

FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS

RESORT UPGRADE ‘IS LONG OVERDUE’



FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS IMAGES

A rendering shows what Fairmont Hot Springs will look like after upgrades are completed.

Phase 1 changes include adult-only pool, lap swimming and cold plunge

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A significant development will soon be underway at Fairmont Hot Springs. Construction of the multi-phased project, which includes six new pools, is set to begin next month.

Phase 1 will include a tiered adult-only soaking pool, a main soaking pool with center water feature for all ages, cold plunge, and a three-lane exercise lap pool that will be built on the existing outdoor pool deck. A second phase is set for the fall of 2026.

General Manager Steve Luebeck said he expects these new pools to open late spring or early summer of 2026.

“It’s a modernization that is long overdue,” said Luebeck.

Changes in pool regulations also helped to facilitate the improvements.

While the resort operates legally and safely, Luebeck said a major malfunction could be disastrous for the resort. Since the

State of Montana’s most recent regulations now require all new pools be automated, it was time to make some changes.

Luebeck said the renovations are being made so the popular facility can get up to code while improving the resort at the same time.

For several decades the resort was called Gregson Hot Springs, named after its founders, brothers Eli and George Gregson. Following the demolition of Gregson in 1972, construction began on Fairmont, which opened in March 1974 at a cost of \$5.4 million.

Luebeck said because of its age, the resort requires a lot of maintenance and upkeep.

“Its footprint has been the same for more than 50 years,” he said.

The current outdoor pools and water slide will remain open and operational during construction in the coming winter and

Please see **FAIRMONT**, Page A3



Side-by-side renderings show Fairmont Hot Springs’ current outdoor pools, left, and what the pools will look like after renovation.

CRAZY MOUNTAIN RANCH

Boulder criticized for water bulk sale

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The Crazy Mountain Ranch, an exclusive members-only golf resort in Park County, has found water in the town of Boulder to keep its 18-hole golf course green.

Some Boulder residents have criticized the city council for forging a deal selling bulk water for \$10 per 1,000 gallons while their city water use is still restricted through Sep. 30.

In a letter addressing these concerns published Sept. 3 in The Boulder Monitor, Bullock explained that the profits made from the deal with Crazy Mountain Ranch will go toward the town’s Water Enterprise Fund, which will help improve Boulder’s own water system.

Brian Bullock became city administrator of Boulder weeks after the mandate was placed. He is the second cousin of Buster Bullock, the owner of Bullock Contracting, the company hired by Crazy Mountain Ranch to deliver the water.

Since Aug. 12, nearly 480,000 gallons of water have been sent to the 18,000-acre resort outside Big Timber.

“The water restrictions are not because of a lack of city water,” Bullock wrote. “We currently only have two active pumps in our water supply system. The restrictions are to protect these two remaining pumps from overuse.”

He explained that the well holding the bulk water being sold is not pumping into the town’s distribution system, which “thus has no impact on the water

Please see **WATER**, Page A2

PSC RIFT

Panel will not rescind letter following vote

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The Montana Public Service Commission voted Wednesday not to rescind a letter sent to Gov. Greg Gianforte by the commission vice president last month asking him to suspend commission President Brad Molnar while an investigation into Molnar’s professional conduct is ongoing.

The 3-2 vote not to rescind Commissioner Jennifer Fielder’s letter to Gianforte happened after about three hours of a contentious meeting that showed firsthand the widening divides between some members of the five-person elected body — currently composed of only Republicans — that regulates Montana utilities.

In the end, the vote means that the governor can continue to consider a suspension for Molnar, though the PSC’s own attorney even acknowledged that the law Fielder is attempting to utilize to suspend Molnar has never been tested in court before. The hearing was rife with questions about whether the letter was sent legally without a vote from commissioners.

Commissioner Jeff Welborn, presiding as chairman of the hearing for the day, ended up casting the deciding vote, joining Fielder and Commissioner Annie Bukacek in opposing rescinding the letter. Molnar and Commissioner Randy Pinocci unsuccessfully voted to take the matter out of the governor’s



Please see **LETTER**, Page A2