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FFF headquarters moves to Sleeping Giant Trading Post

By Matt Dettori, Enterprise Staff Writer

The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) headquarters has moved from the former Lincoln School on East Lewis to the Sleeping Giant Trade Center South of Livingston.

The move took place for several reasons, according to FFF CEO/President R.R. Van Gytenbeek.

Among those reasons: The nationwide group will save more than 50 percent on its annual rent, he said.

“We didn’t have the staffing or the money to maintain the old museum. The number of people who visited the museum was small,” Gytenbeek said, “and there were very few who knew what the FFF was.”

The majority of items at the FFF museum, including photos, paintings and periodicals, will be on loan to Montana State University and the Museum of the Rockies, according to Gytenbeek.

“We can still trade items back and forth. If we have several items, we’ll give one to MSU, keep one ourselves, and sell the rest in our book auction that supports the Federation,” he said. “That way, we can keep the collection here in Montana.”

Gytenbeek expects the FFF to be fully operational at its new location by Friday at the latest, and the office space organized by next week.

Discussion about the FFF headquarters, long rumored to be relocating to Colorado, wasn’t an issue in the Livingston move, according to Gytenbeek.

“I’m in no hurry to go to Colorado,” he said. “The staff isn’t either.”

The FFF signed an 18-month lease for the space above the Buffalo Jump restaurant. Gytenbeek suspects the FFF will be in Livingston for a little while longer.

“FFF people are happy about the move and the staff is happy we aren’t moving for a while to Colorado,” he said. “We’re here for at least 18 months more.”

The FFF hours of operation and phone number haven’t changed, Gytenbeek said.

“Everybody is still welcome.”

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