

## **Lewistown wins evaluation!**

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Lewistown is the only contender for a male methamphetamine treatment center after the scoring of three proposals in Helena on Thursday. The other two proposals, from Boulder and Billings, are for women's treatment centers.

As a result of the scoring, Lewistown will get an 80-bed male meth treatment center and Boulder will get a 40-bed women's treatment center, if there are no glitches, according to Bob Anez, Montana Department of Corrections spokesman.

The scoring was done at a public meeting of the DOC evaluation committee. This scoring "dictates who gets the contracts barring any unforeseen glitches," Anez said.

Bill Slaughter, DOC director, will be in Lewistown Tuesday to make the selection official. The announcement will be made at a meeting at noon in the Yogo Inn, Anez said.

Lewistown came close to getting a combined male-female meth treatment center. The DOC's six-member evaluation committee gave Lewistown 1,729 votes for a combined facility. A female-only facility in Boulder got 1,732 votes, Anez said.

Lewistown, which had no competition for a male facility, received 1,688 votes. Mike Thatcher, chief executive officer of Community, Counseling and Correctional Services Inc., the Butte-based firm proposing to build the meth treatment center here, said he's still hoping to get a 120-bed male-female facility here.

Thatcher said he expects Slaughter will make that decision by Tuesday.

John Hertel, chairman of the Fergus County Port Authority, the organization which has spearheaded the proposal to construct a meth treatment center here, said Slaughter will be here for the Tuesday noon meeting and Gov. Brian Schweitzer (D-Mont.) has been invited.

"This is a real shot of adrenalin," said Hertel. "We needed something badly. We have not been successful in our previous efforts even though we worked on some very good projects."

Hertel referred to the Port Authority's recent history. It is an economic development agency, but it has not been successful in developing new

businesses or projects to help the local economy. He said this is the big one and should assure everyone that the Port Authority's efforts have not been in vain.