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Summer Driving Guide, Friday June 4, 2005

What can local residents do with their used motor oil?

By Enterprise Staff

Can local residents do anything with their used motor oil besides stowing it away in oil milk jugs? Fortunately, yes.

“We’re going to put up a recycling spot for it,” said Ed Flatt, Park County Solid Waste Manager.

The location will be at the waste transfer station that is planned to replace the incinerator. The Park County Commission has decided to close the county’s incinerator—probably in late summer—and ship garbage by rail to an out-of-county landfill.

The transfer station will be built at the incinerator’s location on 328 North M. Street.

Flatt said the recycling station will take used oil in 5-gallon or smaller lots.

He said he doubts residents will have to pay to drop off their oil, because officials don’t want the material to end up in the city sewer system, but that hasn’t been decided yet.

The recycling station won’t take antifreeze, a hazardous waste, he said, but added there are locations in town that reclaim the liquid.

Wednesday March 31, 2004

Montana's Economy **Mining, construction lead job growth**

HELENA (AP) - Spurred by strong increases in the mining and construction industries, job growth in Montana showed continued improvement during February, the state Department of Labor and Industry reported Wednesday.

The state saw a 1.2 percent overall increase in jobs from the same month last year, the best such showing since December 2002 and slightly better than the 1.1 percent rate in January.

The addition of 4,700 jobs over the previous 12 months occurred despite continued declines in manufacturing and information services employment.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate dropped to 5.1 percent, the lowest mark for February in more than a quarter of a century.

While the cost of living since February 2003 climbed 1.7 percent, weekly pay for the typical nonagricultural worker increased 3.2 percent to \$413.05.

Job growth during the first two months of this year is a significant improvement over all of last year when monthly reports showed no increase reaching 1 percent and no growth through the summer months.

Park County's unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in February

Mining topped the industries with a 12.8 percent increase in jobs since February 2003. Those additional 500 jobs were mostly the result of the resumption of mining by Montana Resources in Butte and increased oil and gas exploration in eastern Montana, said Brad Eldredge of the labor agency's research and analysis office.

Construction companies had 700 more jobs, an increase of 3.7 percent.

Transportation businesses added 300 jobs, an increase of 6.7 percent; professional and business service companies were up 800 jobs, as was the leisure and hospitality business.

The February unemployment rate meant that 24,500 people were out of work, or about 2,200 fewer than a year earlier.

The highest county jobless rates were Lincoln, 14.3 percent; Big Horn, 13.8 percent; Glacier, 12.4 percent; Sanders, 10.3 percent; and Golden Valley, 9.3 percent.

Among the most-populous counties, Lake had the highest unemployment rate at 8 percent, followed by Fergus and Flathead, 7.4 percent; Ravalli, 6.7 percent; Silver Bow, 5.3 percent; Cascade, 4.9 percent; Park, 4.8 percent; Lewis and Clark, 4.3 percent; Missoula, 4.2 percent; Hill, 4 percent; Yellowstone, 3.7 percent; and Gallatin, 2.9 percent.

Welcome to Montana

Survey says many relocating to Montana

HELENA (AP) - If you like Montana, you're not alone.

An annual survey by Allied Van Lines said 67.7 percent of its moves involving Montana last year were moves into the state.

The survey ranks Montana third in the nation for people moving in, behind Vermont and Alaska. Montana ranked fifth in last year's survey.

Allied, a major moving company based in the Chicago area, has been conducting the survey for 36 years.

Others ranking high as "inbound" states included Arkansas, Mississippi, Rhode Island and Oregon with a tie score, and Maine.

Illinois came in first among Allied's "outbound" states, with more than 60 percent of its moving families leaving, said Allied. Oklahoma, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Connecticut, South Dakota, and Utah followed.

PARK COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS

Some interesting statistics from Southwest Montana Multiple Listing Service

Transactions from March 17, 2003 to March 17, 2004

- 239 Residential transactions for Park County
- \$38,631,651 Total Sales Price
- \$125,000 Median price

U.S. News Touts Livingston for Second Homes



U.S. News & World Report ran an article recently listing Livingston, Montana, as one of the top ten alternate locations in the country to buy a second home. With real estate values rising almost everywhere, some prohibitively, certain areas stand out because of housing values, especially when compared to places like Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and Vail, Colorado. Vacation-home communities, U.S. News reports, have been appreciating even faster than real estate in primary housing markets. Livingston, which ran 5th on the list of ten American cities; may not be the kind of place people looking for a vacation home in southern Florida might desire, but for those looking to Rocky Mountain communities, it fits the bill. U.S. News reported on findings from the website *EscapeHomes.com*, which along with Livingston listed communities in its top ten list like Venice, Fla., Paonia, Colo., Vashon Island, Wash., and Brunswick, Maine.