

Marking the Corps of Discovery

Local lawmaker proposes commemorative Lewis and Clark bicentennial license plate

BEDDY SMITH
Saver Republic
Lewis and Clark buffs could both a piece of history on the backs of their Buicks or Broncos, if a bill sponsored by Sen. Fred Thomas, R-Stevensville, is approved. Senate Bill 993 would authorize the design and creation of a commemorative Lewis and Clark license plate to celebrate the upcoming 200-year anniversary of the Corps of Discovery. Proceeds from the sale of the

plates would fund bicentennial activities approved by the state Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission. And some of that money could reach local Lewis and Clark chapters preparing for the bicentennial. "I think it will be an extremely popular plate," said Thomas, Stevensville, who introduced the bill. "It's a big deal to have a license plate that's certainly going to attract our current license plate, which wouldn't be hard to do."

The optional plates would cost \$20 more than that current "Big Sky" license plate, he said. What the plate might ultimately look like is too early to know, Thomas said. But under the bill, the Bicentennial Commission would be consulted about the color and design of the plate. Like the current, powder blue plates, bicentennial Lewis and Clark plates could also be personalized. Thomas said he got the idea

for the legislation from Wendy Chandler, who lives in the Bitterroot Valley — one of seven Lewis and Clark corridors in Montana and home to a growing interest in the Corps of Discovery. Metwether Lewis and William Clark passed through here in 1805, before crossing the Bitterroot Mountains at today's Lolo Pass. Clark traveled up the valley a year later on the return

Pharaohplex premieres its four-theaters this weekend

KATJA STROMNES-ELIAS
REPUBLIC EDITOR
It's a place where movie-going is all about the experience, and each theater is cleaned between shows. According to Dave Sylvester, co-owner of a new four-screen Pharaohplex in Hamilton, folks who attend the late show deserve a clean theater, too. "The nine-o'clock people are paying as much as the

seven-o'clock people — why shouldn't they have as nice an experience?" Sylvester said Thursday evening while putting the finishing touches on the Pharaohplex. It's a locally owned Egyptian-themed movie theater located near to Corita Corp. on Old Corvallis Road. For the first time Friday night, the Pharaohplex will open to movie-goers with its

Attorney wants to bring suspect, witness together

LISA BAUMANN
Saver Republic
Although alleged murderer Ronald James Ward Jr. and his companion, Hattie Ann Baker, have not been allowed to communicate since their arrests in early January, their attorney has requested a meeting so he can better prepare for trial. In District Court Wednesday, their attorney, Eary Mansch sought permission to meet with Ward and Baker together concerning the case. Mansch said Baker, who had been reluctant to agree to such a meeting, was now will-

ing to do so. Ward, 34, is suspected of killing Craig Sheldon Petrich between Oct. 5 and Oct. 16 with a stolen .22 Magnum rifle. Hikers found Petrich's body Oct. 16 in the Soft Rock area northeast of Corvallis. Baker, 34, is charged with offenses related to that case. Chief Deputy Attorney Geoff Mahar said he felt uncomfortable with the request without knowing more about the proposed meeting. He asked that the matter be

Griz head coach maps out future

CARL READER
SPORTS EDITOR
University of Montana head football coach Joe Glenn had to draw a map for running backs coach Harvey Paton when he was recruiting his former player to coach for the Griz. "I think he thought Montana was in Siberia,"

Glenn joked, at a lunch Thursday sponsored by the Bitter Root Chapter of the Grizzly Athletic Association. Glenn has to be familiar with the art of map-making, since he has helped put the Griz football program on the map with an impressive coaching performance last season, his first. Montana finished second in Division IAA football, losing out only in the national championship game in Tennessee 27-25 to Georgia Southern. "We have some unfinished



A resident of Stevensville's Genesis House gets a puppy kiss from Yoda, one of the employee's dogs, Wednesday afternoon. The Genesis House provides care and support to women living with mental illness, but is currently experiencing a financial crisis.

Filling in the gaps

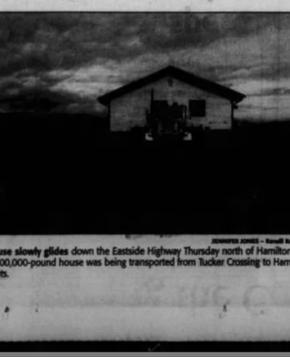
Transitional house for mentally ill relies on local donations to make ends meet

TAMMIE SMITH
For the Bitterroot
STEVENSVILLE — Genesis House is a home of love and care for six women, but the needs are simply greater than funding allows, say managers and directors at this community-run, nonprofit transitional group home. Genesis House harbors six women living with any number of chronic mental illnesses, including bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and chronic depression. Opened in August of 1976, it's the only such home still open in Montana and one of the first homes after federal and state laws opened doors to transitional housing. But a budget crisis affecting social and mental health programs

in Montana has hit home in Stevensville. There's not enough money and there won't be until the state or federal government better funds mental health care, according to Kay Sylvester, member of the Genesis House board of directors. Genesis House has had lean years in the past, but for a few months last year, occupancy dropped to three or four women with no waiting list to get in. And how much money Genesis House gets to operate is based on how many people stay there. Genesis is paid \$55 a day per client or \$500 a month. That limited money covers all costs of maintaining the home, paying staff, and buying utilities, supplies and groceries.

It compares with Montana State Hospital care or Interim Crisis care which runs \$300 and \$200 a day per client, according to Sylvester. Genesis House saves taxpayers more than \$200,000 a year for the six clients, directors said. There are six women in the house now, but if occupancy falls below an average 5.5 persons, Genesis House loses money. "It is all done by bodies, it is all done by the numbers, which is hateful to me," said program director Marilyn Kales, who has managed the home or served on the board of directors since 1976. Not long ago, several such homes were operated under five mental health districts, but other

Good morning to...
Jeffrey Langton of Victor, Jeffrey loves history and fly-fishing.
Index
Records Page 2
Community Page 12
Weather
Yesterday High 47 Low 28
Forecast Partly cloudy with patchy morning fog. High 42 Low 29



A house slowly glides down the Eastside Highway Thursday north of Hamilton. The 100,000-pound house was being transported from Tucker Crossing to Hamilton Heights.

Helping a house to its new home

LISA BAUMANN
Saver Republic
The house that a Corvallis resident built cased on down the road Thursday, with a lot of help from professional movers and workers from several private companies. The house fully-blocked Eastside Highway around noon Thursday as it moved south from Tucker Crossing to a new site off Hamilton Heights Road. The land where the house was originally built was sold, and the original builder wanted it relocated, according to Troy Dorrell of Pro Hand Services, a structural moving company from Belgrade. At 48-feet-wide, 36-feet-long and about 100,000 pounds, the home is not the biggest or heaviest structure they've transported.

They've moved homes as long as 100 feet and can work with structures up to 50-feet-wide, which equals a distance of six semi-trucks lined up side-by-side. Their next job involves moving a 175-foot-long bridge. "The logistics are phenomenal," Dorrell said. The moving crew must coordinate with phone companies, power companies, cable companies and private contractors to lift street lights and power lines. A representative from the Montana Department of Transportation paid a visit during the move, to check permits and paperwork, before telling Dorrell to be careful. "We have to deal with everybody," Dorrell said. Once the home neared Hamilton

Heights Road, members of Dorrell's crew removed the street sign so the house could clear the turn. Dorrell kept in contact with his crew at all times, as they walked and sometimes jogged ahead of the slow-moving giant to direct his steering. "If you look back, you can't see anything but house," he said. "I have no idea what's going on back there so you have to trust your crew to tell you." Dorrell said moving homes and other structures are a good form of recycling. "It saves on trees, paper, dump space," he said. "And economically it makes sense." This home cost in the neighborhood of \$25,000 to move, he said. "This way the man who built the home gets to have it," Dorrell said. "It's beautiful."