACE THROUGH THE HEART OF THE BITTERROOT

MICHELLE MCCONNAHA | michelle.mcconnaaha@ravallirepublic.com

Joy Adams, 39, of Missoula, took first place in the 2023 women's solo triathlon with a time of 2:57:09.

JESSICA ABELL,
RAVALLI REPUBLIC



The Lake Como Triathlon is scheduled to start at 8 a.m. on Saturday, July 27.

Organizer Mark Butler of Ravalli County Search & Rescue said the event is special.

"It's one of the few open-water mountain bike triathlons still around in our region," he said. "Triathlons have lost a lot of their enthusiasm from their heyday when everyone wanted to do it. So, this is one of the few with an open water swim and mountain bike course. It is kind of an Xterra-type course but is not part of the official Xterra system."

The challenging race has three parts: a .9-mile open water swim, with wetsuits optional, a 12.6-mile Mountain Bike ride and a 7.7-mile trail run.

There will also be a two part bike-run duathlon/biathlon with a 12.6 mile bike ride and 7.7-mile trail run.

"We're not really sure what to call it as a true duathlon is actually cross-coun-

try skiing and shooting," Butler said. "I couldn't really find a good term for an event that just has two legs with two different sports, so we're using that."

The triathlon and duathlon will start at the public beach. The bikers for the duathlon will run up from the beach to the transition area to grab their bikes and head out.

Butler said one of the reasons the Lake Como Triathlon is special is its location. The race is held on National Forest land at Lake Como in the heart of the Bitterroot Valley just south of Hamilton. The race starts at the lake formed by a dam and named after Lake Como in Italy. The bike route goes through the scenic mountains and deep in the forest. The runners go around the lake and complete the course by running across the dam to the finish line.

The cost to participate is \$70 for solo athletes and \$150 for teams. Parking

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passes are required for all vehicles parking in the Lake Como Recreational Area. All participants and guests are encouraged to bring their own food and water for the day. There is no post-race award party.

The Lake Como race is timed and there are prizes for the winners in each category. Butler said all athletes are well supported. Butler encourages participants, volunteers and spectators.

"It's a great environment and a nice family-friendly event," he said. "It doesn't cater to the triathlete professionals but kind of an in between one that is appropriate for just about everybody. We have a lot of people who show up who have never done a triathlon before."

The first Lake Como Triathlon was held in 2009. Butler said the event has been able to continue thanks to sponsors and contributing supporters. This year sponsors are Bitterroot Health, Mountain Peak Dental, Skycog Inc./Kopavi Systems Inc., KJ Kahnle Fine Art, River Rising Bakery, Higher Ground Brewing Co., Red Barn Bicycles, Safeway, Hammer Nutrition and XTERRA Wetsuits.

"We'd also like to thank our excellent volunteers and the Darby USDA Forest Service and Bitterroot Irrigation District for their enrichment and support of the



The Lake Como Triathlon consists of a .9-mile open water swim, 12.6-mile bike and a 7.7-mile trail run. There is also a two-leg bike-run duathlon/biathlon race, with a 12.6-mile bike and 7.7-mile trail run.

course," Butler said. "We're always looking for volunteers that are interested in helping us, especially helping with putting stuff away or with timing"

For more detailed rules, maps and race information visit <http://www.lakecomo-tri.com/>.



JESSICA ABELL PHOTOS, RAVALLI REPUBLIC

Rachel Huang, 24, of Monrovia, California competes in the 2023 Lake Como Triathlon. The 2024 Lake Como Triathlon is scheduled to start at 8 a.m. on Saturday, July 27. The race is held on National Forest land in the heart of the Bitterroot Valley.

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HARDTIMES BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL OFFERS TOE-TAPPING FUN

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JESSICA ABELL, RAVALLI REPUBLIC

Local favorites Lochwood perform at the 2023 Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival.

MICHELLE MCCONNAHA
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The 15th annual Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival, July 26, 27, 28, features toe-tapping entertainment in a family friendly venue with music groups from Tennessee, Idaho, Oregon and Montana.

Organizer Mike Conroy said the event will have 13 bands, five food vendors, shade, camping and a great experience.

"It is a great little festival," Conroy said. "We are an unusual festival because we get lots of families and kids. You don't see kids at festivals anymore. Part of it is because our speakers are not blaring loud — that's an issue if you have kids."

The bands are all returning groups, except for a new band: the Jolley Family of Corvallis, Conroy said.

"There are five kids ranging from age 7 to 16, and the mom and dad, Amanda and

Ryan" he said of the outfit. "They are impressive and do the old-time bluegrass. They sing and do harmonies. The mom plays bass and the 7-year-old plays the mandolin."

Ryan Jolley painted the picture that is being raffled off at the festival.

"It is a picture he painted of his daughter, Emma," Conroy said. "She is leaning against the old Hardtimes Model T that we have next to the stage. We are also raffling off a brand-new Martin guitar and a brand-new Eastman mandolin."

The 15th Annual Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival band schedule is full of fun.

"Landowners musicians Ted Heiland and Sister Ramona Potter with her daughter Rachel Potter kick off the festival Friday night at 5:45 p.m. Then at 6 p.m., 93 North from Salmon hits the stage with their special style of bluegrass pickin' and singin'," Conroy said. "We don't have headliners. We treat



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JESSICA ABELL, RAVALLI REPUBLIC

Musicians from across the region will take the stage at the Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival on July, 26, 27 and 28, south of Hamilton.

all bands the same. We think they are all headliners if they show up and play.”

Food vendors include coffee and breakfast items from Paradise Perk Express in Livingston, Blazing Guns Pizza from Salmon, Idaho, gourmet hot dogs from Sweet Links in the Bitterroot Valley, ice products by Bitterroot Snowballs from Hamilton, and Country Kitchen.

“They have been with us for years and they make an awesome hamburger,” Conroy said



Family fun is not to be missed at the 15th Annual Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival, July 26, 27, 28. PROVIDED PHOTO

of Country Kitchen. “They have been making those for a couple of years. They caramelize the onions and, oh my, it’s just fabulous. I’ve had several people, including me, say it’s the best hamburger they have ever had.”

The Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival has an average audience of 1,400 each year, and 150

campers based on the temperature.

Camping is dry camping only and costs \$15 per night. Campers can choose their location on the festival grounds starting 8 a.m. on Thursday, July 25. Shade is first come, first served. Conroy boasts of a little wading ditch 50 yards from the stage that is

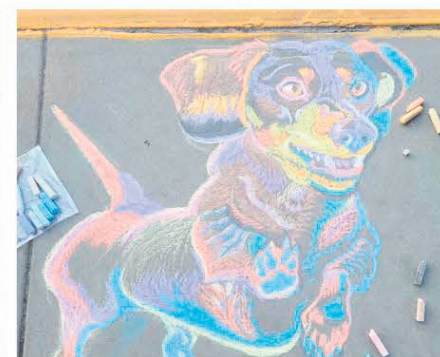
enjoyed by children and dogs.

“Its only 8 inches deep,” Conroy said. “Just enough to wade in.”

Conroy reminds attendees to bring your own chair, and said dogs are allowed, but only on a leash, as there are food vendors on site.



STREET DANCE • CHALK ART CONTEST
WIENER DOG RACE • FOOD VENDORS
AND *Bitterrodders* CAR SHOW





PROVIDED PHOTO

Song Dog Serenade takes a break at the 2023 Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival. This year, the band will play on Friday at 6:50 p.m. and Saturday at 2:30 p.m..

“It is kind of like a co-op through the years,” Conroy said. “It is our musical friends and bluegrass lovers that have come together to help us put this thing on.”

The Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival is located at 424 Forest Hill Road on the Heiland family ranch 10 miles south of Hamilton at the 37-mile marker. Conroy said there will be lots of signs.

Admission is paid at the gate; adult weekend is \$40, children weekend is \$20, Friday and Saturday costs \$25 for adults and \$12 for children, and Sunday costs \$15 for adults and \$7 for children. The Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival does not take credit cards. For more information, call 406-821-3777 or visit the new website at hardtimesbluegrass.com.

IF YOU GO Hardtimes Bluegrass Festival 2024 schedule

FRIDAY, JULY 26

5:45 p.m.: Ted Heiland and Sister Ramona Potter with daughter Rachel Potter	7:40 p.m.: Dry Buck
6 p.m.: 93 North	8:30 p.m.: Lochwood
6:50 p.m.: Song Dog Serenade	9:20 p.m.: Montana Standard

SATURDAY, JULY 27

12 p.m.: The Jolley Family	5:05 p.m.: Ladd Canyon Ramblers followed by a “throw together band” contest
12:50 p.m.: Matt and Mark	6:45 p.m.: Mike and Tari Conroy
1:40 p.m.: Pinegrass	7:35 p.m.: Johnny Campbell Band
2:30 p.m.: Song Dog Serenade	8:25 p.m.: Kentucky Sky
3:20 p.m.: Darby Sireens	9:15 p.m.: Montana Standard
4:10 p.m.: Dry Buck	10:05 p.m.: Lochwood

SUNDAY, JULY 28

10 a.m.: Open Bluegrass Gospel Stage	1:40 p.m.: Raffle drawing
12 p.m.: Ladd Canyon Ramblers	2 p.m.: The Johnny Campbell Band
12:50 p.m.: Kentucky Sky	

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Sunday
August 25th 5-7pm

As for *The Winter's Tale*, this play spans sixteen years during which a jealous king accuses his wife of infidelity and exiles his newborn daughter to Bohemia where she is raised by shepherds and, ultimately, falls in love with the Bohemian king's son. Audiences are sure to relish this story of love, loss, and forgiveness.

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JEWELRY SALE BENEFITS HOMELESS PETS

MICHELLE MCCONNAHA | michelle.mcconnaaha@ravallirepublic.com

The Bitter Root Humane Association is hosting a 2nd Time Around jewelry sale, by request, on Saturday, July 27, at Hamilton City Hall.

The sale will have new jewelry in addition to vintage, handmade, costume and previously loved jewelry with affordable prices.

Board Member Michele Craig said the sale is "back by popular demand."

"We thought last year was the end of our very popular jewelry sale, but the people have spoken," Craig said. "Generous donations, positive word of mouth and a great cool, calm and central location during Daly Days are all the reasons we are doing this sale one more time."

Craig said perusing the beautiful jewelry is half the fun.

"Get out of the sun and go shopping," she said. "Come say hello and browse a huge selection of gently used jewelry including vintage, precious, costume, and of course our famous grab bags. We welcome you to get out of the crowds, into an air-conditioned building, and relax and browse."

She said the BRHA 2nd Time Around sale includes all forms of jewelry including "vintage delights, precious gems, beautiful costume bling along with other jewelry related items, jewelry boxes, clocks and accessories."

"If you're looking for wearable baubles, beautiful gifts or items to repurpose, this event is for you with treasures for everyone," Craig said. "Everyone is welcome including crafters looking for just the right items."



About 1,000 animals a year come through the doors of the Bitter Root Humane Association shelter in Hamilton. The 2nd Time Around jewelry sale benefits the Bitter Root Humane Association, the only animal shelter serving the Bitterroot Valley since 1972. The sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bedford Building, 223 S. 2nd Street, Hamilton.

JESSICA ABELL,
RAVALLI REPUBLIC

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The Bitter Root Humane Association animal shelter in Hamilton is open seven days a week and is offering free microchips and identifications tags in July, with no appointment necessary.

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BRHA Board President Lisa Allison said on-going fundraising is essential.

"We serve the animals our community loves as well as assist the people who love them," she said. "BRHA is a lifeline."

All proceeds from the sale will go towards helping BRHA continue to care for

all the homeless pets that come through the BRHA doors.

The 2nd Time Around jewelry sale benefits the Bitter Root Humane Association, the only animal shelter serving the Bitterroot Valley since 1972. The sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bedford Building, 223 S. 2nd Street, Hamilton.

For more information call 406-363-5311 or visit <https://bitterroothumane.org/>.



MICHELLE MCCONNAHA PHOTOS, RAVALLI REPUBLIC

The Bitter Root Humane Association's returning 2nd Time Around jewelry sale will have all forms of jewelry including vintage delights, precious gems, beautiful costume bling along with other jewelry related items, jewelry boxes, clocks and accessories.

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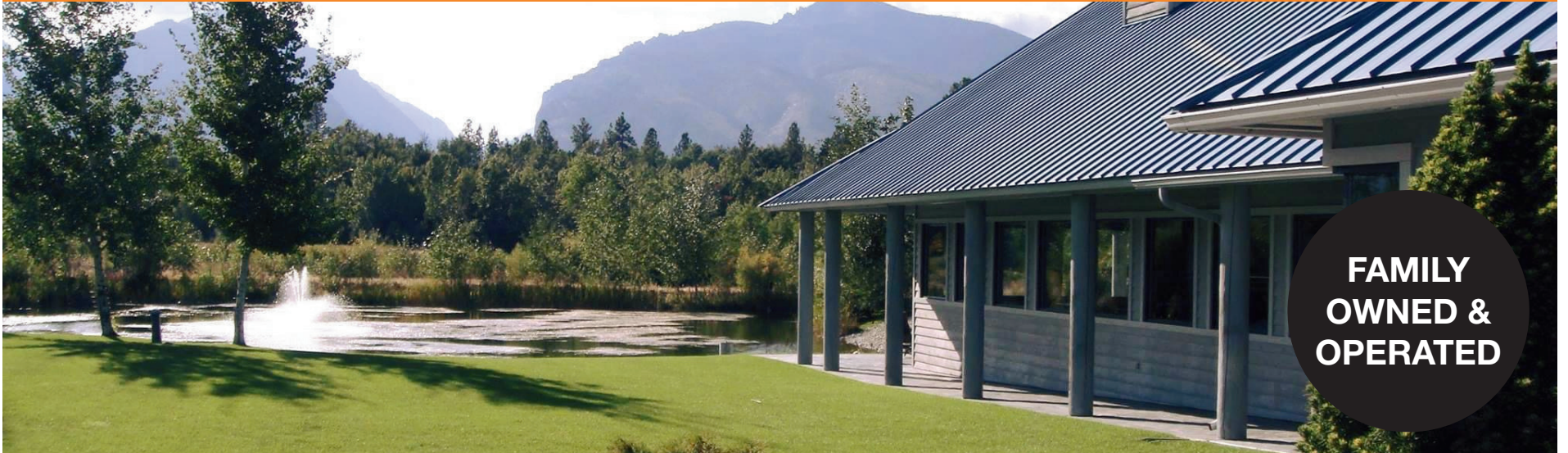
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