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Mayor:
John Williams

Council Members:
Zane Longacre
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Tomorrow's Town ... Today!

PROCLAMATION

Honoring February 9th as Montana Mining Day

WHEREAS, the state motto of Montana, adopted on February 9, 1865, is "Oro y Plata," Spanish for "gold and silver," reflecting Montana's rich mining heritage and vast mineral wealth; and

WHEREAS, the Great Seal of the State of Montana, bearing the state motto along with a miner's pick and shovel, stands as vivid symbol of our unique heritage; and

WHEREAS, Montana is proudly known as "The Treasure State" in recognition of its abundant mineral and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the discovery of gold in the 1860s at Bannack, Virginia City, Silver Bow Creek, and Prickly Pear Creek brought many of the first settlers to Montana, fueling early economic and societal growth and prompting the development of additional deposits of metals and minerals, including coal, silver, and copper; and

WHEREAS, Montana's mining industry has long supplied the nation with critical mining resources, including copper from Butte, smelted in Anaconda and refined in Great Falls, which powered the electrification of America and supported the country's efforts through both World Wars; and

WHEREAS, lignite and bituminous coal from eastern Montana have heated homes, powered locomotives, and continue to provide the largest share of Montana's electricity generation; and

WHEREAS, Montana's mining operations have employed tens of thousands at hundreds of sites, generating billions of dollars in wealth for our state; and

WHEREAS, the mining industry continues to contribute billions of dollars annually to Montana's economy, creating thousands of permanent jobs and millions in tax revenues for state and local communities; and

WHEREAS, the sacrifices of miners who lost their lives in the early days of Montana mining have helped establish exceptional safety and labor standards; and

WHEREAS, the historic environmental and social impacts of mining in Montana have led to the development of world-class environmental regulations and financial safeguards to protect our environment and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature established the Montana State School of Mines in Butte in 1893 – now Montana Technological University – which continues to be a national leader in STEM education, research and natural resource workforce development and training; and

WHEREAS, Montana holds significant deposits of critical minerals vital to our nation's defense, economic and technological progress, and energy security; and

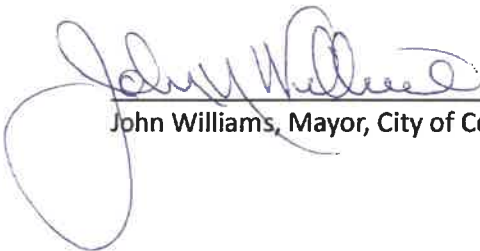
WHEREAS, Montana is proud of its mining heritage, present, and future, and recognizes the importance of promoting and educating the public on the costs and benefits of responsible mining.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John N. Williams, Mayor of the City of Colstrip, do hereby proclaim February 9, 2026, and each year thereafter as

MONTANA MINING DAY

in the City of Colstrip, and I encourage all citizens to recognize and reflect upon the important role of mining in our state's past, present, and future.

Dated this 14 day of February, 2026.


John Williams, Mayor, City of Colstrip

Attest: 
Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer