

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

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Courthouse

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To: Powell 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 in a lot of the existing subdivisions, as well as increased interest in mining claims and other remote 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 changes in ownership and openings/closings/moving. Other than that, our brick-and-mortar restaurants have been steady lately and are being inspected by Mr. Syverson as he gets around the three counties.

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.

As always, 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).