

BROADWATER HIGH NEWS AND INFO INSIDE!

Photos from Homecoming and Spirit Week! Athletes of the Week Weather, p. 6 Comics and puzzles, p.6 Fall Fest revisited p. 12

Volume I, Issue No. 15

October 21, 2022

\$1.00

Listening Sessions: Building a Better Broadwater

Perhaps you missed your chance to voice your beef about living in the county. On the other hand, maybe you wanted to crow about how great it is to live here.

Last Wednesday and Thursday Broadwater Community Development Corporation (BCDC) John Hahn and Allison Kosto, MSU Extension agent hosted several government groups who facilitated residents from Townsend, Toston, Winston and Wheatland-Three Forks areas to voice the concerns of citizens living in these areas. The last community review was done in 2004.

University of Idaho associate professor Lorie Higgins, a twenty-year veteran of organizing community reviews, and several others led the sessions which wrapped up on Thursday night at the Methodist church. She said 112 participants gave their input from the various towns, including 25 Broadwater High School students and 20 teachers from the school. "The students were so engaged about their activities and how the community supports them for sports. The one request they had was for them to have better communication with the community," she said.

People said they loved the friendliness in the small towns in the county. They loved the access to good medical care and especially pointed out the recent upgrade of Townsend's downtown appearance.

Higgins noted what participants worry about: subdivision sprawl, a loss of essential services such as fire, law enforcement and emergency services, loss of agricultural land, water resources, adequate housing and the loss of small-town culture.

She summarized participants' wants and wishes. "You are wishing for more motels and restaurants. Your students emphasized they did not want franchise services to come to Townsend. Everyone asked for good rural internet service and to increase emergency services, especially in the southern end of the county. Senior citizens would like to have a bus to take them back and forth to shop and to doctors' appointments."

County residents filled out the survey earlier this month. The data from the survey will be compiled along with that of the listening sessions. Higgins and others will return in 2023 to help government leaders, businesses, county nonprofits and citizens plan how to implement what people want for the county for the future.

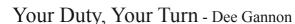
In an interview, Higgins gave her background in community review and planning. She began in 2003 as an extension community development specialist in Moscow where she developed programs to help communities around the northwest region adapt to change. "In the beginning we set up community groups with a set agenda to help them solve the problems we saw. Later we adopted the listening sessions, a different strategy pioneered by

> Wyoming Rural Partnership specialist Mary Randolph. The plan has worked so well it is used now all around the Northwest," she explained.

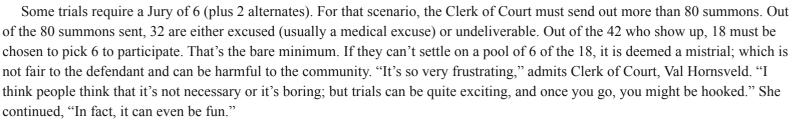
> If you missed your chance to participate in the survey, contact the MSU Extension Service at allison.kosto@montana.edu or call (406) 266-9242.

Many folks helped make Building Better Broadwater Listening Sessions happen.

Left to right: Rebecca Meyers, Mt. Economics Dev. Assn.; Craig Vietz, BCDC; Vickie Rauser, City Council; Lorie Higgins, University of Idaho(UI); Marcie Miller, UI; Katherine Anderson, Montana Economic Development Corporation; John Hahn, BCDC; Allison Koston, MSU Extension; Becky Bey, KLJ Engineering, Makenzie Esplund, Three Forks Chamber of Commerce and Craig Erickson, Great Western Engineering.



Everyone who is a registered voter, and has a driver's license or State ID is considered for Jury Duty when the need arises. Those who actually receive a summons in the mail are required to return the paperwork, (hopefully) anxious to do their 'civic duty' by sitting on a jury for either City Court, Justice Court or District Court. Unfortunately, in Broadwater County, that is not how it works.







It seems that the undeliverable part of the equation is the most prevalent. People move, leaving no forwarding address, or they die. For Justice and City Court, that's the rub. They send out 55 summons to get 13 jurors (12 plus an alternate). Justice of the Peace, Kirk Flynn, says that the current system is unreliable. He says, "almost everyone has an email address these days. Why not select jurors by their email, and allow them to answer by email? I don't know if that's an answer. It's up to our legislators to decide what's in 'our best interests.' I just know that the current system needs a little re-working."

Will you answer the call to serve, next time you get a summons for jury duty? This reporter will. Our duties as citizens are not just relegated to taking care of our own. Sometimes we have to leave our comfort zones to serve others. Jury duty is an opportunity to do your part. We all need to grasp those opportunities with the assurance that we are doing our best for our community.



HARDWARE STORES! WHERE EYES BIGGER THAN YOUR STOMACH WON'T GIVE YOU TUMMY ACHES.



THANK YOU!

A big Thank You to all the residents of the county who took time to participate in the community review istening sessions held on Oct. 12 and town hall on the 13th. The information you contributed will be invaluable in helping to guide communities and residents of Broadwater County in the future. The last review was done in 2004 and was mainly for the city of Townsend. I think we all agree that many changes have occurred in the county since then. Once all the data is compiled from the listening sessions last week and from the survey that was sent out during the summer, it will be made public.

Three local residents also need to be thanked for helping to coordinate the community review: Allison Kosto, Vickie Rauser and John Hahn. I would also like to thank the facilitators: Rebecca Meyers, Lorie Higgins, Marci Miller, Becky Bey, Craig Erickson, Mackenzie Espeland, Katherine Anderson and Anne Pichette who came from communities in Montana and Idaho to help as well.

Lastly, a heartfelt THANK YOU to the Townsend United Methodists for the use of your facility for three consecutive days! Craig Vietz

TOWNSEND, MT 59644-2323

BULLDOG CROSS COUNTRY COMPETES AT HOME

Brooke Dolan

The Bulldog XC team competed at their home meet last Saturday at Old Baldy Golf Course.

Perfect conditions brought in teams from as far as Sunburst, Heart Butte and Plenty Coupe. In all, 28 teams and 335 runners competed between Varsity, JV, and JR High. It was the last meet before the state meet.

Leading the Bulldog Varsity boys was James Pitassy followed by Nolan Flynn, Will Lynde, Aidan Easter, Connor Lamb, Ross MacDonald and

Kayden Greene. On the JV side Wyatt Coker was the lead runner followed by Isiah Cassidy, Keaton Cavasos, and Cael O'Dell. The Bulldog girls lead runner was Justene Santi followed by Kaelyn Sangray, Scarlett McDaniel, Sydney Forrey, Carsyn O'Dell, and Anna

Beatty.

The Varsity team will travel to Missoula on Saturday for the all-class meet at the U of M golf course.





Justene Santi









James Pitassy

HERE ARE THE ATHLETES OF THE WEEK!

We would like to thank Elkhorn Insulation for being a 2022-2023 Banner Booster



Cross Country: Cael O 'Dell and Kayden Greene. Both seniors finished their High School XC career with strong performances at our home meet.



Against Three Forks: 9 kills, 3 digs Against Manhattan: 12 kills, 3 digs Against Choteau: 7 kills, 2 digs

Volleyball: Sophomore, Cassidy Flynn:



had 14 tackles and caught a touchdown pass in last Friday nights game.

require

other people.

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must apply to paid space.

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.

MSU Extension Corner - Montana Wheat on the Move

Allison Kosto, MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent

Harvest season has mainly wrapped up in Montana. Combines have made rounds collecting bins full of ripe golden wheat and barley. In 2020, agriculture producers in Broadwater County harvested 14,800 acres of spring wheat, 12,300 acres of winter wheat and 4,270 acres of barley. Their numbers were up significantly from the year before. Even though our county is not a major player in the Montana wheat market, wheat is a major crop for our county along with hay, seed crops and potatoes.

Montana ranks fourth in the United States in wheat production, following Kansas, North Dakota and Oklahoma. After harvest, approximately 80% of Montana's wheat crop is exported overseas and the remaining 20% stays in the United States for local millers and feed grain. Wheat is Montana's largest export commodity, exporting about 100 million bushels each year valued at \$565 million. Almost all of Montana's exported wheat travels by train, truck or barge to Portland.

For many years, the United States was the largest exporter of wheat in the world. However, in recent years, it has fallen to second, behind Russia. However, the difference is marginal. In 2021, Russia exported \$7.3 billion in wheat and the United States exported \$7.29 billion. The United States is extremely competitive in the wheat market due to our high-quality wheat. The top five destinations of American wheat are the Philippines, Mexico, Japan, China and South Korea. Over 50% of Montana wheat goes to Asia where it is used for Asian noodles and flour.

In 2021, production of hard red spring wheat was at the lowest level in more than 30 years with a 42 percent decrease. Durum production which is primarily focused on the Northern Plains in Montana and North Dakota was at the lowest rate in 60 years, down by nearly half from last year. However, crops have rebounded in 2022 as drought conditions improve in most areas of the state.

Wheat is evaluated on several standards including protein, falling numbers (sprout damage) and grade. These standards are extremely important because they affect the final food product. For example, gluten strength is tied to wheat protein and is a key factor for bread's ability to rise and maintain shape when baked. There are six classes of wheat which each have unique qualities that affect the end food product.

- *Hard Red Winter Wheat Commonly grown in Montana and the Midwest. It is very versatile for baking and is a choice wheat for Asian noodles, hard rolls, flatbreads and general use flour.

 *Hard Red Spring Wheat Commonly grown in Montana and the Dakotas. It is most often used for "designer" wheat foods such as rolls, croissants, bagels
- and pizza crusts. It can be used to blend with other wheat flours to improve the quality.

 *Soft Red Winter Wheat—Found in the eastern USA. It typically has weak gluten strength and is excellent for cookies, crackers, pretzels, pastries and
- *Soft Red Winter Wheat—Found in the eastern USA. It typically has weak gluten strength and is excellent for cookies, crackers, pretzels, pastries and flatbreads.
- *Soft White Wheat Commonly grown in the Pacific Northwest. It is a lower-moisture wheat resulting in a whiter product that is good for cakes, pastries, Asian noodles and Middle Eastern flatbreads.
- *Hard White The newest class of US wheat is grown in the Midwest and California. It is great for Asian noodles and whole wheat products.
- *Durum This is the hardest wheat, grown in Northeast Montana and North Dakota. Its high gluten content makes it great for pasta and Mediterranean breads.

What we do here in Montana has an impact on the US and world economy related to wheat products. Local farmers work hard to maintain a high-quality wheat. For more information about agriculture production, contact MSU Extension in Broadwater County at 406.266.9242 or allison.kosto@montana.edu.



FWP NEWS RELEASE

1400 South 19th - Bozeman, MT 59718 Media Contact: Morgan Jacobsen - 406-577-7891 - morgan.jacobsen@mt.gov

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

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Bozeman CWD sampling station hours are to be extended on 2nd day of the youth deer hunt. FWP staff is available to help youth hunters learn how to sample for CWD.

BOZEMAN – Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks staff in Bozeman will be available to help youth hunters learn how to sample their harvested deer for chronic wasting disease at the conclusion of Montana's two-day youth deer hunt.

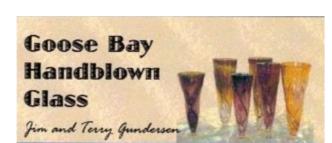
The CWD sampling station at FWP's Bozeman office will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 20, and the station will have extended hours on Friday, Oct. 21, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sampling stations provide FWP staff to help hunters collect and submit samples for CWD testing, which is paid for by FWP.

Montana's special two-day youth deer hunt is on Oct. 20 and 21 and is open to youth hunters ages 10 to 15 who have taken hunter education or who are enrolled in the apprentice hunter program. Hunters who would like help collecting samples are asked to bring their harvested animal unfrozen with at least 3 inches of neck attached, as well as a knife. Hunters will also be asked to provide the location coordinates of their harvest to help with CWD monitoring.

CWD is a contagious neurological disease that infects deer, elk and moose. It is always fatal, and there is no known cure. It was first detected in Montana's wild herds in 2017.

CWD sample submission is voluntary throughout Montana. If hunters want their harvested animal sampled, they can submit samples themselves by following the steps listed at fwp.mt.gov/CWD or by visiting a CWD sampling station.

CWD sampling stations will be operated in various locations in Montana. For more information about sampling station hours and locations, and other information about CWD in Montana, visit fwp.mt.gov/CWD.



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cactusflat.gundersen5@gmail.com www.goosebayhandblownglass.com

Broadwater CattleWomen to Host Yearly Wrap- Up Event

Melanie Kimpton Weyant

October marks the beginning of a new year for the Broadwater County CattleWomen and to kick it off we are hosting an event at Canyon Ferry Brewery on October 26th. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a bit of socializing and heavy appetizers. Our speakers will begin at about 6:00 p.m. starting with Montana CattleWomen President-Elect, cattle buyer, and rancher, Suze Boleen, who will speak about the MTCW and a small market outlook. At 6:30 p.m. Trina Jo Bradley from Rocky Mountain Front Ranchland Group will speak about her work with the Grizzly Bear Advisory Board. This event is open and free for all to attend.

To recap, CattleWomen had another busy and productive year as things are starting to look more like they did pre-covid! We had a float in the Parade of lights at the 2021 Christmas Stroll and a booth set up that only partly blew away in what may have been the windiest stroll to date. We made and served over 70 tasty roast beef sandwiches for the 6th Grade Conservation field trip in May and participated in Ag Days with Cattlewomen members hosting two of the stations and the wonderful Miss Moo the Dairy cow making her 2nd appearance. We were happy to provide Senior Colton Noyes with our annual \$500 scholarship and can't wait to see how he makes the industry better.

Things slowed down for the group in the summer as work on the ranch sped up for everyone, but we did manage to get together for our annual Pot-Luck in June at The Ferrat Ranch! Tasty food and camaraderie are just the ticket at that time of

As August came along, so did all things Fair and Rodeo! This year not only did we host an event under the tent where we gave out free meatball samples as well as many other goodies from the "Beef It's What's for Dinner" store, we also sold meatball subs on Saturday and Sunday which ended up being a great little fundraiser for us. We are grateful for the support and funding from State CattleWomen and Beef Checkoff to make both of those events a possibility for us. Once school started back up, they moved the Conservation Lunch back to the fall, so in September we made sandwiches again and served over 60 meatball subs to the 6th graders as well as their teachers and the presenters.

As wonderful as it is to look at what we've done, I am most excited about what we are hoping to do in the future! We have goals to host a farm-to-table event showcasing as much of the wonderful food grown and raised right here in Broadwater County as we possibly can. We would also love nothing more than to bump that annual scholarship up to \$1,000 or offer two \$500 scholarships every year. Broadwater is full of so many dedicated and talented students that love Ag and we want to support them in every way we can! We would also love to bring more speakers in and host more events that benefit our local producers as well as promote beef.

We hope you will join us Wednesday, October 26th for our event (RSVPs to Melanie at 406-459-3067 are appreciated but not required!) and we hope you will consider renewing or beginning your CattleWomen personal or business membership.

Photos below from Spirit Week, Broadwater Homecoming, courtesy of Ashten Obert and Jazlyn Martin







October 27 1938

"Large Crowd at Church Festival"

Twelve attractive gifts were awarded at the close of a gay church festival here Tuesday evening when more than 300 people attended the annual bazaar of the Altar Society of the Roman Catholic Church and entered into the games and enjoyed the chicken dinner. Following is the list of prize winners: table, Con Mahony; painting, Albert LeSage; chair, Mrs. Al Schwab; table cloth and napkins, Mrs. Howard Kruse; set of dishes, Marie Bliler; \$10 gold piece, Mrs. T.N. Averill; ton of coal, Mary Ann Peterson; ham, Larry Sullivan; candy, Frank Smazal; afghan, Mrs. O'Grady of Butte; sheets and pillow cases, L.J. Anders; and the tatted luncheon set, Jimmie Gabisch.

Perhaps the most sought after prize was the painting by Dr. D.S. Buisson, which was won by Mr. LaSage, better known in these parts as "Black Frenchy". Mr. LeSage is a sheep herder and as he does not have a place to display the painting, he sold it almost immediately after he won it. 1949

"Radersburg News"

The PTA had a public card party Friday evening. There were four tables of pinochle and one table of whist. Prizes in Pinochle went to Mrs. Gunner Johnson first and traveling and Geo. Pennell second, in whist prizes were won by Clyde Bottler, Mrs. Clyde Bottler and Amy Holling. Lunch was served by the committee at the close of the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, accompanied by Mr. Thos. Williams, made a business trip to Butte Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Dundas Jr. and family of Harrison were visiting friends in Radersburg Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Seaman returned home from Billings Sunday where they have spent the past three weeks.

Mrs. Rose Griffin, who has been visiting her daughter and family Mr. and Mrs. K.P Thurston and Billy returned to her home at Armington Sunday. Ernie Cowell of Toston spent the week end here visiting his brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. Winford Cowell.

1055

"Plans Complete for Halloween Parties at School"

Plans are complete and grades have been divided for sponsoring groups for the annual Halloween parties for next Monday evening according to the general chairman, L.J. Anders. The committee heads met last Thursday to make the selections which resulted as follows: \Pre-school, American Legion Auxiliary; first grade, V.F.W. Auxiliary; second grade, Methodist ladies; third grade, Alter Society ladies; fourth grade, Eastern Star; fifth grade, Episcopal Guild ladies; sixth grade, Garden Club; High School, Latter Day Saints.

For the first six grades whose parties will be from 7:00 until 9:00, there will prizes for each as follows: most original, funniest boy, funniest girl, best Halloween costume for boy and girl.

For the high school whose party will be from 8:00 until midnight, there will be four prizes; most original boy, most original girl, best Halloween costume for girl and for boy.

The Mergenthalers of Helena will be the orchestra to play for the high school dancing party.

The pre-school children will be entertained in the Masonic dining room; grades 1 to 6 in the grade school building and high school in the gym.

Judging will be done at 9:00 p.m. Prizes have been donated by the Townsend merchants.

1966

"DeMolay Boys Attend State Meet"

Three boys from the W.W. Harvey Chapter Order of DeMolay attended the State DeMolay Conclave last Friday and Saturday in Missoula. Approximately 400 boys from all over the state participated. Ray Nydegger, dad advisor was chaperone for Dan Shearer, John Rains and Gary Adams. Gary was appointed to the state office of First Preceptor, Dan was appointed to work on the resolutions committee.

Miss Sharon Adams, student at Kinman Business College in Spokane, was the candidate for DeMolay Sweetheart from the W.W. Harvey Chapter and came to compete with the 25 other candidates. The girls and their chaperones were treated to luncheons, style shows and banquets while the boys attended their business meetings. Mrs. Charles Adams was chaperone for her daughter. The Conclave was climaxed by the Grand Ball Saturday evening and the cornotion of the DeMolay Sweetheart. Dan Shearer, master councilor, acted as escort for Miss Adams. "Bureau Offers Old Nursing Home"

The Bureau of Reclamation is offering the old county nursing home for sale. The building was purchased from the county and has since been vacated. The county is now using the new rest home facility east of town.

Why did we change the name of Alliance Bible Church to Mountain Valley Church?

Names are significant. For any organization, they are the first thing that people encounter. Your first look. For a church, that name can communicate many things. The denomination, the style of worship, and what people can expect to encounter.

After 40 years we wanted a name that represents the change in our community and our hearts. We read in scripture that names have significant value and in the case of Saul becoming Paul can represent a new identity. As of January 2022, we officially took on a new identity as Mountain Valley Church!

Why that name? To us, the name represents the rock and foundation of our faith in Jesus, the strength and immovability that we desire in an ever-shifting and troubling culture. The mountains are also important to our community and culture from recreation to helping sustain us by the harvest they supply. Mountains were also a vital part of the spiritual rhymes of Jesus as he frequently retreated to the hills to connect with God for his own walk and ministry.

The Valley represents a place of refuge, safety, and healing. Every one of us who has navigated life, especially in these last few years, has encountered excruciatingly difficult seasons of life. We need places to feel safe and to be encouraged in our journey. A valley provides all of those necessities in the storm. Often a river or creek runs in the bottom of a valley and its presence explodes rooted life all around it.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Matt 23:4)

We are so blessed to report that these changes on the outside are felt on the inside. We are celebrating growth with new families, the lost finding faith, and most encouraging of all is a repeated phrase, "When I walked into these doors I knew I was home and where God wanted me."

Finally, we want everyone to know in this community and beyond that in this journey of life there are Mountains top and Valley bottom experiences but in all of them, God is there, and so are we! Our services are at 10 am on Sunday mornings and we are located next to the post office. We are an authentically loving, genuinely serving community that expects lasting change when we worship the Lord together. Perhaps this is an overused phrase and underrepresented, but I truly believe that anyone at every place in their life seeking God can find a home in our family. Please let us know how we can serve you.

Pastor Eric Krueger Mountain Valley Church 406-465-5895 erickruegercma@gmail.com
"A rock of strength and refuge of comfort"

Answers T	J A M A S A M O D E M P S O N B E E R S D Y N E N
R O N O X D E O L E A L N E W S W O M A N M A G E S D D N M A P E C E	A M O D E M P S O N B E E R S D Y N E N
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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

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

NOTICE

Spruce St. Laundromat will be closed for three weeks for overhaul beginning Friday, Oct. 31. Please use laundry services in Helena or Three Forks. For questions please contact the Spruce St. Laundromat answering service.

CITY OF TOWNSEND City Council Meeting Minutes October 4, 2022

Chanel Stevens

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Evans called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Angie Wintrow, Vickie Rauser, Matt West and Ken Urich. Christina Hartmann and Nate Brown were present later. Others present were Clerk Coleen Ward, Public Works Supervisor Tim Rauser, JB Howick, Nancy Marks, Tim Ravndal, Keith Hartmann, and Kari Williams.

PLEDGE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

MINUTES: Vickie Rauser moved to approve the minutes of August 20, 2022, as distributed, Angie Wintrow seconded, Matt asked for clarification on the second to the last paragraph. Clerk Ward will change the second to last paragraph to read: Christina asked about the other donations for the swimming pool. Angie and the mayor stated the Rotary donation of \$1,000 had been received today.

After the correction, the motion carried with all council members present voting in favor. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: * Water Update – Vickie Rauser updated the council on the Water Storage Project. At the County Commissioners meeting on Monday, the Commissioners passed a resolution to transfer \$447,124 of their ARPA allocation to the City Water Storage Project. *Noise Ordinance Committee – Christina Hartmann updated the council on the progress of the committee. They are working on rewording and a checklist. Their next meeting is on Monday 10/10/22 at 9:00 am. JB asked if he could get a draft copy. The only copy we have is the original which has been completely revamped.

* Law Enforcement Committee – Mayor Evans is still trying to get all the parties together for a meeting.

that the City had a customer who asked us to review the Ordinance because of the costs. The committee has made some changes. One of the changes we are looking at implementing is for the Fall Fest to provide a list of vendors signed up for events one week prior to the event. The moratorium for the Fall Festival will only be for the days of the event. JB mentioned he thought there was going to be more in attendance at the meeting tonight on this subject, he heard complaints about the fees the city charged the vendors. Angie informed him the City currently waives all solicitor fees for Fall Fest; we receive no revenue from the Fall Fest vendors. JB said there must be a misunderstanding. Matt mentioned perhaps the vendors think the fees they pay go to the city, which they do not.

* Pool Employee Handbook Committee - Ken informed the council the committee had a meeting with Peter and went over a few things in the handbook. Christina said a lot of the information was duplicated in the Employee Handbook and Peter is looking at removing the duplicated information, more on the lines of an operational handbook for the pool employees. We need another committee meeting.

* City Clerk Hiring Committee – Mayor Evans informed the council the committee has offered the position to Kari Williams, and she has accepted. She will start on October 24, 2022.

* Donation Button on Website - Clerk Ward and Jessica worked on getting this pushed forward. After contacting our credit card provider, PayGov, they created some options on their end (see attached screenshots) and Jessica added a donation to the existing button. After some discussion, the council felt it might be too confusing to the customer and it was thought a confirmation button. Matt would like to see a second button on the first page. Clerk Ward will contact PayGov and Jessica for changes.

* Solicitor Committee - Angie Wintrow reviewed NEW BUSINESS: Agreements Coming Up for Renewal – After some discussion, Clerk Ward will provide copies of these agreements to the Council for review.

> GUESTS: JB Howick asked the council if there was some way, he could get no parking for when the semis show up for deliveries. The parking of vehicles on S. Spruce makes it difficult for drivers to get into the alley. After some discussion, Keith Hartmann suggested the semis use S. Cedar which is much wider. JB thought that was a great suggestion he had not thought of and will talk to

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: Ken asked what the limit of dogs is before needing a Kennel License; three dogs equals needing a Kennel License. His concern is with 7 hounds on Jack Farm. Mayor Evans thought Eric was already working on that and will speak to him.

the drivers.

Tim spoke to the council about the swimming pool. We know we have some issues; we need to pull the gutters and strip and paint them. If you are going to open it again, I am going to try and run a camera up that pipe and see what we have, it could be a big project. After some discussion, the council would like to see what repairs need to be done and an estimate of the cost. Tim informed the council that the #3 pump went out, it was a submersible pump installed in 2012. He has spoken to the pump guy and our engineer Chris Hayes. We are going to have to replace it with a mine shaft turban and set it up, so it fits the new system. It looks like it will run around \$25,000 to \$30,000. As soon as he gets the information from the engineer, we can start building it.

Christina Hartmann asked about the alley behind the Parts City store; there is a huge puddle by the rock building. After some discussion, Tim will look at it and see what can be done.

Nate Brown said the alley coming out of the bank, needs repair also. Tim said as soon as it dries up, he will be getting some paving done.

Angie Wintrow stated that over the Fall Fest weekend there was a bad problem with participants blocking alleys all over town and should be a topic of conservation next year with Rotary. Tim added they were parked behind our door here at City Hall. Discussion ensued and comments were made from putting up signage in the alleys, having violators towed to moving the event out of town. Mayor Evans said Tim and the crew made wooden tops for the regular garbage cans along Broadway and placed the 300-gallon cans up and down the street for the event. There was only one complaint that the can was not close enough to their business, everyone else liked having them out so the garbage did not go everywhere.

Vickie Rauser said the Broadwater County community review listening sessions start on October 12th. The locations and times will be posted in both papers, looking forward to as much participation as possible. There will also be a Town Hall meeting that evening for those that cannot make a day meeting.

CLAIMS: Christina Hartmann moved to pay the claims, Ken Urich seconded, the motion carried with all council members present voting in favor. ADJOURNMENT: Ken Urich moved to adjourn, Nate Brown seconded, the motion carried with all council members present voting in favor.

County Commissioners Approach Community Growth Problems Nancy Marks Broadwater County Commissioners updated the Community Growth Plan for the county's

subdivisions and new businesses five years ago. Now it is sorely outdated. Because of the rapid growth in Broadwater County, it is the second fastest-growing county in the state. US Census numbers show the county's population has grown 29.92% since 2000. The projected growth in 2022 is 7,000 residents.

At the Oct. 11 meeting at the County building, commissioners heard a presentation by Cody Ferguson Community Planning Program Manager for WGM Engineering of Missoula. He and Outreach Coordinator Gus Byrom of the Montana Dept. of Commerce presented a listening session with other members of WGM engineering and Montana Business Assistance Connection(MBAC). The commissioners have requested help with a Community Growth Plan update.

The group listened to the commissioners' concerns about updating the subdivision regulations. "The idea is to try to understand the needs and wants of people who move into what they think is a rural area with less traffic, good services, and good water," Byrom said. Byrom presented a map of the Wheatland-Elk Ridge area subdivisions which showed almost 100 homes. "Now residents are faced with serious water issues, huge traffic congestion and no planned land use. We must try to meet their needs, but still protect agricultural land in nearby areas," he said.

The study plan will develop a roadmap for emergency services in the south and try to meet the need for public transportation for senior citizens and veterans. Other suggestions for the plan include trails and parks. It will also include a plan for water use and wastewater treatment. Commissioner Folkvord expanded on the issues. "We must develop a plan that fits our needs now with the money we have to invest, plus we must plan funds to maintain all new infrastructure. What many people don't understand is that most of these subdivisions in the county were created under our old growth policy in 2006 and 2007 and are just now filling up. We just didn't think the growth would happen this fast."

A plus to add to the growth plan is the Preliminary Action Report (PAR) location where law enforcement, emergency responders and the fire district will have a location to work from in the southern end of the county. It will include an office where people can do county business and go to vote, Folkvord said. A three-acre parcel was donated by Bridger Brewing in an agreement with the county under the 2019 Targeted Economic Development District(TEDD) program.

Commissioner Mike Delger pointed out the Silos area subdivision is sorely lacking services such as emergency, fire, and broadband. "Besides, Highway 287 is a deathtrap for subdivision residents who try to get on and off the road," he said. He pointed out economic development is down in the middle of the county due to limited growth right around Townsend. "People want jobs but don't want other people to move in," he said, "so where do we put people?" He feels the biggest issue is water which affects the agricultural community.

The comprehensive plan will take about six months to complete at a cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000, most of which will be paid through grant sources. Before commissioners can adopt a plan, MBAC, WGM Engineering and the Montana Dept. of Commerce will coordinate already available information and do public listening sessions to build a new growth plan. The work will begin in November.



ACCOUNTING BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TAXES

NOW OPEN!! Precision Business Resources Now in Townsend 302 Broadway St Townsend Call 406-202-2044 Anna Glueckert Owner www.precisionbusinessresources.com

County Commissioner's Meeting - October 17

Road Supervisor TJ Graveley has been hired to be the Public Works Supervisor as of Oct. 28 when present supervisor Josh Obert will resign. Obert has taken a position in Kentucky. Obert was hired in May 2020 and has made substantial changes in county road upgrades and work at the three solid waste sites. Montana Aeronautics will be placing cameras at the city-county airport to aid pilots in landing and taking off without automated weather devices. The

airport board approved the cameras. Cost for the cameras will be \$4,700 funded by a 50/50 match with airport block grants and county funds. Susanne Hill of SIM-MT introduced her simulation training organization which trains emergency personnel. According to her handout," the team works with rural and frontier emergency response agencies and hospital to train best practice forms for trauma, cardiac and stroke response and other critical events where time is of the essence." No action was taken by commissioners.

The Commissioners agreed among themselves to buy a Broadwater County quilt to be displayed in the Flynn building. It will be donated to the county. Weed and Mosquito Coordinator Jessica Bushnell asked for approval to purchase a second side-by-side to replace one of the board's which has electrical problems. Cost of the new equipment will be \$24,672.00 paid for out of the weed department budget, plus funds from the sale of the nonfunctioning 4x4. Commissioners approval the revised Grover Family revised Certificate of Survey. The board ended by paying the week's monetary claims.



→ 8 | 25 mph

Sat 10/22 Light Rain

> 49° | 32° • 0% ⇒ 10 | 21 mph

Sun 10/23

Light Wintry Mix

40° | 26° 森 0 in **⇒** 10 | 17 mph Mon 10/24

Light Wintry Mix

41° | 28° ★ 0 in

⇒ 7 | 19 mph



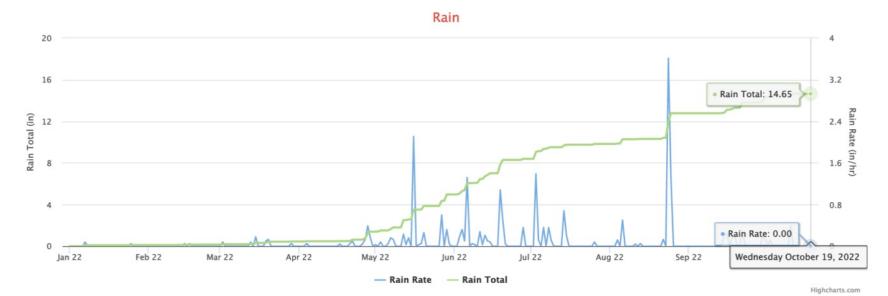


Partly Cloudy

42° | 38°

• 0% **⇒** 7 | 17 mph

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

I'VE GOT A LOT OF WILLPOWER. NA

BASED ON HOW MUCH YOU GOT DONE TODAY.... 16

by Jeff Pickering



Just Like Cats & Dogs

Super Crossword

AWOL

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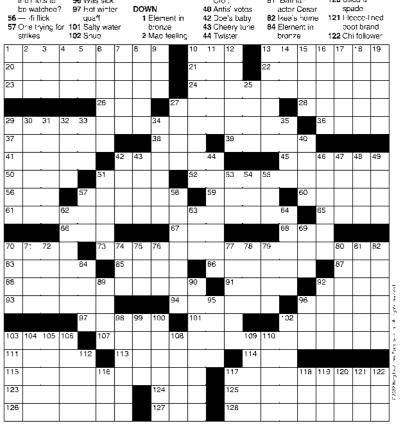
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answers on p. 4



Weekly **SUDOKU**

THIS HIGH DEFINITION IS GREAT! WATCH

THE REPLAY WHEN THIS GUY BREAKS HIS

LEG. YOU CAN JUST MAKE OUT THE BONE!

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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answers on p. 4

Winston S. Churchill

"Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm."



College of Physicians in 1651. He liked collecting plants and maintained a herb garden. In 1666 he produced one of the first resources for British plants, animals and fossils known as the Pinax Rerum Naturalium Britannicarum. The book includes the first known 'Male Wild lists of British butterflies and birds.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.wikiwand.com

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Yet Another Scam! Vic Sample

Tech Talk

There are more PC scams, viruses and malware than can be listed in an encyclopedia, but I have read several articles about another scam that is ingenious – and scary. The scammers trick employees of a company into electronically sending huge sums of money to the scammers' bank accounts by impersonating executives.

The first step in this particular type of scam is to infiltrate a company's email system with some sort of malware. There are literally hundreds of ways to get malware into a company's email system that scammers can use. They usually are very patient with this scam and learn which employees can authorize the electronic transfer of huge sums of money and which employees are in charge of arranging the electronic transfers. After the scammers get access to the email system and learn which people to target they will send an email that looks like it came from the CEO or from a Vice President (or anyone else that has the authority to authorize large payments) that ask for an electronic payment to be sent.

Usually, the request for large payment indicates that it has to be done ASAP; the CEO/Vice President is closing a big deal and the money needs to be sent right away. Most employees will hesitate to question the CEO or a Vice President. Generally speaking, questioning the actions of the CEO or a powerful Vice President is a quick way to get reprimanded, if not fired. So the employee transfers the money right away, per the request from the CEO/Vice President. Of course, the account is owned by the scammers. Once the funds are transferred to the scammers' account and the scam is discovered, the account will have been abandoned and the money long gone.

This type of scam is limited to companies and to employees that have authorization to electronically transfer large sums of money. It is probably unlikely that you will ever be the target of this scam, but everyone should be aware of the scam. I find this particular scam to be interesting because of the patience it takes for the scammers to determine who needs to be targeted and who they should use to generate the fake email ordering the transfer to be made. These scammers work as hard at this job as anyone else works at a valid job. The scammers are extremely smart and very patient. Imagine what they could accomplish working legitimate jobs!



Local Author Entertains at Reading Leaves Rachael Brug

A crowd of nearly 30 people gathered at Reading Leaves Bookstore Wednesday evening to listen to and ask questions of three-time NYT Bestselling Author Jamie Ford. Mr. Ford currently has four published novels and many other published compilations. He has written many genres, but his four novels are historical fiction, the newest incorporating some speculative fiction as well.

Mr. Ford is currently on tour promoting The Many Daughters of Afong Moy, published earlier this year. Townsend was his 28th stop in 6 weeks! He has recently appeared on the Today Show where Many Daughters was chosen as a Read With Jenna book club pick. After a short rest at home in Great Falls, he will resume traveling around the country to entertain crowds talking about his novel.

Mr. Ford is a very engaging and humorous storyteller. He began the evening relaying his experiences about becoming 'homework' to teens around the world when his novel, The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet became a summer reading requirement, to the mortification of his own (then) teenagers. He read some of the anguished Tweets from teenagers looking for Sparks Notes, and newly hooked reluctant readers and had the crowd laughing for most of the night.

After sharing his experiences with the crowd and reading a short cliffhanger from his current novel, Mr. Ford answered questions and ended with signing books and speaking with event-goers individually. With three of his four novels being NYT Bestsellers and top Indie Next List picks, it is no surprise that two of them are in varying stages of being prepared for film and stage. Jamie Ford is definitely a local author you don't want to miss!





ENDORSED BY:
Gov. Marc Racicot (R)
and former legislators
Dorothy Bradley (D) and
Jim Peterson (R)

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Paid for by Buchanan for Montana, P.O. Box 2174, Billings, MT 59103

Court Beat - October 14 Dee Gannon

The criminal docket in Judge Michael McMahon's courtroom on Friday, October 14 was as follows:

Steven Barnes III had an Initial Appearance and Arraignment on a charge of sexual assault; when the victim is less than 16, and the perpetrator is 3 years or older than the victim. Omnibus is due by November 25. Pre-Trial is set for March 24, 2023, with the Jury Trial scheduled for April 24. His bond was reduced from \$50,000 to \$25,000 with the understanding that if he is released, he will wear a GPS monitor. He is to stay away from Willow Creek, MT and not have contact with the victim or witnesses. He has permission to live with his mother in Three Forks.

Brittney Betts appeared in court for her fourth Petition to Revoke a suspended sentence. She pled a Denial to the allegations of harassing and/or bullying others on social media, after being specifically ordered not to use social media at all. An Evidentiary Hearing is set for December 9. She has a bond of \$25,000. She must have an updated mental health evaluation. She is not to have a phone or computer, or anything that allows her access to the internet.

James Swan had his Change of Plea continued until December 9.

Wayne Johnson had his Initial Appearance continued until October 21.



Hal Stearns speaks in Townsend Matt Nelson

Long-time Montana Historian and retired Army Brigadier General Hal Stearns came from Missoula to give a speech to the Townsend community titled "My Take: Looking at some Montana leaders from the other side of the Looking Glass" on Wednesday, September 28th. Sponsored by the Crimson Bluffs Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, the lecture was held at the American Legion Post 42 building. Earlier in the day, Hal spoke to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders at Townsend Middle School.

Hal: "You people (of Townsend) have such a wonderful set of pieces related especially to the Lewis and Clark Expedition like the Crimson Bluffs, and the York Islands, and of course the famous black snakes out here. Not many places have this many good takes.

What I did today was talk with the kids up at the school, and the kids were fabulous, I am not kidding you. I have spoken to a lot of students. I have never had kids better than those kids today. I was so impressed with your kids this afternoon. It was really a pleasure. I mean it in all sincerity. I think it was the best group of kids I have been around. They were really terrific young people! I think that says something about all the moms and dads and grandparents and the community.

With the kids today I did spend a fair amount of time with the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Corps of the Northwest. I don't like calling it the Lewis and Clark Expedition as much as the Corps of the Northwest because they weren't the only guys on the trip. What I wanted to emphasize to those young people was how many times will we come together as a group? As a party? Make a difference? Make something work in the community. What you are going to have this weekend (the Fall Fest) is really a community effort. That's why you are able to pull it off

I also told them a lot of stories about Montana, and the West! I told them about Yellowstone, and about sharing our borders with Idaho and with Wyoming and the provinces and a little about Glacier. I told tales about the early railroading and about the illegal whiskey trade going across the borders was the biggest reason the Canadian Royal Mounted Police came into the Western part of the Canadian Provinces. I spoke a little bit about ranching and farming and some of the animals.

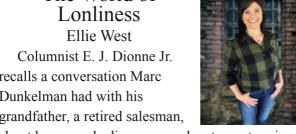
"I carry my Army Values in my wallet every day: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. Whenever I was talking to military units I was constantly bringing that up for the individuals. Look at any one of those and you can see these are the definitions according to the United States Army, but how true is this for whatever you do in your own walk of life? And that is, what is the duty you have, for whatever organization you belong to? Do you really live up to the values of your own organization? When things are downright difficult, you do have to have a sense of moral courage. I carry my army values with me all the time and I very often build what I am going to talk about those Army Values.

"What we are going to do tonight is take a look at my favorites. And because you are right here in beautiful Townsend, Montana, you can imagine why we are having this gang. There is Meriwether Lewis, and William Clark, and Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, and I like to include Sacagawea. I think that this is one of the greatest stories in all of history. And, for all of us army guys, you are going to love this, I often used to tell this tale, and that is, this is the greatest and the longest reconnaissance ever made by an army unit. Seven thousand, six hundred, and eighty-nine miles, two years, four months, and ten days. Now that's a long time."

This was definitely an enjoyable evening with a fantastic speaker.

The World of Lonliness Ellie West Columnist E. J. Dionne Jr. recalls a conversation Marc

Dunkelman had with his



about how people discover good restaurants using an app. They talked about how to find good restaurants in an unfamiliar city. Marc was excited about the new app that would make it easier for people to find the best restaurants in a strange town. His grandfather wasn't impressed. On his sales trips, he said, he regularly sought out "a friendly-looking stranger" to learn where he might find a decent bite to eat. He would often make a new friend and see him again on a return visit. "That's how I got to understand the world -- by talking to strangers," the older man said. "With all these fancy technologies you're telling me about, how are people going to get to know one another? You ask me, "I think it will make everyone lonely."

As I read this story, I couldn't agree more. This older gentleman was wise. We have become so accustomed to our electronic devices and apps that something designed to connect us has actually begun isolating us. Has this caused us to be a lonely nation?

Loneliness is a sad emotion that can result when people feel they are isolated or feel a lack of friends and family members. We had a rough couple of years, and I believe it created even more loneliness amongst our great nation and worldwide. Our gadgets, so to speak, have taken over our human connection.

I recently did a mini-vacation of four days. On my flight, I heard no talking except an occasional sentence from a child, as everyone was either engaged on their phone or watching a movie. It is nice to have a quiet flight, but it made me stop and ponder the loss of human connections and conversations and use that time to engage. When I am at the boarding door greeting passengers and welcoming them on board, I am somewhat surprised when I observe both the parents and the children have their devices, which get turned on as soon as they board. Is this promoting isolation and loneliness?

Have we lost human interaction, which creates a sense of loneliness?

The next time you are on a flight, at an event, at a reunion, or meet someone at the gas station, you will be amazed at how a simple "Hi" will be received...people are craving human connections. It is so amazing what you can learn about someone, who they are, where they come from, and what they do when you take a moment to engage and have a conversation. People need people. You can change someone's day by offering a compliment, smile, or a simple "Hi!"

I have been in many situations at work, events, and even with family where I have felt lonely, and I am sure many of you have felt the same. It is a reality for many, and unfortunately, you go through life feeling as though no one cares or takes the time to get to know you. Often your family, community, acquaintances, or even circle of friends cannot recognize the beautiful person you are.

If you are reading this and feel lonely, be encouraged today that you are worthy, valued, and loved by someone greater than you. You possess a unique reflection of God's presence. "It's easy to stand in the crowd, but it takes courage to stand alone." -said Gandhi. To connect with Ellie, FB @coachelliewest www.coachinghearttoheart.com

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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, Sunday School, 10:00 a.m. Morning Service, 11:00 a.m. Evening Service, 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study & 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.

Set Free Christian Fellowship, meets at the Bridge at 107 E street (PO Box 1163), Townsend. Services: Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. Set free recovery Sunday, 7:00 p.m. Bible study, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Pastors Bill and Carol Bergstad, (406) 461-0135.

Seventh Day Adventist Church, 200 N. Cedar St. Townsend. Services: Saturday, 9:30 a.m., Bible study, 10:30 a.m. Leota Gormely 431-2810 and Craig Vietz 241-0042.

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 Ross Johnson, Council President, for more information, at (406) 465-3791.

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 Mele Moa, 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. 7th–12th grade youth group, Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 p.m. meeting at 407 S. Cherry St., Townsend. Pastor Mark Roelofs, 266-4406 or info@ trailheadchristianchurch.com, www.TrailheadChristianChurch.com.

Canton Church Restoration Annual Meeting and Dinner



in (406-459-2548) for more information or to Reserve Your Dinner Please Make Your Reservation by October 17, 2022.

Community Calendar

October 21 TSD PIR-MEA/MFT Days (No School)

October 22 TSD State CC -Missoula

October 27 TSD District VB -Manhattan

October 28 TSD District VB -Manhattan TSD End of Q1

October 29

TSD 1st Round FB **Playoffs**

October 31

Ghost Stroll TSD Shakespeare in the Classroom Chamber Ghost Stroll - 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Senior Center

Sr. Center Menu for the Week of October 17 --21 Monday, Oct. 17 Fish Patty on a Bun Macaroni Salad Mixed Veggies Crisp Coleslaw Plump Peaches Tuesday, Oct. 18 Birthday Dinner Baked Chicken Rice Pilaf California Vegetables Dinner Salad with Beans Blushing Pears Birthday Cake Wednesday, Oct. 19 Beef and Veggie Stew Fresh Baked Biscuit

Tossed Salad

Zesty Pineapple

Thursday, Oct. 20 Polish Sausage with Sauerkraut Steamed Potatoes Key Largo Vegetables Whole Grain Bread Spiced Apples Friday, Oct. 21 Tater Tot Casserole Garden Peas Carrot Raisin Salad Apricot Halves

Are you interested in providing a gift subscription to a friend, non-profit organization, or service organization?

Stop in the MT 43 Office for information.



Madeline Schritz high fives elementary students during the homecoming parade on Oct. 7. (Eliza McLaughlin)

Disposition of Abandoned and Obsolete Property: Canon Industrial Printers

Please make a reasonable offer to Townsend School

For specs and details contact: Joe Gill or Luke Carr 406-441-3486

October.

Karoline Nelson, Operations Manager

The Faith Baptist Church will be staffing the food pantry during the month of

Food pantry supplies were distributed to 18 families consisting of 37 family members on October 15th. We will be signing up those who would like a Thanksgiving dinner package on the 29th of October. Because of the uncertainty of availability, we must have our order in early.

On Wednesday, October 26th, students will be canvasing the area for our "Trick or Treat so others can eat" food drive. They will be collecting nonperishable foods. If you cannot be home, you may leave them at your doorstep for collection. A big Thank you! To all who donated funds during the Fall Fest. Town Pump matches all funds dollar for dollar during this time. If you were unable to donate then, the matching funds is going on through the end of November. You may drop donations at the food pantry or place them in the boxes at Bobs Market.

The food pantry will only be open for distribution of food and receiving foods on the first and third full weekends. If there is a 5th Saturday, we will be open then also. If these days are inconvenient for any donating food, please notify Karoline or Daryl at the numbers below. If our needs pick up, we will return to our previous distribution dates. If you are dropping off food donations during off hours, please do not leave them at the back door. They may go unnoticed and especially with the hot temperatures we are having, the food may spoil.

Distribution hours: Saturday distribution hours are from 9:00 a.m.--10:45. Distribution outside of the normal hours are for emergencies and on an individual basis. Emergency food needs can be distributed by calling Karoline Nelson at 438-3981 or Daryl Blumhagen at 406-980-0800.

How to Donate: Bob's Supermarket has donation boxes at the checkout counters. For donations of meat or other perishable items or for emergency food distribution, please call Karoline Nelson at 438-3981 or Don Peace at 266-1325. The food pantry is open to accept donations from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the first and third Friday of the month. You may mail cash donations to Broadwater Food Pantry, P. O. Box 1164, Townsend, MT 59644. The food pantry is located at 315 Broadway.

Three Forks City Council Wrap-Up Eliza McLaughlin

During its Oct. 11 meeting, the Three Forks City Council was approached via a letter by Magris Talc requesting assistance with a federal grant application that would improve the safety of the pedestrian crossing on the Montana Rail Links track near Bench Road and Old Yellowstone Trail. The letter, signed by Magris Talc's Director Pat Downey and Talc Operations Controller Jan Lien, explained that the company plans to use the funds to improve the crossing in preparation for the construction of softball fields in the area, which will serve as the Three Forks High School's softball facility.

"The Three Forks Fast Pitch and Three Forks Baseball organizations have approached Magris Talc requesting permission to use a portion of company land south of the railroad crossing on Bench Road to build baseball and softball fields. There is a high level of community support for this project," read the letter. Additionally, Magris stated that they support the project because it would improve safety around incoming and outgoing truck traffic.

Although the letter initially requests a letter of support from the city, it later suggests that the grant is more likely to be approved if submitted by the city. Council President Gene Townsend voiced concern with taking on another grant application since the city is already working on the FEMA floodplain grant.

No decision was made during the meeting allowing the council to discuss the project and grant. Magris Tale has yet to apply for a conditional-use permit for the construction of baseball and softball fields.

Slower speeds roll towards Three Forks

The City Council also discussed the possibility of reducing the speed limit in various areas around town from 25 miles per hour to 15. Susan Swimley, the Three Forks city attorney, informed the board that without an engineering study backing up the decision, it would be difficult to enforce the speed change except near parks and schools. Townsend reminded the council and those in attendance that a Bozeman school teacher was recently struck and killed by a vehicle running my father, John Larsen created a frame that would complement the a red light, reinforcing his belief in the need for improved traffic safety. The council unanimously voted to research the cost of an engineering study and discussed the installation of stop signs throughout the city.

Library Corner

Angela Giono

After 36 years of being a public librarian, Kay Ingalls is retiring from Broadwater School and Community Library on November 1. Kay is an asset to the library and she will be missed. I hope retirement is the best part of her life.

Books and Babies have started! Come join the free program for parents and/or daycare providers and your preschool children at the library from 9:30 a.m.--10:30 a.m. on Fridays.

The annual Halloween Party at the library is October 29. The party starts at 10:30 a.m. This is a family event so younger siblings can come with parents as well. Costumes are encouraged.

Come visit your Broadwater School and Community Library at 201 North Spruce. We have over 30,000 books and materials for checkout. The in person hours are 3:00 p.m.--7:00 p.m. Monday--Friday and Saturdays 9:00 a.m.--3:00 p.m..



Doc Campbell Changes Offices Nancy Marks

Dr. Nick Campbell, well known as "Doc," has moved on up -town. Family Medical Clinic moved from the clinic next to the Court House to 220 Broadway, beside Creative Closet on August 1. He couldn't say enough about the support from Shirley Wilson, his new landlady. "Thanks to Shirley, we have heat in the winter, air conditioning in the summer and the roof doesn't leak." The move has been excellent for him and his staff; Cherylene Sherrill, office manager and Teri Gunderson, RN.

Dr. Campbell has a Southern background, having come from Meridian, Mississippi where he served as a doctor in the US Navy. Although he is from New Orleans, Louisiana, he has been in Townsend since 1984 and at one point served in Broadwater Health Center as the only doctor on staff. He handled all the obstetrics as well as emergency and general practice. "I quit doing obstetrics when I had delivered half the babies who are in high school now. It was a wild time for me. No more. Those kinds of hours and work are a young man's job," he reminisced.

He began serving here after Dr. Jack Belt and Dr. Lois Breen had left. He has been here through the years when a myriad of doctors passed through Broadwater county's health services. Other doctors he remembered were Earl Booke who came here as a resident, Dr. Lindley, Dr. Bruce Fecundus, and lately Dr. Kathleen Trapp. He serves officially as the County Health officer, overseeing County Health Nurse Margaret Ruckey, and her staff, who run the County Health Department. He pointed out the department does a good job, so he has little work to do.

Campbell said he has loved living in Broadwater County, "The people are down-to-earth. They tell you what they think. I like that, "he said.

Asked what he thinks about Billings Clinic taking over the Townsend hospital, he commended their operation as a critical access hospital "What we need here is access to good emergency care, plus Billings Clinic's best asset is its good employees," he said.

Dr. Campbell did not speculate about his retirement. "Probably not retiring yet. I need to keep working to keep going to the

"Besides, I don't know how to do anything else except practice medicine."

grocery store," he quipped.



photo credit: Jim Gunderson

"Nibbles is BACK!"

Laura Stevenson

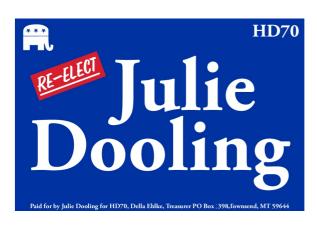
A brief history of Nibbles, the coal chute mouse.

The owner of The Bird's Nest store, Birdi Kribs, asked if I would paint a mouse to cover the old coal chute located on the west side of the building. Intrigued by the challenge, I painted a mouse scrunched down looking out of a "hole". To give the painting some additional protection, picture. As the public noticed the mouse, there became a consensus among the patrons of The Bird's Nest, that he should be given a name. Birdi set up a name suggestion box, and within a couple of weeks, the name, "Nibbles" was bestowed upon the painting.

Due to weather and intense west sun exposure, Nibbles began to absorb some damage and needed a facelift. After a few tweaks and some squeaks, he is ready to return to his home at The Bird's Nest. Therefore, we are inviting you to join us in a Welcome Home Party; located at The Bird's Nest, on 200 Broadway Street, Townsend MT, Saturday, October 22, 11:00 a.m. --2:00 p.m.

We will celebrate by sharing his favorite snack. Cheese and crackers, of course. Come join the FUN!





YesterYear

A.E. Spriggs – An Enigma VIc Sample

Recently I wrote about how Broadwater County was created and also about W.A. Clark and his ties to Broadwater County. In both of those articles, Townsend resident A.E. Spriggs was a prominent player. He was the driving political force that pushed the creation of Broadwater County through the legislature and was also responsible for the astounding attempt to get W.A. Clark into the U.S. Senate. Beyond any doubt, A. E. Spriggs was a master politician and political operative. His role in supplanting Meagher County legislators opposed to the creation of Broadwater County was a lesson in political maneuvering. His role in the ethically questionable attempt to appoint W.A. Clark as U.S. Senator to replace W.A. Clark after he resigned his Senate seat is almost beyond belief.

A.E. Spriggs was born in Kansasville, Wisconsin in 1866. He came to Montana in 1888 and taught school in Confederate Gulch before moving to Townsend and working as a store clerk then a store manager in Winston. Spriggs was a partner in a lumber store and a cigar store in Townsend and managed to buy several mining claims. In 1893 Spriggs ran for House of Representatives from Meagher County and was narrowly defeated. Over the next 2 years he worked hard at becoming very well known in Meagher County and in his political maneuverings to get Meagher County candidates elected that were favorable to creating Broadwater County.

Spriggs was elected to the Montana House of Representatives in 1895 where he established himself as a smart, hard-working Representative noted for his integrity. He kept alive a bill to create Broadwater County until the very last day of the legislative session when it failed. In 1897 he became the Montana Lieutenant Governor and as such was the President of the Senate. This allowed Spriggs to appoint committee members and to control the Senate legislative agenda. This time A.E. Spriggs was successful in getting Broadwater County created from Meagher County, Jefferson County and a small part of Lewis and Clark County.

Spriggs was elected at the same time that W.A. Clark bribed his way into being elected U.S. Senator from Montana. When the U.S. Senate refused to seat Clark due to the very open and wellknown bribery scandal, Spriggs and Clark concocted a plan whereby Clark resigned his Senate Seat and returned to Montana. In the absence of the Governor, Spriggs became acting Governor and appointed Clark to fill his own empty position as U.S. Senator. Fortunately, the Governor heard about the plot, rushed back to Montana and rescinded the appointment.

Not surprisingly, after his term as Lieutenant Governor, Spriggs left politics and went to work as an executive for Henry Frank, a partner of Clark. Spriggs again showed his talents and excelled as a manager and eventually became president of Jib Mining Company that reopened a mine in Basin. A 1911 New York Times article detailed an extensive agreement between Guatemala and a French-American mining company headed by – A.E. Spriggs. The terms of the agreement were so broad that a New Zealand news paper called it "The Buying of A Republic".

In 1915, Spriggs was appointed by Montana Governor S.V. Stuart to establish an Industrial Accident Board to help workers injured on the job, particularly miners in Butte. Spriggs managed to convince his old friend and political ally from Townsend, Gordon G. Watt to return to Montana to become Secretary of the Industrial Accident Board. Watt was a man of undeniable integrity who could not be bribed by W.A. Clark in his bid for the U.S. Senate. Part of Watt's decision to take the position with the Industrial Accident Board was to "stick it" to Clark whom he detested.

Given A.E. Spriggs long association with W.A. Clark, the decision to ask Watt to head up the Industrial Accident Board is intriguing.

You decide, was W.E. Spriggs a smart, talented man of integrity or just a political hack that used his connections to further himself?

Much of the information in this article came from research and writing by Paul Putz, Historian.

Canton Church hosts Middle School History Outing

On October 17 Canton Church Restoration, Inc. hosted the Townsend Middle School students at the Canton Church. The outing is a history field trip, arranged by teacher David Lawson. The students come to the historic building and learn not only about the Church but also learn about Broadwater County history.

Fifty-six middle school students studying Montana History attended the event. The students arrived at the Canton Church around 10:30 am accompanied by Mr. Lawson and fellow teacher Tyler Patrick.

After getting settled into the Church, the students were given a brief history of the Canton Church with a short

question and answer period. Then Vic Sample gave the students a presentation about Broadwater County that covered the towns of Diamond City, Radersburg, Canton, Hassel, Hog'Em-Beat'Em-Cheat'Em, Bedford, Toston, Lombard and, of course, Townsend.

After the history presentation, there was a rousing cheer when the students were told lunch was ready! Lunch was provided by the Canton Church group and cooked by Bob and Barb Tootell. Everyone enjoyed the grilled hamburger and hotdogs. When lunch was over, the students had a chance to enjoy the park around the Canton Church before visiting St. Joseph's cemetery behind the Canton Church. The Cemetery is always the student's favorite part of the event.

Before leaving the Canton Church the students posed for pictures in front of the Canton Church, then left to visit the Centerville Cemetery adjacent to the R-Y Timber property.

Keith and Robin Kirscher, Pam Sample, Bob and Barb Tootell all helped with the event and Jeremy Price drove the school bus.

For more information about the Annual History field trip or to learn more about the Canton Church visit our website at https://canton-church.org.

The Traveling Diners

Casagranda Steakhouse - Butte

About a year ago a small group of Townsend residents decided to get together to make a monthly trip to visit restaurants outside Broadwater County but in the area. We have visited some outstanding restaurants! Since there are so many new residents in the area we thought we might share our thoughts on these restaurants.

Of course, we have great restaurants here in Broadwater County: the Mint has been providing great food in Townsend for over 80 years. The Bread and Butter Café has been open for almost 2 years and is already well known for their great breakfast and lunch dishes. The Big Bull, the Silos, the Bunkhouse, the Commercial Bar and the FishTale Bar all provide great casual dining food. And the Full Belli Deli is well known throughout Southwest Montana for great sandwiches. The Mounty Moose is famous for doughnuts and also has great breakfast and lunch meals.

We recently visited Casagranda's Steakhouse in historic Butte. With its colorful history and great historic buildings Butte is always fun to visit! The Casagranda Steakhouse is located in the old Bertoglio Distributing warehouse on Utah Avenue just west of the beautiful old Great Northern Railroad Depot. The interior of the old warehouse has been renovated beautifully; the attention to detail is incredible, right down to the fascinating (and very clean) restrooms.

The restaurant was absolutely full yet we were seated quickly after arriving. We started off with drinks from the bar that were well prepared. A quick perusal of the menu told us the restaurant was serving meals in the old Butte tradition: in addition to our entrees, the meals included bread, soup AND salad, choice of potato, pasta or mac'n'cheese and a scoop of ice cream.

We started with appetizers: Deep Fried Ravioli and an order of Crab cakes. The Crab Cakes were well prepared with a light, crunchy outside and a tender crab mix on the inside with a very tasty sauce. The menu stated we would get 3 Deep Fried Ravioli which we thought (with everything else) would be just a perfect amount. We actually received 12 deep-fried ravioli with a meat filling. They were perfectly done, the filling was very good and many of them went home with us in a go-box!

For entrees, we had a filet mignon, a rib steak and a house specialty, "Art's Spicy Cream Sauce of Penne Pasta". The steaks were quite large and cooked perfectly and the pasta was cooked al-dente with a spicy (but not over the top) cream sauce. With dinner, we had a bottle of red wine from a nice wine list. The

wine was very good and went perfectly with the meals. Our server was efficient - there when we needed her, but without being intrusive, and of course Butte friendly. She was a Butte native and we had a nice time chatting with her about growing up in Butte.

All of this came at a very reasonable price. We were actually quite surprised that the meals were not priced higher. This was a great experience for our first outing and we highly recommend dining at Casagrada Steakhouse if you make a trip to Butte! The restaurant is located at 801 South Utah Avenue in Butte (just south of the main business district). We do recommend making a reservation. The phone number is 406-723-4141. You can visit their website at http:// casagrandassteakhouse.com



"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book." Groucho Marx



Meagher of the Sword Performs at the Lodge Nancy Marks

The Port Polson Players made history jump off the page Friday night at the Lodge when two of its members, Neal and Karen Lewing, performed the fascinating story of Thomas Francis Meagher (pronounced ma'her) for whom Meagher county was named.

The couple was dressed in costumes of the late 1860's when Meagher was the first acting territorial governor of Montana. His story is alive with amazing sadness, strokes of luck and downright danger. Lewing researched the infamous Irishman and wrote the play as well as original songs which he presented on guitar. His wife of 44 years accompanied him on drum, tambourine and rattle.

Meagher was caught by the British, in Ireland, trying to spark an insurrection, was tried, convicted and sentenced to life in prison on Tasmania, an island country colonized by the British near Australia. He escaped. The story winds its way through the Civil War, then to Montana where he died mysteriously on a boat near Ft. Benton at the age of 44.

Lewing received the Montana Arts Council's Governor's Arts Award in 2016. Though he graduated from the University of Montana in music, theater was in his soul. When he met his wife, Karen, at the Ft. Peck theater they began a life in theater together. In 1983 they purchased the Port Polson Theater and have done serious theater with local actors ever since.

During COVID the Lewings wrote a full length musical about Meagher. The name of the play is 'No Coward's Epitaph.' They will begin performing it with 14 actors chronicling Meagher's life in story and song. It will be at the Myrna Loy Theater in Helena sometime in 2023, which is Meagher's 200th birthday. "I could not believe a movie or stage play had not been written about Meagher. His life was so fascinating, I'm thrilled to play Meagher's wife in the production," Mrs. Lewing remarked.

Broadwater Community Theater, along with sponsors Missouri Valley Marketing, Goose Bay Glass and Townsend Drug and Spirits arranged for the play at The Lodge.



Neal and Karen Lewing

JOP October 21, 2022

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FORFEITURES

Mackenzie Whelan Belgrade day speed\$20.00

Dayne Segi Bozeman day speed\$20.00

Marla Swanby Helena day speed\$20.00

Deborah O'reilly Bozeman day speed\$20.00

Lisa Minearo East Helena day speed\$20.00

No insurance-1st offense \$285.00

Michael Holmes Helena day speed\$20.00

Brooke Hiller Gallatin Gateway day speed\$20.00 Kyler Gomez Holland, Tx day speed\$70.00 Courtney Gluth \$65.00 Helena restricted speed day speed\$20.00 Adrienne Frazier Townsend Babb day speed\$120.00 Triston Fitzferald Lanny Erdman Rapid City, Sd day speed\$20.00

Jonathan Diaz Maricopa, Az truck night speed \$155.00

Nicole Coetzer Bozeman day speed\$20.00

Kenneth Cope Great Falls day speed\$20.00

James Burdick Helena day speed\$20.00

Mariam Azin Salt Lake City, Ut day speed\$20.00

Christopher Wagner Townsend no insurance – 1st offense \$285.00

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FAILURE TO WEAR SEAT BELTS

4 MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Lydia Baker – Bozeman – day speed, pled guilty, \$20.00 fine.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Charles Campbell Bozeman violation of commission or dept order or rules \$135.00 Brian Ricks East Helena violation of commission or dept order or rules

\$135.00

Dean Riley Kalispell checking station offenses \$85.00

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Milan Junso- Butte – day speed, pled guilty, deferred imposition of sentence for a period of six months, on conditions, \$70.00 fine, enroll and complete Alive @25.

BROADWATER COUNTY FORFEITURES

Colton Martello Great Falls night speed \$70.00

Julia Heid Bozeman day speed\$20.00

Chase Deyo Montana City night speed \$20.00

COUNTY CRIMINAL
DEPT. OF LIVESTOCK
MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES

 $\label{lem:court} \mbox{INITIAL APPEARANCE FOR DISTRICT COURT} \\ \mbox{INITIAL APPEARANCE - OTHER JURISDICTION} \\$

John Hart- P & P Hold, \$100,000.00 bond

Bryce Morin - Lake County District Court, \$25,000.00 bond

BULLDOGS FINISH REGULAR SEASON STRONG Eliza McLaughlin

Football

Bulldog Football traveled to Big Timber on Friday, Oct. 14 to take on the Sheepherders for their final conference match of the regular season.

Entering the 2nd quarter, the Bulldogs had seven points on the Sheepherders. By the end of the game, the Bulldogs had fallen to the Sheepherders 27-35. Despite their loss, the team finished first in its conference and will host a first round playoff game against Loyola Sacred Heart on Saturday, Oct. 29 at noon. Loyola finished its regular season with 4 wins and 4 losses overall.

Cross Country

Cross country hosted the Rusty Raisland Memorial meet on Oct. 15, serving as the runners final regular season event.

The Broadwater Bulldogs placed fifth for the boys and third for the girls with 115 and 73 points respectively.

Senior James Pitassy finished eighth overall in just 17:55, his second fastest time of the season.

All of the Lady Bulldogs ran their second fastest time of the season at the Rusty Raisland Memorial meet.

Bulldog cross country will wrap-up its 2022 season at the state meet in Missoula on Oct. 22

Volleyball

The Lady Bulldogs traveled to Choteau on Saturday, Oct. 15 to take on the team for the second time this season.

Having beat the Choteau team in three sets the week prior, the Lady Bulldogs' opponents returned with a vengeance.

The Lady Bulldogs held off the Choteau players in the first set 25-21, only to drop the second set 20-25. Despite bouncing back in the third set with a score of 25-14, Choteau was able to secure the fourth set 25-23 leading to a tie-breaker fifth set.

Determined to not drop the match, the Townsend team took the final set 15-7.

Lady Bulldog volleyball returned on Monday, Oct. 17 for a senior night match against the Sweet Grass Sheepherders.

The Lady Bulldogs swept the Sheepherders in three sets with scores of 25-12, 25-16 and 25-14.

Broadwater volleyball traveled to Whitehall on Tuesday, Oct. 18 to take on the Trojans, after MT 43 News' print deadline.

The Lady Bulldogs will travel to Manhattan on Oct. 27 and 28 to participate in the souther B - 5B district tournament for a chance to play in the divisional and state tournaments.

Broadwater's Lady Bulldogs are ranked number one in the district with eight conference wins and zero conference losses., followed by the Jefferson Panthers who have only lost to Townsend this season.

Broadwater Rod and Gun Club Blast-O'Lantern 2022

Broadwater Rod and Gun Club (BRGC) hosts Blast-O'Lantern 2022 on November 5th from 10am to 1:30pm at 330 Indian Creek range. This is the fourth year! BRGC started this in 2019 due to the overpopulation of Jack O'Lanterns (dressed up common pumpkins, some with scary faces) in Broadwater County.

This year we have 125# of tannerite to rid the problem pumpkins. All jokes aside, this event is for shooters of all ages. There have been shooters from 5 years old to 85+. BRGC supplies the Tannerite (this is the only time we allow binary agents to be used on our ranges). You supply the pumpkins (or use one of ours), bring a rifle and some ammo for it (or use one of our rifles), and the time. Don't forget to bring eye and ear protection, it is mandatory on all BRGC ranges.

We'll mix the binary agent up and put in a pumpkin, then you can take the pumpkin to its final resting place at 100 yards (it's more fun at 100 yards than 200 yards). BRGC will have Range Safety Officers on-site to coordinate safe times to shoot or to place pumpkins.

There will also be a donation jar if you wish to donate to the BRGC Rocky Fund/Youth fund. The Rocky Fund supports youth in Montana with traveling scholarships, purchase of equipment for 4H shooting sports, and any other youth outdoor events.

This event is a blast (LOL), it is also FREE, and everyone is guaranteed to have a good time (especially the pumpkins).

Blast-O'Lanterns is sponsored by Broadwater Rod and Gun Club and Capital Sports in Helena. Please contact us at (406)209-8651 or broadwaterrodandgun@gmail.com with any questions.

FALL FEST – POST-EVENT ANALYSIS

Jeff Langlanais



Although Fall Fest 2022 is behind us, the Rotary Club is now in the wrap-up phase. We are currently holding debriefing meetings to discuss what went right, what went wrong, and how can we improve next year. As a big thank you to our sponsors, we will be holding our "Sponsor Thank You" event in the weeks to come.

The final tally is not entirely completed (as we are still paying bills), but it appears that Fall Fest 2022 was the second-best event ever, outdone only by last year's event. Of course, the success of last year's Fall Fest was due to two significant factors: COVID was winding down, and the weather was nearly perfect. Was this year's success due to momentum from last year? Will next year be another big event, or will it taper back to the scale of previous years? We'll see.

There seems to be polarized opinions in the community about Fall Fest. Some say it was wonderful. Some businesses had great sales – especially on Sunday during the Car Show. Many attendees have a great time listening to music, eating brats, drinking beer, and shopping at the vendors. During my time at the weekend event, the only negative comments I heard were related to dogs. Others see problems associated with holding the event in town. Some businesses love increased sales, while others think it's a burden. As in the past, parking is a problem that seems to surface constantly.

How can these negative issues be addressed? One way, as mentioned by JB Howick (and others), in last week's newspaper, is to move the event to a location outside of town. Maybe to the rodeo grounds? Maybe to a pasture similar to Red Ants Pants? Yes, changing the venue could certainly solve some problems, but it would create others.

What is Rotary going to do about it? After the 2021 event, Rotary did an internal evaluation and decided to keep Fall Fest at Heritage Park. This year, we will reevaluate and expand our input base. First, we want to survey the local businesses to understand how Fall Fest helps or hurts them. We plan on working with the city to better understand how Fall Fest impacts city services. We will also be looking at working with the city and local entities to refine our event parking plan. Rotary will certainly consider moving the venue, but only if the evidence supports the idea.

Thank you again for all the support from this wonderful town and surrounding areas! Your participation at Fall Fest allows Rotary to give back to our community. "Service above Self."



WITH CLEAR SKIES

October Delights
Jeff Ross

Driving home after a meeting last Monday night I was viscerally reminded of how wonderful our October night skies can be. While heading out of town, I could see Jupiter easily, even with a few oncoming cars and my own headlights lighting the road. I pulled up to the house, shut the car off and then waited in the dark for a few minutes to let my eyes somewhat night adjust. That night adjustment process can take up to half an hour to complete (and longer the older we get!) but even a few minutes makes a huge difference in what the unaided eye can see and resolve.

Stepping out into that yet warm October night I saw the Milky Way spanning the night sky, from the northeast over the Big Belts all the way overhead and ending directly above the lights of Townsend. I could easily pick out Saturn almost due South and Jupiter was not far behind off to the east. Mars had not quite risen yet. Venus and Mercury, the remaining planets we can see without a telescope, are both too close visually to the Sun to see at all.

Are you not sure where the planets are in the sky? This page: https://mt43news.com/004 will show you the rising, transit and setting times of the Sun, Moon and all of the planets (including Pluto!) as well as their current location.

We've also recently had a few aurora visible. I have yet to see a good auroral display with my own eyes but my cameras have had no problem. Go to: https://mt43news.com/003 to see an auroral movie beginning at dark on October 13. The auroras first appear about 1:45 am on October 14 and last until daylight.

These sunny days and clear nights won't last forever. Please get out and enjoy the wonder of the night while you can.

With clear skies, of course.

"October is a fallen leaf, but it is also the wider horizon more clearly seen. It is the distant hill once more in sight, and the enduring constellations above that hill once again" – Hal Borlan

Fall Fest and Heritage Park Guest Opinion, JB Howick

I would like to clarify my comments per Nancy Marks' article, "Fall Fest, Too Much of a Good Thing?" (October 14, 2022). I like Fall Fest and want it to continue. I believe Fall Fest is valuable to Townsend for many reasons, but I also believe Rotary and the City need to analyze how to manage Fall Fest and its impact on a growing community. During the October 3 City Council meeting some of Fall Fest's consequences were discussed. I believe it started with a discussion about the success of closing the fenced trash cans along Broadway and replacing them with larger bins. Not surprisingly, the discussion turned to the problems encountered during the Festival. This included overfilled trash bins in the alleys, parking problems and the impact the festival has on businesses. The discussion considered how to deal with parking including suggesting additional signage and engaging Top Gun (which is renovating the old Broadwater Ford building) to tow offenders. But the solutions all had a cost to the city and its taxpayers.

In my opinion, the Council was avoiding a sensitive solution. During a lull in the discussion I brought it up. The idea isn't that Fall Fest needs to go. It's that it needs to move. Townsend Rotary prefers holding Fall Fest in Heritage Park. That's not a bad thing, the park is beautiful, has a good pavilion for the Rotary's food booth as well as picnic benches and electrical access. But it's also small with very limited parking and that's a problem for both a growing festival and a growing community.

My suggestion to the City Council was simple: the City could deny the use of Heritage Park. It's an action that solves all of the discussed problems at zero cost to the City and taxpayers. I mentioned the solution used by the Red Ants Pants festival in White Sulphur Springs: move it to a farmer's field. I also had a chance during Fall Fest to speak briefly with Commissioner Mike Delger about these same issues and he explained that the idea of moving Fall Fest to the fairgrounds had been discussed before. A new pavilion (available for Fall Fest 2023) should address most of Rotary's food services concerns. It would allow for ample parking and expansion of vendors and exhibitors. The various buildings at the fairgrounds could be used and a great deal of the seating is protected from the rain. Mr. Delger pointed out a third possibility used by Butte: a hybrid solution using multiple venues to minimize parking problems and spread the festival's benefits to a larger portion of the community.

No solution will be perfect. But my point is that it's time to have a serious discussion about how and where Fall Fest will grow. Keeping Fall Fest in Heritage Park obviously maximizes the benefit to Broadway bars and restaurants, but the choice restrains Festival growth and non-entertainment businesses experience fewer benefits. City Council member Angie Wintrow, owner of the Mountie Moose Bakery, mentioned that she is forced to open the bakery on festival Sunday due to lost sales on Saturday. This year Townsend Hardware happened to sell tarps to Festival vendors due to the rain, but on average we see little benefit but must monitor parking. Additionally, businesses located on Broadway benefit more than businesses located off Broadway. Or do they? It was suggested during the City Council meeting that a poll of businesses should be taken to determine the extent of benefits and problems. The idea was to poll businesses on Broadway. But do Silo's Junction, The Flamingo Grill, The Bunkhouse and The Big Bull Bar & Grill benefit from Fall Fest? If they do, then the argument that the Festival can't move lest businesses no longer benefit isn't valid. I believe it is time to poll county businesses — and the residents within three blocks of Heritage Park — and ask questions about Fall Fest and its impact.

It is my opinion that Fall Fest must stay — just not in Heritage Park. It is a valuable part of our community and its culture. But with all things popular, it brings problems that must be addressed. I believe we should gather information and not make assumptions. I believe Fall Fest should continue to be one of the anchor events of the community, but not at the expense of the community. It is my sincere hope that Rotary, the City, the County, and all interested parties can work together for a solution that manages growth, solves the problems and benefits us all.

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