

Broadwater Community Theater Dinner and Play Well Attended



DJ asks Sheriff, "What are you buying ME for Christmas this year?"
Nancy Marks MT43 News Photographer



Actors Denise Johnson of Winston and JB Howick survey the crowd for signs of Santa Claus in the one-act Play, "Crazy Christmas."
Nancy Marks MT43 News Photographer

MT43 News Staff Reporter

The tenants of a good play are conflict, comedy and a catchy ending. Broadwater Community Theater President LaRinda Spencer hit all the high spots in her Crazy Christmas skit performed at Saturday night's annual Christmas Dinner Theater.

Held at the Lodge to a full house, Characters DJ (Denise Johnson of Winston) and the Sheriff (JB Howick) made it clear from the onset they had not much love for each other. She was stuck covering Christmas Eve at KMAS radio station. The Sheriff pulled the short straw to cover the evening at his office. She hates Christmas and takes it out on Sheriff who loves Christmas. She plays crazy music and he chides her for being so negative.

Just then a person (Amanda Hazlett) who might be Santa Claus, appears outside in the cold. Upon entering Sheriff's office it is obvious she is about to have a baby. Sparks really begin to fly when the Sheriff has no experience in birthing babies. Neither does DJ. Never mind. The baby comes anyway without incident. Suddenly, a previously pregnant person disappears into the night, leaving



The about-to-be new mom, Amanda Hazlett, is deep into labor with no help from Sheriff, who is trying to stay out of the picture.
Nancy Marks MT43 News Photographer



Sheriff, the tough guy, coos at the new miracle baby. Forced into helping birth the baby, he sighs when the job is finished, "Gee that wasn't very hard!"
Nancy Marks MT43 News Photographer

a note saying she is giving up the baby for adoption. Sheriff and his wife Penny Lou have never had children. Sheriff and Penny Lou accept the baby as their own. The end.

So typical of talented and dedicated actors, support crew, chefs and cleanup crew, the fundraiser for Broadwater Community Theater came off

without a hitch. The pork loin dinner prepared by Vivian Boaz and served by STOKE students was enjoyed by everyone. Elfrado (Pat Plantenberg) moved the evening along with a raffle and a running commentary on theater events throughout the year. The dinner theater is the beginning of BCT's fundraising activities for 2025.

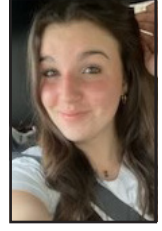
BCT coming events include Queen City Swing Band from Helena who will perform New Year's Eve in the auditorium.

BHS Christmas Concert



Haylie Reinke and Jazlyn Martin rocky around the Christmas Tree at the High School concert.
Karsyn Sangray, BHS Photographer

Karsyn Sangray
Broadwater High School Student Intern



On Monday, December 16, the Broadwater High, and Townsend Middle School performed their Christmas Concert together. Special performances were given, and all of the music was beautiful.

It started with a group of guitars, Kiera Wheeler, Kayleigh Conner, and Maddy Zaharko, accompanied by the piano, Ana Reinke, then a guitarist and banjo took the stage. Isaiah Cassidy, guitar, and Ryan Christensen, banjo, played together. They took a banjo piece and found out what worked for the guitar, basically writing their own music. Their favorite piece they performed was 'Joy to the World'. Ryan Christensen, who took up banjo because of his grandpa and a lady named 'Renee Rose', has been working hard to improve his skills. "I love playing the banjo because it's awesome. It's not very common and not a lot of people play it. It's unique, and I feel like Billy Strings playing it."

After several songs, the duo, Haylie Reinke, the bass clarinet and Jazlyn Martin, the tenor saxophone, took the stage. Their favorite piece throughout the night was "On a Winter's Eve" They performed two songs, 'Rocking Around the Christmas Tree' and 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer'. Although their classics, Reinke and Martin added personality and made the music their own. Some of the advice given to the younger crew by Jazlyn Martin was, "I was just blunt. I told them 'It's happening. It's happening and it's okay to be nervous but you just have to go for it.'"

They gave several pieces of advice to the rest of the band, things to keep their nerves down. Stay calm, especially with all the eyes on them. Haylie took a more positive approach saying, "I tried to just support them. I would say 'It's not that bad, you sounded really good.'"

Although our band always sounds good, that night was a night to remember. Everyone did a fantastic job and performed their part of the piece perfectly. We look forward to their future productions and are proud of how hard they worked to get where they are.

Changes Coming to McCarthy Park in 2025

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Townsend's McCarthy Park's playground will receive a facelift next spring in the form of new swings and play equipment, thanks to Boy Scout Noah Borrer. Townsend's City Council approved Borrer's proposal to replace swings and add equipment at their regular December 3 meeting.

Borrer, assisted by Stacy Sommer of the Cook Mansion and Helena's Playable Playgrounds, told the council the equipment can be ordered and ready to install when the ground thaws this coming spring. He presented three options for the council's approval based on council members' feedback from their November 5 meeting. At that time, concerns about ensuring that the new equipment layout would be in relation to the park's sprinkler system as well as concerns for children's safety prompted members to table approval of the equipment installation until Borrer and Sommer could provide maps.

John Bleile of Townsend's Youth Baseball Association also spoke of changes his group is in the process of finalizing at McCarthy Park in anticipation of the first season of Broadwater High School's first season this spring. While Bleile had asked the council on November 5 for approval to extend the central baseball field at the park as well as install a second equipment shed, he returned to let the council know that no field extension would be needed. The group still intends to add a second, 12-by-24-foot equipment shed, if the council approves.

Council members approved both requests.

Bleile added that his group could provide netting to prevent foul balls from entering the revamped play area if safety continued to be a concern.

EARLY DEADLINES for HOLIDAY EDITIONS

Ad Date & Time	Article Date & Time	Print Date
Fri. 12.20.24 @ 10AM	Fri. 12.20.24 @ 12PM	Fri. 12.27.24
Fri. 12.27.24 @ 10AM	Fri. 12.27.24 @ 12PM	Fri. 01.03.25

SEASONS GREETINGS!

JOY TO THE WORLD!

Christmas Church Services in Townsend

Saturday, December 21

- Seventh Day Adventist – 200 N. Cedar St. Regular Saturday Service 9:30 am.

Sunday, December 22

- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints – 916 Broadway St. Christmas Program 9:30 am.
- Faith Baptist Church – 5 Jack Farm Road Regular Sunday Service 11:00 am.
- Set Free Christian Fellowship – 318 Broadway St. Regular Sunday Service 9:30 am.

Tuesday, December 24

- Elkhorn Community Fellowship – 126 Cedar St. Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm.
- Holly Cross Catholic Church – 101 So. Walnut Christmas Eve Mass 8:00 pm.
- Mountain Valley Church (CMA) – 110 E St. Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm.
- Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church – 301 N. Cherry St. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 pm.
- Townsend United Methodist Church – 200 N. Cedar St. Christmas Eve Service 4:30 pm.
- Trailhead Christian Fellowship Church – 20 Trailhead View Dr. Christmas Eve Service 4:30 pm.

Wednesday, December 25

- Trailhead Christian Fellowship Church Christmas Day Dinner Delivery at Noon

Elkhorn Community Fellowship invites you to our Christmas Eve service at 6:00pm, Tuesday December 24



126 N Cedar, Townsend, MT | 406-949-0183

Holy Cross Parish Christmas Eve Mass 12/24, at 8 pm 101 S Walnut St



Remember the Reason for the Season!

Townsend United Methodist Church invites you to worship with us! Christmas Eve Service 4:30pm Sunday 9am Every Week



200 N Cedar, Townsend Mt Pastor Melelupe Moa 510-456-6121

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm 301 N Cherry, Townsend, MT



Townsend Seventh-day Adventist Church 200 North Cedar (In Methodist Church) Pastor Ney Khut 269-362-5768

Celebrate the Joy of Christ's Blessings!

Saturday Worship - 9:30 am Sabbath School - 10:30 am



Merry Christmas from everyone at the Copy Cup!

303 N Front St, Townsend, MT (406) 980-8400



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from MT43 News Crew! We are grateful to our contributors, subscribers, advertisers and all who support and share this journey with us! May your days be merry and bright!

Highway 12 Market Place
Handmade & Collectables

Monday- Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm
200 Broadway St, Townsend, MT (406) 465-3588

Come in and Shop with our Local vendors!

- Bighorn Photos- Jordan Anderson**
Need a souvenir for your trip? Photographs of bears, moose, wolves and so much more. Come check it out!
- Big Sky 3D Crafts- Laura Thayer**
Specializing in 3D printed articulated animals, dice towers and home decor. Custom orders are always welcome.
- Big Sky Angels- Laura Stevenson**
Montana Crafted: Crochet Items- animals, bags, decor and more, Handpainted-Ornaments and Re-purposed Art
- Touch of Twyla's Greeting Cards**
Handcrafted Cards, Incense and Incense Burners, Beanies and Diamond Painting Kits.
- Woodshaper Unique- Pennie Kittilson**
Knives: Bowie and folding, Jewelry: earrings, necklaces, real insect jewelry and Artisan Gifts: plaques, boxes, sun catchers, keychains, magnets

Merry Christmas from The Birds Nest & Swazi's Rock Shop

Unique Gifts, Antiques & Treasures

125 S Pine St | (406)266-1335





MERRY FITMAS AND A HAPPY NEW REAR!

I'M ABOUT TO SLEIGH THIS WORKOUT

HEAD ON INTO GRAB ALL YOUR FITNESS GIFTS: MEMBERSHIPS, STICKERS, WEARABLES, COFFEE, PROTEIN, + CUPS.



May you be blessed in this season of light! Happy Chanukah and Kwanzaa, starting the night of December 25!

PRECISION BUSINESS RESOURCES IS NOW ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS!

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CALL US TODAY!
TOWNSEND: 266-0062 EAST HELENA: 442-6206



Please join us for a CANDLELIGHT Christmas Eve

24 December, 2024 4:30 PM TRAILHEAD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Trailhead Christian Church 20 Trailhead View Dr, Townsend

For more info: trailheadchristianchurch.com



TRAILHEAD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

TO ORDER: SCAN THE CODE OR CALL 406-266-4406

FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER

DECEMBER 25 DELIVERED TO YOU!

For anyone and everyone in the Broadwater County Community!

WWW.TRAILHEADCHRISTIANCHURCH.COM/CHRISTMASDINNER



Townsend School Calendar

DECEMBER

Fri 20
8:00 am: District Staff Breakfast - Community Room
12:00 pm: **EARLY RELEASE**
High School Wrestling - Great Falls CMR
4:00 pm: Interact Movie Night - stage gym

Sat 21
High School Wrestling - Great Falls CMR

Mon 23- Wed 1
NO SCHOOL- WINTER BREAK

Thu 26
7:00: Old Baldy Beginning Crochet - Library Classroom



NorthWestern

Energy

Delivering a Bright Future

Sponsor of Townsend School Page


Three Forks School Calendar

DECEMBER

Fri 20
TBD: High School Wrestling @ CMR
Holiday Classic in Great Falls
12:00 pm: JV GB/JV-C BB vs GV Homeschool

Sat 21
TBD: High School Wrestling @ CMR Holiday Classic in Great Falls

Thu 26
12:00 pm: Student Council Meeting



THREE FORKS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Friday 20
11:00 am: Three Forks Community Library - LEGO Club

Tuesday 24
Three Forks Community Library CLOSED

Wednesday 25
Three Forks Community Library CLOSED

Thursday 26
Three Forks Community Library - NO STORYTIME
6:00 pm: Three Forks Music Night with August Ore at Bridger Brewing Three Forks

Friday 27
11:00 am: Three Forks Community Library - LEGO Club

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Monday 23
2:00 pm: Commission Working Meeting

Tuesday 24
10:00 am: Commission Working Meeting (in the Commissioner's Office)

Wednesday 25
10:00 am: No Commission Meeting



Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.
Next meeting: January 15th, 7:00PM
At the Townsend Fire Station - 130 So Cedar St
See Board Meeting Agenda at: <http://www.facebook.com/BroadwaterCountyVolunteerFireDepartment>

LIBRARY HOURS

Three Forks Community Library

FALL HOURS:
Monday, Wednesday through Friday - 10:00am to 5:00pm
Tuesdays - 10:00am - 7:00pm
1st Saturday of the Month: 11:00am - 2:00pm
Contact the library for details on clubs and events for a variety of ages at (406) 285-3747, or visit the website: threeforkslibrary.weebly.com

Broadwater School and Community Library

FALL HOURS:
Monday-Thursday -- 4:00 - 7:00pm
Friday-Saturday -- 9:00am - 4:00pm
Sunday -- 12:00 - 5:00pm
Curbside also available please call: (406)441-3461

CLASSIFIEDS

KITTY: Free to Good Home!

1 1/2 yr old Black & White neutered male cat. Very friendly good mouser.
Call Susan 406-980-0650

ROCK STEADY BOXING CLASS

Are you interested in having an exercise program in Townsend to help with Parkinson's? Please call Lee Weldon to find out about a possible Rock Steady Boxing class at 406-439-9627. Happy Holidays!

What do you get for someone who has everything?



Give them a gift subscription to MT 43 News!

Call or come by our office to order your gift subscriptions!
Mon - Fri, 10am - 2pm
406.266.0086 | 408 Broadway

TOWNSEND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Friday 20
10:00 am: **Free** Story Time and a Craft with Mrs. Latasha Wirtz at Broadwater Community Library
12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

Saturday 21
11:00- 4:00 pm: Winter Market, **FREE ADMISSION** at Reading Leaves Bookstore in the Community Nook, 401 Broadway
12:00 pm: Christmas Caroling with Johnny and the Wingnuts at Reading Leaves Bookstore in the Community Nook
6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945
6:30 pm: Magic - The Gathering at Reading Leaves Bookstore, 401 Broadway
SEE PAGE 2 FOR SPECIAL HOLIDAY SERVICES

Monday 23
6:00 pm: Celebrate Recovery **CHRISTMAS DINNER** at Mountain Valley Church, 107 E St, 406-980-1805

Tuesday 24
5:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Food and Bingo at American Legion Post 42 Club
5:30 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
SEE PAGE 2 FOR SPECIAL HOLIDAY SERVICES

Wednesday 25
12:00 pm: **FREE** Christmas Dinner **SEE PAGE 2 FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS**
1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

Thursday 26
7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 27
10:00 am: **Free** Story Time and a Craft with Mrs. Latasha Wirtz at Broadwater Community Library
12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St

Saturday 28
6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945
6:30 pm: Magic - The Gathering at Reading Leaves Bookstore, 401 Broadway

EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINE SCHEDULE FOR MT43 NEWS:

Christmas
Advertisement deadline: Friday, December 20th 10:00 AM
Article deadline: Friday, December 20th, 12:00 PM
Print, mail and distribute to vendors: Thursday, December 26th

New Year
Advertisement deadline: Friday 10:00 AM
Article deadline: Friday, Dec 27th, 12:00 PM
Print, mail and distribute to vendors: Thursday, Jan 2nd, 2025

MWPA Foundation's Spring 2025 Scholarship Winners!

Ed Regan

The Montana Wood Products Association Foundation (MWPA) is pleased to announce that Cassidy Johnson and Alden Whitney are our Spring 2025 Scholarship Winners.

Meet Cassidy Johnson

Meet Cassidy Johnson one of our 2025 Spring Semester MWPA Foundation Forest Management Scholarship recipients. This is Cassidy's second MWPA Foundation scholarship, recognized as an outstanding star in her continued academic endeavors.

About Cassidy:

Cassidy was the MWPA Foundation's first Forest Management Scholarship recipient in 2023. As an outstanding star in her academic endeavors, the Foundation has awarded her a 2nd scholarship for the 2025 spring semester. Cassidy's family has a rich history in lumber, forest conservation, and forestry. She is proud to follow in the footsteps of her great-grandfather, who graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in forestry. After graduation, he worked throughout the West and eventually ran his own logging business. Her grandmother dedicated her career to the Forest Service in range management until her retirement and her grandfather worked at a wood mill and various logging sites.

She grew up surrounded by timber, lumber, and forest management. She developed a deep curiosity about how to care for forests and manage timber products. These industries create numerous jobs for communities near forests, including her father's position at Marks Miller Post and Pole in Clancy, MT as a millwright.

Cassidy is eager to learn more about the decision-making processes before a timber sale and explore how to manage forests to protect habitats and microbiomes while providing essential products for people. The more she learns about forest management and production, the more passionate she becomes about her future in the forestry and timber industry.

The MWPA Foundation wishes Cassidy the best of luck in her schooling and school experiences! We know she will do well. Part of the scholarship includes a \$500.00 bonus upon graduation and six months of active employment in Montana's forest products industry.

The Foundation will be seeking fall 2025 applications later in the spring. Please contact us if you know of an exceptional candidate who could use support to achieve their education and career goals.

Congratulations **Julie Thompson of Townsend!**


You are the lucky winner of the MT43 News 2024 East Helena and Townsend Christmas Stroll Raffle!



Thanksgiving Raffle Winners

Announced by Family Promise Service

Leslie Heisey
Family Promise Community Service Administrator



A unique idea for a raffle fundraiser sprung from the Family Promise organizers during the Thanksgiving holiday. They offered two prizes \$500 each which would assist Townsend residents who need help paying their water bills, according to Community Service Administrator Leslie Heisey.

In addition, two \$100 gas gift cards were offered through the raffle. Terry Burgess won a gas card. She purchased her ticket at the Fish Tale. Chase Campbell purchased his ticket at Opportunity Bank.

Winners of the water bill tickets were Yvonne Satliff who purchased her ticket at Opportunity Bank here in town, and Kenneth Westerguard.

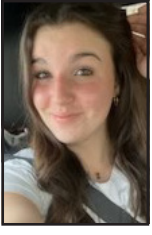
Westerguard, who does not live in Townsend, had bought the ticket at the Bunkhouse Bar at Toston. Westerguard generously donated his winning ticket back suggesting they award it "to someone who needs it".

Heisey thanked the businesses who also participated in the raffle including Townsend Hardware and Reading Leaves Bookstore.

Family Promise of Greater Helena, Townsend and Broadwater County is an emergency assistance program that provides groceries, gasoline and rent to families in need. For more information please call (406) 465-9467

Bulldog Wrestling Team Opens at Cascade

Karsyn Sangray
Broadwater High School Student Intern



The Broadwater High School Wrestling team starts their season with a meet held in Cascade. With a total of fourteen bulldog wrestlers, Captains Eric Humphreys, Parker Hunt, Gavin Schmele, and Hunter Borrer have just a little more responsibility. The captains lead the team to wrestle each other before each match to prepare for success. Some of the more experienced wrestlers are seen showing the newbies different moves and ways to pin their opponents. They practice their gymnastic skills by doing cartwheels, somersaults, and dive rolls. They do these things to warm up their bodies and increase their agility.

Eric Humphreys has had a great start to his season. In Cascade, he was able to be recognized as the Montana High School Association Athlete of the Week. Humphreys was able to place first in the 165-pound weight class, and in the Whitehall Duals was able to perform phenomenally as well. His biggest support came from his four coaches, Harry Hall, Mike Schnittgen, John O'Dell, and head coach Eli Hohn. The coaches do everything they can for their team and give advice on just about anything. Before each match Eric jumps

around and stays warm, talking with different coaches and getting in the zone. Watching Eric wrestle you can see and hear all of his coaches, teammates, and family yelling and encouraging him on. Eli Hohn is one of Eric's biggest supporters, "I see Hohn a lot. I'm in two of his classes and we talk a lot about how to perform better as a team. Personally, he just helps me get better by giving me feedback."

Just two meets in, and our team is already taking medals home. Eric Humphreys, Parker Hunt, Nick Humphreys and Gabby Rico were all able to place in the first meet of their season. This sets the tone for the rest of the season and we are excited to see where this start leads them. Preparing for the CMR Holiday Invite is next. Parker Hunt, whose favorite takedown is the 'Fireman's Carry', has been working hard to earn his place as captain. His favorite part of wrestling is, "that it's an individual sport. My team supports me but I don't have to rely on them to place. My brother is a big help for me and has been there throughout my wrestling career."

Although this was just the start of their season, we expect great things from our wrestling team and are looking forward to seeing them progress through their season.



Parker Hunt in his match against North Fremont. Karsyn Sangray, BHS photographer

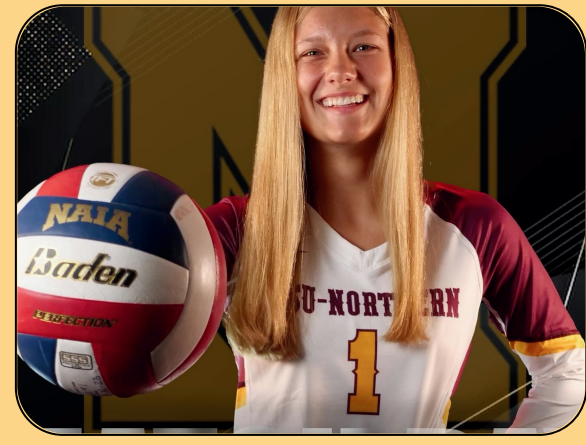


Wrestler Eric Humphrey holds up his hand after winning his match. Karsyn Sangray, BHS photographer



GO BULLDOGS!!

Congratulations, volleyball standout Emily Bird,



for making all freshman team at MSU Northern @ Havre, MT. Her family is very proud of her!

PLAYERS of the WEEK

Townsend Booster Club

Girls' Basketball:

Mishayla Lambott is a junior and played in four games over the weekend during the Manhattan Christian Tip-Off Tournament. Her weekend started off playing varsity against Shields Valley on Friday. In that game, Mishayla helped the team with two free throws and one rebound. Then, being a team player, Mishayla played some JV against Plenty Coup, helping the team with 15 points, one defensive rebound and two offensive rebounds. She also contributed directions and support to the JV on their way to a win. Next up, saw Mishayla playing in the varsity game against West Yellowstone on Saturday. She helped her team with four points, three offensive rebounds and one defensive rebound. Mishayla showed team spirit and leadership, again helping the JV team against West Yellowstone, with 8 points and six defensive rebounds. Her point contribution included an amazing three-point play, just beating the halftime buzzer to tie it up for the JV. Mishayla continued to show leadership for the second half and cheered on the JV for the quarters she couldn't play.

Boys Basketball:

Grady Erickson is this week's standout player by having an outstanding game against Shields Valley. Grady scored 23 points and was the Bulldogs leading rebounder as well with 12 boards. Grady got the Bulldogs fired up right away in this game by scoring 16 of his 23 points in the First Quarter. He has grown into a well-rounded basketball player, and an even better teammate giving every game his all. Congrats Grady!



Mishayla Lambott
Townsend Booster Club



Grady Erickson
Townsend Booster Club

Lions Club Spreads Christmas Cheer

Bob Brastrup
Townsend Lions Club

The holiday season brings a sense of anticipation for fun and good times, capped with gathering around the Christmas tree for the opening of presents. For some families, however, unforeseen circumstances create a financial hardship that replaces that joy with disappointment.

The Broadwater County Lions were asked if they could help bring holiday joy to fourteen unnamed family members who would otherwise have a disappointing Christmas. The Lions are provided with a list of items that the families need.

Lion members Teena Larson and Dela Chatriand had fun doing the shopping. Purchases included bedding, clothing, toys, and food. The gifts are wrapped



These are a few of the gifts that will spread cheer to a couple of local families on Christmas morning." Sheri Brastrup Photo

to help add excitement to the Christmas morning ritual of opening gifts.

Everyone in the community who has supported the various Lions fundraising projects can claim ownership in spreading this Christmas cheer as the funds raised allow the club to conduct projects such as this.

Racht Named Townsend Schools' Interim Superintendent

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Long-time Townsend educator and current middle school principal Brad Racht was named the district's interim superintendent during the Townsend Schools Board of Trustees Meeting on Dec. 12. Racht will take point on the superintendent's duties through the end of the school year, following the departure of Susie Hedalen. Hedalen becomes the state's new Superintendent of Public Schools following her election in November.

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do it," Racht told board members as he accepted the position. "Recognize that I have a lot to learn. . . . There's a lot of support around, and I'm grateful for that. So we'll get it done."

Racht has been with Townsend Schools for nearly a quarter century, joining as a PE Teacher and basketball coach and also serving as K-8 principal for several years.

The board will be accepting applications to permanently replace Hedalen through Jan. 15, 2025, with interviews to begin Feb. 3. The new superintendent would begin July 1, 2025.

Women, Infants and Children Program Upgraded

Lacy Little
Montana WIC Program Director

The Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS) recently released new guidelines to improve access to the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program for families who receive the traditional Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship.

Families who have been determined eligible for traditional Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarships are now automatically financially eligible for WIC.

"Both of these programs serve many of the same families, so as a way to improve customer service, we made the decision to streamline the eligibility process for families," said Lacy Little, Montanan WIC program director. "This will make it easier for families to gain access to the nutritional food and support the WIC program provides."

WIC eligibility requires participants to be pregnant, postpartum, breastfeeding, or have a child younger than five. Household income must be at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level or be already approved for Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, or a free/reduced school meal program. This change adds the traditional Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship to that list.

The Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship program helps Montana families afford quality childcare, allowing parents to participate more fully in the workforce. Families earning less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Level with children in licensed care, including centers, family homes, and Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) care, are eligible. Families make a co-payment based on income using a sliding fee scale.

To learn more about WIC or find out if you are eligible, go to www.dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/wic/index. Families can also contact their local WIC clinic or visit www.signupwic.com. The state office may be reached at 1-800-433-4298 or emailed at montanawicprogram@mt.gov.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal notices are required to print in local newspapers and may hold private or public interest. Here you may read about Probate Notices, Estate Settlements and other Judicial Actions as well as important Broadwater County notices.



MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT BROADWATER COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN MICHAEL KREITINGER, Deceased.

Probate No. CDP-24-21

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Thomas L. Kreitinger has been appointed Personal Representative of this estate. Claims against the decedent must be presented within four months after the first publication of this notice or be forever barred. Claims must be either mailed to the Personal Representative via his Attorney, Peter T. Simon (303 Broadway St, Townsend, MT 59644) return receipt requested, or filed with the Clerk of the above-titled Court.

Dated December 6, 2024.

/s/ Peter T. Simon

GALLATIN ELDER LAW & ESTATE PLANNING PLLC

Attorney for Personal Representative

Published December 6, 13 and 20, 2024

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT BROADWATER COUNTY

GITSIT Solutions, LLC, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Separate Trustee of GITSIT Mortgage Loan Trust BBPLC1, Plaintiff, v.

Unknown Heirs and Devisees of the Estate of Jane Stevens Dunn; Unknown Heirs and Devisees of the Estate of Leslie F. Dunn; and Unknown Parties in possession of or with an interest in the real property commonly known as: 1160 US Highway 12 East, Townsend, MT 59644,

DEFENDANTS. SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

Case No.: DV-4-2024-0000052-FO

To: Unknown Heirs and Devisees of the Estate of Jane Stevens Dunn ; and Unknown Parties in possession of or with an interest in the real property commonly known as: 1160 US Highway 12 East, Townsend, MT 59644

A lawsuit has been filed against you for amongst other things, foreclosure of real property located in the County of Broadwater, State of Montana. The real property has an address of 1160 US Highway 12 East, Townsend, MT 59644 and is more particularly described as follows:

TOWNSHIP 7 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST, P.M.M., Broadwater County, Montana

A tract of land situated in Lot 4 of Section 30, and Lot 1 of Section 31, Township 7 North, Range 4 East, described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the south line of Section 30 and the southerly 50 foot right-of-way line of U.S. Highway No. 12; thence N. 43°36' E., 229.3 feet along the highway right-of-way; thence S. 22°51'07" E., 180.26 feet to a point on the south line of Section 30; thence west 56.86 feet along the section line; thence S. 48°08' W., 228.9 feet; thence S. 76°45'39" W., 76.02 feet; thence N. 77°25" W., 114.93 feet to a point on the Highway right-of-way; thence northeasterly 236.09 feet along a curve to the left with a 766.3 foot radius to the point of beginning, according to Certificate of Survey recorded in Book 1 of Plats, Page 223.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you or (42 days if you are the State of Montana, a state agency, or a state officer or employee, or 60 days if you are the United States of America, or federal agency), you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure. Do not include the day you were served in your calculation of time. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, if plaintiff is represented by an attorney, whose name and address are listed above.

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

Date: November 26, 2024

/s/ CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Published December 6, 13 and 20, 2024

MNAXLP

MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, BROADWATER COUNTY

RYAN COUNTS and TESSA COUNTS,

Plaintiffs,

v.

RAMPART EQUIPMENT, INC., a Domestic Profit Corporation; and ARYAAN SYED, an Individual, Defendant.

Cause No. CDV-4-2004-0000047-BC

Honorable Kathy Steeley

SUMMONS

TO: RAMPART EQUIPMENT, INC:

A lawsuit has been filed against you. The nature of this action is a civil action involving the sale of 2013 CASE TV 380 Skid Steer. Within 21 days after service of this summons on you, you must serve on the Plaintiff an answer to the attached Complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure. Do not include the day you were served in your calculation of time. The answer or motion must be served on the Plaintiff or the Plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are listed above. If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. You must also file your answer or motion with the court.

DATED this 29 day of October, 2024.

Audrey Plymale, Clerk of District Court

Published December 20, 27 and January 3, 2024

MNAXLP

NOTICE: DITCH RIDER NEEDED

Ditch Rider needed in Toston, Montana. March 1 - October 31. Mechanical/electrical knowledge of large irrigation pumps required, with working knowledge of canals and pipelines.

Must be on-call for emergencies.

Applicator license and personal pickup required - mileage reimbursed.

Compensation DOE. Call: 406-266-1630

Published November 29, December 6, 13 and 20, 2024

MNAXLP

Montana First Judicial District Court, Broadwater County

In the matter of the Name Change of Scarlet Mureen Budreau: Scarlet Mureen Budreau, Petitioner

Case No.: DDV-2024-668

NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE

This is notice that the Petitioner has asked the District Court for a change of name from (your name now) Scarlet Mureen Budreau To (name you want) Scarlet Mureen Gunter

The hearing will be on (date) 01/31/2025 at (time) 10:30 AM

The hearing will be at the Courthouse in (county) Broadwater County.

Filed Date 12/09/24

Valerie J Hornveld, Clerk of District Court

By Desiree' Taves, Deputy Clerk of Court

Published December 20, 27, 2024 and January 3 and 10, 2025

MNAXLP

Broadwater County Commissioners Agenda

Daylene Hansen
Administrative Assistant



BROADWATERCOUNTYCOMMISSIONERS

515 Broadway, Townsend

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

Current and previously recorded meetings,

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

Per Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 2-3-202, the 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 will be taken either in writing before 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 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting in the Courthouse (1st-floor bulletin board), on our website at www.broadwatercountymt.com, in the window of the Flynn Building, and in the local MT43 Newspaper when possible to meet the publishing deadline.

Monday, December 23, 2024

9:00 AM Working meeting in Commission Office with Kay Minor, Deputy County Attorney, regarding projects and deadlines

1:00 PM Working meeting with Bill Jarocki, County Administrative Officer, in Flynn Building, regarding projects and deadlines

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Christmas Day – All County offices closed

The county strives to make the meeting available virtually but cannot guarantee access due to platform failure, internet interruptions, or other potential technological malfunctions

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
- Task Orders

Debi Randolph, Vice Chairman
(406) 266-9270 or (406) 980-2050

Darrel Folkvord, Chairman
(406) 266-9272 or (406) 980-1213

Lindsey Richtmyer
(406) 266-9271 or (406) 521-0834

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

Future Meetings will be held at the Flynn Building (416 Broadway)

Please note: These meeting times/dates may change, please check the county website

- Mental Health Local Advisory Council Meeting on January 8th at 2:00 PM
- Fair Board Meeting on January 9th at 5:30 PM
- Board of Health Meeting on January 13th at 3:00 PM
- Trust Board Meeting on January 14th at 11:30 AM
- Planning Board Meeting on January 14th at 1:00 PM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on January 14th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on January 15th at 6:00 PM

The Commissioners may be attending these board meetings (except the Planning Board)



December 13

Dee Gannon

MT43 News Correspondent



Quinn Hiaasen appeared for a Change of Plea; pleading Guilty to an amended charge of criminal endangerment. In his elocution, he stated that he has no recollection, due to his drug use. Under the influence of drugs, I did this in Broadwater County; I knowingly grabbed a person by the neck and tried to slam her head against the wall. His Sentence is that he receives three years; he must comply to most conditions; he must apply to Gallatin County Treatment; he gets credit for time served (to be determined) and must pay fees and surcharges in the amount of \$80.

Maurice Powers has his Status Hearing continued until December 20, at 9:30 a.m.

Samuel Cooper had a Change of Plea. He was not present; so, an arrest warrant was issued. His bond is \$20,000.

Tanner York had his Sentencing continued on January 17, 2025.

Tami Willett had a Change of Plea on an amended charge of DUI (1st) admitting to driving while under the influence in Broadwater County; and having a child under the age of 16 with her. She receives two days credit time served; One year in county jail; all suspended; \$750 fine; \$250 to the Office of Public Defenders; she must have a substance abuse evaluation; she must not possess alcohol or marijuana (unless employment opportunities need that she work in a bar). If she continues to cook in such, she can contact the County Attorney.

John Hansson appeared on a Petition to Revoke Felony charges. The Plea Agreement agrees that he serve 20 years MSP, with fifteen years suspended. However, with this revocation, it is alleged that he has not complied with court orders and conditions. He did not turn himself in, after a one-week furlough; even after an extension. He did not comply with court-ordered alcohol testing. He was arrested on October 29 in Billings. His Sentence is that he serve six months in Broadwater County. He is due to go to Montana State Prison in April 2025. He must pay \$2,500 in restitution for the damaged 1981 Ford F150; which was stolen. He has 222 days credit time served. He remains in jail for two DUIs (2nd and 3rd) out of Justice Court until February 26, 2025. His Sentence is that he has ten years in Montana State Prison, with 5 years suspended. He must serve ten years Department of Corrections; consecutive to prison. He is to pay (in addition to the \$2,500 in restitution) \$2,200 fine, \$80- fees and surcharges, and a \$50 Pre-Sentence Investigation fee. He gets credit time served (to be determined). He must be screened and placed in appropriate therapy. If MSP does not provide that, he must have MRT (moral recognition therapy).

Codey Green has a Petition to Revoke on a suspended sentence. He is sentenced to five years D.O.C., with two suspended. He has served this sentence; getting out of Prison on April 19, 2022. Now, he must serve five years MSP; with a total of 650 credit time served. He is to be seen in Lewis and County Court, and Sentenced on felony charges; as convicted by Jury Trial. He is Sentenced two years, all suspended. He has credit time served 650 days; the remainder of 80 days is suspended. He has \$880 still owed.

Shadow Robbins had her sentencing on a 4th or subsequent offense of DUI She is enrolled in the STEER Program (Sobriety Treatment, Education, Excellence, Rehabilitation). She is currently working near Billings; and does alcohol testing four times a day. Her Sentence is five years DOC, all suspended. \$800 to Office of Public Defenders, \$5,000 fine, all suspended, Fees and surcharges of \$80. The judge forwarded her a recommendation for a provisional driver's license.

Bet Ginsberg had an Evidentiary Hearing; bringing a motion to suppress. He challenges the search of his cell phone; citing he did not give permission to access his Google account, as well as the expansion to his 'cloud'. After a long testimony by Deputy Aaron Reynolds, citing when Ginsburg contacted him about the 'truck fire'. He testified that after accessing Ginsburg's phone, they found evidence linking him to John Hansson and the stolen truck. It was difficult, because Ginsberg had two phones: both an iPhone and an Android. In one video/audio clip, they heard Ginsberg, Kristena Peek, and John Hansson allegedly talking about the truck. Sheriff's office was also able to access phone calls, texts, files, videos, and other evidence, tying him to John Hansson. Closings will be presented to the court on December 27. Bert Ginsberg had an Order to Show Cause on a violation of court orders; when an off-duty deputy saw Ginsberg and Kristena Peek entering the Bunkhouse Bar and Grill; and he has a positive (for meth) test.

EAST HELENA NEWS**East Helena Sees 455 Police Calls for November**

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter



East Helena Chief of Police Ed Sanders told the East Helena City Council that his department saw 455 calls for service in the month of November, leading to 33 case reports. Sanders spoke at the council's regular December 3 meeting.

"We've had another busy month," Chief Sanders said. Heading the list were 22 parking calls, nine citizen assists, nine crash reports, and seven animal calls.

One concern Chief Sanders touched on, reporting on discussions from the Criminal Justice Citizens Council Meeting, was overcrowding in the Lewis and Clark County Jail. A smaller committee was tasked with looking into ways to alleviate the issue.

The main problem, Sanders said, is the large number of detainees – approximately 45 – who have been sentenced to state prison and are awaiting transfer to the state facility.

"It's a big problem, and one there's no solution for right now."



East Helena's City Council held its first of the month regular meeting Dec. 3 at East Helena City Hall. Back Row: Council members Wesley Feist and Judy Leland. Front Row: Council member Don Dahl, Mayor Kelly Haris, City Attorney Pete Elverum, and City Clerk Amy Thorngren. Not pictured but present via Zoom was Council member Suzanne Ferguson. Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

Discrepancy May Endanger Funding for East Helena Middle Grades

Linda Kent
MT43 News Staff Reporter



Discrepancy Between State/District Classification of School Type May Endanger Funding 227 Academy's Funding for Middle Grades in East Helena

Superintendent Dan Rispens informed East Helena Public School's Board of Trustees, Dec. 9, that he had been notified by Montana's Office of Public Instruction (OPI) that the district's public charter school could be forced to return around \$118,000 in state money.

At issue, is the state's determination that 227 Academy's 10 sixth-grade students do not meet the legal definition of "middle school" students, even though they are served by the middle school program along with 11 seventh and eighth-graders. OPI and state law define sixth-grade students as being elementary students. To remain eligible to retain funding for the middle school, total enrollment in grades seven and eight would need to reach nearly 30 students by February 3, 2025. This despite the fact that the majority of Montana's publicly enrolled sixth through eighth graders attend a middle school.

"I think OPI is reading the law correctly," Board Chairman Scott Walter said, "but I think it's a misapplication."

"Doesn't matter," Rispens said bluntly. The district must meet an average of 20 students enrolled as of the fall enrollment count, which occurred on Nov. 8 and the spring count in February to retain the money.

Rispens told the board that the issue was not explained when the state public charter program and funding model were rolled out.

"We started 227 Academy to be a leader in the state," Rispens said. He informed the board that while staffing for the East Helena program had been conservative, returning funding to OPI would impact the district's general fund budget.

Winter Wellness for Equines

Allison Kosto
MSU Broadwater County Extension Agent



As the temperature drops, we automatically start thinking about our furry friends... felines, canines, equines and any other critters you may have.

However, their winter needs are much different than ours. Horses specifically quickly become acclimated to the cold temperatures. Their winter needs in Montana are unique and might be different than you think.

While important year-round, nutrition and water are especially important in the winter. Horses generally drink more water in the winter. This is because they are eating hay or dormant forage which has a lower moisture content than green pastures. If horses don't have easy access to a quality water source, they will eat less, which lowers their energy consumption and their ability to tolerate the cold. Additionally, decreased water intake can cause gastrointestinal tract compaction and an increased risk of colic. Use a water heater to keep it from freezing and allow for continual access. Research has also shown that horses will drink more water when the water temperature is between 45 to 65 degrees F than when it is closer to freezing. If a water heater isn't feasible, then check the water twice a day and remove ice.

Nutritional needs also increase in the winter. When the air temperature drops below 18 degrees F, a horse needs additional energy to maintain body warmth. However, there are a few factors that can influence this including hair length, body size and age. Smaller animals have a greater surface area in relation to their weight and can lose heat more rapidly than a larger animal. This means a weanling is more sensitive to the cold than a mature horse. Research shows that for every degree below 18 degrees, a horse requires an additional one percent of energy in their diet. Also don't forget to deworm your horses in the fall so that their immune system starts strong and can focus on maintaining energy.

Probably one of the biggest questions about horses in the winter is whether or not blanket. Horses start to prepare for the winter as soon as the daylight starts to get shorter. They will continue to build their winter coat until the winter solstice (December 21). After the winter solstice, they gradually start to lose their winter coat, but this is a slow process and will take months.

In general, blanketing is not necessary. A horse's hair coat is naturally designed to insulate the horse by trapping and warming hair within. Blankets, because of their added weight, can actually reduce a horse's ability for its hair to do its job. Wet or muddy hair also reduces the insulating value of hair and increases heat loss.

However, there are times when blanketing may be valuable. If there is a chance the horse will become wet such as from rain or ice, a blanket can help protect them. This is usually not a problem with snow. If you see snow build up on a horse that means the hair coat is doing its job and preventing heat loss. Other instances when blanketing might be an option is if the horse had its winter coat clipped, is very young or old, hasn't acclimated to the cold, or is underweight. If you do use a blanket, make sure it is fitted correctly and checked frequently.

On the other hand, shelter is important especially when temperatures are below zero or there is a strong wind chill factor. If horses have access to an adequate shelter, they can tolerate temperatures as low as -40 degrees (yes even without a blanket). This doesn't necessarily mean a barn. An open-sided shelter is ideal, but even a lean-to or windbreak helps horses weather the weather. They will turn their tails toward the wind, lower their heads and huddle together to stay warm. As long as they are dry, they will do quite well.

The last thing to consider for the winter is hoof care. Unless you plan to ride frequently, it is recommended to pull the shoes for the winter. Shod feet tend to become ice packed which increases the chance of slipping. It is also recommended to have horses' feet trimmed every six to eight weeks, even in the winter.

Horses have lived in cold climates for centuries and have found ways to acclimate successfully. Making sure your furry friends are well-fed and watered is the most important thing you can do!

If you have further questions, contact MSU Extension in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or allison.kosto@montana.edu.

Queen City Swing Band to Play New Year's Eve

MT43 News Staff Reporter

The big band sounds of Queen City Swing Band will once again warm New Year's Eve in Townsend at the Lodge, 131 So. Spruce St. Broadwater Community Theater (BCT) looks forward to having the nine-piece group in town.

In past years, the professional musicians have offered not only big band sounds from the 40's and 50's, but also polkas, the Beatles' rock and roll tunes and everything in between. No dance lessons will be offered.

Do dress up and bring your date. Appetizers are included in the ticket and beverages are available for a donation. This special event is one of many musical and theater activities BCT supports and organizes. Some of those events this year have included Spruce Street Dance, dance lessons, scholarships for Townsend school students to Grand Street Theatre camp and the recent dinner and a play with local actors.

The evening starts at 8:00 p.m. with doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at the door only. For more information, please call LaRinda at (406) 475-4016 or Nancy at (406) 980-0592.

A Deep Dive into Passing on Family Farms and Ranches

Monty Lesh
Montana Stockgrowers Association District Director



Passing family farms and ranches on to the next generation is challenging, and future changes to federal inheritance tax could make this process even more difficult and expensive. Many Montana producers have had to deal with paying the "death tax" for a business that is simply being passed down to the next generation, and this added expense is a serious challenge to the financial viability of the business. Estate planning is a complicated, time-consuming process that takes away funds and energy from producers who are committed to making sound business decisions for the future. The Montana Stockgrowers Association is keenly aware of this issue and encourages the congressional delegation to move Congress to eliminate or significantly reduce federal estate taxes while maintaining a step-up basis. The following factors are of concern to the MSGA, and the larger industry.

The next 15 years are going to be especially telling for the future of U.S. agricultural production, with more than one-third of farmland set to change hands. Currently, 97% of the farms and ranches in the U.S. are family-owned, and according to the USDA, real estate assets account for an average of 84% of total assets for these operations. To further complicate the future, agricultural land is being purchased and paved over for development at an alarming rate — every day around 2,000 acres are converted out of agricultural use. In order to preserve agricultural land, it is imperative that operations can be passed down to the next generation without excessive inheritance tax.

The value of an agricultural operation is typically assessed based on liquid assets, like land, equipment, and livestock. Special use valuation can help reduce the estate tax for a transitioning operation. Under a special use provision, land is assessed based on the capacity to produce income from livestock and crops, as opposed to its "highest value", which may be for development. Ensuring that special use valuation is fair and accurate is essential.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act temporarily increased the estate tax threshold to \$10 million per individual or \$20 million per couple, indexed for inflation, at a rate up to 40%. This is only effective until January 1, 2026, at which time the threshold will be cut back 50% to \$5 million per individual, or \$10 million per couple. Many Montana farms and ranches have liquid assets far beyond the \$5 million per individual/\$10 million per couple threshold, meaning many could be subject to a large estate tax bill in the coming years, if the current law is not extended before January 1, 2026.

Evaluating estate taxes on a step-up basis means the IRS resets the asset's original cost basis to its value at the date of the inheritance, and the heir then pays taxes based on that evaluation. As assets continue to gain value, heirs aren't required to pay even more in taxes.

There are many challenges facing the next generation, and the reduction of the estate tax threshold after January 1, 2026, will be a huge burden on families transitioning their operations. Congress currently has time to evaluate and determine fair policy for agricultural producers. An elimination or major decrease in estate taxes can help keep agricultural land in production in the future. Keeping agricultural land in food production is critically important for the food security of America

About Monty Lesh:

Monty Lesh has been actively engaged in the cattle business most of his life and runs an Angus commercial cow herd, selling NHTC program feeder cattle after the calves have been backgrounded. His ranch is native range, owned and leased and also has irrigated pasture or hay. His wife, Sherry, and son, Wyatt, are involved with daily operations. For 21 years Monty worked as an ag/commercial lender and bank president in Montana and North Dakota.

Need advice?

Our Two Cents

Your small-town advice column. Managed locally by non-expert, unqualified, straight-forward neighbors.



Scan the QR code provided if you would like to ask your own anonymous questions.. or even "ask for a friend".

"Silence is the most beautiful of all sounds."



~Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk



DINE LOCAL BROADWATER

Dates and times may vary due to events, seasons or holidays.
Call the restaurant with any questions. Happy Dining!



American Legion Hall 211 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-3611 Dining Hours: Tuesday Bingo/ Bowl & a Roll 5:00PM Special Event with Food: 11/11-Free Veteran's Day Lunch! Bar hours may vary	The Betsy Sports Zone 217 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-0001 Dining Hours: Tue-Sun 11:00AM-Close Closed Monday Takeout placed only in person. Menu: www.betsysportszone.com	C Hangin' C Mercantile & Creamery 310 S Front St, Townsend (406) 266-9087 Dining Hours: Mon - Sat 9:00AM - 7:00PM Sun 8:00AM - 5:00PM Menu: Facebook changinmerc.square.site	Copy Cup 303 N Front St, Townsend (406) 980-8400 Please call on business hours Drinks and Pastry Hours: Mon - Fri 7:00AM - 3:00PM Sat 8:30AM - 2:00PM Closed Sunday	Fishtale Tavern 209 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-5582 Dining Hours: 11:00AM - 11:00PM Daily Specials: Facebook Bar hours may vary	Mint Cafe 305 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3867 Dining Hours: Mon - Wed 8:00AM - 2:00 PM, Thur - Fri 8:00AM - 8:00PM Sat - Sun 7:00AM - 7:00PM Menu: themintbarandgrill.com/menu
Bread and Butter Cafe 205 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3025 Dining Hours: Tue - Sat 7:00AM- 2:00PM Menu available on Facebook Closed Sunday and Monday	Bunkhouse Bar & Grill 8846 US-287, Toston (406) 266-5302 Dining Hours: 10:00AM - Close Grill off at 10:00PM	Commercial Bar 101 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-9956 Dining Hours: 10:00AM - 2:00AM Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas Menu available on Facebook	Deep Creek Pizza 415 Broadway Ste 2, Townsend (406) 266-0002 Dining Hours: 11:00AM - 8:00 PM Menu: www.deepcreekpizzaco.com, Facebook and Instagram Closed Sunday	Full Bell Deli 209 S Front St, Townsend (406) 266-5459 Dining Hours: 7:30AM - 8:00PM Every Day Menu: fullbellidelimt.com	TB's Diner 316 N Front St, Townsend, (406) 266-0099 Dining Hours: Fri - Tue 7:00AM - 8:00PM Wed - Thu CLOSED Specials: Facebook

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Weather Info from MSN.com, Precipitation Contributed by Jeff Ross

Fri 20	Sat 21	Sun 22	Mon 23	Tue 24	Wed 25	Thu 26
42°	45°	42°	42°	42°	37°	40°
28°	34°	28°	31°	32°	26°	32°

Precipitation:

July: 0.040"	October: 0.174"
August: 0.402"	November: 0.079"
September: 3.637"	December: 0.000"
2023: 13.669"	2024: 10.903"

Super Crossword

CLEAR COMMUNICATION

ACROSS

- 1 NATO has a special one for spelling out words
- 9 Architectural wings
- 13 Provo people
- 20 In a lying, faceup position
- 21 Sticky stuff
- 22 Kind of energy
- 23 Moniker for novelist Ernest
- 25 Dig up
- 26 Apt. overseer
- 27 Yoko of music and art
- 28 Singer Waters
- 30 Puente of mambo
- 31 Road coater
- 34 Weed B —
- 36 Marriott, e.g.
- 39 Doesn't lack
- 42 Often-dried fruit
- 44 Diarist Anaïs
- 46 "Caveman diet"
- 47 Messy roommate on "The Odd Couple"
- 51 Dune locale
- 56 Chicago hub
- 57 Dot on some transit maps
- 59 Gave a coil
- 60 Suffer ruin
- 62 Admonish
- 65 "Hello" singer
- 66 Cast off skin
- 68 1992 Guns N' Roses hit
- 70 Extermination target
- 73 Civil rights icon Parks
- 76 Hoagies
- 77 Extermination targets
- 78 Method of measuring ocean depth
- 83 Boy actor in 1937's "Elephant Boy"
- 85 Raccoon kin
- 86 Alluring attributes
- 89 "No doubt!"
- 93 Trig topics
- 95 Dependent
- 97 — ground missile
- 98 Barely beats
- 101 Doing certain ballroom moves
- 103 Spanish bar appetizers
- 105 Born, to Luc
- 106 Plant pouch
- 107 — Zedong
- 108 Very thin material for book pages
- 113 Steelers' gp.
- 115 Mu — pork
- 117 Normandy city
- 118 Doctrine
- 120 Internet ID
- 122 Symbol of innocence
- 126 One revising something
- 129 Portrayer of Jax Teller on "Sons of Anarchy"
- 133 Act as arbiter
- 134 Symbol of innocence
- 135 Brazil's largest city
- 136 Soul
- 137 Amply skilled
- 138 Apt word spelled out by the first letters of eight answers in this puzzle
- 1 Le Duc — (1992-97 president of Vietnam)
- 6 Nectar lover
- 7 Sailors' saint
- 8 Knotting up
- 9 Ovum
- 10 Actor Rob
- 11 Averse (to)
- 12 Whale's half-rise out of the water
- 13 Island guitar
- 14 "Sn" element
- 15 Suffix with prop.
- 16 Shrubland
- 17 Sunny lobbies
- 18 Mafia's Frank
- 19 "Danke —"
- 24 Around 12 p.m.
- 29 Greek H's
- 32 In a new way
- 33 Backboard attachment
- 35 Sentra maker
- 37 Grasslands
- 38 Actor sharing top billing
- 39 Backboard attachment
- 40 Tennis' Arthur
- 41 Injury vestige
- 43 Yak it up
- 45 "That's false!"
- 48 Pupil of Plato
- 49 French noble
- 50 Rule for homework time, perhaps
- 52 Operated by water under pressure
- 53 Brand of fat substitute
- 54 Ignited anew
- 55 Blissful sites
- 58 Bakery buys
- 61 Hoagie
- 63 Coll. in Dallas
- 64 Wanes
- 67 Football's flutie
- 69 Hollywood's Morales
- 70 Praline bit
- 71 Cut-rate, in adspeak
- 72 Thick carpets
- 74 Show filmed at 30 Rock
- 75 Hebrew month
- 79 Daytime nap
- 80 "How — Your Mother"
- 81 Pitcher Ryan
- 82 African nation whose capital is Conakry
- 84 Boil briefly
- 87 Very angry
- 88 — Caps
- 90 Hat edge
- 91 Italian peak
- 92 African nation whose capital is Lomé
- 94 Lava or Dial
- 96 NFL scores
- 99 Stymied
- 100 Sticky stuff
- 102 Some small batteries
- 104 Japanese green tea
- 108 "Veni," translated
- 109 Monikers
- 110 Skillful feats
- 111 Navel type
- 112 Fixed-up building
- 114 Britte
- 116 Arm bones
- 119 Like giraffes
- 121 Emmy winner
- 123 "Sometimes you feel like —"
- 124 African nation whose capital is Bamako
- 125 Coll. hotshot
- 127 Football's Marino
- 128 Lister's abbr.
- 130 Caviar source
- 131 "Yoo —!"
- 132 1995-2006 TV channel

Kids' Maze

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Oppose

ENDY

Ease

SHOOTE

Expert

ARMSET

Distill

ENFIRE

TODAY'S WORD

"I'll say one thing about my diet — my husband is _____."

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: H equals T

YH LFFPLXD LD HCATBC HCYD
 DHLBPZ DLHYXP CLD LMXPLZR
 GAUUPIGPZ. Y BTPDD Y'U
 MLHP HA HCP FLXAZR.

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KNIGHT MOVES

Y	E	K
I		I
R	A	T

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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OUR WALK IN FAITH

Elkhorn Community Fellowship

126 N Cedar St. Townsend
 Pastor Eric Crusch (406) 949-0183
Sunday: 11:00am- Services

Wednesday: 4:00 - 5:30pm Team KID for K - 5th Grades
 | 6:00 - 7:30pm Youth Group for 6 - 12th Grades

Faith Baptist Church

5 Jack Farm Rd. Townsend
 Pastor Mike Wenzel (406) 266-4219

Sunday: 10:00am Sunday School | 11:00am Morning Service | 6:00pm Evening Service
Wednesday: 7:00pm Bible Study & Prayer

Holy Cross Catholic Church

101 S Walnut St. Townsend
 Parish Contact (406) 266-4811
 email: office@holycrossmt.org

Sunday: 3:30pm - 4:15pm (or by appt.) Reconciliation | 4:30pm- Mass | 5:30pm (during the school year) Dinner with 6:00pm Religious Ed for all Grades
 Adult Education Programs found on holycrossmt.org
Monday: 9:00am Mass | 9:30am Adoration
Tuesday: 9:00am Mass

Mountain Valley Church (of the CMA)

110 E Street Townsend
 Pastor Eric Krueger (406) 465-5895
 MountainValleyChurch.org

Sunday: 10:00am Services with Nursery, Kids and Youth Ministry
Last Thursday of the month: 6:30- 8:00pm The Rock Youth Ministry: K-3rd Grades and 4th-Senior High | Parent Bible Study
 Livestream: Facebook.com/mountainValleyChurch406
 Life groups meet weekly. Call for more information.

Radersburg Baptist Church

7 Main St. Radersburg
 Pastor Richard Summerlin (406) 410-0458
Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School | 11:00am Worship

Set Free Christian Fellowship

318 Broadway St. Townsend; PO Box 1163

Pastor Carol Bergstad (406) 461-2181

Sunday: 9:30am Service | 7:00pm Set Free Recovery
Thursday: 7:00pm Bible Study

Seventh Day Adventist Church

200 N Cedar St. Townsend
 Pastor Ney Khut (269)-362-5768
Saturday: 9:30 Service | 10:30am Bible Study

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church ELCA Synod

301 N Cherry St. Townsend
 Steve Ward, Synod authorized minister (406) 220-8911
 Office hours Mon & Wed 9 am to noon
 Council President Margie Urich (406) 599-9848
Sunday: 9:30am Services
Second Tuesday of the month: 4:00pm Women of the ELCA meet.
 Bible Studies meet weekly. Call for more information.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

916 Broadway St. Townsend
 Bishop Matt Graham (406) 266-4255
Sunday: 8:30am Choir Practice | 9:30am Sacrament Meeting | 10:40am Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:00 - 9:00pm Family History Center Open For Family History Center appointment call Director, Rebecca Mitchell, (406) 980-0270
Wednesday: 6:30pm Youth Activities

Townsend United Methodist Church

200 N Cedar St. Townsend
 Pastor Mele Moa (406) 266-3390
 TownsendUMC.org
Sunday: 9:00am Services

Trailhead Christian Fellowship

20 Trailhead View Dr. (5 mi. north of Townsend)
 Pastor Mark Roelofs (406) 266-4406
Sunday: 9:00am Sunday School and Christian Education | 10:00am Services
Wednesday: 4:25 - 5:50pm Awana Program for K- 6th Grades | 6:15 - 8:00pm Youth Group for 7th-12th Grades

SENIOR CENTER



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DEC 23 - DEC 27

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Thursday, December 26
 BBQ Chicken Breast
 Wild Rice
 Key Largo Vegetables
 Garden Salad
 Whole Grain Bread
 Sweet Peaches

Monday, December 23
 Holiday Dinner
 Baked Ham
 Mashed Potatoes
 California Vegetables
 Whole Grain Bread
 Cherry Pie

Friday, December 27
 Polish Sausage
 Sauerkraut
 Steamed Potatoes
 Carrot Raisin Salad
 Whole Grain Roll

Tuesday, December 24

Closed For Christmas Eve

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'Twas The Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas and all around our town, not a creature was stirring except the last partiers from the Fish Tale, homeward bound. The hunting boots were stashed in a pile by the door with rifles, fishing poles, and sports gear galore.

The Kids had finally bedded down, thoughts of field trips fresh in their heads, they snoozed and snored deep asleep in their beds. My Lady and I had just settled in for some serious log sawing, when from the barnyard came a loud strange caterwauling.

I leapt from my bed determined to give a sound thumping, to whatever was causing this midwinter screeching, and bumping. I slipped on the floor amidst a pile of clothes, smacked my head on the windowsill and fell battering my nose. Not caring about who, not caring about what, only thinking bad thoughts about kicking some butt. I finally stood and looked back at my wife still deep asleep; I'd have to stop this noise before back into bed I can creep.

I looked out the window at the fresh snow and ice, not seeing a thing thinking maybe the night would settle in to be quiet and nice. From downstairs I heard a soft movement a scraping and a chuckle, I knew wasn't from some late visiting Uncle. I snuck down the stairs bat at the ready, wiping sweaty palms but my breathing was steady.

I looked around the door frame and spied a large guy all dressed in red, I thought I'll never make it back to bed. He spoke softly to me about how rough the year, and about how this night would make all things brighter and clear. I listened and smiled as he went about his work, knowing I'd been a nervous nelly and kind of a jerk. A vision of stories and tales of the past, came alive this night and I knew they would last. It was Saint Nicholas, or Santa as he's known, he became very real right here in our home.

I glanced around and he was suddenly gone, I watched from the front door to see him fly away before the new dawn. His sleigh was wide and the reindeer large and fast, I watched as they made the turn by the light pole mast. He stood up and waved as if to an old friend, I waved back smiling a smile that I knew wouldn't end. I noticed the presents around the Christmas tree, the stockings filled with goodies for the missus, and children and me. I thought again how he knew of our troubles and strife, his kind words brought peace and I was gratefully filled with new life. I heard his call as he drove out of sight, Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night!

Merry Christmas to all my faithful readers.

Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

Francis Pharcellus Church

In 1897, "The Sun" (a newspaper in New York City) received a letter to the editor from a child:
 "Dear Editor: I am 8 years old.
 Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun, it's so.'
 Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"

The following answer by editor Francis Pharcellus Church is as true today as it was in 1897:

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive

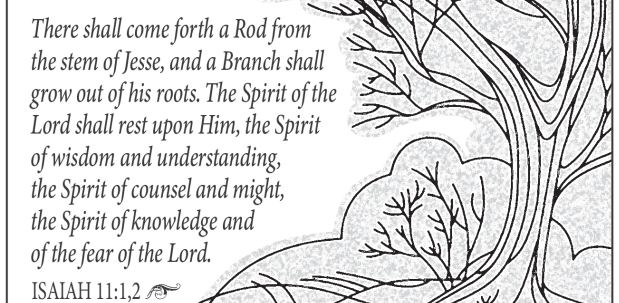


or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
 ISAIAH 11:1,2

BREAKING NEWS

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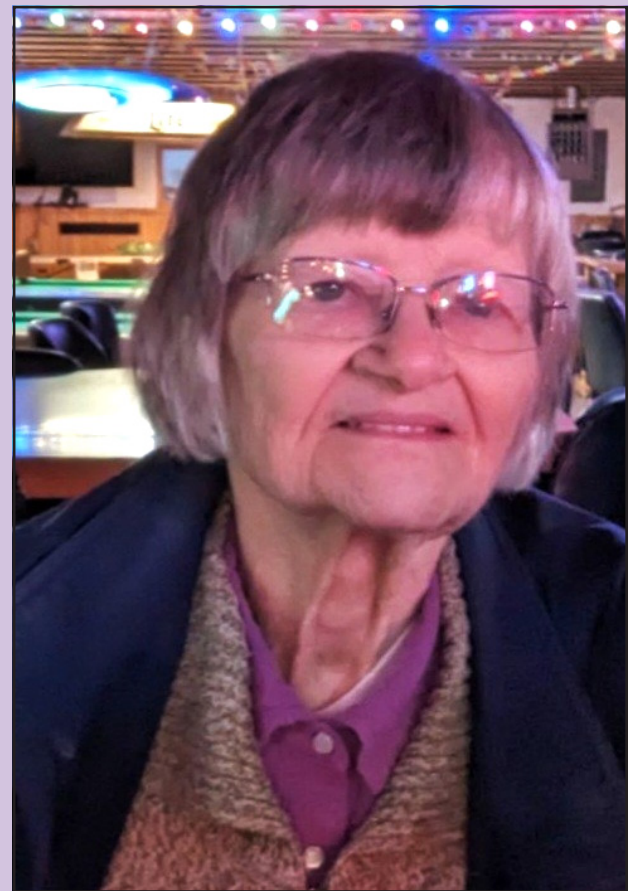
OBITUARY

Sharon Doig

and her love in so many endeavors. Sharon had such a giving spirit and shared her joy with so many of us, making us all the better for knowing her. Whether it was taking her dear friend Clara out on weekly drives or to church, sending cards or making phone calls to ill Legionnaires or their family members, visiting the elderly or helping with activities at the nursing homes, she brought comfort to others through the gift of her time. She spent the colder months indoors painting small river rocks which she hid throughout the County for others to seek and post on Facebook about their 'treasure hunt' adventures.

We looked forward to her stories of road-tripping with her dogs, Sprite, Ginger and sometimes Reba, and the shutterbug took hundreds of pictures to get just the right one to share with her family and friends. Nature lends itself to renewal, providing a deep sense of calm and beauty that many of us have also come to know. I distinctly remember when, after many an evening spent sitting at the end of the road of Cottonwood Campground, she finally got that just right picture at about sunset, of the moose she just knew was out there waiting to pose for her. That story was an exuberant, gleeful, giddy tale for many a meeting to follow with pictures to prove her perseverance and success. Her enthusiasm for history also enlivened many a dinner conversation when it was embellished with mayhem and mishap in the adventure.

Sharon's intense passion for her family, her friends and her pets was evident in the myriad of photos that were throughout her home; on the walls, refrigerator, doors and tables. She also enjoyed inspiring others, including children and youth, to become involved in life and adventure. She worked her way up to state American Legion Children and Youth Coordinator, encouraging other American Legion Posts to start, or expand, their children and youth programs like Scouts, Junior Shooting Sports, Girls and Boys State, Government Essay and Oratorical contests. She enjoyed



Sharon Doig
Photo Provided by Jen Dalrymple

hosting the state American Legion Children and Youth luncheon, bringing top-notch students together to share their successes with the masses.

Sharon had a true giving heart, with no strings attached, whether in friendship or for those in need, she shared herself and did whatever she could for others. I know I will miss her dearly, for over the last 22 years I have enjoyed her companionship, followed in her footsteps as Legion Commander and am grateful for having had her as a friend. Though passed on from this life, she lives on in the memories we formed and the stories we share. May she rest in peace, though I highly doubt it because her spirit was always seeking the next adventure.

Jen Dalrymple

Sharon Patricia Leiner was born on April 30, 1947, one of three children. She attended Wachung Hills Regional High School graduating in 1965. Her desire to be a nurse led her to Ann May School of Nursing where she obtained her diploma and nursing license in 1969.

Work soon commenced at Overlook Hospital, New Jersey in orthopedics, followed by Jersey Shore Medical Center in the surgical unit and then back to Overlook working in the nursery. She always said that pediatrics was her absolute favorite job. She always felt the call to serve her country, so she raised her hand in 1973 and was selected as an officer in the United States Navy.

She told many stories of the bus trips they had to take to the training area and how the women were housed in dilapidated dormitories. The training was arduous and challenging but the friendships she made were for a lifetime.

Though she loved the Navy and the work it required at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Virginia, the end of the Vietnam conflict led to military drawdowns across the services. She, along with thousands of other service members, was involuntarily let go.

Life moved on as she married Robert Doig and raised three rambunctious, towheaded boys. She managed to continue her labor of love as a nurse, following her husband around the country: North Carolina, Montana, Oklahoma, and New Jersey.

Though Robert and Sharon eventually divorced after 24 years of marriage, Sharon always felt a special draw to Montana, eventually settling in Townsend in 2002. She immediately immersed herself in several notable volunteer endeavors: Lions, American Legion, Crimson Bluffs, DUI Task Force, 40&8 and Shephard of the Valley Lutheran Church. Can you see the pattern she wove, especially here in Townsend?

She wove her smile, her laughter, her banter (most notably at the Legion during the Army-Navy game)

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Fri. 12.27.24 @ 10AM	Fri. 12.27.24 @ 12PM	Fri. 01.03.25

Billings Clinic Broadwater Earns 2024 Performance Leadership Award

Joseph Salyer
Billings Clinic

Billings Clinic Broadwater earns 2024 Performance Leadership Award from The Chartis Center for Rural Health

Townsend, MT—Billings Clinic Broadwater is honored to announce that it has earned a 2024 Performance Leadership Award for excellence in Quality. Compiled by The Chartis Center for Rural Health, the Performance Leadership Awards recognize top quartile performance (i.e., 75th percentile or above) among rural hospitals in Quality, Outcomes and/or Patient Perspective.

"I am incredibly proud of the work of our entire team," said Justin Tiffany, Billings Clinic Broadwater CEO. "This recognition is a testament to the commitment of our providers, nurses and staff to provide high-quality care to everyone who comes to Billings Clinic Broadwater."

The Performance Leadership Awards are based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX®, a comprehensive and objective framework for assessing how rural hospitals are performing. INDEX benchmarks are relied upon by rural hospitals, health

systems with rural footprints, hospital associations, and state offices of rural health to measure performance across multiple areas impacting hospital operations and finance. Top performers like Billings Clinic Broadwater are excelling in managing risk, achieving higher quality, securing better outcomes, increasing patient satisfaction and operating at a lower cost than their peers. These groups serve as a benchmark for other rural facilities as they strive to achieve similar results.

"The Performance Leadership Awards capture the commitment, diligence, and innovation with which America's rural hospitals approach the delivery of care within their communities," said Troy Brown, Network Consultant, The Chartis Center for Rural Health. "It's a tremendous honor to be able to recognize the efforts of this year's award winners and celebrate their achievement as part of National Rural Health Day."

"Billings Clinic Broadwater's recognition with the rural health hospital charters award is a testament to our unwavering commitment to delivering high-quality care to our community. This achievement reflects the dedication of our staff and the collaborative spirit of our healthcare team, as we continue to prioritize patient well-being and strive for excellence in every aspect of our services," said Billings Clinic Broadwater CAH Quality Coordinator and Infection Control RN, Emily Clark.

HOCUS - FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Boy's legs are longer. 2. Tree is moved. 3. Stocking is shorter. 4. Woman's leg is moved. 5. Belt is shorter. 6. Robe collar is different.



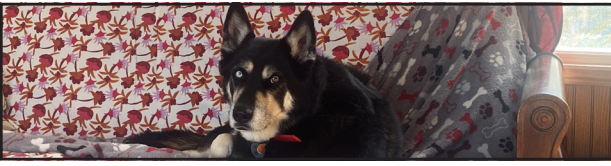
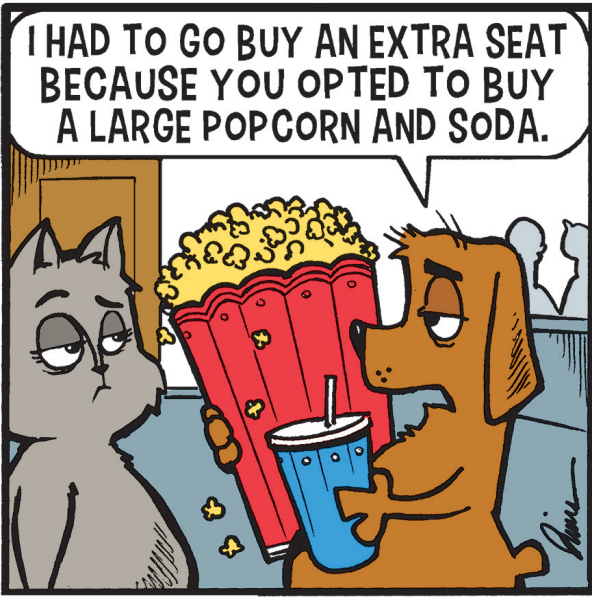
Steak Griller Warren Flynn and his daughter Cassidy help make sandwiches for their 4-H clubs fundraiser at last Saturdays Christmas Stroll
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer



Lowen Rogers stands by his bottle cap art at last Saturdays Christmas Stroll
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

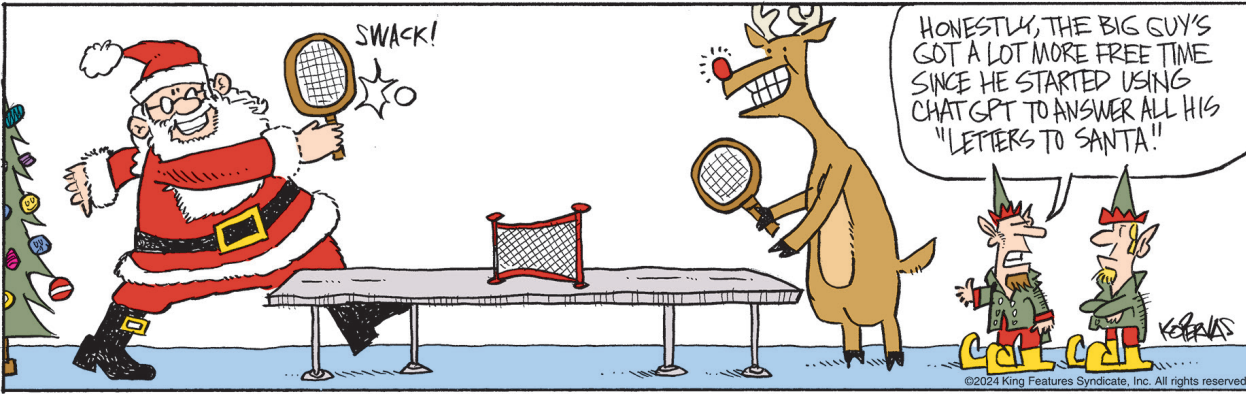
Happy Holidays Stay safe and warm!

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



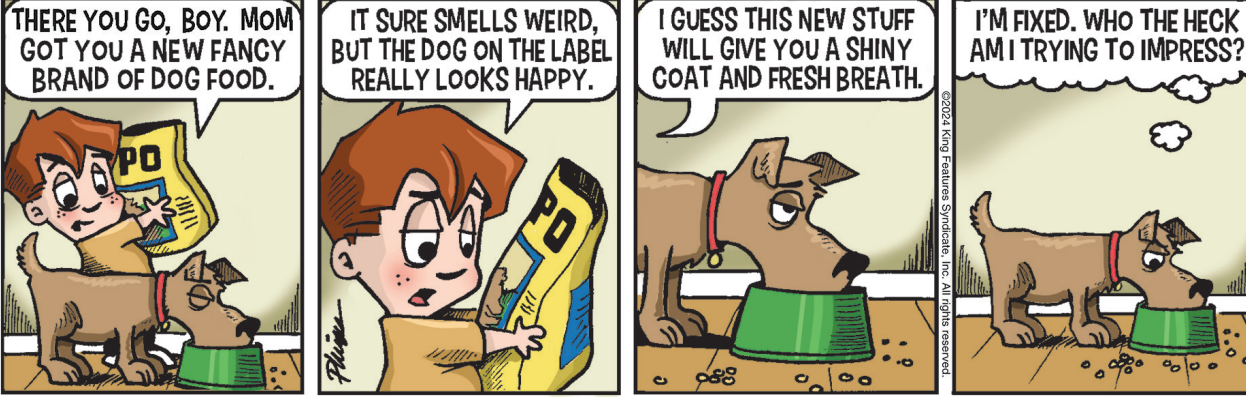
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



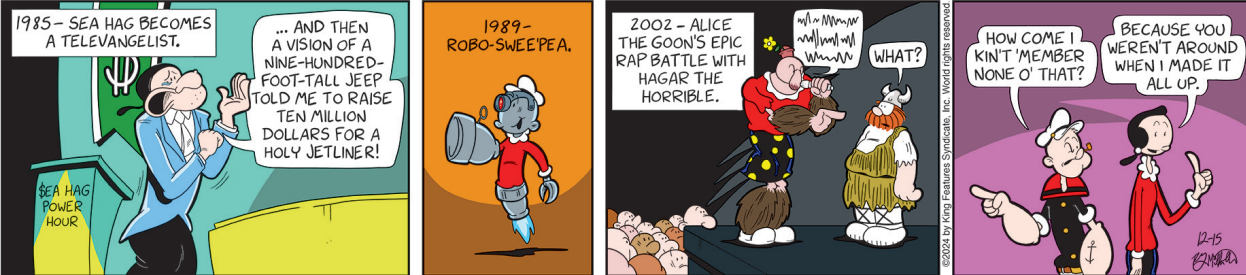
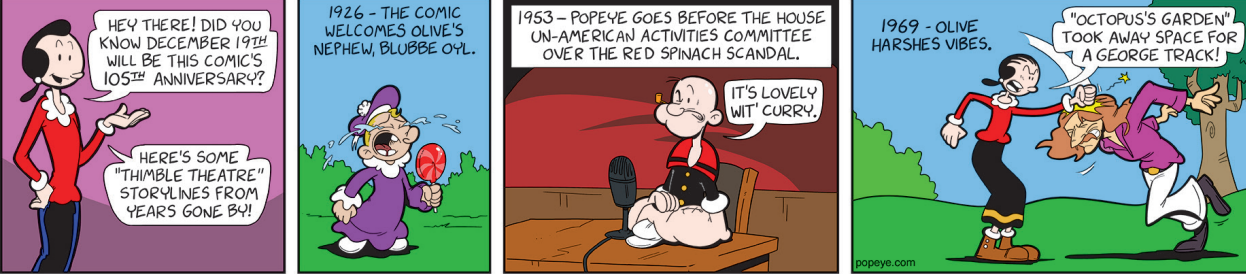
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Americanisms



"Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour."
— John Boswell

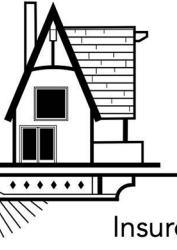
GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



"The Christmas catalogs aren't so bad. ... Last year I had fruitcake delivery."

GHOST TOWN HANDYMAN

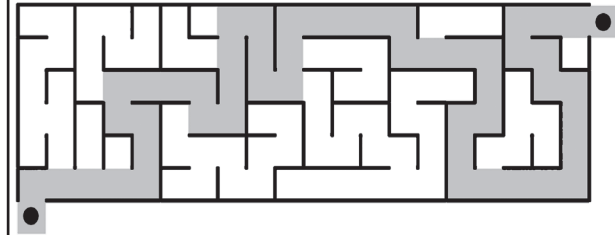
Joshua Cavan
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

CryptoQuip

answer

It appears as though this staged satire has already commenced. I guess I'm late to the parody.

SCRAMBLERS

solution

- 1. Deny 2. Soothe;
- 3. Master; 4. Refine

Today's Word

THINNER

KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

Y	E	K
I	I	
R	A	T

TERIYAKI

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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Jalisco's is the New Hot Spot



Freddy and brother, Jose' (in rust shirt)
Dee Gannon Photo



Freddy and his family. Cindy, wife and 2 littles
Dee Gannon Photo

Dee Gannon
MT43 News Correspondent

If you have been living under a rock, you haven't noticed there is a new business in Townsend, next to the Betsy, in the old Betsy's Kitchen space.

Well, climb out from under that rock and meet Freddy and his crew. All of his employees hail from the State of Jalisco, Mexico. Jalisco has its own cuisine style, and you are sure to enjoy the flavors you experience. He works here with his brother, Jose' and just a couple others. All from Jalisco, Mexico.

'Just' Freddy came to the U.S. seven years ago, settling first in Tacoma Washington. He found himself coming to Montana; where he has spent the last five years managing and eventually owning food trucks in Belgrade and Bozeman. He learned the craft of mobility from Rosendo Pelayo; who owned the Taco Bus in Belgrade. Pelayo trusted Freddy, promoting him to chef, and later, manager. When Pelayo became so impressed with Freddy, he expanded to Bozeman.

Three years ago, Freddy bought three food trucks and opened them in Bozeman, Four Corners and Big Sky



himself. He says that more expansion is in the works.

This is the first 'brick and mortar' restaurant he has had. Co-owner of The Betsy, Daniela Ragan, knew that the extra kitchen space that she had could be put to good use; so, she placed an ad on the internet, on a page entitled 'Mija'. Freddy answered the call and came to Townsend, giving the people in this town a taste of Mexico. He had to make a whole new setup in the space, and it is not without its little quirks and problems. For example, the afternoon of our interview, there was a problem with the gas line. Chase Ragan was right on it; and before long (and with a little expert consultation), they were back in business.

Freddy's wife, Cindy, is his biggest supporter. She commutes back and forth from Bozeman daily with him; toting along an eighteen-month-old and a four-week-old. There is a comfortable room above The Betsy for her and the children, so they can be close. Freddy says he is very proud to be the first in his family to own a U.S. business and considers himself to be lucky to have the many mentors he has had. He is also very proud of his heritage. "Jalisco is the pride of Mexico," he says excitedly.

Freddy says his biggest stressor is finding good

employees. "Restaurant ownership is not for the faint of heart." His motto is to "be proactive, not reactive."

He has some December Specials to announce. Veterans get 25% off with military ID; Taco Tuesdays; Teacher's Wednesday, 25% off; Hospital Workers Thursdays, 25% off; Police on Sundays, 25% off...just show ID. You'll love the everyday specials.

Delivery is available within 10 minutes of town. That includes fishers and hunters. Gift Cards are available; Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. He is closed on Mondays. Jalisco's will be closed on Christmas Day, closing early on Christmas Eve. They will be closed on New Year's Day but open on New Year's Eve.

He isn't done, either. He plans on bringing Mexican Folklore Dancing to The Betsy, eventually. He says, "Contrary to popular 'gringo' belief, not all Mexicans are related by blood; although, we are a very tight-knit family within the culture".

A special thanks goes to Daniela Raegan; who translated for this gringo reporter. Go get you some of the most authentic food around. It's delicious with huge servings, and the folks are very nice.

Welcome to Townsend, Freddy and family!

Christmas Season Sausage Rollups

Eileen Clarke
Rifles and Recipes

Just a Little Special Something for the Holidays

My friends know I'll be making Hoppin' John New Year's Day for good luck in 2025 but, for me, New Year's Eve implies something a bit more elegant. Sometimes it's Stroganoff, sometimes Bourguignon. This year I'm looking for something simple. So, I'm going to pick up some Mexican-style sausage and maybe some sweet potatoes for a side dish. The rest is easy! (FYI: if you'd rather mix up your own sausage, read on.)

If you were lucky enough to get an elk this year, you can use a flank steak for this dish. Flank comes off the outside of the rib cage and is the thinner end of the brisket. But you can also use a piece of moderately or not-so-tender steak, sliced 1/4 to 3/8-inch thick. If you cut them thin while butchering, you can avoid a step. If not, you can always pound them thin. The marinade will do the rest.



Christmas Season Sausage Rollups
Eileen Clarke Photo

Christmas Season Sausage Rollups

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 pound venison steaks
- 1/4 cup rice wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup minced fresh cilantro
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 pound sausage*

Preparation

1. Dry the steaks, and slice into 2 to 2 1/2-inch wide strips, about 6-inches long.
2. Measure the vinegar, oil, garlic, cilantro, salt, and pepper into a resealable plastic bag. Add the strips, seal the bag and give it a good shake to coat the steaks. Marinate in the refrigerator 48 hours.

Cooking

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Remove the steaks from the marinade, but save the marinade.
2. In a lightly oiled baking dish, assemble the rollups. Lay out each strip of flank steak, spread the sausage over each, then fold and clasp together with toothpicks. Stand the rollup upright in the pan.
3. Roast 40-50 minutes, until a meat thermometer

inserted into the sausage registers 160°F. As the steaks near finishing, take 2 tablespoons of the pan drippings, pour them into a small saucepan, and add the marinade. Bring the sauce to a low boil over high heat, lower the heat to a simmer, and simmer 4 minutes. (Don't skimp on the 4 minutes. The marinade needs it to be safe to eat after spending a couple days with the raw steaks.) Serve the rollups hot with the sauce poured over the top.

*You can mix 8 ounces ground venison with 8 ounces pork fat for this recipe, but 1 pound of ground pork shoulder will also work. As for the rest of the ingredients, toss them all into a food processor, give it a few pulses to chop small, then mix into the meat/fat.

- 1/4 yellow onion
- 1 tablespoon bottled roasted red pepper
- 4 cloves garlic
- 1 teaspoon canned mild jalapenos
- 1 tablespoon smoked chipotle Tabasco sauce
- 1/3 cup minced fresh cilantro
- 3 tablespoons cold water
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Eileen's cookbooks are on sale now at www.riflesandrecipes.com/406-521-0273. The rollups are in Slice of the Wild, which includes a fresh chorizo recipe but this particular sausage, above, is from Sausage Season. Slice has 100 venison recipes plus side dishes; The sausage book has 75 sausage flavor variations for all our game meat.

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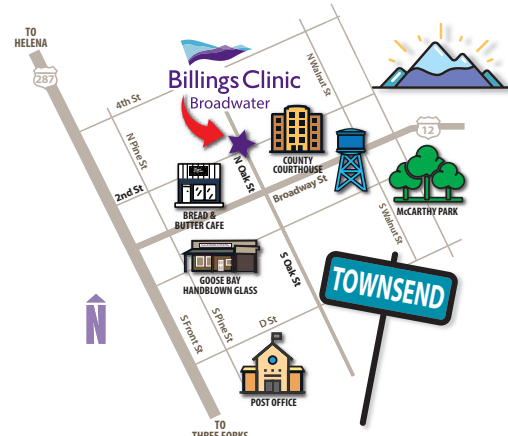


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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

BY LINDA HUTH

SPONSORED BY
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

December 19

1912

Doings of a Week

Geo. Ramspeck left this week for the south to take up his yearly sheep shearing contracts and will gradually work back north and finally wind up in Montana again late next spring.

Crandall & Wright shipped in 100 head of horses Sunday night, unloading Monday morning. They will feed them here this winter for shipment to Canada and other points in the spring.

Telephone your grocery orders to the Townsend Merc. Co. Nothing but the best. Phone 24.

Mrs. J.R. Marks was in from the farm Tuesday doing a little Christmas shopping with the Townsend merchants.

The Townsend House has recently installed city water in the building and the patrons now have hot and cold water at their service.

1940

Peggy Bridgewater Gets Nurse's Cap

Miss Peggy Bridgewater is home for two weeks of vacation which came at the close of her first course in training at the Deaconess School of Nursing in Great Falls at which time she received her nurse's cap. Her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Bridgewater, her aunt, Mrs. Edith Fox and cousin, Phyllis Fox, attended the ceremony after which she accompanied them to Townsend.

Radersburg News

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Barraugh and family were shopping

in Townsend one day this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Smith and sons, Albert, Jr. and Charles Lee, and Miss Jean McLeod of the valley were dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Harris and family in Radersburg Friday evening.

Crow Creek News

Christmas shoppers in Helena on Friday were Mr. and Mrs. John Jarosh.

Earl Webb is on an extended visit to Blocton, Iowa in the home of his grandmother, Mrs. Bertha Harvey.

Mrs. Edith Fox was a visitor at the Crow Creek school on Thursday and also left a number of "fight tuberculosis" lead pencils for the pupils to sell. The pupils sold so many that they had to send for more to fill the popular demand for them.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Massa spent Sunday and Monday visiting in Butte.

1968

Miss Sandi Ewing Graduates from Airlines School

Miss Sandi Ewing arrived home Friday, Dec. 13, after completing a course of study in the Airlines School of Denver. Sandi was training to be a reservationist and plans to go into that line of work in Denver following the holidays.

At graduation exercises which were held last Thursday, Dec. 12, she was chosen Miss Congeniality of the school and for her trophy was awarded a model of a United Airlines plane.

More Winners Named; Last Three Drawings on Friday, Saturday, Monday

Only three of the ten gift certificate winners doubled their prizes last Friday, Dec. 13, at the Chamber of Commerce's second Christmas Shopping Spree drawing of

the season. Those who were present and thereby doubled their \$5 gift certificate were: F.J. Kenney, Coast-to-Coast; Edmun Shuman, State Bank of Townsend; and Dick Buckingham, Green's Market.

Winning \$5 certificates were: Ray Campbell, Francisco Pharmacy; Darlene Zentner, Gambles; Rose Barringer, Bob's Superette; Leslie Toney, Fryhling's; Marion Kitto, Neifert-White; Marcel Turcotte, Green's Dry Goods; and Sandra Peterson, the Mint Café.

Three drawings remain in the Spree. They will be held on the evenings of Friday, Dec. 20, Saturday, Dec. 21 and Monday, Dec. 23. The names of the winners will be read at 8:00 p.m. for the remainder of the drawings.

For a grand prize this year, the Chamber is putting up \$50 in cash, and again, if the winner is present, the prize will be doubled. This drawing will climax the Chamber's "buy at home" promotion for the season.

1996

Around Town News

Sunday Bernice Cartwright attended the children's Christmas program at the Methodist Church and potluck that followed it.

Ron Morrison, Helena, and Virgil Binkley, Townsend were recent dinner guests of George and Emma Morrison.

Jean Buckingham was an overnight guest last week in Helena at the home of her daughter and grandchildren, Betsy Riley, Jessie and Josh.

Aubra Lewis recently hosted the Women of Evangelical Lutheran Church at her home. Locals attending were Helen Irely, Sigrid Wood, Irene Nielsen, Emily Gillespie, Sharon Borer, Edith Rosgaard, Marge Urlich, Brittnay and Quinn, Helen Burmaster and club president, Jan Stocks.

May we turn off the news, walk away from social media, and remember our hope for the future, Jesus Christ to enjoy a day of peace.

Merry Christmas

Christmas decor 20% off starting the 23rd.

Historic Townsend Hardware
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Light the World ONE BY ONE

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Precision Business Resources Opens in East Helena

MT43 News Staff Reporter

It is never too early to start on your tax preparation. Just as the season is about to begin Precision Business Resources opened their new location in East Helena at 101 S. Lane. Their open house was held last Thursday when they invited all clients and vendors to see the new space.

According to Manager Dallas Smith, owner Anna Glueckert made the move from Helena to the new East Helena location to fit their needs for expansion and to better serve their clients. Smith has two employees who can answer all questions and set up new accounts.

Smith said she and her staff love the rural, small-town atmosphere. She and employee Leandra Fraley both feel fortunate to have their small children in the East Helena school system. Mary Bignell lives in the

North Valley, so it is an easy drive to work.

The staff is qualified to serve clients' needs for accounting, tax preparation, all human resource needs and business management. Smith graduated in 2011 with an accounting and business degree from Helena College of Technology and has over a decade of accounting and management experience. She has been with Precision Business Resources since 2020. Fraley has many years of tax preparation experience along with accounting. Bignell has many years of payroll and bookkeeping experience. She is the payroll administrator. They are a well-rounded team. "We enjoy working with all our different businesses and we like to meet people face to face," she said.

Smith explained how important it is to the business to do community outreach. She is involved in many local activities within the community and Precision Business Resources has donated items and money to

many local events in and around Helena and Townsend.

Precision Business Resources, established by owner Anna Glueckert in 2018, features an extensive website and Facebook presence. Glueckert operates an office in Townend as well.

Smith explained the office utilizes all different fields of business management: "We have clients for whom we only do bookkeeping. In that case we meet with their tax preparer to make sure the client is ready for tax season. We also offer employee full services human resources, payroll and QuickBooks consulting, if the business does their own books."

We encourage clients to come in before year end if there are any changes to their tax situation that may cause a lighter tax bill for them.

Precision Business Resources can be reached by calling (406) 442-6206 or email office@precisionbusinessresources.com for more information.



Precision Business Resources has opened its new location in the former East Helena Valley Bank building. Nancy Marks MT43 News Photographer



East Helena Precision Business Resources employees from left: Leandra Fraley, Mary Bignell and Manager Dallas Smith. Nancy Marks MT43 News Photographer