



Increased Levies Back on the Three Forks Ballot p.3



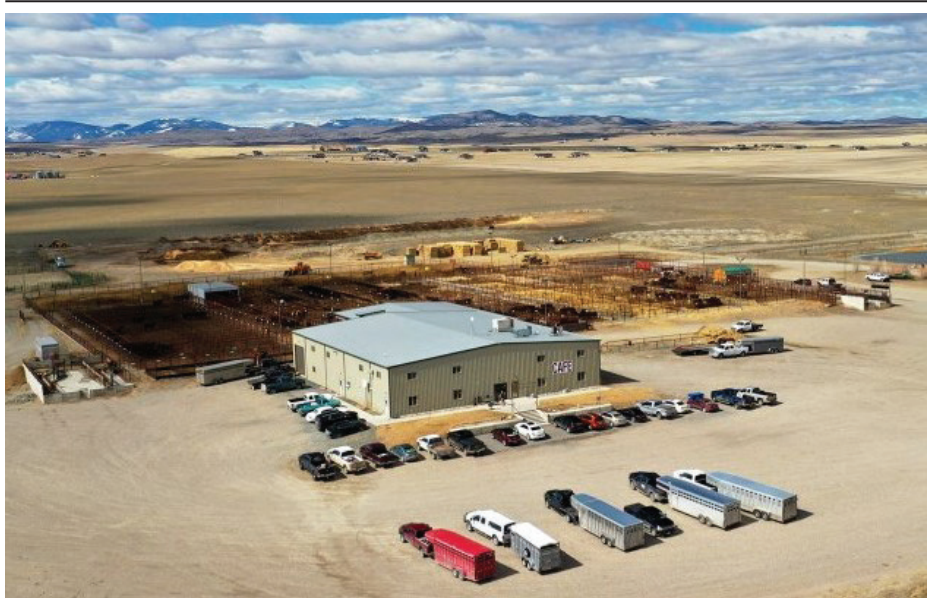
How To Claim Your MT Tax Rebates - P.7



Legislature Wades Into Exempt-Well Debate - P.8

HEADWATERS LIVESTOCK AUCTION COMPANY READY TO CHANGE HANDS

Nancy Marks



Headwaters Livestock - Swan Land Co. photo

Headwaters Livestock Auction Company at Three Forks is in the process of being sold. The business has been owned and operated by Jerry and Mary Lane Olson for many years. The prospective buyer is Brandon Blackstock, ex-husband of famed pop rock, country singer Kelly Clarkson.

The sale will affect Broadwater County ranchers who have sold their sheep, cull cows, bulls and fall calves at the yards for many years. According to Swan Land Company broker Mike Swan of Bozeman the sale is pending. It is listed for \$3,250,000 and includes a 15- acre proposed subdivision.

Olson will continue as yards manager until the Montana Board of Livestock recertifies the yards under new ownership. He and his wife Mary plan to stay on their ranch west of Three Forks.

Brandon Blackstock who lives in Elk Park, out of Butte . In an interview

at the auction yards Monday Blackstock said his ranching roots go way back, when he worked on his grandfather's ranch in Texas. Blackstock said the property sale has not been completed but said he felt it would go through after appraisal and certification are in place. He hopes to grow the business by attracting more buyers and livestock sellers.. "I feel we can show folks we can easily compete and do a good job getting local ranches premium prices for their animals," he said.

Asked about the current concerns about water and sewage in the south county, Olson said the yards have two good wells and its own sewage treatment plant which is currently only at 40% capacity. The yards composts its waste and dead animals, which is hauled out for farm fertilizer. "Any improvements either at the yards or in the proposed subdivision would be under the same water and sewer plan and would not reach capacity in any case," he said.



Brandon Blackstock, Mary Lane Olson, Jerry Olson pose for a photo at Headwaters Livestock Auction.

As far as noise bothering the neighbors, Olson said, "We have never had complaints even though the cattle are bawling before and during every sale both Mondays and Fridays. The only complaint we had is when the goats got out and we could not catch them," he said.

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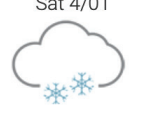

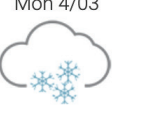
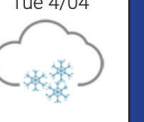
Sale ends April 9th, so hurry in today!

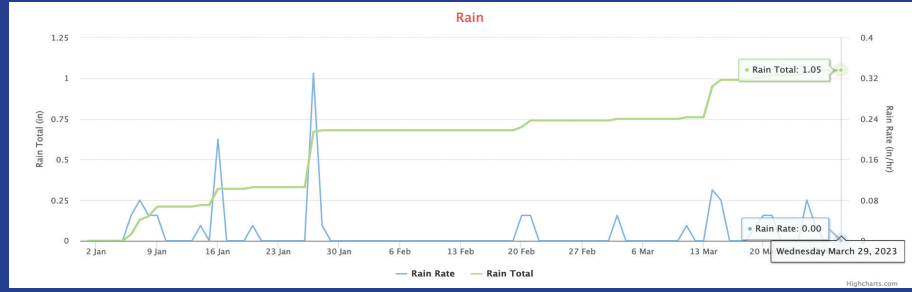




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and now the weather...

Fri 3/31	Sat 4/01	Sun 4/02	Mon 4/03	Tue 4/04
				
Partly Cloudy	Light Wintry Mix	Light Snow	Light Snow	Light Snow
44° 31°	47° 28°	42° 27°	40° 26°	37° 25°
0%	0 in	0 in	0 in	0 in
⇒ 8 17 mph	⇒ 13 28 mph	⇒ 14 27 mph	⇒ 8 17 mph	⇒ 9 18 mph



Senator Daines Meets With Students From Broadwater and Meagher Counties

Eliza McLaughlin, MT43 News Correspondent



Students from Broadwater and Meagher

On March 22, Senator Steve Daines met with high school students from White Sulphur Springs and Broadwater high schools.

Daines emphasized the importance of the Second Amendment, along with the importance of addressing the mental health crisis plaguing young Americans.



Students from Broadwater and Meagher

He also spoke with the students about his recent stint in Twitter jail over a picture of him hunting with his wife.

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Broadwater Blooms Owner says:
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"Advertising really pays off."
 Lisa Higgins

Thank you for your business, Lisal

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that ballots will be mailed to the voters on April 12, 2023, for the election of two (2) Townsend School District #1 Board of Trustees for three-year terms. The candidates who have filed for office are Heather Anderson, Jason Kool, Kevin McDonnell, Daniel Truesdell, ChasePatrick G. Ragen, and Andrea Rice.

This election will be conducted by MAIL BALLOT ONLY. The regular polling places will not be open.

The place of deposit and the days and times when ballots may be returned to the place of deposit before election day and on election day are:

**BROADWATER COUNTY
 CLERK AND RECORDER OFFICE**
 515 Broadway
 Townsend, MT 59644
 Office Hours:
 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 5:00
 PM
 Monday through Friday
 Election Day, May 2, 2023, 7:00 AM to
 8:00 PM

In order to be counted, ballots must be received at the election office by 8:00 PM on Election Day, May 2, 2023.

If you have questions about your ballot please call 406-266-9216. If you believe you should receive a ballot and did not, ballot(s) may be obtained at the Clerk and Recorder's office.

DATED this 23 day of March, 2023.

/S/ ANGIE PAULSEN
 BROADWATER COUNTY
 Clerk and Recorder | Elections
 Administrator

cliff johnson
 portable welding
 montanaciff@gmail.com

Bear Paw Portable Welding LLC
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Townsend Community Calendar

Friday, March 31	Saturday, April 1	Sunday, April 2	Monday, April 3	Tuesday, April 4	Wednesday, April 5	Thursday, April 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcoholics Anonymous @ Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church - 12 p.m. Townsend Pinochle Club @ Broadwater County Senior Center - 1 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magic: The Gathering @ Reading Leaves Bookstore - 6:30 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trailhead Church Groundbreaking Ceremony - 10 a.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retired Teachers Breakfast Easter Flower Design Class @ Broadwater Blooms - 6 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission Working Meeting - 1 to 3 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous @ Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church - 5:30 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission Meeting - 10 a.m. Townsend Pinochle Club @ Broadwater County Senior Center - 1 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission Meeting - 10 a.m. Al-Anon @ Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church - 7 p.m. Easter Flower Design Class @ Broadwater Blooms - 6 p.m.



TOWNSEND
 AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 Sponsor of Community Calendar

MT 43 News, Inc.

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 Letters to the editor, guest columns,

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

- The views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are those of each letter's author and do not reflect the opinions or beliefs of MT 43 News, Inc.
- Letters must be signed and include the author's legal name, phone number, and address for verification purposes. Anonymous submissions will not be published.
- All accepted letters will appear on the MT43News.com website. Letters will be published in the print edition in the order received as space allows and may not be published the week

- the letter was submitted.
- MT 43 News embraces our freedom to speak freely and freedom of the press, but we reserve the right to refuse publication of any letter. We will make a reasonable effort to resolve any issues we may have with the submitter.
- Letters may discuss any subject, but are expected to deal with only one subject per-letter and be 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for content and length. We further reserve the right to require documentation or evidence when discussing the behavior, motivation, or lives of other people.
- Letters to the Editor may not be used as a thank-you, sales pitch, or any type of solicitation. These must apply to paid space.
- Letters should be submitted via email (letters@MT43News.com) in plain text. Please do not attach any files.
- Headlines and bylines will be determined by the Editor at the editor's

sole discretion.

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

- Any letter that calls into question another person's character will be held until the other party can respond to the allegations. Rebuttals must be submitted within one week of our request. If no rebuttal is received, the letter will not be printed.
- MT 43 News is published weekly by MT 43 News, Inc., 401 Broadway St. Suite A, Townsend, MT 59644-2323. Application to mail at Periodicals prices pending at Townsend, MT. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to MT 43 News, 401 Broadway St. Ste A, Townsend MT, 59644.



Three Forks Community Calendar

- ○ **Friday, March 31**
 - Tennis vs. Granite/Broadwater/Jefferson @ Manhattan - 1 p.m.
 - Softball vs. Florence - Varsity at 3 p.m. & JV at 5 p.m.
 - Music by Chandler Huntley @ Sacajawea Hotel - 5 p.m.
 - Trivia in Three Forks @ Bridger Brewing - 8 p.m.
- ○ **Saturday, April 1**
 - Varsity Golf @ Big Timber - 10 a.m.
 - Music by Lindzy Neilson @ Sacajawea Hotel - 5 p.m.
 - Prom @ Historic Gym - 9 to 11 p.m.
- ○ **Monday, April 3**
 - Tennis vs. Broadwater/Jefferson @ Townsend - 2 p.m.
 - Pints with Purpose for Cancer Support Community @ Bridger Brewing - 5 p.m.
- ○ **Tuesday, April 4**
 - Varsity Golf @ Townsend - 10 a.m.
 - Mahjongg @ Three Forks Community Library - 1 p.m.
 - JV Golf @ Big Timber - 1 p.m.
 - Varsity Tennis @ Townsend - 1 p.m.
 - Softball @ Ennis - Varsity at 3 p.m. & JV at 5 p.m.
 - Dungeons & Dragons Club @ Three Forks Community Library - 4 p.m.
 - Middle School Track Meet @ Livingston
- ○ **Wednesday, April 5**
 - Varsity Golf Tournament @ Eureka
- ○ **Thursday, April 6**
 - Story Time @ Three Forks Community Library - 10 a.m.
 - Middle School Track Meet @ Manhattan Christian
 - Three Forks Music Night with Band of Drifters @ Bridger Brewing - 7 p.m.

Contact eliza@mt43news.com to have your event listed.



Tech Talk: Beware USB Drives

Victor Sample

For some time, I have been warning computer users to be very careful about emails and to NEVER, EVER click on a link in an email unless you are certain that it is a safe link. Similarly, never download something from the internet unless you are very confident that the source of the download is reputable and safe.

When personal computers first came out, a common source of malware was from floppy disks (both the original 5 ¼ and the later 3 ½ floppies). Malicious hackers used to embed malware or even have a boot record that if you left it in the drive the PC would try to boot up from the floppy and quite often wipe everything on the hard drive, including the PC Dos operating system.

Of course, Cds/DVDs from unknown sources could also install malware on your computer. ALWAYS be cautious about any kind of medium that you use with your computer. If you aren't completely confident about where any of them come from, DO NOT use them.

USB drives (flash drives, thumb drives) are a very common way of transporting data between computers. On television, the heroes are always downloading bad guys computer data onto USB drives. As always, NEVER use a USB drive unless you are certain it is safe.

I have always been worried about unknown drives installing some kind of malware: viruses, worms, spyware, adware, keystroke stealers, etc. All of those are potentially devastating to you or to your company.

However, I recently read an article about USB drives that scared me far more than just installing malware.

There have been instances of USB drives being modified to deliver a 220v shock to your pc when they are inserted into the USB port. That will fry your motherboard, HDD or SSD. That is pretty scary! But even that is not the scariest thing. Recently, reporters at a newspaper received flash drives from an anonymous source. I think reporters are used to receiving anonymous stories, flash drives, memory cards, etc. So, one of the reporters inserted the flash drive into his USB port.

USB ports can be used to charge smartphones, fit bits, etc. The specifications for USB ports are that they provide enough power to run various electronic components so that you do not need to have an additional power cord.

The anonymous flash drive the reporter inserted into his USB port had been modified to be an EXPLOSIVE triggered by the power coming from the USB Port. The reporter suffered extensive injuries to his head, torso and hands.

Always, Always, Always be very careful with any type of medium you use on your computer. If you do not know that it came from a reputable, safe source DO NOT ATTEMPT TO USE IT.

Practice safe computing - it is a dangerous world out there!

INCREASED LEVIES BACK ON THE THREE FORKS BALLOT

Eliza McLaughlin, MT43 News Correspondent

Members of the Three Forks School District Board of Trustees are once again approaching voters this May with a request for more funds.

The proposed levy will increase district revenue by \$674,000, broken down to \$385,350 for the elementary school and \$288,650 for the high school. The levy is expected to raise taxes by a total of \$64.65 for a \$100,000 home and \$128.30 for a \$200,000.

Motivation for the mill levy, District Superintendent Rhonda Uthlaut said, is the district's rising expenses and facility expansion.

"We're going to shortfall eventually if we don't get a mill levy passed," District Superintendent Rhonda Uthlaut said. "There's just been so much inflation and rising costs, that districts are struggling."

With an additional 32,800 square feet, the district now faces higher operating costs she explained. These include higher insurance, the need for more custodians and a larger utility bill. Cost estimates, Uthlaut said, were used to calculate the levy amount.

Uthlaut added that with more funds, the district could increase staff wages and remain competitive with other nearby school districts.

Three Forks School District currently levies 88% of its maximum allowable budget, while surrounding districts levy 100% and continue to cut programs and lay off staff, according to Uthlaut. Regardless, the board is not requesting the maximum budget from voters.

Instead, Uthlaut explained, the district is only asking for what it needs to give the kids "what they need". This includes providing students with an array of classes and programs that will prepare them for graduation.

"We want our kids college and career ready when they leave here," she commented, explaining that this is possible through more classes.

A student survey showed that students want access to more challenging courses such as physics, chemistry, advanced placement classes and a theater program. None of which, Uthlaut said, were "frivolous" requests.

Although the school expansion provides room for more programs, there's another element missing, Uthlaut said: staff.

"We have classrooms ready for children, but we have to hire more staff for those," she noted.

The Three Forks School District has served as a "hub of the community" Uthlaut said, adding that something is always going on inside the building. Continuing to make the building available for community use, Uthlaut explained, comes with a cost.

"I think Three Forks offers so much to our kids and community," she said. "We need that support to keep it going."

The expiration of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSR) Funds also encouraged the board's decision for a levy bump. ESSR Funds were distributed to schools throughout the U.S. to help districts address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Those funds, Uthlaut said, have strict spending requirements and will run out at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

"It's given us a great boost," she said.

So far, Three Forks Schools have utilized ESSR funds to sustain Friday school, summer programs and behavioral support. Funds allocated for next school year, Uthlaut added, have already been earmarked for projects such as old window replacements.

The district has also tapped into its interlocal fund — a collection of surplus funds for school use — but that non-renewing account, Uthlaut said, is not a sustainable source of money.

Uthlaut also clarified that money received from the bond project can only be used for "brick and mortar", not for operational costs.

It's been six years since voters approved a levy increase for the Three Forks School District. Despite going longer than most other schools, according to Uthlaut, the district has held on for one reason: fiscal responsibility.

"Three Forks has done an amazing job of being good stewards of our dollars," she commented. "We've used our tax money wisely."

The school board also approved some increases — and some decreases — in the district's permissive levies, which do not require voter approval. In total, Three Forks Elementary School's permissive levies will increase by \$14,382 or 0.55 mills; meanwhile, the high school's permissive levies will rise by \$16,471 or 1.5 mills. In both instances, the raised levies resulted from higher anticipated transportation costs.

NOTICE OF A FLOODPLAIN PERMIT APPLICATION IN BROADWATER COUNTY

Nichole Brown, Broadwater County Community Development Director

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is proposing to remove sediment build-up at the Toston Dam. The project would be located within the special flood hazard area of the Missouri River.

The project will involve the removal of a mass of sediment that is now encroaching on the dam structure. The project is located within the actual river channel and within Toston Reservoir.

The project is located adjacent to the Toston Dam at Toston Reservoir. The project is in SW1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 6 Township 4N, Range 3E, Broadwater County; Longitude Latitude 46.119747° Longitude-111.409056°.

For more information on this proposed floodplain permit application, contact the County's contract Floodplain Administrator, Jerry Grebenc at Great West Engineering at 406-495-6153 or via email at: jgrebenc@greatwesteng.com The County Floodplain

Administrator will render a decision on the permits after the expiration of that timeframe.

Americanisms



"The Easter Bunny ate all of the carrots we left for him. What a pig."
— Steve Carell

SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION (SAL) SEEKING DONATIONS FOR AMERICAN FLAGS

Tim Pool, Sons Of American Legion

It is that time of year for the SAL Squadron to begin replacing the American Flags that are mounted upon the light poles along Townsend's Broadway St. Traditionally, the Flags were displayed only during the warm-weather months, and the local businesses and private persons financially supported the purchase of the Flags. Businesses, residents, and the Chamber of Commerce now support having the American Flags displayed year-round.

Townsend's "wonderful" weather fades, dirties and shreds the beautiful flags requiring many to be properly retired and replaced when needed. We sincerely appreciate the support of the Betsy Ross Associates (Creative Closet) in this effort by double-stitching the borders, and reducing the shredding!

We are seeking financial donations to allow us to purchase the replacement Flags. We appreciate all of the past support! Any financial support is greatly appreciated! Your donation, with your name and address, may be dropped off at the Legion Bar after 3 pm at 211 Broadway St. Before 3 pm, your donation with name and address may be placed in a sealed envelope marked FLAGS can be slipped into the Legion's door mail slot. Tim can also come to you. The Legion is a Not-for-Profit organization, a receipt will be provided to you for your Tax records. You will also receive a beautiful placard recognizing your support that can be proudly displayed. If you have questions, please call/text Tim at 431-9487 (leave a message).

THANK YOU for helping us display the American Flag while supporting AMERICA, TOWNSEND, and those who Served Our Country and Continue to Serve Our Community.



CITY COUNCIL ENTERTAINS NEW ELECTRIC SIGN IDEA

Nancy Marks

Farm Bureau Insurance representative Tim McAlpine approached City Council about partnering with the Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce and the school to install an electric sign in the same area where the City has its present sign. At a regular March 21 meeting, McAlpine explained the background for installing the new sign.

“Chamber of Commerce President Tim Pool has been investigating removing the Chamber sign near the railroad tracks west of the flashing light on Hwy 287. The cost is almost prohibitive, and the insurance is even worse,” McAlpine explained. Mayor Evans followed up saying the school had approached the council about putting up a sign last May. When the discussion surrounded getting power to the sign location, council member Ken Urich suggested the chamber look into using solar power.

In other business, Mayor Evan read, in its entirety, the updated Solicitors Ordinance with all changes regarding licensure, fees, revocation of licenses and penalties for not following the ordinance rules. Broadwater County school students, the farmer’s market, and nonprofits do not have to purchase a license to operate in the city but must register with the City Office.

Council members continue to grapple with repairing or replacing the municipal pool. Engineering firm Robert Peccia & Associates presented an analysis of the current status of the pool which was built in 1966, and immediate repair needs. One was replacing the pool liner at \$30,000. The upgrade would give about five more years of life for pool use. Councilwoman Vickie Rauser said she would share the analysis with the Community Survey group in their Phase 2 work. “If we see our way to building a new community building with an indoor pool, the current pool with the new liner would be available to the public for the next five years while a community building could be built,” Rauser said.

During Roundtable discussions, Rauser urged the council to get busy working on next year’s budget. Councilman Urich pointed out that several of the streets in town are beginning to break up. He will talk to Public Works Director Tim Rauser about the problem.



MY EXPERIENCE WITH RE-IMAGINING RURAL

Victor Sample

Townsend has always been considered a rural community. However, Townsend in the 1960s was a much different community than it is in the 2020s. All over America, rural community lifestyles have been changing. Many of the communities are now being overshadowed by larger neighboring urban areas; there has been so much movement of people relocating from large urban areas to rural areas; the internet has changed much of how the world lives including rural communities in Montana.

In 2020 (the year of covid) the MSU Extension Office organized a state-wide webinar series called Re-Imagining Rural. Locally, the 3 part webinar was hosted by Nichole Brown (until she was exposed to covid) and myself (filling in for Nichole).

Approximately 20 people attended the 3 series event.

The focus of the event was on how rural communities are evolving and what that means for the future of rural communities across Montana. Guest speakers included a professor from the University of Montana and community activists from rural communities that have been meeting the challenge of changes to our rural communities.

The 3 part webinars were fully interactive with attendees able to ask questions and attendees were actively involved in the entire process. It was not a sit-and-watch type webinar. At the end of each session, the attendees were asked to collaborate on answering various questions about their communities with the local webinar host facilitating the collaboration.

Everyone participating in the event was surprised by the exploration of how our rural lifestyles are changing and how we can start to take control of how the changes are shaping our communities.

I felt that the webinars were very informative and worthwhile.

Now, the Montana State University Extension Program has chosen Townsend to be the site of the 2023 Re-Imagining Rural program. The program will be a full-day event on June 13.

In this issue of the MT43 News, there is an announcement of the program including a link to register for the event.

From Allison Kosto, Broadwater County Extension Agent:

“The MSU Extension Re-Imagine Rural program is hosting an in-person event that is taking place at the Watson Event Center on June 13th. I think it’s really cool that they choose Townsend as their location! I’ve been helping with a few of the details. The agenda is posted on the website and the website to register is now open. The cost is \$50. The conference will discuss the changing rural Montana dynamics and highlight several examples of successes in rural communities. Hope to see many of you there!”

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Al Christopherson

At the recently held BCDC community planning workshop I participated in the Recreation group discussions. As such would go, I ended up being in charge of a committee to develop a hike /bike trails draft plan for the county. Yes, that includes city sidewalks, trails to specific places and routes and whatever we want it to be.

If there is anyone or any organization that has an interest in such a plan and would like to participate in drafting trail proposals throughout the county, I would love to hear from you and any other names of folks that you know of that have such interests.

We plan to have a meeting to lay out all the ideas we know of and then have discussions of others and begin a process of prioritizing opportunities and needs.

Our first meetings will be in the last two weeks of April and then go from there.

Please have anyone interested call Al Christopherson at 406-439-0197.

RE-IMAGINING RURAL: IN PERSON IN TOWNSEND

Allison Kosto, MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



Reconvening for funders, policymakers, and partners invested in a vibrant future for rural Montana.

June 13, 2023
Townsend, MT

To register please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reimagining-rural-gathering-registration-574970511277>

WORKING AGENDA AS OF 3/10/23

9:30 am Registration Opens

10:00 am Welcoming Remarks

10:20 am A Changing Rural Montana – A State-wide Perspective, Innovation

- Data on rural Montana
- A unique approach with success to working in rural communities
- Examples of working with communities on a statewide scale

Debrief, discussion, lessons learned.

Noon Lunch

1:00 pm Rural Community Successes (Communities invited, not confirmed)

- Cutbank: Reframing vision of what’s possible, beautification, welcoming
- Roundup: Roundup Community Partners, Back porch
- Worden/Ballentine: Bringing neighbors together, creating identity
- Broadus: Community-Based Leadership program
- Forsyth: Branding, understanding your community, year-to-year progress

Debrief, discussion, lessons learned.

3:00 pm Break

3:15 pm Debrief & Reflection Facilitated Discussion

4:00 pm Adjourn

4:30pm Optional walking tour + brewery social (not confirmed)

WASTEWATER WORK AT THE FAIRGROUNDS

Nancy Marks



Gruber Excavating

Gruber Excavating of Helena was awarded the contract for the wastewater project on October 12 of last year at a price of \$182,322.



Waste Water Work Under Way

Work is in full swing at the Broadwater County Fairgrounds east of town. According to spokesman, Tucker Perkins of Gruber Excavating, they are pretty much on schedule. “How far we get depends on the snowstorm maybe coming in this weekend,” he said. (Editor Note - this weekend referred to March 25 - March 26).

top ten

World’s Largest Lakes

1. Caspian Sea
2. Lake Superior
3. Lake Victoria
4. Lake Huron
5. Lake Michigan
6. Lake Tanganyika
7. Lake Baikal
8. Great Bear Lake
9. Lake Malawi
10. Great Slave Lake

Source: Visual Capitalist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Re: Your Article dated March 24, 2023 "Is There Religious Freedom In Townsend Schools?"

Dear Editor:

On March 24, 2023 The Broadwater County News (BCN) published the above-referenced article to which the Townsend K-12 School District No. 1 (District) Board of Trustees (School Board) believes a reply is necessary because the article: (1) conflates multiple clearly-distinguishable topics; (2) lacks accuracy and necessary context; (3) advances its own narrative through suggestive and inflammatory text formatting, and (4) arrives at conclusions which read more like an opinion editorial than an informative news article.

The article began with . . . "Last week 8th grade Townsend School children were provided a presentation of a music video that provides a look at individualism with a focus on promoting the acceptance of transgenderism and other inclusionary concepts. A more current term is non-binary, which according to science, provides further confusion in sexual identification." The words transgenderism, inclusionary, and non-binary (sic), were also presented in bold and italics for no valid purpose other than to inflame the reader or to advance BCN's narrative. The article also attempts to weave discussions about 'DEI,' pending state legislation, school board strategic planning, and parental rights in governmental administration of education all into one article about "religious freedom" - each of which is done a disservice in the article as they are deserving of their own discussion between all affected stakeholders.

In reality, a student requested to perform a song from the soundtrack of a contemporary movie as a solo in class. Based on the context of the song's presentation in the movie (a "bearded lady" of P.T. Barnum's circus), the teacher approved the song about people with genetic disorders or conditions that make them "different." The teacher prefaced the video and the performance explaining that the song is about genetic disorders. A student was offended, apparently walked out, and the parents engaged the principal. The ensuing discussion centered around the perception that schools are trying to get kids to question their sexual identity, which is not what this song is about. That said, the School Board understands and acknowledges that songs, media, and commercial imagery are often diverted or co-opted beyond their original purpose by individuals or groups and the content's use (or user) may not align with the beliefs of our students and their families. However, BCN ignored these plausible conclusions in favor of the co-opted narrative of the source material as the only truth of the matter.

The teacher believed the introductory discussion was adequate and there was no discussion of sexual identity at any point. The principal later addressed the video with the teacher and stressed the importance of excluding anything considered controversial unless approved by the administration, the School Board, and providing an opt-out activity for any student. While the School Board regrets the negative feelings of the student and the family towards the presentation and performance, the teacher had no agenda, no ill-intention, and this presentation is not a part of any class curriculum. Further, the School Board supports its principal in the handling of this delicate matter.

In no way does Townsend Schools intentionally teach controversial material or infringe on students' and parents' rights. We are here to educate children, avoid controversial issues (to the greatest extent possible), and leave discussions of morals and family values where it belongs - within students' families.

Our teachers carefully execute their classes by adding enrichment to lessons, and there is always a level of autonomy to consider when lessons and discussions occur. However, the School Board and our administrators will continue to train staff on making these judgment calls to handle discussions that respect student and parent rights and beliefs

and other in-the-moment education lessons that occur in the classroom. The School Superintendent is also willing to meet with any concerned parents and will always make the curriculum readily available for parental review.

We encourage BCN to engage with us in the accurate reporting of news and help the community expand its knowledge of issues that affect us and our community.

Respectfully,

The Townsend K-12 School District No. 1 Board of Trustees

Editor's note:

Mt43news was contacted by District#1 school board who submitted this letter addressed to Broadwater County News, Tim Ravndahl owner and publisher. The letter is in no way connected to this paper.

Editor



2023 OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK TO FIGHT SUICIDE

Karen Snow, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

HELENA, MT — MARCH 22, 2023 – The annual Tri-County Out of the Darkness Campus Walk, hosted by the Montana Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (afsp.org/chapter/montana) will be held on Saturday, April 29 at East Helena High School at 1:30 pm.

Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States, yet suicide can be prevented. It is the 12th leading cause of death in the United States, the 9th leading cause of death in Montana, and the 2nd leading cause of death for Montanans aged 10-44. Volunteers from around Western Montana will join thousands of people gathering in towns across the United States to promote suicide prevention.

This gathering will support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's (AFSP) education, research and survivor support programs. In addition to raising awareness and funds to fight suicide, the walks give those who attend a chance to connect with others and know they are not alone, whether they walk in memory or in support of a loved one or in honor of their own mental health journey.

"Suicide touches one in five American families. We hope that by connecting with one another, we will draw attention to this issue and keep other families from experiencing a suicide loss. Our ultimate goal is to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide," said Katie Levin, AFSP Executive Director of the Montana Chapter.

"This year we want people to join us in walking to create a world without suicide," said AFSP CEO Robert Gebbia. "By walking you are helping us make progress through research, advocacy, education and support to those affected by suicide. And you are improving our understanding of mental health, and how to be there for each other when someone is struggling. I'm in awe of our courageous volunteers who are lifting their voices to inform local and national leaders of the support needed to reduce suicide and save lives."

For more information on how to get involved in the AFSP Montana Chapter, contact Katie Levine at klevine@afps.org.

To donate or join this event, visit afsp.org/Tri-County

FFA UPDATE

Mikayla Kraft, School Correspondent

The 2022-2023 State FFA Convention, titled No Limits, was a year to remember. Imagine walking into a convention hall to energizing music with a low bass, a career fair and trade show buzzing with FFA members, friends from all over the state that are so excited to meet up for the first time in a few months, state FFA officers milling around and making connections, and FFA members eager to advocate agriculture and make a difference in their home and community.

This feeling of accomplishment, elation, pride, joy, and thankfulness is what accentuated Broadwater FFA's experience when attending the State FFA Convention. Broadwater FFA competed in floriculture, creed speaking, the conduct of chapter meetings, ag sales, vet science, meat evaluation, and livestock judging. We also attended a few workshops, attended each of the Montana FFA sessions, participated in delegate meetings, and concluded our state experience with an amazing dance on Friday night.

Broadwater FFA worked hard and tried their best to give a high-quality performance. Each student had put in countless hours to prepare for the state CDE/LDE competitions. None of the teams placed top 10, however, Kaitlyn Noyes held 8th place in the Livestock Evaluation CDE and Broadwater FFA teams were at least in the top half! There is potential for an excess of success and we can obtain it if we continue to practice with enough gumption.

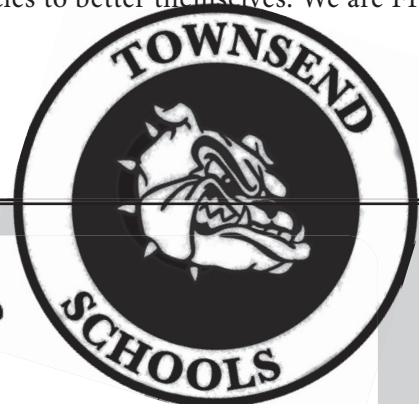


Pea samples at Columbia Grain after going to a Columbia Grain Tour

Throughout the sessions, many awards were given and speakers addressed the members. Our keynote speaker for this year was Dr. Layman Hicks. He is an inspirational speaker to encourage people to "Find [Their] Why" and has encouraged more than one million people in the United States and continues to travel to help those around the US. He had grown up with his grandmother and grandfather, and when he was just a little boy his grandmother and grandfather divorced, and she tried to kill her husband. He was terrified and couldn't find his reason. After overcoming this obstacle he has helped many others in the United States, especially our FFA members this last week, find 'their why' and help in the fight for suicide prevention and giving others a chance to better their best.

FFA isn't just about learning leadership and getting better at identifying a crop. We are also about "brotherhood and cooperation". Through the FFA dance, members have the free time to connect with their peers through line dancing, swing dancing, and slow dancing. I have had personal experience expanding my network all over the state of Montana. Through swing dancing, line dancing, slow dancing, and even entering the mosh pit to jump I have made connections that will further additional life skills I have come to possess.

At the end of the state convention, everybody says their goodbyes and leaves for home. This is not the end, however. FFA will work hard throughout their chapter officer elections, and future obstacles to better themselves. We are FFA.



Upcoming School Events

Friday, March 31	Saturday, April 1	Sunday, April 2	Monday, April 3	Tuesday, April 4	Wednesday, April 5	Thursday, April 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Tennis @ Great Falls - 1 p.m. State SkillsUSA @ Helena 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Track @ Frenchtown - 10 a.m. State SkillsUSA @ Helena 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Boys Basketball Banquet @ Elementary Commons - 3 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D/C Writing @ Community Room - 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. Senior Class Meeting @ Community Room - 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. JV Tennis @ Home - 2 p.m. Adult City League Volleyball @ 1963 Gym - 5:45 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D/C Writing @ Community Room - 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. Varsity Golf @ Home - 9:30 a.m. High School Tennis @ Home - 1 p.m. Booster Club Meeting @ Library Classroom - 7 p.m. High School Track @ East Helena (Home Meet) Junior High Track @ Livingston 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D/C Writing @ Community Room - 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. Early Release - 1:30 p.m. MSU Extension Master Garden Class @ Library - 5:30 p.m. Old Baldy Adult Ed Open Gym @ 1963 Gym - 7 p.m. Old Baldy Pickleball @ Stage Gym - 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D/C Writing @ Community Room - 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. No School - Spring Break

NorthWestern Energy
Delivering a Bright Future

Sponsor of Townsend School Page

INSIDE INSPIRATION

Comparison Cage

Ellie West, Certified NLP Coach/Practitioner
Of Hypnosis and Timeline Therapy

One of the deepest needs of people is to be valued and appreciated. Charles Schwab says, "The way to develop the best that is in a person is by appreciation and encouragement". When someone encourages, values, or congratulates you on a job well done, it lifts your spirit and builds confidence.

I can only imagine what it must have been like for James - Jesus' younger brother. Can you even fathom how difficult that must have been for James? His older brother was perfect in every sense of the word. I would think James would have been envious and somewhat jealous of his older brother. But James had a more profound insight into jealousy and envy. It states in James 3:16 TPT, "So wherever jealousy and selfishness are uncovered, you will also find many troubles and every kind of meanness".

Envy and jealousy are the roots of all kinds of things, making breaking out of the cage of comparison very difficult. Jealousy or envy may trigger negative feelings about someone else's achievements or success. It's a tug-o-war that continually plays inside our hearts and minds - to feel bad when someone succeeds but good when someone fails. In whatever relationship we become jealous of, we will find disorder.

Even as a young girl, I compared what we had or didn't have with our neighbors, friends, and immediate family members. Perhaps, you have had a challenging childhood or disappointing marriage, but God doesn't ask you to change what you've been given - He only asks you to use what you've been given. Being caged in by comparison, envy, and jealousy carried well into my years. I began to see things differently when we went through some difficult years. Each time those feelings of comparison began to surface, I would choose to celebrate, encourage and inspire others out loud and on purpose. Learning to be content and grateful for what we had been given helped shape our character, strengthen our faith and build trust.

Comparison only diminishes your uniqueness and your distinctive potential. What you have is less important than what you do with what you have. You have a family, dreams, education, a network of friends, a specific look, wealth, a career, and health, all specific and unique to you. Focusing on someone else's life will cause you to miss out on the exclusive opportunities only given to you, as you weren't intended to be that other person.

My husband and I have discussed the comparison cage extensively over the years. It is something that has affected him his entire life. He grew up as the middle child and was often compared to his older brother. Most are familiar with the quote, "Comparison is the thief of joy". ~Teddy Roosevelt

Comparison robs an individual of their dreams and passion and steals a person's joy, just as it did my husband. It has taken years to embrace what was given uniquely to only him...to heal from the comparison cage. Finding his voice, passion, and purpose has begun to surface, allowing him to dream again.

The good news is that you can break away from being caged in by comparison. You could do something as simple as handwriting a note of congratulations, encouragement, or inspiration to a deserving person. Just something so simple has the power to free you from comparison.

A grateful attitude becomes a lens through which you perceive life. Gratitude enables you to see the light of God shining through all circumstances, whether good or bad. Be inspired and motivated by others; by the end of the day, you will find contentment from celebrating others.

Do what you can with what you have been given, and you will begin recognizing what God has entrusted to you and accomplish what God has planned for your life. You have been given dreams, gifts, and talents that are uniquely yours.

Celebrate what God has given others, and grasp what God has given you! And when those blessings come, thanking God puts you in a modest position to put those gifts to good use.

"Don't compare your life to others. There's no comparison between the sun and the moon. They shine when it's their time." ~Unknown

To connect with Ellie: FB/IG @coachelliewest

OUR WALK IN FAITH

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

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

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

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

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

Set Free Christian Fellowship, meets at the Bridge at 318 Broadway St (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 Carol Bergstad, (406) 461-2181.

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 Moe, 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.

SENIOR CENTER

**SENIOR CENTER
MEALS FOR APRIL 3 -
APRIL 7**

Senior Center: 516
2nd Street, Townsend
MT

Monday, April 3
Montana Pasties
Garden Peas
Tossed Salad
Apricots
Dessert

Tuesday, April 4
BBQ Pork Ribs
Macaroni Salad
Sweet Corn
Pickled Beets
Baked Apples

Wednesday, April 5
Chicken ala King
Steamed Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables
Tossed Salad with
Beans
Golden Pears

Thursday, April 6
Ham Salad Sandwich
Pea Salad
Coleslaw
Mandarin Oranges

Friday, April 7
Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Whole Grain Bread
Sweet Peaches

The Townsend Pinochle Club meets every Wednesday and Friday at the Broadwater County Senior Center for an afternoon of pinochle and camaraderie. The Club plays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. All ages and experience levels are welcome! If you have never played pinochle and would like to learn come and join us.

FWP ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FROM LANDOWNERS FOR BLOCK MANAGEMENT

Fish, Wildlife and Parks



HELENA – Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is accepting applications from landowners who are interested in participating in the 2023 Block Management Program. Block

Management is a cooperative effort between landowners and FWP to help manage wildlife and public hunting activities on enrolled lands.

Through the Block Management program, landowners and FWP enter into voluntary agreements that determine how hunting will be conducted on the landowner's property. Items such as permission requirements, times when permission will be granted, hunting opportunities provided and vehicle use are a few examples of what is covered in an agreement.

Block Management offers various benefits to landowners enrolled in the program. These benefits include assistance of FWP staff to help monitor hunting activities, compensation to help offset impacts associated with allowing public hunting, wildlife management, a free subscription to Montana Outdoors and a complimentary, non-transferable sportsman or big game combination (non-resident) license. Landowners do not relinquish any rights by enrolling and are covered by Montana's recreational liability statute as well as livestock loss reimbursement, both of which are extended to landowners who allow access at no charge.

For more information or to receive an application packet, interested landowners can contact their local biologist, warden or FWP regional access manager or contact the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division main office at 406-444-3750 or email LndSportRelations@mt.gov.

BSE EXCAVATING
7200 HWY 287, TOWNSEND, MT
BRANDON BAKKEN
SHANE TEW
P - 266-3772
C - 980-1100

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR MT TAX REBATES

Erich Dietrich, Montana Free Press

This article was originally published by Montana Free Press and is republished here by permission of Montana Free Press.

Montana's Republican-controlled Legislature directed hundreds of millions of dollars from the state's budget surplus — \$764 million in total — toward income and property tax rebates during its 2023 session. With those rebates signed into law by Gov. Greg Gianforte on March 13, here's what taxpayers need to know to make sure they get their refund from the Montana Department of Revenue:

HOW MUCH DO I QUALIFY FOR?

Lawmakers passed two buckets of rebates, one focused on income taxes and the other on property taxes:

1. Rebates on 2021 Montana income taxes

If you were a full-year Montana resident who paid state taxes on 2021 income, you should receive a rebate of up to \$1,250. If you meet those residency requirements but paid less than \$1,250 in state income taxes, you should be refunded your entire payment.

The \$1,250 cap applies to taxpayers who filed as single taxpayers, heads of household or married taxpayers who filed separately. Married couples who filed jointly are eligible for up to twice that amount, \$2,500.

2. Rebates on 2022 and 2023 property taxes

Homeowners are eligible for up to \$500 a year for their 2022 and 2023 property taxes on their principal residence, defined as the place where you've lived for at least seven months of the year. If you paid less than \$500 in property taxes in either year, you'll be eligible for a refund of your entire payment.

While payments are often handled through banks for homes with mortgages, property tax payments are made to county treasurers twice a year, with payments due in November and May. The department says the 2022 rebate is applicable to November 2022 and May 2023 payments and the 2023 rebate is applicable to November 2023 and May 2024 payments.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO GET THE INCOME TAX REBATE?

Nothing, according to the revenue department, which says it will send rebates automatically to qualifying taxpayers. Rebates will either be deposited in your bank account electronically or mailed, using the account or address information you gave the department for your most recent tax return.

The department says it will start issuing income tax rebates in July. The law requires all rebates to be completed by Dec. 31.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO GET THE PROPERTY TAX REBATES?

These you have to apply for. The department says taxpayers can apply for the 2022 property tax rebates through its online TransAction Portal (<https://tap.dor.mt.gov>) or via a paper form during an application period that runs from Aug. 15 to Oct. 1, 2023. A second application period for 2023 rebates will be open across the same dates in 2024.

I DON'T REMEMBER HOW MUCH I PAID IN 2021 STATE INCOME TAXES. WHERE CAN I LOOK THAT NUMBER UP?

If you're looking at your old tax filings, the department says the income tax number used for its rebate calculations is the number on line 20 of its 2021 Montana Individual Income Tax Return form.

I RENT INSTEAD OF OWNING MY HOME. DO I QUALIFY FOR THESE REBATES?

All resident taxpayers regardless of ownership status qualify for the income tax rebates. The property tax rebates, however, are available only to homeowners for taxes paid on their principal residence. While landlords typically use a portion of renters' housing payments to pay property taxes on rental properties, the Legislature didn't make the property tax rebates available for homes that aren't owner-occupied.

WHO DESERVES CREDIT FOR THIS?

Gov. Gianforte's original budget proposal included only property tax rebates in combination with forward-looking income tax rate cuts but threw his support behind a combination of smaller property tax rebates and income tax rebates after negotiations with legislative Republicans.

While Democrats said they thought the 2023 Legislature should authorize some tax relief, the income and property tax rebate bills, House Bill 192 and House Bill 222, ultimately passed with Republican support on near-party-line votes. Democrats, who said they worried about underfunding other budget priorities, did make unsuccessful attempts to amend the property tax relief bill to include renters.

Beyond those facts, we'll leave this answer to your own judgment.

SHOULD I EXPECT THIS AGAIN IN 2025?

That's up to the 2025 Legislature, but probably not. The state's 2023 surplus, fueled by pandemic-era economic stimulus, inflation and migration driving up income tax collections, was quite likely a once-in-a-generation situation.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON THESE REBATES?

The revenue department has published an official FAQ on its website here.

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Allison Kosto, MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent

Look out your window. What do you see? Lawn? Trees? Landscaped area? Or maybe still a mound of snow? Even under that snow lies plants who are waiting to come out of dormancy. Many of our common landscape grasses, trees, shrubs and flowers are not native. While this isn't necessarily a bad thing there are some advantages to using native species and there is an increased interest in incorporating native plants into the landscape.

Defining a native plant should be simple and straightforward, but it's not. According to the Federal Registry, native species are "all species of plants and animals naturally occurring, either presently or historically, in any ecosystem". The Forest Service defines a native plant as "all indigenous terrestrial and aquatic plant species evolved naturally in a defined native ecosystem". You may find neither definition particularly helpful as ecosystems are constantly evolving and changing with their environment. Introduced grasses can spread naturally throughout local ecosystems and become well established. Some states and organizations further define native plants as plants that grew naturally in the environment prior to settlement of European immigrants. This tends to be a preferred definition.

There are many reasons to use native plants in the landscape. Since the plants are adapted for our climate, they are often lower maintenance, require less water and reduce fertilizer and pesticide use. There is also less potential that the plants will become invasive and spread beyond your landscape. Native plants can increase biodiversity and celebrate our history and heritage.

Do your research though to make sure the plant is truly native. Since the term native is a little subjective, it's an easy ploy for marketers to utilize. Native species can also have different names in different areas of the state or through different cultures. Through the use of scientific names, we can ensure that we are all referring to the same plant. For example, Rocky

OLD BALDY ADULT ED SPRING 2023

Terey Artz - Adult Ed and Facility Use Coordinator

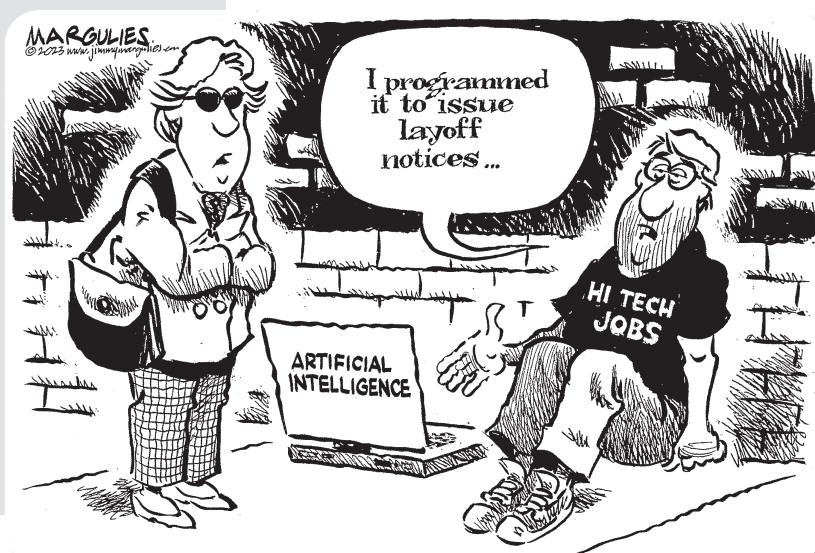
With a name honoring a prominent landmark in our community, the Old Baldy Adult Education program has a 20+ year history offering a variety of classes to inspire lifelong learning and an active lifestyle.

Adult Ed classes resumed this last fall and winter following a pandemic pause. Community members generously shared their time and talent to offer classes with a wide range of topics. Some classes met (and still meet) every week such as the always-popular "Pickleball" class coordinated by Pam Sample and Jeff Langlinais. Other classes met over the period of multiple weeks such as Clint Watson's "Makerspace for Wood or Metal Projects" and Vic Sample's "Exploring the Basics of Computer Programming." Classes in the Gardens and Landscapes series offered four different topics over four consecutive weeks and drew a large number of participants.

Fall/winter classes wrapped up in late March as we transitioned to new topics in an abbreviated spring session. Once again wonderful instructors have stepped forward to share their knowledge, some are veterans of the Adult Ed program and others who are offering a class for the first time. Details about spring classes and online registration are available through the Education/Old Baldy Adult Ed portion of the Townsend School District website: <https://www.townsend.k12.mt.us/> Class flyers are also available in various businesses around town and at the Broadwater School and Community Library.

With the exception of a few classes that will continue to meet monthly throughout the summer, Old Baldy Adult Education will pause for the summer break and resume next September with classes that are old favorites along with new learning opportunities. We're always seeking topics of interest to the community and instructors willing to share their knowledge! If you're interested in teaching a class please contact Terey Artz, Adult Education and Facility Use Coordinator, at tartz@townsend.k12.mt.us

Classes are generally offered at no or very low cost to participants and are a terrific way to explore new hobbies and activities or brush up on the old ones!



Mountain Bee Plant also goes by the name Spider-Flower. However, through using the scientific name, *Cleome serrulate*, you are sure to be discussing the same plant.

The next challenge is to match the location and with the right plant. Even though a plant is native, it doesn't mean it will grow anywhere. Montana is a very diverse state from high alpine meadows to the plains. Plants that are suited for one area of the state and one environment, may not do well in another, even in the same zip code.

A good example is quaking aspen trees. They are a popular choice for the backyard. However, in their native environment they prefer riparian areas and moist soils. They do not tolerate alkaline soils well, have a shallow root system and send out a lot of suckers. Homeowners often quickly discover that quaking aspen are a lot of work and take a tremendous amount of water. In reality, they are probably not a great choice for many yards, even as a native plant. Do your research to understand the ideal environment for your native plant choices so that it's a good fit. The Montana Native Plant Society has plant lists for different areas of the state.

After selecting the ideal plant, next comes planting and care. If they are not planted correctly, they will not thrive and may not even survive. Care is equally important. Even though native plants can be low maintenance, they are not no maintenance. Some level of care is still needed especially as they get established.

Here are some resources on native plants: • Montana Native Plants Society – <https://www.mtnativeplants.org/> • Montana Field Guide – <http://fieldguide.mt.gov> • USDA Plant Database – <https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov>

Also stop by local businesses such as Townsend Hardware and Rocky Mountain Supply who often have native plant species available each spring. Native plant resources are also available from MSU Extension in Broadwater County. Stop by the office in the Flynn Building at 416 Broadwater in Townsend or contact 406-266-9242 or allison.kosto@montana.edu.

LEGISLATURE WADES INTO EXEMPT-WELL DEBATE

Amanda Eggert, Montana Free Press

This article was originally published by Montana Free Press and appears here courtesy of Amanda Eggert and Montana Free Press. It has been edited for length; the full article can be read on the Montana Free Press website.

HORSE CREEK HILLS SUBDIVISION UPDATE

Three years ago, a Bozeman-based engineering firm sent four nearly identical letters to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation sketching out loose plans for a 41-lot subdivision proposed for a rural, predominantly agricultural landscape along the eastern shore of Canyon Ferry.

The four letters, all sent on the same day, correspond with the four phases of a subdivision proposed by one of Montana's most politically well-connected families and largest landowners, the Galts. As explained in the letters, the 435-acre Horse Creek Hills subdivision would use exempt wells — so-named because they're exempt from DNRC permits designed to ensure new wells won't adversely impact other water users — to supply water to the project's 39 homes and two businesses.

A week later, a DNRC employee in Helena replied that the project, as described, did indeed "fit the current rules and laws pertaining to the filing of an exempt water right."

DNRC issued that preliminary green light largely because Horse Creek Hills is a phased development. Had it been proposed as a single residential project, it probably would have been limited to just one exempt well — not enough water to serve 39 homes and two businesses. The initial "all clear" in hand, the developer, 71 Ranch, proceeded with the Horse Creek Hills subdivision application.

In the three years since that correspondence, the subdivision has garnered intense pushback, largely due to concerns that it will deplete and degrade the rivers, streams and groundwater of the Upper Missouri basin. Opponents of the proposal say it could threaten agricultural operations, dewater a tributary of the Missouri that serves as rainbow trout spawning ground, and add further nutrient pollution to Canyon Ferry, which already suffers from toxic algal blooms.

But the application advanced. After bouncing back and forth between the Broadwater County Planning Board, the Broadwater County Commission and the DNRC, the preliminary plat application for Horse Creek Hills was approved by the county commission last July.

LAWSUIT FILED IN 2022

In August, environmental nonprofit Upper Missouri Waterkeeper and five adjacent and nearby landowners sued the DNRC and Broadwater County Commission over that decision, arguing that despite an "unprecedented" volume of opposition, county and state regulators have failed to adequately examine the subdivision's impacts to water supply, water quality, wildlife and public health and safety.

Broadly speaking, developers like the loophole, senior water rights holders disdain it, and regulators approach it with trepidation given conflicting interpretations of how it comports with the 50-year-old Montana Water Use Act, which grants water supply seniority to those with the oldest water rights.

Although there is variation from year-to-year, the trend line for exempt wells drilled in Montana has grown over the past decade. It averages out to about 3,000 wells drilled without a DNRC permitting process per year.

Exempt wells are also the source of one of the biggest water fights before state lawmakers, who are walking a perilous regulatory tightrope. Legislators are making a concerted effort to increase housing supply in one of the nation's fastest-growing states by reforming and streamlining permitting processes without running afoul of a constitutional directive to guard against "unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources" or by inspiring a knock-down, drag-out fight with agricultural producers.

EXEMPT WELL BILL GOES BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE

So far, if a heated hearing on House Bill 642 seeking to change exempt-well permitting is any indication, that tightrope act doesn't appear to be going well. About 40 people lined up before the House Natural Resources Committee on Feb. 22 to offer testimony on HB 642, which is sponsored by Casey Knudsen, a Republican rancher and real estate agent from Malta.

Knudsen's bill would do away with references to "combined appropriation," which puts limits on the loophole to protect existing water rights holders. It also grants larger groundwater allowances for subdivisions that are larger than 20 acres and requires meters to be installed on some wells or developed springs to help DNRC track water withdrawals.

REALTORS AND DEVELOPERS FAVOR HB642

One of HB 642's proponents is Joceylyn Galt Cahill, who appeared to reference the Horse Creek Hills subdivision when she urged committee members to pass HB 642 to "clarify law and stop unnecessary lawsuits."

Other proponents, including representatives of the Montana Realtors Association and the Montana Water Well Drillers' Association, said HB 642 would alleviate the state's housing crunch and allow lawmakers, rather than judges, to steer the discussion.

Cory Shaw with the Montana Building Industry Association argued that research has shown that domestic well use is indeed "de minimis" — negligible — in comparison to the agriculture industry's water consumption and the loss of water through evaporation.

"We feel that we're spending a lot of time over a de minimis use of water, and we'd like to see this process cleaned up and streamlined... so we can get houses on the ground and people in homes affordably," Shaw said.

Opponents, including agricultural producers, environmental groups and at least two municipalities, countered that SB 642 will grossly expand the current exemption and allow developers and many existing exempt-well owners to "steal water" from senior water rights holders, who will have little or no recourse if irrigation ditches, domestic wells, municipal water supplies or aquatic ecosystems dry up.

1

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FINES

Casey Jones - East Helena - Operate non-commercial vehicle with alcohol concentration of 0.08% BAC or greater-1st offense, pleaded guilty, sentenced to six months in jail, all suspended on conditions, \$1085.00 fines and fees, enroll and complete Act program.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Deborah Blagg - Townsend- Licensee, or employee selling an alcoholic beverage to a person intoxicated or under age 21, pleaded guilty, \$285.00 fines and fees.

Alex Peek - Coeur D'Alene, ID - Driving under the influence of alcohol and or Drugs- 1st offense, pleaded guilty, sentenced to six months in jail with all but one day suspended on conditions, \$685.00 fines and fees, enroll and complete Act program; night speed, pleaded guilty, \$20.00 fine.

BROADWATER COUNTY FORFEITURES

Ethan Ritchie	Bozeman	night speed	\$20.00
Kevin Dunn	Helena	day speed	\$20.00
Maya Amundson	Belgrade	night speed	\$20.00
Isaiah Ifanse	Bellevue, Wa	night speed	\$70.00

COUNTY CRIMINAL

DEPT. OF LIVESTOCK

MOTOR CARRIER SERVICES

INITIAL APPEARANCE FOR DISTRICT COURT

INITIAL APPEARANCE - OTHER JURISDICTION

Jim Martin - MT 8th Judicial District Court, \$40,000.00 bond

"This is the most anti-ag, anti-private property rights, anti-prior appropriation doctrine bill I've seen in more than 30 years working on a policy," rancher and property rights attorney Hertha Lund told the committee. "This bill is a step toward following in California's footsteps, which means that money and development trump all else."

Travis Stuber, a seed potato-grower who farms with water rights secured by his wife's great grandfather, said he worries that his son will be unable to run the family farm in Gallatin County if those water rights are threatened.

"This bill is a giant loophole that erodes my son's future and our farm's future," Stuber said. "I ask that you vote no on this bill."

Andrew Gorder, a former Montana Water Court water master and current legal director of environmental nonprofit Clark Fork Coalition, told the committee that the bill is "so riddled with flaws it's hard to know where to start."

In a follow-up conversation with MTFP, Gorder said he's not alone in his struggle to understand how HB 642 would be applied. He said he's discussed the bill with other experienced water law attorneys and couldn't reach a consensus on exactly how it would work in practice. "But there was consensus," Gorder said, "that it's not good."

"The way I see it, this is both allowing for additional appropriations of groundwater for existing subdivisions and incentivizing further sprawl into rural, agricultural lands, open spaces," he said. "I think it's pretty apparent that this bill is being driven by the development industry."

HB 642 has a retroactive element that would entitle those who have drilled wells in the last decade to more water, so in addition to revamping its existing well process, DNRC could be tasked with revisiting about 28,000 exempt-well certificates the department has processed since 2014.

In his closing remarks, Knudsen addressed some of those issues, saying it's time to end "the never-ending cycle of litigation and interpretation."

"It's time to stop pushing this off for another two years, which is what we've been doing for a decade," he said. "It's time we come together to work toward a solution instead of poking holes in every solution that's actually brought."

That argument appeared to resonate with Republican members of the House Natural Resources Committee. On Feb. 24, all of the committee's GOPs, save for Rep. Kenneth Walsh, R-Twin Bridges, voted to approve an amendment that effectively gives House lawmakers another month to debate the measure before running up against a transmittal deadline by adding a fiscal element, a \$150 filing fee to accompany exempt-well notices of completion. (The current exempt well filing fee is \$125.)

Since that vote, no additional committee action has been taken on HB 642, which has more than 60 GOP co-sponsors, and there are no additional amendments available for review. The transmittal deadline for bills with a fiscal element is April 4.

As for the Horse Creek Hills subdivision, Alsentzer, with Upper Missouri Waterkeeper, said the preliminary plat approval has remained in force while the lawsuit proceeds.



March 24, 2023

Dee Gannon, MT43 News Correspondent

The criminal docket in Judge Christopher Abbott's courtroom on Friday, March 24 is as follows:

Brian Whittecar had an Initial Appearance and Arraignment, pleading Not Guilty to a charge of DUI (4th+). Omnibus is due by May 25; the Pretrial is set for July 28; with the Jury Trial scheduled for August 21.

Candy Stryker appeared for a Petition to Revoke a deferred sentence; pleading admission to absconding from Adult Probation and Parole. The chemical dependency evaluation indicated that she needs in-patient treatment. She has been accepted into Treatment Court, as soon as she finishes in-patient treatment. Her case has been re-deferred by the court for three years; providing that she successfully complete Treatment Court and in-patient treatment. She gets credit for time served and street time, amount to be determined. She must pay prior fees and surcharges of \$80.

Terry Mountain Sheep did not appear for a Pre-Trial Conference. An arrest warrant was issued with a \$25,000 bond. His Jury Trial has been vacated; new dates will be set when he is found.

Jeremiah Howe had a Pre-Trial Conference, where the Jury Trial is continued until August 21. The new Pre-Trial is set for July 28.

Turner Kinnick had a Pre-Trial Conference. The attorneys discussed motions and other issues. His Jury Trial is scheduled for April 24.

Justice of the Peace Report - March 31, 2023

Kelsi Anderson, Justice Court Clerk

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FORFEITURES

Sara Steward	Three Forks	day speed	\$20.00
Mason Radmaker	Spokane, Wa	day speed	\$120.00
Eric Pederson	Belgrade	restricted speed	\$55.00
Kaitlin Price	Helena	day speed	\$20.00
Theron Nelson	Butte	day speed	\$70.00
Garrett Larson	Butte	day speed	\$20.00
Tammy Lynn	Helena	day speed	\$20.00
Lauren Kromer	Helena	day speed	\$20.00
Hunter Johnson	Clancy	day speed	\$20.00
Nathan Hallauer	Helena	day speed	\$20.00
Caiden Henson	Belgrade	Interstate day speed	\$40.00
Ryan Gardent	Belgrade	day speed	\$20.00
Patrick Doran	Billings	day speed	\$20.00
Jaquelyn Dugan	Helena	day speed	\$20.00
Maggie Daly	Billings	day speed	\$20.00
Richard Dancer	Townsend	day speed	\$20.00
Zachary Butcher	Belgrade	day speed	\$20.00
Amy Adams	Helena	day speed	\$20.00
Justin Woodburn	Geraldine	day speed	\$20.00
David Pauli	Billings	day speed	\$70.00
Mario Rojas	Helena	day speed	\$70.00
Nicholas Anderson	Manhattan	expired registration	\$85.00
Jeremy Grube	Wasilla, Ak	day speed	\$70.00

MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL FAILURE TO WEAR SEAT BELTS

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

SPONSORED BY
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

“WHAT HAPPENED THIS WEEK IN HISTORY”

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

March 30

1939

“Local Briefs”

Miss Luella Watson is the guest of Mrs. J.D. Doggett this week. She returned recently from a trip to California and after a week or two will venture through the snow to open her summer home at Watson again.

Dr. John Whaley arrived here from Chicago last Thursday and enjoyed a five-day vacation with his mother, Mrs. John C. Whaley, and other members of the family at the home ranch. His sister, Miss Marry, arrived from Sidney for a Sunday visit at the family home.

“Canton Valley”

Mr. and Mrs. Antone Meyer of the Winston valley have recently installed electricity and a milking machine on their ranch which will be of great assistance to the aged couple.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Bruce, who have been operating the Elmer Lytle farm for the past two years, have recently moved over to the old home place to be with Mr. Bruce’s mother, Mrs. Chas. Bruce, and to aid with the farm work.

1950

“Crow Creek News”

Geo. Rauser and sons, George and Walter, were in Bozeman on Saturday at which time they entered some stock for the Winter Fair. Some

Berkshire hogs were entered and Walter entered a fine Hereford calf.

Friends of Bill Webb will be glad to know he has been released from the Broadwater hospital and is convalescing at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Webb.

1961

“Toston Briefs”

Herman Moudree spent the weekend in Helena with his family.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Miller and daughters visited the Wayne Miller family in Radersburg one day this week.

Mrs. Olive Middleton, Nellie Greaves and Mrs. Pete Greaves attended the meeting of the Rainbow girls in Townsend Tuesday evening.

Mrs. and Mrs. Chris Arden visited friends in Winston Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Anzik and Mrs. Jim Plummer transacted business in Helena one day last week.

Miss Olive Cain returned to her classes at Western College in Dillon Sunday after spending spring vacation here with her family.

Debbie and Betty Clark celebrated their birthdays Sunday with their families.

1967

“Kenny Doig Wins First Grassy Ski Club Meet”

The first Inter Club Ski Meet, sponsored by the Grass Mountain Ski Club, was held Sunday at the ski run. It was a giant slalom run with racers making two runs with the best combined times winning. It was held for boys and girls, but only one girl, Candy Whitehead, entered and her time was 2:05.4. The boys were entered in two classes, with class No. 1 being in the age group of 10 to 13 and the second group ages 13 - 17.

The fastest combined time of all racers was made by Kenny Doig with 1:54.2. The fastest single run was made by Tom Perry with .554. Winners in the no. 1 class were Kenney Doig, first; Eddie Ulmer, second and Tommy Ragen, third. In the second

class Robbie Ulmer was first, Tom Perry second and Scott Davis was third. Other racers were Victor Spatzierath, Bobby Francisco, 8 years old who did not enter competition, Ron Kieckbusch, John Rains and Gregg Sautter.

Timekeeper was Glenn Clopton and the starter was Allan Lundborg. The Ski Patrol was on hand to take care of any emergency. Allan Lundborg, who is coaching the racers, expressed his thanks to the officials for their help in making the meet a success.

1978

“Auto Bank”

The State Bank of Townsend is looking forward to opening the new addition soon and the “Auto Bank” in the back of the building will be a welcome addition for convenience in Drive-In banking.

“Jefferson Award”

Frank Holloway received a Bronze Medallion during the award ceremony Monday morning in the Governor’s Reception Room at the Capitol in Helena. Frank was one of the most popular entrants in the state for the coveted Jefferson Award.

“Winston News”

Easter Sunday dinner guests of Bob and Gay Ann Masolo and David were Charlie and Wilma Masolo, John and Carol Masolo and Craig, Kurt and Kyle and driving up from Townsend were Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sullivan and Phyllis and Wesley Diehl and family.

Irwin Riis and his mother, Mrs. Minnie Riis, spent Saturday in Great Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Myles drove to Butte on Saturday to spend the night and on Sunday drove to Fairmont Hot Springs where they joined their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Don Glynn and Lori for an Easter dinner.

Neil and Donna Moldenhauer, Scott and Todd and Julie Loessberg drove to Bozeman to enjoy having Easter dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Larry Magnant and family.

Joe and Elaine Clark drove to white Sulphur Springs Easter Sunday to spend the day with their son, David, and his wife, Barbara, and children.

MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY REDETERMINATIONS AND RENEWALS

John Ebelt, DPHHS public Information officer



Medicaid/HMK members encouraged to update contact information with DPHHS

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) will begin conducting Medicaid and Healthy Montana Kids (HMK) eligibility redeterminations on April 1 for the first time in three years.

Federal requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic led to the suspension of annual redeterminations, in order to keep every individual enrolled in Medicaid covered throughout the pandemic. However, last December’s federal omnibus spending bill directed states to resume evaluating eligibility of Medicaid enrollees on April 1.

Beginning in April and over the course of 2023, DPHHS will evaluate current Medicaid and HMK members’ eligibility for continued coverage and renew or terminate coverage as appropriate.

DPHHS must conduct eligibility redeterminations on all individuals currently enrolled in Medicaid or HMK. These will be conducted over ten months, balancing workload with the need to conduct an expedient and quality process overall.

DPHHS encourages Montanans currently receiving Medicaid or HMK coverage to take the following steps to prepare:

Update contact information with DPHHS as soon as possible to receive important notices

about Medicaid/HMK. (See below for instructions.)

Check their mail. Starting in April and throughout 2023, DPHHS will mail members a letter about their Medicaid/HMK coverage. This notification may require individuals to take action in order to maintain coverage.

Complete and return any paperwork that is received.

By April 10, individuals receiving Medicaid/HMK who have an apply.mt.gov account will be able to log in and see the month their redetermination will occur in the “Check My Benefits” area. Members should expect to start seeing paperwork arrive the month before the redetermination month.

As DPHHS begins processing redeterminations, some individuals’ coverage will be able to be renewed through an automated process. Those individuals will receive a letter from DPHHS telling them their Medicaid/HMK will continue.

Individuals whose coverage cannot be redetermined by the automated process will receive a packet in the mail. The best way for these individuals to complete their paperwork is online at apply.mt.gov or by mailing back the completed packet.

Households will have a minimum of 30 days to return their packet once it is received. DPHHS will send a reminder notice and text message to encourage members to complete the process.

State officials say that it’s essential individuals respond and complete their redetermination. If a member does not complete their redetermination by the stated deadline, their Medicaid/HMK coverage will end.

All Montanans receiving Medicaid/HMK should ensure DPHHS has their current mailing address to make sure this mail reaches them.

“It’s imperative that Montanans currently enrolled in Medicaid or Healthy Montana Kids take time to update their contact information with DPHHS to ensure they receive upcoming notices related to their health care coverage,” DPHHS Director Charlie Brereton said. “We’ve made various options available to complete this crucial task.”

Updates can be made the following ways:

Complete the new change of address form online at the top of apply.mt.gov. Individuals can also create an online account at apply.mt.gov. Through an online account, members can update their contact information, complete their paperwork when it’s time, and receive correspondence about their coverage.

* Call the Public Assistance Helpline at 1-888-706-1535 and press 1

* Mail a letter to: DPHHS, PO Box 202925, Helena, MT 59620-2925

* Fax a letter to 1-877-418-4533

* Go to a local Office of Public Assistance

Individuals who DPHHS identifies as no longer eligible for coverage will receive a notice telling them their coverage will end, along with information on how to pursue coverage through HealthCare.gov, the federal Health Insurance Marketplace.

To help these Montanans transition to other health insurance, DPHHS is also partnering with Cover Montana. Cover Montana is a project of the Montana Primary Care Association and connects Montanans to health insurance coverage. Cover Montana provides free, confidential enrollment help with Medicaid, HMK, and HealthCare.gov.

“Cover Montana is ready to help Montanans who are losing Medicaid coverage and need new health insurance,” said Olivia Riutta, Director of Cover Montana. “Many folks will only have a few days to sign up for new health insurance to avoid a gap in coverage, so make sure you quickly open notices from the DPHHS Office of Public Assistance. Then reach out to Cover Montana right away so we can help you sign up for new insurance through HealthCare.gov. It’s more affordable than ever.”

Montanans covered by Medicaid who need help navigating this process or finding other health insurance are encouraged to call Cover Montana’s toll-free help line at (844) 682-6837 or find local in-person enrollment help at <https://covermt.org/>

More information about these coming changes is available at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/medicaidupdates>.

Community Bulletin

BROADWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

515 Broadway, Townsend

Meetings are held at the Flynn Building on 416 Broadway St.

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

Per Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 2-3-202, agenda must include an item allowing public comment on any public matter that is not on the agenda of the meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the agency conducting the meeting. Public comments and items not on the agenda will be taken either in writing in advance of the meeting or in person at the beginning of the meeting. Mail and items for discussion and/or signature may occur as time allows during the meeting. Issues and times are subject to change. Working meetings will be posted on the agenda and will not be recorded.

OFFICIAL agendas are posted in the Courthouse (1st floor bulletin board), on our website at www.broadwatercountymt.com, in the window of the Flynn Building at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting, and in the Helena Independent Record (IR).

Tuesday, April 4th

1:00-3:00 PM Working Meeting; Broadwater Dam Project Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Tabletop Exercise

Thursday, April 6, 2023

10:00 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Planning and Development Director, Quiet Lot 8, Preliminary Plat Approval

10:20 AM Discussion/Decision, Lease of Boat Docks to Canyon Enterprises; Sale of Credit Card Kiosk to Canyon Enterprises.

Monday, April 10, 2023

2:00 PM Working Meeting; Amanda Casey and Zach Ringsak, Senator Tester's Office regarding broadband

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, Chairman (406) 266-9270 or (406) 980-2050
 Darrel Folkvord, Vice Chairman (406) 266-9272 or (406) 980-1213
 Lindsey Richtmyer (406) 266-9271 or (406) 521-0834

E-mail:
 Debi Randolph; drandolph@co.broadwater.mt.us
 Darrel Folkvord; dfolkvord@co.broadwater.mt.us
 Lindsey Richtmyer; lrichtmyer@co.broadwater.mt.us

Broadwater County Public Health Department LPN (Full-time)

Broadwater County Public Health Department is seeking qualified applicants for the position of LPN. This is a permanent, full-time position. Duties and responsibilities include administration of immunization services including COVID-19 vaccinations, emergency preparedness planning, skilled nursing visits, nail care and communicable disease surveillance and investigation, assisting with Public Health grants as well as assisting with other public health duties. Current Montana Nursing License, current driver's license, and current CPR certification required. Starting wage is \$22-\$24/hr. with full benefits. Applicants must pass a background check. Cover letters with resumes may be sent to Ruby Taylor at taylor@co.broadwater.mt.us. If you have any questions, please contact Ruby at (406)266-5209. Job posting can be viewed at [Job Postings | Broadwater County, MT \(broadwatercountymt.com\)](https://www.broadwatercountymt.com/jobs-boards-and-committee-openings/job-postings) or <https://www.broadwatercountymt.com/jobs-boards-and-committee-openings/job-postings>

Broadwater County is an equal opportunity employer. Broadwater County shall, upon request, provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities. Veterans and Disabled preferences are applicable.

Broadwater County Public Health Services Hiring Homemaker / Respite Worker Part-Time

The position is for a role as a homemaker/respite worker for 20-28hours/week. Duties and responsibilities include assisting the elderly in their home with activities of daily living such as helping with meals, laundry, vacuuming, general cleaning, errands and transportation of clients for groceries and prescriptions. Other duties include companionship of clients while family is away from the home. Current driver's license is required. Starting wage is \$16/hr. Applicants must pass a background check. This is a grant funded position and hours may vary due to funding.

Position is open until filled. A job description/application can be found at <https://www.broadwatercountymt.com/jobs-boards-and-committee-openings/job-postings>. Applications need to be emailed to Ruby Taylor at taylor@co.broadwater.mt.us. If you have any questions, please call Ruby at (406)266-5209

Broadwater County is an equal opportunity employer. Broadwater County shall, upon request, provide reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities. Veterans and Disabled preferences are applicable.

Montana Judicial District Court Broadwater County Cause No. D DV-2023-11 Dept. No. ___

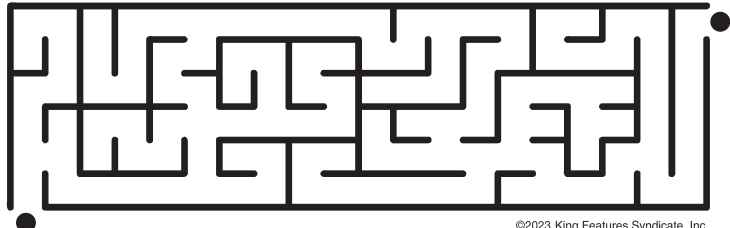
In the Matter of the Name Change of Taylor Bummer Taylor Bummer, Petitioner

Notice of Hearing on Name Change

This is notice that Petitioner has asked the District Court for a change of name from Taylor Marie Bummer to Taylor Marie Mattson. The hearing will be on 04/28/2023 at 10:30 am. The hearing will be at the Courthouse in Broadwater County.

Date: March 21, 2023
 Valerie J Hornsveld
 Clerk of District Court
 By: Desiree' Taves
 Deputy Clerk of Court
 March 31, April 7, 14, 21, 2023 MNAXLP

Kids' Maze



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The Garden Bug

Ladybugs are beneficial to crops and gardens because they eat aphids, which are small sap-sucking insects (such as the greenfly and the blackfly) which feed on plants and crops, often damaging them.

Although Asian beetles also eat pesky aphids, they also infest and eat fruit such as apples, grapes, and raspberries. They bite, and secrete a strong-smelling, staining liquid from their legs. – Brenda Weaver

Sources: ph17.com, Maryland Sierra Club, a-z-animals.com

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TOWNSEND K12 SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 NOTICE OF INTENT TO INCREASE NONVOTED LEVIES March 14, 2023

The Townsend K12 School District #1 is committed to financial transparency. 20-9-116 MCA requires the District to provide notice of its intent to increase non-voted levies in the ensuing fiscal year for certain funds. However, understanding the District's budgets requires considering all levy-supported funds. As a result, the proposed notice contains projections for all of the District's levy-supported funds. These estimates are the District's best estimates at the current time. They are based on the current year's taxable value, as required by 20-9-116 MCA. If the District's taxable value increases as expected, the mill and taxpayer cost increases will be less than presented here. These estimates are preliminary and changes are expected before the final budgets are set in August.

Fund	2022-23 Actuals		2023-24 Projections		Est. Annual Tax	Est. Annual Tax Impact \$/100K
	\$	Mills	\$	Mills		
General - SAGE	793,898	48.27	800,881	52.21	64,983	3.94
General - Ours/EE	932,332	56.88	932,332	56.88	-	-
Transportation	315,814	19.22	329,867	20.68	24,053	1.46
Bus Depreciation	64,500	3.92	80,867	4.92	16,367	1.00
Tuition	98,532	4.15	101,650	6.19	3,318	2.13
Health	-	-	18,489	1.00	18,489	1.00
Technology	90,000	3.04	90,000	3.04	-	-
Facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service	1,323,150	80.44	1,325,650	80.60	2,700	0.16
Building Reserve/Permanence	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Reserve Voted	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	3,548,428	215.85	3,705,971	229.29	189,545	9.89

7th Annual Broadwater County-Wide Yard Sale - July 22, 2023

7th Annual Broadwater County-Wide Yard Sale - July 22, 2023 If you are planning to have a yard/garage sale this year, please consider joining us on July 22 for the 7th Annual Broadwater County-Wide Yard Sale. There is NO COST to you. MVM (Missouri Valley Marketing) will do all the advertising - you keep all the profits!

Super Crossword

THEATER FOOD

ACROSS

1 Sponsored part of a magazine

7 Probability

11 To be, in Toulouse

15 "Elizabeth" star Blanchett

19 Ripped into

20 Buccaneer's topper

22 Major Norse god

23 1940 drama based on a Steinbeck novel

25 Tri- tripled

26 Possible reply to "Are you?"

27 Become indistinct

28 Architect I.M.

29 Five doubled

30 Endemic to

31 Bed for Baby

33 Pas' partners

35 2006 Jack Black comedy

38 1999 Jason Biggs comedy

43 Psi preceptor

44 1950s Ford

45 Hoped-for altar reply

46 Live wire

48 Airborne toy

50 Andrew Carnegie's corp.

54 1970 Godfrey Cambridge comedy

59 Discoloration

60 Computer since 1998

62 Cellular stuff

63 Pipe mouth

64 Fly apart

65 Jazz singer Jones

67 Health resort

69 Unprocessed film based on a Stephen King story

76 Start-up loan org.

78 Cheyenne's state: Abbr.

79 French painter Dufy

80 Grace under pressure

83 Attempts something

86 Big ball of energy

89 Bawled

90 Observers

91 1987 film about a Vietnam War battle

94 Fruity wine drink

96 Alan who played Pierce

97 Muscles worked by doing squats

99 Give a massage to

100 Kinda

103 Falsehood

105 1988 coming-of-age film co-starring Julia Roberts

110 1947 romantic comedy co-starring Claudette Colbert

113 1099 fig.

114 "Va-va-—" verse

115 Dual radio designation

116 Siouan tribe member

117 Gymnastics floor covering

120 "I wonder ..."

123 Manhattan sch.

124 New Haven school

125 2008 Seth Rogen comedy

129 "Son of —"

130 Expert at increasing profits

131 Fisher who played Leia

132 Schoolbook

133 Not fooled by

134 Descartes of philosophy

135 New York college near Hyde Park

DOWN

1 Upstate New York prison

2 Be injurious

3 Early baby

4 "Life of Pi" director Lee

5 Attire

6 List abbr.

7 Divisor, e.g.

8 Trash-talk

9 Fall

10 Not injurious

11 Eternally, in verse

12 Roofing straw

13 Fed's interest increase, e.g.

14 Botany or history lead-in

15 Self-assured

16 Cute, in slang

17 Stannite, say

18 Glossy finish

21 Bed size

24 Cougar

32 Part of BBC programs

34 Invasive PC programs

36 Squirrel nosh

37 Divulge

39 — Kit (face reconstructor)

40 Former miller Sebastian

41 How soda is often sold

42 Devour

47 Dr.'s field

49 — artery (aorta offshoot)

50 Kind of port for a PC

51 Poker great Ungar

52 Mocking irony

53 "Lucky" pilot

55 Eclectic fusion

56 "Grand" liqueur brand

57 Alias lead-in

58 Novel

61 Gloom-filled

66 Opposite of vertical: Abbr.

68 Animal skins

71 2004-09 Showtime drama, with "The"

72 "Towers" (telly sitcom)

73 Like sandals

74 Reveal one's inner self

75 Mnemonic for rainbow colors

76 "Be quiet!"

77 Lamb's cry

81 — Lanka

82 That, to Alejandra

84 Reduction

85 Soviet prison camp

87 Impelled

88 Puck-pushers' org.

92 Addressee of a New Testament Epistle

93 Element name ending

95 Ellipse part

98 Declaration upon delivery of an item

100 Occupy, as a hotel

101 Electric resistance

102 Acid — (cause of heartburn)

104 Part of the plan

106 "By the power vested — ..."

107 Ones planning city partitions

108 Common lawn grass

109 One making others laugh

111 Decide to play for pay

112 Mosque chief

118 On — with

119 Toll hwy.

121 Roman 1,095

122 Org. rating films

126 Brian of rock

127 Actor Cariou

128 Train lines: Abbr.

GRIN THE BEAR IT



"Personally, I like the challenge of a sluggish economy!"

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Which U.S. states share a border with Mexico?
2. MOVIES: Which movie was the first sports film to win the Best Picture award?
3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many former first ladies are still living?
4. TELEVISION: What is the name of Bart's teacher on "The Simpsons"?
5. LANGUAGE: What does the Japanese phrase "domo arigato" mean in English?
6. CHEMISTRY: What is the lightest element?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who is Marie Laveau of New Orleans?
8. AD SLOGANS: Which product was advertised with the slogan, "Great taste, less filling"?
9. U.S. CITIES: In which city would you find Thomas Jefferson's Monticello?
10. LITERATURE: Who wrote the autobiography "Dreams From My Father"?

Answers

1. Four: California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.
2. "Rocky" (1976).
3. Five: Rosalynn Carter, Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush, Michelle Obama and Melania Trump.
4. Edna Krabappel.
5. Thank you.
6. Hydrogen.
7. Famous voodoo queen.
8. Miller Lite beer.
9. Charlottesville, Virginia.
10. Barack Obama.

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ALL FUN & GAMES

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

I'D SAY THE BEST IS DEFINITELY MAC & CHEESE.

NO WAY, FOR SURE IT'S HAY AND GRAIN.

OH COME ON, CORN AND GRASS ARE WAY BETTER.

OBVIOUSLY YOU'VE NEVER HAD BEEF AND MUSHROOM WITH EXTRA ANCHOVIES.

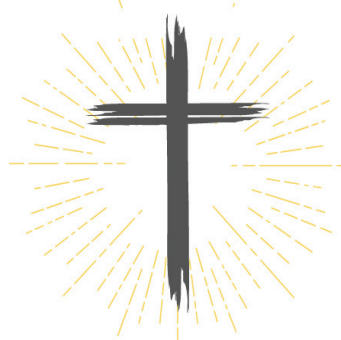
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? WE HAVE 5 STREAMING APPS. LAST TIME, IT TOOK US 3 HRS TO SETTLE ON A 2 HR MOVIE.

HE IS RISEN



CELEBRATE WITH TRAILHEAD CHURCH

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2023 | 6:00 PM
SUNRISE SERVICE, APRIL 9, 2023 | 7:00 AM*
EASTER BREAKFAST, APRIL 9, 2023 | 8:00 AM
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023 | 10:00 AM

*SUNRISE SERVICE HELD AT 27 DIAMOND GULCH RD



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Grilled Venison Steaks with Chipotle Sauce

Eileen Clarke - Rifles and Recipes

It's spring. And I'm tempting fate here a bit, but I know you're thinking the same thing I am. It's time to buy some propane—or briquets—clean up last summer's crusty grill and throw on your jacket. Grilling season is just around the corner.

But first, let's check out the steaks. Whitetail? Elk? Moose? Whatever they are, one thing they should be is of uniform thickness. But how to do that? My grandfather was a butcher, working for Safeway when I was a little kid. At work, he had the tools to create perfectly identical thickness, which is the key to evenly cooked meat. But I don't have a 'professional' butchering shop.

The easiest way I've found to make up for all that expensive machinery is to butcher when the meat is partially frozen. How frozen? Enough that the meat doesn't slip and slide under your knife, but not so much that your knife bounces off. Firm, not rock hard. The long, curved butcher knife companies call cimeters/scimitars help too, especially when cutting larger animals. I have two: an 8" that I use for deer and antelope-sized animals, and a 10" for elk, moose or buffalo, both made by Victorinox. A sharp scimitar cutting steaks from partially frozen meat, allows you to make one swipe, top to bottom, back to front. And uniform thickness means uniform doneness: every bite bloody rare for Uncle Joe, uniformly medium rare for Aunt Willie.

This recipe, plus 60 pages of game care tips like this one, is from *Slice of the Wild: 100 venison recipes*. Like all good cookbooks, there are also 40 side dishes and the Tex-Mex Potato Salad (on page 73) is a perfect fit for this dreamy, creamy grilled steak. (www.riflesandrecipes.com/406-521-0273)

Grilled Venison Steaks with Chipotle Sauce

Serves 2-4



Ingredients

- 1 pound venison steaks, 1 to 1 1/2 inches thick
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 cup cream
- 2 tablespoons Chipotle Tabasco Sauce
- 1 ripe tomato, diced

Cooking

1. Preheat the grill to medium-high heat, about 450-475. As the grill heats up start the sauce.
2. Warm a cast iron skillet on your grill's side burner or on the stovetop to medium-high heat. Add the butter, and when it has melted, add the cream and Chipotle sauce. Bring it to a very slow simmer, and lower the heat to medium-low, while stirring. Simmer for about 2 minutes, cover with foil, and keep the sauce warm until the steaks are done.
3. About the time you add the cream and Chipotle sauce to the butter, place the steaks on the grill and close the lid.
4. For medium-rare, cook until blood appears on the top of the steaks, then turn, and cook about half again as long. A 3/4-inch steak takes about 7-10 minutes. Adjust timing for rare; but don't cook medium. The higher fat content in commercial meat melts and bastes beef steaks allowing us to cook to well done, but still moist enough. Well done game meat gets very dry.
5. Transfer the steaks to the saucepan, spoon the sauce and diced tomato over them, and serve immediately.

Eileen Clarke
www.riflesandrecipes.com
406-521-0273

Trees and Utility Line Planning & Planting, Part 6

Patrick Plantenberg, Tree Board Chair

Note: This is the sixth in a series of articles to help prepare residents for any planned tree planting or pruning in their yards this coming year.

The Townsend Tree Board is proud to provide this series of articles on tree planting and pruning considerations. A demonstration site on the northwest corner of D Street and South Walnut Street here in Townsend is being used.

In last week's article, we learned: • Some more detailed information on where to plant trees on city property.

Locations were identified at the demonstration site where seven trees can be planted on private property as well as city property to replace the trees that were cut down under the power lines. You want trees that grow in USDA Hardiness Zones 2-4.

Three trees that grow less than 20-25 tall were planted on private property including: • Toba Hawthorn (Crataegus x mordenensis) Zone 3 Height < 20' Width 12' • Nanny-berry (Viburnum lentago) Zone 2 Height 14-16' Width 6-12' • Evans Bali Cherry (Prunus cerasus 'Evans Bali') Zone 3 Height 15-20' Width 10-15'

These trees can easily be pruned to keep them under the power line and away from the alley right-of-way over time. The information presented about the trees is easily found by searching for the plant names on your cell phone at the nursery!

There is essentially no excuse today to buy the wrong tree at the nursery or box store if you have your cell phone with you. The three trees were planted in essentially the same place as the original trees under the powerline but just further away from the 15' alley right of way. All the work to remove the trees under the power line could have been avoided if the right trees had been selected in the first place!

Four tree planting locations were also identified on city property south of the home. The following trees were selected for planting:

- Northern Acclaim Honeylocust (Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis 'Havre') o Zone 3b Height 40-45' Width 30-35' • Harvest Gold Linden (Tilia mongolica 'Harvest Gold') o Zone 3 Height 30-40' Width 20-30' • Lewis and Clark Prairie Expedition Elm (Ulmus americana 'Lewis and Clark') o Zone 3 Height 60' Width 40' (Dutch Elm Disease resistant) • Autumn Splendor Buckeye (Aesculus x arnoldiana 'Autumn Splendor') o Zone 3b-4 Height 35' Width 30'

These trees have no conflicts with anything in this area except the street right of way as they grow taller. They will simply have to be pruned up 14 feet to avoid traffic impacts. They need to be planted at least 25-30 feet apart to give them room to grow to full size. Next week how to prepare the sites for planting.

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