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### What Drives Me?

Growing up as an only child is something that may not seem like a big deal, but I feel like it shaped me into the person I am today and my mindset towards life. Only surrounded by adults my whole childhood, I was always told “you are so mature for your age!” which I did not understand. As I have gotten older, I have made the connection that I am not like everyone else my age. I have the most determination out of anybody I know and have already started on the path I want to pursue. At the age of sixteen, I applied for my first job at the Billings Clinic hospital as a CNA and one to one sitter for the people that need a little extra attention. I ended up getting the job but I had no clue what was in store for me. I started my training, and I would go back to my car in tears because I felt like I was “too young” or “too inexperienced” to strive in the profession I have been dreaming of. For some reason, that place could not tear me down. I continued going back day after day and learned lessons that are completely unimaginable to most people that have not been there themselves. I have been working there for twenty months because I didn't give up. To this day, people try and tear me down, but I am so confident in my abilities that I can't even hear them. I can only hear the people saying “thanks so much for your help today!” or “You have so much compassion!” but the biggest one that sticks in my head is when my patient told me “You have a gift for this profession”. This experience has given me the ability to confidently say that I am starting at the University of Montana in the fall of 2025 for a pre med major. I know who I want to be. That is a compassionate person in the healthcare field when these patients need me the most. I know who I am and won't stop trying to better myself

when it comes to my career. Even now, I like to advocate for my community and my school by being a part of the student council and Lockwood FCCLA. I enjoy helping others more than myself, and I have noticed that this is what the world needs more of. It could be my old child ways, or it could just be the determination that drives me to make an impact.