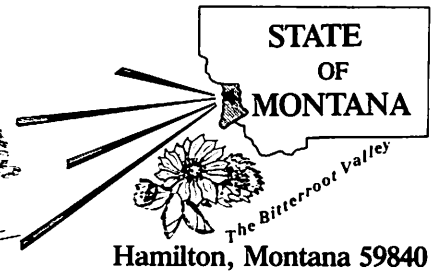


COUNTY OF RAVALLI



December 15, 2017

Naeloni Cahoon, Dardarian Tenas and Jaspen Morigeau-Sorrell; c/o Rd Harris S.S.
Ronan Middle School
421 Andrews N.W.
Ronan, MT 59864

Dear Naeloni, Dardarian and Jaspen,

Thank you for the opportunity to answer your thoughtful questions. Since all three of you asked the same questions, we will answer them with this one letter. We hope our responses are of assistance with your assignment.

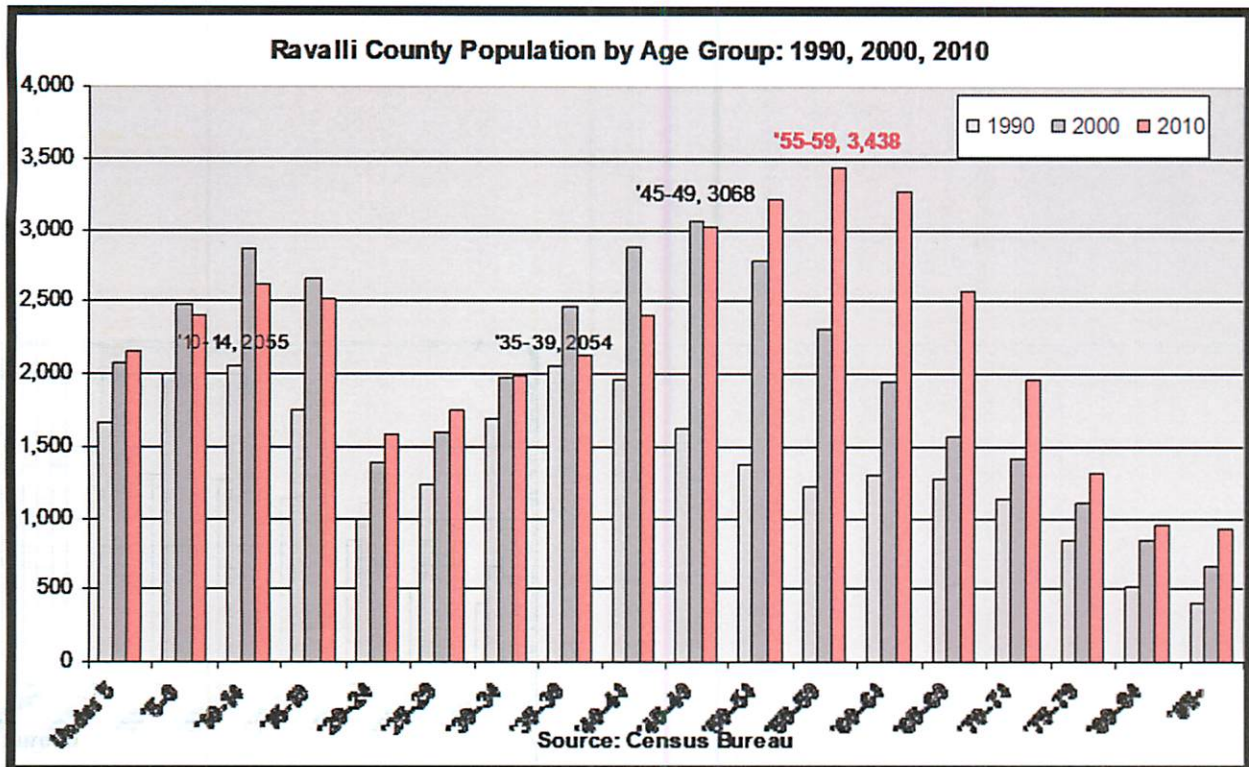
Your first question asked about the major employers and industries in Ravalli County.

According to an economic study performed by Dr. Larry Swanson, Director, O'Conner Center for the Rocky Mountain West in 2015:

- retail trades employed 2,277 citizens, followed by
- health care sector with 1,838 jobs and
- construction sector jobs are third

The largest industries relative to economic production are the Agricultural sector followed by tourism and the health sectors.

Your second question inquired about changes to the population (demographics) in Ravalli County. Our population's average age continues to get older. The changes from the 1990 -2000 census and the 2000-2010 census are indicated in the following chart:



We anticipate the healthcare and social service sector employment opportunities to increase to accommodate the population getting older.

Your third question asks about an interesting historic event in Ravalli County. Stevensville is the oldest town in Montana. St. Mary's Mission was the first permanent settlement in Montana, established by Jesuit missionaries in 1841. The missionaries were led by Father Pierre DeSmet, who was asked by the Salish people to come to the Bitter Root Valley. Hamilton was established by Marcus Daly, the Butte copper mining magnate in the late 1880's when he came to the valley in search of timber to supply his copper mines in Butte.

We sincerely hope these responses are of assistance to you in your project.

Sincerely,

Greg Chilcott
Chairman
Ravalli County

Ray Hawk
Commissioner
Ravalli County