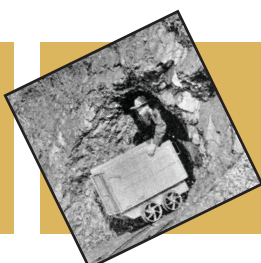




Bike Safety Rodeo a Success—p. 2



Cross-Country Bulldogs!—p. 3



St. Louis, where?—p. 6

ALGAL BLOOM LOOMS IN CANYON FERRY RESERVOIR

Nancy Marks

Yuck!

The greenish algae muck that creeps across Canyon Ferry Reservoir every summer is here again and sure to grow thicker under the hot sun of late July and August.



The state Department of Environmental Quality warns that the algal blooms can be harmful to people, pets and livestock.

Algae buildup in Canyon Ferry and other Montana waters happens as nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorus, turn into cyanobacteria. The algae take on a blue, green, or gold color. At some point, the bacteria become toxic and dangerous for humans or animals to swim in or drink, DEQ said in an announcement.

The algae bloom at the Duck Creek inlet on the East side of the reservoir looked like cut grass last week. As the bloom progresses it begins to look like pea soup, and makes the rocks underfoot slick, according to John and Carol Lea White, who were camping at Confederate Bay campground on Saturday.

“You can’t even see into the water, it is so dirty looking,” Carol cautioned. Although there did not appear to be any sign of the algae bloom at Confederate Bay, John said it would inevitably show up in August. The Whites have fished at Canyon Ferry for many years. “We don’t let it bother us, we just keep fishing and swimming and using our jet ski.”

Doug Breker, Townsend Chamber of Commerce vice president and long-time angler, says the algae bloom does not have much effect on fishing and recreation.

“The boaters and tourists just stay away from the bloom. However, when it gets to the blue-green stage, the algae clings to your fishing line and you have to strip it off with your hands or shake it off in the water,” he said.

Breker recalled that several years ago, Bruce Kania of Floating Island International, proposed combatting the algal blooms by introducing minnows to the fishery at the Wildlife Management Area ponds at the South end of the lake.

“The idea was to add minnows that would increase the fish population which would in turn eat more of the algae buildup. It would have helped the fishing on the lake, and cut back the algae,” Breker said.

Kania, who lives at Shepherd, east of Billings, told Montana 43 News that Floating Islands International did not pursue the idea after it failed to win support from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Matt Zeadow, Townsend, an avid fisherman, said he thought the minnow plan would have encouraged algae forage by all the fish, including perch, ling, walleye and trout. “It would have been a win-win idea for fish and us fishermen,” he speculated.

Ron Spoon, an FWP fisheries biologist, said that while the bloom is nothing new, “It sure detracts from the quality of the lake.” He explained that Canyon Ferry is the first impoundment of all the water coming from



Unwanted algae blooming in Canyon Ferry Reservoir

the Missouri, Gallatin, Madison and Jefferson rivers and their basins. The result is that Canyon Ferry becomes the place where all the nutrients from those drainages gather in a low, slow water area. When hot weather hits and the water is low is when the algae begin to bloom. It is not toxic until it breaks down. Then is when it is dangerous, he said.

According to DEQ, direct contact, drinking or breathing the algae can cause skin, eye, nose, and throat irritation or can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache or liver or kidney damage. The department keeps a report on when and where algae blooms are happening on their website.

Other area reservoirs that experience blooms include Clark Canyon, Hebgen, Hyalite, Hauser, Holter and Lake Helena, the DEQ release said. The department suggests, “When in doubt, stay out.”

BROADWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS UNOFFICIAL AGENDA

Monday July 25th

OFFICIAL Agenda, documents, Meetings Minutes and videos of Commission meetings are available Thursday at <https://www.broadwatercountymt.com> and will be posted in the Courthouse (1st Floor Bulletin Board) and in the window of the Flynn Building. Working Meetings are not live streamed. Meetings are held at the Flynn Building (old Opportunity Bank) 416 Broadway, Townsend.

A public comment period (on items not on the agenda) will be at the beginning of each meeting. Mail & items for discussion and/or signature may occur as time allows during the meeting. Issues and times are subject to change.

10:00 AM Discussion and Decision re: MBAC Certified Regional Development Corp (CFDC). Issue of an Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that is completed every 5 years. The CEDS document is a

strategy-driven plan for regional economic development and is the result of a regionally-owned planning process designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region. This year we will be updating our strategy and would like to explain what this strategy is, explain the process, and garner feedback from the Broadwater County community.

10:10 AM Discussion and Decision re: BCDC and Family Promise of Greater Helena, Renee Bauer. Request for funding.

10:20 AM Discussion and Decision re: Margaret Ruckey, Public Health Nurse Task Order 23-07-7-11-106-0 and 23-07-1-01-105-0.

10:25 AM Discussion and Decision re: Request from Lacey Forrey to join Parks and Rec Board as a Member.

Items for Discussion / Action / Review / Signature – Consent Agenda

- Certificate of Survey review
- Management: on-going advisory board appointments

- Claims/Payroll/minutes
- County Audit / Budget
- Mail: ongoing grants
- Correspondence: support letters

Darrel Folkvord/Chairperson
406-266-9272 and 406-980-1213

Debi Randolph
406-266-9270 and 406-980-2050

Mike Delger
406-266-9271 and 406-521-0834

E-mail: commissioners@co.broadwater.mt.us

Nobody makes a greater mistake than he who does nothing because he could do only a little.
Edmund Burke

Customer Appreciation Sale!

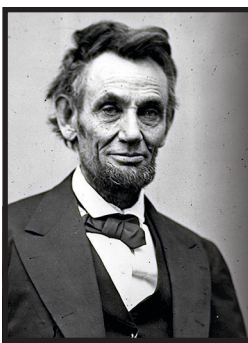
Customer Appreciation Day

August 4-6

Everything 15%-50% off!

Free LUNCH SATURDAY THE 6TH!

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TOWNSEND, MT 59644-2323



WE'RE not saying that a wise President might suggest that you subscribe to MT 43 News... We're not saying that at all.



...But he might have!



Chris and Cody Smith remove storm damage at 41 River Road

STORM TAKES DOWN TREES

Nancy Marks

Chris and Cody Smith of Professional Tree, Helena, spent Saturday afternoon cutting up and chipping a 60-foot Spruce tree that had fallen during a micro storm two weeks ago. The storm took down several trees on the west side of the river as well as in the Canyon Ferry Wildlife Management Area. The fifty-year-old tree fell right between the house and the driveway at 41 River Road.



Children 5-12 enjoyed the Bike Safety Rodeo at Heritage Park

2022 BIKE SAFETY RODEO

Pat Plantenberg



The Rotary Club of Townsend teamed up with Broadwater County Public Health Department to sponsor a Bike Safety Rodeo on July 9th. Forty-five children registered at the event held at Heritage Park and South Pine Street. Child Care Connections provided free helmets for the children if their helmets did not fit or were damaged and unsafe for use.

Children had to pass through several stations including registration where they received a gift bag that included LED lights for their bikes, water bottles, sunscreen, chapstick, visibility sticks for bike spokes, and other fun items. From there they had their helmets checked for size and safety and then proceeded to a bike safety check station where tires and brakes, chains, handlebars, and seats were checked for safety and function and were adjusted if needed. Finally, the children could proceed to a traffic safety course where they learned proper hand signals for stopping and turning left or right and how to stop at a train crossing. A bean bag toss was added this year and was a fun favorite among the kids.

Four new bicycles were donated by the American Legion, Jan Hubbard, The Birds Nest, and Pintail Salon and were raffled off after the event.

Other sponsors included the Townsend Tire, The Painted Pot, Reading Leaves, Dairy Queen, Cinemark, Universal Athletics, The Carousel, Sharon and Iwy Obrigewitch, the Broadwater Rodeo and Fair Board, and the Big Dipper.

Rotary pays for its projects with money made at Fall Fest from sponsorships, food and beverage sales, and vendor and car show entry fees. Please help support Rotary by becoming a Rotary Project Sponsor. Contact Patrick Plantenberg, Rotary Project Sponsorship Chair at (406) 431-4615.

Join Leaders. Exchange ideas. Take Action. Thank you.

MT 43 News, Inc.

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Deadlines

Letters to the Editor: Monday 5 p.m.
Advertising: Tuesday 10 a.m.
Stories & News: Tuesday 12 p.m.

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- Periodically relevant advertising will be used to fill necessary space. Advertisers will not be charged for this additional advertising.

THREE FORKS ENJOYS RODEO

Nancy Marks

The Three Forks Rodeo averaged 3,000 fans at their annual rodeo, a record attendance, according to Rodeo Board Executive Secretary Christina Kamps. Considering Three Forks has only 2,000 residents, it was a full town. She said the traffic was handled by a shuttle. The event went off with only one hitch: the light in the crow's nest, where the announcer sits, began to smolder Saturday evening. Three Forks Fire Department folks were able to put out the fire without incident.

Winners as posted by the Northern Rodeo Association were as follows: Bareback Riding: Trever Kay, Chester; Saddle Bronc Riding: Caleb Meeks, Geraldine; Bull Riding: Austin Oshea, Helena; Steer Wrestling: Jhet Murphy, Helena; Tie Down Roping, Ty Kedrick, Jackson; Team Roping, JR Winter, Whitehall; Ladies Barrel Racing: Darby Haskins, Superior; Ladies Breakaway: Ellie Meeks, Geraldine; Jr Barrel Racing: Tye Brown, Helena and Jr. Breakaway Roping: Dylan Burger, Helena. Christina reported total payout for the two days was \$7,150.



Rodeo winner Caleb Meeks riding horse Jacobs Rodeo's 5 to a score of 88. Photo by PRCA photography David Hollenback.

CITY OF TOWNSEND

The City of Townsend will hold a Budget Work Session following the Regular Council Meeting on August 2, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. All interested persons are encouraged to attend.

Correction

We regret errors made in last week's Business Spotlight article about the Lolo Pogi Boutique. We misspelled the Stieler's last name and only MJ worked in the pharmaceutical industry

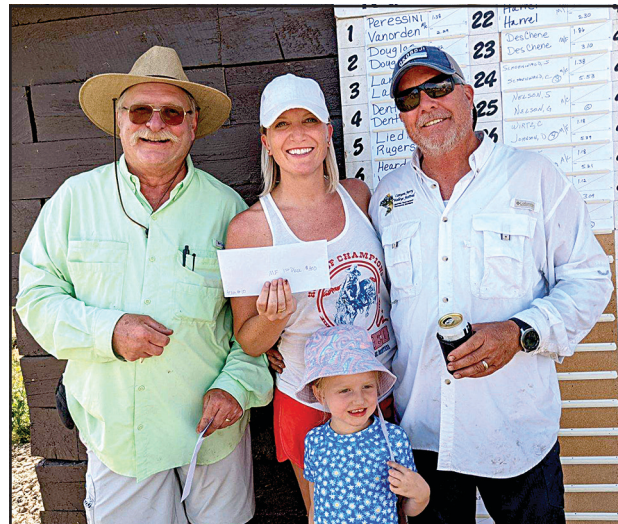
(Steve worked in aerospace and for MFWP). The shop opened December, 2021 and its hours of operation are T-F, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The shop is closed Sunday & Monday.

BACKYARDS OF BROADWATER YARD & GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, July 30 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm



Tickets are \$5.00 on sale NOW at MSU Broadwater County Extension, Townsend Hardware and Goose Bay Glass. Call 406-266-9242 for more information.



Walleye Derby organizer Doug Breker with first place man-woman team winners Mollie Barrett (C) of Bozeman and her father, Tim McAlpine (R), with Mollie's daughter Peyton

DERBY RESULTS ARE IN!

Nancy Marks

Broadwater Rod and Gun club sponsored a Family Walleye Derby Saturday at the Silos. According to Derby organizer Doug Breker, 29 teams participated. First place winners in the adult/child division were John and daughter Darby Douglas, Helena. They won first place with the biggest walleye at 11.425 lbs. They were overall winners as well. The Douglas team won the \$1,000 prize.

2022 Walleye Derby Results

Overall Winner: team #2 John and Darby Douglas

ADULT/CHILD

1. John and Darby Douglas
2. Nick Heard and Trace Williams
3. Rebekah and Calysta Larson
4. Gunner Cox and Mike Eide
5. Kane Braylon Urdahl

MALE/FEMALE

1. Tim McAlpine and Mollie Barret
2. Doug and Kathy Breker
3. Shannon and Chad Schoenvold
4. Christy Wirtz and Dick Johnson
5. Ron Gollehon and Roxanne Taylor

FEMALE/FEMALE

1. Roxanne Tubbs and Beth Forner

In Appreciation

Our most sincere thanks to the following for their help in making the BRGC Walleye Derby a success on Saturday, July 16:

Major Sponsors: Opportunity Bank, Townsend Marine, and Rocky Mountain Supply

Sponsors: Hedstrom Auto Repair, Designer Tackle, and Flamingo Grill.

Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce/Canyon Ferry Walleye Festival donated caps for the youth.

Upper Missouri River Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited donated bracelets and sunglasses for youth

Canyon Enterprises/Esther Fishbaugh donated the use of the pavilion at Broadwater Bay

Friday night - The people who set up, cleaned up, checked in the folks who entered the Derby, and helped them buy youth raffle tickets and enter the Big Walleye and Big Carp pools.

Saturday - The people who checked boats out in the morning and in that afternoon, measured fish, did the calculations on the cards, did various administrative things, and in general, made the Derby run.

And, of course, the fishermen who did the fishing and generously supported the raffle that gave the fishing youth a nice bit of cash of their very own on Saturday.



What legendary pop star judges a fashion "walk-off" between Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson in Zoolander?

Answer on Page 8

Affiliation

Letters to the editor, guest columns, Op-Ed, editorials and advertising do not necessarily reflect the opinion of MT 43 News, Inc. or any of its executives, employees, or advertisers.

Letter Policy

MT 43 News, Inc. welcomes letters to the editor on subjects of general community interest.

- Letters must be signed and include the author's legal name, phone number, and address for verification purposes. Anonymous submissions will not be published.
- All accepted letters will appear on the MT43News.com website. Letters will be published in the print edition in the order received as space

allows and may not be published the week the letter was submitted.

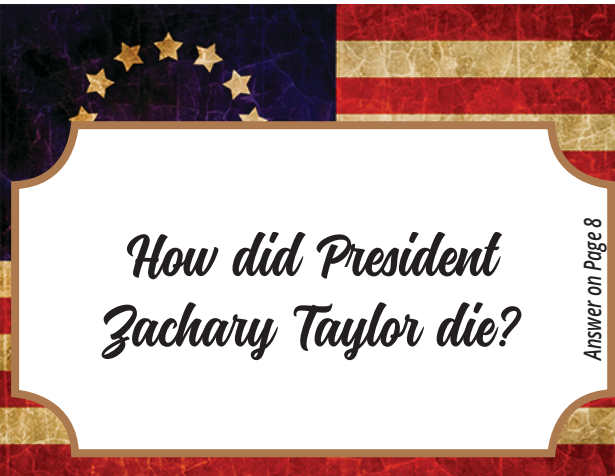
- MT 43 News embraces our freedom to speak freely and freedom of the press, but we reserve the right to refuse publication of any letter. We will make a reasonable effort to resolve any issues we may have with the submitter.
- Letters may discuss any subject, but are expected to deal with only one subject per letter and be 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for content and length. We further reserve the right to require documentation or evidence when discussing the behavior, motivation, or lives of other people.
- Letters to the Editor may not be used as a thank-you, sales pitch, or any type of solicitation. These submission must apply to paid space.

- Letters should be submitted via email (letters@MT43News.com) in plain text. Please do not attach any files.
- Headlines and bylines will be determined by the Editor at the editor's sole discretion.

Political Letters and Editorials

Political candidates are allowed to submit one biographical article during an election year. Additional articles must be paid for or they will be considered only as space allows.

- Any letter that calls into question another person's character will be held until the other party can respond to the allegations. Rebuttals must be submitted within one week of our request. If no rebuttal is received, the letter will not be printed.



Answer on Page 8



BROADWATER COUNTY FAIR 2022

Jessica Erickson

Longer days and summer nights are here and so is the 2022 Broadwater County Fair and Rodeo, August 3 through 7, 2022! Show off your red, white and blue with our theme "Country Pride, County Wide!"

The Broadwater County Fair Board is bringing in El Wencho to kick off fair week again this year. The concert is set for Wednesday, August 3 at 7:00 pm. Presale tickets will be available at the Fair Office from June 15 through July 22 for \$6.00. Tickets at the gate will be \$8.00. Kids under 5 are free. Come out to the fairgrounds and enjoy some fun music entertainment!

We have wonderful entertainment scheduled during Fair week also. Watch for the full Fair Week schedule for free STEAM activities, Rocky Mountain Movement dance group, Cattlewomen, 4-H Rabbit Agility, Larry the Cowboy Entertainer, the Eliel Family Band and DJ, Ty Steele! There are also bounce houses, the climbing wall, and on Saturday a 40-foot obstacle course and Twister inflatables!

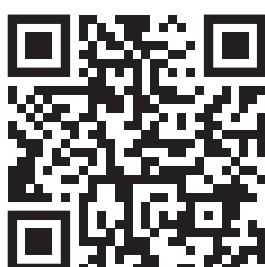
We have 393 open class entries entered into the fair so far. These cover anything from quilts to legos, and sheep fleece to green tomatoes! Open class entries are closed EXCEPT for Horticulture. Horticulture can be brought to the check-in without needing to be preregistered. Pick up a Fair Book from the Fair Office (416 Broadway, Townsend) if you are interested in entering any horticulture entries!

If you have any questions regarding the Broadwater County Fair, contact Jessica Erickson Fair Manager at (406) 266-9242, fair@co.broadwater.mt.us or come into the Fair Office at 416 Broadway in Townsend.

And then I decided I was a lemon for a couple of weeks.
Douglas Adams



Look deep into Marty Feldman's eyes... You're thinking about advertising... You're thinking about dang. Now I want a cookie.



ADVERTISE WITH US!

Broadwater County Fair Board presents:
El Wencho
Wednesday August 3rd
7:00 pm
Townsend Fairgrounds
Rodeo Arena
Tickets: Pre-Sale* \$6
At the Gate \$8

***Pre-Sale tickets available June 15th- July 22nd at the Fair Office- 416 Broadway, Townsend**
406.266.9242 for more info

CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

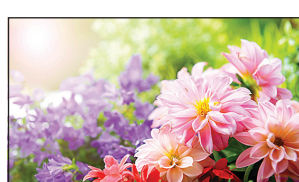
Brooke Dolan

Some members of the Bulldog Cross-Country Team competed in the 3rd Annual Diamond City Relay.

This is the third year the Bulldogs have competed in the relay. The relay consists of three days starting at Indian Creek Campgrounds on Friday the 8th and finishing at Hidden Hollow Hideaway on Sunday the 10th. The race is around 215 total miles on dirt roads and single tracks through the Big Belt and Little Belt Mountains. It is not your typical running. It is true mountain running with lots of elevation. The Bulldogs had the opportunity to race against other high school teams, elite teams, and college teams.

Team members of Big Momma and the Wild Ones were Cael O'Dell, James Pitassy, Justene Santi, Sydney Forrey, Teagan Martin, Nolan Flynn, Abby Wickens, Memphis Meier, Kaelyn Sangray, Carsyn O'Dell, and Colter Fleming (Big Timber)

With less than a month before the 1st practice of the school year, it was also a nice way to get in some good summer training. GO DOGS!!!



TOWNSEND FARMER'S MARKET

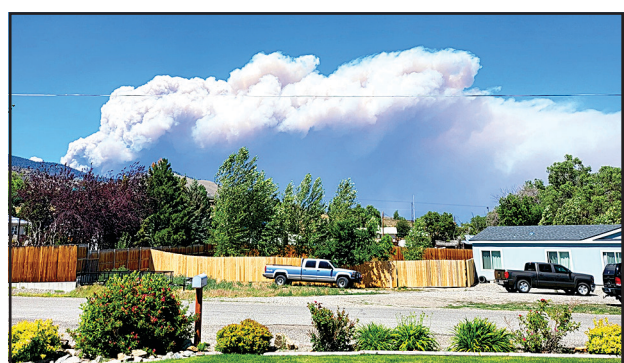
Chris Hettinger

Townsend's Farmers' Market has been operating for twelve years. As many as 100 to 150 customers walk through the market each week. That is great exposure for the person hoping to sell their products. There is still room for several more vendors. The cost is only \$5 per day, to park and sell your wares. It is a real bargain compared to many of the other area markets. Contact Chris (406-422-7933) ahead of time so she can make sure what you are selling is allowable, and that you will have a place to park.

If you grow it, make it or bake it here in Broadwater County, you can sell it at the Farmers' Market. Only a few restrictions apply. Garden produce, various baked goods, jams and jellies, soap, eggs, milk, clothing, even fancy mushrooms. The fresh produce items such as greens, onions, strawberries etc are now coming in. Each week more will show up as gardens mature.

The market is handicap accessible! If you are in your car, you don't even have to get out. The vendors will come take your order, prepare it, and bring it back to your vehicle.

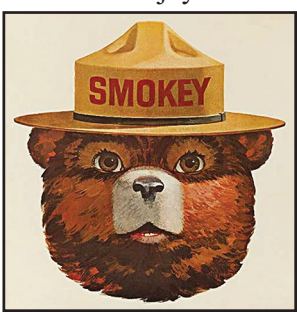
Take a couple minutes out of your busy Thursday to buy some delicious home grown food and other wares. Or if you feel the urge to visit all the friends you haven't seen for a while, come on down! 3:00 - 6:00 pm every Thursday, from now until September 29, located north of the Copy Cup on Front Street in Townsend.



Salmon, ID wildfire smoke heading our way. Photo courtesy Martha Farrand.

FIRE SEASON

Cloud-like smoke reported near Whitehall wasn't from a Montana wildfire, but a large fire burning near Salmon, ID. The DNRC map on page 8 shows regional fires burning north of Helena, north of Livingston, and in Wheatland County. While we have enjoyed much needed rain this year our annual fire season is nevertheless upon us. Please be mindful when hiking and camping to control all open flames and equally mindful of your health with smoke in the air.



2022 FAIR WEEK SCHEDULE ~ MONDAY AUGUST 1ST-SUNDAY AUGUST 8TH~

1 MONDAY	Sign up Northern Rodeo Association (NRA) Townsend Rodeo- Call Central Entry 406.256.6488; or NRA Office 406.252.1122	
2 TUESDAY	1:00 pm 4-H Horse Show 6:30 pm 4-H Dog Show	
3 WEDNESDAY	9 am-12:30 pm Open Class entries checked in at the Exhibit Building 7:00 pm Live Concert Featuring: El Wencho -In the Arena	
4 THURSDAY	1:00 pm 4-H/FFA Small Animal Show 3 pm-9pm Commercial & Exhibit Buildings Open to the Public 6:00 pm Broadwater Western Days Rodeo- Youth Division	***** ★ Under the Tent ★ ★ Entertainment: ★ ★ 5:00 ★ ★ Rocky Mountain Movement ★ ★ Dance Group ★ *****
5 FRIDAY	8:00am 4-H/FFA Swine Show 9:00 am NRA Rodeo Slack 12-9 pm Commercial & Exhibit Buildings Open to the Public 1-3:00 pm STEAM activities 1:00 pm 4-H/FFA Sheep & Goat Show 4:00 pm Premiums handed out for Open Class in Exhibit Building 5:30 pm Stick Horse Rodeo (Children ages 3-8) Sign up 5:00 East of the Tent 7:00 pm NRA Rodeo	***** ★ Under the Tent ★ ★ Entertainment: ★ ★ 3:30-4:30 ★ ★ Cattlewomen ★ ★ 5:00 ★ ★ 4-H Rabbit Agility Demo ★ *****
6 SATURDAY	8:00am 4-H/FFA Beef Show 9:00 am Team Roping 10:30 am 4-H/FFA Round Robin Showmanship 11-1:00 pm STEAM activities 11-9 pm Commercial & Exhibit Buildings Open to the Public 3:00 pm 4-H/FFA Buyers Dinner 4:00 pm 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale 7:00 pm NRA Rodeo 9pm-12 am Family Dance- DJ- Open to the public (All ages) FREE	***** ★ Under the Tent ★ ★ Entertainment: ★ ★ Noon-1:30pm ★ ★ Cowboy Entertainer ★ ★ 2pm-3:30pm ★ ★ Eliel Family Band ★ ★ 9pm-12am ★ ★ DJ Family Dance ★ *****
7 SUNDAY	10:30 am Sign up for parade- Massa Park on Broadway 12:00 pm Grand Parade on Broadway 1-5 pm Commercial & Exhibit Buildings Open to the Public 2:00 pm Broadwater Western Days Rodeo 3:30 pm 4-H Indoor Silent Auction Closes 4:00 pm 4-H & Open Class Exhibits released for pick-up. NO EARLY PICK-UP	



WINDOWS 11

Vic Sample

Microsoft is now rolling out Windows 11. New PCs come with Windows 11 installed. Windows upgrades are "upgrading" users to Windows 11.

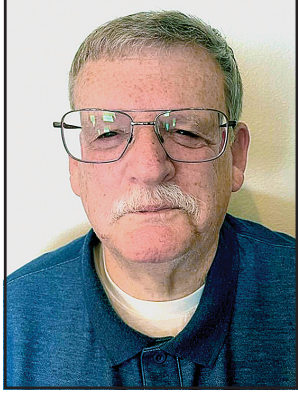
Should you upgrade to Windows 11? In general, you should upgrade to new

versions of software including Windows. You don't need to do it right away but over time your old version of Windows will become obsolete and you will find that some of the software you use, like web browsers, will become outdated and newer versions won't run on old Windows systems.

As a rule, I like to wait a year to upgrade. Let more intrepid people find the bugs in the new version.

With Windows 11 the more important question might be CAN you upgrade to Windows 11?

Security concerns require newer chip technologies to run Windows 11. A month ago, we had three



laptops, all at least four years old. They do not meet the Windows 11 criteria and cannot be upgraded. If you have acquired a new PC in the last few years it probably meets the new criteria.

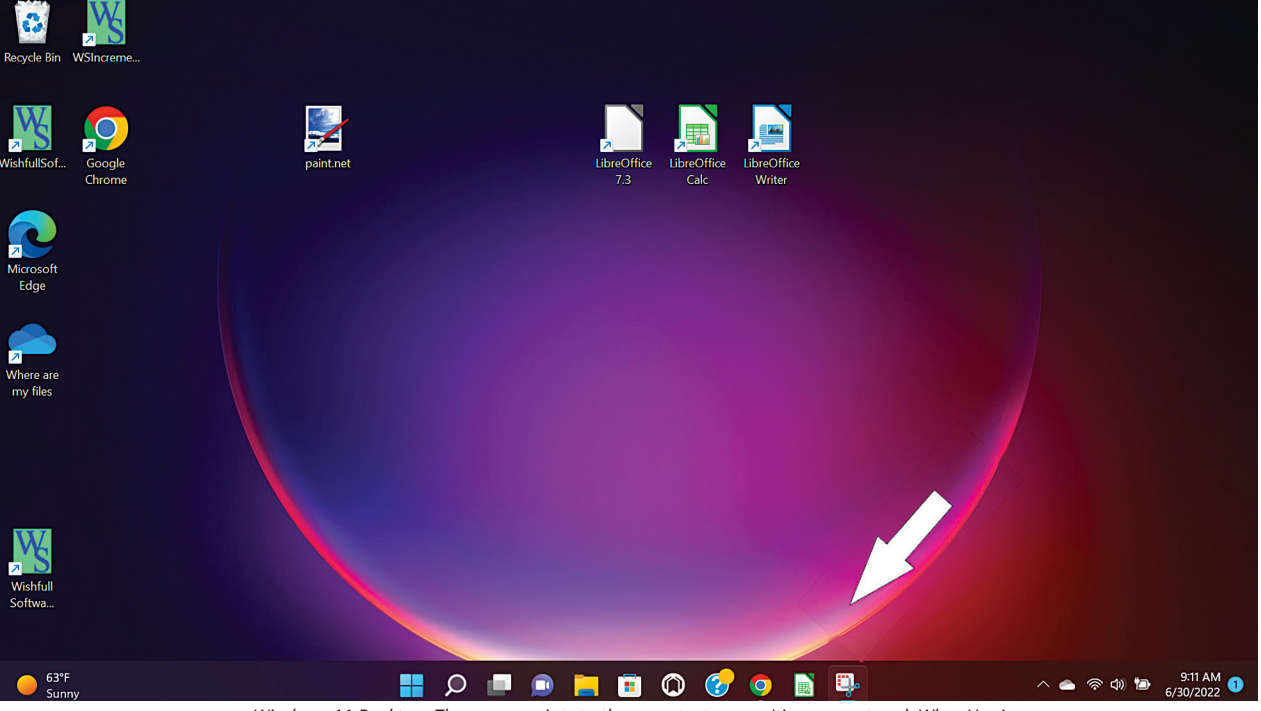
For the last two years, one of our PCs has reported the battery will not charge. Lately, it started shutting itself off. So we bought a new laptop that had Windows 11 on it. I only noticed very small differences. I was pretty underwhelmed.

Windows 11 is primarily a different appearance with new icons, new placement of the start menu and an improved Microsoft Store. None of that is of particular interest to me. There are a few new capabilities for IT specialists (the guys in a company that do all the installation and maintenance of PCs), but I didn't see anything compelling me to move to Windows 11 right away.

My recommendation is that at some point in the next year you upgrade to Windows 11 if your PC is capable of running it. There is not a lot of difference and staying reasonably current is good.

How can you determine if your PC is capable of running Windows 11? Microsoft provides a tool that will tell you if you can run Windows 11. Do a Google search for "PC Health Check Application" and go to the Microsoft Support page (there are other pages that will come up, use the Microsoft page) and follow the instructions.

If your PC is not capable of running Windows 11, stay on your current version of Windows. You may never have to upgrade. Microsoft may drop the new criteria (unlikely), or you might decide to buy a new PC and it will probably come with Windows 11.



Windows 11 Desktop: The arrow points to the new start menu. It's now centered. WhooHoo!



START WITH SATURN

Jeff Ross

Three weeks into July and a month after the Summer Solstice, we can see that the setting Sun is working its way back South. That also means that the daylight hours are getting progressively shorter by roughly a minute per day this close to the solstice. We now have almost a half hour less of daylight than we did on the Solstice.

Increasing darkness means more opportunities to use a telescope under dark skies. I'd be the first to admit that it is a challenge to stay up late enough to get to dark skies during June and July. It's a good thing there is still plenty to see during the early evening!

Saturn is the first of the planets we see in the early evening, visible to the unaided eye. It rises a little after 10:00 p.m. Jupiter rises around midnight so Jupiter and Saturn can be seen during all of the truly dark hours. Mars makes its appearance a little after 1:00 a.m. Venus rises about 4:00 a.m., about half an hour before the end of twilight.

Our Moon is at Last Quarter, rising around midnight. With Saturn up by then and Jupiter and the Moon rising at about the same time an hour later, there will be a trio of objects visible to the observer with binoculars or a small telescope.

The Broadwater School and Community Library has such a telescope available for checkout to anyone with library privileges. It is more than capable of showing off the rings of Saturn and Jupiter's four Galilean moons. Panning down the Moon's terminator, you will see sunlit mountain tops above inky dark plains below. Later around 3:00 a.m. you could take that StarBlast telescope and simply drift through the Milky Way to see countless galaxies and nebulas. Its wide field of view makes it an excellent tool to simply get lost in the ribbon of stars stretching from the Northeast to the Southwest.

With clear skies, of course.



Please remember to return your "Building a Better Broadwater" survey! Your insight will guide our future. Thank you!



J ROCK JEWELRY

Angela Janacaro

The newest member of the Townsend retail business community is J Rock Jewelry, located at 321 Broadway, Suite B. From the first step inside the door a feeling of simple, classic style pervades the senses. Peruse the display case filled with beautiful hand-crafted jewelry and it is apparent the feeling is not accidental. A visit with the owner and creator, Jessica Hanson, cements the idea that the beauty and simplicity of her work is an organic reflection of the artist.

Born and raised in Billings, Hanson and her family were attracted to the Townsend area during their frequent visits for her husband's National Guard duties in Helena. They had some family and friends in the area and thought the community was a nice place to settle. While living in Billings, Hanson gained practical experience as a custom goldsmith and bench jeweler while working at Riddle's Jewelry. Her formal training came from Flathead Valley Community College where she earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in goldsmithing and jewelry production.

For the most part, her jewelry is silversmithing and custom design, "I do a lot of custom brand jewelry with more of a western style." Hanson will also take on limited repair work if time allows. Her website <http://www.Jrockjewelry.com> features many of her stunning custom designs and allows for easy online ordering. The custom pieces inside the store range in price from \$25.00 to \$200.00.

J Rock is busy enough to employ a jeweler apprentice, sixteen-year-old, Luci Home. Hanson and her apprentice are busily preparing their creations for a vendor booth at the Red Ants Pants Music Festival held in White Sulphur Springs, July 28-31. The following weekend on August 5, J Rock Jewelry will host a Grand Opening of the store.

Jessica claims the best part of owning a small business in Townsend is interacting with the people who live here. Keep being cool, Townsendites, and put some bling on it from J Rock Jewelry.



FREE

MOVIE NIGHT

BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET AND ENJOY SOME POPCORN DURING A MOVIE THE WHOLE FAMILY WILL ENJOY!

JULY 27 | 7:30 PM

HERITAGE PARK



Vacation Bible School

July 25-29

9a-12p

4 Years- Entering 5th Grade

Go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.

From more information email events@trailheadchristianchurch.com

Register Here:



Sale—July 23, 2022



If you are considering having a Garage/Yard Sale this year please consider having the sale during the 6th Annual Broadwater County—Wide Yard Sale event.

There will also be a flea market area on Front Street near the Copy Cup. There is no fee set up at the flea market.

We will do all the advertising in Broadwater County and in surrounding counties; we will create a map of the yard sales that day; **YOU** will keep all the profits.

There is no fee to be included in the County-Wide Yard Sale.



Maps for the yard sale can be downloaded from the Missouri Valley Marketing website: <https://missourivalleymarketing.org>

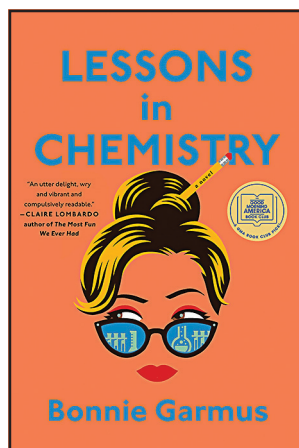
The maps will continue to be updated online right up to the day of the County-Wide Yard Sale as new sites come in. Printed maps will be available by July 20 at the Reading Leaves Bookstore (401 Broadway) in Townsend. Printed maps will also be available at the flea market site on Front Street adjacent to the Copy Cup.



LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY BY BONNIE GARMUS

Rachael Elliott-Brug

Elizabeth Zott is a woman who knows what she wants. Unfortunately, she is a woman scientist in 1960s California. Dismissed from graduate school after being attacked by a professor, she takes a job at a laboratory doing research. Determined to pursue her own research and receive credit for it, she turns down a marriage proposal from the man she loves. She knows if she accepts, everyone will assume all of her hard work is his work. Fast forward 10 years, Zott finds herself a single unemployed mother. She earns money doing work for her former colleagues on the side. Barely making ends meet and with few prospects, she is accidentally discovered by a television producer and becomes a reluctant star. "Supper at Six" is a runaway hit! Elizabeth Zott whisks herself into America's kitchens with her revolutionary approach to cooking. With ingredients like "one tablespoon acetic acid and a pinch of sodium chloride" who wouldn't be intrigued? Cooking is not all Elizabeth Zott is teaching her audience, she is challenging them to rock the boat (this one will make sense when you read it I promise). This book is equal parts laugh out loud, rip your heart out, and stop and think. Elizabeth Zott is a character you will not soon forget. Bonnie Garmus has written a debut novel that will leave readers coming back for seconds.



SENIOR CENTER

SENIOR CENTER MENU JULY 25-29	Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Plump Peaches
Monday July 25	Thursday July 28
Baked Ham	BBQ Pork Sandwich
Scalloped Potatoes	Potato Salad
Garden Peas	Pickled Beets
Carrot Raisin Salad	Cinnamon Applesauce
Spiced Apples	
Tuesday July 26	Friday July 29
Sloppy Joe's on a Bun	Salisbury Steak
Baked Beans	Steamed Potatoes
Creamy Coleslaw	California Blend
Juicy Pears	Carrot Raisin Salad
	Mandarin Oranges
Wednesday July 27	
Roasted Turkey	

How old was Britney Spears when her hit song 'Baby One More Time' came out in 1998?
Answer on page 8

The world is full of magical things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper.
W.B. Yeats

Announcing!!

Performances will be on August 12, 13 and 14th, 2022!

BroadwaterCommunityTheater@gmail.com
or 406.916.8009 Carla Amundson
406.475.4016 LaRinda Spencer

Broadwater Community Theater is underwritten by the Fun For Life Program, a Broadwater County nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging K through 8th grade students to apply for scholarships in theater, art, music and foreign language.

Broadwater Community Theater wishes to congratulate **MT43News!**
We wish you the best!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



July 23

County-Wide Yard Sale
Maps obtained online at:
<http://MissouriValleyMarketing.org>

July 27

Free Movie Night
7:30 p.m. at Heritage Park

July 29

John Larsen Family & Friends
5:00 p.m. at the Canton Church

July 30

Backyards of Broadwater
Home & Garden Tour

Shakespeare in the Parks
"Twelfth Night"
6:00 p.m. @ Heritage Park

August 1-8

Broadwater County Fair & Rodeo

August 7

El Wencho
7:00 p.m. at the Fairgrounds

August 12

The Ruby Valley Boys and Barb Wire
5:00 p.m. at the Canton Church

August 12-14

Broadwater Community Theatre
"Disney's Aladdin Jr."
At The Lodge of Townsend

August 13

Grand Opening
Sharp Shinned Skatepark

August 26

Jim Foster

5:00 p.m. at the Canton Church

OUR WALK IN FAITH



Elkhorn Community Fellowship, 126 N Cedar St. Townsend. Services: Sunday, 11:00 a.m. Pastor Eric Crusch, 949-0183.

Faith Baptist Church, 5 Jack Farm Rd. Townsend. Services: Sunday, Prayer time, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.; Morning Service, 11:00 a.m. Wednesday: Evening Service, 6:00 p.m., Bible time & prayer, 7:00 p.m. Pastor Mike Wenzel, 266-4219.

Holy Cross Catholic Church, 101 S. Walnut St. Townsend. Mass: Wednesday, 9:00 a.m., Thursday, 9:00 a.m., Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Sunday, 8:00 a.m. Adoration: Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. Reconciliation: Saturday, 5:15-5:45 p.m. or by appt. Rel. Ed. classes: Pre-K-5th Grade, Wednesday, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Middle & High School grades, Wednesday, 6:15-8:30 p.m. Adult classes, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Father Cody Williams, 266-4811 or office@holycrossmt.org.

Mountain Valley Church of the Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA), 110 E Street Townsend. Services: Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Kids ministry during Sunday services. Life groups meet during the week. Pastor Eric Krueger, 465-5895. MountainValleyChurch.org. We stream our services on Facebook: Facebook.com/mountainValleyChurch406. (Was Alliance Bible Church.)

Radersburg Baptist Church, 7 Main St. Radersburg. Services: Sunday: Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Worship, 11:00 a.m. Pastor Richard Summerlin, 410-0458.

Seventh Day Adventist Church, 200 N. Cedar St. Townsend. Services: Saturday, 9:30 a.m., Bible study, 10:30 a.m. Pastor John Witcombe, 594-1710 or 431-2810.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church ELCA Synod, 301 N. Cherry St. Townsend. Services: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Women of the ELCA meet second Tuesday every month at 6:00 PM. Bible Studies meet weekly. Call Pastor Anna Viehland for more information, at 406-272-2352.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 916 Broadway St. Townsend. Choir Practice, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Services: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Christian education, Sunday, 10:40 a.m. Youth activities Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Family History Center, Tuesday, 6:00-9:00 p.m. or by appt. (Director Rebecca Mitchell, 980-0270). Bishop Matt Graham, 266-4255.

Townsend United Methodist Church, 200 N. Cedar St. Townsend. Services: Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Pastor Daniel Viehland, 266-3390. TownsendUMC.org.

Trailhead Christian Fellowship, 20 Trailhead View Dr. Townsend (5 mi. north of Townsend). Sunday School and Christian Education, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Services Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Middle School youth group, Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Pastor Mark Roelofs, 266-4406 or info@trailheadchristianchurch.com, www.TrailheadChristianChurch.com.

YESTERYEAR



ST. LOUIS, MONTANA??

Vic Sample

When gold was discovered at Last Chance Gulch and Confederate Gulch in 1864, miners and prospectors were drawn to the Missouri River Valley. Radersburg exploded to become a town of around 2500 people.

According to early accounts in 1866, mining claims were filed in the area along Indian Creek and the town of St. Louis sprung up. Leeson's History of Montana (published 1885) noted that St. Louis had a population of 116 people, including merchants who had associated stores in Diamond City and Canton.

Of course, the much better-known city of St. Louis, Missouri already existed. Mail was often routed to the wrong place and the United States Postal Service soon asked the town of St. Louis, Montana to change its name.

A town meeting was called and the suggested names for the town were narrowed down to the names of two old-timers, B.F. Lowery and Joe Hassel. A vote was cast. It was a tie between the names of Lowery and Hassel. A count was taken and there was only one eligible voter missing, Charley Moffat.

A delegation was sent to Charley's house to ask him to make the tie-breaking vote. Mr. Moffat was sound asleep (passed out?) and highly inebriated. When asked to vote between Lowery and Hassel, Charley Moffat remembered that Lowery had been a Confederate soldier and exclaimed "I'll vote for Hassel. I wouldn't vote for that renegade rebel Lowery". The town was renamed Hassel.

Mr. Moffat likely regretted making that vote since B.F. Lowery was his best friend! Or at least he used to be his best friend.

The town of Hassel was strictly a mining town and the town's fortunes rose and fell with the price of metals. Hassel never had a population much over 200 people, but the town lasted well into the 1930s and 1940s. In January of 1971, the Townsend Star carried a small item in the Commissioner's proceedings stating that there was a petition to abandon the streets and alleys of the site of the St. Louis Townsite later known as Hassel.

All that remains of Hassel is a single building located across Indian Creek and the fork between Indian Creek Road and Shep's Gulch Road. Many of Broadwater County's older residents remember two signs painted on the Indian Creek Canyon walls that advertised Townsend businesses to the citizens of St. Louis/Hassel. The signs have all but disappeared from the rocks along the canyon road.

TRAILHEAD CHURCH SPONSORS WILL LYNDE AT CAMP UTMOST

Nancy Marks

Broadwater High School senior Will Lynde attended a bible centered camp two miles from the Clearwater Junction on the way to Seeley Lake on July 10. The camp, run by Rocky Mountain Bible Mission of Missoula, is several acres in size right on the Little Blackfoot River. The camp has been dedicated as a safe and exciting way to spread the gospel to kids of all ages since 1958.

As a counselor for fifth and sixth-grade boys and gatekeeper for one of the cottages, Will reported 115 campers from all around the state attended the 5 day camp. Will said the students did rafting, archery, water slides and many games. The camp also included learning sessions.

"The students absolutely loved the excitement and gospel-centered learning," he said. For more information, please go to www.camputmst.org.



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

What is the only temperature that is the same in Fahrenheit and Celsius?

Answer on page 8

Sudoku

Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 9 by 9 box contains all of the numbers 1 to 9.

Difficulty: Easy

2	1			8				
		6			4		1	
	9	4	6				8	2
	7					4	5	
	2	9	7	4				
4	5		8		6		2	7
9				6	3		7	5
	3				8	2	6	4
5		8	4	7				1

Difficulty: Very Hard

				9				7
								2
			7				6	
			3			9	2	
		9		5	8			
	2		5			7	1	
1		4				2		8
8								

Clue: Walk of Fame

Words run in all directions: forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally. Number of words: 35.

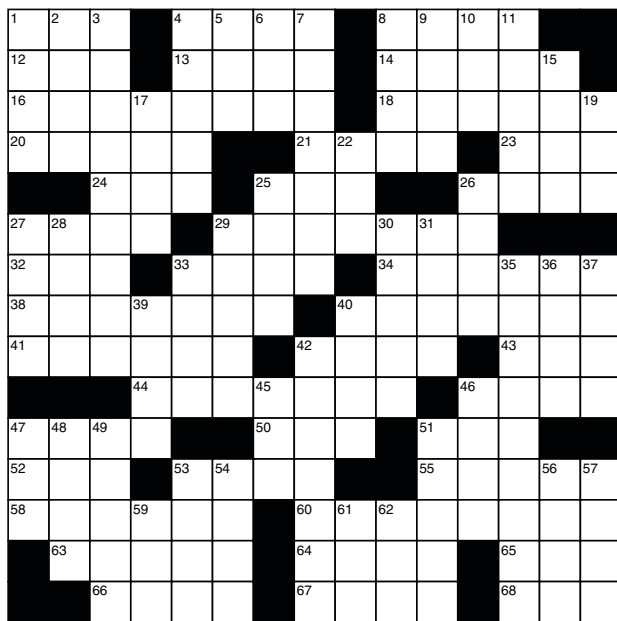
R	E	V	A	E	W	S	K	N	A	B	R	I	A	F
M	T	L	B	K	X	L	R	L	U	G	O	S	I	C
N	J	R	B	A	G	D	I	E	S	E	L	D	N	M
C	R	M	A	A	C	R	R	Y	K	P	W	P	O	L
S	R	U	Y	G	G	A	O	O	R	V	E	P	T	A
A	S	U	B	L	O	R	L	Y	G	T	F	E	S	N
V	I	D	I	O	K	B	O	L	N	E	L	D	E	D
A	N	F	L	S	C	R	J	A	Y	O	R	F	H	A
L	A	Y	R	L	E	D	R	H	R	L	T	S	Q	U
A	T	O	C	P	F	U	P	E	C	K	W	R	J	Z
S	R	M	M	L	D	R	V	Y	Y	N	Z	H	U	P
H	A	I	Y	F	U	E	M	C	Q	U	E	E	N	B
S	Q	N	K	M	E	N	S	A	R	E	D	N	A	B
I	N	T	Y	R	T	U	A	R	E	N	O	T	S	W
G	T	E	N	I	N	G	R	O	B	G	V	H	K	K

Cryptogram

Decipher this simple substitution cypher to reveal a pearl of wisdom!

Hint: P = E

AERCWO YDEBQ ALC-
 WOG GPDCUTGNQ CG E
 GPDCUTG XEGAP UK
 ACVP.



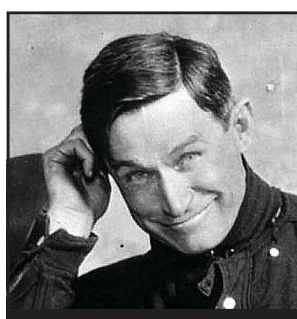
ACROSS

- 1 Flightless bird
- 4 Allege
- 8 Christmas meats
- 12 Beige
- 13 In __ of (instead of)
- 14 City in Nebraska
- 16 Bridal vows
- 18 State capital
- 20 Hawaiian 'hello'
- 21 Any time now
- 23 Inc., in London
- 24 Family men
- 25 Pen brand
- 26 Pickens of "Hee Haw"
- 27 Decorative needle case
- 29 Large WA city
- 32 Miss
- 33 Cob
- 34 Rollerblader's protection
- 38 Polar ice cap
- 40 Bison
- 41 Calm
- 42 Nearly horizontal entrance
- 43 Digital audio tape
- 44 Draws
- 46 Not women's
- 47 Suffer
- 50 Anger

- 51 Peanut butter brand
- 52 French 34 Across
- 53 Buckeye State
- 55 Lame, contemporary
- 58 Have staying power
- 60 Microorganism
- 63 Home of a mythical lion
- 64 Oodles
- 65 Sticky black substance
- 66 Espy
- 67 Little
- 68 Volume (abbr.)
- 27 Chicken product
- 28 Narration
- 29 Use a broom
- 30 Bumps
- 31 Opp. of right-handed
- 33 Coscant's opposite
- 35 Like many movie sequels that couldn't get the original cast to return
- 36 Zeal
- 37 Children
- 39 Give up
- 40 Gnaw
- 42 Elevated circus performer
- 45 Number after Rocky or Richard
- 46 Get stuck
- 47 Is
- 48 Connecticut (abbr.)
- 49 Tanners' purchases
- 51 Pier
- 53 Dunking cookies
- 54 Word with dead or prickly
- 56 Hi!
- 57 Malone or Malden
- 59 Ref
- 61 Boxer Muhammad
- 62 Learn by reading

DOWN

- 1 Volcano
- 2 Disfigure
- 3 No friends
- 4 False name
- 5 Travel term
- 6 Snake like fish
- 7 Moscow resident
- 8 Santa call (2 wds.)
- 9 I second that!
- 10 Bad (prefix)
- 11 Something punny in this puzzle
- 15 In a negative camp
- 17 Siamese
- 19 USNA rank
- 22 Halloween mo.
- 25 Wall Street pessimist
- 26 Your person



Will Rogers

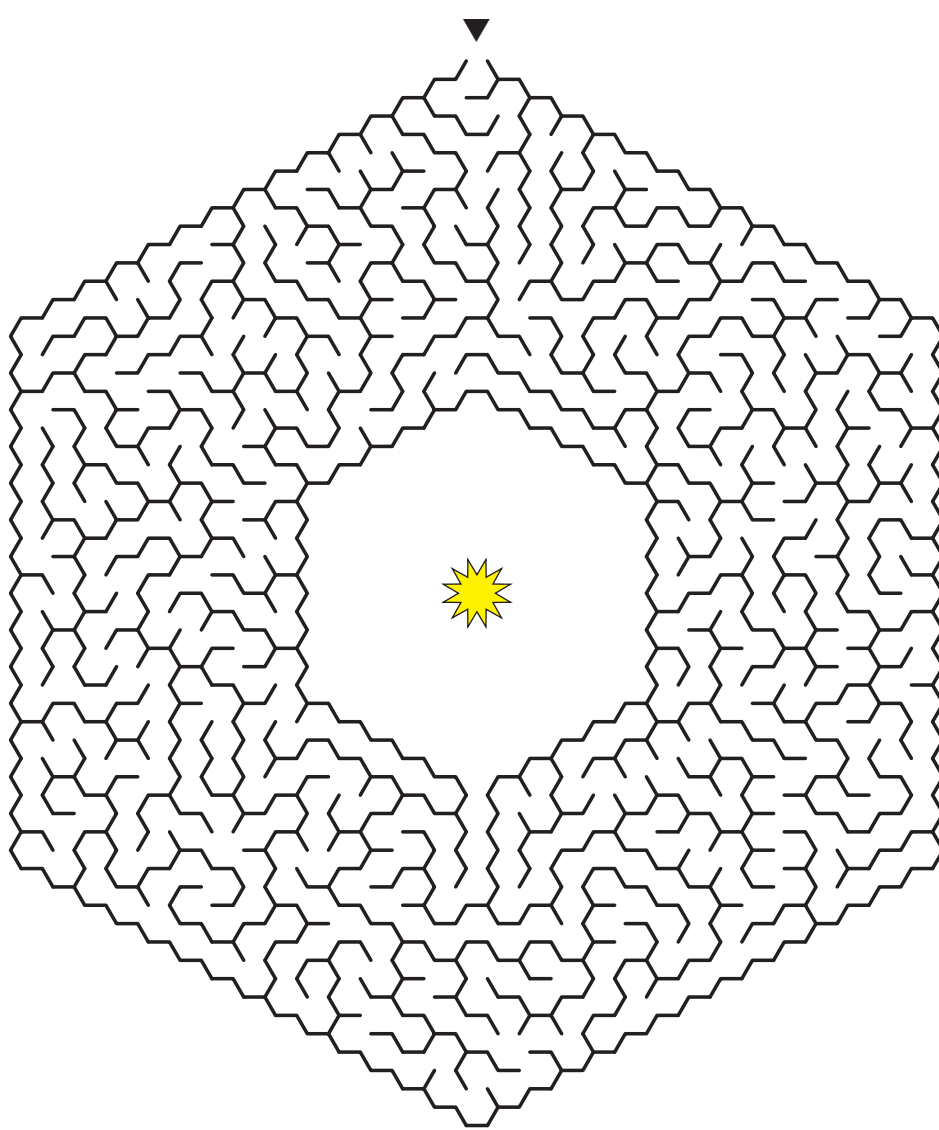
Never miss a good chance to shut up.



Wherever you are, there you are
Buckaroo Banzai

Weekly Maze

Start at the top and find your way to the center of this challenging maze!



PROPERLY TRAINED, A MAN CAN BE DOG'S BEST FRIEND.

VISIT HISTORIC CANTON CHURCH

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH
2022 SUMMER SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

DATE	VISITING HOURS	GROUP/SPEAKER	EVENT TIME
JUNE 10	3-6 PM	Seldom Kings <small>Acoustic Trio playing folk, rock and country music</small>	5 PM
JUNE 24	3-6 PM	Neal Lewing—Inlaws and Outlaws <small>Award winning singer/songwriter</small>	5 PM
JULY 15	3-6 PM	WE Tierney <small>Broadwater County Pioneer and Leader</small>	5 PM
JULY 29	3-6 PM	John Larsen, Family and Friends <small>Toe tapping music</small>	5 PM
AUGUST 12	3-6 PM	The Ruby Valley Boys and Barb Wire <small>Folk, Country and Gospel music</small>	5 PM
AUGUST 26	3-6 PM	Jim Foster <small>Folk, County, Gospel and Patriotic music</small>	5 PM

Visit our website at
<https://canton-church.org>

THANK YOU!

For your support of
MT 43 News

WARM WATER AND LOW FLOWS PROMPT HOOT-OWL FISHING RESTRICTIONS ON SMITH AND SUN RIVERS

MFWP
Jul 15, 2022

Fishing closure daily from 2 p.m. to midnight: Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks is advising anglers that portions of the Smith and Sun rivers will close to all fishing daily from 2 p.m. to midnight, beginning Saturday, July 16. The restrictions will stay in effect until conditions improve. The hoot-owl restrictions are issued for: Smith River—from the confluence of the North and South forks to Eden Bridge south of Great Falls. Sun River—from the Highway 287 Bridge to the mouth of Muddy Creek. For more information visit fwp.mt.gov.

FISHING RESTRICTION IN PLACE FOR LOWER MADISON RIVER DUE TO HIGH TEMPS

MFWP
Jul 14, 2022

A daily fishing restriction is now in place for the lower Madison River to reduce fish stress and mortality during high water temperatures.

The hoot-owl fishing restriction, which prohibits fishing each day between 2 p.m. and midnight, applies from the Warm Springs Boat Launch to the Madison River's confluence with the Jefferson River. Water temperatures in the lower Madison have exceeded 73 degrees for three consecutive days, meeting criteria for the restriction. For more information visit fwp.mt.gov.



Easy

7	6	8	5	1	3	4	9	2
4	3	9	6	8	2	7	1	5
5	2	1	9	4	7	3	6	8
3	7	2	4	9	8	1	5	6
8	4	5	2	6	1	9	7	3
1	9	6	7	3	5	8	2	4
9	5	7	3	2	4	6	8	1
6	1	4	8	5	9	2	3	7
2	8	3	1	7	6	5	4	9

Very Hard

3	2	6	1	9	7	5	4	8
5	4	7	6	8	2	1	9	3
1	8	9	4	3	5	6	7	2
6	5	3	8	1	4	7	2	9
8	1	2	7	5	9	4	3	6
9	7	4	3	2	6	8	5	1
2	3	8	5	7	1	9	6	4
7	6	1	9	4	3	2	8	5
4	9	5	2	6	8	3	1	7

SCIENCE TRIVIA: -40°
MUSIC TRIVIA: 17
EATING CHERRIES:
HISTORY TRIVIA: FROM
MOVIE TRIVIA: DAVID BOWIE

WASTE OF TIME:
SERIOUSLY IS A SERIOUS
TAKING CRAZY THINGS
CRYPTOGRAM SOLUTION:

GIANFORTE ANNOUNCES HOUSING AFFORDABILITY TASK FORCE

Eric Dietrich, MFP
07.14.2022



Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte issued an executive order Thursday creating a "housing advisory council" tasked with suggesting ways for the state "to increase the supply of affordable, attainable workforce housing."

In a release announcing the task force's creation, the governor acknowledged that housing has been a long-term affordability issue for Montanans and blamed the state's housing shortage on burdensome regulations.

"Owning a home is part of the American dream, but for more than a decade, it's become harder and harder for Montanans to afford to own or rent a home," Gianforte said in a statement. "Burdensome, restrictive, and unnecessary regulations have left Montana with a longstanding shortage of housing that continues to drive up the prices Montanans pay for their home."

The governor's executive order specifically cites underbuilding of starter homes, supply-chain breakdowns, construction labor shortages and zoning restrictions as factors limiting the state's supply of housing that's affordable for Montana workers.

Gianforte, a Republican, has faced criticism in recent months for aggressively promoting the state as a relocation destination for former residents while current residents face a housing crunch, and for not spending some federal coronavirus relief money that had been earmarked for housing efforts.

Legislative Democrats said earlier this week they want to spend \$500 million of the state's budget surplus on incentives to promote affordable home construction.

At a press conference Wednesday, Sen. Pat Flowers, D-Belgrade, said the housing crunch "is, without a doubt, the No. 1 issue in Montana."

The goal of the new housing task force, Gianforte said, is "to get to the bottom of the problem and provide solutions to get us out of it."

Citing figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, the governor's office noted Thursday that the state's population grew by 9.6% between 2010 and 2020 but added new housing units at a rate of only 6.6%. It also said the state's rental vacancy rate, as estimated by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, fell from 5.7% in 2010 to 4.4% in 2020.

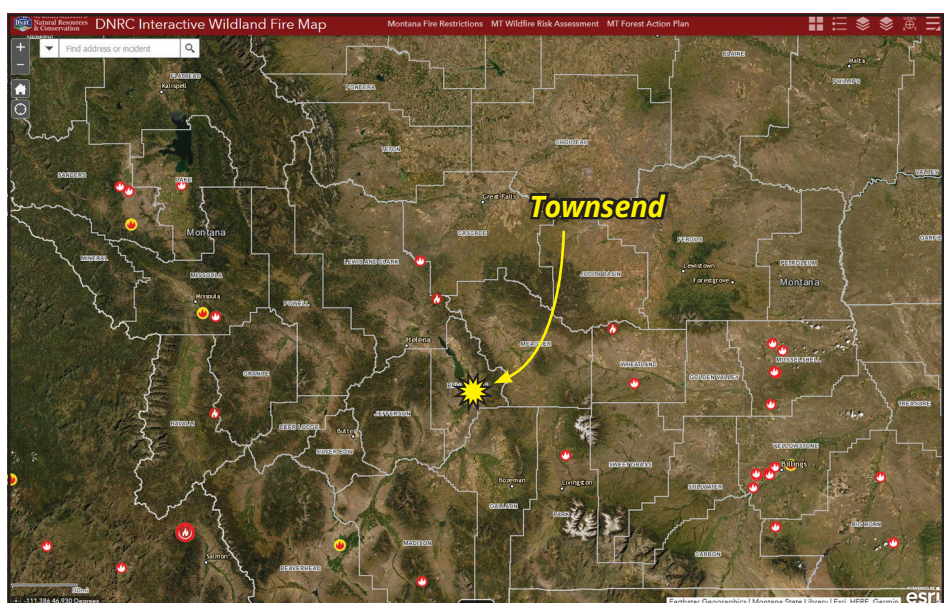
Gianforte's office also cited figures from the National Association of Home Builders, which estimates that the average portion of a new single family home's cost attributable to regulation grew from \$65,224 in 2011 to \$93,870 last year.

According to real estate company Zillow's home value index, the typical price for a Montana home has risen by 54% since the beginning of 2020, up from \$291,000 in January 2020 to \$448,000 last month.

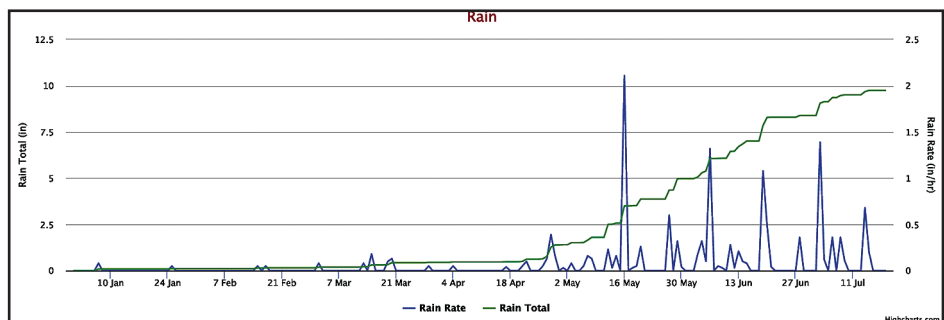
The governor's office said Thursday that the new housing task force will be chaired by Chris Dorington, director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. The group also includes the following members:

- Sen. Ellie Boldman, D-Missoula
- Sen. Greg Hertz, R-Polson
- Rep. Danny Tenenbaum, D-Missoula
- Rep. Sue Vinton, R-Billings
- Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Laurie Esau
- Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Director Amanda Kaster
- Department of Commerce Director Scott Osterman
- University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research Director Patrick Barkey
- Island Mountain Development Group CEO Terry Brockie
- Fergus County Commissioner Ross Butcher
- Kendall Cotton, president and CEO of the Frontier Institute
- Nathan Dugan, president and co-founder of Shelter WF
- Mark Egge, an affordable housing advocate and data scientist
- Jaclyn Giop, president of the Montana Water Well Drillers Association
- Eugene Graf, owner of E.G. Construction
- Emily Hamilton, Ph.D., senior research fellow and director of the Urbanity Project at the Mercatus Center
- Montana Board of Housing Secretary Adam Hertz
- Great Falls Mayor Bob Kelly
- Jacob Kuntz, executive director of the Helena Area Habitat for Humanity
- Bill Leininger, president of the Montana Association of Realtors
- Todd O'Hair, president and CEO of the Montana Chamber of Commerce
- Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
- Mike Smith, market president of Glacier Bank
- Valerie Stacey, an environmental health specialist with Lewis and Clark County
- Don Sterhan, steering committee member of the Montana Housing Coalition and president and CEO of Mountain Plains Equity Group

An initial task force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 20, the governor's office said. A spokesman confirmed Thursday that that meeting will be open to the public.



Fri 7/22	Sat 7/23	Sun 7/24	Mon 7/25	Tue 7/26
Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear	Mostly Clear
88° 55°	86° 56°	89° 57°	85° 56°	83° 53°
0% 5 30 mph	0% 6 17 mph	0% 6 23 mph	0% 6 23 mph	0% 6 19 mph



HOT AND WINDY CONDITIONS RAMP UP MONTANA'S 2022 WILDFIRE SEASON

Keely Larson, MFP
07.19.2022



Fire danger in Montana is ramping up with hot and windy days forecast through the week.

Though the summer has been largely smoke-free so far, a few fires in the state have garnered attention in the past couple of weeks, and smoke from the Moose Fire about 20 miles north of Salmon, Idaho, is tinting skies around Bozeman and Ennis.

The Moose Fire has covered 3,600 acres as of Tuesday, and the cause is undetermined. It's burning on both sides of Salmon River Road, and crews are working to reduce the impact to recreationalists, according to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Inciweb page. The area is a popular launch point for boaters on the main stretch of the Salmon River and take-out spot for boaters on the Salmon's Middle Fork, according to Amy Baumer, public affairs officer with the Salmon-Challis National Forest, which currently reports "very high" fire danger. Fires start easily and can spread quickly when conditions reach very high.

The Hog Trough Fire east of Hamilton is adding to the smoke in southwest Montana. At about 50 acres as of Tuesday morning, the lightning-sparked fire is burning in a scar from fires in the 2000s. According to the Bitterroot National Forest Facebook page, the fire was unstaffed as of Monday due to the remote and rugged location. The Gird Point Lookout is watching the fire for growth and reports back to fire managers with the Bitterroot and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests.

Fire danger in the Bitterroot National Forest is listed as high. In response to high temperatures and windy conditions, Ravalli County on July 18 declared a burn ban for the remainder of the summer.

Smoke from the Hog Trough and Moose fires is expected to move east and reduce visibility through the I-90 corridor from Butte to Bozeman.

On July 16, the Moors Mountain Fire in the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness outside of Helena burned about 90 acres and shot smoke high onto the valley's horizon. A lightning storm Thursday night and Friday morning is likely to blame for the ignition, according to Chiara Cipriano, public affairs officer with the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest.

Fire retardant was dropped on the ridgeline and five smokejumpers set up an anchor point to manage the fire. The next day, a 20-person crew hiked to the location and a team traveled from central Montana to assist the local response.

On July 18, two hand crews and six aircraft worked the fire. Containment was unknown as of Tuesday.

Everyone's keeping an eye on the winds, Cipriano said. On Monday it was blowing east toward private property and crews were working the east and north sides of the fire, digging fire lines in an attempt to mitigate property damage. Those winds didn't push the fire eastward, Cipriano said, and aren't a current concern. The Great Falls branch of the National Weather Service reported wind gusts of 54 mph at the Helena Regional Airport on July 18, and gusts up to 77 mph at the Cut Bank airport in Glacier County on Tuesday.

The Jellison Fire, also near Helena on the eastern end of the Little Belt Mountains, was caused by lightning. Reported on July 12, the fire was well under control in about four days and is now 100% contained. A combination of moisture and few fires competing for resources has made responding and extinguishing fires easier so far this summer than last, Cipriano said.

"The next 10 days look hot and dry so I think it's a valid concern that this is a time to be taking all the fire precautions seriously," Cipriano said Monday.

The lightning-caused Wilks Gulch Fire, 100% contained as of July 13, burned just east of Hot Springs.

On Monday, Missoula County banned outdoor burning and bumped its fire danger to high. All of the state's national forests, excepting the Beaverhead-Deerlodge, are reporting moderate or higher fire danger as of Tuesday. The Ashland and Sioux ranger districts in the Custer-Gallatin National Forest are reporting very high fire danger.

The National Interagency Coordinating Center expects hot, dry and breezy conditions and drying fuels to activate fires faster and make them more resistant to control over the coming week.