

THOMPSON FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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MEMORANDUM

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Jerry Pauli *Jerry Pauli*

Re: Spring Creek Lodge

Date: March 14, 2005

BUSINESS & LABOR

EXHIBIT NO. 1
DATE 3/30/05
BILL NO. HTB 628

It is with pleasure that I can write a positive recommendation for the work currently being done by Spring Creek Lodge. As the Thompson Falls School Superintendent of Schools, I have had the opportunity to observe the Spring Creek staff and students on many occasions. During the few years that Spring Creek Lodge has been in operation within the Thompson Falls area, I have noticed the following positive attributes:

- Spring Creek Lodge is very much community service oriented as they are a major financial contributor and participant in our annual Thompson Falls Winter Parade and the Sanders County Relay for Life fund raiser. The efforts displayed by both the staff and students in these two important events are a complement to their school philosophy.
- Spring Creek Lodge is a positive supporter of our school events. The enthusiasm that they display when they attend our football, volleyball, and basketball games are noticed by both visitors and our home fans. The students act in a very orderly, respectful, and yet fun filled manner and as a result are looked at by our student body as being part of our system even though they have their own school.
- Spring Creek Lodge has established a joint high school choir with the Thompson Falls School District over the past three years. The school district has supplied the choir director and teaching aides while Spring Creek Academy has provided the facilities and transportation. This is one more example of how public education and the private sector can work together for the betterment of students.
- Thompson Falls is a very small community in Western Montana and gossip travels faster than the wind. Spring Creek Lodge is a private high school of over 400 students with employees who live in our area, and I still do not hear negative comments about their staff or school. This is a credit to their management and the way that they support the local area and economy.

I continually receive telephone calls from residents outside Montana who want to know something about Spring Creek Lodge. For the purpose that Spring Creek Lodge was established, I cannot help but support their school and staff. Please feel free to contact me regarding any more information needed about this school.



Sanders County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Gene Arnold

P.O. Box 910 • 1115 Main • Thompson Falls, MT 59873
(406) 827-3584 • Fax (406) 827-4171

March 23, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

The Sanders County Sheriff's Office has had a great working relationship with Spring Creek Lodge Academy for as long as they have been in our community. We have watched it grow from a small school to the largest alternative school in our community. Spring Creek employs a large number of Sanders County residents and holds a position as a leader in the community.

Spring Creek staff and students participate in many Sanders County community projects. They attend athletic events and host events such as Spring Creek Square during our Christmas on Main Street celebration. They are involved in many volunteer projects and their Outreach team gives presentations at high schools around Montana in order to educate kids and parents about the danger of drug use. The students are lively but always polite, and their attitude is always very respectful.

If at any time our community is in need of help Spring Creek is the first to jump in with both feet to assist in any manner they can. Spring Creek stepped in and offered to help smaller schools in the area by donating money for the School Resource Officer program. This was a great boost for Sanders County. In this and many other ways, Spring Creek has been a great resource for our county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Arnold".

Gene Arnold, Sanders County Sheriff

March 15, 2005

Spring Creek Lodge
1342 Blue Slide Road
Thompson Falls, MT 59873

Cameron,

As the president of the Thompson Falls Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased to express our appreciation for the wonderful commitment you, your staff and your students make to the business and community life of Thompson Falls.

Through support of community activities, school events and volunteer organizations, you have truly demonstrated a commitment that is second to none. The enthusiasm demonstrated by your workers and students, has made Thompson Falls a better and more fulfilling place to live.

In terms of your business, we are especially appreciative for the jobs and economic activity your operation generates. Although it was coincidental that your operation expanded about the same time as the closing of local lumber and timber operations, it has become a major force in the community, one that allows younger residents to remain here with a job and a future and experienced educated individuals to relocate and find employment where they can beneficially apply their skills. Your business clearly is vital to the growth and success of the area and the residents.

As the area continues to grow, we hope that Spring Creek will continue to grow with us and we sincerely hope that you will continue to remain a vital and appreciated segment of the community and the local economy.

Cameron, again, thanks for all you and Spring Creek do for our area.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tom Eggensperger

President, Thompson Falls Chamber of Commerce

Tom Eggensperger
Sanders County Ledger
Thompson Falls
406-827-3421



Campus Selection

An Educational Guidance Service Specializing in Boarding and Private School Placement

February 9, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to write this letter to establish my professional knowledge, relationship, and evaluation of the Monarch School in Heron Montana. The Monarch School is classified as a coed residential school for adolescents between the ages of fourteen and seventeen years of age.

As an educational consultant for sixteen years I have had a relationship with the owners of the school when they were with a similar program prior to building Monarch. The owners took the best ideas of the previous program and created a better place for teens needing alternatives. I know the Monarch School is accountable to professional organizations such as Independent Educational Consultants Association, Certified Educational Planners, and National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs to mention a few. They adhere to strict principles and ethics, while having maintained the highest of standards.

The program established at Monarch combines academic, therapeutic interventions, along with a caring spirit to help each family. Each student enrolled in Monarch is given an individual plan and their families are also advised on how to make positive changes at home. The staff at Monarch works with the families to ensure that there is behavioral interaction and constructive communication between the parent and child.

I have had several families enroll their child in Monarch and my experiences have been exceptionally positive. They are honest in offering to families exactly what they can do and communicating their limitations. If they do not feel Monarch is not an appropriate setting for the child or they can not meet their needs, then the child will not be accepted.

From my perspective, The Monarch School is one of the best alternative programs for youth in the country. I will do what I can to convey this message to the good citizens and representatives in State of Montana.

Sincerely,

Londa May M. Ed. CEP
Educational Consultant



Campus Selection

An Educational Guidance Service Specializing
in Boarding and Private School Placement

Londa May, M.Ed, C.E.P.

*Member of Independent Educational Consultants Association
Certified Educational Planner*

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Big Timber Grade School

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Board of Trustees
Steve McCullough
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Mary Hathaway

November 15, 2004

Ron Clem
Teens-N-Crisis
P.O. Box 213
Kalispell, Montana 59903

Dear Ron,

I appreciated meeting you and the staff of young people and adults you brought to our community. Your presentation was very professional and your knowledge of the consequences of choosing to use chemicals very educational. I feel the panel made a positive impact on our students, staff, and community members. We continue to make progress toward a meth free community through presentations such as yours that bring leaders of our community together.

I am hopeful that you will help us form a support group for parents and that we can continue to benefit from the liaison with you and the Spring Creek Lodge Academy.

It was a pleasure meeting and working with you. We have already had two high school students seek help and I know there is more out there.

Sincerely,

Grayce Sivigny

Grayce Sivigny, RNC

Safe and Drug Free Schools Coordinator

Students — Our Nation's Number One Resource





January 30, 2005

Dear Legislative Committee,

I am writing this letter as a parent of a child who has spent 3 years with the Chrysalis School in Eureka, Montana. I am also a teacher and the director of a licensed program for disabled adults in California.

I support the efforts of the Montana legislature to establish licensing regulations for the health and safety of students. However, there is so much more that schools like Chrysalis have to offer, that I feel that the regulations should not be set without the input of providers currently offering such services to children/youth.

In my experience, regulations developed without guidance from the programs involved leads to the demise of quality programs because their unique, innovative qualities are not respected and they are burdened with excessive and inappropriate requirements; a "cookie cutter" approach of "one size fits all" mentality. This is a huge mistake given the need for programs as special as Chrysalis by children in crisis all over our nation.

Three years ago while searching for a program for my daughter, I looked at many programs within California. Unfortunately, I discovered that children here are managed through the criminal justice system rather than through rehabilitation. Our counselor urged us to look out of state.

We decided that we needed and wanted a least restrictive, nurturing environment with an emphasis on family for my child to develop safely and with love. Having been adopted as a baby, she needed to feel wanted, although not living with us. She needed strong, positive role models to help her become a capable, contributing adult. Mostly, what I found was institutional settings with emphasis on "lock down" (RTCs). For my daughter, that kind of placement could be likened to using a sledgehammer to control an ant. It may be what is needed for some, but not for my child.

When an educational consultant told me about Chrysalis, I knew that it was right for us, even before I visited. Small, homey, loving, personal attention, high moral values, sense of charity, volunteerism, attention to the earth, flexible, variety, outdoor and domestic activities, standards, creativity, garden, humor, dogs, cats, and horses are some of the reasons I chose Chrysalis. After being there 3 years, I can add exceptional quality of therapists and staff. I cannot say enough about how I feel about all of them. My daughter and I have a sense of connection that will last a lifetime and particularly impact her future in a positive way.

A word about the home school at Chrysalis. My daughter has ADHD and auditory processing disabilities and experienced both home school and the local public high school. For quality of education and personal instruction, I enthusiastically recommend Chrysalis school.

For further information, don't hesitate to call on me at 925-284-3240 or write: 191 El Camino Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94596



Respectfully Submitted,
Fernando Musante

To Whom It May Concern:

Mandy Moscato declares:

I sent my son, Nicholas, to the Galena Ridge Wilderness Program in June 1996. He was 15 years old. I was widowed when Nicholas was three, and growing up without a father caused real problems in our family. I was guilty and enabling, and Nicholas was defiant and angry. He was failing in school, angry and withdrawn, and no woman was going to tell him what to do. Through an educational consultant I found the Galena Ridge program. Nicholas had no idea he was going. I had an escort service take him to the program.

Nicholas spent 15 months at Galena Ridge. He did the summer wilderness program in 1996. He was in the residential program after the summer he completed a second wilderness program in 1997. He came home in September 1997, with the agreement to return for another three week wilderness course in the summer on 1998.

Galena ridge and Paul Clark are the best things that could have happened to Nicholas and me. Nicholas was in a safe place which had structure and consequences for his behavior. Consequences for unacceptable behavior were something I had completely missed. I wanted to be the "kind" parent, so I gave into Nicholas' every whim. I helped create an out of control child.

Having Nichols away at Galena Ridge gave me the opportunity to get a break from the old pattern, and with the encouragement and urging of Paul Clark, I finally joined ALANON, and began to get my life back in control.

Nicholas thrived at Galena Ridge. I am such a firm believer in the program, that I voluntarily go back each summer to Family Conference to talk with parents, and share my experiences as a parent of a Galena Ridge student. One thing I tell parents on my visit is that one summer is not enough. The kids have made tremendous changes, and say all the things a parent wants to hear, but three months is only the beginning. The children need the consistency and consequences and time to really change. My son has told me that the kids will say and do anything to get back home. Often the kids, who do go home after the summer, are back again at Galena Ridge, or some other program the next year. These kids are smart. They know how to manipulate the "system". They have been doing it all their lives. That's what got them to Galena Ridge, or some other program.

I trust Paul Clark and his assessment of the students. I would do whatever he suggests. If he thinks a child needs to continue at Galena Ridge in the Residential Program, trust him. I tell parents that they may not always like to hear what Paul says, but you can be sure that what he says is the truth, and that he has the student's best interests in mind.

I share my experience with Nicholas after he came home from Galena Ridge. I share the mistakes I made, and successes we have had. I am a much stronger person, thanks to Galena Ridge and Paul's advice, which I took [some people don't] Nicholas is a better

person too. He now admits that Galena Ridge was the best thing that could have happened at the time. He even admits that he probably should have stayed in the residential program, and finished high school in Montana. He is now in college, and on the Dean's List.

I think Galena Ridge gave us the opportunity to truly change our lives.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 13th day of June 2003 at Laguna Hills, California



THE PRICE GROUP

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING SERVICES
INCORPORATED

January 28, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

As in independent educational consultant of some twenty-plus years, it has been my absolute privilege to have worked with CHRYSALIS, a small, private "special needs" school which works with young high school-aged girls in crisis. What a joyful place this is! I will never forget how very impressed I was when I first visited several years ago. I knew from the quality of the program, its experienced and caring staff, as well as loveliness of the facility, that CHRYSALIS could be a truly peaceful, calming therapeutic environment for many of the girls I see professionally who have been caught up into the "fast track" teen-scene, who may be depressed, or who may be experiencing difficulties with a host of emotional issues, i.e., adoption, divorce, academic failure with accompanying poor self-esteem, etc. I have two students currently at CHRYSALIS, both doing extremely well. The parents of both have been very pleased with the quality of care their daughters are receiving, as well as the emotional growth they see in their children.

I am grateful every day that there are programs like CHRYSALIS out there, and I feel fortunate whenever I can find an available opening for an appropriate student. Because CHRYSALIS is understandably so popular with other educational consultants, it can be difficult at times to find a spot for even the "most right" child for them. I would surely not wish to see CHRYSALIS change one aspect of its program. It understands well its mission, carries it out beautifully, and the end result is that in a relatively short while, the child can again return home, healthier, happier, and more solid all around emotionally, academically, and socially. No compliment from me regarding CHRYSALIS could be too strong. This is a first-class program, one I would miss terribly were it to no longer be available to me, just as it operates now.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can give you any further details about this fine program.

Sincerely,

Ann Carol Price, M.Ed.

Ann Carol Price, M.Ed.
Certified Educational Planner, IECA
Licensed Professional Counselor