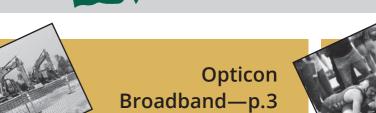


Classifieds Comics & Games School Page Weather

Volume I, Issue No. 23

December 16, 2022





**Broadwater sports** recap—p.5



Yesteryear: The **Townsend** Auditorium —p.9

\$1.00

## **Lions Celebrate 40 Years In Townsend**

Bob Brastrup, Townsend Lions Club

*Last week Bob sent us the wrong article - it was* an article he wrote 3 years ago. This is the current article that he meant to send.

### **LIONS CELEBRATE 40 YEARS IN TOWNSEND**

Broadwater County Lion club members celebrated the Club's 40th birthday during their recent annual Charter Night celebration. Highlighting the festivities was the induction of four of new members - Lacie and Kevin Reed, Christina Hartmann and Mary Kondelik.

Organized in 1982, club members have worked hard to fulfill the Lion Pledge "Loving individuals offering needed service." This has been accomplished by directing resources to help combat diabetes, vision and hearing loss as well as other needs. The club is actively involved with more than 30 activities and events during the year. The events include sponsoring delegates to Boys State, Girls State, Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership program, a continuing education grant to a graduating senior and a donation to the Leader Dog For The Blind program. Last year the club donated \$1,500 to the Townsend

Youth Baseball program.

The club provides assistance with hearing aids and eyeglasses to those who meet the program criteria. This past few months the club provided assistance to three individuals for hearing aids and assisted two individuals purchase eyeglasses. The local club also conducts vision and



hearing screening at the local school. Throughout the state, 34,000 school children have had their vision checked by Lions club members. About 10 percent of the students are referred to medical professionals for further testing.

Of course, it wouldn't be Easter without the Lion's sponsored annual Easter Egg hunt. And we can't forget the Father's Day and Mother's Day gifts given to residents of the assisted living homes.

The club presents American Flags to the firstgrade students and gives a history of the flag and its significance to United States citizens.

During a visit to an Australia Lions club, Bob and Sheri Brastrup were introduced to a

> book by Australian author Julie Davies. The book has been translated into 15 languages and Lion Clubs, Boy and Girl Scout Clubs and other service clubs throughout the world purchase the books and give them to 3rd-grade students. For the fifth year, the club has purchased books and provided them to Townsend 3rd-grade students. It is the first time the book has been introduced in the United States.

> The Lions Club established the Senior Christmas Dinner and a Christmas Light Tour around Townsend. It is a joint program with the Townsend Ro-

tary Club.

The club has various fundraising activities, most noted are the Corn Dog Wagon and ice fishing Perch Derby. Thank you to the members of the public who have so generously supported the club during the past 40 years so we can continue to improve the quality of life for so many people. We plan on being around for at least 40 more!



Santa's Giving Away a Sled Full of Toys!

The Essence of Presents, the Probably of Jolly, the Big Man himself will be at Townsend Hardware <u>Dec. 21st, 4pm–6:30pm</u>, for one last visit before the Big Day to share a treat with Townsend's kids and hear their Christmas wishes. Parents can enter a giveaway for a sled full of toys and treats! See our Facebook announcement for the rules. Facebook.com/townsendhardware



#### TB'S GRAND OPENING

Eliza McLaughlin - Staff Reporter

#### TB's Diner is officially open

Becky and Tim, owners of TB's Diner, cut the ribbon while surrounded by friends and family on Dec. 9. The grand opening was followed by a prime rib dinner.









14 Karat Gold Hoop Earrings, **Christmas Special** \$199.00 Retail value \$345



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#### Political Letters and Editorials

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

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

Any letter that calls into question an-

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not be published. All accepted letters will appear on

# **OPTICON**

### BROADBAND

Nancy Marks

High-Speed Internet Plan for Broadwater County Advances

Plans of a Bozeman communications company to bring high-speed internet service to Broadwater County via fiber optic cable is high on a list of ConnectMT awards recommended by a state advisory commission and sent to Gov. Greg Gianforte for his approval.



Last Wednesday, the commission recommended \$309 million in broadband grants on 62 projects in rural areas across the state. Montana Opticom's request for a grant of nearly \$10 million from the federal stimulus money was given the seventhhighest priority on the list recommended to the governor.

Montana Opticom, LLC, based in Bozeman, proposes to lay a fiberopetiting while datale from Three Forks to Winston along Highway 287 as the first phase of a network that would eventually connect to homes and businesses.

In an interview with MT 43 News, Opticom general manager, Dean Nelson, expressed a note of caution about the approval process. "Recommendations are just that. They are not set in stone," he said. "We have applied for two projects, one in Gallatin County and this one in Broadwater County. If funded, the Gallatin county project will link our network to Three Forks Junction." The Gallatin project grant application is for \$7.26 million.

As approved by resolution of the Broadwater County commissioners in October, funding could include a loan of up to \$60 million from the county, financed by industrial development revenue bonds issued by the county. The bonds would be sold to an underwriting financial institution. The county would be serving as a conduit and not responsible for any liability.

Opticom plans to build connecting optic fiber to Radersburg and the east side of Canyon Ferry Lake.

# BETH IHLE NAMED **GRASSLANDS SUPERVISOR**

Nancy Marks



Beth Ihle photo 2022

Beth Ihle was recently announced as the Grasslands Supervisor of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands unit in Forest Service Region 1. Her new assignment will take her to Bismarck North Dakota starting in February. Beth's most recent assignment has been as the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Santa Fe National Forest in New Mexico. She served as a District Ranger in Silver City, New Mexico on the Gila National Forest for three years working toward cooperative rangeland management relationships with livestock grazers, conducting prescribed burns, and helping to jumpstart a community-based collaborative.

Beth spent many years working for the Helena and Lewis and Clark National Forests out of the Townsend Ranger District office in various capacities while she and her former spouse, Kevin McDonnell, raised their four children. Beth was one of the first women members of the Townsend Rotary Club. During her time in Townsend, she organized the building of the Heritage Park Pavilion and helped fundraise for many other Rotary projects in Townsend.



Eileen Clarke -Rifles and Recipes

## ian Sausage Stuffed Mush rooms

Makes 2-3 dozen appetizers

Let's start with the sausage. A lot of experts will say it just needs to get 'tacky' and 'fuzzy.' But that's not enough. Fuzzy? You should be able to grab a pound of sausage, one-handed, without any of it falling to the floor. You should have to scrape it off your fingers with the back of a knife.

Mixing is the key stage in sausage. Whether you mix by hand or with a heavy-duty stand mixer, you have to work quickly so the mix stays cool or the bond you've just created will break. Once the sausage mix is out of the freezer, the next few minutes belong to the mixer. Don't answer the door, and don't cruise the internet for Christmas presents. Just mix. Or put the mix back in the freezer for when you can dedicate 6 minutes to the transition. when you can dedicate 6 minutes to the transition.

As you mix, a chemical reaction occurs, and the meat and fat form sausage. You know it's sausage when the 'Wasp's Nest' forms. You can easily see the difference in the mixture (in the photo) and, as you pull the sausage from the mixer paddle, you'll feel the difference. You can tear off big chunks of mix, and it will hold together, transformed from crumbly ground venison to creamy, rich, melt-inyour-mouth sausage.

Cook the sausage in patties for a special Christmas morning breakfast, or do what I do: stuff baby portabella mushrooms with it, and eat until you can't eat anymore! A Happy Christmas to all.

#### **Ingredients**

- 12 ounces ground venison; 12 ounces ground pork fat; 4 cloves garlic, minced; 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, only leaves, chopped; 2 tablespoons fresh basil, only leaves, chopped; 2 teaspoons non-iodized salt; ¾ teaspoon coarse ground black pepper; ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- About 1 ½ pounds 'baby' portobello mushrooms
- Grated Parmesan cheese

#### Prep

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

- 1. Mix the ingredients together with your hands, then put them into a resealable plastic bag. Flatten out the mixture in the bag so it's pretty even thickness, and place in the freezer for about 2 hours, until it is about 28°F.
- 2. Break up the partially frozen sausage, and drop the chunks into a stand mixer. (The Classic Cuisinart has the perfectly shaped bowl for this, tapering down at the bottom.) Mix on low 6 minutes, until the 'Wasp
- 3. Heat a skillet over medium to medium-high heat. Break up the sausage and cook until it's browned and cooked through 4 to 6 minutes.
- 4. Rinse, dry and remove the stem of each mushroom. Stuff each mushroom cap with some sausage mixture
- 5. Bake the stuffed mushrooms in the preheated oven for 12 minutes. Sprinkle grated Parmesan cheese over the mushrooms and bake until the cheese is melted and bubbling, about 3 minutes. (The mushrooms should be

Eileen's book, "Sausage Season", has lots of practical info, and more than 70 sausage recipes. www.riflesandrecipes.com/406-521-0273.

\*\*\* Notice\*\*\*

To users of the Spruce Street Laundromat: Please continue to be patient. We have completely remodeled the building with all new paint and will have new machines. We have not been able to open because of backorder of washers and dryers.

The service will be open 24 hours a day except Monday evenings for cleaning and maintenance. Debit and credit cards will be accepted and security cameras will be in place. We are planning on being open by mid-January.

Spruce Street Laundromat Manager

# COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING AGENDA

Melinda Reidy, Administrative Assistant

BROADWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 515 Broadway, Townsend Meetings are held at the Flynn Building (old Opportunity Bank) 416 Broadway.

Current and previously recorded meetings, official agenda and minutes may be viewed on the website at https://www.broadwatercountymt.com.

Public comment and items not on the agenda will be taken either in writing in advance of the meeting or in person at the meeting.

Working meetings will be posted on the agenda and will not be recorded.

OFFICAL agendas are posted in the Courthouse (1st floor bulletin board), Broadwatercountymt. com, and in the window of the Flynn Building at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Monday, December 19, 2022 Unofficial

There will be NO Commission Meeting on this

Tuesday, December 20. 2022 Unofficial

Strategy for Upper Missouri WaterKeeper et al v. Broadwater County and DNRC

Wednesday, December 21, 2022 Unofficial Discussion and Decision, DNRC, 10:00 AM Floodplain Mapping Update for Jefferson River; Jerry Grebenc, Great West Engineering, FEMA Maps

10:10 AM Discussion and Decision, 4-H **Pavilion Contract** 

10:20 AM Discussion and Decision, Letter of Interest from J.J. Conner and Dwight Thompson for the Board of Health

Wednesday, December 21, 2022 Unofficial Closed Door Litigation Update for Broadwater County v Peters et al

Mail & Items for Discussion and/or signature may occur as time allows during the meeting. Issues and times are subject to change.

Items for Discussion / Action / Review / Signature

Consent Agenda

Certificate of Survey review Management – on-going advisory board

#### Appointments

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

Debi Randolph 406-266-9270 and 406-980-2050 Darrel Folkvord Chairman

9272 and 406-980-1213 Mike Delger 406-266-9271 and 406-521-0834

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

1:30 PM Closed Door Meeting Litigation **HOLIDAY SEASON** 

Eliza McLaughlin - Staff Reporter

Japan's Friendship Ties Program.

to Japanese homes".

Welcome Okinawan students: Kakehashi Project

comes to Townsend

Nineteen students from Okinawa, Japan are visit-

ing Townsend as part of the Kakehashi Project and

The students, who arrived Thursday, Dec. 15, will spend their time attending basketball games and the school day, touring local homes and visiting Dusty Hahn's farm. Each activity will give the students a taste of what daily life is like in Townsend, a Townsend Public Schools' Facebook post said: "This will give them a good sense of how American homes are different and/or similar

The purpose of the exchange program is to bridge cultural differences and form lasting relationships among people of different nations.

Allie Lampman, an English teacher at Broadwater High School, was first connected with the Kakehashi Project in 2021.

"My students participated in a virtual exchange with students from Okinawa," she told MT 43

News. "This year, travel restrictions have eased, so

the Okinawan students are coming to America to visit." After visiting Townsend, the Okinawan students will then travel to Seattle to learn about everyday life there. But the connection building won't stop

there. Later in the school year, Lampman and nine Broadwater High students will travel to Japan to

participate in the cultural exchange too.

"Participants who travel to Japan are encouraged to share their experiences and discoveries with their networks at home, and contribute to greater appreciation of Japanese culture worldwide," states the Kakehashi Project's objectives.

Japan's Friendship Ties Program has connections in various other countries including Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.



REPAIRS

Eliza McLaughlin, Staff Reporter

During its Dec. 6 meeting, Townsend City Council members agreed to move forward with receiving an estimate for the costs associated with restoring the city pool to working order.

After Tim Rauser, public works supervisor, told the council that the previously discovered leaking pipe should be a simple fix, the council questioned whether the city should fix other portions of the

"Where's it going to break next," councilman Matt West said in regard to the pool's piping system. West also brought up replacing the pool's liner, which has faded and chipped over time.

The city was also informed that the pump house has crumbling bricks.

Councilwoman Angie Wintrow added that the decking should be repaired. "I'm surprised we

haven't had children getting hurt," she said.

Mayor Mike Evans said that replacing the pool liner was at the top of his priority list. Councilwoman Christina Hartmann countered that safety should be the first project. "Obviously, if it's not safe, the liner doesn't matter," Hartmann said. "If you don't have a safe deck or a safe building, it

Rauser suggested that the city have an engineer look at the property before moving forward with any projects.

doesn't matter about the liner".

Hartmann also said she'd like to see the splash pool operational again. However, the pool does not have a pump to circulate the water. Rauser clarified that the splash pool has been closed since the '70s and if it became operational, the city would need a second lifeguard to monitor that



we all go through it together." — Garrison Keillor

Pat Pantenberg, Rotarian

# Rotary



Just because Fall Fest is over doesn't mean Rotarians have not been busy. Rotarians helped the Townsend Tree Board put up Holiday Lights on Broadway and Front Street trees before the Christmas Stroll. In addition, they harvested and put up eight trees on the corner of Broadway and Front Street in their annual Holiday Display before the Stroll. Rotary had a float in the Christmas Stroll parade.

Each year for Christmas, Rotarians adopt families in the area that need help financially by purchasing gifts for their families. Rotarians shop for gifts appropriate for the age of the children, wrap the gifts and purchase local food and fuel gift cards for the parents.

Rotary held its annual Holiday Party and dinner on December 10th at the Legion. No Fall Fest profits are spent for the event. At the event, Rotary gave awards to members.

Chris Wright, Treasurer, was recognized as Rotarian of the Year for his excellent work at Fall Fest, on the website, and for his superb work as Treasurer.

Jerry Rodacker was recognized for his 35 years of service to the club.

Jennifer Dalrymple was selected to be the 10th member on the Rotary Club Wall of Fame which honors members that have contributed the most to Rotary over the years. The Wall of Fame award is the highest honor a Rotarian can receive.

Rotarians will be helping with the Christmas Connection again this year tomorrow December 17th at the Firehall. If you want to help, please come to the Firehall anytime between 9 and 3 pm.

Rotary sponsors the residential Holiday Light Contest each year. Rotarians tour the town and select three winners who receive \$100, \$50, and \$25 cash awards. Judging will be held December 17- 19. So, leave your lights on until at least 8 pm each night.

Rotary and the Lions Club will sponsor their Annual Senior Dinner and Light Tour on December 20 and 21st at the Senior Center. Up to 80 seniors receive a free complete Holiday Dinner prepared by the Senior Center staff. Rotary and Lions club members serve the dinners. The seniors are given a half dozen cookies hand-made by Rotarians each year. After dinner, the seniors are loaded onto the Broadwater High School bus and the Billings Clinic Broadwater van and toured around town to see the Holiday Lights in the area. Seniors that cannot attend the dinner and light tour, receive a poinsettia to enjoy over the Holidays. If you know seniors that may not have been contacted, please call any Rotarian or Lion to get them signed up.

Rotary hopes you have a glorious Holiday Season.

About Rotary Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work impacts lives at both the local, state, and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit Rotary.org

Contacts: Patrick Plantenberg (431-4615/m2andp2@mt.net)

# **GAYANN MASOLO WINS LUTHERAN WREATHE** RAFFLE

Claire Nugent



lo wins the wreath raffle (Photo by Claire Nugent)

The Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran gift card wreath was presented to GayAnn Masolo this week. porting local causes. Thank you GayAnn for donating to sup-The winner of our fundraiser is no stranger to suping to our project that provides Christmas gifts to all the residents of Broadwater County's three rest

# **ROTARY GIVES AWARDS**

Nancy Marks

Townsend Rotarian Jen Dalrymple Wins Wall of

Jen Dalrymple was awarded the Wall of Fame Award by founder, Gerald Rodacker, at the Saturday night annual Rotary Dinner. A ten-year member, Jen was credited with leading the work to renovate the Post #42 Legion building, in addition to being involved in Fall Fest and serving as President of the Rotary.



Dalrymple (left), and Linda Cousineau (right)

Jen and Rotarian, Linda Cousineau, will serve as directors on the Board of Directors for the Park Association. The Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park was formed in 1932 by the US Congress and the Canadian government. Rotary Clubs in Montana and Alberta, Canada played a significant role in forming the borderless peace park. It is the first international peace park in the world. Every year since Montana Rotarians and Canadian groups note the achievement with a border ceremony.



Gerry Rodacker hands Jen Dalrymple her Wall of Fame Award.

In other awards, Treasurer and eight-year member, Chris Wright, received the Rotarian of the Year Award.

Membership awards went to Diane Brown, 5 years; Hugh vanSwearingen, Kyle Hopstad and Shelley Douthett, 10 years; Mary Ann Salladay, Brian and Laura Obert, 15 years and Gerry Rodacker, 36 years.

Dinner was served by the American Legion caterers and games followed.

### REWARD OFFERED

Patrick Plantenberg

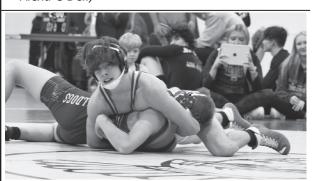
The Townsend Tree Board is offering a \$100 reward for information leading to the identification of the vehicle and driver that killed a maple tree about a week ago at 312 S. Walnut Street on the northwest corner of D Street and South Walnut Street. It will cost more than \$250 to replace this tree with a similar-sized tree.



Please call Tree Board Chair Patrick Plantenberg if you have infor-

# **BROADWATER SPORTS** RECAP

Eliza McLaughlin - Staff Reporter (Photos by Alexa O'Dell)



Both the boys' and girls' basketball teams traveled to Manhattan on Friday, Dec. 9 for a twoday tournament to "tip off" the season.

Townsend's tournament debut opened with a face-off against Manhattan Christian Eagles. The Eagles got an early start over the Lady Bulldogs with 27 points to Broadwater's three in the first quarter. Another five points for the Lady Bulldogs were responded with 17 from the Eagles in the second.

The Lady Bulldogs slowed the Eagles' advancements in the third to just 14 points while earning nine for themselves. No points were scored for either team in the fourth quarter and the Lady Bulldogs fell 17-58.

Briannah Williams led the Lady Bulldogs' offense with 11 points earned throughout the game. Kailey Knaub, Montana Hedstrom and Kaydence Clark each scored two points against the Eagles.

And then the boys took to the court.

The Bulldogs stayed close to the Eagles with a first-quarter total of 11-16. In the second, both teams continued pushing, with the Bulldogs earning 19 points and the Eagles 24. The first half ended 30-40, with the Eagles in the lead.

In the second half, the Bulldogs continued to battle, scoring 21 points to the Eagles' 44. Despite their efforts, the Bulldogs fell 51-84.

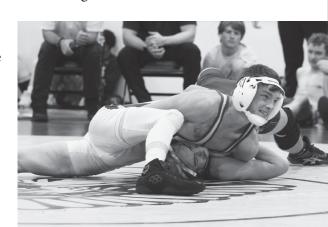
Jesus Garcia was the number one scorer during the game with 17 points. Deegan Mattson trailed with 10 points, followed by Ryedean Reed and Ryan Racht with eight. Camden Ferguson scored another five for the Bulldogs and Eric Eichinger the final three.

On day two, the Broadwater Bulldogs took on the Gardiner Bruins.

Bulldog basketball returned on Dec. 15 for its first home game against Choteau, after MT 43 News' press deadline. Check back next week for the results.

The Bulldogs traveled to Big Timber Friday, Dec. 16 and will face the Park Rangers in Livingston on Dec. 19 before a home game against the Manhattan Tigers on Dec. 20.

Wrestling



The Dawgs traveled to Whitehall on Dec. 9 and 10 for a two-day dual. Alexa O'Dell, wife of Head Coach John O'Dell, posted on Facebook saying the team "kicked some butt" on day one with lots of raised hands at the end of matches.

John O'Dell did not respond to MT 43 News' request for comment or results.

The Dawgs will travel to Great Falls to continue testing their strength and skill on Dec. 16 and 17. Stay tuned for results.

Go Bulldogs!

# School



Page

# **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Nancy Marks

Little girls in sparkly dresses and little boys in cords and bowties. They were the highlight of the Thursday night elementary school Christmas Concert. The program began with music teacher Mrs. Olga McNulty leading the entire kindergarten through 4th-grade classes in a



Kindergarteners Sing "Jingle Bells" (Photo by Nancy Marks) rousing rendition of "Jingle Bells".

With nerves of steel, Mrs. McNulty (Mrs. Santa Claus) recovered without a hitch when the recorded songs did not play. She successfully led the students through several Christmas favorites, ending with "We Wish You A Merry Christmas". Narrators, who announced each song, were Jadon Johnson, Parker Hendricks and Rita Campbell.



December 16, 2022

Lacie Reed - Lacie J. Reed Photography

We would like to thank Goose Bay Marina & Campground for being a 2022-2023 Banner Booster member and supporting our Bulldogs!

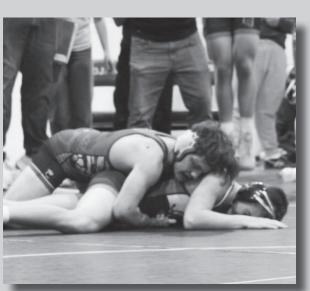
Boys Basketball: Garcia (Senior) had a great first game of the season - scoring 17 pts against Manhattan Christian. Garcia shot 42% from the field, 50% from the 3 point line and 60% from the free throw line. He showed leadership on the defensive end; being one of the top rebounders with 5 rebounds for this game. Although he only played one quarter during the following game against Gardiner due to an unexpected injury, he was a supportive team captain for our first win of the year for the boys' program.



Girls Basketball: Briannah Williams (Senior) was the leading scorer with 11 points on Friday and 14 points on Saturday, including a clutch 3-pointer from beyond NBA range to tie the game in the final minutes.



Wrestling: Eric Humphrey's. He went 5 and 2 on the weekend at 160. In the north Fremont dual, Eric came from behind and scored six points in the last 45 seconds to win the match. Eric epitomized Bulldog wrestling. Photo credit: Alex. O'Dell



**Speech & Drama** Performer of the week: Riley Rauser captured his first win of the season this Saturday in Livingston. Riley's pantomime performance features a golfer whose game is not nearly as entertaining as his mishaps. Great job, Riley!







#### The Christmas Card

Ellie West

Writing and sending out Christmas cards is slowly becoming a distinct and lost art. Social media has taken over our human connectedness. Sure, we can scroll on social media anytime, day or night, and see what's happening locally and worldwide. But are we losing genuine connections? It is personal engagements that we cherish the most, and there is no substitute for the time and thought that goes into sending cards in the mail.

Some may say the reason for not sending out cards is the cost of stamps or the time it takes to sit and write, but when you think about it, it costs much less to touch a person's life with a thoughtful card or note. We spend hours upon hours scrolling social media or spending money on things that don't enhance a person's life. Perhaps, we need a shift in our priorities.

People love to go to the mailbox and find a card in the mail. They will most likely open that before opening any correspondence or bills. The card means that you are important, valued, and thought about.

I, for one, will not stop sending out cards. In past years, I have dwindled the number of Christmas cards I send, but after giving it much thought this year, I have decided to increase the number I send.

Why?

Because it is an opportunity to enjoy, enhance and touch lives every day...it is my way to show those people in my life how much I cherish and value them.

When I receive a card in the mail, I know someone has taken a few minutes to write me a message. I can hardly wait to open it as it shows they have been thinking about me. It fills my cup.

I recently received two unexpected cards in the mail, which meant the world to me because they were both filled with kind and thoughtful words. Receiving a message in a digital format is impersonal and is generally a last-minute thought.

A prominent educator and patron of the arts. Henry Cole traveled in the elite circles of early Victorian England and had the misfortune of having too many friends.

During the holiday season of 1843, those friends were causing Cole much anxiety. The problem was their letters: An old custom in England, the Christmas, and New Year's letter had received a new impetus with the recent expansion of the British post system and the introduction of the "Penny Post," allowing the sender to send a letter or card anywhere in the country by affixing a penny stamp to the correspondence.

Now, everybody was sending letters. Sir Cole-best remembered today as the founder of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London - was an enthusiastic supporter of the new postal system, and he enjoyed being the 1840s equivalent of an A-Lister, but he was a busy man. As he watched the stacks of unanswered correspondence, he fretted over what to do. "In Victorian England, it was considered impolite not to answer mail," says Ace Collins, author of Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas. "He had to figure out how to respond to all of these people."

Cole hit on an ingenious idea. He approached an artist friend, J.C. Horsley. And asked him to design an idea that Cole had sketched out in his mind. Cole then took Horsley's illustration — a triptych showing a family at a table celebrating the holiday flanked by images of people helping the poor — and had a thousand copies made by a London printer. The image was printed on a piece of stiff cardboard 5 1/8 x 3 1/4 inches. At the top of each was the salutation, "To\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_" allowing Cole to personalize his responses, which included the generic greeting "A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year To You." The first Christmas card was born. (Smithsonian Magazine contributing writer John Hanc December 9, 2015) Side note: \$0.01 in 1840 is equivalent to \$0.34 today.

Many traditions fall by the wayside, but you can choose to keep this tradition alive during this most beautiful time of the year. As much as you enjoy receiving Christmas cards, celebrate this beautiful season with family and friends near and far by sending Christmas cards to those you care most about.

To connect with Ellie: FB @coachelliewest coachinghearttocheart.com



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

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

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

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

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

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

Seventh Day Adventist Church, 200 N. Cedar St. Townsend. Services: Saturday, 9:30 a.m., Bible study, 10:30 a.m. 431-2810 or (406) 241-0042

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church ELCA Synod, 301 N. Cherry St. Townsend. Services: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Women of the ELCA meet second Tuesday every month at 6:00 PM. Bible Studies meet weekly. Call Ross Johnson, Council President, for more information, at (406) 465-3791.

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

**Townsend United Methodist Church,** 200 N. Cedar St. Townsend. Services: Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Pastor Mele Moa, 266-3390 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.



November 11 at 11:00 am

American Legion Veteran's Day Celebration and Free Lunch

November 14

County Commissioners Meeting

November 18

At The Lodge: Free Shakespeare in the Park 50th Anniversary

November 24

American Legion Thanksgiving Pot Luck

November 28 @6PM

School Board meeting on Strategic Planning

December 3

Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Stroll

Mondays 6-8pm\_

Celebrate Recovery

Meetings held in Mountain Valley Church building
110 E Street

Tuesdays – 5:30 pm Fridays – Noon

Alcoholics Anonymous

**Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church:** 301 N Cherry Street

Thursdays 7pm,

Al-Anon

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 310 N Cherry St



SR. CENTER MENU FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 19 - DEC. 23

Monday, Dec. 19
Montana Pasties

Green Beans Crisp Coleslaw Juicy Pears

Tuesday, Dec. 20 Christmas Dinner Baked Ham Mashed Potatoes Sweet Corn

Sweet Corn Whole Grain Bread Cherry Pie Wednesday, Dec. 21 Chicken ala King Mashed Potatoes Purple Beets

Carrot Raisin Salad Sweet Peaches

Thursday, Dec. 22

Fish Patty on a Bun Macaroni and Cheese Mixed Veggies Crisp Coleslaw Cinnamon Applesauce

Friday, Dec 23
Closed for the Holiday

### **FAA UPDATE**

Mikayla Kraft, FAA

These last few days have consisted of the Christmas Stroll and the Sweetgrass Showdown in Big Timber, MT. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Stroll and made it happen. Without you we couldn't have sold so much to help with our FFA endeavors. We can still take sales on custom tumblers. If you are interested, please contact the phone number at the end of the article.

We competed at the District level Sweetgrass Showdown Competition in Big Timber, MT on December 5th. Our chapter competed in various Career Development Events. Our students participated in Floriculture, Livestock Evaluation, Meat Evaluation and Technology, and Veterinary Science. The top eight teams in the district qualify to attend the State FFA Convention in March in Great Falls. The Meat Evaluation team of Grace Kroeger, Spencer Braaten, Ross McDonald, Aiden Kitto, and Kayla Kraft placed 5th. The Vet Science team consisted of Amanda Pesicka, Kaitlyn Noyes, Grace Kroeger, and Kayla Kraft and placed 7th. The Floriculture team of Nevada Willis, Cassidy Flynn, and Codie Skillman placed 7th as well. We are excited to have qualified for 3 state Career Development Events. The competition was a great experience for us and we will continue to do it each year!

We have our District Leadership Development Events coming up on January 20th in Three Forks, MT. The competitions available are Conduct of Chapter Meetings, Ag Sales, Creed Speaking, Prepared Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure and Extemporaneous Speaking. We are excited to debut our first Conduct of Chapter Meetings' team consisting of Madison Zaharko, Emily Taves, Jazel Ragan, Amy Peters, Sarah Morgan, Bella McDaniel, Jacey Brunette, and Sierra Sherrard. We will also have an Agricultural Sales team and 3 Creed Speakers. We are going to need a lot of judges for these events so if you are interested, please contact our advisor, Jemma Loughery at (406) 441-3423 (no previous FFA experience required).

New Jersey

Townsend

\$85.00

\$85.00

\$120.00

# **BEEF QUALITY GRADES**

Allison Kosto, MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent

Want a ribeye steak for dinner? A trip to the grocery store reveals a wealth of choices at the meat counter. You zero in on the ribeye and are faced with a decision. Prime or choice? Prime is a little more expensive, so you grab the choice steak and head to the checkout line. Did you make the right choice?

Beef quality is an important selection factor for consumers. Makes sense because who wants a steak that is tough and unappealing?! Quallity grade (i.e. Prime or Choice) is one indicator of eating desirability. It is directly related to tenderness, moisture (juiciness) and flavor. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has eight quality grades: Prime, Choice, Select, Standard, Commercial, Utility, Cutter and Canner. However, typically, only the top three tiers (Prime, Choice and Select) make their way to the meat counter as steak or other retail cuts. Other quality grades are used for ground beef or processed meats.

The purpose behind quality grades is related to marketing, to be able to separate cattle, which are naturally very diverse, into more uniform groups for quality and composition. Quality grading is a service provided by the USDA. It is optional and packers are not required to quality-grade beef and must pay a fee for the service. However, more than 95% of beef cattle in the U.S. are inspected for quality grades.

The two main factors determining quality grade are maturity and marbling. The age of the animal has a direct effect on the tenderness of the meat. As cattle mature, their meat naturally becomes tougher. To account for this, cattle are placed in one of five maturity groups which are designated as A through E. Their maturity group factors into the final quality grade. For example, only young cattle (A or B maturity) are eligible for a Prime quality grade.

The next factor is marbling. Marbling is defined

as the amount and distribution of intramuscular fat in the meat. When you look at a beef steak, you see marbling as the little white fat flecks inside the muscle. Beef cuts with more marbling tend to be more tender, juicy and flavorful. To determine the amount of marbling, inspectors look at a cross-section of the ribeye (same location on every animal) and give the animal a marbling score.

After maturity and marbling is determined, the two factors are combined to determine the USDA Quality Grade. In general, here is what each quality grade means: • Prime – Young, well-fed beef cattle. Has abundant marbling. Highest quality grade. Typically sold in higher-end restaurants, hotels or meat markets. • Choice – Also high quality, but less marbling than Prime. • Select – Uniform in quality, but often leaner than higher grades. Usually fairly tender, but may lack some juiciness and flavor of higher grades due to less marbling. • Standard and Commercial – Typically sold as ungraded meat. Lacks tenderness, moisture and flavor of higher graded animals. • Utility, Cutter and Canner – Typically not sold as retail cuts. Used for ground beef and processed products.

Beef is a high source of protein (meaning it contains 20% or more daily value), selenium, vitamin B12, phosphorus and zinc. It is also a good source (contains 10-19% daily value) of niacin, riboflavin, iron and vitamin B6. The iron found in meat is in the form of heme iron which is better absorbed than the non-heme iron found in plant foods. A three-ounce serving of beef provides 51% of the recommended daily protein. Animal protein contains all nine essential amino acids. Vitamin B12 is an essential nutrient that is only available through animal foods.

Did you make the right choice between Prime and Choice? There really is no right or wrong at this point and it comes down to personal preference and willingness to pay for higher-quality grades. Purchasing local beef is a wonderful way to support the local agriculture industry. Check out my article from last week on my blog for more information about buying local beef. For more information about beef, contact MSU Extension in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or allison.kosto@montana.edu.

#### City Court - Dec 12 2022 Kirk Flynn, Justice Of The Peace

City Court Fines and Forfeitures September and October 2022 Sara Baker Townsend Dog at Large \$75.00

Animal Deemed Dangerous Nuisance \$75.00

Sean Gallinger Restricted Local Speeding

John C Clark Expired Registration Alexandra Lind Dog at Large Townsend \$75.00

Edward Warmoth Townse Driving Without a Valid License \$135.00 Richard Dancer Restricted Local Speeding Townsend \$75.00

Zach Dirks Restricted Local Speeding Townsend \$75.00 Clancy

Caleb Bell Expired Registration \$85.00

Deer Lodge fense \$285.00 Georgia Hiltz Deer Liability Insurance 1st Offense No Manuel Gomez Careless Driving Toston

Rebecca Meyers Helena Local Speeding Restricted \$65.00 David Kemp Restricted Local Speeding

Susan Ryan Stop Sign Violation Helena \$85.00 Adrian Paradise – Helena – Driving Suspended or Revoked 1st Offense, Pled Guilty, 6 months jail, all but 1 day suspended on conditions. Pay fines and fees of \$185.00.

Austin Smith – Townsend – No Liability Insurance 1st Offense, pled guilty, fined \$285.00. Displaying Fictitious Plates, pled guilty, fined \$75.00. Careless Driving, pled guilty, fined \$75.00.

Lloyd Studer – White Sulphur – Disorderly Conduct, pled no contest, fined \$185.00

Jacob Hews – Townsend – Tobacco or Alternative Nicotine Product Consumption or Possession, pled guilty, fined \$135.00 and ordered to complete nicotine cessation program.

Teagan Martin – Townsend - Tobacco or Alternative Nicotine Product Consumption or Possession, pled guilty, fined \$135.00 and ordered to complete nicotine

Gabriel Puga – Townsend – Partner or Family Member Assault 1st Offense, pled guilty, 1 year jail, all but 2 days suspended on conditions, pay fines and fees of \$585.00. Ordered to complete 40 hour Batterers Education Program with focus on violence, controlling behavior, dangerousness, and chemical dependency.

#### 12-9-22 COURT BEAT

Dee Gannon

The criminal docket in Judge Michael McMahon's courtroom on Friday, December 9 is as follows:

Amanda Castona appeared for a Change of Plea; pleading Guilty to a charge of criminal endangerment. In her elocution, she stated that on December 24, 2021, she had an altercation with her sister; where her sister was reasonably fearful of injury. She will be sentenced on January 13, 2023.

Brittney Betts had an Evidentiary Hearing on a Petition to Revoke (her 5th); admitting to the report of violation. In elocution, she admits to two counts of using social media to harass others; using social media to create a separate account in order to harass; and calling a person to harass another on social media. She is Sentenced to D.O.C. Pre-Release in order to receive mental health treatment. She will go to M.A.S.C. (Missoula Assessment and Sanction Center) and have further treatment as recommended. Betts will have to participate in MRT (Moral Recognition Therapy), before release. She is to pay fees and surcharges of

John Hart had a Change of Plea: pleading Guilty to a sixth DUI. In his elocution, he stated he was driving under the influence in Broadwater County. He is Sentenced to 10 years D.O.C. with five years suspended. He has a \$5,000 fine, but his credit time served applies to that at \$75 a day.

Seth Anderson had an Initial Appearance and Arraignment; pleading Not Guilty to charges of criminal possession of dangerous drugs, driving without a license and criminal possession of drug paraphernalia. Omnibus is due February 18; Pre-Trial is June 16; with the Jury Trial scheduled for July 17, 2023.

James Swan III had a Change of Plea and Sentencing to a charge of partner/family member assault. In his elocution, he stated that "I caused pain and injury to my father", He has completed 32 hours of Anger Management. He must register as a Violent Offender. Swan stated, "I messed up and take accountability for it" He is Sentenced to three years, deferred. He must have a chemical dependency evaluation, as well as a mental health evaluation. He is to complete eight more hours of Anger Management. He was taken into custody.

# JUSTICE OF THE PEACE REPORT

Kelsi Anderson, Justice Court Clerk

NEWSPAPER - December 16th, 2022

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FORFEITURES Mckenna Catellon Belgrade day speed \$70.00

Daniel Cavin Three Forks \$20.00 day speed

Scott Mcintosh Chinook \$20.00 day speed

\$20.00 Jake Aanderud Helena day speed

Jeffrey Walker Helena day speed David Venema Bozeman \$20.00 day speed

Jeffery Thibodeaux \$70.00 Niceville, Tx day speed

\$20.00

Laura Toeckes Power day speed \$20.00

Desiree Taves Townsend \$85.00 careless driving

Brandon Smith Helena careless driving \$85.00 Rochelle Hansen Townsend day speed

Lynn Ottman Townsend \$120.00 day speed

\$20.00

Brandon Bakken driving \$85.00 Townsend careless

Zachary Martin \$20.00 Helena day speed

Max Sasilva Helena day speed

Tristin Webster Escondido, Ca day speed \$70.00

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FAILURE TO WEAR SEAT BELTS

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES Schaefer Budde- Townsend- Driving a motor vehicle while privilege to do so is suspended or revoked-1st offense, \$175.00 fines and fees; operat-ing with expired registration, plead guilty, \$\$85.00 fines and fees; day speed, plead guilty, \$20.00 fine.

Schaefer Budde – Townsend – day speed, plead guilty, \$70.00 fine.

Jack Blanusa – Puyallup, Wa-day speed, plead guilty, deferred imposition of sentence for a period of six months, enroll and complete defensive driving school, \$70.00 fine.

Ixi Guillen – Bozeman – Negligent Endangerment (substantial risk-death/serious bodily injury), plead guilty, sentenced to one year in jail with all suspended, on conditions, enroll and complete ACT class and follow all counselor recommendations, \$685.00 fines and fees, complete 24 hours of community service; driving without a valid driver's license-has never possessed, plead guilty, \$125.00

fines and fees.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME Raymond David Jr Clancy violation of commission or dept order or rules \$135.00

Winston Wolf Townsend violation of commission or dept order or rules \$135.00

Rudy Yoder Toston violation of commission or dept order or rules \$135.00

Devon Kauffman – Toston – Hunting or Fishing during closed season-game animal, plead guilty, \$235.00 fines and fees.

#### BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Jon Lester – Bozeman – Driving a motor vehicle while privilege to do so is suspended or revoked-1st offense, plead guilty, \$185.00 fines and fees.

**BROADWATER COUNTY FORFEITURES** Christophre Walby Townsend night speed \$20.00

Kenneth Meigs Belgrade night speed \$20.00

Hagen Kalista East Helena night speed \$20.00

Jade Chischillie Winslow, Az fail to have 2 tail lamps \$85.00 Night speed \$20.00

Bridger Wheat Helena night speed \$20.00

William Rex Helena night speed \$20.00

COUNTY CRIMINAL

DEPT. OF LIVESTOCK

MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES

INITIAL APPEARANCE FOR DISTRICT COURT

INITIAL APPEARANCE - OTHER JURISDIC-

Robert Sayler- City Court of Belgrade, \$585.00



# FREEWARE, OPEN SOURCE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY EDITION

Victor Sample

My first job as a programmer was with The Montana Power Company in Butte. I was a "scientific programmer" doing the programming for the gas and electrical engineering departments. At that time IBM had a 98% market share in corporate computing. Software was simple then: the hardware manufacturer provided software with the hardware and a fee was charged; the company wrote its own software or the company purchased software from the relatively few software companies (actually, the company purchased a license to USE the software).

In the 90s software started becoming a lot more complicated. Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) started to become available. The "FREE" in FOSS did not mean "no cost" it meant that the acquirer of the software source received the source code and was free to modify and share the software as well as use it. Open Source quickly became Free as in "no cost". When Linus Torvald wrote Linux it was made available at no cost, open-source software.

The first major web browser was NetScape and it had to be purchased; but then Microsoft introduced Internet Explorer and delivered it free with Windows. NetScape quickly died – there was no reason to buy a browser when you could get one for free. The Mozilla organization soon started producing what is now the FireFox browser and suddenly there were a lot of free browsers available.

Software development tools were expensive; Microsoft, Borland and a few other companies produced development tools for creating Windows programs – and they were expensive. Then Sun Microsystems released the Java language that allowed programmers to develop programs that could run on multiple platforms (Windows, Linux, Unix systems, etc.) and Java was free. Now there are a plethora of computer languages and development tools and they are free.

But the landscape can be a little tricky: Freeware, Open Source, Community Developed and Community Editions are all software provided for free – but are quite different.

Paint.Net is an example of Freeware. It is a very good software product for creating/modifying graphics or working with images. The developer accepts donations but the software is available to download and use for free.

Libre Office is a great example of Open Source software. It provides the functionality of Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint and is free to download and use. The source code is available and can be modified to meet whatever needs the user may have; of course, you do have to be a programmer to modify the software!

Drupal and Word Press are an example of Community Developed software. The software is free to download and any computer-literate user can create a website quickly and easily. The Drupal organization provides the base software that allows the user to build a simple website, but the Drupal Community of users provides "modules" that allow the user to create a full-featured website.

The Community Edition software is a way for software companies to compete with the Free Software while still maintaining a revenue stream from selling software. Microsoft Visual Studio is a great environment for developing Windows programs. It used to be very expensive to purchase. Now Microsoft provides a Community Edition (free, but limited to either a single programmer or a small team), a Professional Edition (at a cost, but with no limitations on the size of the software team) or an Enterprise Edition (at a big cost). Generally, the Community Editions are meant to encourage the user to upgrade to a full-cost edition.

Any time you need a software program to help you do something on your computer look for the free versions of software. I have not purchased any software in over 20 years; everything I need is available for free – although quite often I just write my own.

However, as always, USE CAUTION when downloading anything from the internet. Research the company, research the software and research the site you are downloading software. It is easy to get scammed into downloading malicious software – ALWAYS BE CAUTIOUS!

# IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK" — BHS SUICIDE AWARENESS ASSEMBLY

Eliza McLaughlin, Staff Reporter

Captain Nick Rauser of the Broadwater County Sheriff's Department informed students on the dangers of social media during a Teen Mental Health presentation at the school on Nov. 30.

"It's OK not to be OK. It's not OK to not ask for someone to back you up," a suicide attempt survivor said in a video portion of the presentation.

Throughout the parent presentation, given the night before, the high schoolers heard the message, Rauser emphasized his dedication and care for the children living in Townsend.

adding that the other members of the Sheriff's Department care as well.

Rauser's presentation informed children on the

ripple effect that suicide can have and how it

"These kids mean a lot to me," Rauser said,

prevents people from ever knowing "what their purpose could have been."

Rauser also informed parents and students of potential warning signs to watch for. Leaving

notes, giving items away, making "final arrange-

ments" or acting differently than normal could all be potential signs that someone is in distress.

Throughout the presentation, Rauser emphasized that after seeing these signs or learning of

"Don't wait, it will be too late," Rauser said.

someone's plans, students tell someone.

The presentation also covered the topic of staying safe on social media, a resource that almost all high schoolers use.

With social media's location tracking abilities, Rauser warned that it puts children at risk of falling prey to sex traffickers, especially since social media allows users to pretend to be someone they're not.

"[Students] need to know the dangers of this stuff too," he told parents.

Knowing that students won't delete their social media accounts or get rid of their phones, Rauser encouraged them to find ways to unplug. For him, this meant enjoying the outdoors while hiking, fishing and other recreational activities.

No matter what the reason, Rauser said students can always talk to him or other members of the Sheriff's Department. They're there to help.

# WITH CLEAR SKIES

# THE WINTER SOLSTICE

Jeff Ross

Although not something we can see, the winter solstice is a defining

event of the year. At one instant in time, as we orbit the Sun, our

North Pole reaches its maximum tilt away from the Sun.

In 2022, that specific point in time happens on December 21 at 2:48 p.m.

Before December 21 the time between sunrise and sunset decreases. After

December 21 the time between sunrise and sunset increases until the summer solstice on June 21, 2023 at 8:57 a.m.

In winter, our Sun never gets very high and sets

far to the South. In summer it is way overhead and sets far to the North. I've got an ongoing

project to capture that spot on the horizon where the Sun sets. You can

see the endpoints in a composite photo I made from 2021's solstice points at mt43news.com/006. The left side image

is actually from the day after the winter solstice--those pesky clouds obscured the horizon. The

scured the horizon. The right image is from the summer solstice.

Our winter weather certainly is not tied to the winter solstice! We have

had precious few breaks since the cold weather hit in early November but, as the Sun begins setting further and further to

the North and our daylight hours increase, Spring will not be far away.

Until then, if we brave the cold at sunset, we can enjoy Mercury and Venus close together in the west, Saturn high in the southwest, and Jupiter almost due south.

With clear skies, of course.

# **OBITUARIES**

Kevin Douglas Miller, 58, beloved son, brother, father, papa, uncle and friend, passed away on November 30, 2022.

He will be greatly missed by his family, his many friends, and his four dogs. He had a big heart and

a big smile and would do anything for you. He loved sharing his knowledge of the hundreds of things he collected with anyone who would listen. He was an avid rock collector and there was no such thing as a "leave-er-right" rock. They somehow all made it home in his pockets. He was a gifted artist, carpenter and allaround jack of all trades. He loved family and loved tradition. He was adamant that holidays required a turkey or ham and all the trim-

mings. Especially pie and he was always first in line for that. He loved the outdoors and spent a great amount of time hunting, hiking, camping, sledding and enjoying nature. He loved family, huckleberry picking excursions, and was always the last out of the patch. His sense of humor lit up

many get-togethers and he was often the life of the party. He was the king of epic water fights and wasn't afraid to take them inside. He made friends wherever he went.

He loved spending time with his grandsons, Oliver and Ryker. Sadly, he was not able to hold

his granddaughter, Promise, before his passing and he won't get to meet his granddaughter, Layla Mae, who's due in April. Kevin was full of life and he lived it on his own terms. He was unapologetically himself. He is survived by his mom, Trudie Miller, siblings Mark Miller, Toni Miller Mahoney (Mike), Becky Simon, and Dan Miller, daughters Darian Kroll, Kindra Masterson and Stormi Paddock, grandkids, and numerous nieces and nephews that considered

him, not just an uncle, but looked up to him as a dad.

He was preceded in death by his dad, David Miller. He leaves a legacy of laughter and good times behind. May you find happiness and peace on this next journey.

# Stevenson Wilke

Funeral Home & Crematory



Family Owned and Operated

Honorably Serving Montana Families for Three Generations www.stevensonwilke.com (406) 266~4213

SIMPLE CREMATION MT
Sunset Funeral Service

Corrine "Corky"
Louise Underwood,

58, of Townsend, Montana passed away Sunday, November 20, 2022.

Simple Cremation Montana has assisted the family. To view the obituary and share remembrances, visit: www.SimpleCremationMT.com.

HE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# THIS WEEK IN HISTORY"

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

December 15

#### 1938

"Senior Class Pleases Large Audience by Ama-

When a Townsend audience gives a home talent cast a curtain call, that is news. Last Friday night in the high school gymnasium one of the largest audiences to ever attend a high school production enjoyed, to the fullest, the dramatic accomplishments of the senior class when they presented the play "Junior Sees it Through", by Herbert L. McNary. Jack Huth, playing the role of Junior, starred in the show. Kenneth Biggs as Pa Harbeck and Kate Berberet as Grandma Harbeck were also strong supporters of a good cast and the parts played by Eddie D'Arcy, as George, and Lorraine Hancock, as Lynda, could be ranked in the star group. Others in the cast were Marilyn Clark who took the part of Mrs. Harbeck; Florence Pennington as Esther May Matthews; Joe Gabisch as Howard Randall; Marilyn Myers as Miss Reynolds; Jack Horne as Morris Shulerman; and Bill Ridgeway as Judge Thatcher. The personnel of the play staff were: prompter, Betty Kieckbusch; property manager, Dorothy Blakely; lighting, Bill Clopton; stage manager, Bill Biggs and Geo. Gabisch; publicity manager, Jack Horne; programs, Irene Feldt, Betty Kieckbusch and Helen Kruse.

#### 1949

"Canyon Ferry Cemetery Being Moved"

Two public hearings regarding movement of graves from Beaver Creek and Canyon Ferry cemeteries, both within the reservoir area of the new dam, were conducted at Townsend and Helena recently by the Bureau of Reclamation. The nearest

relatives of the dead have been, wherever possible, contacted and given a choice of locations to where the graves will be moved. The Bureau is moving the graves to either Helena, Townsend or Winston Cemeteries without charge. As the Canyon Ferry Cemetery will not be inundated, but will be on an island in the lake, relatives were given an option of leaving the grave at the present location, but they were required to sign a waiver alleviating government from any obligation of providing transportation from the shore to the grave. The Beaver Creek Cemetery will be completely flooded and all of the graves will be moved to new sites. The unmarked graves, many of which are found at Canyon Ferry, will be moved to a plot in the old A section, originally established as Placer Cemetery near Winston, a resting place for dead miners, has been purchased from the county for that purpose. According to some of the early day residents of the area, many of the unmarked graves at Canyon Ferry were those of victims of the famed claim jumper war in Cave Gulch in the early days. However, many were marked with wooden slabs, but time has erased the markings or the boards have been carried away, leaving the mound undesignated. The 50 odd graves at Canyon Ferry include many names which are synonymous with the pioneer area. Family names, often duplicated on the headstones include Nolan, Harris, Dwyer, Gustafson, Hoffer, Aastrup, Cassidy, Conable, Williams, Maloney, Angel and Dotson.

#### 1955

"Legion and Auxiliary Joined by Rex Theater and Woman's Club in Community Christmas Activities"

The annual kiddies' Christmas tree and treats sponsored by the Broadwater Post 42 American Legion will be an event of Friday afternoon, December 23rd. The treats are given at the Rex Theater where Ben and Jack Sautter will give the kid of the community a free Christmas show, a program that has become traditional, since it has been in progress since World War I for about 25 years. All school children and preschool children in the county are invited. There will be three shows to take care of the entire group, pre-school at 11:00 a.m.; grade school at 1:00 p.m. and high school at 2:30 p.m., according to the Rex management. Both the Legion and Auxiliary are ready

& THE COTTER FOUNDATION and waiting to start out with their sleigh full of toys, baskets and gifts to help make a Merry Christmas at home and to the Vets at Fort Henry Harrison. The Auxiliary will remember their adopted boy at Miles City and have sent a generous check to the committee for the gift table at the Fort. The large box of gifts wrapped by the Townsend Woman's Club and the beautiful toys returned from Deer Lodge will help the Legion and Auxiliary in the Santa program.

#### 1966

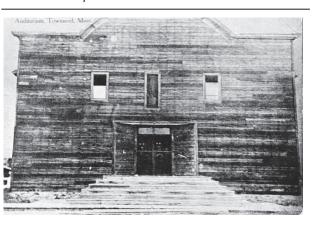
"Due to Efforts of Pete Cartwright Yellowstone Boys Ranch Gets Calves"

Twenty-one calves were loaded out for the Yellowstone Boys Ranch at Billings last Friday. This is only part of the total that will, eventually, be given to the boys ranch to be fed out and sold and also for food. Pete Cartwright has been contacting ranchers for several weeks lining up calves to be donated. He expects six or seven more will be sent to the ranch. The boys ranch will accept any calf as long as it is healthy. The extra care that can be given to a calf that may be blind is no problem and the calves that would not do good in a large bunch will do well with the extra attention. However, most of the calves loaded out last week were good big healthy calves. Following is a list of ranchers who have given a calf or intends to give one: Hubert Plymale, Wayne and Laird Plymale, Harold Marks, Bill Diehl, Charlie and Robert Masolo, W.D. Williams, John Williams, D.D. Davis, Robert Harris and Al Grandchamp, Phil Whaley, Larry and Dan Sullivan, Albert and Bill Kimpton, Hunsaker Brothers, B & L and Townsend Cattle Co., Mrs. Louise Rankin, Perry and Jed Stanfill and Pete Cartwright. Buck Anderson (CA Ranch), Three Forks; George Sinton, Manhattan; Mike Quinn, Boulder; Brian O'Connell, Helena; Harry Brainard, Manhattan; Jim Keith, White Sulphur Springs and Jim Tew, White Sulphur Springs. Pete has taken quite an interest in the Boys Ranch at Billings and was instrumental in a similar project a few years ago. He asks any ranchers that may have an extra calf and wishes to give it to a worthy cause to contact him and he will see that it gets to Billings.



# THE TOWNSEND **AUDITORIUM**

Victor Sample



Until recently, mentioning the Townsend Auditorium meant the old gymnasium/auditorium in the old high school. Arnold Woodring, who grew up in the Clyde Park area, told me that the high school auditorium was the finest in the area when it was built. It featured a stage that held many performances; a first-rate basketball court with not only courtside bleachers, but upper-level bleachers too. The auditorium has not originally part of the high school but was added later. The Broadwater County Museum has the blueprints that were drawn up for adding the gymnasium/auditorium.

A few years ago, the Museum received a grant to help us catalog and preserve maps stored at the Museum. One of the maps that we cataloged was a map of Townsend that showed every building in town and information about the buildings (floors, number of rooms, building materials). The map was created by an insurance company and was intended to be used by the town fire department.

On that map, I noticed that there was an auditorium located about the middle of the 2nd block of South Spruce on the east side. I had never even heard of an auditorium separate from the schools.

After the creation of Townsend in 1883, the many halls, generally on the 2nd floor of retail businesses, served as locations for public gather-

ings. By 1898 the town had outgrown the halls and needed a true auditorium. According to the Townsend Star in March of 1899: "Townsend is about to realize a long felt want - an auditorium that had its origin a year ago. The stock has all been sold, article of incorporation filed with \$5,000 subscribed as capital stock."

Red rock was hauled into the location on south Spruce for the foundation and with virtually all the carpenters in town working on the building, the new Auditorium was finished. It featured a "spring" floor (built on railroad springs), a beautiful chandelier, broad steps into the building and a large stage with beautiful drop curtains.

Many dances and traveling shows were hosted in the Auditorium. The formal balls of the Knights of Pythias were held there; masquerade balls with elaborate costumes; midnight suppers; Charity Balls and Minstrel shows were all held at the building. The public memorial service for the "Unknown Soldier" was held there as well as a trial for a murder case.

Over time the building deteriorated; the stockholders dwindled to just one - Peter J. Meloy. The steam furnaces were replaced with stoves. The Auditorium was still used for dances, but in the winter months it was a very cold building – the dancers danced a little faster and the musicians dressed warmly.

In the late 1940s, the building had just outlived its usefulness and was torn down with the lumber going to a variety of buildings in the area including the old Deep Creek Pavilion. Kenny Biggs eventually purchased the lots that once held the Auditorium and moved the old Frank Wieferich house from the Canton Valley (displaced by the creation of Canyon Ferry Lake). The house still stands at the south Spruce location.

The Museum does have some pictures of the Auditorium. I did find, on the internet, one of the original Stock Certificates that was sold to create the capital to build the Auditorium. If anyone has any old photos that show the Auditorium please contact Linda Huth (curator) at the Museum and share the pictures with the Museum.

The information about the Townsend Auditorium came from the "Broadwater Bygones" which is available at the Broadwater County Museum. Visit the Broadwater County Museum for more information regarding the Auditorium, the insurance map or the blueprints for the "new" gymnasium/ auditorium added to the old Broadwater County High School.



- 1. MOVIES: What was the name of the fictional kingdom in "Frozen"?
- 2. HISTORY: How many people died as a result of the Boston Massacre of 1770?
- 3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What was the name of Scrooge's business partner in "A Christmas Carol"?
- 4. TELEVISION: In what city is the long-running drama "Grey's Anato-
- GEOGRAPHY: Which two cities were the original endpoints of the Ori-
- ent Express? 6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many legs does an ant have?
- 7. LITERATURE: What is the title of Toni Morrison's first novel?
- 8. MATH: How many minutes are in a week? 9. BUSINESS SLOGANS: Which
- company's slogan is, "Expect more. Pay less"? 10. EXPLORERS: What is the home
- country of Roald Amundsen, the first to reach the South Pole?

#### Answers

- 1. Arendelle.
- 2. Five.
- 3. Jacob Marley.
- 4. Seattle, Washington.
- 5. Paris and Istanbul (Constantinople).
- 6. Six.
- 7. "The Bluest Eye."
- 8. 10,080.
- 9. Target. 10. Norway.
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# The Classified Ads

#### LEGAL NOTICE

**TOSTON IRRIGATION** DISTRICT NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER AND **ALTERNATE** COMMISSIONER **ELECTION** 

Nomination Petitions for Water Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner for Division 3 (all lands East of Hwy 287) to be elected at the March 9, Regular Shift: Unspeci-2023 Annual Meeting may be picked up by qualifying landowners at the Toston Irrigation District Office, 8711 Hwy 287, Toston, MT 59643, 266-4650. The petitions must be returned to the District Office no later than December 24,2022.

#### Job information: # of Positions: 1 Minimum Education

Level: High School

Diploma/GED Experience Required: none

License Required: Montana Training:

Basic LEO Post certification/required

Salary: \$29.97 hourly

Duration: Full Time

fied Hours per week: 40 Job description:

Deputy Sheriff duties include but are not Performs basic statutory law enforcement assignments including

preserving the peace:

Arrests and takes before the courts all persons who attempt to commit or have committed a public offense:

Prevents and suppresses all breaches of peace, riots and insurrections:

Serves civil paperwork and warrants as directed:

May conduct civil and criminal investigations, gathering and processing of evidence, interview witnesses, and perform crime scene activities:

ing shifts and call outs (24) hours a day: Performs such other

Maybe subject to rotat-

duties as may be assigned by the Sheriff through his representative. Schedule is 10 hour shifts with 24/7 coverage Great Benefit package, Vacation, Sick, Personal Day, Health Vision and Dental Insurance. 20 year Retirement - uniform and equipment allowance after a year of service.

Instructions: Please include a MT. Standard Peace Officer Application (available on our website or at the Sheriff's Office), with a resume and cover letter. Due12/30/2022 by 5:00 pm Apply direct or by mail: Attn: Undersheriff Brandon Harris 519 Broadway Townsend, MT 59644

By Phone: Call Undersheriff Brandon Harris at 4062663441

# **PART** TIME JOB **OPENING**

MT 43 News

Must have reliable transportation and valid driver's license. Will work 1 day a week; every Thursday. Required to pick up printed *MT 43 News* papers in Helena Thursday mornings. Papers will then be delivered to various stores in E Helena, Townsend, Toston, Three Forks and the Townsend Post Of-

Pay is \$200 per month + mileage (\$0.62 per mile) for full trip.

Please inquire for the job at our office, 401 Broadway St in Townsend.

# **WANTED!**

YARD KEEPER AND GARDENER FOR SUMMER SEASON OF 2023.

> PART TIME 4 HOURS WEEKLY BEGINNING APRIL THROUGH OCTOBER.

(406) 266-3710

Leave a message.



Clarifica-

#### tion about Snow Removal

Oscar Wilde once said, "The only thing worse than being talked about is not being talked about." He's right, even though sometimes being talked about is frustrating. I've had customers ask me about last week's article, "Curbside Snow Piles Hazardous to Townsend Shoppers" (Dec. 9, 2022) and I need to make some corrections and clarifications.

First, I was credited as having said, "in December of 2021 an agreement was signed between Broadwater County and the City for the City to borrow snowplow vehicles from the County to plow city streets if the snow reaches 18 inches or more deep." I did not say that and I do not know who did.

Second, I approached the city in late 2019 for permission to move the snow from Broadway to Pine and Spruce streets. City Councilman Urich had forgotten that. It wasn't an ideal solution, but my available resources didn't permit a better solution. The article led me to ask the Mayor if he didn't remember that conversation. He and I spoke for some time. Ideally, the snow I remove would go to city property west of the railroad tracks but my skidsteer isn't large enough to do that safely or effectively and I don't have a dump truck. However, on November 30th, Townsend Hardware bought 214 Broadway. We don't have immediate plans for the building, but we are using the rear parking area for pallet storage. I'm happy to move the snow to that location until I can figure out how, if necessary, to move it to the property mentioned by the Mayor. (If anyone has a dump truck and can periodically volunteer to haul a load of snow, that would be appreciated!) Third, I was interested to learn from the article that private individuals are required to obtain a permit to remove snow from Broadway. This is my fourth winter removing snow. I've never received a complaint from MDT other than when they thought I was blowing snow from the sidewalk onto the street. Once I explained I would be around with the skidsteer to pick it up, they left. It's no secret that MDT and I share no love for one another and I've no evidence that MDT wouldn't complain if they felt it was in their best interest — but it isn't. Why complain when someone else is doing your job for you?

where on the street MDT should plow the snow, the problem is removing the snow. If MDT plows to the side of the road, parking and the sidewalks become dangerous (and it violates the Americans with Disabilities Act). If they plow to the center, it makes driving on the street and crossing the street dangerous. It's a lose-lose situation either way because all the snow is still there. So, what to do with the snow? The state won't remove it and it's unreasonable to expect the City to clean up the mess without raising taxes.

People should understand that the problem is not

But here's the rub: I have senior citizens carrying

40+ pound bags of birdseed out of our store. It's true that my liability as a business owner concerns me. But what really keeps me up at night is the thought that anyone using our store might get hurt just because no one is willing to take responsibility for removing the snow.

Harry S. Truman was once as frustrated with federal bureaucracy as I and others are with state bureaucracy. In his spirit, I proclaim that the buck stops here. MDT won't. The City can't. So I will. MDT might not care about Townsend and its residents, but I do. I'm happy to work with the City and speak with any concerned citizen about my continuing efforts to clean the snow from the 200 block of South Broadway. What I do will not be perfect, but the option today is that no snow is ever removed. And that's unacceptable. -JB

-- JB Howick Townsend Hardware 204 Broadway St, Townsend, MT 59644 (406) 266-5588 FAX (406) 266-9965

#### CryptoQuip

CSZK SWNEXR SZ BZXLEXBD GD

SIJS QDGJHD CIDDK IJLD XZ BJKJBESN SZ HZXR QZW SIEXRC

DVD VECI!

**HOCUS-FOCUS** 0 Find at least six differences in details between panels.



### Weekly **SUDOKU** by Linda Thistle

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each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦◆ ◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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I would like to remind people to slow down

and give snowplow drivers, first responders and road crews room to work. They are risking their lives to save yours.

First responders, snowplow drivers and road crews have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Stay Safe Doug Purcell



8 Actor Holm

9 French wines 10 Linguistic

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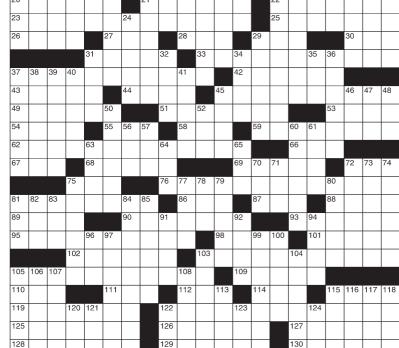
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#### Weekly SUDOKU \_

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## CryptoQuip

Stop trying to convince me that female sheep have no capacity to long for things. Ewe wish!

#### GET YOUR TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION NOW!!

Have you or someone you love been buying MT43 News off the rack at one of our local vendors?

If so.. WE HAVE EXTENDED OUR OFFER FOR YOU!

Take advantage of our Trial Subscription if you are a new subscriber!

Our offer covers the remaining issues to be published through the end of the year and extends through the first new month of 2023!

We will send you a paper every week through the end of January 2023 for only \$5 Printed or \$2.50 Electronic!

Your price remains the same regardless of the number of issues remaining between your start date and the end of the Trial Subscription period!

GREAT GIFT FOR YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND YOURSELF! Subscribe before noon Wednesday and receive your first paper Friday, the

same week. Subscribe after noon Wednesday and your first paper will arrive Friday, the

> next week. Subscribe online, over the phone or at our office.

We look forward to adding YOU to our growing MT 43 News



# PRECISION

#### ACCOUNTING BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TAXES

The end of year is approaching quickly! Are you Ready? We are here to help you and your business!

Our Services Include - Payroll - Bookkeeping - Business Management -Individual & Business Taxes

> Call our Townsend Office Today 406-266-0062 302 Broadway St Townsend, MT

Office Hours - Tuesday to Friday 9 am to 6 pm

Happy Holidays From Anna & Ali!!

## **Amber Waves**













East Helena 406-227-6519 Helena 406-443-8084 Beer, Wine, Cigars and Gifts.

#### BROADWATER BLOOMS 314 Broadway St. 406-266-3558

e are thankful to such wonderful customers, from the bottom of our hearts, for allowing us the opportunity to meet your floral and gift needs this past year.

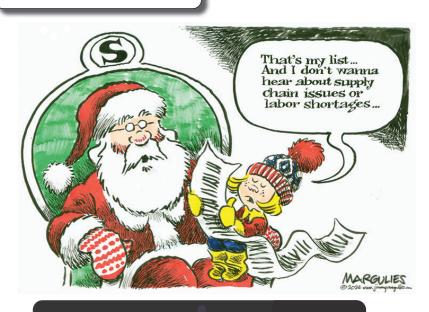
We sincerely wish you and your families a happy, healthy joyful holiday season!

## **Goose Bay** Handblown Glass

Jim and Terry Gundersen

101 S. Front St., Townsend, MT 59644 406-266-4496

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



# TOWNSEND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICE

VETERAN OWNED AND LOCAL PERSONAL COMPUTER REPAIR

406-521-2229

# **Christmas Church Services**

Townsend community wants to know when your Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services start.

Tell them by including a full color ad in the December 16th



Place your ad today! Call Nancy: 406.980.0592 or email Sarah: sarah@mt43news.com

# AND NOW THE WEATHER...





# **BROADWATER HIGH SCHOOL 2022 FIRST** QUARTER HONOR ROLL

FRESHMEN: **SOPHOMORES** \_\_\_\_\_ GPA of 4.0 Lexi Davies GPA of 4.0 Kaitlyn Noyes Cassidy Flynn Ashley Sanderson Gracey Ibsen Addison Kraft GPA of 3.75 to 4.0 Memphys Meier Karsyn Sangray Logan Barkhurst Madelyn Schritz Isaiah Cassidy Abigail Wickens Wyatt Coker Kenzie Knaub Kaden Richtmyer GPA of 3.75 to 4.0 Aspen Slyker Sawyer Horne Tannen Tuffelmire Hunter McCartney Jenna Mainwaring Harper Wolfgram GPA of 3.5 to 3.75 Nolan Flynn GPA of 3.5 to 3.75 Ross MacDonald Taylor Cartwright Grace Kroeger Avery Clark Deegan Mattson Marek Easter Scarlett McDaniel Emmalin Fischer Nevada Willis Trace Giomi Patrick Gossard GPA of 3.25 to 3.5 Hannah Hall Ainsley Diehl Grady Erickson Parker Hunt Callie Gentry Mishayla Lambott Jenna Smucker Humphreys Jazlyn Martin GPA of 3.25 to 3.50 Amanda Pesicka Spencer Braaten Haylie Reinke Mackena Hancock Kaelyn Sangray Aiden Kitto Haylie Reinke Nykia Mondragon Kaelyn Sangray GPA of 3.0 to 3.25 GPA of 3.0 to 3.25 Tanner Bird Tyzer Clark

**SENIORS JUNIORS** 

GPA of 4.0 GPA of 4.0 Lucille Horne Zelda Diehl Eichinger Eric Caleb Le Lacheur William Lynde Wyatt Masolo GPA of 3.75 to 4.0 Xander Hepfer James Pitassy Dawson Sweat ConnorLamb Dakota Wilson Jacob Pesicka Jonah Wishman Riley Rauser Havyn Vandenacre GPA of 3.75 to 4.0 Reese Wolfgram Sienna Everett

GPA of 3.5 to 3.75

O'Dell Ella Cael Begger Whitney Robertson Emily Bird Boe Smith GPA of 3.5 to 3.75 Camden Ferguson GPA of 3.25 to 3.5 Elizabeth Collins Sydney Forrey Mateja Galinec Cooper Hines Kayden Greene Griffin Hunt Kailey Knaub Kendra Thompson

Cassidy Johnson

Ryan Racht

Walker Spurlock GPA of 3.0 to 3.25 Alice Brummer GPA of 3.25 to 3.5 Aidan Easter Sarah Bennett Berlin Korr Alexia Hepfer Kira Kyung Alexandria Howard Trista Moos McLane Kaden Newman Joseph Thompson Wyatt Robertson

> GPA of 3.0 to 3.25 Brent Ingalls Andrew McDonald Chloe Naber Sierra Nugent-Testroote

Justene Santi



Noah Borror

Caden Tew

Trenton Hovelan



Carsyn O'Dell

Jamie Swan

Kaycee White

Sommer

John

### **NEWS RELEASE**

1420 East Sixth Avenue • Helena, MT 59620 406.444.2535 • fwp.mt.gov

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

# **CANDLELIGHT TOURS** AT LEWIS AND CLAR **CAVERNS**

Morgan E. Jacobsen, Fish Wildlife and Parks

Candlelight tours offered at Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park

WHITEHALL - Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park will again host holiday candlelight tours of the entire developed cave route.

This special event allows visitors to see and enjoy the caverns by the warm, festive glow of candle lanterns. Participants must make a reservation prior to their tour.

Tours will be offered from Dec. 16-18 and Dec. 21-23. The starting times of these tours will vary, depending on park staffing for the day. However, all tours will be during the day, with a portion of the two-hour walking tour being outdoors along trails that may have snow

Park staff will provide tour guides, candles, lanterns and hot drinks. The cost for this unique event is \$25 for visitors ages 15 and older, and \$15 for visitors ages 5 to 14. All participants must be at least 5 years of age. Nonresident visitors must pay an \$8-per-vehicle entrance fee as they enter the park.



Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis and must be purchased online. To purchase tickets, visit fwp.mt.gov/stateparks/lewisand-clark-caverns and click on "About The

# **BIRTH OF A** TRADITION: SR. DINNER AND LIGHT TOUR

Bob Brastrup, Townsend Lions Club

It all started with a casual conversation during morning coffee at the Commercial. Bill Kearns mentioned that he and Anita were going to take a person out to dinner and tour the Townsend Christmas lights that evening. The person had some mobility problems which would restrict her Christmas celebration.

The idea was presented to the Lions Club. The club quickly started planning to hold a dinner and light tour program for the next year.

enormous undertaking requiring many hours of

It soon became apparent this would be an

planning - especially gathering names of those who might wish to participate. The Lions asked the Townsend Rotary Club if they would like to co-sponsor the event. They quickly joined the program, now in its 16th year, and the first event was held in 2006. Each year, for the first two years, Walmart pro-

vided a \$2,000 grant to get the program started. Since that time, the Lions and Rotary have financed the program. About 40 senior citizens participate in the meal and tour and about 30 poinsettias are delivered each year.

active participant in serving meals and providing entertainment such as caroling during the light

The National Honor Society has also been an

I have several fond memories of incidents that have occurred during the years:

Pearle Vestre had invited a friend to go on the tour with her. Her friend had severe vision problems. As we toured the lights, Pearle would describe the lights to her friend. What a caring and amazing experience for all of us.

As we approached a residence displaying numerous lights during one of the tours, a participant remarked, "I certainly wouldn't want that electric

Rides are provided to those who lack transportation. So that she could participate in the festivities, help was provided to a lady who seldom got out of the house because she needed to stay home to provide care for her ailing husband. When we arrived to give her a ride, she was all decked out in furs and diamonds for her night on the town! It was such a gratifying feeling to be able to provide her with an evening filled with excitement and pleasure!

The light tour will be from about 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. during the evenings of December 20 and 21. Please leave your Christmas lights on those two evenings so those on the tour can enjoy them.

Poinsettias are given to people who are unable to participate in the festivities because of illness or other reasons.

Also, when you see Bill Kearns, thank him for the wonderful 16-year holiday tradition for which he and Anita are responsible.

Park". No

tickets will be sold at the park visitor center.

Participants are encouraged to be prepared for winter conditions on roads and trails at the park.

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park is about 15 miles southeast of Whitehall, along Montana Highway 2. For more information about the park, please visit fwp.mt.gov/stateparks or call 406-287-3541. Morgan E. Jacobsen

Communication & Education Program Man-

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 3

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