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R-Y TIMBER ENTERTAINS POTENTIAL BUYERS

John Carroll
Used with permission
Livingston Enterprise Managing Editor

At R-Y Timber in Livingston—it ain't over 'til it's over. Forced to close its lumber-manufacturing plant in mid-February and terminate employees after back-to-back structural fires, the company appears to have life again as multiple potential buyers have emerged who "all want to see the mill running again in Livingston," said Dan Richards, general manager of R-Y Timber, on Monday.

"The people who are looking at it are very interested in buying the plant," said Richards. "We have not come to any conclusions yet. But I believe it (an acquisition) is definitely going to happen. There's that much interest."

Richards said there were several suitors of R-Y Timber, including one local investment group, but could not disclose names.

"Yes, there is local interest and they are waiting to invest," said Richards. But it's still up in the air."

The general manager said prospective buyers have come and looked at the plant and property and have asked for and been given the company's financials.

In business in Livingston since 1996, R-Y Timber occupies 77 acres of land between U.S. Highway 89 and the Yellowstone River in Park County where it stores 9 million feet of logs and 4.5 million board feet of uncut lumber, and manufactures studs for the construction industry in its roughly 40,000-square-foot building complex.

Two of those buildings have suffered severe fire damage over the last eight months. On Sept. 12, the 6,000-square-foot building that houses planar operations – a machine-fed process that trims, smooths and finishes lumber- burned to the ground after a dust explosion ignited a massive fire.

On Feb. 7, another fire erupted in the 17,000-square-foot mill building and severely damaged the facility. The point of ignition of the second fire is "suspected to be from a new natural gas heater," Richards said.

Efforts to rebuild from the September fire were underway as a new \$ 1.25 million planar machine was purchased and being installed in another building on the property.

But a week after the Feb. 7 fire destroyed the roof of the sawmill building, R-Y Timber officials confirmed they were closing the lumber-making business and terminating some employees.

R-Y Timber employed about 78 people before the mill inferno in February, according to Richards. On Monday, Richards said R-Y Timber still had about 40-45 employees on the company's payroll. The reduction in workforce came via layoffs, early retirements and voluntary attrition. "Some guys just went and found new jobs," said Richards. Many of the current workers who still have jobs are "cleaning up in the mill," said Richards.

"We need a new roof for the mill," said Richards. "No, we are not making lumber right now."

On Monday, contractors returned to R-Y Timber to resume assembling the company's new planar machine that was purchased for \$ 1.25 million from a Canadian firm.

The planar machine is being installed in an existing 18,000-square-foot building on the property that was being used to store "lower grade" lumber, said Richards. Columbia Construction of Columbia Falls, Montana, which specializes in sawmills, is leading the effort to get planar operations up and running again, a process that could take another six to eight weeks to complete, said Richards.

R-Y Timber is owned by Linda Yanke and her son-in-law Bryan Norby, two entrepreneurs who live in Boise, Idaho. The company was named after Linda's husband Ron Yanke who died nearly two decades ago.

Richards said the owners are ready to sell the company and want to see the mill running again. He's "hopeful" a decision can be made on the new buyers within the next three weeks.

A real estate expert told Richards recently that the land itself that R-Y Timber might sell for. "It's worth a lot of money," said Richards. "I believe it (the sale price) will be a negotiated effort."

The company's profit margins fluctuate with volatile lumber prices, according to Richards, 67, who has lived in Park County for more than 50 years, and worked as a general manager of R-Y Timber for more than three years. "Some years we made a ton of money," said the lumber executive. "Other years profit has been marginal. It's all based on the price of lumber going up and down. That's the sawmill business".

R-Y Timber processes timber, primarily Douglas Fir, and produces more than 60 million feet of board each year, primarily for the construction industry.

Richards believes a new owner will invest in the business, get the company back on its feet and start hiring workers again. "This is very good news for the community," said Richards. "I am 100% confident that it (an acquisition) will go forward. But there's a lot of ins and outs in getting employees back."



Dan Richards, general manager of R-Y Timber in Livingston, stands next to the company's new planar machine that is being assembled at the sawmill's property on U.S. Highway 89. Photo Credit: RY Timber

TOWNSEND R-Y TIMBER MILL INCLUDED IN SALE

Nancy Marks
Reporter



R-Y Timber's Townsend mill definitely will be included in a change of hands, Dan Richards, the company's general manager, told MT43 News.

He said six parties are interested in buying the company and he speculated that it would sell within the next month. He said 45 employees are working at the Livingston plant, but only three currently work at the Townsend site. There are two in the office and a millwright who is doing general cleanup that must be done before a sale can close," Richards said.

Townsend's mill office closed on February 17 this year. The mill shut down its lumber manufacturing in January of 2020 after a fire burned much of the equipment. Seventy people lost their jobs at that time. Some moved to Livingston to work in R-Y's mill there. Others found new jobs or retired. After that, at the Townsend plant, people could buy only firewood.

TOWNSEND POTTERY GUILD OPENS FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES

Nancy Marks
Reporter



Teddy Lewis's best dream came true Saturday when the Townsend Pottery Guild opened its doors to the public for the first time at 108 No. Spruce St. next to the Laundromat.

Teddy is a long-time potter and multi-media artist who has volunteered with the Science Technology Outdoors Knowledge and Entrepreneurship (STOKE) after-school students group.



Artist and Pottery expert Teddy Lewis guides Marilyn Schleininger-Flores as she attempts to throw her first pot. Photo Credits: Nancy Marks

Lewis has a background in social work and addiction counseling. He graduated from the University of Montana in Social Work and Fine Arts. He worked in Alaska and the Northwest area until he retired to Townsend. He had worked with the STOKE board for a year getting the pottery space up and running. "I am really excited to bring this art opportunity to Townsend," he said.

The Guild group was able to rent the stark-white work room from TK and Denise Hartmann who had recently purchased the building. The building also is home to a preschool. According to STOKE board member John Hahn, grant money for the startup came from COVID funds via the Office of Public Instruction for after school programs. As a nonprofit, STOKE was awarded the \$53,000 grant in 2022. In-kind work came from Clint Watson's school shop students who built custom tables for the pottery shop. The group has also worked with the Helena Arts Council who donated finished bowls from their "Empty Bowls" fundraiser



Pottery professional Judy Siler closed her pottery shop at her home off River Road during COVID. She will join the Guild as a volunteer. Photo Credits: Nancy Marks

for Helena Food Share. Lewis had worked with the Council before moving to Townsend.

People who are interested in throwing pots are encouraged to contact Guild members. The initial cost for the first month is \$50. Additional months' membership will be \$65. The class is open to 12 persons per session. The Pottery Guild workshop will be open 9-5 p.m. weekdays.

To sign up please contact Teddy at (406) 439-9245.

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TOWNSEND SKILLS USA ATTENDS STATE

Clint Watson

The Townsend chapter of SkillsUSA participated in the State SkillsUSA competitions on March 29th-31st. We had a smaller group this year than usual, and we hope to get more involved next year. It really is good for the students to enrich their vocational skills by competing in events like cabinetmaking, welding, architectural and technical drafting, etc. Attending these events is also beneficial to the advisors so they can keep up with newer techniques and technologies.

Our Chapter saw Ainsley Diehl and Ryhlee Diehl receive 1st and 2nd place in Cabinetmaking last year. Evan Berg placed 2nd in Welding Sculpture last year, as well. Ainsley Diehl and his father Dallas actually went to Atlanta, GA to allow Ainsley to compete in Cabinetmaking where he finished in the middle of the pack. So this year Ainsley did well again, although he finished 4th at state and received an honorable mention. Kaden Bruins, a sophomore, did pretty well in his combination welding competition as there were 52 welders from around the state signed up. We are encouraging students to compete in Air Cooled Gas



Left to right. Kaden Bruins, Clint Watson, Ainsley Diehl
Photo Credit: Clint Watson

Engines, Welding, Welding Sculpture, Wood Sculpture, Carpentry, speaking contests, and CAD drafting contests.

We really appreciate all the support from our community. The Lions have been super supportive, as well as the Bulldog Booster and Rotary Clubs. Bob and Sherri Brastrup, Jim and Darlene Beck, the Rodeo Club, Rocky Mountain Supply, the Cemetery Board, and many other individuals have contributed. With your support, we are able to get our students to competitions and buy tools to help educate our young men and women in the trades. We try to do community service when there is a need so we help with the Football field, Track field, cemetery markers, small engine maintenance, and many other small jobs.

FFA UPDATE: ANNUAL BANQUET

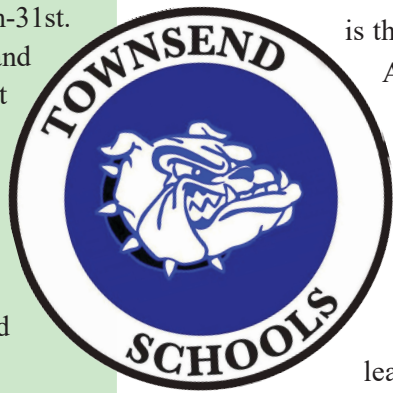
Mikayla Kraft
School Correspondent



April 17th is the FFA annual, end-of-year banquet over in the Elementary Commons at 6:30 p.m. to say goodbye to the old officers, get a recap of this FFA year and install our new officers. In addition, our Director of Operations, Kelsey Proue, will be our guest speaker.

There is a free dinner, and I encourage anyone interested to come! It is a great opportunity to personally connect with the Broadwater FFA chapter and the community. Broadwater County is an amazing support to the Broadwater FFA chapter and we greatly appreciate the support.

The last of the retiring officer addresses are here and it is sure to be a treat. Amanda Pesicka is the first up for these addresses.



Amanda is 16 and a sophomore in high school. She served as the Broadwater FFA secretary. She is also running for vice president and president for the 2023-2024 FFA year. She strongly believes that she has learned more life skills than she ever imagined. Her favorite competition was Vet Science because she learned so much that she could apply to the ranch her family owns.

Second, Kayla Kraft, myself, the reporter. I am 16 and a junior in high school. I am currently running for the president's office and fully believe I can make a change in our chapter and community. My favorite competition this year was agricultural sales. I crossed my milestone and learned more about selling and agribusiness than I ever thought I would.

Next is our vice president, Justene Santi. She is 18, a senior in high school and enlisted into the Marine Corps. If she had the chance to run for office again, she would run for president. She loved the ability to work with her officer team and is excited to apply the skills she has learned in this officer position to life in the Marines. Justene did not compete in any competitions this year, but she had the opportunity to be a delegate and she loved the ability to be directly involved in making changes to Montana FFA.

Lastly is our 2022-2023 Broadwater FFA president, Jacob Pesicka. He is a junior in high school and is 17 years old. Jacob was proud to lead the chapter as president and believes he has grown our chapter in many positive ways. His favorite competition was livestock evaluation because he had the chance to grow his knowledge of cattle and other livestock animals. He can use his judging skills to better understand his SAE and his family's ranch.

Each one of these officers, including Lane Santi, Codie Skillman, and Ross MacDonald, believe that the community and everyone in Broadwater FFA has been a great support. This year has been a blast and even though we are sad to retire from our offices, we have complete faith that more doors will be opened for the Broadwater FFA chapter.

Thank you, Broadwater County, for all of your support. We urge you to attend the banquet!



(Back Row) Ashley Sanderson, Kayla Kraft, Justene Santi, Amanda Pesicka
(Front Row) Jacob Pesicka, Ross MacDonald, Lane Santi
Photo Credit: Mikayla Kraft

HOME SCHOOLERS WILL ATTEND JUNIOR PROM

Nancy Marks
Reporter



School District #1 board members voted unanimously to allow homeschooled students to attend dances held at Broadwater High School. The board approved a policy allowing a student within the age requirement who is enrolled in a school program to attend formal dances held at Broadwater High School. The application must be signed by a parent or guardian and must be approved by Principal Sheri Heavrin.

The vote came after an extended and thoughtful discussion of the issue listed in Policy 3510 of the school regulations. At a previous meeting, High School Principal Heavrin pointed out how difficult it is to supervise students she does not know and who have no qualified adult such as a principal in another school to vouch for them.



Board of Trustees: Left to right: Shaun Scott, Vanessa Flynn, Todd Olson, Chairman Jason Noyes and Kevin McDonnell shown remotely.
Photo Credits: Nancy Marks

Both Board Chairman Jason Noyes and Superintendent Susie Hedalen pointed out a two-part problem of inclusion of all students or limiting dance attendance only to Broadwater High School students. "We go either from no guests to all students who are certified by our principal. That puts all the responsibility on her," she explained.

Board Member Todd Olson said another part of the equation was about the newly codified state legislative ruling that allowed non-enrolled students to participate in extracurricular activities such as sanctioned sports and theater productions. "Nowhere in the law does it actually define extracurricular activities as social activities such as dances. So it is up to this board to change the policy," he explained.

Both teachers and the public raised questions about older, out-of-school people attending, and about students who had quit school, but were getting their education online. High School teacher, Laura Ascherman, suggested the policy limit attendance to only high school students who live in the School District.

"Our kids have to follow the rules at social activities. We don't have control over kids we don't know. It's about respect for teachers, coaches and principals. If there is trouble with a non-enrolled student, we have no control if we can't go to a principal in another school," she said.

Student Body President Will Lynde said he had talked to his classmates and his take is that the students want homeschoolers to attend the dances. "We are friends with many of the homeschoolers in the county. It really comes down to personal responsibility, which we feel they (the homeschoolers) will follow." He continued that athletic coaches give permission for non-enrolled students to participate in football, tennis etc., so the policy surrounding dances should not penalize students because of past bad actors.

Jeannie Steele suggested that the board modify the policy to reflect any high school student may attend dances with prior permission.

Upcoming School Events

Friday, April 21	Saturday, April 22	Sunday, April 23	Monday, April 24	Tuesday, April 25	Wednesday, April 26	Thursday, April 27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennis @ Billings Adult Ed Studio Ceramics - 6 to 8 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennis @ Billings Track @ Bozeman - 9 a.m. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Track @ Dillon State Academic Olympics @ Missoula D/C Writing @ Community Room - 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. Adult City League Volleyball @ 1963 Gym - 5:45 p.m. Adult Ed Cast Iron Cooking @ Library Classroom - 6 p.m. Adult Ed Studio Ceramics - 6 p.m. Special School Board Meeting @ Community Room - 6:30 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D/C Writing @ Community Room - 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. Track Top Ten @ Missoula - 3 p.m. JV Golf @ Three Forks - 12 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D/C Writing @ Community Room - 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. MS Golf @ Home - 12 p.m. Adult Ed Studio Ceramics @ 6 p.m. Adult Ed Planting & Maintaining Trees & Shrubs - 6:30 p.m. Adult Ed Open Gym @ 1963 Gym - 7 p.m. Pickleball @ Stage Gym - 7 p.m. Adult Ed Safe Internet Surfing @ Library Classroom - 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D/C Writing @ Community Room - 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. Track @ Helena - 2 p.m. Golf @ Anaconda



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TOWNSEND SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATES

Susie Hedalen
Townsend Schools Superintendent



I want to thank the Teachers for Teachers Education Association for organizing and hosting the school board candidate forum on April 13th.

The 4-day School Week Survey closes on April 20th; there will be a board meeting on April 24th at 6:30 pm in The Elementary Commons to discuss the data, listen to input, and decide whether Townsend School District will start the 4-day week. The data will be provided to the district by MTSBA and will not include identifiers such as names and addresses.

Regular Board Meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month in the Community Room at 6:00 pm. The meeting agendas are posted in accordance with Montana open meeting laws, guidance, and timelines. Regular Meeting Agendas are posted by the Thursday before the Tuesday of the meetings. They are posted throughout the school, on the website, in the community library, at the post office, and at the county building. Special Board Meetings are often to handle things that come up with shorter notice; however, they are still posted according to law.

Upcoming Meetings

- Negotiations Committee April 18th
- Special School Board Meetings April 24th at 6:30 pm in The Elementary Commons. MTSBA will

SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES: STRATEGIC PLANNING, HOMESCHOOL ISSUES

Nancy Marks
Reporter



School Board Trustees faced scheduling issues with the Strategic Planning meeting at their regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting lasted three hours.

A public survey has been emailed to all parents and advertised via social media and in the papers asking the public to comment on questions about the 4-Day school week. The survey closes on April 20 and will be tabulated by Montana High School Association. Board members will then hold a special board meeting for public comment. The date will be announced in advance. Following discussion trustees will make a formal decision on the 4-Day school week. A decision on homeschoolers attending high school dances is covered in a separate story in this paper.

Special education records in Townsend schools will be disposed of 5 years after the student has graduated or left the school. Work contract statements for teacher of the deaf, Brittany Graham, and behavior consultant, Ann Garfinkle, were approved.

Senior student parents Emma Spurlock and Lacey Forrey presented a plan for the senior all-night party following graduation on May 21st and asked to use the high school facilities. Spurlock said they would have six to eight chaperones all night. They would like to use the gym, the home education room and the concessions booth. Trustees approved the request.

Employee resignations for Cassidy Driscoll, Don Cross, Lori Hansen were granted. Denise Bakkum resigned as advisor of the Broadwater Closeup student group.

Employees approved pending background checks were PreK-2nd grade special education, Morgan Nunn;

provide survey results, the board will Listen to stakeholder input, and the board will make decisions on the 4-Day Week and potential Calendars.

- Regular Board Meeting May 9th
- County Transportation Meeting with Townsend School District (TBD - will be posted by the county)
- June 13th Facilities Committee
- June 13th Regular School Board Meeting

Upcoming Events

- April 29th Prom
- May 1st 6th -12th Grade Music Concert
- May 4th K-5th Grade Music Concert
- May 21st Graduation
- May 26th Last Day of School

Recruitment & Vacancies

We have received multiple applications and once all internal transfers and hiring changes are made we will conduct interviews to find highly qualified candidates who will be a great addition to the Bulldog Team! We are thrilled to welcome Morgan Nunn as the new Elementary Special Education Teacher and Denise Bakkum as our Band Teacher. Please see the current openings below.

Townsend School Job Vacancies: April 17, 2023

- High School Science Broadfield Teaching Position (depending on student enrollment numbers)
- K-8 Certified Middle School Teaching Position
- K-5 Certified Teacher for a K-2 position/ Title I Teacher (depending on student enrollment numbers) (one-year position)
- Head Wrestling Coach

Shari Toney, summer camp program; Scarlett McDaniel and Whitney Robertson, after-school program tutors; Gracianna Olds, American Sign Language interpreter substitute and Shannon Walker, substitute teacher.

Trustees approved policy manual updates. The 800-page document update was the result of several meetings with Superintendent Susie Hedalen and the trustees. "Thank you to everyone who worked in the five sessions we held. It was a huge amount of work. We are glad it is finished," Trustee Shaun Scott declared.

Administrators' reports included Elementary School Principal Christina Hartmann thanked American Legion Post #42 for presenting an Americanism program to the 5th graders. The summer camp schedule should be out by May 1st. The Kindergarten Roundup signed up 55 new students for next year. Signup has been extended to April 27. The K-5 spring concert is set for May 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Middle School Principal Brad Racht reported the students will be working on their Holocaust Remembrance night which will be open to the public on May 16 beginning at 6:00 p.m. The 6-8 Spring Concert is set for May 1st at 7:00 p.m.

High School Principal Sheri Heavrin reported two students qualified to go to national competitions in Decca and FCCLA student activity programs, Conner Lamb and Kristin Moos, respectively. The juniors will begin job shadowing in Helena, Bozeman, Townsend and Three Forks beginning April 17. The effort is organized by the high school counselors. The District Music Festival is on April 14 in Helena with the State Music Festival in Missoula slated for May 5th and 6th. The Future Farmers of America banquet is set for April 17. April 29 is Junior Prom night. "It's a busy few weeks coming up for the students and us," Heavrin declared.

Superintendent Hedalen reported the Old Baldy Education courses have been packed. She is working on publishing an advertisement for hiring new staff. "We will receive more COVID relief funding due to our ongoing growth of enrollment. It will help us stay within budget," she explained.

- Summer Drivers Education Instructor licensure
- Activity Bus Drivers
- Kitchen Aid
- Substitute Teachers and Staff
- Fall and or Winter Cheerleading Coach
- Middle School Girls' Basketball Coach
- Head Football Coach

School Safety We have information on our safety grant and ongoing safety committees work including the newly revised and adopted emergency crisis plan. This year we held multiple safety meetings and training to increase student safety through staff training and emergency planning in coordination with our sheriff's office and other agencies. We would appreciate more community and parent representation during these meetings!

Dear Families Updates This information in this article and more will be posted for families under the section for updates to families!

Current 4-Day Survey & Information The survey links and information have been on the front of the school website.

Election Information A fact sheet on the school board election is on the website.



Three Forks Community Calendar

Friday, April 21

- Missoula Children's Theatre: The Little Mermaid
- Softball Tournament @ Loyola
- Tennis Tournament @ Billings
- Music by Reckless Rooster & The Ranch @ Sacajawea Hotel - 5 to 8 p.m.
- Trivia Night @ Three Forks Bridger Brewing - 8 to 10 p.m.

Saturday, April 22

- Missoula Children's Theatre: The Little Mermaid
- Senior Trip - Salt Lake City
- Softball Tourney @ Florence
- Track Gold Strike Invite @ Laurel - 10 to 11 a.m.
- Music by Dos Mayos @ Sacajawea Hotel - 5 p.m.
- EARTH DAY

Monday, April 23

- Senior Trip - Salt Lake City

Tuesday, April 24

- Senior Trip - Salt Lake City
- Mahjongg @ Three Forks Community Library - 1 p.m.
- Dungeons & Dragons Club @ Three Forks Community Library - 4 p.m.
- Pints with Purpose for Cancer Support Community @ Three Forks Bridger Brewing - 5 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25

- JV Golf @ Headwaters Golf Course
- JV Tennis @ Belgrade - 1 p.m.
- Track Top 10 @ Missoula - 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 26

- Middle School Golf Tournament
- Story Time @ Three Forks Community Library - 10 a.m.

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

Broadwater Community Calendar

Friday, April 21	Saturday, April 22	Sunday, April 23	Monday, April 24	Tuesday, April 25	Wednesday, April 26	Thursday, April 27
<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. • Pints for Producers @ Canyon Ferry Brewing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Sky Autism Project Townsend Fun Run @ Watson Event Center - 8 a.m. • American Legion Auxiliary Community Dinner - 5 p.m. • Magic: The Gathering @ Reading Leaves Bookstore - 6:30 p.m. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcoholics Anonymous @ Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church - 5:30 p.m. • Bingo @ American Legion - 6 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"> • Compensation Board Meeting - 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. • Broadband Advisory Board Meeting - 4 p.m. • Al-Anon @ Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church - 7 p.m. • Red Hat Ladies Luncheon



TOWNSEND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sponsor of Community Calendar

School Board Candidates 2023

HEATHER ANDERSON

Dear Broadwater County Community, I am Heather Anderson and I am seeking your vote for a seat to serve on the Townsend School District No. 1 Board of Trustees.

I am running as a trustee board member because I love our small town community, value education, and believe in the impacts and ideals of service and giving back to my hometown. As a parent of two wonderful children, Lilly, kindergarten, and Ellie, 5th grade, who attend the Townsend school district, I am proud and impressed with the quality of education they have received, as well as the many strengths and achievements of our school system. At the same time, I am also aware of the suggestions and concerns that you as parents, community members, and teachers/staff have expressed. I am very eager and open to listening and learning new perspectives, as well as working together to create solutions to issues.

I was born in Helena Montana, and have been raised in beautiful Broadwater County my entire life. I received my K through 12 education here in Townsend School District, and have a very strong connection to the school and community. I enjoyed the relationships that I developed and the education I received.

I currently work as Assistant Treasurer of Broadwater County and have many years of customer service, administrative, and office experience. My career and experience in budgeting and balancing will aid in dissecting the fiscal portion of the school administration regarding revenue and responsible expenditures. In my previous and current career roles, I have formed many trusting relationships, built on positive effective communication, which is something I pride myself on. As a board member, elected by you, I will encourage conversation and input from all parties involved before coming to a decision. A strength of mine is my ability to work well in a team environment, and it will be very beneficial to this position when working towards common grounds and goals. I enjoy utilizing my skills to problem solve and feel these traits will enable me to become an active participant and member of the school board.

I believe the vision of the school board is to establish the goals of the school district, as well as provide leadership skills to help ensure the overall success of students as well as the teachers, staff and administration. I would be honored to have your vote and look forward to building solid and trusted relationships with students, parents, teachers, staff, and the community. My number one priority will be to make every decision based on facts. If you would like to reach me to share your vision for Townsend School District No. 1, please email me at el132hank@gmail.com. I look forward to serving you as the newest member of the Townsend School District No. 1 Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,
Heather Anderson



JASON KOOL

My name is Jason Kool and I'm running for one of the open school board trustee seats. I gave little thought to running for a board seat until I attended the strategic planning session on March 20. At that meeting

I observed what appeared to be a lack of direction, a lack of clarity to roles and disheartening frustration from teachers, administrators, parents and community members. I believe that's not an example of what the school really is and I appreciate what the board was trying to accomplish, but it was clear something was out of balance.

I am originally from Iowa and attended public school and private school k-12. I attended Iowa State University for my undergraduate degree and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point for my Master's in Natural Resources. My career path has led me to a place where I currently supervise large statewide programs, work with a variety of government staff, landowners and hunters and am continually seeking to improve the experience for the public for whom I serve. Additionally, prior to coming to Montana, I supervised hundreds of volunteers, taught many students through hunter and bow hunter education courses, worked on teams to develop national hunter education standards and spent some limited time in natural resource law enforcement.

I am married to a native Montanan and we decided 6 years ago to come back home and raise our boys in this great community. We are a small-town, rural,



hard-working family with a biblical worldview. I am an analytical guy and try to treat all how I want to be treated. When not working my regular job, you'll find me working on our family's farm and ranch or out in the elk woods or goose field. My faith, family and integrity are core values and I hold to those and other conservative convictions and use them regularly in decision making.

I think Townsend is a great community and has great potential. I believe quality education starts with quality teachers, administrators and support staff. I think it's important to be continuously looking for ways to improve and I also believe we need to do everything in our power to ensure students are safe. I do support whatever form that takes to include the 4-day school week, adding a resource officer, and increasing transparency and accountability.

I believe this group of candidates are fantastic people and most of them are close friends. If you'd like more information about me or my position, I'd encourage you to watch the candidate's forum from April 13. I can also be reached at jasonkool@gmail.com. The community will do well with any of the new candidates and I endorse all of them because we all have a personal connection with children in school and want what's best for the community as we all live here and are engaged here. I respectfully ask for your vote.

Jason Kool

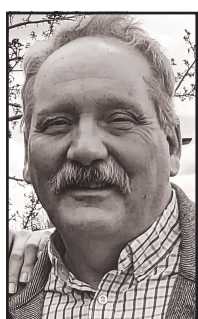
KEVIN MCDONNELL

I was born and raised in the Billings area where my family was involved in the cattle business. After high school, I attended Montana State University in Bozeman and received a degree in Agricultural Engineering. Townsend has been my home since 1990. I am grateful for the education that each of my four children received at Townsend Schools which allowed them to further their educations through college or military service.

In 2008 I chose to enter the School Board Trustee election and have served on the board since then. I chose to enter the school board trustee election this year for an opportunity to complete the planning process that started with the planning of the new elementary school. The Townsend community voted to support quality education by passing the bond election, and the school board is conducting open public planning to determine how best to utilize the new facility.

The current issue receiving the most attention is the proposal to change the school schedule to a four-day week. The research available on the impact of the four-day school week on the quality of education is mixed. I invite everyone who is interested to read the information available on the school website under strategic planning. In my mind, the issue comes down to the loss of effective learning time. Student learning is optimized for 3-5 hours a day, depending on what reference you use, and beyond that their ability to learn is diminished. By going to a three-day weekend, roughly 27 days of effective learning time is lost per year. Multiplied over a k-12 education the loss becomes almost two years' worth of school days. I believe that this is the reason the highest-performing schools in Montana are staying with the five-day schedule.

Thank you for your consideration., Kevin McDonnell



CHASE RAGEN

MT43 News did not receive a bio for Chase Ragen in time for publication.

ANDREA RICE

My name is Andrea Rice. I am a 5th generation Montanan. I grew up on a ranch just west of the Spokane Bench outside of East Helena. I earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Carroll College and have worked for St. Peter's Health for the past 20 years. My husband and I moved to Winston in 2013 from East Helena and then to Townsend in 2018. We have two boys. Braylon, 13 and Clayton, 11, who have attended Townsend Schools since kindergarten. They have had a wonderful experience in this school district, and we have grown to love everything about Townsend Schools. This past year my husband created Bulldog Bus Lines and currently runs the school buses for the district as well as being a faithful activity bus driver. As a family, we are very passionate about Townsend Schools.

I decided to run for the school board because I have a vested interest in seeing the success of our students



in this community. I am very passionate about giving a voice to the staff of the district, the students who attend and the parents who desire to be involved. I want to be an approachable avenue to discuss the struggles they may be facing and bring those issues to the board. I feel it is important to have a mother's perspective as to what a day in the life of a child may look like and to apply that knowledge to decisions made regarding life within the school. Additionally, my experience as a nurse working in the hospital setting has given me an understanding of the interpersonal relationships of working in a team environment as well as the barriers that exist that hamper success. I want to bring a positive change and outlook and I would appreciate your vote.

Andrea Rice

DANIEL TRUESDELL

Daniel Truesdell was born, raised, and attended K-12 in the great community of Townsend. After graduating in 2004 I moved to Wyoming for college and then back to the East Helena area to start my career at the State of Montana. The majority of my 16 years at the state have been



focused on road design and various levels of project management. In 2014 my wife, Brandi, and I decided to move back to Townsend as our oldest child of 3 was getting to school age and we wanted to raise them in a smaller school. Townsend Schools was a natural choice. Currently, all three of my children are attending Townsend Schools and I want them to have as good of an experience as I did, if not better.

As a School Board Trustee, I would improve teacher recruitment and retention by working towards a more competitive compensation plan to similar surrounding schools and making improvements to create a better work-life balance. I would bridge communication gaps between staff and their school board to ensure needs are being met and our students are getting the best education possible. I would review our current school's zero-tolerance bullying policy and make necessary adjustments to ensure that the students and parents feel that their school is a safe place.

With my experience as both Chair and Vice Chair for the City of Townsends Planning/Zoning Board, 4-H Club Leader working with the 4-H council and an active member of the Broadwater County Search and Rescue I know what it means to work as a team for the better good. I am confident, that if elected, I will be an effective Trustee that will work together to keep the best interest at heart for the Students, School District and Broadwater County Citizens.

Daniel Truesdell

TEACHER'S UNION HOSTS SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM

Nancy Marks
Reporter



Candidates for election as trustees of Townsend School District No. 1 have mixed stands on whether the system should switch to a 4-day school week. Five of the six candidates spoke at a forum last week sponsored by the teachers' union.

The election is being conducted only by mail. Ballots were mailed to registered voters on April 12 and must be mailed back in time to arrive at the county election office by election day May 2.

Two seats on the trustee board are at stake. Incumbent trustee Kevin McDonnell is seeking re-election. The other candidates are Heather Anderson, Jason Kool, Daniel Truesdell, Chase Ragen and Andrea Rice. All the candidates except for Anderson, who was ill, appeared at the forum.

The school board is currently developing a strategic plan which includes the possibility of abandoning the traditional 5-day school week in favor of a 4-day week. The 4-day proposal appears heavily favored by the district's teachers who see it as a means of retaining teachers and attracting new ones. Otherwise, they think we will lose teachers because of the district's low salary scales. On the other hand, parents, especially those who are employed, worry about how children will be cared for on school-less Fridays.

In response to questions at the forum, candidate Truesdell said about a 4-day week, "We should pursue it to see if the change would help."

McDonnell said the board had looked at changing

Candidate Forum, 5

Candidate Forum, 4

several years ago, but their research showed it did not improve academic performance or help to retain teachers. More research may be needed, he said. "Meanwhile we would need to add staff and budget for that fifth day to shore up the lack of adequate daycare in Broadwater County," he said.

Rice remarked that people could find research to support the concept either way. She felt we need to look at what fits our community. "I am willing to think outside the box. I feel we need to follow the money for teachers and follow good leadership by the board," she said.

Kool said he felt the idea had a poor rollout in educating the community. "I think we have to do something. We can't raise taxes so we can pay the teachers higher wages. At the same time, we are being pressured by school districts around us who have already started some form of the 4-day week. We have to make a decision," he said.

Ragen cautioned against hurrying. "I think we should take our time to do the research that fits our district rather than rush into a decision. Meantime, I think we can find the money to pay the teachers," he said. **CHARTER SCHOOL QUESTION**

Kool said he felt there is a need for both public and charter schools so parents can make a choice.

Ragen agreed as did Truesdell.

Rice said she was not familiar with charter schools so could not answer the question well.

McDonnell explained that charter schools began in urban environments. He felt the Montana public school system has performed well and that charter schools should not get public money.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?

To the question of why each candidate was running for the board, Truesdell would focus on the safety of children and teachers.

McDonnell emphasized his previous experience in improving the school environment, including being involved in building the new school. He would like to continue helping the students by encouraging parents to get involved.

Rice felt the teachers need more support. She would focus on the "human part" of school life.

After he attended the Strategic Planning sessions, Kool felt the teachers did not have an adequate voice. He would give the teachers more voice in board decisions.

Ragen wanted to see more structure in the decision-making process.

TEACHING ALTERNATE STUDIES

Asked if they would support teaching Critical Race Theory (CRT), Environmental and Social Governance (ESG), and Black Lives Matter (BLM) in Broadwater County schools, McDonnell said the movements are a concern in society, but not here. However, he felt our social agenda should be vetted to understand how it affects our community.

Rice said, "All lives matter to me," but she admitted she probably did not know much about what they mean.

Kool reiterated that "all lives matter," but said, "we do need to teach history".

Ragen felt the studies should not be our focus but admitted he did not know much about the theories.

Truesdell said the alternate studies were a moot point in our school because of a ban issued by Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen. Last May, Knudsen ruled that many CRT programs violate state and federal anti-discrimination laws.

Broadwater County Board Openings

The following Broadwater County Boards are seeking volunteers for the 2023 term:

- Airport (3 yr. terms): 1 Member
- Trust (3 yr. terms): 2 Non-Voting Members
- Mosquito - Townsend (3 yr. terms): 1 Member
- Mosquito - Three Forks (3 yr. term): 1 Member
- Museum (3 yr. terms): 2 Members
- TV (3 yr. terms): 3 Members
- Board of Health (3 yr. terms): 1 Manager
- Board of Investments (no terms): 1
- Townsend School Representative, 1 Secretary

If you have an interest in serving, please consider submitting a letter or email of interest to:

Broadwater County Community Development & Planning c/o Tacy Swanton
515 Broadway St. Townsend, MT 59644 or tswanton@co. broadwater.mt.us

AUDIT PUBLICATION STATEMENT

An audit of Townsend Public Schools has been conducted by Denning, Downey & Associates, CPA's, P.C. The audit covered the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021 and June 30, 2022. Section 2-7-521, MCA, requires the publication of the following summary of significant findings.

Summary of Significant Findings

The audit report for Townsend Public Schools for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021 and June 30, 2022, were unmodified.

The audit report also contained several other auditors' reports. Following is a list of the reports and a summary of the findings included in each. This is only a summary and is not intended to be used as an audit report.

1. Report on Compliance and on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards. This report contained findings in the following matters:

- a) 2022-001 Cash Balancing
- b) 2022-002 Journal Voucher Controls
- c) 2022-003 Emergency and Second School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) Cash Requests
- d) 2022-004 Required Supplementary Information
- e) 2022-005 Budget Overdraft

2. Report on Compliance for Each Major Program and on Internal Control over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance. This report contained findings in the following matters:

There were no findings reported.

3. Report on Prior Audit Report Recommendations. This report summarized the findings from the prior audit report, and noted the action taken on them.

- a) Unrecorded Accounts Payable (Implemented)

Public Inspection of Audit Report

The complete audit report is on file in its entirety and open to public inspection at the Townsend K12 Business Office. z

Very Truly Yours,
Kayce Williams - District Clerk
Townsend Public Schools

NOTICE:

White Sulphur Springs Schools is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

Full time Maintenance position- Starting pay is \$22.00 per hour. The ability to obtain a Low Pressure Boiler Engineer License is required and once obtained the hourly rate will increase after June 30, 2023, to \$25.00 per hour. Benefits and retirement available. Please include a letter of interest and resume with your application.

2 Custodial positions- Starting pay will depend on experience. Join our staff in making our school a wonderful place for the students to learn and achieve their highest potential. Benefits and retirement available.

2 Kitchen staff/Cooking positions- Starting pay will depend on experience. These positions will likely start at the beginning of the next school year. Join our staff at the school and enjoy the satisfaction that comes with offering nutritious meals to our wonderful students. Benefits and retirement available.

Bus Driver positions- The hourly rate is \$17.00 per hour. Our bus driver positions can be flexible, if desired, with a combination of route and activity/athletic options available. Applicants will need a Class B CDL, School Bus and Passenger Endorsements, and Air Brakes. The District will assist with training after a learning permit is obtained. Please include a letter of interest, a current letter of recommendation, resume and a release of driving record to the district with your application.

Substitute Teacher- Join our amazing teaching staff in providing our students with a quality education. This position provides you with flexibility to work around your schedule and with a variety of ages and classrooms to work in.

Please call or stop by with questions or to pick up an application and job description. 406-547-3751.

White Sulphur Springs School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BROADWATER COUNTY

NOTICE is hereby given for a PUBLIC HEARING to be conducted Wednesday April 26, 2023, at 10:30 AM at the Flynn Building 416 Broadway, Townsend, MT, Broadwater County, regarding the petition to abandon a portion of Lucifer Street located at Lot 1, Block 1 of the Townsite of Toston, MT.

/s/ ANGIE PAULSEN

Broadwater County Clerk & Recorder | Elections Administrator | County Surveyor

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 Courthouse

By: Desiree' Taves

Deputy Clerk of Courthouse

March 31, April 7, 14, 21, 2023 MNAXLP

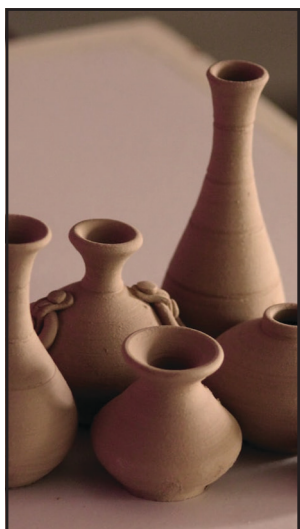
top ten

MOST COMMON Animal Phobias

1. Spiders
2. Snakes
3. Wasps
4. Birds
5. Mice
6. Fish
7. Bees
8. Dogs
9. Caterpillars and other insects
10. Cats

Source: The Travel Almanac

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BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Is the book of Philipians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Mark 8, Jesus healed a blind man by putting what onto his eyes? Sand, Wind, Blood, Spit
3. What elderly cousin of Mary was the mother of John the Baptist? Jael, Rahab, Sarah, Elisabeth
4. In Hebrews 13:17, how should Christians act toward elders? Respectfully, In submission, Cheerfully, Timidly
5. What book of the Bible foretold the virgin birth? Joel, Isaiah, Jonah, Malachi
6. Who was Shamgar the son of? Ehud, Samson, Anath, Tola

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Spit (spittle), 3) Elisabeth, 4) In submission, 5) Isaiah 7:14, 6) Anath

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Stories & News: Tuesday 12 p.m.

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MT 43 News, Inc. reserves the right to reject any advertising. Visit our website (MT43News.com) or visit our offices for our rate sheet and image rules.

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

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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 (MT43News@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.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Julie Dooling
House District 70 Representative



One month ago, we stood on the front steps of the Capitol with Governor Gianforte and celebrated the signing of a historic tax package. This tax package provides Montanans with the largest tax cut in state history.

The six bills that were signed into law will provide immediate tax rebates and also permanent long-term tax relief for many taxpayers and homeowners across Montana.

- HB 192 will provide Montana income taxpayers with rebates of up to \$1250. The Department of Revenue will begin issuing Individual Income Tax Rebates in July 2023. All qualifying rebates will be issued prior to December 31, 2023.
- HB 222 will provide nearly \$280 million in property tax relief. There will also be a \$500 property tax rebate to Homeowners for their primary residence in 2023 and 2024. In order to receive the 2022 rebate, you must go online or file the paper form, which must be filed by October 1, 2023. The 2023 rebate process is the same but won't open for claims until August 15, 2024.
- HB 212 increases the business equipment tax exemption to \$1 million, which is great for our many small businesses in Montana.
- SB 121 lowered the income tax rate from 6.75% to 5.9%. This bill also triples the earned income tax credit.
- HB 221 simplifies Montana's capital gains system – making it the 4th lowest in the Nation.
- SB 124 provides for the modernization of Montana's corporate tax code providing for additional job creation and investment.

These 6 bills, dubbed the "six-pack", were a priority for Governor Gianforte and the 68th Legislature. To find out more information about the rebates for which you may qualify, go check out the Department of Revenue website at: <https://mtrevenue.gov/taxes/2023-montana-tax-rebates/#Taxable>

I hope this information is helpful. Thank you for allowing me to be your Representative.

Julie Dooling



Dee Gannon
MT43 News Correspondent



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

Robert Bakke had an Initial Appearance and Arraignment; pleading Not Guilty to a charge of felony theft. The Omnibus is due on June 2; Pre-Trial is set for August 4; with the Jury Trial scheduled for September 11.

Joseph Matt was scheduled for a Pre-Trial Conference, on charges of criminal possession of dangerous drugs and criminal possession of drug paraphernalia. The State said that they were working toward a Change of Plea. That has to be settled two weeks before the Jury Trial date of June 5.

Donald Hinman appeared with an Order to be Released from Supervision. He was Sentenced in 2020; has paid restitution and has successfully completed supervision. The judge said that "This is a great thing happening, where bad things usually come about. What a success story". Judge Menehan, Hinman's presiding judge, said, "We wish him the best. The Court is very

YORK'S ISLAND OPEN FOR RECREATION

Dee Gannon,
MT43 News Correspondent

Good news for fishermen and all recreation lovers, York's Island Fishing Access is now open to those who want to dangle a line or use the boat ramp. Closed since December because of flooding and ice jams, the road is drying up but, watch out for the ruts!

Joann Moulton of Belgrade was there on Friday to do some fishing and let her dogs run. She hadn't caught anything yet; but "it's not about catching, it's about fishing," she stated. "I got here early before everyone else gets here. I dread the crowds that I know will come."

She wasn't the only one there, either. A truck with a boat trailer was parked along the road; undoubtedly, there were people on the river, as well as at the shore. A few other cars did 'drive-bys', so, they are probably anxious to do what they do there.

Heard tell that York's Islands Access is an honest-to-gosh 'neckers nob'. This reporter has no direct knowledge of this, but the area seems right, with multiple little roads, tall weeds and bushes.

Besides the reasons aforementioned for visiting York's Islands, there are picnic tables and camping spots. Be



It is because the health of our collective youth could potentially be at stake at such a large scale that I have high expectations of the journalists and public figures reporting on this topic. If a commentator questions or opposes a mainstream narrative, it's incredibly important that their statements are well-researched, articulated, and backed by evidence. Sources are not just a formality; they offer a foundation for substantiating claims. This article not only lacked sources, but it was also published under false pretenses.

Out of the gate, the writing was prefaced with a photo taken from a movie called The Greatest Showman. There was no caption or source accompanying it. Should a reader be unfamiliar with the movie, they're likely to infer that the photo is straight from the presentation at hand. The movie itself didn't cast a single transgender-identifying character or contain a parallel narrative. Never mind the author not having the rights to use this photo; the shock factor alone of the photo with no context was enough to conjure rage in consumers. Possibly the most astonishing section of this piece was the first sentence. This was the only sentence in the entire article that referred to this supposed presentation taking place, yet no supporting information was supplied to readers. Was this presentation submitted by a student or a teacher? What was the title of the music video that was displayed during this presentation? Whose classroom did this occur in? Without divulging names, who is the source of this information (i.e. a student, teacher, or parent)? In what ways was the music video promoting transgenderism? What are the other "inclusionary concepts" in the video? The second sentence states that the term "non-binary" provides confusion in sexual identification according to science. What science can the author cite? The article goes on

proud. Because of this action; his guilty plea has been stricken from the record and he is released".

Michael Coyle has a Continuance of his Jury Trial date until October 10.

Paul Creason had an Initial Appearance and Arraignment (appearing from L&C Co Detention Center); pleading Not Guilty to three charges: criminal possession of dangerous drugs (meth), tampering with evidence and criminal possession of drug paraphernalia. Omnibus is due June 9; Pre-Trial is set for September 8; with the Jury Trial scheduled for October 10.

Celia Kolar had a Change of Plea, pleading Guilty to amended charges of negligent endangerment and misdemeanor DUI. In her elocution, she stated that while driving in Broadwater County, she drove impaired, creating a danger to herself and others. For the first charge, she is Sentenced to a fine of \$500. For the second charge, there is a fine of \$600 and is Sentenced to one year suspended (except for one day). She may apply for a probationary driver's license. She already provided completion of the Prime for Life program and must pay fees and surcharges.

Esther Suhr was scheduled for a Pre-Trial Conference; which turned into a Change of Plea, pleading No Contest to the amended charge of felony stalking and count 2 felony stalking. She pleads Guilty to count 4, violating an Order of Protection. The State said that she harassed the victim (her husband of many years), and made him feel unsafe and unsettled in his abode, breaking cameras he had set up. A Pre-Sentence Investigation is ordered. The sentencing will be on June 9.



York's Island Access
Photo Credits: Dee Gannon

sure and bring your bug dope; the mosquitos are even more plentiful and larger when the weather warms.

York's Islands are a group of eight islands in the floodplain of the Missouri River, about four miles out of Townsend. It was discovered by the Corps of Discovery and noted in William Clark's drawn maps of the area, named for Clark's slave, York, who had been faithful on their journey. Although the name, 'York's 8 Islands' was put on the 1805 map; the 22 acres of park was not officially named until 2000, when the U.S. Board of Geographic Names approved York's Island.

Some information for this article was gleaned from umt.edu

Americanisms



"To leave the world better than you found it, sometimes you have to pick up other people's trash."
— Bill Nye

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OUTRAGE JOURNALISM: AMMUNITION IN THE CULTURE WARS

Jessica Morshed

An article was recently published in a local newspaper claiming that 8th grade students at Townsend Middle School watched a presentation that "promoted the acceptance of transgenderism and other inclusionary concepts" (Source: Broadwater County News, 2023). Even I, living states away in Colorado after having moved from Townsend upon graduating high school in 2013, heard about this piece of journalism from multiple people immediately after it was dispensed to readers. The concern, fear, and outrage that this article generated was palpable. Rumbblings of a liberal agenda infiltrating the school district virtually overnight were multiplying. Yet after reading this highly-anticipated supposed "smoking gun", I was left dumbfounded by just how carelessly this piece was written. My frustration was not born in dispute of the premise. In fact, I have my own apprehensions primarily about the long-term repercussions young people may encounter by consenting to medical interventions such as hormone replacement therapy and sex-reassignment surgery. These range from breast and prostate cancer, cardiovascular risks, and osteoporosis (Source: Hembree, Wylie et al., 2017). I also believe it's crucial to question the root of what's causing this once-niche demographic to proliferate so rapidly into zeitgeist territory. Despite 13 to 24-year-olds comprising only 18.6% of the U.S. population, they make up 42.7% of transgender-identified individuals in the country (Source: Herman, Jody, et al., 2022).

to regurgitate state senate and house bills pertaining to parental and religious rights in education. It also broadly implies that the School Board for the Townsend School District is facing challenges accommodating individual freedoms in curricula and providing a safe and legal atmosphere for students. The article references questions raised during a public meeting, but it doesn't provide examples of the questions nor does it specify exactly in what ways the Board is struggling.

Our society is polarized to a degree we've never witnessed before at local, state, and national levels. We seem to be in a constant ideological war with our own neighbors. I would reason that the media we're addicted to and entrenched in every day on our phones, computers, and radios is the main origin of these culture wars. Rage-baiting is a very real tactic used to generate ad revenue by increasing web traffic. In other words, Facebook is taking our angry posts straight to the bank. We consumers are just as guilty of feeding the beast as content creators are of breeding it. So, where do we go from here? Let's start by holding journalists accountable for their reporting, especially if they are supposed to be a voice for your cause and are misrepresenting it. Let's be cautious of media that profits from pitting one side against another – a consumer should be able to believe in gun rights and gay rights if they so choose without getting sidelined. Finally, let's agree that we're going to disagree, but debating with information over mud-slinging, scare tactics, and other cheap-shot fallacies is the only way to be taken seriously. With love to the tight-knit little town that shapes my work ethic and ideals to this very day.

Editor's Note: MT43 News contacted the Broadwater County News for a response and did not receive a reply.

BROADWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS UNOFFICIAL AGENDA FOR APRIL 26, 2023

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).

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

10:00 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Planning and Development Director, Helm/Stone Boundary Relocation COS

10:05 AM Discussion/Decision, Nichole Brown, Community Planning and Development Director, Helsen Boundary Relocation COS

10:10 AM Discussion/Decision, Nick Rauser, Broadwater County Sheriff, request change of position of Jail Commander

10:15 AM Discussion, Sydney Blair, Chief Executive Officer, Many Rivers Whole Health Community Services

10:25 AM Discussion/Decision, Darrel Folkvord, County Commissioner, Agreement to Furnish Engineering Services to Broadwater County for Improvements to the Townsend Airport; Task Order 2- Project Administration – AIP-016-2023; Task Order 3- Land Acquisition Assistance & Services-Phase II

10:30 AM Public Hearing, Lucifer Street Abandonment

10:35 AM Discussion/Decision, Angie Paulsen, Clerk and Recorder, Lucifer Street Abonnement

10:40 AM Discussion/Decision, approval of Board of Health By-Laws

Thursday, April 27, 2023

10:00 AM Compensation Board

Monday, May 1, 2023

10:00 AM Discussion/Decision, Shannon Chamberlain, MACO Property and Liability Insurance

Items for Discussion, Action, Review, Signature, Consent Agenda

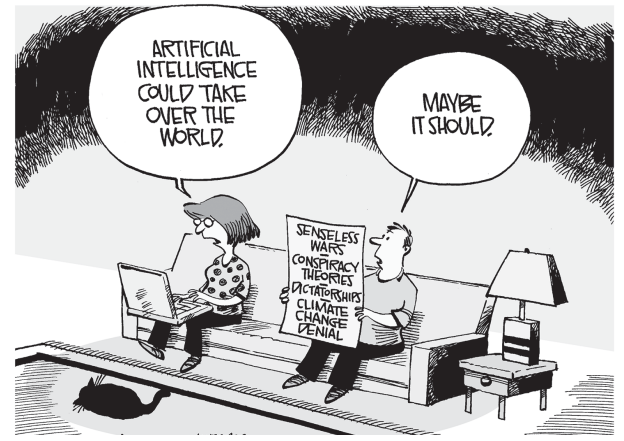
- Certificate of Survey review
- Management – on-going advisory board appointments

- Claims/Payroll/minutes
 - County Audit / Budget
 - Mail – ongoing grants
 - Correspondence – support letters
- Darrel Folkvord/Chairperson
406-266-9272 and 406-980-1213

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

Lindsey Richtmyer
406-266-9271 and 406-521-0834

E-mail: commissioners@co.broadwater.mt.us
Future Meetings being held at the Flynn Building (416 Broadway)



KNIGHT MOVES

E	O	L
A		R
S	P	N

Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Shrubbery is shorter. 2. Shirt is shorter. 3. Collar is different. 4. Fence is shorter. 5. Cap is reversed. 6. Ears are different.

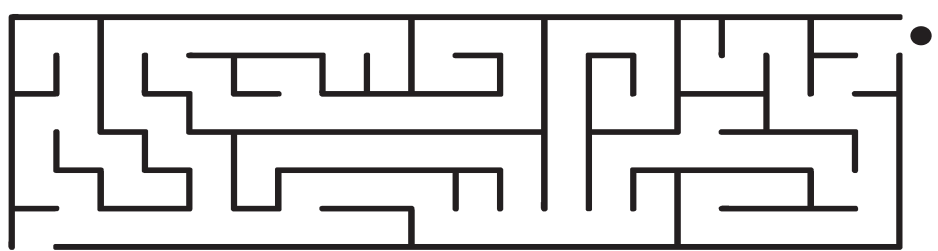
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Super Crossword

"TAKE IT BACK"

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 42 Vent views | 90 Part 3 of instructions | 3 Monte Carlo setting | 44 Zeta follower | 79 Mix together |
| 1 Reid and Lipinski | 43 Part 2 of instructions | 96 Ballet moves | 4 "Yeah, right!" | 46 Fine goat coat | 81 Suggested subtly |
| 6 "Born Free" lioness | 45 Appear to be | 98 "Planet Money" ailer | 5 Actress Berger of "De Sade" | 49 What a head rests on in bed | 83 Elvis and Priscilla |
| 10 Really bothered | 46 Fetal homes | 99 Misspends | 6 Brits call it a "lift" | 50 Brand of spongy balls | 84 Fable writer |
| 15 Refer to as an example | 49 Cooing park scavenger | 100 Spout off | 7 Put freight on | 51 Sleeps lightly | 85 Tree infested by bark beetles |
| 19 Beethoven's "Für —" | 51 Genre of serious films | 101 Calif. volcano | 8 Make pointy, as a pencil | 52 Printing proof, for short | 86 No longer active: Abbr. |
| 20 "The Wizard of Oz" actor Bert | 54 Kissing and caressing | 103 Basic idea | 9 Hostile insect in a swarm | 53 Aleve alternative | 87 Fake hearth items |
| 21 Abu — (Persian Gulf emirate) | 58 Greek god of the sun | 104 "We need assistance!" | 10 Guys writing slogans, maybe | 55 Naval acad. grad's rank | 88 Balls, geometrically |
| 22 Over again | 63 Huge Brit. lexicon | 106 Onetime Pan Am rival | 11 This and — | 56 Groups devising plots | 90 Taunt in fun |
| 23 Ailey of choreography | 64 Pedicured body part | 107 End of instructions | 12 Item dyed for a spring holiday | 57 Tyke | 91 Rosh — |
| 24 Mild Dutch cheese | 66 "Ay, —" (cry on "The Simpsons") | 111 Heath | 13 One who fails to show up | 59 Tyke | 92 "Here We Are" singer Gloria |
| 25 Tricky billiards shot | 67 Message to congratulate solvers who figure out this answer | 113 Former congressman Mo | 14 Stadium rows | 60 Push along | 93 Fiber source in some muffins |
| 26 Fare — -well | 72 Northeast African nation | 114 For — (not gratis) | 15 Sleeps lightly | 61 Like Santa, weight-wise | 94 Disentangle for valuables |
| 27 Start of instructions for making sense of 67-Across | 73 Decorator | 115 Acoustic | 16 Get via will | 62 Strongboxes | 95 Country music's — Brothers |
| 31 "— Haw" | 74 Suffix with Gabon | 116 Push along | 17 Simple shirt | 64 Pipsqueaks | 97 Used a chair |
| 32 "A Wrinkle in Time" director DuVernay | 75 Welding alloy | 117 Gymnastics legend | 18 Baaing "ma" | 65 Three — kind | 102 Shell-shocks |
| 33 Aleve may relieve it | 76 Jihad | 118 — a soul (no one) | 28 Dodge | 66 Pool stick | 103 Note a half step above F |
| 34 Got in a trap | 77 Capri and Aruba | 119 Headstone locale | 29 Venetian beach resort | 68 "— be my pleasure!" | 105 Thick rugs |
| 37 Rowing blades | 80 Plant lice | 120 Disarray | 30 "Fifth Beate" Yoko | 69 La — Tar Pits | 108 Actress Lena of "Chocolat" |
| 39 Be present | 82 Disconnected | 121 Artery-opening tube | 35 Indy-to-Cleveland dir. | 70 Title for a monk | 109 Streamlined, informally |
| 41 Renoir's skill | 85 Units of work | 122 Portuguese for "years" | 36 Dawn droplets | 71 Mesmerized | 110 Ambience |
| | 89 Locale | 123 More rational | 38 Pond gunk | 72 List of currently popular songs | 111 Not saying a word |
| | | DOWN | 40 Coiled like ivy | 77 Polish river | 112 Metal in rocks |
| | | 1 Cousin of a coffeehouse | 41 Speller's clarification | 78 Hip-hop mogul Gotti | |
| | | 2 Curative plant | | | |

Kids' Maze



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

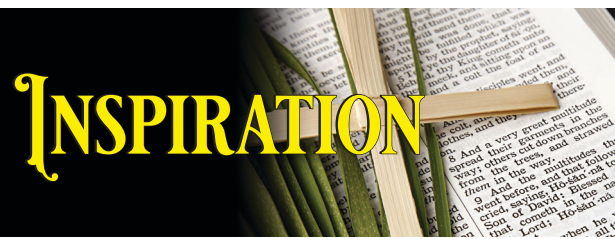
		9		4				3
	5				8			6
4			3			1		
	1			8			3	
6			5		9			4
		5				6		
1			6		4		8	
		8		9				7
	2				7	5		

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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INSPIRATION

HEART AND MIND CONNECTION

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



Throughout history, many cultures have emphasized the importance of following or listening to our hearts. When we speak of the “heart,” we are not referring to the physical organ but our spiritual heart. Our heart is the key to our deepest fulfillment and the entrance to experiencing a deeper relationship with our Creator/God, characterized by peace, gratitude, joy, and unconditional love.

We are taught to respond to the world through our minds from a young age. Our mind is a beautiful gift, but it is not the core of who we are. The essence of who we are is our heart... the “central wisdom of feeling as opposed to the head-wisdom of reason”. The mind is not only limited by its ability to grasp certain concepts but can also be emotionally sensitive and dimmed by our life experiences. When our mind is in charge, we may experience stress, burnout, negative attitudes, unforgiveness, and relationship issues... to name a few.

Most problems arise when our hearts and minds are not aligned or working together. I have personally experienced this many times over the course of my life. My thinking got in the way of what my heart was saying or trying to teach me.

Perhaps, we do not know how to love or show compassion...all the time. It is easy to love and be compassionate when we agree or share the same lifestyle. We can love and be gracious to strangers or those who don't know us well, but it is harder to love and be compassionate to those closest to us. Why? Because they can hurt us the most. We have pain and conflict because we are imperfect people trying to coexist with other imperfect people.

But when we listen to our hearts, we can connect to our true selves and start to see people not for their actions but for who they are. Our hearts can guide us toward making decisions that align with our values and priorities. By listening to our hearts, we can cultivate compassion, gratitude, forgiveness, and love, leading to deeper connections with others and a more meaningful life.

Compassion cannot be learned overnight or taught in a classroom. It is a quality that requires self-reflection and learning to see the world from another's perspective. One of the ways to cultivate a heart of compassion is by practicing empathy; learning to understand the feelings and experiences of others. It is by putting ourselves in their shoes that we can truly understand their situation and respond with compassion.

Many factors can compel people to show kindness to the less fortunate. For some, it may be their personal experiences or struggles that drive them to help others. For others, it may be their faith or belief system that inspires them to serve those in need. But the most compelling reason to show kindness is simply the right thing to do. As human beings, we have a responsibility to care for others. When we do, it not only benefits the person we help but also creates a ripple effect that impacts the entire community.

So the question is, how do we access our heart's wisdom? It starts with being still and quiet, finding time to reflect and pray while we listen and express our emotions in a healthy way. We can practice gratitude, acknowledging the gifts and blessings in our lives. We can ask ourselves what we truly desire and what brings us joy.

In conclusion, cultivating a heart of compassion requires consciously aligning our minds with our hearts. We must learn to practice empathy and view the world with an open heart, ready to respond with kindness and generosity toward those in need.

By doing so, we can follow in the footsteps of Mother Teresa and make a positive difference in the lives of others. Following our hearts can lead us to a more fulfilling and authentic life where we experience love, joy, and peace. It may take time and practice to tap into our heart's wisdom, but it is worth it.

As Antoine de Saint-Exupéry wrote in *The Little Prince*, “It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye”.

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 and Youth 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 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. Pastor 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 TownsendUMC.org.

Trailhead Christian Fellowship, 20 Trailhead View Dr. Townsend (5 mi. north of Townsend). Sunday School and Christian Education, Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Services Sunday, 10:00 a.m. 7th–12th grade youth group, Wednesday, 6:30–8:00 p.m. meeting at 407 S. Cherry St., Townsend. Pastor Mark Roelofs

SVLC NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Claire Nugent

New Member Sunday at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (SVLC) of Townsend was a joyous occasion on April 16th.

Three new families joined our church and a group picture of the congregation was taken by Townsend photographer, Kelly Morris.

SVLC proudly welcomes Bill Mauler, Dave and Lisa Rowell, and the Dane and Amanda Stiles family.

An added part of our celebration was honoring Bonnie Berglund on the occasion of her 90th birthday!

Pastor Ken Duvall, retired pastor of the ELCA and long-time friend of the Townsend congregation, led the service and bestowed membership upon the new participants.

It was a great Sunday of blessings!



Bill Mauler
 Photo Credits: Claire Nugent



SENIOR CENTER

SENIOR CENTER MEALS FOR APRIL 24 - 28

Senior Center: 516 2nd Street, Townsend MT

Monday, April 24
 Baked Ham
 Scalloped Potatoes
 Garden Peas
 Carrot Raisin Salad
 Spiced Apples

Tuesday, April 25
 Sloppy Joes On A Bun
 Baked Beans
 Creamy Coleslaw
 Juicy Pears
 Dessert

Wednesday, April 26
 Roasted Turkey
 Mashed Potatoes
 Green Beans
 Whole Grain Bread
 Plump Peaches

Thursday, April 27
 BBQ Pork Sandwich
 Potato Salad
 Pickled Beets
 Cinnamon Applesauce

Friday, April 28
 Salisbury Steak
 Steamed Potatoes
 California Blend
 Carrot Raisin Salad
 Mandarin Oranges

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.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Karoline Nelson
 Operations Manager

The Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church will be staffing the food pantry during the month of April.

Food pantry supplies were distributed to 19 families consisting of 37 family members on April 15th. Seven clients from the Home Maker Program also received food from the food pantry.

Foods currently in need at the food pantry are cereal, spaghetti or elbow macaroni noodles, Skillet or Hamburger Helper meals and beef or elk burger that has been professionally packaged. Anyone with a meat donation may call Karoline or Daryl at the numbers below for anytime delivery.

The food pantry will only be open for the distribution of food and receiving foods on the first and third full weekends. If there is a 5th Saturday, we will be open then also. If these days are inconvenient for any donations, please notify Karoline or Daryl at the numbers below.

If you are dropping off food donations during off hours, please do not leave them at the back door. They may go unnoticed and especially with the freezing temperatures, the food may freeze.

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

How to Donate: Bob's Supermarket has donation boxes at the checkout counters. For donations of meat or other perishable items or for emergency food distribution, please call Karoline at 406-438-3981 or Daryl at 406-980-0800. The food pantry is open to accept donations from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the first and third Friday of the month. You may mail cash donations to Broadwater Food Pantry; P. O. Box 1164; Townsend, MT 59644. The food pantry is located at 315 Broadway.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



*I am in the midst of lions;
 I am forced to dwell
 among ravenous beasts
 — men whose teeth are
 spears and arrows, whose
 tongues are sharp swords.*
 PSALM 57:4

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Dane and Amanda Stiles Family
 Photo Credits: Claire Nugent



Dave and Lisa Rowell
 Photo Credits: Claire Nugent

OBITUARY: DELORES (DEE) ESTELLA RILEY

Dolores (Dee) Estella Riley passed away at home on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, of natural causes.



Dee was born to Edward Jackson Gilmore and Hollis Adele (Cathcart) Gilmore in Greybull, Wyoming on November 1, 1946. She grew up in Basin, Wyoming, and graduated from Basin High School in 1965.

Dee married her high school sweetheart, Orville Riley, on July 31, 1965. They moved to Omaha, Nebraska that same year, and Dee worked as a secretary for an insurance company in Omaha, where she utilized her detail-oriented business skills. In 1966, she and Orv moved to Billings, Montana, where they lived for fourteen years. While in Billings, she gave birth to two daughters. She believed her highest calling was to be a loyal, loving wife and mother. She fulfilled her calling and loved all her family dearly.

In the summer of 1980, Dee and her family moved to Townsend, Montana, where she lived the rest of her life. She loved the mountains of Montana, camping with her family, taking care of the household, and tending her beautiful flowers and vegetable gardens. She enjoyed crocheting and making many kinds of specialty crafts. For several years, she sold her Craft-Dee Company crafts in local stores, at the Broadwater County Museum, at craft shows, and at Mule Days in Bishop, California. She was also known for making handmade cards for family, friends, and every member of Faith Baptist Church in Townsend, for birthdays, anniversaries, and all occasions.

Most of all, Dee loved her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She accepted Christ as her Savior when she was a little girl and grew to know and love Him more throughout the years. She blessed people in her life by faithfully praying for them. Through every joy, pain, and struggle, she sought the Lord for wisdom, strength, and guidance.

Dee is survived by her husband, Orville Riley; her sister, Darlene Matthews; her daughters and their husbands, Gina and Rand Albiston and Ginger and Anuj Manandhar; eight grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren.

A Funeral Service is scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Saturday, April 22, 2023, at Faith Baptist Church in Townsend. A Reception will follow the service at the church. Burial will be held at Deep Creek Cemetery in Townsend.

Please visit www.stevensonwilke.com to offer a condolence to the family or to share a memory of Dolores.

OBITUARY: WALTER (HAIRY) WILLIAM LEEDLE

Walter (Hairy) William Leedle, December 5, 1959 – April 11, 2023



Hairy was Born December 5, 1959, in Lake Geneva, WI. Hairy Passed peacefully surrounded by family on April 11, 2023, at St. Peter’s hospital in Helena, Montana.

He is the son of Walter J. Leedle and Edith D. Leedle.

Walter worked on the family dairy farm in Lake Geneva, WI until he moved to Townsend, MT. He worked for R. Y. Timber, Inc., Townsend, MT for 23 years, operating a Wagner Log Loader, Mechanic, and Wood splitter.

Walter was also on the Linn Fire Department in Linn Township, Lake Geneva, WI and the Townsend Fire Department and Broadwater County Fire Department in Townsend, MT.

Hairy enjoyed woodworking, and making tables and chairs for family and friends. If you needed a pig roast? Hairy was the man to call. He enjoyed spending time with friends in town.

He was so proud of his son, Harley Immenschuh from Missoula, MT. Watching him play sports in High School, serving in the Military, and currently working as an electrician.

Surviving him are his brother, Timothy Leedle, Clinton, WI and family: wife Liz, son, Anthony, daughter, Lily; his sister, Juliana Leedle, Calif., her family: son, Jeff Daane, and his wife Cydney, and their children: Isabella, Olivia, Emmanuel and Johnny; daughter, Holly Field and children, Oliver and Maddock.

He was preceded in death by his loving mother, Edith Leedle; uncles, George Leedle, Kenneth Leedle, George Schmidt; aunts, Dorothy Betts, Caroline Campbell; grandparents, Lester & Laura Leedle, Walter & Bertha Schmidt.

A Memorial Service will be held at Trailhead Christian Fellowship, 20 Trailhead View Drive, Townsend, MT 59644, on Sunday, April 16, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers please donate to the American Heart Association-Cardiology Stroke Association.

Walter Leedle Family



RADERSBURG - CAPITAL OF MONTANA?

Victor Sample



When I was growing up here in Townsend, it was widely known that Radersburg had once been the Capital of the Montana Territory. Being teenagers, none of us actually cared enough learn more about the history of Radersburg and its role as the Capital.

In 2013, “Taste of Townsend” hosted a dinner that had been a donation for a silent auction. We wanted to do a history trivia quiz between courses. One of the topics was Radersburg being the Capital of Montana. At the age of 61, I was much more interested in learning about history of Radersburg. So I spent a couple of hours on the internet searching for any information about Radersburg as the Capital of Montana.

I was somewhat surprised that I could find no mention of that. How could there be NO information about something that we all knew to be true. So, I turned to a couple of books I have on the history of Montana. Again they skipped over Radersburg being the Capital. By then I was determined to find out and I turned to the definitive source – the Broadwater Bygones. The bygones even listed members of the area town’s baseball teams in the early days. They certainly would have the information I was looking for.

I found NO mention of Radersburg being the Capital of Montana.

Keith Kirscher is a classmate of mine and a close friend

for 60 years – and a member of “Taste of Townsend”. I asked him about it and he confirmed that Radersburg had been the Capital. Then I asked him where we learned that. He said he wasn’t sure – that we must have learned it during Montana History in school. I told him I didn’t think so.

Keith and I asked several other classmates about the topic. They ALL knew Radersburg had been the Capital. When asked where they learned that fact no one could remember where.

I have a friend that worked for the Montana Historical Society at one time. She told us that she had come across paperwork that explained the puzzle:

The Territorial Capital of Montana moved from Bannack to Virginia City to Helena. As the population of Virginia City waned and the population and political power of Helena grew, the Territorial Legislature considered moving the capital. In 1867 there was an “election” of the Territorial Capital and Virginia City won – keeping the capital in Virginia City. In 1869 amid widespread election fraud, Helena won a second vote on the topic; but, somehow an “accidental fire” destroyed all of the ballots and Virginia City remained the Territorial Capital.

In 1874, the Legislature again held an election giving the residents of the Territory the vote (previously it had been just the Legislature voting). This time Helena won – again against wide spread claims of election “irregularities”: the Gallatin County vote was throw out; the Meagher County votes were certified as fraudulent. The United States Supreme Court refused to take up the issue; so the Montana Supreme Court finally declared that Helena was the new Capital of the Montana Territory.

According to the paperwork my freind said she came across, the Territory started moving the government from Virginia City to Helena. At that time, the road from Virginia City to Helena went through Radersburg. About the time they reached Radersburg, a judge had ordered an injunction on the move until the legal situation could be resolved.

Since the Territorial government still had to function it ran out of Radersburg until the Montana Supreme Court ruled that Helena had won the election. At that point the move to Helena continued.

This scenario is certainly plausible – while Radersburg was never the official Territorial Capital it functioned as the Capital for some amount of time.

Unfortunately, I could still find no corroborating mention of that happening. Ellen Baumler, an historian at the Montana Historical Society searched for the paperwork but she could not find any mention of the injunction.

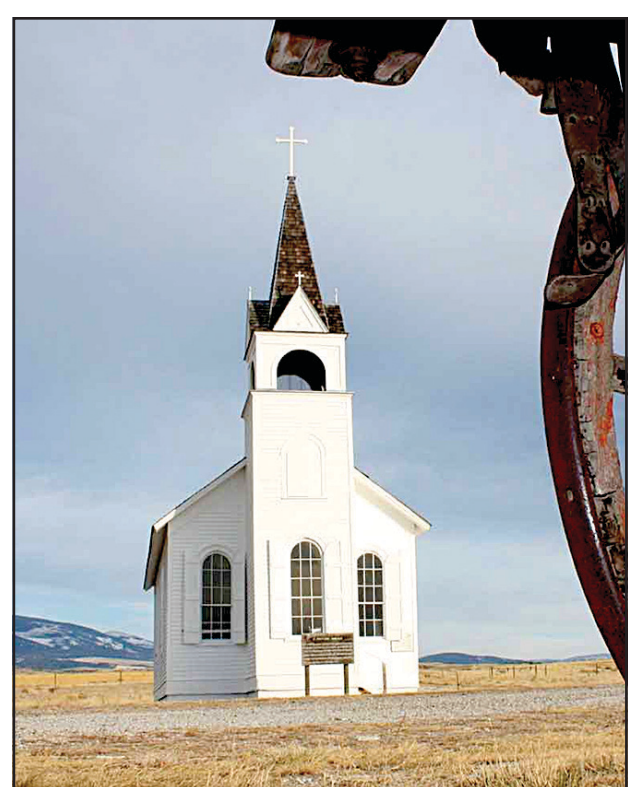
Roger Dundas, another classmate of mine that grew up in the Radersburg area and attended school at the Radersburg School, gave me an alternative explanation that is distinctly Montanan and somehow feels right:

Again, during the move of the Territorial government to Helena, the move went through Radersburg. After several days of long, hard traveling those performing the move decided to relax and enjoy Radersburg and, of course, the Radersburg residents were a friendly, welcoming group.

After a day (or maybe more) of “partying” someone in the group moving the Territorial government declared Radersburg to be a fine town and that Radersburg should be the Capital of the Montana Territory. A vote was taken and Radersburg declared the Capital of Montana.

Then, of course, everyone finally sobered up and the move to Helena continued!

Most of the information for this article came from talking to a variety of people. The information about the voting fraud in the 1867, 1869 and 1874 elections came from “Montana, A History of Two Centuries” by Michael P. Malone, Richard B. Roeder and William L. Lang. For more information about Radersburg, visit the Broadwater County Museum, the Broadwater County Museum website at <https://broadwatercountymuseum.com> or the Radersburg Historical Preservation website on <https://preservebroadwaterhistory.org/RHPIMain>



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

If you are planning to have a yard/garage sake 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!



Special K

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2023 Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner

Broadwater County Republicans
 Sunday, April 30, 2023 Doors Open at 5:00 PM 6:00 PM Dinner

(RSVP Ed Regan 406-949-0097 OR Kristi Geisser 406-980-0059)
 Cost = \$35.00 per person - Payment at Door is Acceptable

Location: Watson Training Center
 290 Litening Barn Lane
 Highway 287 Mile Marker 82.8
 Approximately 5.2 miles South of Townsend
 Next to the BPA Power line
 Townsend, Montana

Keynote Speaker
Congressman Matt Rosendale
 Montana 2nd Congressional District

Invited Speakers
 Montana Freedom Caucus
 Former Senate President Scott Sales, "The Real Inconvenient Truth"
 Republican Office Holders Invited
 Tri County Republican Woman

Gun Raffle Drawing (Henry .22 American Eagle)

Paid for by Broadwater County Republican Central Committee

The hogs are BACK.

Let yourself Go Hog Wild!

Buy whole and half hogs at tizermeats.com/shop TODAY!

Kids' Maze Solution

SNOWFLAKES solution

KNIGHT MOVES Answer

E	O	L
A		R
S	P	N

PERSONAL

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

GRILL & FILL

When: June 9, 2023, 11am-3pm
 Where: 7812 US-287 Townsend, MT

Call us for our Summer Fill Prices
406-266-4278

MadisonRiverPropane.com



Super Crossword Answers

T	A	R	A	S	E	L	S	A	A	T	E	A	T	C	I	T	E	
E	L	I	S	E	L	A	H	R	D	H	A	B	I	A	N	E	W	
A	L	V	I	N	E	D	A	M	M	A	S	S	E	T	H	E	E	
S	H	I	F	T	E	V	E	R	Y	L	E	T	T	E	R	O	N	E
H	E	E	A	V	A	P	A	I	N	E	N	S	N	A	R	E	D	
O	A	R	S	A	T	T	E	N	D	A	R	T	O	P	I	N	E	
P	L	A	C	E	D	O	W	N	T	S	E	E	M	S	T	E	W	
U	T	E	R	I	P	I	G	E	O	N								
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O	E	D	T	O	E	N	A	I	L	C	A	R	A	M	B	A		
Z	P	V	I	B	W	F	D	S	B	D	L	F	E	U	I	F	D	
E	R	I	T	R	E	A	A	D	O	R	N	E	R	E	S	E		
S	O	L	D	E	R	H	O	L	Y	W	A	R	I	S	L	E	S	
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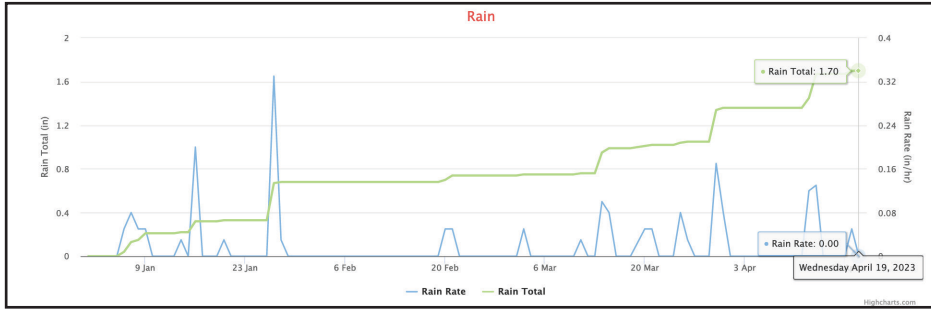
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	Fri 4/21	Sat 4/22	Sun 4/23	Mon 4/24	Tue 4/25
Weather	Light Wintry Mix	Light Rain	Light Rain	Light Rain	Partly Cloudy
Temp	46° 32°	51° 37°	58° 42°	53° 39°	53° 37°
Precip	0 in	0 in	0 in	0 in	0%
Wind	6 13 mph	6 13 mph	8 18 mph	9 22 mph	9 21 mph



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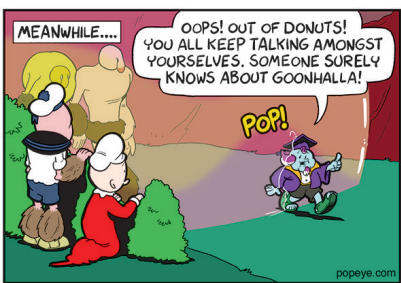
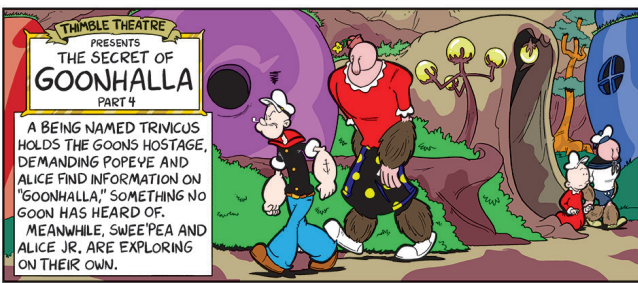
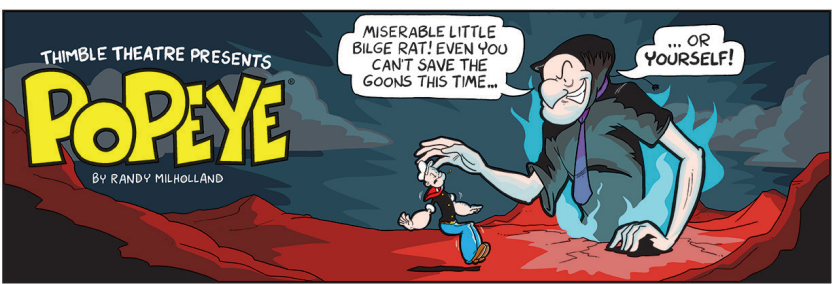
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



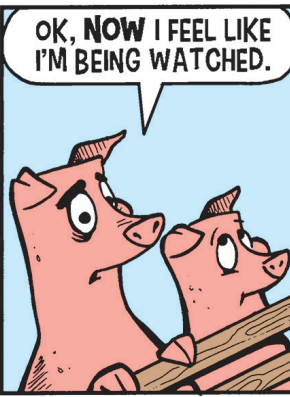
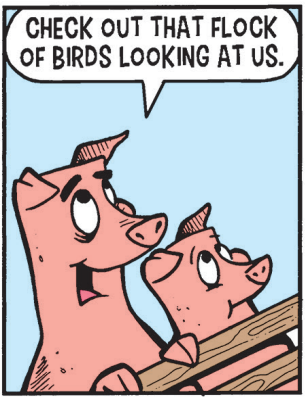
GRIN and BEAR IT by Nagai



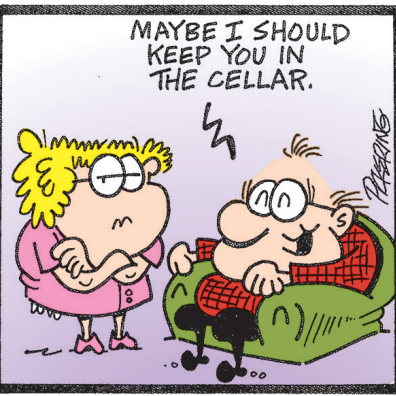
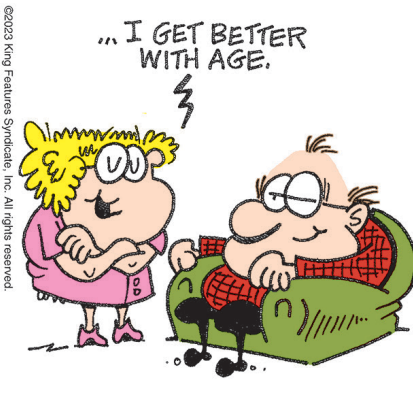
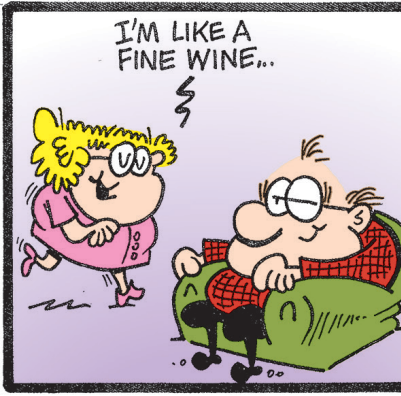
"Who do you think I'm talking to, MYSELF?"



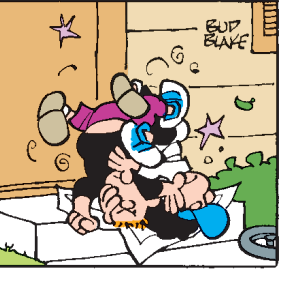
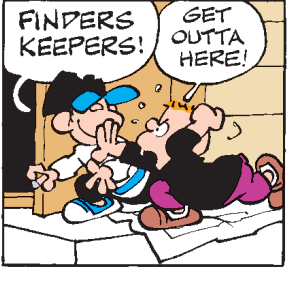
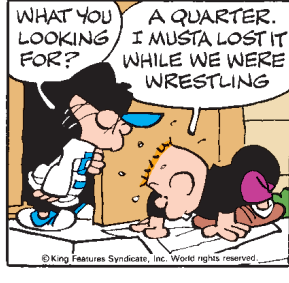
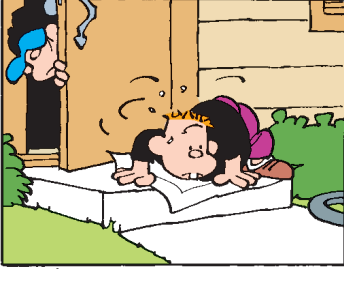
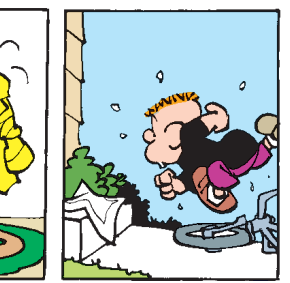
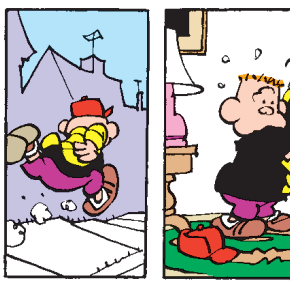
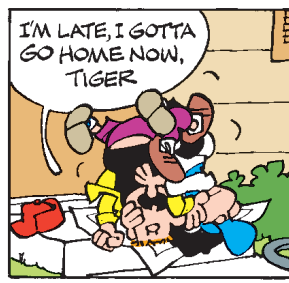
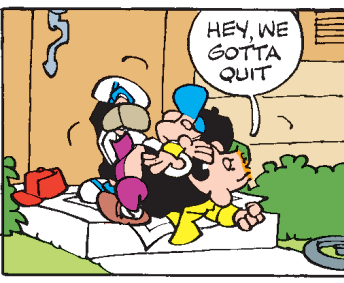
Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps



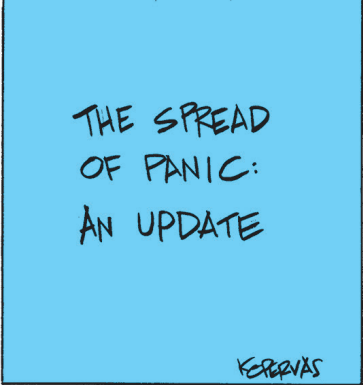
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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

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& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

April 20, 1939

Juniors Top List of Students on Honor Roll

The juniors again topped the list in the number of high ranking scholars at Broadwater high school ringing up eight honor students against four in any other class for the past six weeks, which is next to last of the school's year. The honor roll follows:

Seniors: Kathryn Berberet, Lorrain Hancock, Florence Pennington, Faithe Rudeck.

Juniors: Andy Johnson, Leslie Jones, Alyce Riley, Rose Sanz, Vera Sorenson, Bill Watkins and Bill Weed

Sophomores: Bill Franklin, Dorothy Kirscher, Lawrence Simons, Marie Sterrett.

Freshmen: Mitzi Booher, Mary Ann Clare, Mary Ann Petersen.

Elaborate Plans Laid for Annual Junior Prom

The spring season's outstanding social event will be the junior prom of the Broadwater County high school which event is to be a feature of April 29th. Already committees from the class are working to carry out a unique scheme of decorations and the Heinie Mockel orchestra of Bozeman has been engaged to play for this affair.

The four officers of the class will lead the grand march which will start at 10 o'clock according to the class supervisor, Lawrence Malmberg, who announces the election of the following committees: decorating – Willis Smith, Pryde Lenahan, Gene Sautter and Irene Moudree; punch – Gloria Kapinos, Rose Broderick, Joan McCarthy and Chas. Ragen.

Class officers are Jimmie Reynolds, Rose Sanz, Pryde Lenahan and Willis Smith.

The scheme of decoration is to be a tropical garden.

1950

Radersburg News

Loretta, Sharley, Tillie and Helen Williams attended the

Weiferich-Mockel wedding in Townsend last Wednesday.

Mrs. Jack Ralls and children, Steve and Terry, were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Aker in Helena.

The monthly Sunday school party was given Saturday night as a "Hobo Party". Twenty-three children attended and had a wonderful time.

Winston Willing Workers 4-H Club

The fifth meeting of the Winston Willing Workers was held at the Lloyd Baum ranch. The meeting was called to order at 8 o'clock p.m. by Phyllis Masolo, president.

The club sang a song lead by Eddie Baum. The club pledge was said by the club. Secretary and treasurer, Wayne Whitehead, called the roll and read the minutes of the last meeting.

A demonstration was made by Phyllis Masolo on how to make a shank when sewing on a button. A talk on club congress was given by Wesley Diehl.

The meeting was adjourned by Janet Pigman and seconded by Dan Whitehead.

There were ten out of fourteen from the Winston Willing Workers went to hear Miss Ruba Slavens, who was chosen delegate of 1949 to make a tour through Belgium and France sponsored by the Agricultural service.

Reporter of Winston Willing Workers, Tony Schnabblregger

1961

Toston Briefs

Mr. And Mrs. Lyal Middleton were Tuesday night dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Greaves.

Larry Miller was a weekend guest of Franklin Slifka who was home from Ennis for the weekend.

Mrs. Hattie Hargrove and Mrs. Harold Marks were business visitors in Bozeman Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Arden have moved to Bozeman where he has employment.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Van Meter of Helena, visited the Darrell Millers Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Campeau visited in Gallatin Gateway Friday with Mrs. Bern Roethle and Louie Campeau.

Gary Smith and Jeanne Greaves attended the music festival in Bozeman Saturday.

1967

Local News

Mr. and Mrs. Royal Smith of St. Ignatius have been visiting at the home of his sister, Miss Salome Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Townsley, of Gallatin Gateway, visited Sunday with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Holling and sons.

John Sautter was six years old Friday, April 14 and to celebrate the occasion his mother, Mrs. Jack Sautter, invited a number of his little friends in from 3 to 5 p.m. for games and cake and ice cream. Guests were Penny and Bart Doig, Rhonda, Teresa, Jeff and Debbie Olsen, Ronnie and Cindy Huckins, Virgil Lohr, Robbie Gillespie, Dean Helmick, D'Arcy Perry and Jeff Beaver.

1978

Winston News

Jim and Chris Robison-Cox of Helena spent Saturday at the home of Chris' parents, Jim and Rubie Cox.

Congratulations to Kerri Myles, daughter of Alfred and Molly Myles upon winning 2nd place when she competed in the Senior Division at the 4-H Demonstration Day at Townsend on Saturday.

Mrs. Esther Stroh of Deer Lodge spent Saturday and Sunday with her sister, Mrs. Irene Herrington, and they visited in Toston and Townsend with family members. Mrs. Herrington has just returned from a week's visit in Libby with her daughter and family, Lois and Gary Olson. Mrs. Herrington stayed with the children while Gary and Lois were in Seattle.

TOWNSEND'S COMMUNITY FOREST PART 1

Patrick Plantenberg
Tree Board Chair



Note: This is the first in a series of articles from the Townsend Tree Board reporting on the status of the community forest in Townsend.

The Tree Board has conducted four tree inventories on public property in 1990, 2005, 2011, and 2020. This series of articles will summarize the changes in the community forest over 33 years.

The purpose of the inventories was to obtain a snapshot of the current shade and ornamental public tree situation and assist in the management of Townsend's community forest resources. The major goal of the inventory is to develop a tree maintenance plan to limit the city's liability in case a tree or branch fails and damages a person or property. The inventories and resulting assessments summarized the existing tree resources and their values, current and potential tree problems, and general recommendations for future community forestry needs. Data collected includes:

- Tree address, GPS location, and land use;
- Common and scientific name including variety or cultivar if known;
- year planted if known;
- size including diameter at breast height, height, and width;
- condition of tree and leaves;
- number of trunks;
- maintenance recommendations for small and large trees including routine or immediate;
- maintenance tasks including stake and train young trees, crown thinning or cleaning, monitoring, treat pest or disease, and remove;
- conflicts with utility lines;

- sidewalk damage from tree roots;
- date of last inspection or work on the tree;
- identification of stumps to be removed and potential future planting site locations; and
- comments of work completed on the tree to date.

The 1990 inventory included all city parks including Connor's Field northeast of Townsend. It appears from the 1990 data, that some parks were missed as many of the parks contain mature Colorado blue spruce trees older than 30 years that were not listed in the 1990 inventory. The 2005 and 2011 inventories did not include Connor's Field trees. Connor's Field has about twenty trees, so the difference is insignificant.

The 1990, 2005, 2011, and 2020 inventories included all city street trees. The 2005, 2011, and 2020 inventories included all park trees as well as the Townsend School District #1 campus and Broadwater County property which includes the Courthouse, half of Veteran's Park, Museum, Hospital, and Senior Center. These additional properties added between 100 and 200 trees to the total tree inventory base in 2005-2020. The 1990-2011 inventories were snapshots in time and the data was never updated to keep it current. The 2020 inventory uses the state of Montana Department of Natural Resources and

Conservation TreeKeeper inventory software system and tree data has been updated regularly as changes occur. These updates are significant to keep the data on the community forest up to date.

Next week we will discuss Townsend's landscape characteristics, and why it is important to actively manage the community forest.





Dogwood trees



The dogwood has graceful blossoms and distinctive bark, and also attracts wildlife. Silk moths and several species of butterflies favor dogwoods as hosts. The flowers provide nectar to many pollinating insects. American robins, northern mockingbirds and sparrows will build nests on its horizontal branches. Many birds eat its berries, including cardinals, titmice, bluebirds, juncos and waxwings. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.birdsandblooms.com

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The Townsend Community Forest
Photo Credit: Pat Plantenberg

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