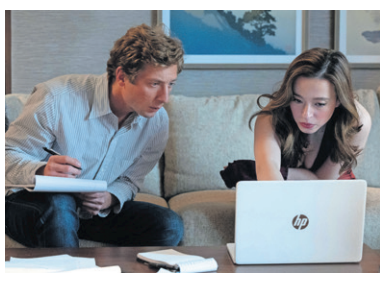
THIS WEEK

BobFest celebrates wilderness stewardship **C1**



MOVIE REVIEW

'Social Reckoning' is classic Aaron Sorkin **C2**



2024-2026 Sam Gilluly and General Excellence winner

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026

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WEST VALLEY

Permit for gravel pit headed back to advisory committee

By HANNAH SHIELDS
Daily Inter Lake
Report for America

An application to open a gravel pit on Farm to Market Road was sent back to the West Valley Land Use Advisory Committee on Tuesday night.

Dozens of attendees packed the Oct. 6 Flathead County Board of Adjustment meeting with members of the audience spilling over into an adjoining hallway. Many came to comment on a conditional-use permit application submitted by Bruce Tutvedt, a former state senator, to extract gravel on his 160-acre property at 3740 Farm to Market Road.

But the Board of Adjustment tabled the application barely 10 minutes in and sent it back to the West Valley Land Use Advisory Committee for a public hearing. Board members said they needed more time to review the 256-plus pages of comments they received from the public.

"Not one of us board members has had the opportunity to review this," said board member Roger Noble.

He said that one major complaint from the public was the lost opportunity to comment on the project before the West Valley Land Use Advisory Committee. Its Sept. 22 public hearing was canceled due to a lack of quorum.

See GRAVEL, A6

24/7 RESPONSE



A VEHICLE for the Flathead County Crisis Assistance Team outside the Flathead City-County Health Department. (Casey Kreider/Daily Inter Lake FILE)

Four-year grant aims to expand county's Crisis Assistance Team

By TAYLOR INMAN
Daily Inter Lake

Efforts to expand Flathead County's Crisis Assistance Team just got a roughly $2.5 million boost from the federal government.

The county received the grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in September, said James Pyke, Behavioral Health Supervisor with the Flathead City-County Health Department. The four-year Mobile Crisis Team Partnerships grant provides $452,866 in the first year, increasing to $746,266 in the fourth year.

The influx of federal dollars will allow the team to close the gap during off-hours, eventually expanding their ability to respond to calls on a 24/7 basis. The existing Crisis Assistance Team — staffed with five people, two clinicians and three care coordinators — responds to calls daily between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Health Department officials expect to use the funding to expand staffing to five full-time therapists, five full-time care coordinators and one full-time nurse. The new staffing structure will be implemented strategically over the four-year cycle of the grant, officials said.

Funds will also go toward establishing a Community Outreach Team, a dedicated daytime unit that will provide proactive mobile care coordination, integrate physical health services and offer immediate access to telepsychiatry for high-utilizer populations and incarcerated individuals.

Both teams employ established clinical approaches, including trauma-informed care, Stanley-Brown Safety Planning, and the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale.

The grant will aid in making the program sustainable, officials said. The Health Department will use electronic health records and dispatch data to showcase diversion metrics — which demonstrates how the team stopped a mental health crisis from escalating into an arrest or an emergency room trip.

The expansion of the Crisis Assistance Team was planned in response to increased call volume and use in Flathead County. In 2025, the team served 450 unique individuals and handled more than 1,400 calls, officials said.

These responses resulted in about 300 diversions from hospital emergency rooms and 50 diversions from the county jail. In 2026, the team is on pace to exceed those figures by a wide margin, officials said.

Pyke said he is incredibly proud of the team and

See CRISIS, A6

Evergreen crash probe shifts to county attorney

By ELSA ERICKSEN
Daily Inter Lake

The Flathead County Attorney's Office has taken over the investigation into a September car crash in Evergreen that left four teenage girls hospitalized.

Montana Highway Patrol handed its report of the late-night Sept. 19 wreck off to the office, which will continue to gather information from law enforcement personnel, medical responders and witnesses as prosecutors decide whether to file criminal charges.

The wreck occurred after a man driving a Dodge pickup truck on U.S. 2 swerved into oncoming traffic near the

See CRASH, A6

Truckers say order on dyed diesel offers little relief

By SARAH RAZA and MAE ANDERSON
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Farmers, truckers and economists say a move to cut taxes on diesel will provide little relief from record-high fuel prices that have soared since the U.S. attacked Iran months ago.

Industry groups said they appreciate President Donald Trump's executive order expanding the use of a diesel now reserved for off-road work, but farmers already have access to the fuel and many have already wrapped up harvest. Truckers will struggle to navigate differing state rules.

"In the context of diesel prices that are over two dollars more than they were last year, it just

See DIESEL, A6



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TODAY'S PODCASTS & VIDEOS



Big Sky Now host Luke Schmit and the panel break down a Week 5 slate that saw two unbeaten Big Sky teams fall. **Scan the QR code.**

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