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"GOV" E.M. POLLINGER

Elijah Miller Pollinger was born near Mechanicburg, Pa., in 1836. He was the third of nine children born to George and Matilda Pollinger, both natives of Pennsylvania. His father was one of the staunch pioneers of that period and served with honors in the war of 1812.

At 18 years old Mr. Pollinger helped build the Columbia turnpike, one of the first in Pennsylvania. Most importantly he was employed in the staging business, which was the means of transportation across the vast stretches of our country west of the Mississippi before the railroads and highways were known in that territory. In 1857 he moved to Lawrence Kansas, where he was identified with various staging outfits. He was a witness to many stirring events which gained the state the title of "Bleeding Kansas". In 1860 Elijah was employed by a firm of Russell, Majors and Wattles which operated the Central Overland Express. This was exciting times for Mr. Pollinger who was then in charge of stages traveling through Pikes Peak.

He arrived in Virginia City Montana in 1863 with a stock of merchandise which he had brought across the plains in four wagons hauled by ox teams. Not an easy trip for anyone involved. He unloaded some of the merchandise to various shop owners in Virginia City and then went on to open his own store in Bannack. Not long after he sold everything and it was said he made a large profit. In 1865 he cultivated and cut 250 tons of hay where the city of Dillon now stands and then hauled it to Virginia City where he made a very nice profit at \$100 a ton. In 1865 he discovered the quartz mines at Argenta and then sold those claims shortly thereafter for a very nice price. He then started the first real Stage Line trade war in Montana with the exception of the early day fur companies, this took place in 1866. Ben Holladay, whose mighty Overland line spanned the western half of the continent from St. Louis to California, was given the first mail contract into Montana from Salt Lake to Virginia City in 1865, and

as soon as that line was working in good shape, he put on a daily stage service between the then capital of Montana, Virginia City, and Helena. At about the same time two other stage companies were organized for carrying passengers and express between Virginia City and Helena. At that time Virginia and Helena were booming mining camps. Gold excitement was at fever heat, and as new camps were being established frequently with succeeding fresh strikes of placer gold, there appeared to be an opportunity for building up a stage system of considerable proportions in the territory between the various camps. Competition between the three stage lines immediately became extremely high, and the Overland company had no sooner put its stages in operation between Helena and Virginia at a rate of \$25 in gold dust than one of the other lines cut the rate to \$20 and the other at once would follow suit. The superintendent of the Overland of course was "Gov" E. M. Pollinger. He had been successively messenger, stage driver and agent for Holladay at various times on the transcontinental line, and by this time knew every angle of staging. Seeing that he was in for a rate war, he cut the rate at once to \$10. His competitors countered by making the rate \$5, Pollinger went them one better and cut their rate \$3. Then for months the three lines were carrying passengers 125 miles between the two camps at the ridiculous price of \$2.50, and freight rates proportionately. Every morning three fully equipped six-horse stages would pull out from Helena for Virginia City, and three from Virginia City for Helena. The stages were crowded and the road from Helena to Virginia City was a new one and a rough one for most of its 125 miles. Normally It took 16 hours to make the distance, allowing for stops and meals and changes of stock every 18 or 20 miles. Pollinger saw that he would have to make the competition still stiffer if he wished to get rid of his competition, so he cut the time from 16 to 14 hours, then to 12 and finally to 10 hours, including stops. This made an average of 12 1/2 miles per hour the entire distance of 125 miles. The competing companies followed his pace. It resulted in a three-cornered race for all seven days between the three stages from Helena to Virginia City, and another from Virginia to Helena. More frequent changes of horses were arranged for and the stages were driven at a fast gallop the entire distance. Some days one line would win the race and then another line. As a rule the Overland, having the best stock, made the best time. It made lots of excitement for the passengers and there was much betting on the results. It was not an uncommon thing for as much as \$500 to be bet between passengers on the different stages, the winner invariably giving the drivers a generous cut of the stakes to encourage them to the greatest efforts. The struggle was long and bitter, but finally the Overland won out and the two competing lines went out of business. It Is said that more than 100 horses were killed in keeping up the terrific pace. As soon as competition ceased Pollinger restored the old rate of \$25 gold or \$37.60 in greenbacks, or, as they were often contemptuously called, "Lincoln Skins."

"Gov" Pollinger, as he was known to most of the Montana pioneers of the '60s, and to many thousands of later comers afterward, was very popular among all classes, and he was one of the characters of the staging days in Montana who stood out. Pollinger was always in those days said to be immaculately dressed — in fact the Beau Brummel of Montana in the '60s and '70s. He was a very fine horseman and always drove a fast, wellmatched and spirited team and a fancy buckboard, with which he made much better time on the road than the fastest of all the stages as it was told.

Many pioneers relate that it was well worth while to see "Gov" Pollinger pull his pair of trotters up with a flourish at a hotel or stage station, toss the reins to a waiting hostler and methodically remove his driving gloves before he alighted from his buggy. He possessed a keen sense of humor and had a reputation as well as wit. In later years he had charge of a stage lines in the Jefferson Valley with headquarters at Twin Bridges, near his ranch.

Elijah purchased some ranch land seven miles east of Twin Bridges and called it the "Alaska Ranch". He hauled the lumber to build his house from Helena, sadly this house had burned down some years ago, but the Alaska Ranch is still around to this day. . His ranch holdings totaled two thousand acres in the two ranches which were five miles apart. He married Helen Cook who was born in Michigan, on May 29, 1870. They had the following children: George H. who was a miner in Bear Gulch, Maggie Lee, Lillian, Arthur M., Warren E., Ruth, Alice, Clyde, Lowell & Roland. He sold the ranch in 1900 and lived in Twin Bridges staying active with community events, keeping history alive by re-telling stories from his past and entertaining his neighbors with a vibrant green, porch sitting, talking parrot.

Elijah moved to Pasadena, California in 1911 with his son Lowell due to health issues and passed away April 19, 1913. He was never the Governor, but he gained the name for running down "lawbreakers" in the early days of Montana territory. He was a beloved pioneer that saw the west when the west was wild, moved fast when needed and slowed down when it was time.

RUBY VALLEY HAPPENINGS

CALCUTTA: March 14 at the Blue Anchor Bar - Doors Open at 5:30 pm - See Ad

LEPRECHAUN DASH: Saturday March 19 - Start time at 1 pm - See Ad

CASINO NIGHT: March 26th - Start time at 6 pm at the Blue Anchor Bar- See Ad

JORDAN ALLHANDS BENEFIT : April 9th at 2pm at the Ruby Valley Brew/Jensen Building 111 S. Main Street in Sheridan, MT Live Auction at 4pm - Silent Auction from 2-5pm- Free BBQ Meal starting at 2pm (Donations Appreciated)

Crafters: Are you having Cabin Fever? Would you like a chance to show your work? We wold like to invite yo to the Sheridan Senior Centers' "Craft & Odd and Ends Sale!" It will be held at the Sheridan Senior Center on Saturday, April 2nd from 9 am to 3 pm. Set up time will be Friday afternoon, April 1st from 1:30 to 5 or Saturday morning from 7-9. It is \$5 for a card table, \$10 for a long table or \$2 for a quilt display or chair. Tables will be provided, but space is limited so sign up will be on first come, first serve basis. If you have any questions call 406-207-0334 and ask for Mary Baughn.

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CAKEWALK: April 9th at 6pm at the Virginia City Elks Lodge- See Ad

25TH ANNUAL VIGILANTE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION BIG GAME BANQUET: April 30th at the historic round barn in Twin Bridges. Doors open at 4 PM. Fun evening of friends and family, with a chance to win premium firearms, top notch outdoor gear and art. A good time for a great cause! For tickets, contact Leesa at (310) 780-0319 or leesabingham@gmail.com

GARAGE-A-RAMA: Saturday April 30th from 9 am to 2 pm - See Ad

FIREMANS BALL : May 7th at 3 pm - Derby starts at 4:50pm - BBQ Dinner at ;30 pm Dancing to Follow - Event to be held at the Round Barn on Bayers Lane -- Twin Bridges, MT - Tickets Sold at Opportunity Bank in Sheridan ant Twin Bridges.

E COTTONTAIL OBSERVATORY'S PUBLIC NIGHT SCHEDULE FOR 2022: : March 25th -7:30pm -8:30 pm - Where are the planets? 8:30pm - tour of the night sky & telescope viewing --**April 2nd** - 7:30pm -8:30pm - The Moon -;30pm tour of the night sky & Telescope viewing. May 28 - 9:30pm - 10:30pm - Comets - 10:30pm tour of the night sky & telescope viewing - For directions to the Cottontail Observatory go to the web site www. cottontailobservayory.com of contact - Joe at (406) 842-7722 Star Gazing is a weather depended event if you can't see the stars a telescope can't see them either. Be sure to dress warm.

ZUMBA: Every Monday & Wednesday Nights from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at the Twin Bridges Town Hall/Fire Hall. \$20 a month.

LOST CABIN BAR: Monday: Open Pool Table 5-7 - Tuesday: Music Trivia 6:30 - 8 - Wednesday: Whiskey Wednesday (discount flights and tasters) - Thursday: First Thursday of Month Ladies Night - Friday: 'Red (Remember Everyone Deployed) Friday. Come in or Call for details' - Every Monday thru Friday Happy Hour 5-6 - Check our FB page for weekend specials @lostcabinbar

PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS: SHERIDAN - Newspaper History Group - Tuesday mornings at 9 AM. Knitting Group - Thursdays at 2 PM. For more information call 406-842-7981. | TWIN BRIDGES -. Story Time Every Weds at 10 am - Music - Singing - Crafts | VIRGINIA CITY - Thompson Hickman - 10:30 a.m. Library Story and craft time. Held at the meeting hall on Idaho Street.

TWIN BRIDGES HELPING HANDS : Twin Bridges-MT Helping Hand Food Pantry, we aim to End Hunger in Montana. We are located above the town's Library. Pantry is open every Wednesday 11-2 or call for an appointment. Have on Hand canned fruits, vegetables, soups, sauces, jams, jellies, more. Boxed or bags of rice, beans, dinner helpers, pasta, dry milk, some meat. Toiletries. Adult pads/pull ups. Laundry items. Cleaning supplies. Dog, Cat food and Litter. If you don't see what you would like us to carry, please let us know. 596-1978 & 233-9616

MOUNTAINVIEW CHAPEL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: Every Wednesday at 7 PM. 515 N. Main St., Twin Bridges. 406-684-5217

RUBY VALLEY FOOD PANTRY: Food is distributed on Saturday mornings from 10-12 at Valley Assembly Church - 114 N. Main - Sheridan

3 RIVERS WORSHIP CENTER: Worship is what we are all about and we would love to have you join us. Come as you are and be blessed. Every Sunday at 10:30 am at 3648 MT-287. Family friendly.

GAME NIGHT AT VIRGINIA CITY ELKS LODGE #390: Friday Nights - Starts January 14th - Happy Hour Every Friday and Monday from 5-10 p.m. Every Sunday at 10 AM Brunch and Bingo. \$9 Brunch. \$5 Bingo for 3 cards. Public is welcome! Observing Social Distancing, 406-660-1559

3 RIVERS REVELATION YOUTH : Saturdays - 6-9 pm - for youth of all ages - Fun -Food - Fellowship - Meets at 3 Rivers Worship Center - 3648 MT Hwy 287 - Sheridan, MT 59749

> If you have a event you would like us to help you promote, please let us know. www.rubyvalleynugget@gmail.com



CLASSIFIEDS

GMA



Main Street Market in Twin Bridges is accepting applications for a Barista positions. Position may include weekends. Employees receive in store discount & other benefits. Please apply in person or call Therese at 406-596-5933



Home Park Assisted Living 504 Ray lane PO Box 899 Sheridan, MT 59749 Phone (406) 842-5133 Fax (406) 842-5651



Contact Jason, our administrator, for more details! 406.980.1117 homeparkassistedliving@gmail.com

WE HAVE ROOMS AVAILABLE

Great views of the surrounding mountains, walking paths, pond with sitting area, covered outside porches

SILVER SPRINGS SERVICES:

- 24 Hour staffing with emergency call system
- Medication Management
- Weekly/Daily housekeeping and laundry service
- 3 home cooked meals with snacks/ special diet plans
- Scheduled transportation to local appointments or events
 Scheduled daily activities/games/outings
- Scheduled daily activities/games/outings
 Home Park Assisted Living is a category A facility providing expert, compassionate care for our residents. We will allow our residents to be as independent as possible with guaranteeing a safe, enjoyable living environment.

The owners, Tony and Emily Simonsen, feel it is their mission to help care for the aging members of our communities by having a place where they are treated like family and can call home.

NOW HIRING - Full-Time Process Operators

GMA Mining USA in Alder

Starting wage at \$20.14 per hour. Benefits include Medical, Paid time off, 401 K matching, General Incentive Scheme, and uniforms. Pre-employment Drug screen and Physical Required.

Join an energetic motivated team in garnet production.

Email linda.dixon@gmagarnet.com a resume or call

Healing Waters Lodge is hiring evening servers for the 2022 season (fly fishing lodge is open from April 1 through October.)

Servers work as part of a team, typically 3-4 hours an evening serving appetizers, beverages including beer and wine, and provide dinner service to lodge guests; assists kitchen staff in evening service preparation and execution, clean-up, and closing.

Wage based on experience, server training is provided; including Montana alcohol server training. Must be able to work during some regular work week shifts and some weekend shifts throughout the monthly schedule. Ideally, would like to find someone who would like to work 20+ hours per week on somewhat of a regular schedule.

Please contact Laura Geary at 406-459-5582.



HOME PARK ASSISTED LIVING 504 Ray lane • Sheridan, MT 59749 Phone (406) 842-5133 • Fax (406) 842-5651

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANTS WANTED (SIGN ON BONUS)

We are currently seeking compassionate, dedicated and fun-loving individuals to join our team as a fulltime and part-time Personal Care Assistant (PCA). We have multiple shifts available for full or parttime work, including daytime, evening, weekday and weekend shifts, with overnight opportunities available. Apply today and pick the schedule that works best for you!

"We offer a sign-on bonus, competitive wages along with benefits packages for qualifying employees.

**Home Park ALF maintains a drug-free work environment and offers of employment are contingent upon successfully completing and passing a background check.

Please apply at Home Park Assisted Living Call Jason @ 406-980-1117

CLASSIFIED AD FORMS LOCATED AT BEACON BUSINESS CENTER

To place an ad or to promote your event , please email us at rubyvalleynugget@gmail.com or call us at 406-842-7488

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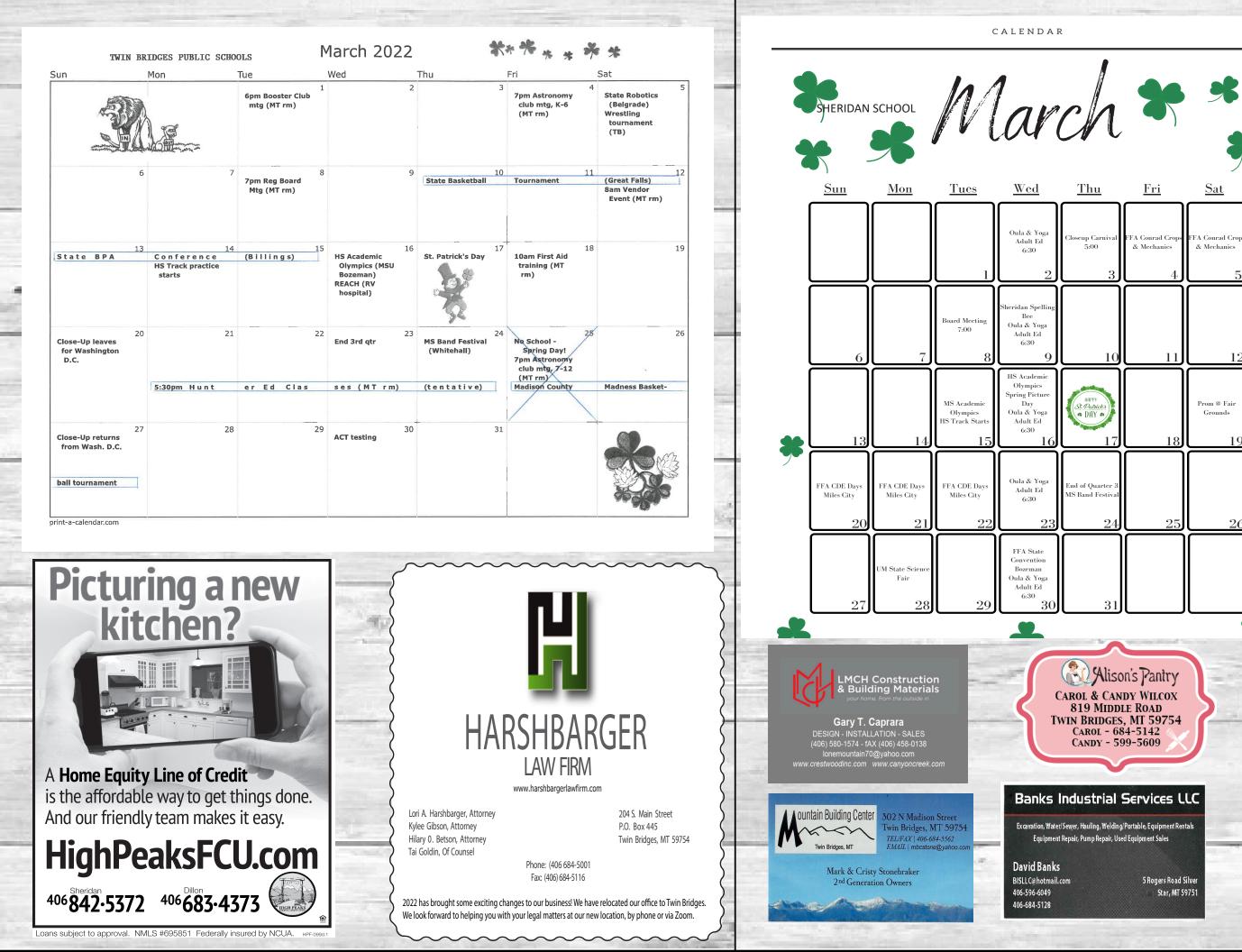
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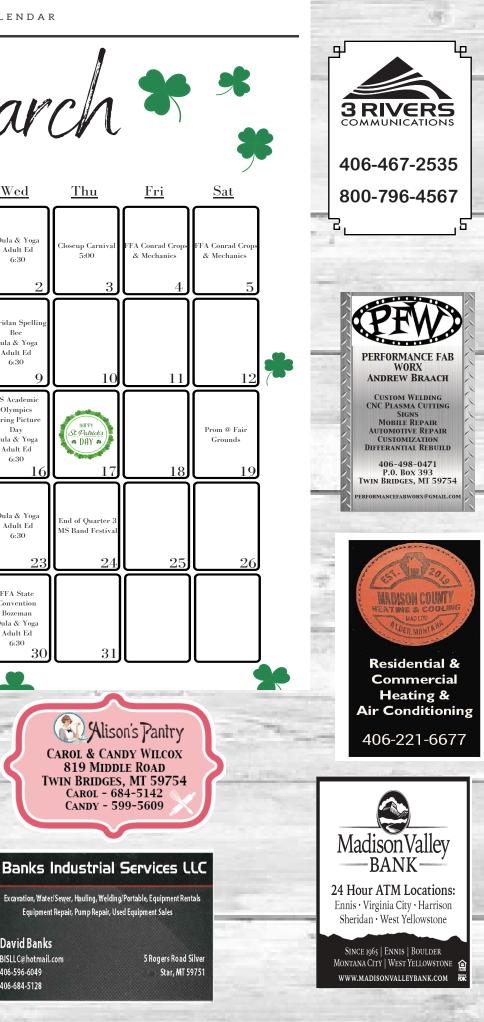
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ZUMBRAT

Monday & Wednesday Nights 6:30PM-7:30PM

Twin Bridges Above Town Hall/Fire Hall

\$20/Month

Message **Heather's Fitness Fun** on Facebook for more info



Tobacco Root Mountains Care Center

Phone: (406) 842-5600 Fax: (406) 842-5419

326 Madison P.O. Box 308 Sheridan, MT 59749





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