

## BILLINGS-AREA WINNERS SELECTED FOR NEW RESTAURANT BEER AND WINE LICENSES

BILLINGS, Montana – Senator Kim Gillan (D-Billings) drew the names of the 22 lucky Billings-area individuals and businesses who will receive a new restaurant beer and wine license in a lottery drawing at Metra Park earlier today.

"It's a big day for restaurants in Billings," said Dan Bucks, director of the Montana Department of Revenue. "These licenses will allow restaurants to serve a glass of beer or wine with dinner. It will make these businesses more viable and help our economy grow."

The Billings-area individuals and businesses who will receive a restaurant beer and wine license are:

1. Art Beyond the Palette, LLC (Marcella J. Tatarka and Daniel A. Tatarka, shareholders)
2. Ellen Mary H. Beck
3. Lolitas, LLP (James P. Branstetter and Lola F. Branstetter, shareholders)
4. Tuition Restaurant Corp. (William D. Ryan, sole shareholder)
5. Computers Unlimited (Michael Schaer, sole shareholder)
6. The Soup Place, Inc. (Nancy Smith and Mike Smith, shareholders)
7. Travel Café, Inc. (Billie J. Ruff, sole shareholder)
8. James Beck
9. Bruno's Inc. (Michael Sammartino and Toni Sammartino, shareholders)
10. Gary G. Evje
11. Nanette Santos
12. Jennifer E. Ray
13. Andrea Withner
14. Linda M. Wold
15. John Uzelac
16. Natoshia M. Cetraro
17. Sandra Z. Kunkel
18. Douglas J. Wold
19. Pamela Uzelac
20. Rosemary Stuart
21. Burke Moran
22. John F. Keserich

Fifty applicants vied for the 22 new licenses in the Billings area. Statewide, a total of 531 qualified applicants are entered in the lottery vying for a chance at one of the 124 new licenses available.

"We have seen a lot of interest in these licenses, because offering beer and wine with dinner provides economic opportunity for the businesses" said Bucks.

Restaurant beer and wine licenses are on-premise licenses that allow for the serving of beer or wine with a food order. Wine or beer may be served between the hours of 11 a.m. and 11 p.m. At least 65% of the restaurant's gross income must be derived from food sales. The restaurant cannot have gambling on its premises.

The 2007 Legislature passed Senate Bill 296, essentially doubling the number of restaurant beer and wine licenses in cities with a population of more than 5,000. Cities with a population under 5,000 receive an additional four licenses for each quota area. The legislation was the first significant change in these licenses in ten years.

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Contact: Shauna Helfert, Department of Revenue, (406) 444-1464 or Cynthia Pearson, Department of Revenue, (406) 444-6700