MT 43	Local People. Local Storie	C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	county Culture2columns5,7comics & Games11,12community1,2,3,4,5county7listory9celigion7stronomy6
	Volume I, Issue No. 1	November 4, 202	2 \$1.00
Broadwater County Forum -p. 4	Lady Bulldogs Take First- P. 3		Bulldog Football comes to an end—p.10

# Ballot Box Security

Author, Nancy Marks

Security, Safety Are Election Watchwords

Ballot security and public safety were primary concerns of Broadwater County Clerk and Recorder Angie Paulsen as she prepared for next Tuesday's general election.

In an interview with MT43 News, Paulsen noted that threats have been made against election judges across the state, so it is now against the law to carry a firearm into a polling place.

And, she said, "We provide sheriff's deputies at the polling places to keep things safe."

She also spoke in detail about procedures used to safeguard the voting process and the security of ballots. For example, the tabulating machines that count the votes at the polling places are not connected to the internet, so no outside source can tamper with the ballots, she said. Paulsen expects poll watchers from both the Republican and Democratic parties to show up. "We encourage poll watchers to view what goes on at the polling place, to ensure transparency in the procedure," she said. Each poll watcher must sign in and wear a valid identification badge. They cannot carry audio or video equipment or a cell phone nor cause interference with loud talking or campaigning. The precinct chief election judge determines how closely a poll watcher can be to the proceeding.

Paulsen said she trains about 30 citizens to serve as election judges. They are paid \$10 an hour, chief judges get \$10.50. They can be expected to work about 16 hours straight, starting at 6 a.m. and finishing up at about 10 p.m. The training and voting operations follow state law. It's a

big job and a long day for the judges, Paulsen said. After tabulations are completed at the polling places, the ballots are taken in sealed containers to the Clerk and Recorders office in the courthouse. An additional step to ensure vote integrity is provided by a random post-election audit directed by the office of the Montana secretary of state. Paulsen emphasized the importance of safe and secure polling. "Although 80 percent of Broadwater County voters vote by absentee ballots in early voting, we want to assure in-person voters we have security from start to finish," she said. She thanked the county sheriff's office for its assistance.

The precinct locations are Townsend School Library Community Room for voters who live in Precincts 7, 11 and 12. Precinct 1 voters will go to the Winston Firehall. Precinct 13 voters go to the Toston Firehall. The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters not already registered may do so at the courthouse until 8 p.m. on election day.

For questions, call Clerk and Recorder's office at 406-266-3405.



#### matching funds and grants to businesses and community projects in Broadwater County, including, but not limited to: storefront grants, advertising grants, scholarships, and more. BCDC is also in need of like-minded individuals to replenish its Board. Adam Six, a BCDC and also a Parks and Rec board member, assures us that a recreational survey will be available soon so, we, as residents, can decide what we would like to see here in Broadwater

## A Dream Delayed



Recreation Activity Center). They had a great fundraiser and multiple private donations, earning a whopping \$36,370.17! Well, that didn't come to fruition because, according to Pastor Eric, "We had unrealized complications and unforeseen roadblocks" to making that dream come true. Since then, the money has sat there until the stewards of the money could find and invest with a committee that shares their vision.

Left to right, Dan Harrigfeld, Dawn Thompson, Heidi Bingham, John Hahn, Adam Six and Eric Krueger. TRAC gives \$36,370.17 to BCDC for recreation activities in Townsend. (Photo By Dee Gannon)

Two years ago, Heidi Bingham and Pastor Eric Krueger had an idea to try to make the old Ford property into TRAC (Townsend Broadwater County Development Corporation (BCDC) is just that committee. Just this summer, BCDC was a major factor in getting the new skatepark at Holloway Park. So, naturally, they would gratefully accept the money and earmark it for recreational facilities. "This is the community's money and we want it to stay here," said Heidi, "we are confident that with BCDC's stewardship, it will." BCDC is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, that in collaboration with other entities, provides County. Hopefully, getting closer to that recreational/community center, where everyone, young and old alike, can enjoy and appreciate the hard work that goes into something so inviting.

# And the stand of t

**ATTENTION SNOW BIRDS!** 

Summer is over; Fall Fest is over; it's the time of the year when our Snow Birds start leaving for warmer climates. We KNOW you want to keep up with what is happening here in Broadwater County.

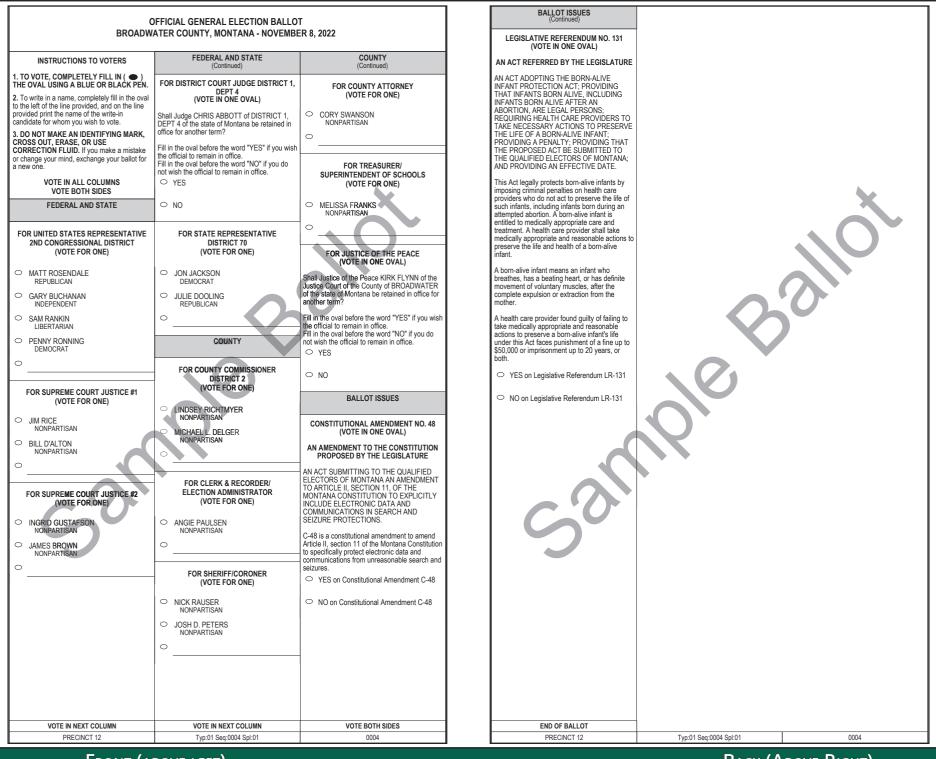
If you have a Snow Bird subscription to MT 43 News you need to update us with your Snow Bird mailing address so you can continue to receive the MT 43 News. Call Sarah at 406-266-0086.

If you have not yet gotten a subscription to MT 43 News you may want to consider getting a Snow Bird subscription. We will mail the paper to you while you are gone. When you come back next year let us know and we will change your address back to your local mailing address.

If you have a standard subscription you may want to consider upgrading to a Snow Bird subscription to continue getting your local news!

- Victor Sample

# BROADWATER (OUNTY'S SAMPLE BALLOT: NOVEMBER '22



FRONT (ABOVE LEFT)

DON'T FORGET TO FILL OUT BOTH SIDES

BACK (ABOVE RIGHT)

## MVM ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 4TH ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST!

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SPEND TIME IN SPECIAL WORK MEETINGS

County Commissioners set aside time for two working meetings this week. One meeting was spent looking at how to set up a rural improvement district procedure. The procedure would give proposed subdivisions options for planning. Other options available now include forming a homeowners' association or forming maintenance agreements for maintaining subdivision roads.

Missouri Valley Marketing is happy to announce the winners

of the 4th annual Residential Halloween Decorating Contest. It was a very close



In another meeting, commissioners met with Great West Engineering planners to study the newly designed Three Forks flood mitigation plan. Since the Federal Emergency Management Agency(FEMA) has redesignated Three Forks' flood plain map of the Jefferson River, Broadwater County residents who live in the Price Road and Old Town areas may be impacted by the changes, according to County Commissioner Darrel Folkvord.

decision this year – all 3 displays are exceptional

\* FIRST PLACE \$100: ROBERT ROWE, 210 NORTH MAPLE

\* SECOND PLACE: \$50.00: KEITH LARSEN, 400 S. HARRISON

\* THIRD PLACE \$25.00: DONDI LIST, 64 Baldy view lane

-Victor Sample

In the coming months, DNRC and the County Commissioners will be holding public hearings about the changes to the flood plain designation. Stay tuned!



-Nancy Marks, Author

## Trick or Treat So Others May Eat: A Long-Standing Townsend Tradition

Over 70 junior high and high school youth group students gathered this past Wednesday evening to take part in a long-standing event in the Townsend area. Trick or Treat So Others May Eat (TOTSOME) is a Townsend tradition dating back over 10 years. It was originally organized by the Townsend Ministerial Association, which included all of the churches and youth groups in Townsend. Apart from the 2020 COVID break, each Wednesday before Halloween, Townsend area students go door to door collecting food items for the Broadwater Food Pantry. This year participating churches included the Holy Cross Catholic Church, Church of Christ of LDS, and Trailhead Christian Fellowship.

The evening began at the Catholic Church, where everyone enjoyed a delicious chili dinner, complete with Father Cody's special punch drink. All of the chili, cheese, chips, and yummy desserts were donated by members of the churches and Mountain Valley Church. After receiving instruction and dividing the routes, the students and adult chaperones split into 16 groups, which canvased most all of Townsend, including the golf course area and River Road. Once the route was complete or the group ran out of time, all of the food back is brought to the pantry, where it is received and weighed by the wonderful volunteer team of Broadwater Food Pantry. This year, Karoline, Roland, and Darryl were there to receive and weigh the food. All of the students look forward to finding out how much food they collected on their route, with it always being a good competition.



In total, the students collected over 1,600 pounds of food for the Broadwater Food Pantry. This is nearly enough to stock the pantry for the entire year in non-perishable food. This event wouldn't be possible without the generous donations from the residents of Townsend and all of the students who go around collecting the food. Also, thank you Bob's for supplying the bags to transport all of the food, and the Sheriff's Office for keeping an eye on the students throughout the evening. TOTSOME is an event the youth groups look forward to every year. It's a joy to see them all return to the food pantry, with their bounty collected, telling fun stories, and smiling ear to ear. We live in a great, safe, and generous community where traditions like these can stay alive, even now. Thanks Townsend! What a blessing it is to serve you all!



## LADY BULLDOGS TAKE FIRST - AGAIN

By Eliza McLaughlin, reporter

After topping the ranks all season long, the Lady Bulldog volleyball team took first at the Class B Souther 5B District tournament in Manhattan on Oct. 27 and 28.

Townsend's first match was against the Sweet Grass Sheepherders Thursday, Oct. 27. Eager to get to the next round, the Lady Bulldogs made sure to stay well-ahead of the Sheepherders during their three set sweep in 25-16, 25-12 and 25-10.

Throughout the course of the match, the Lady Bulldogs put a stop to shot after shot from the Sheepherders, totaling 72 digs. Luci Horne earned the most at 19, followed closely by Trinity Wilson with 18. Alleigh Burdick and Emily Bird were next with 14 and nine respectively.

The Lady Bulldogs' defense also took place at the net with eight successful blocks against Sweet Grass. Sienna Everett led with 2.5, followed by Haven Vandenacre with 2 and Wilson with 1.5. Both Reese Wolfgram and Bird earned one block during the match.

The Bulldogs also excelled offensively with 30 successful kills during the match.

Vandenacre led the attack with eight kills, followed by Wilson and Everett with six each. Bird and Wolfgram earned three kills each, while Cassidy Flynn and Aspen Slyker each



earned one.

The win over the Sheepherders secured the Lady Bulldog's place in a semi-finals match against the Jefferson Panthers the next day.

The beginning of the match was back and forth with Townsend and Jefferson swapping short leads, however, the Lady Bulldogs were able to take charge and claim the first set 25-16. Running with their momentum, the Lady Bulldogs claimed the second set 25-11.

The third set played out much like the first with close points early on and final serves from Vandenacre to claim the title 26-24.

Lady Bulldog volleyball returned to the Class B



24.

Alleigh Burdick passes the ball during a match against the Sweet Grass Sheepherders on Oct. 27. (Eliza McLaughlin / MT 43 News)

In the second, Townsend wasted no time getting a few points on the Panthers before swapping the lead with them again. Neck-in-neck, the Lady Bulldogs got a step ahead at 19-18 when Vandenacre served five consecutive points, setting Burdick up to serve the final point for 25-19.

In another back-and-forth third set, Jefferson's Panthers took the lead and claimed the set 25-17 over the Lady Bulldogs.

Townsend claimed the fourth 25-18, allowing the team to advance to the championship match, where they would once again face the Jefferson Panthers who battled back for a spot in the match.

The face-off, taking place in the evening of Friday, Oct. 28, had all the excitement one would hope to see in a championship match.

Like the teams' previous stand-off, the first set started with the Panthers inching right along with the Lady Bulldogs. The Panthers' Erica Shields got the serve and tied the score at 24. However, Vandenacre's serves got it done 26-



tan on Thursday, Nov. 3 at 11:30 a.m. against Forsyth. Check back next week for results!



Emily Bird sets the ball during a match

ter counties. Three Forks' schools attract other students from these counties for a variety of reasons: proximity to their parents' workplace, education programs and commute compared to their assigned county school. For example, students living on or north of Hilltop Road in the Wheatland area are assigned to the Townsend School District which is 30 minutes away. However, the Three Forks' schools are less than 20 minutes away. Similarly, Milligan Canyon residents are 10 minutes from Three Forks and 30 minutes from Whitehall. One-hundred and ninety students living in Broadwater County attend the Three Forks' schools in various grade levels. Five of those students live beyond the district's boundaries. In Jefferson County, 22 students attend Three Forks, with half attending as out-of-district students. The district's new policy, if approved on Nov. 15, will only permit nonresident students if they are a nonresident employee's child or a foreign exchange student. The policy also allows current out-of-district students to continue attending Three Forks schools with an annual application, due on May 1 of each year. Townsend School District Board Chair Jason Noyes told MT43 News that he doesn't expect this policy to impact the district since only "a handful" of Townsend students attend Three Forks. "As many of our area schools continue to expand, we all have to implement strategies and policies to manage growth so we can continue to provide an optimal learning environment for both our students and teachers alike," he said. "Moving forward, the Townsend School District administrators and board of trustees will continue to evaluate our own policies and to be proactive in regards to the continued influx of people within our county."

We would like to thank Opportunity Bank of Montana for being a 2022-2023 Banner Booster member and supporting our Bulldogs!

#### Here are the athletes of the week! VOLLEYBALL-

Senior, Trinity Wilson at district tournament:



Big Timber: 1.5 blocks, 18 digs, 6 kills, 1 ace.

Jefferson: 1.5 blocks, 19 digs, 29 kills(new school record).

Championship against Jefferson: 1 block, 30 digs, 15 kills

## FOOTBALL

Senior, Walker Spurlock recorded eight tackles and one sack in Saturday's playoff game.



Eliza McLaughlin

The Townsend School District participated in Red Ribbon week from Oct. 24 through 28. The event included dress-up days, speakers, trivia and more. On Wednesday, Oct. 26, the school wore red to show support for drug-abuse prevention. Terry Zaharko, pictured, poses in his red after participating in trivia with Mike Schnittgen, the Broadwater High School Guidance Counselor.

## THREE FORKS ENROLLMENT ON THE RISE

By Eliza McLaughlin

Like the local population, Three Forks School District's student enrollment has been on the rise. In an attempt to prevent overcrowding, the school board has moved forward with a policy that will close the district to new out-of-district student applications.

The decision to no longer accept nonresident students comes after the approval of a bond project which funded both an elementary and high school expansion. Since construction has continued through the start of the school year, the district has operated with limited space for its 804 students, 36 more than it had at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

The Three Forks School District operates with fairly unique district boundaries, which enroll students from Gallatin, Jefferson and Broadwa-

(Story Continued on Page 6)

## 4 Friday, November 4th, 2022

#### MT 43 News

## **BROADWATER COUNTY CANDIDATE FORUM BRINGS OUT INTERESTED VOTERS**

#### STAFF REPORT- Eliza McLaughlin

A good-sized crowd of interested voters gathered at the Fairgrounds 4-H building on the evening of Thursday, Oct. 27 to hear from several of the candidates listed on the Nov. 8 ballot. Approximately 50 persons showed up at the candidate forum despite the event's short notice. Candidates who responded to the invitation to participate in the forum were Nick Rauser, Josh Peters, Julie Dooling, Jon Jackson, Lynsey Richtmyer, Mike Delger, Angie Paulsen, Chris Abbott and James Brown.

Rauser and Peters are vying for Broadwater County's next Sheriff while Jackson hopes to take incumbent Dooling's place as the Montana House District 70's representative. Incumbent Delger also faces newcomer Richtmyer on the ballot. Brown, currently the Public Service Commission Chairman, is running for Montana Supreme Court Justice District #2 against incumbent Ingrid Gustafson. Gustafson was not present.

Paulsen is running unopposed for Clerk and Recorder while Abbott faces no competition in the race for District Judge. Both are listed as nonpartisan and have served in their respective positions for some time.

Neither Treasurer/Superintendent of Schools Melissa Franks nor Municipal Justice of the Peace candidate Kirk Flynn were present.

Middle School Principal Brad Racht moderated the forum, emphasizing a fair and non-contentious atmosphere during the event. "I believe that the openminded sharing ideas is something that doesn't occur nearly enough," Racht said Before addressing the candidates, Racht read from the Voter Information Pamphlet notifying voters on information regarding Constitutional Amendment C-48, which bolsters unlawful search and seizure to apply to electronic data, and Legislative Referendum #131, which requires health care providers to perform life-saving medical care on born-alive infants.

Then came the candidates.

Each candidate received five minutes to introduce themselves and to 'share their platform." They then were asked two questions submitted by a committee, according to Racht. No questions were taken from the audience.

House District 70 Representative Julie Dooling was first to approach the

Dooling emphasized the need to reevaluate the property tax formula, clarifying that "very little" of those funds help finance state projects. Instead, much of the money gathered through property taxes return to communities to help funds school, fire departments and other local organizations. "We need to figure out how we're going to fund these services, because we can't rely so heavily on our property owners," she said. "We have to figure out something else to tax." Dooling went on to explain that income taxes were lowered during the last legislative session. Despite the cut, the state ended up with a \$2 billion surplus, which Dooling credits to more people moving to and paying taxes in Montana with the combined addition of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Both candidates then received a follow-up question: "What do you see as a priority issue for the legislature?" Dooling once again re-emphasized the need to handle property taxes and to reallocate the \$2 billion surplus. She then explained that she'd like to help bring updated services to outdated departments.

Jackson said the economy was his main priority for the legislature while keeping children and agriculture, "the life blood of Montana", in mind.

Broadwater County Commissioner Mike Delger has served as a Broadwater County Commissioner for six years, telling forum attendees that

> when he first joined the commission was "unhealthy." Delger said since then, the commissioners have made headway reducing county debt. He also explained that the commissioners have developed a more efficient, and less stressful, method for creating the county's budget.

Newcomer Lynsey Richtmyer said she brings a "unique perspective" to the Broadwater County Commissioners, having earned both a journalism and physical therapy degree. "I am not afraid to ask questions," she said. Richtmyer said she hopes to find solutions to the county's growth while working with private property owners to maintain agricultural land: "It's happening whether we like it or not. People are moving here. If we go without a plan, it's going to be a bit of a disaster." Another goal Richtmyer has as a potential county commissioner is improving communication, with the possibility of a public information officer in the future, and accountability.

Both candidates were asked this question: "The city, county citizenry is in the process of going through an assessment process to identify priority issues to help guide the various government offices and supportive organizations. The official report has not

been finished, but we can draw that unguided growth and development is a concern. As a county commissioner, how would you approach this issue?"

Richtmyer responded first, re-emphasizing the desire to work with private property owners and the possibility of using zoning "where appro-



podium for the HD 70 Representatives, laughing at the opportunity to have five uninterrupted minutes with a microphone as a politician. Dooling, a fourth generation Montanan, assumed her position as representative of House District 70 in January of 2019. Now in her second term, she's seeking re-election on Nov. 8. During her time in office, Dooling said she has occupied the same three committees: state administration, transportation and agriculture, adding that between legislative sessions she served on the state administration and veterans' affairs committee. It was on the SAVA committee that Dooling learned about and helped prepare several bills to address Montana's underfunded pension programs. "Pensions are Montana's largest liability," she said, clarifying that pensions are in the billions of dollars. Dooling hopes to address the pension program with several bills during Montana's 68th legislative session, which begins on Jan. 1. These bills include a request for \$100 million to be added to the public safety pension plan for sheriffs, the Department of Corrections and game wardens.

A second bill will prohibit the addition of benefits into pension plans unless it amortizes in 30 years or less and is fully funded, Dooling said. "We do not want any more liability, especially in our pensions," she explained. Although she finds pensions concerning, Dooling said she sees property taxes as "a huge thing to tackle" this session, expressing a personal connection to solving the rise in property taxes since both her mother and grandmother live on a fixed income.

Jon Jackson, also a fourth generation Montanan, shared his support for education, agriculture and the economy during the forum. Jackson served in Frankfurt, Germany for three years before returning to Montana to start a family and retired from the military after 39 years. Although Jackson has yet to serve in the legislature, he has participated in several community based organizations, including the American Legion, the Free Masons and Shriners.

Both candidates were asked the following question: "Montana's income tax and property tax are a serious concern of Montanan's. With the upcoming legislative session fast approaching, what is your position and approach on this issue?" Jackson was first to answer the question, explaining that these taxes are Montana's major forms of income. "Any kind of issues that come up dealing with property or income taxes have to be faced straight ahead," he said, adding that legislatures must understand the objectives and reasonings behind raising those taxes.

priate?

Delger said he didn't oppose zoning; however, he only supported it in areas where the residents support it. "I think that it violates a person's property," he said. He went on to explain that developers are a concern in the county's growth, since they will simply pay fines for violating building regulations. "I don't know how you address uncontrolled growth, we control it as much as we can, but you cannot infringe on people's property rights," he said.

Both candidates were then asked a follow-up question: "Another identified issue is high-speed internet access. How can the commissioners increase the opportunity for our businesses and households to receive this service?"

Delger responded to the question first, explaining that while internet providers will service Winston to Toston, none want to service the east side of Canyon Ferry Lake.

Richtmyer agreed that Broadwater County was limited in its internet services. While grants are available, Richtmyer told listeners that it still has to be "optimal" for the providers. Increasing opportunities, she said, will require continued work with companies.

Broadwater County Sheriff Josh Peters and Nick Rauser have both entered their names for the Broadwater County Sheriff's race.

Peters said his main goal as sheriff was to bring change and honesty to the department, emphasizing that there are "more sheriffs than deputies anymore." Rauser currently possesses two titles in the Broadwater County Sheriff's Department as captain and deputy coroner. Rauser said he learned to be a "more detailed cop" while serving for three years at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. If elected, Rauser said he wants to create and maintain a healthy work environment in the department while helping protect both the north and sound end of the county. He also spoke on building relationships with children and the department.

Both candidates were asked the following question: "The sheriff's office has received funding from the special mills for improved law enforcement coverage county wide, and the detention center. Is the sheriff's office adequately financed?"

Rauser said the department is currently financed and thanked voters for passing the special mill levy as it allowed the department to house more

#### Friday, November 4th 5

#### MT43News.com



more inmates to keep them off the street.

Peters said he couldn't answer the question since he didn't work in the department. "Without working there and knowing what they purchase and anything else, I wouldn't have a clue on how much financing they need," he said.

Both candidates were then asked a follow-up question: "With the seemingly huge increase of homes and businesses in the Wheatland area and the currently negotiated Townsend contract, please explain how you plan to address the needed law enforcement coverages."

Peters said he couldn't answer the question since he didn't know the what the contract entailed.



Court Beat 10-28 Dee Gannon

The criminal docket in Judge Chris Abbot's courtroom on October 28 was as follows: Sarkis Alikyan appeared by Zoom from California, where he lives. He was scheduled to have a Pre-Trial Conference. He will appear for a Change of Plea on January 6, 2023. His trial is vacated.

Priscilla Evans was to have a Pre-Trial Conference. Her trial date was vacated. She will have a change of Plea on January 6, 2023.

Dylan Kimbrough had an Initial Appearance and Arraignment, pleading Not Guilty to charges of criminal possession of dangerous drugs (meth), criminal possession of drug paraphernalia and DUI alcohol or drugs (2nd offense). Omnibus is due by December 16. The pre-Trial is set for February 17, 2023, with the Jury Trial scheduled for March 13. A second case for Kimbrough, a Petition to Revoke a deferred sentence, states that he failed to remain law-abiding and he failed to maintain the condition of no alcohol or drugs. He denied the allegations but will have an Evidentiary Hearing on March 24, 2023. He must have a drug patch by Monday, October 31, have a Urinary Analysis Monday morning, and apply for and complete a chemical dependency evaluation, showing proof of completion.

## BROADWATER PUBLIC HEALTH CLOSINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Margaret Ruckey, Broadwater County Public Health Director

#### BROADWATER COUNTY RESIDENTS:

Broadwater County Public Health will be closed on Tuesday, November 8th for Election Day and on Friday, November 11th for Veteran's Day.

Broadwater County Public Health will be closed on Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th this year for Thanksgiving.

Thank you for allowing us to help you with your healthcare needs.

The Broadwater County Public Health Staff



Rauser responded with the potential of securing another COPS grant to help hire deputies to cover the south-end of the county, adding that he'd like to arrange for a school resource officer as well.

However, the bigger problem was retention Rauser said: "Law enforcement is a revolving door."

The Forum concluded with Racht reading letters from Cory Swanson and Sam Rankin. Neither were able to attend the event.

Tim Poole told MT 43 News that the 2022 Broadwater County Candidate Forum came to be after a group of concerned citizens learned that the Cattlewomen would not be hosting the event like they had in years past.

With only a week before their desired date, this group of citizens put their boots to the ground and put together the event, which went on without a hitch.

Sponsors of the forum included Broadwater County News, Jeannie Steele Real Estate, Creative Closet and Sawdust and Threads. Jeannie Steele told MT 43 News that she chose to help sponsor the forum with the intent to help inform voters: "I think it is so important that voters know who they are voting for, and for voters to get out and vote."

## KAY INGALLS IS RETIRING!

Bev Monigal

After 37 years with the Townsend Library, Kay has decided it's time. She's looking forward to being able to do things at the drop of a hat. Here's a little background on Kay.

Kay, originally from the Midwest, graduated from college with a biology and chemistry degree, and a minor in physics. After college, she went into the Peace Corps. She was assigned to Niger and worked in a well-baby clinic. While in Niger, she met another Peace Corps volunteer, her future husband, Kelly. When Kay's Peace Corps time was up, she returned home, and worked a few jobs including being a naturalist at a state park. Then she moved to Alaska with one of her sisters. There she worked as a caretaker who, while on the way to work one day, on skis, met up with a cow who decided that skiing with Kay was a good idea. Maybe for the cow, but not for Kay. She never made it to work that day, but to the hospital. With a broken back, and several months of surgery, rehab, and physical therapy, Kay returned to the Midwest. Whereupon that other young Peace Corps volunteer came and Kay and Kelly married. She moved with him to his hometown and ranch, here in Townsend. Kay and Kelly, with his brother, run the Ingalls

Marthinus Volschenk appeared for a Change of Plea, pleading guilty to assault on a minor. In his elocution, he stated he grabbed the arm of a teenager (under 14) and kissed her on the forehead, without her consent. He receives a \$5000 fine and must pay all fees and surcharges. Since Volschenk's work visa expires on October 31 he is on his way back to South Africa, not able to enter the United States again.

Turner Kinnick appeared for an Initial Appearance and Arraignment, pleading Not Guilty to assault with a weapon. Omnibus is due by December 30. Pre-Trial is set for March 24, with the Jury Trial scheduled for April 24

Pablo Gonzalez had an Initial Appearance and Arraignment, pleading Not Guilty to partner/ family member assault (3rd offense). Omnibus is due by December 16. The pre-Trial is set for February 13, 2023, with the Jury Trial scheduled for March 13.



when you have to go there, they have to take you in." — *Robert Frost* 

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#### FREE PERFORMANCE CELEBRATES

#### **50TH ANNIVERSARY OF**

#### **SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARKS**

#### Nancy Marks

Here's a chance for you to see the fun side of Shakespeare as you may have never seen. Montana Shakespeare in the Parks will be in Townsend to perform "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Revised" at 7:30 pm Friday, Nov. 18 at The Lodge.

The group performed in Townsend earlier this summer, and is now traveling to 17 Montana cities and towns to celebrate 50 years in production. According to a release from the Montana State University outreach program, the 37 quick plays, in 90 minutes gives a real flavor of Shakespeare.

"Shakespeare has always been about community for us and that still holds true in our 50th season," Executive Artistic Director Kevin Asselin explained, "We invite everyone to come out for our final tour of the 2022 season."

Broadwater Community Theater is pleased to sponsor the troupe and would like to invite Townsend Schools students and all Shakespeare fans to join us at 7:30pm at the Lodge. Since tickets are free, seats will be first come, first served, so come early and enjoy concessions and good company. Bring a friend! spread of sheep and cows, a fourth-generation ranch. Kay and Kelly have two wonderful children, one of whom is home learning the ropes of the ranch in order to take over one day and the other is still in college.

The logical, and organizational skills from her science background transferred over to library responsibilities. Working for a smaller, community library allowed Kay to learn everything and do everything in the library. Not that every task was something she liked, but it gave her the opportunity to learn all. She did interlibrary loans and Adult Ed (GED and HiSet) for 20 of those years. Books and Babies and summer reading programs added to her enjoyment. She most enjoyed the people that came into the library and helped all who sought her out. Her kindness and goodness were always present. Finding just the right thing or solving a problem for someone gives her great satisfaction.

Her other great contribution to the community and library is running the Book Club. For 22 years, Kay has marshaled the community into reading over 250 books. The Book Club has been meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:30. Wonderful books and exposure to authors one may never have read. While Kay's retirement is being worked out so is the Book Club and how it will be configured. More news on that later.

In asking her for what her retirement plans are, they are simple and beautiful. She wants to get out and walk more, observe the birds which she has a passion for, continue her watercolor painting which she loves and occasionally take a drive and have dinner out. It sounds like a great prescription for a successful and contented retirement. Good luck Kay!

Join us in celebration of Kay's retirement on Thursday, November 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the library. Refreshments and a chance to tell Kay what her service has meant to you. See you there! Three Forks' Superintendent Rhonda Uthlaut

disciplinary record and current level in class,

will then review the student's academic record,

before recommending the nonresident student's

application for approval or denial to the board.

"Admission in one school year does not imply or

guarantee admission in subsequent years," reads Policy 3141, the school's Discretionary Nonresi-

The new policy will permit students who move

out of the district to continue attending the

school unless they register in another school

The board did not determine whether it would

charge tuition from out-of-district students dur-

ing the meeting. However, the policy allows it to

Out-of-district students will not be eligible for

school transportation services, according to the

mously approved by the school board during its

Oct. 18 meeting. If approved during the Nov. 15

The first reading of Policy 3141 was unani-

meeting, it will immediately go into effect.

dent Student Attendance policy.

district.

do so.

policy.

#### Three Forks Enrollment Continued.... A Meteor Shower and a Lunar Eclipse

The Taurids Meteor Shower peaks on Saturday, November 5. It has the potential to be a dandy display this year. The Taurids are associated with Comet Enke. Both Enke and the Taurids are believed to be the remnants of a much larger comet that broke up 20,000 to 30,000 years ago. The Taurids appear to radiate from the constellation Taurus, the Bull. Taurus stands between the Pleiades and Orion and rises in the East just about sunset. I think it looks like a lazy V with bright Aldebaran representing the bull's eye at the end of one leg.

The Taurids are a long-duration meteor shower beginning at the end of October and lasting until November 10 or so. They are much slower than the usual meteors we see, and are more likely to be pebble sized than normal dust particles. Combine the slow speed with pebble-sized particles and we are more likely to see long, extremely bright meteors streak across the night sky. Meteors this size also tend to blow up more often upon entry into our atmosphere. Those are called bolides and can be bright enough to ruin that hard-won night vision. The Taurids have a 7-year cycle where the number of meteors per minute goes from an average of 5 to double or even triple that. The last "swarm" year was 2015 so it's possible that 2022 could yield another swarm.

What would normally be a downside to this year's peak Taurids is that our big, lovely Moon will be just 2 days away from Full and that would mean that the Taurids would be washed out just as the Perseids were earlier this year. However, this Full Moon will be in a total lunar eclipse for everyone in the Western US, beginning November 8 at about 1 am, reaching totality just before 4 am and exiting our Earth's shadow at just before 7 am. A total lunar eclipse occurring 2 days after the Taurid's peak should let them shine in all their glory and we get to enjoy the Blood Moon eclipsed at the same time! .....With clear skies, of course.

of protests to City Clerk Crystal Turner and City Treasurer Kelly Smith's efforts to inform the public of the project's purpose. Jeremiah Theys from Great West Engineering said their work has allowed community members to understand the benefits of the project.

"The big picture is it will protect the majority of the community from the Jefferson floodplain," Theys said. "We are just starting, there is a ton of work to begin now, but getting the financing lined out is the largest hurdle."

The special improvement district will allow the city to secure 25% of the project's funding through district bonds. The city hopes to cover the remaining 75% of the project expenses with a FEMA grant. Three Forks has yet to receive the grant but expects to be awarded the funds in January or February.

Kevin Backus Kennesaw, Ga day speed \$20.00

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FAILURE TO WEAR SEAT BELTS 1

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES Clarissa Boettger – Belgrade – Driving under the influence of alcohol and or drugs -1st offense, plead guilty, sentenced to six months in jail with all but one day suspended, on conditions, \$1085.00 fines, and fees, enroll and complete ACT program. Jayden Lee – Three Forks – Careless driving, plead guilty, deferred imposition of sentence for a period of six months, on conditions, enroll and complete Alive @ 25 and \$85.00 fines and fees.

## MAIN STREET HALLOWEEN GHOST STROLL



Ghosts and goblins, princesses and ballerinas, sci-fi characters and even a car hopped and giggled down the street on Monday for a Townsend Elementary School celebration.

It is a question though who had the most fun: the kids in their costumes or the parents and grandparents watching nearby as their hard work building costumes passed. The annual march has been organized by the grade school for many years. The kids first visit the

# Three Forks Flood mitigation presses forward

Eliza McLaughlin

The Three Forks City Council unanimously approved the creation of a flood mitigation special improvement district during its Oct. 25 meeting to help gather funds for the construction, maintenance and incidental costs of the project.

The council received zero protests from residents regarding the new district, which TK Nathan Bilyeau said was unusual for these types of projects.

"I have worked on many of these SIDs and it is very rare to [see] single-digit protests, let alone no protests," Bilyeau said.

Councilman Gene Townsend credited the lack

## JUSTICE OF THE PEACE REPORT NOV 1, 2022

Kelsi Anderson, Justice Court Clerk

NEWSPAPER – October 4th, 2022

#### MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FORFEI-TURES

IUKLU				
Kourtney Zane	etti	Billings	6	day
speed \$70.00				
Lakin Hooper	Billings	5	day spe	ed
\$120.00				
Heather Armfi	eld	Belgrad	le	day
speed \$20.00				
Samuel Heutm	aker	Bozema	an	day
speed \$20.00			expired	l registra-
tion \$85.00				
Eric Hummel	Brookv	ille, Oh	day spe	ed
\$120.00				
Takeo Mizoo	Los An	geles, C	a	careless
driving\$85.00				
Eric Strader	Livings	ton	day spe	ed
\$20.00				
Alana Redden	South 1	Newfane	e, Vt	day
speed \$20.00				
Rigoberto Delg	gado-Hi	nojosa	Townse	end
day speed	\$20.00			
Riley Wilson	Butte	day spe	eed	\$20.00
Stephen Skinn	er	Helena	day spe	ed
\$20.00				
Geri Segna	Great l	Falls	day spe	ed
\$20.00				
Jacob Rodda	Great F	alls	day spe	ed
\$20.00				
Frank Rask	Great F	alls	night sj	peed
\$70.00				
Maona Ngwira		Prosper	r, Tx	day
speed \$120.00				
Hunter Nichol	son	Bozema	an	day
speed \$70.00				
Darcy Hunter	Belgrad	le	day spe	ed
\$20.00				
Kaylee Casebo	lt	Butte	day spe	ed
\$20.00				_
Casey Bereszn	iewicz	Bozema	an	day
speed \$20.00				

Decker Wold – Whitefish- day speed, plead guilty, \$20.00 fine.

Sunshyn Mondragon – Townsend- seatbelt violation, plead guilty, \$20.00 fine; fail to carry proof or exhibit/insurance in vehicle – owner or operator-2nd offense, pled guilty, \$385.00 fines and fees, surrender license plates and registration to the vehicle driven at the time of the offense until proof of compliance provided to MVD.

#### DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Colby Thomas Clancy violation of commission or dept orders or rules\$135.00

#### BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Makayla Searles-Marr – Boulder – day speed, plead guilty, \$20.00 fine; operating without liability insurance in effect-1st offense, plead guilty, \$285.00 fines and fees.

#### BROADWATER COUNTY FORFEITURES

Tony West	Helena day spe	eed \$20.00
Jesse Gardner	Hamilton	night speed
\$70.00		
Jose Gamaliel	Missoula	Driving without
a valid license	\$135.00	
	Day speed	\$20.00

COUNTY CRIMINAL

#### DEPT. OF LIVESTOCK

nursing home at Billings Clinic Broadwater to treat the residents and hospital employees and then head on down Broadway.

Jennifer Wyatt's son Bridger loves the book series "Little Blue Truck and My Friend Toad". Jennifer "built" him a car so Bridger's costume could be Toad from the series.

The lady with the dandelion hat and her sidekick, the green dinosaur T-Rex enjoyed the event too. The Ghost Stroll is held Hallloween evening as part of the Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce efforts to support downtown businesses.

#### MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES

## INITIAL APPEARANCE FOR DISTRICT COURT

#### INITIAL APPEARANCE - OTHER JURIS-DICTION

Brandon Baysinger – 1st Judicial District Court, Lewis and Clark County, No Bond Brandon Baysinger – L & C Co. Justice Court, \$10,000.00 bond



Clean gourds with soapy water and air dry; hang them in a dark area, making sure they do not touch, for about 6 months. Discard any that decay, shrivel or get soft. If mold appears, wipe it with a cloth dipped in bleach. When the gourds become light, solidly hard and you hear the seeds rattling inside when you shake them, they can be carved or painted. – *Brenda Weaver* Source: gardening.about.com

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## CERTIFICATION **NOW AVAILABLE** FOR PREVENTION SPECIALISTS IN MONTANA

New non-profit organization provides professional credentialing to certify prevention specialists

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) announced today the Montana Prevention Certification Board (MPCB) is now offering an online certification program that reflects the highest current standards of competent practice for prevention specialists and those working in related public and behavioral health capacities.

The Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS), administered by MPCB, is now available for professionals providing services in the field of behavioral health. Certification rewards those working in the field for their marketable expertise. Individuals or professionals wanting to learn more about certification can visit www. mtpreventioncertificationboard.org.

"MPCB strives to advance the field of prevention as a viable and effective professional discipline to benefit all Montana communities," said Karen Sylvester, Board President. "Certification indicates that prevention specialists have demonstrated their competency through experience, supervision, education, passing an examination and agreeing to adhere to a code of ethical conduct."

The purpose of prevention is to reduce negative health outcomes such as substance misuse

## **MVM HOSTS SOUTHWEST MONTANA MEETING**

Southwest Montana Tourism Group Meets in Townsend

Nancy Marks

Ghost towns, Ghost houses and Ghost sightings are high on tourists' lists for what to experience in Southwest Montana, according to Lynne Foland of Windfall Studios, one of the several businesses that build brochure and

and mental health problems through sciencebacked interventions. The field of prevention offers a rewarding career impacting upstream influences, reducing unhealthy behaviors, and promoting behavioral health and wellness to reduce incarceration and other negative consequences of substance misuse.

Many people work in prevention without considering themselves "prevention specialists" such as teachers, faith-based leaders, coalition members or community-based law enforcement officers.

DPHHS provided \$100,000 over two years in federal funds to help develop the training curriculum.

"It's exciting that Montana now offers a certification program to those working in prevention," DPHHS Director Charlie Brereton said. "Prevention is critical, and these individuals are hard at work in communities across the state to deliver key behavioral health services. This fills another gap in the overall continuum of care, and I encourage all prevention specialists to become certified."

Brereton said there's currently about 53 prevention specialists in Montana serving all counties.

Substance use and mental health disorders disrupt daily activities and impair a person's ability to work, interact with family and friends, and fulfill other essential life functions. These two issues are among the top conditions that result in disability in the United States.



Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

NEWS

Improving and Protecting the Health, Well-Being and Self-Reliance of All Montanans."

**County Commissioners Prepare to** Hire County Surveyor

Nancy Marks

As more and more subdivisions divide up Broadwater County, county commissioners are tasked with using all the tools available to ensure subdivision rules are followed. Monday the commissioners learned the county must have a county surveyor on staff, according to acting County Attorney Jania Hatfield. The surveyor position can be consolidated into an existing county office. The commissioners passed a resolution of intent to consolidate the county surveyor position with the Clerk and Recorder's office. The commission made no decision on abandoning a section of road in Toston since county and state land may be involved. Commissioners agreed to change the date for the Trident Solar Plan resolution from 2023 to 2025 so the company could apply for a tax abatement status with Montana Dept. of Revenue. Commissioners declined to decide about the Helsen Boundary Relocation in the Crimson Bluffs Subdivision. Community Development and Planning Director Nichole Brown asked the commissioners to clarify what defines a building versus a unit of a building. This concerns the Buildings for Lease or Rent(BLR) application process which is a much simpler process than applying for a subdivision designation. The BLR is necessary for developers to build large apartment units and storage unit properties. The commissioners moved to give clarity to the resolution by defining unit as a unit of a structure, not just a building. "This gives the county the opportunity to explore the impacts of the number of units in one building. That way we can develop conditions to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on the surrounding area water, land use and emergency services," explained Brown. A State of Montana report of a preliminary architect plan for the proposed Emergency Services facility at the southern end of the county was reviewed by commissioners. County Clerk and Recorder Angie Paulsen presented the slate of 2022 Federal General Election Judges and Polling Places for Broadwater County. The commissioners approved the slate. Billings Clinic Broadwater Director of Nursing Jennifer Krueger will join the Broadwater County Board of Health. The commissioners approved her appointment. The County Board of Health meets quarterly at the Flynn Building.

Prevention and early intervention strategies can reduce the economic burden and impact of mental health and substance use issues in Montana's communities. Prevention focuses on aiding in the development of knowledge, attitudes, skills and policies necessary to make healthy choices or change harmful behaviors.

Prevention is also broad-ranging, with the intent of alleviating many at-risk behaviors which include, but are not limited to, alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse, crime and delinquency, vandalism, violence, child abuse, mental health problems, family conflict, depression, anxiety and suicide.

MPCB will offer the CPS credential according to the high standards set by the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC). Once certified, professionals are required to strictly observe a code of ethical conduct and participate in annual continuing education to ensure evolving competence in the field. IC&RC and its member boards across the world are committed to protecting the public through the establishment of quality, competency-based certification programs for professionals engaged in prevention.

Anyone interested in finding out more information about this exciting opportunity and the Montana Prevention Specialist Certification process is invited to visit www.mtpreventioncertificationboard.org.



media campaigns for southwest Montana's cities and towns. She said the second most asked for information was about birding in southwest Montana. About 25 persons gathered Thursday at Reading Leaves for their fall meeting led



by Executive Director Sarah Bannon of Deer Lodge. The monthly meeting was hosted by Townsend's Missouri Valley Marketing (MVM). Also in attendance was Townsend Chamber of Commerce member Tim Pool. Representatives came from Dillon, Butte, Helena, Deer Lodge, Anaconda, Whitehall and Virginia City. The organization is funded through Montana state bed tax funds and Southwest Montana membership fees.

Katya Peterson of Tempest Technologies displayed a media library her company has built of Southwest Montana aerial footage which they make available to the film industry. It is on the Southwest Montana website, she



explained. Townsend is one of twelve communities shown in overhead videos. Rebecca Schmitz of Experian Call Center has worked for the center for twenty years. She reported that their company would no longer be taking inquiries from tourists who are interested in visiting Montana. She said they had a busy summer fielding calls about every subject from hiking the Continental Divide Trail to where to buy Clays in Calico pottery. According to Bannon, the Southwest Montana group has asked to

piggyback along with the State of Montana tourism department which has a request for a proposal out for a call center. To date, no one has replied to the proposal.

The group ate burgers and homemade potato salad catered by American Legion Post #42 members. After lunch, they were treated to a trip to Edgewater Farms and Corn Maze outside of Townsend.



#### **BY ELLIE WEST**

C.S. Lewis says friendship is less valued in modern times than it was viewed in earlier times. What makes it distinctive to the degree that it has suffered this devaluation? He states

that, first and foremost, the obvious answer is that few value it because few experience it. I would have to agree with C.S. Lewis' statement. Do most of us genuinely experience true friendships in our life? I'm not



so sure the majority of the population does.

What is a true friendship? It's not only about choosing good friends but also about knowing how to be a good friend. We desire to have those deep and lasting friendships in our life. But it seems that friends come and go, and some are in our life for a short time or just a season. We have friends for many reasons, but who are those friends who stay with you through not only the celebrations but the challenges of life? It is our human nature to seek out friendships. But those who seek friends to have many friends are more likely to fail. For example: how many friends do you have on social media? Are those your true friends? Possibly some are, and some may be on your friend list for a different purpose.

Are some friends chosen out of convenience? Or perhaps you have a conditional friendship that would not be there if it did not benefit the other person.

True friendships have opportunities to grow and deepen when each person can focus on valuing the other person. It takes time to cultivate a deep and healthy friendship.

As my husband and I discussed this subject, we talked about our daughter's relationship with her best friend. I remember when they met in school and started to hang out together. They were slowly building their relationship and getting to know each other while spending more time together. Now both in their late 30's, they still have an extraordinary relationship. They know each other so well...it is as if they are soul sisters. Having a friendship like that is such a blessing, but it takes time and commitment on both parts.

Have they had their disagreements...yes! But, what I have always admired about both of them is that they can sit down and have a conversation and talk through their disagreements. It says in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." This verse says that when you have that kind of friendship, you WILL put aside your life, desires, and needs to make time for that person regardless of the situation. You will do whatever it takes to help and be there for your friend. I have observed this many times with my daughter and her best friend. They are consistent in their relationship; they support, celebrate, laugh, cry, play, and vacation together. They always seem to make time for each other. Developing friendships at school, in your neighborhood, or work can be challenging. You have those friendships, and then something may happen, and suddenly, your friendship is no longer there. It is like the changing of seasons. Life happens; maybe a move, divorce, change of jobs, or the time you spend with someone becomes less frequent. Do you have that friend with whom you feel safe, supported, inspired, and encouraged? In the last couple of years, I have been very fortunate to have some exceptional women come into my life. God has replaced the friendships that no longer served me with friendships that embrace me.



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.



October 28 TSD District VB - Manhattan TSD End of Q1

November 8 ELECTION DAY (All County Offices closed except County Election Office)

October 29 TSD 1st Round FB Playoffs

October 31 **Commission Meeting**  November 9 Weed Board Meeting

TSD Shakespeare in the Classroom

November 15 Planning Board Working Meeting

Chamber Ghost Stroll - 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

November 1 Planning Board PUBLIC HEARING- Meadows III Subsequent Minor Subdivision

November 7 Regular Commission Meeting

Alcoholics Anonymous Tuesdays - 5:30pm Fridays – Noon Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church : 301 N Cherry Street (a) 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Fo be listed in this calendar send email to News@MT43News.com



THE SENIOR CENTER Menu November 7 - November 11

Scalloped Potatoes Garden Peas Carrot Raisin Salad Cinnamon Apple Sauce

Monday, Nov 7 Baked Cod Rice Pilaf Carrot Coins Bean Medley Mixed Fruit

Tuesday, Nov. 8 Closed for Election Day

Wednesday, Nov. 9

Baked Ham

Thursday, Nov 10 Salisbury Steak Whole Grain Bread Mashed Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Mandarin Oranges Dessert

Friday, Nov 11 Closed for Veterans Day



As human beings, our job in life is to help? people realize how rare and valuable each one of us really is, that each of us has something that no one else has or ever will have something inside that is unique to all time. It's our job to encourage each other to discover that uniqueness and to provide ways of developing its expression."

~Fred Rogers To connect with Ellie, FB @coachelliewest www.coachinghearttoheart.com

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

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church ELCA Synod, 301 N. Cherry St. Townsend. Services: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Women of the ELCA meet second Tuesday every month at 6:00 PM. Bible Studies meet weekly. Call 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 Townsend-UMC.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.

#### **Constitutional Convention** Ed Regan

"I certainly would not want a Constitutional Convention. I mean whoa. Who knows what would come out of that". Justice Antonin Scalia, April 17, 2014.

America has not had a Constitutional Convention since 1787. The result back then was a blessing. But holding a new convention today could end up being a disaster.

An organization calling itself the Convention of States (COS) has been promoting the idea that the answer to all our nation's problems can be solved by having 34 states apply to Congress under Article V to convene a Constitutional Convention (Con–Con).

To persuade conservative state legislators into supporting the convention, COS has promised that a convention would be limited to a single issue, such as a balanced budget. Montana has voted NO on a federal Con-Con every session since the mid-1980s. Dark money is being spent all over the United States promoting this bad idea. The only defense against this onslaught of propaganda has been private citizens working with and educating their representatives.

We can expect another attempt to push this through the next session that begins in January 2023. Voters need to be contacting their representatives before the session begins and let them know their views on the Con-Con.

(Continued on page 10)



## **"WHAT HAPPENED THIS WEEK IN HISTORY"**

#### November 3 1938

"First Showing of home Talent Play Opens Tonight

Eighteen smiling little faces will appear on the stage tonight between the first and second acts of the play "Coast to Coast" as the close of the first part of the baby contest being conducted in connection with the home talent play given under the auspices of the Episcopal Guild. After tonight the babies' votes will be gathered up, the winners announced and presentation of prizes made at the second performance of the play tomorrow night. Names of the contestants are: Marjorie Ward, Patty Nash, John Graveley, Myrna Kruse, Pauline Green, Roxy Blake, Peggy Davis, Marion Ellis, Grace Eleanor Olsen, Charlene Mahony, David Emmert, Don McCarthy, Jimmy Ross, Harold Hunter, George Graveley, Ethel Mae Tarrant, Marilyn Mockel and Shirley Ann Wallace. Last week merchants were given a baby to sponsor. The child's picture was placed on the placard to the stores and votes cast by placing a penny in a jar. A penny represents a vote and the first two receiving the greatest number of votes will be declared the winners, according to Miss Ruth Gardner, professional director. The money received in the jar will be used to purchase the prizes and defray the cost of the contest. A very attractive window in the Lasby Drug Store decked up by Miss Marie Lasby is creating much interest in the contest.

The royalty play "Coast to Coast", a musical comedy, is being put on by the following cast of Townsend people: Mrs. G.O. Lockwood, Joe Quist, Harry Anders, Chester Sutherland, Aletha Brisbin, Lowell Mires, Albert Olsen, Lawrence Gabisch, Merle Trumball, Ann Marie Zimmerman, Viola Walter, Pete Cartwright. The pianist is Mrs. Eunice Williams and Ruth Gardner is director.

#### 1949

"Seniors to Present Comedy "O Promise Me"

Rehearsals are now in full swing for the Senior Class play, "Oh, Promise Me" the new three-act stage farce by Pete Williams, which will be presented Thursday evening, November 10 at 8:15 in the high school gymnasium. Featured in the cast are the following seniors: Seth Miller, lawyer by Dick Bayles; Furber, a butler, Max Luna; Barry Hollis, a young millionaire by Ray Nydegger; Mrs. Sue Hollis, his aunt, by Romona Luna; June Hollis, his young sister by Alice Erickson; Kathleen, the cook by Alice Marie Miller; Ann Furber, a young actress by Betty Smith; Patsie Linden, a dancer by Billie Zimmerman; Mrs. Linden, her mother by Peggy Graveley; Gladys Vance, a dream girl by Sharley Williams; Ralph Saunders, a man with a purpose by Jacob Mitchel; Mrs. Jones, a young mother by Alice Erickson; Prompters are Betty White and Marlene Johnson. Kenny Marcotte will act as stage manager with the rest of the class assisting. Miss Campbell, Mr. Cusick and

Mr. Reyner are faculty members in charge of production. They believe "Oh Promise Me!" is sure to prove one of the most successful plays ever presented in this community. Although it had its premier only last season, it has already established itself as one of the funniest farces in years, and is widely in demand for production throughout the country.

#### 1955

"Much Pop and Many Prizes Feature Townsend's Youth Halloween Parties"

Monday was a big night in Townsend – a night when witches, spooks, big headed men and costumed creatures of all kinds danced and pranced at the eight parties prepared by the Townsend Rotary. The Rotary wishes to thank all the organizations who helped.

At the high school the Mergenthaler Orchestra of Helena provided music from 9:00 until midnight. Before that hour the young people amused themselves with games and prizes were awarded: Carol Cartwright - most original for the girls and Dannie Edwards for the boys; best Halloween - Binky Wallace and Judi Collins; prettiest - Carol Horne.

In the grades the following prizes were awarded:

First grade: most original (candy cane) - Judy Stark; funniest (duck) - Richey Gill; funniest girl (witch) - Dorothy Doig: Halloween costume (witch) - Linda Damuth; prettiest (gypsy) - Kay Davis.

Second Grade: most original (pirate)- Timmie Hysell; funniest boy (tramp) - Brad Tarrant; girl (pumpkin - Barbara Gabisch; Halloween (ghost) - Lois Campbell; prettiest (fairy) - Laurie Lanning; most original (clown) - Gene Thompson; funniest boy (negro) - Joel Flynn; funniest girl - Connie Hysell; Halloween (ghost) - Donna Doig; prettiest - Cindie Holland.

Third grade: most original - Bert Tarrant; funniest boy - Terry Green; funniest girl - Linda Wallace; Halloween - Dick Nash; prettiest - Nancy Marks.

Fourth grade: most original - Douglas Arndt and Ray Ringer; funniest boy - Bill Goodwin and Chris Grover; funniest girl - Beverly Hahn and Mary Stiner; Halloween - Kathy Ouren and Richard Thompson; prettiest - Barbara Moudree and Sidney Sherwood.

Fifth grade: most original - Dixie Zindell;

Ann Geisser, Mark Geisser as Chinese twins; Prettiest – Cathy Ragen as Peter Pan and Russell Kipp as a rabbit.

One hundred and twelve children attended the party.

#### 1966

"Rotary to Sponsor Film of Bobcat and Weber Game"

The Townsend Rotary Club is sponsoring the showing of a movie of the Bobcat-Weber football game. The movie will be shown at the legion Hall next Wednesday evening. The public is invited. The movie will be shown by Bobcat head coach, Jim Sweeney. This is the game which ended in a heated fashion and created a lot of interest around these parts. If you are interested in football, they say you should see this film.

"Ted Ulmer Has Supporting Role" Ted Ulmer, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Ulmer will have the supporting role in the comedy "Tartuffe", which will be presented in the theatre spot Saturday evening at 8:00 o'clock at the Montana State University in Bozeman. The University of Montana was honored to have the prime time of the Rocky Mountain Theatre Conference which is being held on campus in Bozeman this week. Ted, a junior at the University of Montana in Missoula, is majoring in drama and is assistant costumer for the drama school. He is a graduate of Broadwater County High School, class of 1964 and was very active in all the plays and local shows. Mrs. Ulmer plans to attend the presentation Saturday evening.

"Bulldog JV Team Finishes Season with 6 Win Record"

The Townsend Junior Varsity football squad has completed a tough six game schedule this season and were undefeated. From all appearances a wealth of good material is being developed for future years. Coach Rich Steadman was extremely successful in building a real desire to win into the boys. The six-game schedule has allowed the younger boys to gain an unusual amount of experience which will prove to be invaluable for future varsity play. Members of the squad were: Juniors – Dale Antonich, Tim Evans and Dave Cameron; Sophomores – Tim Ragen, Dan Cameron, Warren Hysell, Scott Whaley, Tom Hohn, Tom Perry, Cleve Harrigfeld, Jack Jepson, John Boster,

funniest – John Ulmer; funniest – Gloria Frhyling; Halloween – Mike Scoffield; prettiest – Judy McDonnell.

Sixth grade: most original – Jim Thompson; funniest boy – Bob McElwee; funniest girl – Paula Plymale; Halloween – Dean Massa/

At the pre-school party held at the Masonic Temple the flowing prizes were awarded:

Best Halloween – Jan and Keith Kirscher, cat and witch; ugliest – Marilyn Hardgrove – lion and David Evans - Donald Duck

Most Lady Like – Debbie Holland, Red Cross nurse; Most Gentleman like – Billie Specht as Davy Crocket; Most original – Carol Greg Toney, George Lampman, and John Rains; Freshmen – Gary Richtmyer, Lary Richtmyer, Vic Sample, Robbie Ulmer, Carl Sherwood, Gary Adams, Marty Leanheart, John Flynn, Ted Baker, Scott Davis and Keith Kirscher.

Submitted by: Linda Huth; Sponsored by: The Broadwater County Historical Society and The "Cotter Foundation"





#### A TRAGEDY IN RADERSBURG Victor Sample

Over the years Radersburg has seen its share of murders, suicides and hangings; but one incident seems particularly tragic.

In 1938 George Holling and his wife Myrtle had a major quarrel and George apparently beat his wife pretty severely with a tire iron. Mr. Holling then went to bed and fell fast asleep.

Mrs. Holling retrieved an axe and struck her husband with the doublebit axe, full in the face, putting a deep gash through the bridge of his nose and through his upper jaw. Upon receiving the blow, Mr. Holling jumped from the bed and ran across the street to his Mother's home where she immediately summoned Dr. Nash and Sheriff Norman Bruce. George Holling was transported to the Carroll hospital in Townsend where he was in critical condition following surgery.

After striking Mr. Holling with the axe, Mrs. Holling vanished into the night. An all-night search was made by Sheriff Bruce for the missing woman. Around daybreak, they found her body slumped beneath a cottonwood tree about a half-mile from Radersburg on land leased by her husband. The evidence showed that Mrs. Holling walked down the middle of the highway leading out of Radersburg and then straight across the space to the large cottonwood tree. She then stepped into the fork of the tree, tied an electric cord around her neck and a limb of the tree and stepped out of the tree.

The examiners reported that she apparently hung from the tree for two to three hours before slipping free and falling to the ground. The investigators reported that she died instantly after stepping from the tree.

Myrtle Holling was the mother of three boys, aged 5, 4 and 2. According to Sheriff Bruce and probation officer Mrs. E.H. Goodman, for several years Mrs. Holling had suffered from "periods of despondency" although the greater part of the time she seemed normal. One does have to wonder if Mrs. Holling was suffering from "periods of despondency" due to periodic beatings from her husband. There are no mentions of Mr. Holling regularly beating his wife but it seems to me unlikely that this incident was a one-time event.

A woman taking her life and leaving 3 small children without their mother seems like a tragedy that could have been avoided.

The information in this article came from Harla Gillespie's book "Hidden Tales Well Told" and from information in the Townsend Star newspaper. "Hidden Tales Well Told" is available at the Broadwater County Museum.

#### MT 43 News

## **BULLDOG FOOTBALL COMES TO AN END**

#### Kelly Morris

The Bulldogs hosted the Missoula-Loyola Rams on Saturday, Oct. 29 in the first round of the Class B playoffs. The Rams came in as the #4 seed from the West, and the Bulldogs were the #1 seed from the South. And it was probably the nicest weather I have ever seen for a playoff football game!

The Rams started off the game with a big gain on a half-back option play that fooled the

Bulldogs, taking the ball inside the Bulldog 20 yard line. From there they were able to power it in on a running play, taking the early lead, 7-0. The Bulldogs came back in the second quarter with a pass from Ryan Racht to Jesus Garcia for an 18-yard hookup. A missed point-aftertouchdown made the score 7-6. Then it became a slugfest for the rest of the half.

Both teams were playing good defense, but the offenses picked up the pace a little in the

#### Wild Cajun Breakfast Sausage

Eileen Clarke - Rifles and Recipes

#### Makes 1 ½ pounds

This sausage is quite vibrant as it's written. You can make it hotter with more cayenne. Even when you stick to the recipe as written, cayenne varies in heat. The cayenne in my kitchen may be fresher, or it may just have come from a hotter batch of peppers. (Or it may be less hot than yours.) So, add the cayenne a little at a time, and let it sit for 2 to 3 hours to taste test before adding more. Remember, it's a lot easier to add heat than to subtract it.

A few choice words about mixing. To convert ground meat into sausage, you have to create a bond between fat and lean. That's what gives you sausage texture rather than crumbles. For small batches like this, I use the Classic KitchenAid mixer, whose bowl tapers at the bottom. For up to 20-pound batches, I use a hand-crank Lem meat mixer. Both take about the same amount of time to create the 'wasp's nest' in the photo. The mixed meat will hang on the mixer blade for several minutes when

the bond is good enough to be called sausage.

second half. The Rams had about a 70-yard scramble up the middle to take the lead 13-6. The Bulldogs answered back with a drive of their own. Racht hit Garcia for a long play, and

> Tanner Campbell eventually ran it in from about five yards out, and the game was tied at 13 each.

And then the fourth quarter happened. The Rams scored again, then went for two, but the Bulldogs held them. The Rams lead was now 19-13.

The Bulldogs moved the ball well, but twice the Rams were able to hold the Bulldogs out of the endzone when they were knocking on the door. The Dawgs were right in it until about halfway through the fourth quarter, but then the Rams scored another touchdown, and got a safety on us. The final score was

27-13, Loyola.

Our Bulldogs played very tough, banged-up though they were. While they didn't win the game, they had an outstanding season, and they did Townsend proud! Thank you, guys, and you Coaches too! Thanks for all of your hard work, and the enjoyment you brought us all this season!

Even if you mix by hand, don't give up until you get there. And don't feel you have to case it. Sausage patties taste just as good as links.

If you don't have game, you can grind a pork shoulder roast, mix in the spices and somehow, magically, the bond about creates itself. Something meat packing companies add, which is not on the label, or the length of time it's been stored before it gets to the consumer, something--you don't have to mix it very much to get that bond. I've tried making that magic happen with wild pig, but it doesn't work.

Here's a recipe to get you started. If you like this Cajun Breakfast sausage, feel free to multiply it.

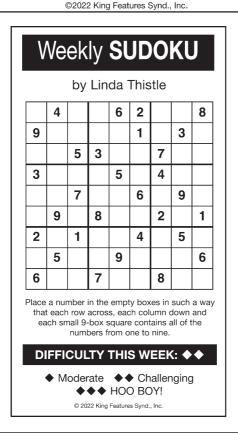
12 ounces ground venison

- 12 ounces ground pork or beef fat
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon dried leaf oregano
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon dried leaf thyme
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon coarse ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt

## CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error. Clue: H equals L

JGOE LGO XHOQ RQUBOL CXXOUOW XUOO HCJ-ZTQHSLI QZTQUSTRK, Q GTDO KSDE KQSW "LQEBK XCU ECLGSED!"



pinch or two of cayenne pepper (to taste)

1. Grind together the venison and pork meats. 2. In a small bowl, combine the garlic powder, onion powder, oregano, thyme, black pepper, salt and cayenne. Add the spice mixture to the water, then mix thoroughly into the meat. 3. To taste test: before adjusting the flavors, chill the mixture 8-24 hours to let the flavors fully develop, and the salt work on the meat protein (myosin).

Once chilled, microwave a 1/2-inch ball of sausage in a coffee cup for about 15-20 seconds on high, or fry a small patty until all the pink is gone.

4. Now, to change it from ground venison to sausage, transfer the meat mixture to an electric mixer bowl, and add 1 ½ teaspoons baking soda dissolved in 3 tablespoons cold water, plus 1 large egg, beaten. Mix at medium speed for 2 minutes.

5. Shape into patties and cook on medium in a cast iron skillet, with a small amount of oil added, turning it once, after the first side has browned, until the pink is gone from the middle, 165°F.



#### Constitutional Convention Continued.

Both sides of the aisle have their pet proposals for making changes to the United States Constitution. Partisan Proposals include such topics as a Balanced Budget Amendment, Public Financing of Elections, Abolish the Electoral College and revisiting the Second Amendment. In each instance, the promoters claim that their proposed convention could be limited to a single issue. Since 1787 all twenty-seven amendments to the constitution have been passed without calling a convention.

Though some of these ideas may have merit, the problem with using the convention method in Article V is that it poses a danger to our existing form of government with all its checks and balances. The Congress in 1787 tried to limit the Philadelphia Convention, however, the delegates ignored those instructions and ended up rewriting the Articles of Confederation giving us a completely new constitution and different structure of government. To gain approval for their new constitution the delegates even changed the ratification requirements from thirteen states to nine. A modern-day convention would have the same power to change everything. Conventions are sovereign bodies representing the people at large, they have power and scope that supersedes established governments. An Article V Convention cannot be limited.

While our nation was blessed to have men of the caliber and character of Washington, Madison and Franklin back in 1787, can we trust putting the fate of our constitution, including the 2nd Amendment, in the hands of today's politicians and special interests?

James Madison, father of the constitution, warned in 1788 that a second convention "would no doubt contain individuals with insidious views seeking to alter the very foundation and fabric of the constitution".

Unfortunately, the convention promoters keep resurfacing at the start of every legislative session. One can only assume they are trying to catch the new people off guard. However, once these Representatives start to hear opposition from their home districts, they usually pay close attention and do what's right.

Please help defeat the Second Convention Madison warned us about by contacting your Representatives and registering your opposition to any resolution that might come up in the next session that calls for enacting an Article V Convention OR a Conference of States (same meaning, semantic head fake). Representative Julie Dooling and Senator Walt Sales represent Townsend and Broadwater County. You can leave messages for them at the legislative switchboard; 406-444-4800.

In an interview with the Los Angeles Times on January 20, 1982, President Ronald Reagan stated "Well, constitutional conventions are kind of prescribed as a last resort, because then once it's open, they could take up any number of things".

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Ed Regan Townsend, MT

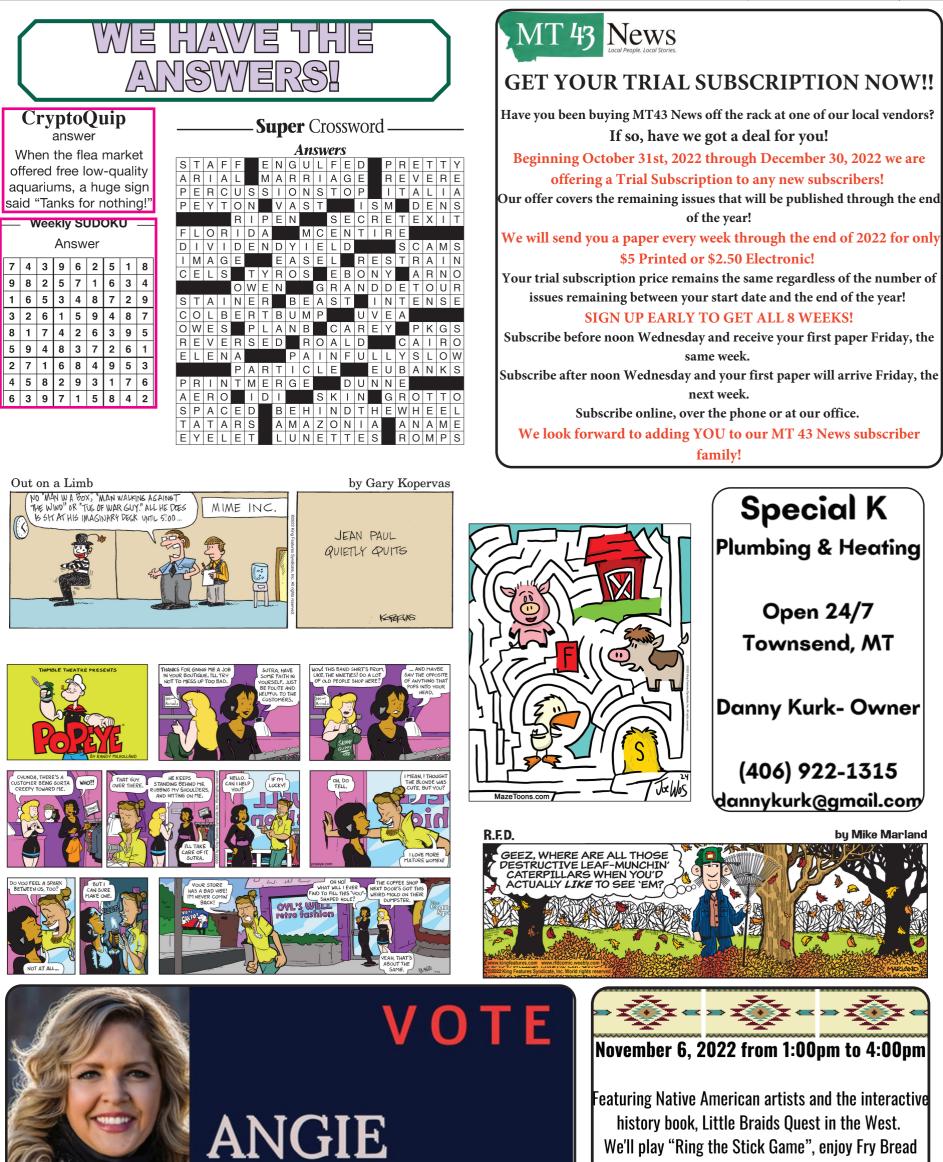
#### SIGN Super Crossword LANGUAGE ACROSS 55 Animation 88 At a snail's DOWN 38 Track shape 78 "Qué —?" 1 Work force 1 Defensive 79 Brick-baking frames pace 39 Road semis 91 Quark or pior 6 Swallowed 56 Neophytes tackle Warren 40 Fail to catch oven 95 "The 2 Willow or oak 58 Blackish 41 Passing mark 80 Totally up 14 Reautiful 43 "Wilson" wood Newlywed 3 Ethereal understand. 60 Pisa's river 4 Almanac item 20 Popular type Game" host actress Laura informally 5 Drinking water additive option 61 Actor Wilson Bob 44 Basketballer 81 Plants seeds 21 Wedlock Ming 83 Absorbed 62 Illinois town 96 PC program 6 Long dashes 85 OPEC liquid 22 Idolize west of tool for 46 Shipping box Chicago 23 Organ knob automating 47 Hitter Hank 86 Big hack 7 Innocent imparting a 64 Worker batches of 8 Reaction to 48 Negative attack an awful pun 9 Big vases finishing invitations. 49 Sleep sound striking sound 88 Sty dweller 25 Napoli's 52 "Backdraft" furniture say 89 Mystery writer 68 Savage sort country 100 Actress Irene 10 Enumerate director Deighton 11 Chubby 26 Quarterback 70 Deeply felt 102 Streamlined, Howard 90 Sudden Manning 27 Boundless 53 Salad green 71 Popularity forward thrust in brief 12 Inflated sense of self 54 Biggest city in 92 In the thick of boost after 103 Africa's Amin 93 Cardinal, e.g. 28 Suffix with appearing 104 "Canvas" for 13 Portray Australia on satirist a tattoo 14 First coat of 56 Nudniks 94 Clan-related 12-Down 106 Artificial cave 30 Jungle lairs Stephen's old 57 Turtle in a Dr. paint 96 Sticky stuff 15 Like many a 31 Age, as 111 Zoned (out) Seuss title show 97 Reimburse 59 Belfry dweller 73 Iris' laye 113 Like people cheese sr. citizen 98 Hopping mad 74 Is in debt 75 Fallback heeding 61 Small bill 33 Hidden 16 Sidestep 99 Like ultra-lite 17 Old-style 62 Hiatus way out in seven key food strategy a haunted words in this 63 Homer's H 100 Failed to message 76 Singer puzzle 18 Pop singer 64 Win a point 101 Remove, as house 36 Orlando Mariah 117 Mongol Lopez 65 Sauna wrap a 105-Down 104 Medium, e.g. locale 78 UPS invaders 19 Brewer's 66 Tylenol rival 40 Singer Reba deliveries: 118 Brazilian rain fungus 67 "Peer Gynt" 105 Shoelace 24 Snarky Abbr 42 Ratio of a dramatist problem 107 "How awful!" forest region 82 Did a 180 119 Make - for stock share's 29 Lanka lead-in 68 Sloppy Joe 108 Cardinals, e.g. return to its 84 Willy Wonka oneself 32 Lousy review holde **69** Hug creator Dahl 120 Lace-receiving 109 Office fill-in price 33 Vendors 45 Shell games 86 Capital of 34 Finale 72 Defective 110 Corrida calls hole 50 Persona 121 Crescen 35 Final, e.g. 73 Pakistani 112 Sooner than Egypt 87 Kagan of the Supreme language 76 Walking stick 51 Studio stand obiects 36 Savings acct. 114 Big bush bird 52 Hold in 122 Plays protecto 115 Flying Solo 37 Tart pie fruit check Court spiritedly 77 '80s sitcom 116 ---- been 18 19 37 38

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#### MT 43 News

## **HORSE CREEK HILLS FOES ASK FOR HELP** FROM THE GOVERNOR



Nancy Marks Opponents of the planned Horse Creek Hills village on the east side of Canyon Ferry Lake are leaning on Gov. Greg Gianforte for help.

In an Oct. 26 letter, which they say is signed by nearly 100 longtime Broadwater County residents, they ask the governor to overturn the approval given to the project by the state Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. They complain that the state agency wrongfully found that the subdivision's 40 or more planned water wells were not subject to DNRC hydrological study and approval. They claim the wells could draw down the area's groundwater to the detriment of nearby ranchers with senior water rights. The letter was made public by Upper Missouri Waterkeeper, a water conservation organization headquartered in Bozeman. In late August, UMW along with several area ranchers filed a lawsuit in Broadwater County District Court against both the county and the DNRC alleging they had wrongfully approved the subdivision project. Plaintiffs in the lawsuit, besides UMW, are Tanya and Toby Dundas, Sally and Bradley Dundas, Carole and Charles Plymale, and Cody McDaniel.

In a conversation Mrs. Plymale reiterated, "The county and the state have not come to the plate to protect our water rights. We hope the governor will straighten this out by getting his agencies to follow the law."



Allison Kosto, Broadwater County Exten-

As longtime Broadwater County residents, we're writing to you with concern and disappointment in both our local government and the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation in their review and findings of the new Horse Creek Hills major subdivision platted for the eastern shore of Canyon Ferry Reservoir.

We are a group of contiguous and surrounding property owners, cattle and grain ranchers, hunters, anglers, senior water rights holders, and community members. Many of our family histories on this landscape date back to the late 1800s. We're generational Montanans raising our families and cattle alike on this landscape, yet our way of life, our water rights, and the wildlife we hold dear are threatened by the Horse Creek Hills subdivision.

Horse Creek Hills is a 4-phase, 435-acre new major subdivision that received DNRC approval to use a combination of exempt wells for water supply. We are aware that doing so is directly contrary to recent Montana Supreme Court litigation in Clark Fork Coalition v Tubbs, a case that resulted in a clear directive that the Montana DNRC cannot allow aggregated "exempt wells" for new development projects because doing so undermines the Montana Water Use Act and will lead to both violations of senior water rights and negative water supply impacts on the local environment.

and that young animals were eight times more likely to die in fences.

Carefully consider the placement of fences. Observe wildlife movement, key habitat areas, water access and migration patterns. Design the fences in these areas to allow easy wildlife movement. Save impenetrable fences for devoted areas such as haystacks, gardens, orchards, etc. Work with the land's topography. Fences are more difficult to traverse when they are on a steep slope or next to a deep ditch. As the slope increases so does the height that the animal must jump. Rail fences are easier for animals to navigate than wire but are more expensive. Wire fencing is more common and can be wildlife friendly with proper wire placement. If the site does not receive a lot of livestock pressure or is seasonal, a threestrand fence is more wildlife friendly than a four or five strand. A buck fence or a jackleg fence should be avoided. Its three-dimensional design makes it difficult for animals to traverse. For residential fences, avoid fences with spikes or pickets which can impale animals trying to jump. The top wire or rail should be 40 inches or less in height. The distance between the top two wires should be no less than 12 inches apart. Deer and elk can easily tangle their back legs if the wires are too close together. The bottom wire or rail should be at least 16 inches off the ground to allow wildlife to crawl under. Smooth wire also reduces tangling. Increasing visibility of the top wire allows wildlife to navigate it easier. This can be done with highvisibility wire, PVC, flagging tape or other markers. Research on sage-grouse habitat in

Despite the Horse Creek Hills proposal being in the works for more than two years, there has still been no effort made to examine the potentially significant impacts of how 40+ new exempt wells could dewater and degrade local water resources that we community members rely on and value. The failure of Broadwater County and the DNRC to take responsibility and reasonably study the potential impacts of a new trophy home development sited amidst a rural, agricultural community is reprehensible. Several of the undersigned are already facing water supply challenges in our private wells, and we are collectively concerned that adding dozens of new exempt groundwater wells undermines our senior water rights and could devastate our agricultural water supplies and local rainbow trout spawning habitat in Confederate Creek.

Despite broad opposition to the subdivision from community members, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, Broadwater Conservation District, and conservation organizations, Broadwater County rubber-stamped the subdivision without properly examining the impacts it will have on the County's residents, our livelihoods, our outdoors and wildlife, and our water resources. By not considering the impacts of a major subdivision like this, the County has violated their mandatory duties under the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act and failed to do their job to protect our senior water rights, ranching operations, and quality of life.

We have been left with no other option but to file a lawsuit and hold our local government accountable for failing to properly assess and address our concerns.

We respectfully urge your administration to lead your executive agencies to correct their wrongdoings: the DNRC needs to reconsider and revoke their sign-off on the use of exempt wells for the entirety of this subdivision. Doing so can help us all avoid unnecessary litigation. Please protect our rural community, our property rights, our senior water rights, and our precious water resources.

#### We appreciate your response.

Wyoming, Idaho and Montana showed that fence markers can reduce fence collisions with birds by 70 to 80 percent. Fence stays are devices that reinforce the fence between posts and maintain wire spacing. When well maintained, fence stays help prevent sagging and can reduce entanglement. However, they can also be easily bent which actually makes the situation worse. Another technique is the use of drop-down fences or removable crossings. These are great options for seasonal wildlife movement. A herd of elk can cause major damage to a fence especially when pushed during hunting season. Creating a large gate at a major crossing area can reduce the damage and the amount of time and cost to make repairs. Removable electric fence is also a great way to provide a temporary fence. If you have miles and miles of existing fence, the thought of altering fences to make them more wildlife friendly can be daunting. However, it's okay to start small. Pick one area a year to work on. I recall one summer during college when my dad sent me around the ranch with a marking stick to move the top and bottom wires on our existing fences around our hayfields. It is a good opportunity for exercise along with helping wildlife! Even without any major alterations, just keeping the fence in good repair is important to reduce wildlife injuries and damage.

sion Agent

Fences... a necessary evil of our Montana agricultural lifestyle. They are used for controlling and protecting livestock, serving as a barrier or marking boundary lines. Yet these same fences can also be a hazard to wildlife by blocking or altering animal movements and limiting access to forage and water. Animals that collide with or become entangled in fences can be seriously injured or even killed. Additionally, damage from wildlife can be costly to landowners. However, fences can be designed or altered to control livestock and facilitate proper movement of wildlife at the same time.

Poorly designed and maintained fences create several issues. Fences that are too high make it difficult for animals to jump. Loose or broken wires make it easier for animals to entangle their legs. Injured animals have a low survival rate and if they can't pull free, they slowly die. Woven wire creates a barrier for young animals, stressed or injured animals, and even bears and bobcats who go through fences. A study done by Utah State University in an area of Utah and Colorado found that on average, one ungulate (deer, elk, antelope, etc.) per year became tangled for every 2.5 miles of fence. The study also found that most animals died if they are caught in the top two wires,

For more information, contact MSU Extension in Broadwater County at allison.kosto@ montana.edu or 406-266-9242. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) can also offer

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Ellie West

