

Tri-County Environmental Health Department
Anaconda/Deer Lodge - Granite - Powell Counties

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Courthouse

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To: Granite County Board of Health

From: Chad J. Lanes, Tri-County Sanitarian

Re: staff report

The last quarter has been quite busy for all of our programs. The onsite septic development is still going very strong with septic systems being installed all along the length of Rock Creek, in the existing subdivisions such as Whiskey Flats and Greystone Subdivision, as well as increased interest in mining claims and other remote (and at times, large) parcels. Each of these require a different approach and are keeping us on our toes.

Mark Syverson has been steadily completing plan reviews for food businesses with a heavy emphasis on mobile food units still. We had a discussion that we had nearly no new food units in the Tri-County jurisdiction years ago and now they're incredibly popular. We do have some new restaurant activity, particularly in Philipsburg. Other than that, our brick-and-mortar restaurants have been steady lately and are being inspected by Mr. Syverson as he gets around the County.

We are discussing how to handle certain food issues such as foods that previously required licensure and inspections but are now allowed at events such as farmers markets without oversight. We're working on

some notification we can give the operators of the markets to help people understand the distinction between “licensed and inspected” and “allowed but unregulated”. We feel strongly that the general public should be educated about the potential risks associated to allow them to make informed decisions. It’s a little late to be working on this but we’ll bring what we come up with to the Board just for their information.

We are still working on a couple of complaints that may require legal notification and/or action if we can’t resolve them through communication. We will also keep the Board aware of these actions.

Please let me know if there are any follow-up questions and we’ll do our best to answer them once I’m back. I can be contacted via email at clanes@adlc.us, or via phone at (406)563-4035 or (406)560-3190 (text works well with the cell number).