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 senior fights  
 through  
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Tuesday, May 26, 2026

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SEELEY SWAN MEDICAL CENTER

# FUTURE OF CLINIC UNCERTAIN



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Seeley Swan Medical Center in Seeley Lake on Thursday. Officials managing the Seeley Swan Hospital District are searching for answers to keep the local clinic running after its medical provider shared that it can no longer financially cover the clinic's operational shortfalls.

## Hospital district searching for solutions to solve ongoing deficit

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SEELEY LAKE — Officials managing the Seeley Swan Hospital District are searching for answers to keep the local clinic running after its medical provider shared that it can no longer financially cover the clinic's operational shortfalls.

Partnership Health Center (PHC) has operated the clinic since 2014, but the non-profit said this week it can no longer cover a

\$400,000 annual deficit to keep the federally qualified health center operating.

The district provides medical and dental services to residents of Seeley Lake and Condon through the Seeley Swan Medical Center.

Its board is weighing several options to keep the center open, like a possible local levy, but concerns continue over whether the money could sustain the health clinic long term.

"We are hoping and praying that our services now can be maintained, but if they cannot, and they do have to be reduced, any services can be better than no services," Board chair Terryl Bartlett told the Missoulian in an interview Thursday. "I do not want that clinic to close, and we are going to try to do anything we can in our power as a board to assist."

Please see **CLINIC**, Page A3

## GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM

# Bear managers work to keep grizzlies, humans safe

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BILLINGS — As millions of people pour into Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks this summer, roaming the region at the same time will be an estimated 1,055 grizzlies, the largest land predators in the Lower 48 states.

*Ursus arctos horribilis*, the bears' scientific name, can weigh 400 to 600 pounds. Over short distances they can sprint 35 mph. Their claws are as long as an adult's fingers.

This spring, a grizzly mauling of two Yellowstone hikers and the killing of a Glacier National Park visitor by a bear have raised

concerns about human-bear conflicts.

Yet at a May 8 gathering in Bozeman of the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, the bruins sounded more predictable than some human visitors. That's why state and federal officials use education, intervention and removal of attractants

like carcasses and apples to keep bears and humans safe.

Please see **GRIZZLIES**, Page A2

■ **MORE INSIDE:** Grizzly deaths hit record in greater Yellowstone area, **PAGE A3**

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