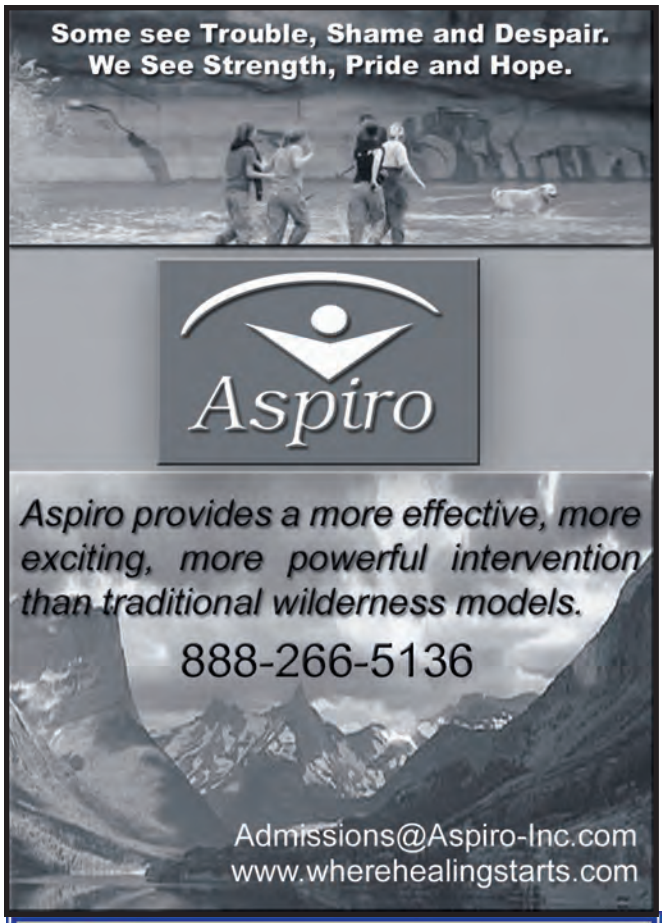
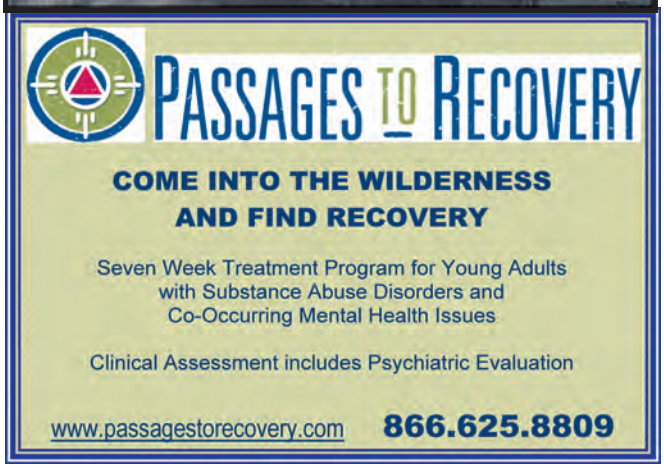






LICENSING: Continued from page 9

country as one of the finest residential therapeutic schools in the United States. It is also difficult to get a child into Montana Academy. I have three families who are fortunate to have their son's enrolled in Montana Academy.

Monarch School, an emotional growth school with strong academics and an emphasis upon the arts, was founded in 2000, and quickly became the "darling" of the emotional growth schools across the country. They defined their student body early on, and work with bright and creative students who have not reached their potential. As all good schools, Monarch has stuck to its mission and families they have chosen to work with. As with the previous two programs, parents across the country work hard to get their child into Monarch.

Summit Preparatory, outside of Kalispell, also caters to intellectually average to above average boys and girls who are not reaching their potential. When I first visited Summit, I saw what I thought would represent the future of these types of programs. The physical plant and land was developed at a cost of seven million dollars and the result is a state of the art residential program for trouble kids. Summit is a not-for profit organization that makes every effort to provide a wide variety of treatments as well as extensive involvement in the Kalispell community.

Montana's Wilderness Treatment Center has been a national player in the treatment of substance abusers for many years. John Brekke, a national figure in wilderness programming, was the founder of WTC. One of the first wilderness programs in the country, WTC remains a respected and a nationally well known program.

Explorations has been the quintessential mom and pop program located in Trout Creek. Lorne Riddell and Penny James have been operating their expeditions and home base program for the past 17 years. Widely respected, Lorne and Penny are commonly referred to as "wonderful" people. Their very small program is intimate and they refer to themselves as being a "family style living" program. They also employ various experiential and adventure therapy approaches.

Three Rivers Montana is only three years old, but has quickly risen to a highly respected position in the country. An outdoor behavioral health program, Three Rivers leadership has extensive wilderness treatment experience. For seven years, they were in leadership roles in a state funded program called Alternative Youth Adventures. While in that capacity, the Three Rivers Montana management