



The Meagher County News

The only county in Montana with a castle

GRAND OPENING FOR RED ANTS PANTS

On October 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., White Sulphur Springs will experience the grand opening of Red Ants Pants, the manufacturer of premier work pants for women. Two years in the making, Red Ants Pants will officially begin sales of its innovative new product on Monday.

Red Ants Pants is the brainchild of Sarah Calhoun. Since her arrival in White Sulphur in September of 2005, Calhoun has been active locally coaching Junior High volleyball, volunteering in Arts Council, serving on the Meagher County Chamber of Commerce, and is pursuing service on the ambulance as an EMT.

Calhoun's roots in agriculture and outdoor work resulted in the development of Red Ants Pants. Though born in New Brunswick, Canada, Calhoun learned the meaning of work primarily during her years on her family's llama farm in Connecticut. It is in this same small town where Sarah grew up that her father's family was dairy farming since the 1700's. After graduating from Gettysburg College, Calhoun continued to work outdoors, spending five years as an outdoor education instructor; leading Outward Bound trips and trail crews, and manual labor jobs including peeling logs and grooming ski trails. Through her work, she continually encountered one significant problem - workpants, designed for men, just didn't fit!

Always willing to face a challenge head-on, Calhoun decided to develop and manufacture quality pants for women, made in the USA. Notes Calhoun, "Red Ants Pants are designed to fit, function, and flatter. Qualities that working women appreciate." Calhoun designs the product, sources materials, and oversees production of pants. The products are contracted out at a cut and sew facility in Seattle. All marketing, distribution, and sales are handled by Calhoun in White Sulphur Springs.

Her national sales are web-based, and though the quality of the product is reflected in the price, those who recognize the need for tough work wear don't hesitate to check out the website at www.redantspants.com. In the future, Calhoun hopes to complete 100 percent of the manufacturing in Montana. She is also exploring value-added agricultural opportunities with a new wool pant.

Calhoun came to White Sulphur Springs after spending one year in Bozeman. Says Sarah, "I missed living in a rural town. I want my product to be part of a small town and part of a genuine agricultural community. White Sulphur Springs has been very welcoming and I can't thank the local community enough for all of the support." Calhoun has renovated the Wellman Building on Main Street and looks forward to having local folks stop by for the public open house on Monday, October 9.

Why the name? In an ant colony, the women do all of the work. Calhoun's quality product made by women, for women may be proof that the same holds true for people. Stop in to see this innovative, hard working addition to our community on October 9.

SARAH CALHOUN of Red Ants Pants is shown holding one of her specially-designed pants for the working woman. Shelving that reflect the outdoors are shown in the background.

